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CONSIDERATIONS

Relating to the laying any

Additional Duty on SUGAR

From the

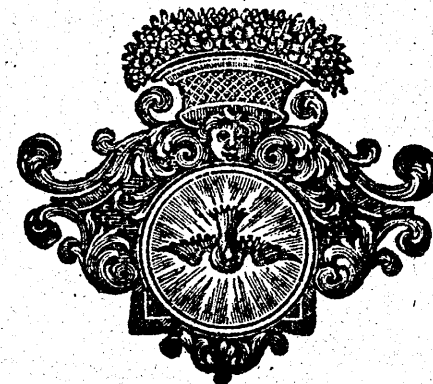
BRITISH PLANTATIONS.

Wherein is shewn,

That such Duty will be injurious to the COMMERCE and NAVIGATION of this Kingdom, ruinous to our SUGAR COLONIES, beneficial to those of *France*, and insufficient for the Purposes intended.

The Value of every Thing upon Earth arises from its Quantity in Proportion to its Vent, and this alone regulates the Price.

Lock's Works, Vol. II. p. 20.



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CONSIDERATIONS

Relating to the laying any

Additional Duty on SUGAR.

THE laying an additional Duty on Sugars being at present the Subject of much Discourse, the following Reasons are submitted to the Consideration of Gentlemen, to shew that such a Duty must be attended with very ruinous Consequences to the *British* Sugar Colonies, would be against the Interest of *Great Britain*, extremely detrimental to the Commerce, Navigation and Revenue of this Kingdom, greatly beneficial to that of *France*, and would be insufficient for the Purposes intended.

The great Value and Importance of the *British* Sugar Colonies, and the close Connection of their Interests with *Great Britain*, is so well known from several Pamphlets and Papers that have been published on former Apprehensions of the like Kind with the present, particularly

with regard—To the Manufactures of all Kinds and Provisions exported, and the Sugars and other Commodities imported—To the Trade of the *East India* Company, and that with *Africa*—To the Number of Ships and Seamen they annually employ, and with Regard to their Situation both to protect and enlarge the *British* Dominion in that distant Ocean, and to intercept the Navigation and Commerce of the *French* and *Spaniards*, that it is apprehended to be wholly unnecessary to be at present more particular on this Head.

The Sugar Colonies being of this great Consequence to their Mother Country, they are entitled in return to every Encouragement and Assistance which can be given them from Home, and which it is the Interest of this Nation to give them, on Account of the many national Advantages derived from them, and to enable them to stand their Ground against the *French*, our most formidable Rival in the Sugar Trade.

It is a general Rule, that nothing hurts Trade more than high Duties, especially in those Branches wherein there is a great and powerful Rival: For all Discouragements on one hand give Advantages to the Competitor, and whatever depresses the one tends immediately to the Advancement and Prosperity of the other; and it is as undoubted a Truth, that the same Causes which streighten the *British* Commerce, will naturally enlarge the *French*: And that the Naval Force of either Nation will thrive or languish in the same Degree, as their Commerce

merce gathers or loses Strength. And as the Trade of the Sugar Islands is one of the most valuable Branches of Commerce that *Great Britain* is possessed of, any new Tax to be laid that may further streighten that Trade is wounding this Nation in a vital Part.

All Taxes whatsoever must fall upon Land or Trade, and there is a certain Proportion in both, which, if exceeded, must be dangerous to the Good of the Community.

With Regard to the Land in *England*, it has been found by Experience, that it cannot bear more than four Shillings in the Pound; and the Experience of former Times may likewise shew, that the Duties already laid on the Sugar Trade are as much, or more, than that Trade can well bear.

The first Tax upon Sugar in *England* was a Duty of 1 s. 6 d. per Hundred laid by 12 Car. II. and it was not thought proper to load it with any further Duty for a Space of upwards of twenty Years, viz. till 1 Jac. II. when a like Duty, with that now proposed, was laid for a Term of eight Years only.

