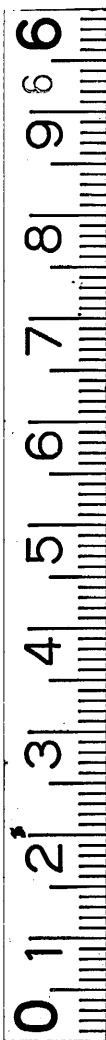


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SOME *M*
REMARKS

On the CONDUCT of the
Parliament of ENGLAND,

As far as it relates to the
Woollen Manufacture :

With some ANIMADVERSIONS ON
the *Free Briton's* Remarks on a Pam-
phlet, entitled,

*OBSERVATIONS on the Pre-
sent State of Ireland.*

By the AUTHOR of the said Pamphlet.

*Iustus & tenacem Propositi virum
Non Civium Ardor prava iuventium,
Non Vultus instantis Tyranni
Mente quatit solida.* HOR.

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S O M E

REMARKS

On the CONDUCT of the

Parliament of ENGLAND.



WHEN I first heard that the Bill which related to the Woollen Manufactures of *Ireland*, was dropt in the House of Lords of *England*, I must own I was somewhat uneasy at it. I was led on, by the general Cry, to imagine we had lost something that might have been advantageous to us; and I thought that we had now no farther Hopes of averting that Destruction which has, for some time, threaten'd us in so many Shapes—But, upon a more mature Consideration, I think we are

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so far from having suffer'd by this Accident, that tho' we cannot thank those who threw out the Bill, because they did it with a malicious Intent, yet we are extremely indebted to Fortune for directing that Malice so much to our Advantage.

I have changed my way of Thinking upon this Head, not because I imagine the clandestine Trade we are now in Possession of to be so beneficial as that we should have obtain'd by the passing this Bill, nor because I have foreseen any new Prospect of encreasing our publick Stock, but for a Reason directly contrary, That we are now absolutely certain of being totally drein'd in two Years more.

I don't doubt but I shall appear very whimsical, for rejoicing in that which is reckon'd the greatest Calamity that can befall any Nation. I know it is generally imagin'd, that the Happiness of a People depends upon their flourishing Trade, and a great publick Wealth; but my Opinion is very different, especially with relation to this Kingdom; and I should reckon *that* the most happy Day we had ever seen, in which there should not be found one Ounce of Gold or Silver amongst us.

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It is a very false and ill-grounded Opinion, that a People cannot be happy in such a Condition. The Necessaries of Life are to be had without either of those Metals; and that perhaps with much more Comfort, and greater Quiet. We may barter one Commodity for another, or we may stamp Pieces of *Copper*, or even Bits of *Leather*, which will very sufficiently compensate the Want of other *Coin*. To be reduced to these Circumstances, will be no Grievance to those who live in their own Country. As for those who live out of it, it may affect them; but we have no Reason to commiserate the State of that Sett of Men, let it be ever so calamitous: Or, at least, if we should have any *Compassion* for their Misfortunes, it should be such a *Compassion* as we entertain for a *Condemn'd Malefactor*, who meets with a Punishment suitable to his Deserts. There is a well-known Proverb, which is very applicable upon this Occasion — *Every Dog has his Day* — We have long suffered upon their Account — The Time is now coming, when they must share in the publick Calamity.

It is not upon this Account alone that I am rejoic'd at the ill Success of the Woollen Bill: As I am one of those
who

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who are Lovers of Peace, and am convinced of the Necessity of a good Understanding between the People of *Great Britain and Ireland*, I should have been very unhappy if this Bill had pass'd, because the Consequences of it must have occasion'd a fatal Breach between the two Nations—The *English* had expected, that we should have prevented the Running of Wooll, and we could not have done it. They had tried to do it themselves, and we might have knock'd their Officers on the Head.

The Consequences of this Proceeding would have been fatal to one or other of the two Kingdoms—*Heaven only knows which*—But, as the Matter stands at present, the Business is pretty easy on both Sides—We shall still continue the Running Practice; and it has been made appear plainly, that we must do that or starve. They are too good Christians! not to suffer us to do it.

