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A
COLLECTION
OF
LETTERS

Relating to the

East India Company,

And to a

FREE TRADE.

DEDICATED TO

ROBERT NUGENT, Esq;

MEMBER for

St. MAWS, CORNWALL.

[Price Six Pence.]

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L E T T E R S

Relating to the

East India Company.

CONTAINING,

- I. A Letter to Sir J— L—, on dividing Annuities from the trading Stock, and giving a Benefit to the Proprietors, instead of their Hazard of Loss and Gain by Trading.
- II. A Letter to the People of *Britain*, on the Importance of the *East India* Trade; where the Company trades to, and where they do not; how the present Trade may be extended; that the Proprietors and the Company ought not to be injur'd.
- III. A Letter to Miss A— S—, one of the Proprietors of the *East India* Stock, Mutiny and Desertion Bill, and the Heroes of *Leadenhall-Street*.
- IV. A Letter to the Hon. * * * * *, Esq; one of the * * * of * * *,
- on the Importance of the *Indian* Trade, and of the Commodities of the Places where the Company does not trade to.
- V. A Letter to — B—, Esq; one of the Aldermen of the City of *London*; on the erecting *Madarafs* and its Dependencies into a Colony, with a King's Governor, Council and Assembly; and *St. Helena*, and *Bombay*, in like manner, if ever the *East India* Company should deliver them up to the Government.
- VI. A Letter to J. S. Merchant in *Edinburgh*. In Answer to a Question, Whether People from *Edinburgh* and *Glasgow* may send Ships, and trade to the *Philippian* Islands and *Japan*?

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. OWEN, at *Homer's Head*, near
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TO THE
HONOURABLE
ROBERT NUGENT, Esq;

SIR,

THE great Figure you have made in defending the Interest of the People, makes me pay you this small Acknowledgement of Praise. It shou'd not be look'd upon as the Flattery of a Dedication, for you neither know me, nor, if you did, wou'd I receive Favours from you, but you are the Grachus of the People of England; and all of us, amongst whom little I am one, ought to support you with their advise, with their Purfes, and with their Hands, if Occaston requires; you are their Champion against Monopolizing Companies, we the People are to reap the Benefit, you only the Honour. The Senate of Rome monopoliz'd the Conquer'd Lands, the
Gracchi

D E D I C A T I O N .

Gracchi demanded them to be divided amongst all, by an Agrarian Law; the Gracchi were murdered by the Monopolizers, but the great Caius J. Cæsar revenged them. May you, Sir, with the Patriot Spirit of the Gracchi, and the Fortune of Cæsar, force the monopolizing Companies, to submit to an Agrarian Law in Commerce, and give Liberty to the People of Great Britain and Ireland, to use their Industry, upon those two thirds of the World which are now lock'd up by Monopolizers, under the Pretence of a Charter and Act, which many believe give them no such Authority, but only gives them an exclusive Right under Limitation to those Places where they trade, not to exclude others from those where they will not trade. I am,

S I R,

With profound Respect,

Your most devoted and obedient,

tho' unknown, humble Servant.

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L E T T E R S

Relating to the

East India Company.

To Sir. J—— L——.

S I R,

THE glorious Stand you have made on many Occasions, against those who wou'd have robbed the Publick, particularly against the famous *Wood* and his Iron Monopoly, as well as the Directors of the *South Sea Company*, makes the honest Part of the Nation fix their Eyes upon you, they desire your Advice, and are willing to follow it. Wise Measures were never more necessary than at this Time, when the lavish Idleness and Luxury of our People, both great and small, join'd to the Industry and enterprising Spirit now stirring amongst foreign Nations in Trade, menaces Ruin and Destruction to our native Country, where cou'd we better look for wisdom, than in the long Experience of one, who, by Order, and proper Measures, hath from
a small

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a small Village made * a noble Town equal to Cities, and hath shewn, that the barren Wilds of *Cumberland* can be enriched, by fetching minerals out of the Bowels of the Earth, whilst Agriculture fertilizes the Surface. Fishing seizes the scaly Legions of the Deep, and Navigation carrying all these Produces to proper Markets, enriches the whole.