This being a temporary Law, it is plain it was intended as an Experiment only; what Effect it had upon the Sugar Trade may be collected from hence, that when the Term expired, which was in 1693, the Parliament did not think fit to continue it, although the Nation was then engaged in a War with *France*; and the Exigences of the Government were very great — It is true indeed, that by the

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9th and 10th of *William III.* a new Duty of 1 s. 6 d. and by the 4th of *Queen Anne*, a further Duty of 6 d. (making together 2 s. per Hundred) which was 6 d. a Hundred less than the Duty which had been discontinued, were laid — but it is to be observed,

1. That though before the laying the two last mentioned Duties the *British* Sugar Colonies constantly made more Sugars than the *French*, yet, since the laying thereof, the *French* have greatly exceeded the *English* in their annual Importation of Sugars into *Europe*.

2. That though before the laying the two last mentioned Duties, the *French* supplied none of the foreign Markets in *Europe* with Sugars, but most of them were supplied chiefly by the *English*; yet since the laying thereof, and as soon as *Queen Ann's* War was at an End, the *French*, by Reason of the Produce of their Sugar Colonies, being subject to less Duty and Charges than ours, and by Reason of the other Encouragements given them from Home, they immediately, after the Peace of *Utrecht*, contended with us for the foreign Market, and by underfelling us; have almost wholly wrested that Branch of the Sugar Trade out of our Hands, and annually exported to those Markets near 80,000 Hogsheads of Sugar; which is of itself a Demonstration of the many superior Advantages they have over us.

3. That thereby — (besides the vast Increase which it has made in their Naval Power) — They have gained a Trade from us which brings

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brings them in near a Million *per Annum*, which is an annual Addition of so much Wealth to the National Stock of *France*, and, at the same Time, a Diminution of so much from the National Stock of *Great Britain*.

From all which it is evident, this Nation hath been so far from availing themselves by these additional Duties laid upon Sugars, that they have been immense Losers by it.

And should any further additional Duty be now laid upon Sugars, it is apprehended it must greatly distress, if not totally ruin, that Branch of the *British* Commerce, with all the Advantages dependant upon it, as will plainly appear from the following Considerations.

1. The *British* Sugar Islands, when they have had good Crops, make at least one fifth more than sufficient to answer our home Consumption, and which, by Act of Parliament, the Planters are obliged to bring to *Great Britain* (except the small Quantities sent to our Northern Colonies, and what little may go to the Southward of *Cape Finistre*;) so that the Surplus must lie as a dead Weight on the Planter's Hands. This must frequently occasion a greater Supply at the Market here than our Consumption calls for; and as the Price of all Commodities is governed by the Quantity at Market, such a new Duty must wholly lie upon the Planter and not upon the Consumer; for it is a Maxim in Trade, founded upon constant Experience, that the Value of all Commodities depends on the Plenty or Scarcity at Market in Proportion

Any new Duty on Sugars must fall on the Planters, and not on the Consumer.

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Proportion to the Demand—For when the Market is overstocked, the Price will be low, let the Duty be ever so high ; so, on the other Hand, the Scarcity of a Commodity will make it rise, though the Duties be ever so low ; and while there is a surplus Quantity at our own Market, and no foreign Market to go to where our Sugars can find a Vent at a living Price, the Planter will never be able to repay himself the Duty, by raising the Price, which will always absolutely depend upon the Plenty or Scarcity at Market in Proportion to the Demand or Consumption—And this Rule will eternally hold in all Cases of Duties upon any Commodity whatsoever ; for where there is a more than full Quantity at Market to answer the Demand, the Seller must bear it, or keep his Commodity ; and if this was not so, from whence arises the different Prices that the same Commodity bears in different Years, though the Duties, Freight and other Charges have been the same ?

The undoubted Truth is, that the Price depends on the Quantity made, and the greater or lesser Demand for home Consumption or Exportation : For when a Market is overstocked, and a large Supply continually arriving from Abroad, as must always be the Case in the Sugar Trade, when both our Islands, and the *French* make good Crops, and there is no foreign Market to go to that will yield Profit, the Price must always be low, let the Duty be ever so great—As, on the other Hand, the Scarcity of a Commodity will make it rise considerably, though

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though it pays no Duty at all ; and this general Rule will hold even in such Commodities as are necessary to sustain Life, to instance in our own Corn—A Scarcity makes it rise, and two or three good Harvests make it cheap, without any Regard to the Land-Tax being at 2s. or 4s. in the Pound, or the Farmer's Expences in manuring his Land ; nor will it bear a good Price till there is a foreign Demand, or but a sufficient Stock left for the home Consumption—So in Case of Hops, the Price is always governed by the Plenty or Scarcity of the Crop, and the Quantity at Market, without any regard to the Duty.