There are some few indeed who may possibly expect that we should still endeavour to put a Stop to the clandestine *Exportation* of our *Wooll*; I mean those Gentlemen who mentioned an Agreement between the two Nations, that no *Wooll* should be exported from *Ireland*, when *Ireland* was allowed the *Linnen Trade*; but

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but these must be very few indeed, because I believe the Generality of those Gentlemen are convinced by this time, that there never was such an Agreement made, nor any Notion form'd of it, but in their own * Brains.

Another Sett of Men might also entertain the same unreasonable Imagination. Those who thought it expedient, that *Ireland* should first shew its Inclination to prevent the Running of Wooll, before they took off the Duty upon Yarn. But their Memories are probably refresh'd since, and they have been inform'd, that the *Irish* Parliament, the last Sessions, did actually take off their Duties on *Wooll and Woollen Yarn*. They did it then upon pretty strong Assurances, that the Parliament of *England* would do what they have not done—*But a burnt Child dreads the Fire*; and they will not easily be made Fools a second Time.

There is but one Class more, which could expect any thing of this kind from us. These are they who are abandon'd to Principles of *Tyranny and Injustice*:

* For Brains read Skulls—For it is a Question whether they had Brains, or not.

But

But these, in my own poor Opinion, are very few in *England*; tho' I am conscious some judge differently from me.

This being the Case, it seems to me that we are left at free Liberty to Run as much as we please; and that the P——t of E——d, by acting as they have done, after canvassing the Affair, have, in Effect, made a publick Declaration, that we may continue to do it, without giving them the least Offence.

Let me then digress a little, and congratulate my Country upon this happy Turn of Affairs; upon having obtain'd that from the Perverseness of their Neighbours, which they could never have obtain'd from their Clemency.

I now return to the other Advantages we have reap'd from the Loss of this Bill. The Advantage I shall now mention, is one for which the Ladies will return their heartiest Thanks, as well as the Men. The *Lord Lieutenant* will now stay the whole Time of his Government among us, because it will be worth nothing to him, when he is *absent*. We shall have the Pleasure of scraping at the *Castle*, and making our Obeysances to his *Excellency*. We shall have a constant Court here, as they have in *Eng-land*;

land; we shall have Balls, Plays, and such fine Things!

But what is still more, we shall get rid of our *Army*, and all that Train of *Officers*, who are not content to load the Nation with an useless Charge, but endeavour, as much as in them lies, to drein that People, without whose Assistance they must needs be turned upon the *Common*. I should think it reasonable for them, as they have our Money, to spend it with us: But, instead of that, they imagine they honour us sufficiently, in giving us their Company for that time only which they are obliged to pass here, to avoid the Tax upon *Absentees*.

They have likewise another way of shewing their Gratitude, which most of their Countrymen, who owe their Subsistence to us, have in common with them—The Gentlemen of the Kingdom have been ridiculous enough to keep open House for them; and to treat them as their own Brothers—What Return do they make for this?—This, and this only. They go back to their own Country, represent us a Nation in an opulent and flourishing Condition, complaining without Reason, and wallowing in Plenty. *Wise Heads!* who conclude a Country rich, because their Provisions are

B cheap,

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cheap, and their Commodities bear no Price! Equally wise with our *Hospital Ideots*, who *empty* their Purfes, and *starve* their own Children, to oblige a *People* utterly incapable of making a grateful Return.

Thus we shall be freed from this destructive, useless Load. Our Necessities will do that for us, which our Reason ought to have done long since. How ridiculous has it been in us, to maintain 12000 Men so many Years? in a Time of profound Tranquillity, and when our old Enemies, the *Papists*, are reduced so low, that there are not Seven of the Nobility of that Religion: Since, at that very time, in which almost the whole Kingdom was in their Possession, when we had perpetual Reason to apprehend Rebellions from them, we had no Army at all, or at least, so small a one, that it scarce deserves to be mention'd. This very Circumstance of their living out of the Kingdom, is a strong Argument, that they are of no use to us; and if they do *Service* in any Country, it is a kind of † *Service* which the People of that Country would willingly excuse.