A Chamber under your Auspices, has made a Dividend out of the Gains of their Fishery, whilst the Society in *London*, for want of your directing Oeconomy, have call'd for, and lost four times as much as the others have gain'd and divided. After the Year 1720, the new Directors of the *South Sea*, who profess'd their Aversion to, and rose upon the Ruins of those who had hurt Mankind by Stock-Jobbing, these new Directors fell upon another Plan of private Gain, and publick Loss, the Company had a most advantageous Priviledge of Trade, but their Servants grew rich, whilst the Company lost; Supercargoes were worth their Plumes, whilst the Estates of the Proprietors were every Day declining. You saw the Evil, provided the Remedy, and pursued it; you made them divide the trading Stock from the Annuitants, whereby the Stock of the Annuitants became more valuable than the trading Stock, notwithstanding the Delusion of a profitable Trade, which was unprofitable to the Company, as all Trades must be

* *Whitehaven* in *Cumberland*.

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to the *Proprietors* of Companies. This had a farther Effect; the *Proprietors* of the trading Stock grew tired of their Priviledges, and gave them up, and the Stock, which, whilst it had the Priviledge of an exclusive Trade to the *West Indies*, was from 102 to 105, has of late floated from 115 to 120; therefore the *Proprietors* were benefited, by delivering up their Trade; tho' their *Directors* and Servants cannot get Plumes.

You remember, Sir, when the *East India* Company's *Charter* was disputed in Parliament, and all the various Arts us'd on that Occasion. Their Stock now consists of 3,200,000 *l.* upon this they divide 8 *per Cent*; and their Stock is now 186 or 87; the Government pays them 3 *per Cent.* upon that 3,200,000 *l.* which they lent to them, supposing that in Lieu of their exclusive Trade, the Nation should give them 3 *per Cent.* more, which is 96,000 a Year, whereby the Proprietors would have 6 *per Cent.* Annuity yearly, which upon the same Footing as the other Annuities, would make their Stock worth 200, which is now worth only 187; therefore the *Proprietors* would get 13 upon 100 *l.* Stock (upon this Calculation, I suppose that the Effects of the Company will pay their Bonds and other Debts.) By this all the People of *England* and *Scotland* wou'd get the Liberty of using their Industry in the *East Indies*, which would increase infinitely the Exports, and consequently

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the Employment of the People of *Great Britain*. It wou'd also increase the Imports in one Article which we know, of Tea, several of our rival foreign *East India* Companies subsist by running Teas into *England*; but free Traders wou'd bring Tea so cheap, that Foreigners could not afford Running; and consequently would break the foreign Companies, and save to the Kingdom that Sum, and the Revenues would be increased by the Duties; and even this, great as it is, would be but an inconsiderable Object, in Comparison of the great Number of Markets that would be opened by private Industry.

1. There is *one very serious Objection* may be made to this, that it may prevent the GLORY of the Kingdom. We know that GREECE was raised to the highest Pitch of GLORY, by *Alexander's* conquering of *India*; therefore if the *Military Genius* should increase amongst the DIRECTORS, and they should go a *conquering Indostan*, the *English* GLORY may then emulate that of the *Macedons*.

2. Another Inconveniency may arise; the DIRECTORS and Servants of the Company would not get *Plumes*.

But on the other Side, the *Proprietors* would have the Advantage of securing their Property, and their *Estates* would not then depend upon the precarious Battles of a *Nabob*. A *Moorish Army* beaten in *India*, may chance to fall the Stocks so much *per Cent.* as A YOUNG GIRL may

may lose her *Fortune*, her Lover, and her Marriage.

It may be said, Where will the Money be found to satisfy this additional Interest of 96,000 *l.* a Year? I say, it may be had by laying additional Duties on *East India* Goods, amounting not only to that Sum, but to any other that shall be necessary for removing the Exclusion, and defraying his Majesty's Expences for a good Military Establishment in *East India*, by Sea and Land; the *free Traders* will be able to pay a much higher Duty than the Company can, since they will be free of all the Charges of DIRECTORS, *Governors*, *Officers*, *Perquisites*, &c. which all Companies must labour under.

It may be objected, that the Trade requires the keeping of *Forts* and maintaining a War in *India*; if so, it is a very *unfit* Situation for a *Company*, whose Constitution is not form'd for WAR. It is but a small Part of the *Indies*, where the Company have *Forts*, it is only in the Neighbourhood of *Indostan*; that is to say, *Bombay*, some *Forts* on the Coast of *Malabar*, *Madarass*, *Bengal*, and the little Fort at *Bencoolen* upon the Island of *Sumatra*, and some other small ones, besides the Island of *St. Helena*. At present the *Revenues* arising from their Territories maintains them, and would do so, if they were in his Majesty's Hands, in Time of Peace; and if there is a WAR, we see that the *Nation* must be at the

Expence of sending Fleets and Troops upon extraordinary Occasions ; therefore if the Nation is to be at the Charge of defending the Trade, they ought not to be excluded from the Benefit of that which they defend.

