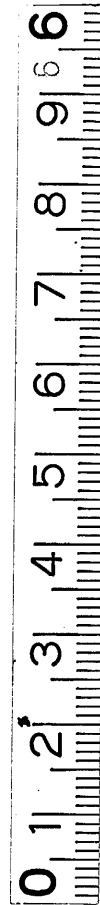


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A B R I E F <sup>N</sup>  
A N S W E R  
T O A  
Brief STATE of the Q U E S T I O N,  
Between the  
*Printed and Painted Callicoes,*  
And the  
*Woollen and Silk Manufactures:*  
As far as it relates  
To the Wearing and Using PRINTED  
and PAINTED CALLICOES IN  
G R E A T - B R I T A I N.

---

Written by Mr. ASGILL.

---

*Judge not by outward Appearance:*

*But*

*Judge Righteous Judgment.*

---

The Second Edition.

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W I T H A N  
A P P E N D I X upon the S P I N S T E R.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. Roberts, near the Oxford-Arms in  
Warwick-Lane, 1720. (Price 6 d.)

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A

## BRIEF ANSWER, &c.

**T**HE Author of the Question hath founded the same upon Five *Propositions*, (laid down in his Introduction) self-evident (as he calls them): *Viz.*

1. *That the Woollen and Silk Manufactures of this Kingdom being the Staple of our Trade, and the most considerable and essential Part of our Wealth, the Fund of our Exportation, the Support of our Navigation, and the only Means we have for the employing and subsisting our Poor; it is therefore the common Interest of the whole Kingdom to discourage every other Manufacture, whether foreign or assum'd, so far as those Manufactures are ruinous to, and inconsistent with the Prosperity of the said British Manufactures of Wooll and Silk.*

2. *That the Wearing and Using Printed and Painted Callicoes, as they are now almost universally worn and used in Great Britain, is ruinous to, or inconsistent*

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with, the Prosperity of our English Manufactures, as well those of Wool, as those of Silk.

3. That the total prohibiting the Wearing and Using of Printed or Painted Callicoes in Great Britain, is not ruinous to, or inconsistent with, the Prosperity of the East-India Trade; or, to put it into an Affirmative, that may be more capable of Evidence, the East-India Trade may and would remain in a every thriving and flourishing Condition, and be carried on to the Profit and Advantage of the Adventurers, tho' all the Subjects of Great-Britain and Ireland were effectually limited from, and prohibited, the Wearing and Using of Printed and Painted Callicoes.

4. That the Printed and Painted Callicoes now worn or used in Great Britain, come under four Denominations, All Pernicious and Destructive to our Trade, viz. such as being imported by the Dutch, are either printed in the Indies, or in Holland, and clandestinely run on Shore here, in Spite of former Prohibitions: Or such as being imported here by our East-India Company, and prohibited to be worn, because printed in India, are pretended to be exported, but are privately run on Shore again, and sold: Or such as being printed here, are enter'd and ship'd for Exportation, in order to draw back the Duties on the Stamps, but are re-landed and sold here; and lastly, such as are printed here, and legally worn and used, and under the Colour of which, all the other Frauds are practis'd and conceal'd.

5. That this clandestine Importation and Re-landing of Printed and Painted Callicoes, is no way to be prevented, neither is it in the Reach of the Wit and Power of Man to put a Stop to it by any other Means, but by effectually preventing and prohibiting the Wearing and Use of them.

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Besides which, he saith that he hath some other essential Propositions in Trade, which he reserves in Part, till he sees whether the Age is weak enough to struggle with things so self-evident as these, and till he sees what it is can be offered (if any thing shall be mustered up) against these Five.

## A N S W E R.

But notwithstanding our Author's Self-confidence, of the Self-evidence of these Five Propositions, laid down in his Introduction of eight Pages, yet (in Compassion to the Ignorance of his Readers) he is pleas'd to condescend to spend his whole Book of Forty Pages more, to try to make those Self-evident Propositions more evident.