So that there is no possible Way in the present Instance to oblige the Consumer to pay the Duty, but by making no more Sugar than what is necessary for our home Consumption ; but which it is not in the Power of the Planters to do, otherwise than by breaking up their Settlements, or by stopping some of their Works, and lessening their Number of Negroes—Either of which will be attended with the Ruin of the Sugar Islands, and be of infinitely more Prejudice to this Nation, than all the proposed Advantages arising from this additional Duty, not only with Regard to the Commerce, Navigation, and Power, but even to the Revenue of this Kingdom.

The Taxes on Leather, Soap, Candles, Salt, Malt, Beer, Ale, and Spirits, have indeed increased the Price on the Consumers, because the Manufacturers will have a living Profit, or cease
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to deal in these Commodities; and because as they have it in their Power, so they will proportion the Quantities they make, and bring to Market to the Demand, and will never manufacture more than sufficient to answer the Consumption.

So in the Case of Wines and other Commodities of foreign Growth and Production, the Duty will always fall on the Consumer, because the Merchant will govern his Imports by the Demand he computes there will be at Market for the Commodity; and as he has it in his Power, so he will cease to import such *European* Goods as will not yield him a Profit after the Duty and all other Charges paid; but the Case is very different with Regard to the Farmer here, and the Sugar Planters abroad, for the one must plant his Hops and sow his Corn, and the other plant his Lands, and both must trust to the Price they may get for their Produce, according as it shall be governed by the Plenty or Scarcity when they bring it to Market; and it is more particularly so with Regard to the Sugar Planter, whose Commodity is of a wasting and perishable Nature, and though the Market be ever so much overstocked, and the Price ever so low, must be sold at all Events for the Subsistence of him and his Family, and to purchase *British* Manufactures to be sent back in Return.— From what has been said on this Head, it is plain both from the Reason of the Thing, and from a long tried Experience, that the present Duties on Sugar lye undoubtedly on the Planter, and for

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for the same Reasons any additional Duty must fall upon him likewise, and not upon the Consumer; and if it falls on the Planter, as it certainly must, it seems agreed on all Hands, that the whole Burthen together will be much more than he can possibly sustain.

2. The laying any new Duties upon Sugars is highly unreasonable, as the Sugar Islands defray the Expences of their own particular Governments, and not only so, but contribute very largely to the Support of the Government here—*Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Islands* pay a Duty to the Crown of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. in Kind on the gross Produce, besides the Duty of 3 s. 6 d. per Hundred, which is paid by all Sugars imported, which two Duties alone, besides the other Duties, the Sugar Islands are liable to, are more than equal to a Land-Tax of 4 s. in the Pound; so that the Sugar Plantations pay more to the Government here even in Time of Peace, than the Land of *Great Britain* pays in Time of War.—It would therefore be extremely unreasonable, and very unequal to lay this new Burthen upon them; and which, if laid, will, it is feared, be perpetual, and continue in Time of Peace: Whereas the Land-Tax, which is only annual, so soon as the War is at an End will, in all Probability, be reduced one half.

3. A Duty of 2 s. 6 d. per hundred Weight on the whole Produce of the Sugar Islands, which is calculated to amount, *Communibus Annis*, to about 80,000 or 90,000 l. per Ann. though

A new Duty would be unreasonable, as the Sugar Islands already pay more than their Share to the Expences of Governments.

A new Duty is a greater Burthen than the Commodity can bear, and will not only prevent new Settlements, but be the Ruin of the old ones.

though no very great Sum to this Kingdom, is a prodigious Sum to be raised from the Sugar Islands, and when added to the Duties already imposed, will be much greater than the Commodity will bear even in a Time of Peace, but in a Time of War, as this is, they must absolutely sink under the Weight of it.

The Expences the Planters are at in erecting and repairing their Sugar Works, and in purchasing and keeping their Negroes, and for Freight, Insurance, and other Expences in bringing their Sugars home, with the Duties they are at present liable to, and in the Taxes which they pay for the Support of their own particular Government, are, even in Times of Peace, so very heavy and burthensome, that they have been a great Discouragement to the making any new Settlement, and the Return to the Planters hath been but very small in Proportion to their Expence.