I only suggest these, with profound Humility, that they may excite you to extend your Thoughts to the *East India* Company, and that you would apply your great Wisdom and Influence, to rescue the Proprietors thereof, as you did those of the *South Sea*. I am,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

A Letter



A Letter to the People of Britain.

THE EAST INDIAN TRADE, is not only of vast Importance to the *Proprietors*, but also to the *Publick*. Therefore as a great Question relating to that Company, is now in Agitation (and upon which the Success of the Company and the very Being of the Trade may depend) it is necessary to satisfy the Curiosity of the Publick on this Head.

There was a *Charter* granted to the *East India Company*, many Disputes arose about it, which came before Parliament ; all Arts were used to corrupt or delude the Members ; amongst others, a *Tyger* was baited with Solemnity, on the Day the great Question was to come on. This was such a Novelty, that several of the Members were drawn off from their Attendance, and absent on the Division ; some *Members* were also expelled the House for *Bribery* ; but this was long ago, in King *William's* Reign. At last an Act of Parliament was obtained by Way of Compromise, between the old Company, the new Company, and the separate Traders, by which an exclusive Trade was granted for a Term of Years to

to the united Company, for trading to the *East Indies*.

It is understood, that they have the sole *Monopoly* of trading to the East of the *Cape of Good Hope*; but this is a very large and uncertain Description of their Bounds; for as the World is round, they might go to the East of the *Cape of Good Hope*, if no Land intervened, till they came unto it again; and at that Rate *Chili*, *Peru*, and *America* would be within their *Monopoly*. Therefore this must certainly be a vulgar Error, and there must be other Bounds prescribed by the *Charter*; but what they are, I cannot tell, having never had the Opportunity of seeing it. *But probably it does not extend to the Molucca Islands, the Spice Islands, or the Philippians**; for I do not find that, since the *Act of Parliament* †, the Company ever traded to any of those Places; and yet the Advantage would be very great; and the *Directors* are so anxious for the Good of their *Proprietors*, and of the Company, that they would not have neglected, were it within their *Charter*. For the same Reason, I am apt to suppose, their *Monopoly* does not extend to *New Guiney*, *New Britain*, the *Isle of Sabada*, and other Islands, which *Capt. Dampier* sailed round in one of the *Men of War*, and on which he landed about the Year 1700, and where he met with Gold,

* *Q.* If the Charter extends to those Places.
† Reason why it does not.

Nut-

Nutmegs, &c. For the same Reason one also might suppose, that *Corea* and *Japan* are not within the Company's *Charter*, because they never traded to either of them, since the *Act of Parliament*.

These various Regions afford the richest Commodities, Gold, Jewels, Spices, Pearls and Drugs of the most valuable Kind. In the *Philippian Islands* lies the City of *Manilia*, one of the richest in the East: There is a Ship goes from thence yearly to *Aquapulca*, worth 500,000. *l.* It was one of their Ships MY LORD ANSON took. It may be said, that all the *Spice Islands* belong to the *Dutch*, but that is a Mistake; some of them, the *Dutch* are in Possession of, particularly *AMBOINA*; and every *Englishman* must abhor the Method by which they got that Trade, and the horrid Cruelties they committed on the *English* there. With Respect to others, they do not belong to them, particularly *Mindano*, where *Captain Dampier* and *Captain Swan* lived for some Time. This is ruled by an independant Monarch, who invited *Captain Swan*, who commanded the *Signet*, a Ship fitted out by some private Merchants of *London*, a free *English* trading Ship, to come and settle there.

All these rich Regions would afford a vast Field to *English* Industry, many *Hundreds of Ships* might be employed, and many Millions gained. It remains to our Superiors to judge, whether they are within the *Company's Charter*;

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no body would desire to hurt the Company of the *Proprietors*; but no Hurt can arise to either, by trading to Places which the Company will not trade to.

An Enquiry now upon Foot led me to publish these Matters, and at the same Time I must testify my *Abhorrence* of every Attempt, towards abridging the *legal Rights* of the Company, or doing any Injury unto them; and I heartily wish that no Evil Counsellor may ever prevail with them, to injure themselves, by turning a trading Company, into a *Military* fighting one.

To



To Miss A——, who has Interest in the East India Stock.

MADAM,

ONE who has Eyes and a Heart, cannot refuse answering so fair a Lady; I shall write you the Truth, and the whole Truth, though it may perhaps disoblige some of the Great.