† Several Officers on our Establishment are Members of Parliaments in England.

I know

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I know some Persons differ with me a little in this Particular, and pretend that we maintain the Army, to enslave our selves; but this is too great a Joke. 'Tis true, we are a little ridiculous sometimes, but this is too absurd for us to do, or for others to expect of us: No, no, the only Use of them that ever I could learn, is to support the Dignity of the Lord L——t, and to guard his Excellency to the House of Lords: I must confess they make a pretty Shew upon that Occasion; but the Question is, Whether 400,000 *l. per Ann.* is not rather too much for it?

I have put it hitherto upon this Foot, that the disbanding of our Forces had been equally agreeable to the *English* as well as to the *Irish*; but lest that should still be disputed, I will, for once, allow, that they would have been displeas'd at it. In that Case, their principal Reason must be, that our Troops would always be ready to fight their *Quarrels*, or to assist them upon any *Emergency*. If we could have any *Interest* in their *Success*, or propose any *Advantage* by their *Prosperity*: If we were allowed any Benefits in *Trade*, to enable us to bear the *Expence*; or if we had ever had any one Instance of a grateful Return for the *Blood and Treas-*

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Treasure we have spent in the Protestant Cause, and in Defence of their Liberties, we should contribute as chearfully on all Occasions, as any *E——man* among them; but we have met with very different Usage: We were never thank'd for venturing our Lives and Fortunes at the Revolution; for making so brave a Stand at *Londonderry* and *Iniskilling*; nor for neglecting so fair an Opportunity for recovering our Liberties, and for making our selves an Independent People. On the contrary, all Opportunities are taken to cramp us in our Trade; our very Zeal for their Interest seems to be a Reason with them for ——; our gallant Behaviour upon these Occasions I have mentioned, was immediately followed by some severe *Laws* with relation to our *Wooll*, and their Parliament industriously study'd, at that time, to exercise an absolute Power over us, their Right to which was, at least, * *disputable* before.

† It was proposed in the Reign of K. Charles II. that the Settlement of Ireland should be made by an English Act of Parliament: But the Attorney General of England (Finch) deliver'd his Opinion, that such a Law would be no Security to the People of Ireland, since it might, at any time, be repeal'd by an Irish Act; — And his Opinion being thought just, that Law was made in Ireland.

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I can produce still a much later Instance of the same Behaviour. In a late Reign, when Parties ran high, and when the Pretender's Cause had so many Friends, that the *English* themselves scarce dar'd to appear against it, the *Parliament of Ireland* were the first to set a † Price upon the Pretender's Head, and had consequently fallen the first Victim to his Indignation, if he had succeeded. And how were we rewarded? Not six Years after, in the Reign of that very Prince, whose Cause we had espous'd with so much Affection, and so little *Prudence*, the *Judicature* of our House of Lords was taken from us; a *Privilege* which, in the Eyes both of *God* and *Man*, was as much our Right, and which we had as ancient and as ample Authority for, as that very Parliament which tore it from us can alledge for its own; and not content with that, they gave, in the Preamble to the Bill (in a Time of profound Peace, and just after this Instance of Zeal) a Reason for that Violence, which was never thought just in Times of rankest Rebellion. *

† 100000 l.
* Vide Bill for better securing the Dependence of Ireland upon the Crown of England, A. 6to G. I.

Nor

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Nor was this all; a very few Years after, they made another Attempt to destroy us; I mean, that Diabolick Project of *Wood's* Halfpence. 'Tis true, we escap'd that Calamity; but we did it not by their *Favour* and *Gratitude*, but by our own *Resolution*.