And in his Progress therein (Page 29.) where he assumes to avouch his first Proposition, 'That the Woollen and Silk Manufactures in this Kingdom being the Staple of our Trade, &c. he hath omitted the conjunctive Words [and Silk]: Whereby he hath tacitly concluded the Woollen Manufactures alone to be the Staple of our Trade, &c.

Which if so, then the Silk Manufactures (according to his Proposition) must stand arraigned (with the Printed and Painted Callicoes) as ruinous to, and inconsistent with, the Woollen Manufactures.

And then (according to his Dictates) the Legislature is to prohibit the Use and Wearing of those Silk Manufactures, as well as of the printed or painted Callicoes.

Nor (in Truth) are these Silk Manufactures properly a staple Commodity of these Kingdoms, because the Original Produce of them in Silk (either raw or thrown) is not of our native Growth, but imported from foreign Parts.

And 'tis likely that our Author of the Question, being aware of this, did in his first Proposition

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in the Introduction, only conjoin the Silk Manufactures with the Woollen, that he might set out with two Strings to his Bow : But after that, being Conscious that he could not maintain the Silk Manufactures to be a staple Commodity, (as he had before called them in his Introduction) he let them drop again in his Book, and left the Wooll to stand as the only Staple.

And yet, taking our Author all together, he seems (as is herein after observed) to be rather an Advocate for the Silk, than the Woollen Manufactures.

And therefore he cannot be offended with what may be said in Favour of his Clients: *Viz.* ' That ' tho' the Silk Manufactures be not a Staple Commodity of this Kingdom, yet by reason of their ' being Manufactured here, they are not to be ' suppress'd or demolished in Favour of the Staple ' Commodity of Wooll. And taking this so to be, the Question remaining is, ' Whether there is any ' more Reason for demolishing the Manufactures ' of Callicoes or Linnens in favour of the Woollen ' Manufactures, than there is for the demolishing ' the Manufacture of Silk? which will be best solved by making the several Comparisons between the Silks and the Callicoes, and between the Silks and the Linnens. And first between the Silks and the Callicoes.

The Silks now manufactured in *England*, are first Imported from *Turkey, India, China* or *Italy*. Those from *Turkey, India*, and *China*, are, for the most part, imported Raw, and so are thrown and woven here. But some less Parts from thence, and all those from *Italy*, are Imported ready thrown, and so are only woven here.

The Cotton, of which Callicoes are now made in *England*, is Imported from our Plantations in *America* in the Wooll, and so is spun and woven here. The rest of the Callicoes are Imported by the

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the *East-India Company* from *India* in white Cloth, and so are used here either white, as they come over, or as afterwards printed here.

Now therefore, if the Silks, as well that Imported Thrown as Raw, is, by reason of its being manufactured here, intituled to Protection and Encouragement; then the Callicoes made of Cotton, Imported from our *American* Plantations, is, by reason of its being manufactured here, intituled to the like Protection and Encouragement.

And so far as the Silk is Imported ready thrown, the Cotton Imported in the Wooll hath the Ascendant in the Comparifon. And though the same cannot be said for the Callicoes Imported by the *East-India Company* in white Cloth, yet there is something equivalent to be said for them, *viz.* ' That the Surplus of the Produce of those Callicoes, after Importation here, over and above the prime Cost paid for them in *India*, is so much gain to the Crown and Subjects of *Britain*.

*As for Example.*

The Price of middle-rate Callicoes, imported by the *East-India Company* in white Cloth, and afterwards printed and sold in *Britain*, is about Three Shillings per Yard. Of which there is,

	<i>s. d.</i>
Duty to the Crown upon Importation	8
Navigation, &c. about	8
Duty to the Crown upon Printing	6
The Printer's Labour and Profit about	8

2 6

After which there remains for prime Cost in }  
*India*, but ----- } 6  
 Whereby

( 8 )

Whereby it appears that the Crown and Subjects of *Britain* gain 2 s. 6 d. for every Yard of those white Callicoes imported from *India*, and printed here; which is near equivalent to the Profit gained here by the Manufactures of Cotton imported from *America* in the Wooll, or to the Profit gain'd here by the Manufacture of Silks imported Raw or Thrown.