Your All in the Company depends upon the *wise* or *foolish* Management of your *Directors*; their Wisdom was visible in the Loss of *Madras*: And after that it was by the Peace delivered to us again, the Spirit of *Heroism* came strong upon them, they would engage in a new War as Auxiliaries to the Blacks; the Company was almost ruined by the victorious *French*, when the brave CLIVE, and us who followed him, redeemed your Affairs. But the wise and heroic *Directors*, not content with Victory, scorned mean Submission and low pacific Measures, and with the Magnanimity of a *Roman Senate*, persist in War, War, a genteel and honourable Profession, but which your *rich Merchants* were formerly such Clowns as to avoid; but this Age is so improved, that our *Directors* are more-magnanimous.

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nanimous. A Merchant subsists and grows rich by exchanging what one Nation wants, for that with which another abounds, is thanked by both, and gets by the Bargain. A *Soldier* takes all by Force, is opposed even to Death, destroys twice as much as he gets, and, if he is not kill'd or hang'd before, dies in an Hospital. This is your regular Soldier, according to the modern Military Discipline, and the *Act of Mutiny and Desertion*. As for your regular Officer, if he is rich, he can best tell you, whether it was got by Pay, Cloathing, or Plunder, gained in the last *Conquests in Flanders*. You will perhaps say then, Why was I a Soldier? There are two Kinds of Soldiers; the regular one, who is curb'd by the Mutiny and Desertion Act, and another Kind of Soldier, who serves, because he chuses to defend the Laws, Liberties and Properties of the Community of which he is a Member: These Soldiers are like MARCUS, if they fall.

————— *the gallant Youth,*
Who bravely in his Country's Cause expir'd,
Shall know he conquer'd—————

CATO.

This Kind of Soldier you have now in the *East Indies*; this Kind of Soldier, led by the *valiant CLIVE*, beat the *French*, and the vast Armies of the *Moors* and *Indians* under the
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the *French NABOB*. These fight for Freedom, because they are free, and would not bear to live under slavish Rule. Had such an Act subsisted, when the Merchants, Writers, and all the Factors, took Arms and beat the Enemy, they who faced Death for Freedom, would not have submitted to have been Slaves, and to be *whipp'd*, by the Judgement of three Officers, Men perhaps neither wiser nor braver than themselves. Judge therefore, whether you would rather have your Property defended by such Irregulars as conquered, or such Regulars as were last War in *Flanders*. I was not in *Flanders*, I served in *India*, because War stoppt Trade, therefore fought to stop War, that Trade might go on. Your Mutiny and Desertion Soldier is not to judge why he fights, and only thinks how to get rid of Chains; he wishes a Defeat, that when his Officers run away, he may desert; and they must die or run, if none under their Command will fight. The forc'd Soldier looks at his Officer as his Enemy, and on his Country's Enemies as his Friends, coming to deliver him from the Service he loaths.

If the Increase of Power, and the Perquisites arising from War, should flatter the Ambition and Avarice of the *Leadenball Heroes*, so as they should go on with War, certain Ruin must attend the *Stock*; if you conquer, the Charge of the War will be more than the Benefit of your Trade will pay; and there's no
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need of telling you the Consequence of being conquered.

I have dealt freely with you, dear Miss; and have given you this Instance of my sincere Affection, since I expose myself to the ill Consequences of the *implacable Resentment* of those who delight in WAR, and know the Sweets that arise from one in *India*. I am,

M A D A M,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

To

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To the Honourable * * * . * * * , Esq; one
of the * * * of * * * .

THE *East India* Trade is of such Consequence, that the highest Regard should be paid to it. And therefore it is proper, that all the *Counties, Cities and Boroughs* of *England*, should be informed how they, in particular, would reap a Benefit, in common with the rest of the People of *England*, by extending this Trade. And they would obtain this great End, would each *County, City and Borough*, respectively, *desire their Candidates to enquire into this Matter*, and to use their Endeavours for enlarging the Trade. If that Trade were enlarged, it would increase such a Demand for Woolen Goods, for Iron Ware, and for every other Branch of Business in *England*, as would employ all the Manufacturers, who are now starving, and thereby relieve the Poor, by making them no longer so; and this would be a noble Means of lessening, if not ditcharging the *Parishes from the Poor Tax*.