All these Circumstances considered, it is impossible that the People of *England* could have desir'd us to keep up our Army. I don't pretend to say but they might have the justest Reasons for using us as they have done; but surely when we found by Experience, how prejudicial it was to us to consider *their Interests*, we might have been well justify'd, if, once in our Lives, we had chang'd our *General Conduct*, and consider'd *our own*; for if Self-interest, the only Argument alledg'd in Defence of their Behaviour to us, be allow'd a good one with them, for trampling upon a Nation they have nothing to do with, it will certainly be allow'd a sufficient one for us to take Care of *our own*.

I have expatiated a little more upon this Subject than was really necessary; for whatever Doubts there might formerly have been with relation to this Affair, they now no longer subsist, because the *English* have, in Effect, disbanded our
Army

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Army *themselves*, since *they* have put it out of our Power to *maintain them*.

We are equally obliged to them for saving us a great deal of Trouble in another Affair. The *Pensions* which have been long a most insufferable Burthen upon this Kingdom, had probably been taken under Consideration the ensuing Sessions of Parliament, and the Consequence had been a strong Remonstrance to his Majesty upon that Head — The Arguments intended to have been used upon that Occasion, were such as could not easily be answer'd. It was said, that Pensions, in any Form, or in any Country, distributed *at Home*, or distributed *Abroad*, were always attended with frightful Consequences. *At Home*, they bred great Uneasiness in all who did not share them; because it is a vulgar Opinion (I can't say how well grounded) that they are generally given to Men for Services they are ashamed to own, and probably, for that Reason, hurtful to the Publick. *Abroad*, that they are very destructive, because they not only drein the Nation who bestows them, but introduce a Prank in other Countries, which probably may hereafter be play'd upon our own. In short, that it might be apprehended, that such a Practice
would

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would, in future Times, enslave the Nation, and subvert that happy Establishment which we at present enjoy. These were Arguments in general, which would all (excepting that which related to the Drein) serve better for another Country than our own; for, as to being enslav'd, or apprehending a Change of our happy Establishment, our Circumstances are such, that we have no Reason to fear either the one or the other.

It was likewise alledged, that we should greatly please the People of *England* by such a Proceeding; and that they would extremely commend this Instance of OEconomy, since they were very uneasy at a Pension given the Duke of *Wolfenbuttle* of 25000 *l. per Annum*; which Pension, however, differ'd in this Circumstance from ours, That theirs was given for *something*, whereas ours are given for *nothing*: That theirs was given to a *Friend*, but ours are bestow'd on *Men who deserve a different Appellation*.

But what weigh'd most with us (who are all good Subjects) was an Insinuation, that *Pensions* were as scandalous to those who *gave* them, as to those who *received* them. We are a People very unwilling that ill-disposed Persons should have the least Handle to insinuate, that
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the Measures of the Government were such as needed a Support from indirect Methods: We always consider the Honour of the Government, as well as the Interest of the People.

And farther, they said it would be very extraordinary, if the Parliament of *Ireland* should at any time neglect the Examination of this Affair, especially, after they had been reminded of the Necessity of it: But much more surprizing at this Time, when the Parliament of *Great Britain* had shewn them the Way, and when the House of Commons there, who are the Representatives of the whole People of *England*, have lately passed a Bill to prevent this insufferable Practice. They allow'd indeed, that the House of Lords refused their Consent to it, but urged, that their Behaviour in no wise lessen'd the Weight of the Conclusion they made on this Occasion, which was, That the People of *England* would not be displeas'd, if we struck off the Pensions from our Establishment. As for the Lords, they only represent themselves, and therefore it may be allow'd them to be a little *selfish*.

But, That the Case would probably be very different with us: That if the House of Commons were to pass a Bill

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of this kind, it could not possibly meet with Opposition in the other House, because very few Temporal Lords sat there, and there was the strongest Reason to believe those few were never Pension'd: That the Matter would consequently be referr'd wholly to the *Bishops*, who certainly would never impede a Law which the Representatives of the People thought necessary, *and which could not in the least affect themselves*. Besides, that they would be more cautious in doing any thing which might draw down a Reflection upon their Order, since what happen'd in another Country, on the like Occasion, is not yet forgot.

