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**THE
Bank of England,**

And their Present

Method of Paying,

Defended from the

ASPERSIONS

Cast on them in a late Book,

ENTITLED,

A Review of the Universal Remedy for all Diseases incident to Coin. With Application to our present Circumstances. In a Letter to Mr. Locke.

LONDON,

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T H E
B A N K of *England*,
A N D T H E I R
Method of Paying Defended, &c.

S I R,

T H E Defence of the Bank of *England*, and their Present Method of Payment, will, I fear, seem at present so great a Paradox to the generality of people, that one might very well take a fair Excuse from thence, to save ones self the labour: But my sentiments of their Management being directly contrary to those of the Town, which I find collected with a great deal of Prejudice against them by the Author

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of the Book which I receiv'd from you; I shall make the less difficulty, in answer to your desire, to send you my thoughts of their Complaints and his Performance, with Respect to the Bank, without farther Apology.

The Design of the Author seems, in short, (for I must ask his pardon if I forbear to transcribe the length of his Expressions) to prescribe a Remedy for the present obstruction, and interrupted Currency of our Coin. In order to which, he sets himself to prove, *That there is now in the Kingdom Good Money sufficient, and more than sufficient to answer our Expences, Commerce, Markets; and, in fine, to make us all easie in all our occasions.* And here very much offers itself to be disputed, even upon his own Computation; But for quietness sake, and that we may proceed, I shall at present suppose with our Author that this is true.

Well, how comes it then that we are in this Lamentable Condition, this Woful Plight, that is the occasion of such Tragical Exclamation? Why these

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these are the Reasons, says our Author, *First, the Dilatory Payment of Notes by Goldsmiths, and others; and at last, for the greater respect, of Bank Notes.* This he insinuates only as yet, the violent and great Charge is reserv'd till after. *Secondly, The boarding of the Weighty Money and Guinea's, in expectation that they will be rais'd the next Parliament.* *Thirdly, The boarding of Money designedly to keep up, and to take advantage of its scarcity.* *Fourthly and lastly, Having discharg'd the last Relicts of Veneration, which it seems he had been some time troubled with for the Bank of England, he lays it once more upon them, and indeed the endeavour to cast and fix the Blame upon them chiefly, after all his wandring and smooth Pretences, seems to be the great End, and main Design of his long Letter.*

These being the Causes which our Author has laid down for the Reasons of the Present Scarcity of Money, I shall go on to give you my Remarks on them as briefly as possible.

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The slow Payment of Notes by Goldsmiths and others, must needs be confest to be a great hindrance to the free Currency of Money : But that it ought to be attributed wholly or generally to their ill Management and dishonest Practices, as our Author would most charitably persuade us, I can by no means consent to; and shall take occasion to speak farther to, when I consider the Reasons for the slow Payment at the Bank of *England*.

The Hoarding of Guinea's and Weighty Money, in expectation of their being rais'd the next Parliament, is undoubtedly another Obstacle to the Circulation of the Coin: And whoever does so, it must be acknowledg'd that their Expectations are both very unreasonable, and extremely prejudicial to the Interest of the Nation; for which reason I shall freely turn them over to be Disciplin'd for their ill aim'd Obstinacy by our Author.

And pass to the other sort of Hoarders which he mentions: Such as hoard to take Advantage of the Scarcity, which

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which they themselves occasion; and these are the men indeed for whom no terms are too disgraceful. Had our Author, instead of the Bank, discharg'd his Spleen against these unnatural Misers, he could scarce have said too much against them, at least I should never have interrupted his Declamation.

And thus at length we come to consider the force of his Charge against the Bank, and to examine the Justice of those Imputations, which he so harshly lays upon them; That the slow Payment of their Bills, is the chief reason for the present Hardship of the Money.