For which Reasons these Callicoes so imported in Cloth, seem to stand equally intitled to Protection and Encouragement with the Callicoes made of Cotton imported in Wooll; and both of them equally intitled to the same Protection and Encouragement with the Silk Manufactures imported Raw or Thrown.

Having thus made the Comparison between the Silks and the Callicoes, the next is the Comparison between the Silks and the Linnen; which since our Author's Publication, are united in the Complaint of the Callicoes.

The Linnens printed here, are all made in *Great Britain*, or *Ireland*, (except some few imported from *Germany*, which are printed for Hankerchiefs only): And therefore, they are as much a Staple Commodity and Home Manufacture as the Woollens. And though some of them, which are used for outward Garments, may interfere with the Woollen or Silks, they are not therefore to be suppressed, as damaging the Manufactures of Wooll or Silks, the Linnens employing the Hands of the Poor in Spinning and Weaving, as well as the Wooll or Silk. Notwithstanding all which, and tho' both Linnens and Callicoes are Lawfully printed, and Lawfully used, and a Duty paid thereon, and the Complainants would have the Use and Wearing of them both prohibited and suppressed.

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For which our Author hath offered a Necessity for a Reason; viz. ' That without such a total Prohibition there can be no other Provision made against the clandestine smuggling and wearing of other Printed Callicoes prohibited. But doth not our Author hereby plead against his own Clients, the Silk Manufacturers? For by the same Reasons, the Silks imported Raw or Thrown, and manufactured here, and lawfully worn and used, ought also to be suppress'd, to prevent the smuggling and wearing other Silks prohibited.

And to throw Stones against the printed Callicoes and Linnens, as the Cause why the Silk-throwers and Weavers want work, is as an oblique Calumny, as that hereafter mention'd, of passing by the Fustains, and railing at the Callicoes: For it is not the printed Callicoes or Linnens that hinders the Manufacture of Raw-Silk, but the great Quantities of wrought Silks imported from *Holland* and *Italy*; for there is no prohibition of any Silks but from *India*, which the Company do import only to be re-exported,

And it is certain, that the Frauds committed in relanding those *India* Silks, and in Smuggling of them and the *French* Silks, (the high Impositions whereon amount to a Prohibition) together with the other Silks imported from *Holland* and *Italy*, do much lessen the Manufacture of Raw-Silk.

But as the printed Callicoes, or Linnens, are no cause of this, so the prohibiting of them would be no Remedy.

And though it is computed that the prime Cost of the wrought Silks Yearly imported from *Holland* and

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and *Italy*, and consum'd in *Great Britain*, do not amount to 150000 *l*.

And that the prime cost of all the printed Callicoes Yearly imported from *India*, and consum'd in *Great Britain*, do not amount to above 40000 *l*.

Yet the whole Clamour is rais'd against the latter, and the former pass'd by in Silence.

Not altogether unlike the Humour of Rats taken Captives by the Seamen, and (for sport) thrown alive into a hot dry Caldron; where feeling their Feet burnt, they fall upon and destroy one another, as the cause of each others Mischiefs,

And should our Author be gratified in the Extent of what he Levels at; *Viz.*

' The total Suppression of all printed Callicoes, (and printed Linnens too, for so is this Quotation from *France*) it may prove but a Hydra's Head.

For Printing or Painting is but a varying of the Colours in Flowers; which might and would be done in stripes, by Dying, (if the Prints were prohibited).