They added, that they were confident his Majesty had not been displeas'd with a Remonstrance of this kind: That he naturally abhors *Pensions*, and grants them only in Compliance with the Desires of his People: But that when he came to be inform'd, that his *People of Ireland* were really not desirous to remit 23000 *l.* (which is the least that is annually spent out of the Kingdom in this Article) and would have been as well pleas'd, not to contribute so largely to the Maintenance of Persons *to whom they have no sort of Obligation*; there was no doubt but his Majesty had been

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extremely glad of so fair an *Opportunity* to gratify all his Subjects in this *Kingdom*, and to get rid of the *Importunities* of many in another.

And, in order to illustrate his Majesty's Abhorrence of *Pensions*, they mention'd the strongest Instance of it—When first he came to the Crown, he struck off a great Number of them in *England*, and greatly diminished the rest: They likewise took Notice of one Thing remarkable, that all their *Pensions* were of the *charitable* Kind; and therefore, without Dispute, *the last* he would have touch'd—They concluded, that if he could not bear with them in the only *Instance* in which they are justifiable; 'twas with infinite Uneasiness he gave them to the Support and Encouragement of *Luxury and Extravagance*—especially as they consider'd him *too knowing* not to be sensible, that those *Vices* need no *Encouragement* in this Age; and *too wise* not to be convinced, that they cannot fail, in the End, to bring Ruin upon the *Prince* as well as the *People*.

These *Arguments* were so much in every *Man's* Mouth, and appear'd to every *Man* so strong, that had this Bill pass'd, nothing could have prevented a *Remonstrance* against this Article of

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Expence:

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Expence: This had occasioned long *Debates* in both Houses of *Parliament*, and, besides, might have been *maliciously* represented in a neighbouring *Country*; so that, upon the whole, as I observed before, it is better *that the Evil is prevented in another way*.

Under this Head I may mention another *Sett of Men*, of whom we shall likewise *be freed*; Those Men who have *Employments* here, and live *abroad*: These may *fairly* be reckon'd a *Sett of Pensioners*; for what is the Difference between a *Pension* and an *Employment* you do nothing for?

But here comes the *Point* in which their *Conduct* has been most useful us: The Regulation of our *Coin* had certainly been attempted in the ensuing Sessions of *Parliament*. It is an *Affair of great Difficulty*; and had plagued us confoundedly, and, after all our *Representations*, all our *Complaints*, that we were not allowed the *Privilege* of *Coining* our own Money—(A *Privilege* permitted to an *English* * *Earl*, nay, even to every *petty Prince* in *Germany*) We should probably have fallen a *Prey* to some new *Copper-monger*: But as the

* The *Earl of Derby*, who is *King* in the *Isle of Man*.

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Case stands now, we are freed from all that *Trouble*, all that *Danger*, and, Thanks to our happy *Destiny*, and to the *Parliament of England*, we shall soon have *no Money left to plague ourselves about*.

But, as it is inconsistent with our imperfect *Nature*, ever to be compleatly *happy*, there still remains to us one *considerable*, one very *considerable* Cause of *Uneasiness*. The *extraordinary Kindness* the *People of England* have shewn us, on this *Occasion*, makes us much troubled at the *Misfortunes* which seem to threaten them: The *Disinterestedness* they have shewn, in doing us this *Act of Friendship*, when the *Consequence* of it is, plainly, their own *Destruction*, has more than *even* bound us to them, and given us a double *Concern* for their *Prosperity*. We see the *Consequences* of their *Friendship* to us, with the greatest *Horror*. It is not their *inevitable Ruin*, the *Dreïn* of all their *Species*, which troubles us so much; but it is the *Confusion* of the *intermediate Space*; the *Time* between their *prosperous State* and their *Dissolution*—A *Nation* may subsist *happily*, either on the *Top*, or at the *Bottom* of *Fortune's Wheel*: But whilst it is on its *Decline*, its *Condition* is very *disagreeable*; and like that of a
sick

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sick Man, who daily sees his *End* approaching; whose *Apprehensions* are always more *terrible* to him than the very thing he *apprehends*.