And here I shall without scruple confess, that the ready Payment of their Bills would be a great help to the free Passage of the Money. But this is not the Case: The Question is, Whether they have Money; I mean such as will give satisfaction? Will those who so impatiently demand Payment, be satisfy'd to take it, in the same sort of Money, which their Bills were

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were given for? the greatest Part it is well known having been taken in, either in Clipt Money, or Gold at an overvalue: I know this cannot but be a very Offensive Question to these very hearty People; now that the Coin is in so much better condition: but if they will be pleas'd to consider, if they have not yet absolutely resolv'd to be deaf even to *Truth and Reason, if they appear in favour of the Bank.* I say, if they will yet reflect calmly upon this Matter, they will soon find, that it is to this very Alteration of the Coin, and not to any Mismanagement of the Directors, that their present Slow Payment is owing, and by Consequence that they are as far from Dishonesty in their present acting, as our Author is from Truth and good Manners, in his false and groundless Aspersing of them.

However, let us trace this a little further, for the sake of some People.

It is well known, that just before the calling in of the old, adulterated, diminish'd Coin, the Bank had a very
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great number of Bills and Notes out against them, all which were readily answer'd in the Coin, to which they referr'd, the then curren Coin of the Nation, and which before the Parliament began to take the Cure of the Money into their Consideration, was as readily accepted by those who demanded Payment of them. Thus far then the Bank was honest, as honest as any that made Payments in the Kingdom. How came they then to alter their Method? How came they that were but just now so honest and so punctual, to be forc'd to hazard their Reputation, their most advantageous Bottom; and expose themselves to these heavy Censures? Why this our Author, out of his profound Respect for so Considerable a Body, cannot attribute to any thing but *either their Mismanagement, or their Impotency, the effect of their Mismanagement*; which he has very wisely noted to be the same thing. And upon this Chapter it is that our Author treats them without Mercy, though not without good Counsel, which h

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is very full of: First gives them a stroke or two by way of Preparation, then reads them a Lecture of Morality, with an *O Tempora, O Mores!* Laces them, half *Latin*, half *English*; *Lucri bonus est Odor.* O detestable! bids them *sell all they have, throw the Helve after the Hurchet, Plate, Tallies, Bonds, Lands, any thing, every thing;* rather than suffer this Dunning at their Door: and if they will do this, then all will be well. But if not, nay, if they do but intreat, tho in a manner never so *languishing, for some Forbearance, some little Pity,* this brings him upon them ten times more furious than before. O Vipers! *Work Gentlemen,* do as I bid you, or else you must expect no favour. And thus having reduc'd them to the lowest estate of wretched Mortals, given them some good advice, as proper to restore them as to cure the Tooth-ach, he leaves them to comfort themselves, with Ends of Philosophy, and Scraps of Poetry.

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But after all this, if our Angry Author will yet hearken, if a word or two may yet lay hold of him; Is he really in earnest in this matter, or has he only chose it as a fit subject to exercise his Talent on? Had his pretended Respect for the Bank, or but some Members of it been real, he might sure have found out some way to have determin'd this concern something more in their favour. I say, I cannot imagine but he might have found some appearance of Reason in a Case so plain, to have help'd them with on this occasion.

For my part, this I am confident of, that if he had made but any Enquiry, if he had ask'd any but their Mistaken, or their Malicious Enemies, the Reason of this *faultering*, as he terms it, in their Payments, they must needs have refer'd it to the Regulation of the Coyn, and the Method which has been taken to make good its Deficiency.

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When a stop was put to the Currency of the old Money, and those who had accepted it but just before, refused to take it any longer; what could the Bank do on this Occasion? They had no other way but to stand still till the Business was determin'd, and when all other ways of disposing of the Money they had by them, except to vast loss, was shut up, but that of throwing it into the *Exchequer*, I cannot for my life imagin how they could have excus'd themselves, if they had not, with the whole Kingdom, made use of the Opportunity. From which it evidently appears, that it was Necessity and the

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the publick Good, and not any private advantage that oblig'd them to throw their Money by way of Loan into the Kings hands.