Therefore as our Author (in page 23.) hath corrected his Predecessors for contenting themselves in prohibiting the Use of Callicoes printed Abroad, without prohibiting the Use of those printed at Home. Perhaps his Successors may give him the like Correction for contenting himself with suppressing the Adjectives of *Printed* and *Painted* only, without a total Demolition of the Substantives themselves: *All Callicoes* and *Linnens*.

And

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And even after that, there would remain (*casus omissus*) a more material Article than our Author hath nam'd; as much more interfering with the Woollen Manufacture, than Painted Callicoes or Printed Linnens: *viz.* ' The Fustians now so generally worn by Men of all Qualities, instead of Woollen Cloth.

Therefore were the Woollen Manufacturers, our Author's real Clients, he could not have omitted an Instance so obvious and considerable as this, and much more to his Purpose than what he makes the Burden of his Complaint.

But the Truth is, this Clamour is promoted chiefly on behalf of the Manufacturers in Silk, and the Name of the Woollen assumed with it, is to make the Cry found more Popular.

And the Silks and Callicoes being both chiefly worn by the Women, it is likely they may, and do, in several Instances, interfere with one another.

For which the Dealers in Callicoes have as good Pretence to complain against the Dealers in Silk, as the Dealers in Silk have against them.

And so have Forty other Trades against one another.

In which they cannot be gratified, without turning the World upside down.

And as for the Arret, or Edict, in *France*, (in 1686) prohibiting the wearing or using there, of wrought Silks, Cotton, and Callicoes, painted or printed, whether in *India* or in *France*.

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It may be remember'd, that some time before that, the Persecution in *France* had driven out from thence into *England*, and other Countries, multitudes of Silk Manufacturers:

Who setting up the same Trades there, those Countries were supply'd at home with such Silks, as they before bought from *France*.

And this occasioning a Decay of that Trade in *France*, it is most probable that thereupon the Clamour was raised against the *Indian* Silks, Cottons and Callicoes, as the pretended Cause of it, and that thereupon the Arret was obtain'd.

And when Prohibitions are once obtain'd, tho' upon mistaken Pretences, they are often continued under the like mistakes.

And as for the new Arret lately publish'd there, for renewing the former, with some higher Strains of Prohibition, whether this may proceed from their Policy in Trade, or some present Reasons of State, or what other Views, can't be determin'd here.

But be that as it will, neither the former, or this present Edict in *France*, are any more examples for the Parliament of *Great Britain*, than the frequent Edicts in *France* for raising and falling the nominal Valuation of their Coin; nor than the present projection (like a Tower of *Babel*) for raising the Nominal Value of their Joint-Stocks: Which like Water forced up by the Power of Engines, when it hath ascended to the Height projected, falls down again with its own Weight.

*Ponderibus*

( 13 )

*Ponderibus depressa suis* —

And as for our Author's sending us to learn Policy of the *Indians* and *Chineses*, as tenacious in wearing their own Manufactures, and refusing to exchange them for any of ours.

If it be so, this seems rather a Mark of their Superstition than Policy: Making it part of their Religion, to retain their ancient Customs and Habits as Sacred.

As our Author himself hath shewn by their loading, instead of cloathing, themselves with their own Manufactures.

Therefore to imitate them throughout, we must wear three or four Coats a-piece in the Day-time, and four or five Rugs or Blankets in the Night, (both Winter and Summer) for promoting our Woollen Manufacture.

But whethetr the *Indians* or *Chineses* take our Woollen Manufactures or not, the *East-India* Company, who import the Callicoes from thence, stand obliged to export from hence *Ten per Cent.* of all their Exportation in *English* Goods.

Which they perform as part of the Consideration for having the sole Trade to the *Indies*.

According to which Contract, they do export from hence in *English* Goods, more than pays for all the Callicoes, and other Goods, Manufactured in *India*, which are consum'd in *Great-Britain*.

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Therefore so far as the Parliament should abridge the Company in their Trade of Importation, so far it is conceiv'd that the Company may justly demand an Abatement in their Exportation of *English* Goods.