This is the State of the People of *England*. They may boast of the Profits of the *South Sea Company*, who, at this very Hour, divide upon their *Capital*: They may glory in the *East-India Trade*, which supports the *Government*, and dreins the *Nation*: But it is too true, that the *Balance of Trade* is against them; and that our *Remittances* from *Ireland*, are their only Support. These *Remittances* are now no longer to be expected; which will make an *annual Difference* to them of above a *Million*: So that they will soon fall into the same *Condition* with our selves; tho', indeed, they may have an Opportunity of using the *Heroick Speech* of *Tom Thumb*:

And all I boast is——that I fall the Last.

The current Cash of *England* is 14 *Millions*, as that of *Ireland* is 400000 *l.* By the same Rule, then, that *Ireland* will be dreined in Four Years, by the *Loss* of 100000 *l.* the same Thing must happen to *England* in Fourteen, by the *Loss* of a *Million*——It will happen, indeed,

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indeed, *sooner*, in Proportion, and the *Occasion* of that Difference is *this*: The *Paper Credit* there, which is prodigious, and on which the *Publick Credit* depends, *subsists* only by its due *Balance* with the current Cash of the *Kingdom*. When once, therefore, that *Cash* is so far diminished, as not to be *sufficient* to circulate, or readily exchange the *Paper Money*, that *Paper Money* will be of no farther Use, the *Publick Credit* will fail, and the *Nation* must be plung'd into *Confusion*——All which will, probably fall out in half the Time.

——*nec lex est justior ulla
Quam necis Artifices Arte perire sua.*

This approaching Calamity to the People of *England*, from that Principle of *Gratitude* which every good Man ought to have, has given me much *Vexation*. Tho, in *some Measure*, I must own, they should thank *themselves*. I, and several of my *Brethren*, have *often* desired them to send us back our *Absentees*; but they would never do it; and all their *Misfortunes* proceed from thence. They have never consider'd, that *he that walketh with wise Men shall be wise; but a Companion of Fools shall be destroy'd.**

* *Proverbs* xiii. 20.

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By this time I have recapitulated all the *Advantages* we have received from the *English*, the late Sessions of *Parliament*, and I hope I have done it, without giving *Offence*; tho' I myself have found it a very *exceptionous Time*. Not long ago I narrowly escaped the *Censure* of an *English Parliament*, for telling them how they might make the People of *England* happy; and, at the same time, I was persecuted by my own *Countrymen*, for *saying* what they own'd they had *said* themselves a thousand times.

It is said somewhere in Holy Writ, *They afflict the Just, they take a Bribe, and they turn aside the Poor from their Right. Therefore the Prudent shall keep Silence in that Time, for it is an evil Time.* †

I must own, this *Passage* was the principal thing that moved me to write at this *Juncture*: I thought, if I had held my *Tongue*, it would have look'd as if I imagin'd some Persons in *England* to be *unjust*, and some to be *brib'd*: And I was the more fearful of such a *Suspicion*, when I heard the Manner in which the *unenumerated Bill* was pass'd, and that *Tar, Pitch, and Masts* were omitted.

† *Amos* v. 12, 13.

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As I have mentioned the Notice that was taken of a *Paper* I publish'd some Months ago, I can't help saying something more upon that *Head*. It never gave me any *Trouble*, that *my Book* was near being condemn'd to be burnt by the *Common Hangman*; because all Arguments which cannot be well answered, are generally *treated in that Way*. But I must own, my *Indignation* was rais'd, when I found myself encounter'd by that *Chit* of a *Scribler*, the *Free Briton*. I always took the *Performances* in that Paper to be the *Exercises* of some young School-boys in *Politicks*, and therefore rather treated them with *Indulgence* than *Contempt*; but, I profess, I am now at a *Loss* to know what to think of them; for the *Master* must be as ignorant as his *Pupil*, who could suffer him to publish any Production so abominably absurd.