But let us follow this yet a little further, for the sake of our Author, who seems as if he wink'd hard on purpose to mistake in this matter. The small Money being thus forc'd into the *Exchequer*, what could be expected of the Bank, till they were supply'd from thence again, they could not make Brick without Straw, to pay new Money while they had it not was impossible; from whence too it easily follows, that when they should have it, they were oblig'd

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oblig'd both in Wisdom and Justice to order their Payments according to their Receipts of it, which is by Parcels and by Time, so that every one might have a little ; that is, in plain terms, to act as they do, since they can do no better. Had our Author consider'd this, as I am sure he ought to have done, he might easily have seen, that it is the *Hardship of the Time and the unavoidable consequence of the reinstating of the Coin* that occasions this Difficulty, and not any ill Design of the Bank or the Goldsmiths, as was said : I am sure his not considering of it gives too great an occasion to question either his Understanding or his Sincerity. And

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And now, Sir, if you have yet any doubt of the partiality, to say no worse of this Writer, I desire you would look over the Apology, which he says they are so ready to make for themselves on this occasion, p. 32. of his Book, and observe how disingenuously he passeth it over without an answer, instead of which he only directs them, as if their Fortunes were at his disposal, to sell all they have, that so they might increase the publick hardship with their particular Ruin.

Oh, but says he again, if they had call'd in their 40 per cent. upon the first sense of their Distress, that would have
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fav'd their Credit and kept them in Reputation. But can he believe himself, when he reflects once more upon this Proposal? Can he think the calling in of 480000 Pounds in Bills only from one part of them, would have satisfy'd the other that demanded to be paid in Money; the bare Proposal of this Chimera is Answer enough to it, without giving it any further consideration.

Page 56. But let them call in the 40 per cent. now says our Author, retaining the 20 per cent. which they have borrow'd upon courtesie. And what then? Why then, says he, having given such a Pledge to the world

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of their Integrity, every Body will return to them, and throw their Money into their Hands again, as they did at the beginning; and here indeed the Author has at last found the true way to oblige his Friends the Members of the Bank, and to bind them to him for ever. But suppose if the Bank should do this, yet People should not bring their Money so fast to them as he promises, but notwithstanding this great Pledge, should rather chuse to keep it themselves to answer their more pressing occasions. I say what would our Author say to this, what Recompence could he make these Friends of his, after they

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they had so straitned themselves to no purpose to oblige others. Why it may be, good man, he would hold up his Hands, exclaim upon their Ingratitude, and then send 'em to the very Beasts for more *humane* Examples.

Page 58 he sets them to cast up their accounts, and to consider their affairs, as if they had been hitherto as unthinking and as wild as *Epicurus* his Atoms; and then if they cannot pay ready money to allow interest for Forbearance; in which our Author discovers himself extremely ignorant in the Business he pretends to, for had he taken
never

never so little pains he might soon have learn'd, that whoever has Notes to the value of 100 Pounds, may when he pleaseth exchange them for Interest Bills; but I perceive he is resolv'd to order this matter according to his own fancy, tho it sets him never so much beside the *Cushion*.

But his most endearing kindness for the Bank, as well as the great expedient for the restoration of the Money comes at last, all his other laid aside, and that is the total decrying of the Bank, and that they shall pay nothing at all but Interest; and this he thinks would let

us all upon our Legs again. But how in the name of Goodness can this be, does their paying some money, make greater scarcity than if they paid none, will they who think it so hard to receive but a little now, be indeed better satisfy'd to receive none at all. Impotent Director!

But, says he, if their Bills or Notes, which is the same with him, had no currency, then it must be Money; but what can he mean by their having no currency. However, they are order'd still, those that own them, will have the propriety, and by consequence a right to
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the disposal of them, under what form soever they are consider'd. For my part, except they could pay more money, I don't know how they can act better than they do at present, and I think it need not be suspected, but that they will pay more as soon as they are able, least of all that they designedly keep up a scarcity which they themselves are such great sufferers by: In the mean time they must have patience, the best Remedy for us all, *till Time, the further consideration of the Parliament, and the Success of the Publick Affairs, bring this great Concern*

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cern to an issue, which that it
may be honorable and happy, is
the hearty desire of

S I R,

Your Servant,

P. H.

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