And though the Prohibiting the wearing of Printed Callicoes be not a direct Prohibition of Importing white Callicoes; yet, by way of circumvention, it is so.

For the intent of Importing being for Use and Wearing.

So far as that Use or Wearing is restrained, so far the Importation is prevented.

And should the Parliament think fit to enter into the Detail of this Matter, by computing what the Duty to the Crown upon white Callicoes Imported and the Duty of the same Callicoes upon Printing them, do amount to *per Annum*.

And should exchange the Funds raised thereby for new ones to be granted, as the Complainants have dictated.

Whether such an exchange would be to the Advantage of the Publick, is humbly submitted to the Wisdom of the Legislature.

And having thus answered our Author in the Premises, the Conclusion seems short: *Viz.*

I.

That the Printed Callicoes (against which the Complaint is made) not being worn, or used for the same

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same Purposes with the Wollen Manufactures, do not therefore interfere with them, nor ought to be suppress'd in favour of them.

But the Fustians (against which no Complaint is made) being worn and used for the same Purposes with the Woollen Manufactures, do therefore manifestly interfere with them.

And yet this is no Reason to suppress the Fustians in favour of the Woollen.

For that, the Fustians being made of Cotton Wooll, imported from our own Plantations, are as much a Staple Commodity as our Wooll at Home.

II.

That tho' the Printed Callicoes (against which the complaint is made) and the Silks manufactured here, being both worn and used for the same Purposes, may and do, in part, interfere with one another.

Yet this is no Reason for suppressing of either of them in favour of the other.

Neither of them being Staple Commodities of this Kingdom, and each of them being partly manufactured here.

III.

That the great Importation of wrought Silks doth much more interfere with the Silk Manufactures than the Printed Callicoes.

And as for the ultimate Reason offered for suppressing of Callicoes lawfully printed and worn, as the Means to prevent the smuggling and Wearing of other Callicoes prohibited. The



( 16 )

The same Reason (as before observed) may be as well offered for suppressing the Silks lawfully Manufactured and Worn, as a means to prevent the Smuggling and wearing of other Silks prohibited.

In neither of which the Reason would be just.

For, to prohibit Things Lawful and Useful, in order to prevent Things Unlawful and Hurtful, would be to make Good subservient to Evil ; and thereby admit Vice to govern the World.

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APPEN-

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## APPENDIX

UPON

The *SPINSTER*.

S to any Observations made upon my First Edition ; I have publish'd this Second, (in the same Words) as an Answer to them :

Being not conscious that I have misrepresented any of the Facts related to me by others, or made any fallacious Deductions of my own from them.

And for my being Author of the *British Merchant*, 'Tis the first Time I heard of it.

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Not

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Not that I disclaim it, because I dislike it; but that I would not covet my Neighbour's Goods.

But having (since my former) met with an extraordinary Piece, (on the Woollen Side of the Question) stiled, *The SPINSTER, in Defence of the Woollen Manufactures*, I have bestowed this Appendix upon it.

And first, I guess this same SPINSTER to be a Man in Women's Cloaths; and as such, shall treat him in the Masculine Gender.

And by his *Exordium* he should be a *Pharisee*; commending himself as an Advocate for the needy and distressed, in Opposition to the wealthy and powerful.

Like a late Serjeant at Law in the *Western Circuit*, who usually broacht his *Breviat* with, *My Lord! my Client is a poor Man.*

But he seldom made him any richer.

Whether the Plaintiff or Defendant be poor or rich, (or Man or Woman) is not the Question in this or any other Cause.

'Ye shall do no Unrighteousness in Judgment.

'Thou shalt not respect the Person of the Poor, nor honour the Person of the Mighty;

[ 3 ]

'Mighty; but in Righteousness shalt thou judge thy Neighbour.