But since the Commencement of the *French* War, the additional Expences they have been at in repairing their old Fortifications, and in erecting new ones, in their Militia, in keeping Vessels for Intelligence, and in providing, as far as in their Power, for their own Security and Defence against sudden Invasions, the great Increase in the Price of their Negroes, Provisions, Lumber, and other Necessaries, the great Advance in their Freight, and the high Premium they have been forced to pay on Insurances, with the short Crops they have had, owing to Blasts, dry Weather, and other Accidents, and the

the great and frequent Losses they have sustained by Hurricanes and Storms, and Captures by the Enemy; the whole together hath been such a Weight upon them, that, notwithstanding the advanced Price at which Sugars have sold for the last two or three Years, owing to accidental Occurrences, and which have been a Misfortune instead of a Benefit to the Sugar Planters, it has been with the greatest Difficulty many of our Planters have been able to support themselves under the present Burthen; and should a new Duty, under all these Pressures, be laid upon them, it will be adding more Weight, where the Burthen already laid is too heavy, and they must absolutely fall under it; and then there is not only an End at once put to all new Settlements, further Increase and Improvements of the Sugar Colonies, but the Planters must be under a Necessity of deserting and throwing up their old Settlements, and retiring to the *Dutch* and other foreign Settlements.

4. For should any new Duty be laid upon Sugars, it will inevitably force all the middling and lower Sort of Planters, who are absolutely necessary for the Security and Defence of the Country, to quit their Plantations, and settle in the *Dutch* Sugar Settlements, or in some other Parts, as they will be totally unable to bear such an additional Weight, and as they are of absolute Necessity for the Security and Defence of the Country, the more considerable ones cannot stay long behind them—but if they could, the

the Desertion of the midling and lower Planters alone would be of the most fatal Consequences to the Sugar Plantations, as it would lessen the Number of the present Planters, obstruct all further Improvements, and Occasion a great Diminution in the Quantity of the Sugar produced.

And this is very far from being merely apprehensive, for several of the Inhabitants of *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Islands* have already gone and settled at *Isequebe* and other *Dutch* Settlements, who have received great Indulgencies from that Government, and where for their Encouragement their Goods are made free from all kind of Duties, and their Lands free from all Taxes for a long Term of Years; and from the Newness of the Ground, and Freshness of the Soil, they have double the Produce for their Labour to what they had before, and make a much more considerable Nett Profit than the *British* Planters who remain can possibly do, even under the Weight of the present Duties; and it is much to be feared, that a great Number of the considerable Planters, in case a new Duty should be laid, would likewise go and settle there too, and carry their Slaves and Plantation Utensils with them, and which they will be under a Necessity of doing the Moment Sugar, by any new additional Burthen, ceases to become an Object worthy their Attention, by not bringing them in a Reward suitable to their Labour and Expence.—For Sugar is their ultimate Dependance, and they can have no new Manufactures

factures in Reserve, as their Climate and Soil which in some of the Sugar Islands is greatly worn, will admit of none worth the Pains of Culture; so that should Sugar fail them, thro' the same Means of high Duties by which they have already lost their former Manufactures of Indigo and Ginger, they will have no Option left, but will find themselves under a fatal Necessity to transport themselves, with their Negroes and other Effects, to the neighbouring foreign Settlements; and should our Sugar Colonies thus become deserted, this Kingdom must lose that large Fund of Riches, and extensive Trade and Navigation which depends upon them—This alone is a Consideration of that momentous Nature to *Great Britain*, that it merits the utmost Attention, it being greatly to be feared, if any considerable Desertion should happen, that it may be attended with the Loss to this Nation, and Gain to the *French*, of the whole *American* Commerce.

5. If the Duty falls on the Planter, it has been already shewn there will be little or nothing paid into the Revenue—But supposing the Planters could be able to struggle under a new Duty for some short Time, and that it was possible to consider this Duty as falling upon the Consumer, it must even in that Event unavoidably lessen the Consumption; for it is an unerring Maxim in Trade, that high Duties (in all those Instances where they fall on the Buyer) hinder great Consumption, and this

The new Duty proposed will be uncertain and insufficient to answer the Purposes intended.