This might be demonstrated, by the many Places that are not yet traded to by the *English*. The Company trades in the *Red Sea* but to one Port, that is, *Moca*; but the *Habazine's Empire*,

Empire, or **ETHIOPIA**, which lies on the West Side of that Sea, is not attempted to be traded to, altho' it is inhabited by *Christians*, and abounding with Gold, Myrrh, Sena, Aloes, Civet, and Numbers of rich Dying and Medicinal Drugs, and other Commodities; and they have no Iron nor Woolen Goods, but what is carried to them over Land from *Egypt* or *Turkey*, and which is mostly manufactured by the *French*, or at *Damascus*. The Company doth not trade to *Syam*, a rich and great Kingdom; nor to *Pegu*, a Kingdom that produces Rubies, Gum Lac, Gum Dragon, and all the Materials of the fine *Indian Varnish*: The Inhabitants are very industrious, and great Trade might be made there. *Tonkin* is also a Kingdom full of industrious People; and the Kingdom of *Cochin China* would give Vent to a great Number of Commodities. The Kingdoms of *Japan*, and *Corea*, are amongst the richest in the World; and with these the *East India Company*, have no Commerce; and yet they abound in raw Silk, Gold, Silver, Spice Goods, Tea, Purclin, Japan, &c. nor need the Company strive to gain Access, since the Company have more Trade than they can turn their Hands to.

Those many *Spice Islands*, unpossessed by the *Dutch*, and **MINDANO**, and other Islands near the *Philippians*, unpossessed by the *Spaniards*, are a glorious Field of Industry for the *English*; Numbers of Adventurers might make their

their Fortune by such a Trade, hundreds of Ships be employed, and vast Sums brought home, in Gold, Silver, and rich Goods, in Payment for our Manufactures.

It is necessary for us to think of these Things; for if we do not, the **PRUSIANS**, or others, will, the Gain being so great, and the Company cannot use their *Charter* against *Foreigners*, who are so saucy as not to obey an *English Act of Parliament*. I am,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

To



To — B —, Esq; one of the Aldermen of
the City of London.

S I R,

AS you have shewn yourself a Pattern of Liberty, and Encourager of Trade, I take the Liberty of mentioning to you the Answer that may be given to those who say, that if the *East India* Company were to give up their *Monopoly*, in Consideration of being paid by the Publick, the Trade could not be carried on by Free Merchants.

Every one knows, that the Trade to *China* may be carried on from *Britain* directly, as it is from *Sweden*, and that, without a Company, the same may be done from all other Parts, except where the Company has Forts. As for those I would only suggest, that if *St. Helena*, *Bombay* and *Madrafs*, were each of them, with their Dependancies, created into a separate Colony, with a Governor, appointed by his Majesty, to be assisted by a Council and Assembly, chosen by the People, as in *America*, they would make as rich and as flourishing Colonies as *Virginia*, or *Jamaica*; since their Trade and Commodities are of more Value. And if the *free Merchants* who

who are now there, together with all other *Britons*, who should go thither hereafter, were incorporated with the *Black Merchants*, who are excessive rich, and with the *Black Artizans*, who are sober and industrious, those Colonies would grow up, in a very short Time, to such a Height, as hardly can be conceived; they would be so far from wanting a *Monopolizing Company*, that they would not only be able to defray their own Charges, but give Assistance towards paying off the National Debt. Think what a Resort of People would be to any Part of *India*, where there were good *Laws*, *Liberty*, and *Property* established; and where there was a mild Government, and *free Trade*. I hope you will excuse my taking this Liberty, and believe me to be,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

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To



To —, Merchant in Edinburgh.

S I R,

I AM to return you Thanks for the Books you sent me, containing the Attempts of the SCOTS NATION before the Union, to open a Trade to the East Indies, and America, particularly their Settlement upon the Darien, and the barbarous Treatment those Adventurers met with from England.

Certainly the then English Ministry were as weak as they were wicked; for had the Scots maintained the Isthmus of Darien, and a free Passage between the North and South Seas, within a Colony of their own, Britain would have been so powerful in America, as would have prevented the French from breaking the Treaty of Reswick; and consequently would have hindered those Wars, which has brought this Nation 80,000,000 l. in Debt.

I entirely agree with you, " that if Scotland " had the Liberty of trading to all Parts of " the Globe, they, by the Cheapness of their " Labour, and the Number of their hardy " and industrious Men, could undertrade Fo- " reigners, and could open many Markets, " that are at present unthought of; and that " this

" this would increase the Shipping and Wealth " of Great Britain to an immense Degree."