After having given himself this *Encomium*, he hath taken upon him to give his Readers a List (or Inventory) of the Habits of an *English Lady*; in which he saith, *Her Maid in Callico* cloaths her with the Productions of the whole Earth, as underwritten:

	l.	s.	d.
A Smock of Cambrick Holland, about three Ells and a half, at 12 s. per Ell	2	2	00
Marseilles quilted Petticoat, three Yards wide and a Yard long	3	6	00
An Hoop-Petticoat cover'd with Tabby	2	15	00
A French or Italian Silk quilted Petticoat, one Yard and a quarter deep, and six Yards wide	10	00	00
A Mantua and Petticoat of French Brocade, 26 Yards, at three Pounds per Yard	78	00	00
A French Point or Flanders Lac'd Head, Ruffles and Tucker	80	00	00

B 2

Stays

[ 4 ]

	l.	s.	d.
Stays cover'd with Tabby, } <i>English</i>	3	00	00
A <i>French</i> Necklace	1	05	00
A <i>Flanders</i> lac'd Handkerchief	10	00	00
<i>French</i> or <i>Italian</i> Flowers for } the Hair	2	00	00
An <i>Italian</i> Fan	5	00	00
Silk Stockings, <i>English</i>	1	00	00
Shoes, <i>English</i>	2	10	00
A Girdle, <i>French</i>	0	15	00
A Cambrick Pocket Hand- } kerchief	0	10	00
<i>French</i> Kid Gloves	0	02	06
A black <i>French</i> Silk Alamode } Hood	0	15	00
A black <i>French</i> Lac'd Hood	5	05	00
Imbroider'd Knot and Bosom } Knot, <i>French</i>	2	02	00
Total 210 07 06			

And he saith, This is the necessary Demand upon every Gentleman, who would live in Fashion and in Quiet, for one Dress for his Lady.

And of these he saith, The Lady admonisheth her Husband, that for his Reputation she should have Five different Suits, that she may not be Known by her Cloaths.

Accor-

[ 5 ]

According to which Rule, he saith That Foreigners sell this Lady to the Value of a Thousand Pounds, when the *English* sell her but Five.

And after this (upon a *melius Inquirendum* it seems) he hath found out several other *Items*, omitted in his first Inquisition :

V I Z.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>French</i> Garters	1	05	00
<i>Marseilles</i> Pockets	1	05	00
Brilliant Stay and Shoe Buckles (at the Price Courant)			
A Muff	5	05	00
A Sable Tippet (if she lives } in the City)	15	00	00
<i>Italian</i> Lutestring Lining for } Gown and Petticoat	8	00	00
Cap (and Lace to tye it ) of foreign Silk (at Price Courant)			
A <i>Turky</i> Handkerchief	5	05	00
Hangings and Chairs of fo- reign Silk, with Velvet Li- nings for her Chair and Coach (at Price Courant)			

The

	l.	s.	d.
The Total of which additional <i>Items</i> , (besides the Incertain at Price Courant)	36	00	00

Which added to the 210 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* in the first Inquisition, make 246 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* as the Price of each Change of Rayment; Five whereof makes 1200 *l.* and upwards, as the Annual Expence for each Lady's Dress.

(For it can't be expected but that such fantastick Ladies as these will also admonish their Husbands, to have each Dress renew'd once a Year at least.)

' And this, he saith, is the State of the Case. And that it behoves all on the Callico Side of the Question to balance this Loss to our Country, by what they sell of *English* Clothing to Foreigners; And to make out that they bring to *England*, by Sale of the Produce of these Kingdoms, more than the Luxury and Charges in Dress described in the Instance of one Lady reduceth us to the Necessity of Supplying our selves with from other Nations.

Now, tho' I own my self at present on the Callico Side of the Question;  
Yet

Yet I don't esteem my self under any Obligation to perform the Task he hath set me, until he shall, by some farther *Melius* (or *pejus*) *Inquirendum* find out one *Item* of Callico in this Lady's Inventory.

For I can see none (except *the Maid in Callico*) who dresseth the Lady.