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must be so in the Nature of Things; for wherever a Duty falls on the Consumer, it must of Necessity occasion a Rise in the Price, and a Rise in the Price must necessarily occasion a Decrease in the Consumption, as it will put it out of the Reach of the low common People to purchase it; for as Sugar is not of absolute Necessity to Life, so the Bulk of the People may, and do, in a great Measure, lay it aside, when Reasons of Frugality require it, by which Means the Revenue arising from the Sugar Duty will be greatly diminished; for as the Rise in the Price will occasion less Sugar to be bought, so it will be impossible not only for the additional Duty to raise what is expected from it, but the Diminution of the Consumption will greatly lessen even the Produce of the former Duties—For though a further Sum will be raised, on each hundred Weight, yet, by lessening the Quantity consumed, and disabling the Planter to raise the usual Quantity, there will be a less Number of Hundreds to lay the Duty upon*.

* N. B. The Memorial of the Deputies of the Council of Commerce in France, presented to the Royal Council in 1701, agrees with the British Planters and Merchants in this Way of Reasoning—For in p. 13 of that Memorial, are the following remarkable Words, viz.

“High Duties hinder great Consumption—The dearer any Thing is, the more sparing are People in the using it. Besides it is certain, that when Sugars come to sink in their Price, they cannot bear so high a Duty—This is contrary to the Design of improving the Colonies.”

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There is another great and mischievous Inconvenience, that will certainly be the Consequence of this Duty, even supposing it should fall on the Consumer.

The Advantages arising to this Nation from the Refining of Sugars are sufficiently known, without being particularly entered into here—And it is as well known, that Refined Sugar is at this Time clandestinely imported into *Yarmouth, Newcastle*, and several other Places in the Northern Parts of *Great Britain*, from *Holland*, owing to the *Dutch* buying Sugar from the *French*, and refining it in *Holland*; and the Difference in the Price of Loaf Sugar in *England* and *Holland* is so considerable, as to make it worth While for the Smugglers to introduce it into *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; and the Rise in the Price which a new Duty must occasion, if the Price falls on the Consumer, will occasion much larger Quantities of *French* Sugars refined in *Holland* to be run in upon us, to the great Lessening of the Consumption of our own manufactured Sugar, to the inconceivable Hurt of the Planter and Refiner, and to the no less Prejudice of the Revenue.

6. It is a Fact undeniably true, that the Duties at present paid, on Sugars imported into *Great Britain*, are considerably higher than in *France* or *Holland*.

A new Duty will prevent our regaining the foreign Markets.

It is likewise as certain, that the *French*, by Means of their easy Duties and other Encouragements, have increased their Sugar Plantations to

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such a Degree, since the Peace of *Utrecht*, that they are now able to supply almost all the foreign Markets; so that the Consequence of any further Duty on Sugars must put it absolutely out of our Power ever to regain the foreign Market, which, from the Distresses brought on the *French* by the present War, there is Room to hope we may yet in some Measure do, if it be not prevented by any new additional Duty.

From what has been thus advanced it is extremely obvious, that this Duty wants those two principal Ingredients, which are generally thought to have the greatest Tendency to recommend any Fund that is proposed, *viz.* That it be the least burthensome and the most certain—Whereas this Duty must, in every View, appear the most burthensome, and the least certain, and if it will not be going too far to enter into the political Part of the Consideration, seems to be the most impolitick.

That it will be the most burthensome has been fully shewn, as the Commodity is already taxed as high as it can bear, and the Trade must sink under any additional Weight; and as a further Proof, that the present Duties are as much or more than this Commodity can bear, it is a Fact well known to all the Sugar Merchants in *England*, that the major Part of the Planters, so far from being in the affluent Circumstances many Gentlemen are made to believe, are greatly in the Merchants Debts; so that the *British* Merchants must likewise be greatly