When you lament, that Scotland is deprived of those Advantages, I must acquaint you, that England is so also, at least all the free Merchants. These Hindrances flow from the Interpretation of monopolizing Companies at home, and foreign Princes abroad: For Example, the King of Spain pretends, that we shall not send Ships, nor trade to the South Seas; but I do not know of any Law that prohibits the Scots from trading there. Whilst the South Sea Company subsisted, they had a Monopoly; but now that is over, and by great good Fortune, that Company trades no more. Therefore if a Scots Ship went into the South Sea, and traded there, and avoided being taken by the Spanish Guarda Costas, all the Gain that they brought home to Britain, might be enjoyed by the adventurous and industrious Merchants and Mariners that acquired it.

What you mention about the Philippians and Japan, is, I believe, very true, and agrees with what I have heard at Batavia from Dutch Merchants, who had been at those Places; to be sure, a Cargo of Spices may be procured at very easy Rates, on those Islands, where the Dutch have no Claim, and which they cannot prevent our trading to. Such a Cargo, with proper Assortments of English Iron Ware, Woolen Goods, Glass, Mathematical Instruments, Toys, Fire Arms, &c. would procure

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a much richer Cargo from *Japan*. It is generally given out, that the *Japanese* are forbid trading with all Foreigners; it was so formerly, when the *Christian Religion*, had made a great Progress amongst the *Japanese*, the *Pagans* raised most horrible Persecutions, and as they murdered all those who would not renounce Christianity, they prohibited *Spanish* and *Portuguese Christians* from trading there, lest they should support the Remainers of the concealed *Christians*, who had learned their Religion from the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Priests; but even in the rage of those Persecutions, they permitted the *Dutch* and the *English* also to trade there; and Mr. *Adams*, an *Englishman*, continued in *Japan* and in Favour at Court, long after the Expulsion of Foreigners. The *Dutch* continue their Trade there to this Day; and it is looked upon at *Batavia* as the most advantageous Branch they have in *India*, not excepting the Spices, tho' the Spices make a great part of the Cargo, with which they purchase the *Japanese* Goods. The *English* lost the Trade by neglecting it, during *Cromwell's* Civil Wars; after the Restoration, there was a Ship sent to renew the Trade; she was very kindly received, but the *Dutch* informed the *Japanese*, that King *Charles* was married to the King of *Portugal's* Sister: The Court ordered the Ship to go away, because they would not trade with People, whose King was so nearly related to the *Portuguese*.

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You'll find this Account at large in *Harris's* Voyages; and I can assure you, that the *Dutch* are well satisfied, that the Court of *Japan* would not refuse Licence to any *European* Prince, except the *Spanish* and *Portuguese*, to trade there; and the *Dutch* are so jealous of this, that they suffer no Pilot, who has ever been at *Japan*, to leave *Batavia*, lest they should fall into the Hands of any other Prince. They also spread dreadful Reports of the Severity of the *Japanese* against Strangers, but it is certain, that if a Ship of any Country was to go to some of the Ports at the East End of *Japan*, because the *Dutch* are settled at the West End, and, being provided with proper Interpreters, who may be easily had either in *China*, or the *Philippian* Islands, they might obtain Licence of Trade from the Court; for without Licence it is certain they could not trade.

The great and only real Objection in attempting this most beneficial Trade is, that the *East India* Company claim an exclusive Trade to *Japan*; and you ask me, whether I think that Exclusion reaches to Ships fitted out from *Edinburgh* and *Glasgow*. I am not a Lawyer, and have not the Acts of Parliament; upon the Words of which that Matter must depend. This I know, that the Company never traded to *Japan* since their *Charter* was confirmed by Act of Parliament; and, surely, if they thought it within their *Charter* they would have certainly attempted that Trade, which

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which is much more advantageous than any they now carry on.

I join with you in thinking, that trading to those far Countries would be the making of *Scotland*, and that *Glasgow* and *Edinburgh*, and every other Town, might carry it on to their great Advantage. With Respect to the Doubt that you start, the only Measure that I could think of is, that the *Cities, Counties, and Boroughs of North Britain* should apply to their Members, that they should, in the next Parliament, desire an Explanation of what Parts of the Globe *the People of North Britain* are debarred trading to, by *Charters* granted before the UNION, or by Acts of Parliament made before or since; or whether the Subjects born and dwelling in *North Britain* and *Ireland*, are bound by an Act, unless it should mention those Countries particularly. You see, Sir, I am punctual to your Order, and have not spared Paper; and am glad of this, and shall be so of any farther Occasion of shewing how much I am,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

F I N I S.