And therefore were his Romance as true as it is extravagant, and all the Ladies in the Kingdom as great Fops, and their Husbands as great Fools, as he hath insinuated, this would be no Argument for condemning the Callicoes not used by them.

An Act fram'd against Callicoes upon his Project, would run thus.

' Whereas the Ladies of these Kingdoms wear *French* and *Italian* Silks, to the Destruction of the Woollen Manufacture:  
' And whereas the said Ladies are dress'd in the same by *their Maids in Callico*.  
' *Ergo*, Be it enacted, that the wearing of Callicoes be suppressed.

A pretty Conclusion from the Premisses.  
But having thus returned his Jest, I'll come closer to the Question.

The Writers on the Woollen Side exult in the Numbers of their Clients, (the Plaintiffs) and vilify the Defendants for their Paucity.

And

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And thereupon demand Judgment for the Majority.

Tho' this Majority may either be right or wrong, as the Case may come out.

The true Oeconomy in the Manufacturing Trade, is to keep the Ballance equal between the Fund or Staple Materials to be wrought up, and the Number of Hands to work them.

And if the Number of Hands exceed the Fund of Materials, so far that Excess is a Fault or Mistake in the Oeconomy.

But if the Fund of Materials exceed the Number of Hands to work them, so far that Deficiency of Hands is a Fault or Mistake in the Oeconomy.

Now the Fund or Staple of the Woollen Manufacture being Wooll :

And there having been no Complaints (as I have yet heard) by Breeders of Sheep, or Dealers in Wooll, for want of a Vend for it :

It should thereby seem, that there are Hands sufficient for working it, and that the same is so wrought up, or else it would not be vended; for no one hoards Wooll for the Moths.

And besides the Wooll of *Great Britain*, there is annually exported from *Ireland*, and sold in *England*, above Three hundred and sixty thousand Stone of Fleece Wooll,

to

[ 9 ]

to be wrought up by the Manufacturers in *Great Britain*, in Prejudice and Diminution to the Manufacturers of *Ireland*; and which also would not be so vended here, in case there were not found Hands to work it.

Wherefore, if after all this Wooll thus manufactur'd, there doth remain a Surplus Number of Hands unemploy'd, there is no other Remedy for that Inequality, than by Regulation of the Numbers; which is in the Power of the Complainants to do among themselves, by restraining their unlimited License of taking Apprentices, (contrary to other Trades, as I am informed.)

And should other Trades do the like, we might expect the like Complaints from them, and with as much Reason.

As to the Suggestion, that the Wooll is not all wrought, but partly run or sinugled into *France* by the Owlars.

This being a clandestine Thing, affects but a small Part of the whole.

Nor is it in the Power of the Legislature absolutely to suppress it.

No Prohibitions of Human Laws can totally extirpate the Evils prohibited by them; but they serve to restrain the frequent Commissions of the Crime, and to drive the Offenders into Corners.

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And

[ 10 ]

And for saying, that the Occasion of this Owling Trade is from the low Rates of Wooll in *England*, which is a Temptation to send it to *France* for Lucre of a better Price:

And that this Low Rate here is occasion'd by the wearing Callicoes instead of Woollen:

The Answer is obvious.

If the Price of our Wooll in *England* was by any means raised to the same for which it might be now sold for in *France*, this might, and perhaps would prevent the smuggling of it thither.

But this would prove a Remedy worse than the Disease.

Of which the first Complaint would come from the present Complainants, who would then have no other Customers for their Webbs but our home Consumption, which is much less than our Foreign Trade; for that such an Enhance of the Price of Wooll would disable our Merchants to export the Manufactures of it.

And this is the very thing that our Rivals in Trade abroad, are compassing Sea and Land to accomplish, that they may undersell us in Foreign Markets.

*Hoc Itbacus velit, hoc magno mercentur*  
(*Atrida.*)  
The

[ 11 ]

The Ports of Trade open and shut with the Gates of the Temple of *Janus*.