greatly affected by the Desertion or Impoverishment of the Sugar Colonies; and the Planters being thus in Debt to the Merchants, is the strongest Evidence, that it is impossible for the Sugar Planters to exist under any further Duty; for if the present Duties are such a Load on the Planter, that he cannot bear up under them, without incurring great and heavy Debts, they must quite sink under any new additional Weight—And though the sad Effects of it will first fall on the Inhabitants of the Sugar Islands, yet it will soon be felt by the People of *Great Britain* too; for if the Sugar Colonies, and the Navigation depending upon them, should fail, or suffer Decrease in any considerable Degree, the Vent now found for the Corn used in Biscuit, the Malt in Beer, the Cattle and Pork in victualling Ships, the Sider, Pease, Beans, Oats, Oatmeal, Herrings, Pilchards, and all the Manufactures of Wool, Iron, Copper, Lead, Tin and Linens, and numberless other Manufactures exported to the Sugar Colonies, will fail and decrease in the same Proportion; and the landed Interest will find themselves wounded through their Sides.

And that an additional Duty will have the Effects already mentioned, is not a bare Averment slightly flung out—But is supported and made appear by the above Facts and Observations, in such Manner as must convince every one, who will give himself the Trouble to think and reason upon the Case—And it is

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not the Judgment of one or a few, but the joint Voice of all the Sugar Planters, and all the Merchants trading to the Sugar Colonies, who are united in a firm Opinion and Belief, that a new Duty on Sugars must have these Effects—And it is well known that there are many Gentlemen, both amongst the Sugar Planters and Merchants of the greatest Integrity, and most zealously affected to the present Government, who would not open their Lips against this Duty, if they were not fully convinced it would be attended with all the ill Consequences here represented.

That it will be the least certain, and consequently a very improper Security for the Loan of Money, is the necessary Consequence of what has been already observed; for if the laying a new Duty will bring such Distresses on the Sugar Trade, as to occasion the breaking up and deserting of the Plantations, it must then prove a very defective Duty indeed.

It has had this Effect already with Regard to their two former principal Products of Indigo and Ginger; the first of which has been by Means of additional Duties long since absolutely lost to us, and gained by the *French*; and Ginger is almost in the same Condition, and owing to the same Cause.—Before the late Duty was laid on Molasses Spirits, the Revenue arising from that Commodity produced annually 40,000*l.* The additional Duty, which was double the old one, was laid with a View to raise

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raise that Branch of the Revenue to 80,000*l.*—Had this new Duty the intended Effect? quite otherwise, the former Revenue, instead of being thereby increased to the Sum proposed, was reduced from 40,000 to 30,000*l.* and the Manufacture itself abated five eighths to the Encouragement of the smuggling of *French* Brandy, to the great Prejudice of our Trade and Navigation in Favour of the *French*; and may it not be fairly and rationally inferred, that a new Duty on Sugars will be attended with the like Consequences?

The Sugar Planters and Merchants then represented and foretold the ill Consequences of that Duty, in the same Manner as they now do, of an additional Duty on Sugar; but their Representations then had the Misfortune not to gain Credit.—The Experiment was made, and by the Event, all they said is fully verified: It is therefore hoped their Representations now will meet with a greater Regard.

That it will be the most impolitick, is plain from what has been already advanced, and will further appear from the following Considerations.

1. That the *British* Sugar Planters formerly had a very considerable Share in the foreign Markets, is certain: It is as certain, that the *French* have of late Years almost beat us out of that Branch of the Sugar Trade, by which Means all the Wealth brought into the National Stock by the Sugars sold in foreign Markets is lost to us, and gained to the *French*; and it is submitted, whether

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ther the heavy Duties on our Sugars, and the easy ones on the *French*, may not reasonably be accounted one great, if not the principal Cause of this Event? And whether it be not therefore repugnant to Reason and good Policy, to lay any further Duty on this Commodity?

2. The vast Number of Artificers and Manufacturers of all Sorts, whose chief Support and Employment depends on this Trade, must be ruined and undone by the Loss of it?

3. And so must the *African* Trade, which the Government is annually at a considerable Expence to support.

4. This Nation must not only lose all the Benefits, both immediate and consequential, arising from the Sugar Colonies, but they will all be transferred from us to *France*, and that at a Time when we are endeavouring by our Naval Force to retrench the exorbitant Power of that ambitious and enterprising Crown; so that the laying this additional Duty on Sugars will be in Effect yielding to the *French* in Point of Trade, not only all the Advantages which by the Superiority of our Naval Force we have gained over them, but will be raising them up higher for the Time to come on the Ruin of our own.