It is almost as impossible to know what he would be at, in his Paper, as to give one's self the *Trouble* to read it through: He talks of a favourable *Disposition* in the People of *England* to relieve us, but he has given us no Instance of it. He says, *When once we (the English) are convinced that a free Trade, enjoy'd by the Irish Nation, will be a Common Good to both Kingdoms, it will not be difficult to ob-*

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tain it from us: And yet the poor Child is angry that we strive to convince them of it. He blames the *Spirit* of the People of *Ireland*, and *glories* that the People of *England* have the *same*: He stands up in Defence of the Honour of his *Country*, and owns, *that his Countrymen have Irish Understandings*: He seems to confess that *England* must be undone for ever, if they do not *allow* us a *free Trade*, yet doubts whether it should be *allow'd*, because it may hurt some few Manufacturers for One or Two Years: He writes upon the Wollen Manufactures of *Ireland*, and spends half his Time in prating about the National Debt of *England*.

The same Inconsistency runs thro' his *whole Work*; nay, even thro' his *Compliments* to the D. of *Dorset*, which seem to be the main Subject of his *Discourse*: He pretends to be much the Duke's Friend, in assuring him, the People of *Ireland* are very easy in their Circumstances, and well contented; which is as rank, and may, perhaps, be as fatal a *Story* as little Master was ever whipt for; a *Story* calculated only to lead his *Grace* into great Mistakes, and to put him upon a *wrong* Method of *Government*, when he comes among us: At the same Time he scolds me, for telling him the *Truth*, and fore-
warning

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warning him of what he is to expect; and for doing it too in so publick a Manner; which, *by the bye*, I think no small Merit, because, if he succeeds *well*, it will add to his *Reputation*; if *ill*, it will take from his *Discredit*.— However I am a little obliged to my *Spark*, for instructing me in one Particular, which he seems better acquainted with than my self; *That a Man makes no Friends at Court by telling the Truth*.

This same *Gallimaufry Writer* goes on, in his usual Impertinence, and accuses me of *saying* what I never did *say*, nor would *say*, tho' I thought it were true, *that the People of Ireland would rebel, if something effectual was not done to relieve them*. My Paper is in every Man's Hand, and I defy any one to produce such a Passage in it: But, if I had said it, was it Treason? I have known Men hang'd for *concealing* what they knew on such Occasions, but never for making a *Discovery*.

My little Gentleman has not done with me yet; but huffs and dings, and is in a sad Pett, because I treated the *English* as if they suck'd the *Blood*, and prey'd upon the *Vitals* of the *Irish Nation*. Dear Child, you had better have talked of *sucking* of *Sugar-Plumbs*, and preying on *Almonds* and *Raisins*; *Blood* and *Vitals*

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are paw Words— It is not expected of you to know what they mean, and, in Reality, you do not—If you had, you would have known, that the *Blood and Vitals* of any Country were its *Cash and Trade*; and, in that Sense (tho' I never used any Expression like it) I might have said, that the People of *England* prey'd upon our *Blood and Vitals* with a Vengeance.

In another Place I am accused of allowing, *that the Exercise of a free Trade in Ireland, would, for some Time, stagnate the Commerce, and lessen the Exportations of Britain.* I defy the *Brat* to produce any one Passage, in my Paper, that can be wrested to such a *Concession*, or, at least, that can bear the *Conclusions* he has drawn from it.

But the Ignorance of this little Ape in Politicks, is no where more manifest, than in that Part of his Discourse, where he treats of the Absentees. *What, says he, is the Luxury and Extravagance of these Men a just Quarrel with the Lord Lieutenant? Who said it was? I know no body that has quarrelled with him yet; and I hope no body will have Occasion.* Then, says he, *is it not in the Power of the Irish Parliament to tax their Estates in Proportion, and thereby keep the Money*
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at home? No, it is not in our Power: That would be an Act advantageous to us, and Acts of that Kind we never have Power to make. As poor as we are, we engage to procure him 100000 *l.* if he will make his Words good, and obtain that Privilege for us.