Therefore no wonder that an actual War with one Great Kingdom, and Rumour (or Apprehensions) of War from another, with both which we have had so great Traffick for our Woollen Goods, must be unavoidably felt by the Traders and Manufacturers of them.

But as in the Natural Body, it often happens that the Sense of feeling being affected with something invisible to the Eye, the Patient is at a Loss to find out the Cause of the Distemper:

So it happens in the Body Politick, that the Causes of Grievance not being obvious to common View, are often mischarged upon Men or Things that least deserve it.

And thus it seems to be in the present Case.

The Impediments of our Exportation being as it were a thing done behind our Backs, we charge the whole Blame on the Callicoes worn before our Faces.

*Non videmus id manticae quod a Tergo est.*

But by the Way, If the Womens Wear of Callicoes or Linnens were in some measure prejudicial to the Woollens; I can't think but their Hoods and long Cloaks of  
Cloth

[ 12 ]

Cloth or Stuff, (or Mohair, the return for our Cloth) hath more than made amends; which hath rendred the Insults upon that Sex the more inexcusable.

Yet after all this, I esteem my own Personal Interest to lye as much on the Woollen Side of the Question as any of theirs that have written upon it.

Tho' I have no Sheep, I have something that they feed upon.

Besides which, I have no other Property to live upon;

Therefore, before I dismiss the Question I'll vent a Thought of what I wish for, on behalf of our *British* Manufactures.

Tho' there is now a Prospect of Peace near approaching, yet with that, there also appears a Prospect of a War of Trade.

For which our Rivals therein are arming themselves by aggregating into Banks and Companies. By the Strength and Policy whereof to drive us out of our Foreign Trade by underfelling us.

And as One thousand regular Men fighting together in a Body, must destroy a Hundred Times that Number coming against them one by one.

So are united Companies in Trade against private Merchants.

Therefore to set our selves upon a Level with our Rivals:

I wish

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I wish there were a Company erected, with a Magazine or Lombard-House, in *London*, for buying and receiving *English* Manufactures, and giving out Bills for the Value of them, at Interest of Three Pounds *per Cent. per Annum*, ranged in several Classes, and payable in Course according to their Dates.

And that this may not seem a Fancy peculiar to my self:

I remember reiterated Proposals, for an Act of Parliament, that for all Goods sold upon Credit, the Buyer should give the Seller a Bill for the Price, payable at the Time agreed on. Which Bills should be assignable, with intent thereby to create a Species of Money in Trade.

Against which there was no Objection, but that the Bills falling into the Hands of Strangers, would be punctually exacted at the Day of Payment, which might ruin the Credit of the Buyer.

But no such Objection can lye against Bills given out by a Company, who have real Effects in their Hands to pay them pursuant to the Contents.

And to make these Bills more currant, if the Parliament pleased to give a Collateral Security, to answer out of the Publick any Deficiencies or Loss upon the Goods so bought: They might also have for the Publick

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Publick the Contingency of Gain thereon, which might prove very advantagious.

And this would take off the Manufactures as fast as made, and make the Bills prompt Payment for them, much more safe and commodious to all the Wollen Traders, than the present Factorage at *Blackwell Hall*, which wou'd be easily convertible into such a Magazine.

And tho' private Merchants, perhaps, would not at their own Risque export our Manufactures for less than 20 or 30. *per Cent.* Profit, yet they would export the same for the Publick by Commission, at 2 and half *per Cent.* whereby the Publick might (without Loss) preserve and increase our Foreign Trade by underselling our Rivals.

And if we don't undersell them, they'll undersell us.

Whether Banks or Companies be beneficial or hurtful to Trade, I don't know.

But this I know, that some Men that before railed against them, have afterwards set them up, and still carry them on.

Or whether the Invention of Gunpowder be Good or Evil to the World, I don't know.

But this I know, that they that don't use it, will be beat by them that do.

F I N I S.