Surely then it will never be thought a prudent or right Measure to lay any new Duty on Sugar, the doing which it is greatly to be feared will endanger the Extirpation of the Manufacture, and instead of encreasing, lessen the Revenue;

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Revenue; and consequently such a Duty can never be considered as a proper Security on which to borrow Money for the Service of the Publick.

As however there are some Persons, who from want of duly considering the great Importance of this Affair with that Attention it deserves, have been led to think favourably of this Duty from the high Price Sugar now bears, and has done for these two or three Years last; it may not be improper for their Satisfaction, and to convince them how greatly they are mistaken in this Respect, to set this Matter in its true Light, by shewing them that this advance in the Price, which they very erroneously imagine first took its Rise from an Apprehension this Duty would be laid in the Year 1743, and the Sugar Dealers having under this Pretence once lifted it up, they have never suffered it to fall since, and therefore infer the Duty, had it been laid, would have fallen upon the Consumer, and not upon the Grower: But Gentlemen who argue thus, are very little indeed acquainted with the Sugar Trade, and those who know it thoroughly beg Leave to inform them that they are greatly mistaken.

For in Fact Sugars fell 5 s. *per* Hundred last Year on the bare Expectation of a large Importation of Sugars by the Autumn Fleets, but the same being greatly diminished by Captures and other Losses, the Price thereupon rose again: And it is certain, that this Rise in the Price of Sugars

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Sugars has been, and is entirely owing to the Smallness of the Quantities of Sugars imported; and this is a Fact wherein it is impossible for the Publick to be imposed upon, because the Custom-House Books will demonstrate the Truth of it, and shew how great a Diminution there has been in the Importations; and it is a very cruel Way of Reasoning, to draw from the Misfortunes of the Sugar Planters, Arguments for laying further Distresses upon them: And it may be said with great Truth, that notwithstanding what is called the present high Price, yet considering the Shortness of the Crop, and the prodigious Expences of raising and bringing the Sugar to Market during this present War, the Profit left to the Planter is but very small in Proportion to his Expence.

It is therefore hoped Gentlemen will consider this Matter seriously, and not suffer themselves to be led away with this mistaken Notion, that because Sugar is dearer now than it was a few Years ago, that therefore it can bear this new Duty, but that they will look into the real Cause of this Rise in the Price, and then they will find it is owing to the Misfortunes of the Sugar Planters, and is really much more an Argument against than for the Duty.—Besides as this Rise in the Price of Sugars is absolutely and beyond the Reach of Doubt owing to the Shortness of the late Crops, and the Smallness of the Quantity that comes to Market, and not to any Artifice or Power in the Sugar Dealers

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to keep it up; so whenever there is a plentiful Crop the Price will be reduced in Proportion to the Quantity that comes to Market: And as this Duty when once laid will be in all Probability perpetual, the present Price of the Commodity will be a very erring and mistaken Rule to go by in laying a Duty of this Kind.—But supposing for Argument Sake, that the advanced Price in Sugars for three or four Years last past was even all clear Gain to the Planter, does it follow that he will enjoy the same Advantage for three or four Years, or even for one Year to come? On the contrary, when full Crops shall be imported into *Great Britain* the Price will be greatly reduced: What a Situation then, should such a Duty be laid, will the Sugar Planter be in, discouraged in a plentiful Time by the low Price of his Product, undone in a scarce one with an additional Duty?

There is another very material Consideration for Gentlemen to have before them in relation to this Question; the Sense of all those any Ways concerned or interested in the Sugar Trade has been already mentioned, and which, it is hoped, will have some Weight in a Question of this Nature; but the Sense of the Legislature, as it always has the greatest, so it is hoped it will, in this Instance, be an unanswerable Argument against thinking of laying this new Duty, which was, but a very few Years since, *viz.* so late as in the Year 1743, laid before one House of Parliament, and, up-