Were I to pursue him thro' every Line of his Performance, I am confident, that I could produce in every one, Instances of the same Impudence, the same Ignorance, and the same Inconsistency; but by doing that, I should become as ridiculous as himself. *Answer not a Fool according to his Folly, lest thou also should be like unto him.*

Tho' I have, by this time, tir'd my Reader's Patience, yet I cannot conclude, before I have clear'd my self of a very heavy Accusation which has been charg'd upon me. It was pretended, that, in the Book I have lately publish'd, I maintain'd the Doctrine of Mr. *Molineux*, with relation to the Independency of this *Kingdom.* This is a Charge entirely without Foundation, for I am not so great a Fool as to *kick against the Pricks*, nor would I maintain a Dispute which could not be of any Use to my Country, but must be of ill Consequence to my self. I have no where asserted, that the *Peo-*
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ple of Ireland (let them be rank'd under what Denomination you please) ought to enjoy the same Privileges with the *People of England*: I have no where argued after this manner. *If we are reckon'd IRISHMEN, it must be remember'd, that this Country submitted to Hen. II. on Condition that they should enjoy MAGNA CHARTA, and all other Privileges, as amply as the English themselves. And allowing even that we were conquer'd by that Prince, it is a known Maxim of the Law of England, as well as of the Law of Nations, That when once a Conqueror has granted certain Privileges to those he has subdued, he has no Right to take them away again. But if we are reckon'd, what we really are, the Descendants of those very Englishmen, who are said to have conquer'd Ireland, in that Case surely we have a very particular Right to this Favour.*

Nothing of this kind have I ever advanced; so that I cannot see the least Ground for so terrible a Charge: Nay, I have not so much as mention'd the common Definition of Slavery, which is, *to be bound by Laws we do not consent to.*

However, to destroy all Suspicions of this Nature, I take this Opportunity to make a publick Profession of my Sentiments

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ments on that Head. I acknowledge the Dependency of *Ireland* on the *Crown of England*, as fully as any *reasonable Man* can do, and would as willingly lay down my Life in the Service of the Prince who wears it; and I go so far, that if * 781 Persons were to wear that Crown, I should, in that Case, think *this Kingdom* dependent on that whole Body.

The Thing that has scandaliz'd me the most, is, That the Principles of my Book should be disown'd by my *Countrymen in England*; that they should assert it was written by an Enemy to this Kingdom, and that was done in *England*. If they had been ignorant in the Affair, I should not have been surprized, that they had thought me not of their Country, because I shew'd that *Spirit and Sincerity*, which they *wanting themselves*, might not expect to find in their own Nation. But as several of those Gentlemen were extremely well acquainted with the Author, and likewise knew that the Paper came from this Country, the very Day it was sent to the Printer's in *London*, I think the Behaviour of those particular Gentlemen the meanest and most pitiful I ever met with.

* *The House of Commons in England consists of 558 Members.*
The House of Lords of 223

I know

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I know very well how they justify their Conduct to themselves; they apprehended, that I had spoken too *plain*, and that my *Boldness* might have incensed the People of *England*. This *Apprehension*, in my Opinion, does no Honour to their *Judgments*, and it puts me in mind of the Behaviour of several of our Fellow-Subjects, *who when they travel in Countries where they murder, whenever they rob, carry no Arms with them, lest they should provoke the Thief.*

However, I have taken Care, by publishing this Paper in my own Country, that they shall not disown me again; tho', at the same time, it would have been rather more proper to have done it in *England*, because it is design'd as an *Apology* for my other Performance, which has given so much Offence there. I have taken this Trouble only to convince the World, that I am as ready to return Thanks for a Favour, as to complain of ill Usage, and that I am not that Enemy to *England*, nor that Traytor to this Kingdom, which some weak, and other designing Persons have represented me to be.

F I N I S.