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on full Consideration, and after a most solemn Debate, the Duty was dropt; and every Reason, that was then so justly urged against laying it, not only remain in their full Force (all the Facts on which they were founded still subsisting) but have received additional Strength from the great Distresses the Sugar Trade has laboured under since that Time, in the many Instances already mentioned, and by the late most melancholy Account of the severe Blow the Sugar Settlements have this Year received from violent Hurricanes and Storms: Surely it is impossible for Gentlemen, when they consider all these Things, ever to think of laying any additional Burthen upon this Commodity; and as the Sense of one House of Parliament has been once received, and that so lately, that the same Matter will not be taken up again, especially at a Time when the Sugar Planters are under so great and immediate Distress from other Causes. And if Gentlemen will but seriously consider the above Facts, they will be soon convinced, that, notwithstanding what is called the present high Price, the Planters are at this Time as unable to bear any additional Duty, as they were in the Year 1743.

It is likewise material to observe, that several Acts of Parliament have been lately passed for the Relief of the Sugar Colonies, every one of which shews the Sense of the Legislature of the then Inability of the Sugar Colonies to bear any new Burthens, and as they are less
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able to bear any such now than they were then, it is hoped all Thoughts of a new Sugar Duty will be laid aside.

But if any Gentleman should, after all that has been said, be still doubtful whether this Duty, if the Experiment should be tried, might not fall upon the Consumer, and, in that Event, the Commodity be able to bear it:

Though it is hardly possible to conceive how a Doubt of that Kind can exist, yet even this is a very strong Argument why the Experiment should not be tried, by Reason of the many fatal and mischievous Consequences, that it seems to be agreed on all Hands must attend the laying this Duty, should it fall upon the Planter, and which must likewise attend it in the Diminution of the Consumption, should it fall on the Consumer; and therefore, supposing it was only doubtful, whether the Burthen would rest upon the Planter, or if it fell on the Consumer, whether it would answer the Purposes intended, the great Importance of the Risque is vastly more than proportionable to the Advantages which is expected from it. Experiments may be made in such Cases, where, let the Event happen as it may, no real Inconveniency can result from the Trial; but it is hoped it will never be made in Cases of such a Nature, that, if the Event should happen one Way, the Consequences must be ruinous to the Sugar Colonies, and to all the different Branches of Trade and Manufactures that depend

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pend upon them ; must give a fatal Blow to our Trade to *Africa* ; must transfer this great and valuable Branch of the *British* Commerce into the Hands of our worst Enemies, and greatest Rivals the *French*—Must strike off a very considerable Part of the *British* Navigation—And greatly reduce the Royal Revenue.

Let it be supposed but for a Moment, that this Duty should be laid (which it is however hoped it never will) and that all these Consequences above-mentioned should be the Result of it, and then let every Gentleman who had any Concern in laying it on, consult his own Heart, and see what inward Reflections would arise there, from his having promoted a Measure attended with such ruinous Consequences, after having been fully apprized thereof by those, who from their Knowledge of the Sugar Trade, must be best able to foresee what are the Consequences most likely to attend such a Step.

As to the Exigency of Affairs—The Supplies necessary for the Use of the Government must undoubtedly be raised, and no Gentlemen are more sensible of this, or more willing to contribute thereto to their Power, than the Sugar Planters and Merchants : But this it is humbly conceived is no Reason for the laying an additional Duty which must destroy that Trade from which it arises, and with it not only the additional Duty itself, but endanger all the other Duties formerly laid upon it.

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This would surely be running too great a Risque, and paying too dear for the Shadow of a Security only, and instead of answering, would serve only to encrease the Necessities of the Government by the Destruction of one of our most valuable Branches of Commerce.

It is therefore earnestly hoped that this additional Duty shall be laid aside for ever, at least till the Rivalship of *France* is effectually subdued : And that Gentlemen will rather concur in Measures for the Relief of the Sugar Colonies from their present Duties, than think of adding to the heavy ones they already labour under.

F I N I S.



The world today is moving too fast
to allow us to keep the pace of
the old world, and we must find a
new way of living, one that will
allow us to keep the pace of our
Government and the Nation of our
most valuable resources.

It is therefore our duty to find
additional ways that will be of
value to the Nation of today
and that will be of value to
the Nation of tomorrow. And that
is our duty. And that is our
duty. And that is our duty.
for the sake of the Sugar Colonies
from their present duties, than that
of adding to the heavy ones they al-
ready have under.

F. I. W. I. W.