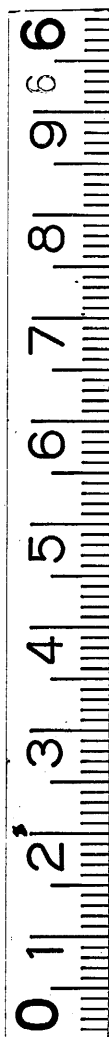


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A W

LETTER

To the Honourable

A---r M---re,

Com-----ner of

Trade and Plantation.



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L O N D O N :

Printed for *James Roberts*, near the *Oxford-Arms*,
in *Warwick*.

A
L E T T E R
T O

The Honourable *A---r M---re.*

S I R, *Royal-Exchange, 26 May, 1714.*

I Believe Mankind will agree, that they little thought to see in this Nation private Men oblig'd to draw their Pens in Defence of the Trade of it: That the fair Merchant, instead of sedately prosecuting his Affairs, to the Welfare of his Family and his Country, would be compelled to turn his Thoughts to the Danger and Misery that threatens him, amazed and helpless to see a Torrent of Woes falling on the Commerce of his Country: And all chiefly owing to the Mistakes or sinister Views of one Man, which have been hitherto uncontrouled, or rather acquiesced in. What can the Conduct of this Man proceed from? Is it Contempt of the Merchant, Envy of his Happiness, Stupidity or Treachery, that it must be imputed to? If the first, such (if there are any) who (ignorant of the support of their Luxury and Grandeur) are stupidly contented with the Pleasure of meerly spending Life, might soon go to the Woods again, and live in the State of the primitive Inhabi-

tants of our Island, but for the assistance of the Merchant. He is the Support of Empires and of Kingdoms; without his Aid, the attempt of Conquest would be vain: 'Tis he augments the Price of Land, enriches the Tenant to pay his Rent, enables every Subject cheerfully to contribute to his Princes Taxes; and who pays a larger Share than the Merchant himself? What Kingdom or State is there, that is not even rais'd by him to their present Grandure? Have any of our Neighbours acquired theirs without his Assistance? He is the very Axis of the Treasure and Power of all Countries whatsoever. They that despise him, (insensibly contemning the Cause of their own Happiness) are Objects of the Pity of all Mankind.

Is it Stupidity and Ignorance? 'Tis certain all Countries are more or less formidable as they ebb or flow in Trade. *Holland* and *Flanders* are notable Examples of this. When Tyranny, loads of Taxes and other Oppressions tossed the Commercial Ball from *Flanders*, by the Destruction of the Trade of *Bruges*, *Sluys*, and *Antwerp*; *Holland* caught it with open Arms, who by carressing it ever since, has made it flourish to so great a Degree, that it has raised the United *Netherlands* to a Power, able, at times, to withstand alone the Shocks of all the most Potent Princes of *Europe*. *France* is another Example; for my Witness, I bring a *French* Author lately published at *Paris*, where speaking of Trade, he says, 'There are few things in Government that deserve more Attention; to be convinced of this, let Men only reflect on the State of *Europe*, and observe the difference between Countries that have Commerce, and those that have not. *England*, and *Holland*, on whom in the present Age all depends, * do (or shou'd) govern their Interest

* Good Advice, had we Honesty enough to follow it.

' Interest abroad with respect ever to their Traffick. ' Husbandry and Commerce nourish and enrich a Nation: 'Tis those two Arts that give it Life and Strength: *A Truth that ought to be written in Letters of Gold in all the Cabinets of Princes and Ministers, to admonish them to consider the Husbandmen and Traders as they deserve.* By Commerce, the Riches of the most distant Countries are brought to a State; 'Tis a Mine that affords the more, the more 'tis wrought, and is never to be exhausted. The Lord Chancellor *Bacon* says, *That Merchants and Traders are in a State, what the Blood is in the Body.* It may be proved by Examples, as ancient as the World, that Nations have been powerful in proportion to their Application to Commerce; witness the *Tyrians*, the *Athenians*, the *Carthaginians*: But without recurring to such distant Instances, it will be sufficient to examine the surprising Changes which Commerce has made in our Times among our Neighbours. ' *England*, by the Protection and Encouragement which *Queen Elizabeth*, during her Reign, gave to Commerce, has from that time so enlarged her Trade and Naval Strength, that she has been able to maintain easily those mighty Fleets which have render'd her the Terror of the Ocean. ' Nothing is comparable to what the *Dutch* have done by following this Maxim: But we have in *France*, and under our own Eyes, convincing Proofs of the usefulness of Commerce. * Cardinal *Rich-lieu*,

* No Wonder the Cardinal had no better success in his Attempt of promoting Commerce, his two Counter-projects were too great to be accomplished, in the time he govern'd as prime Minister; his first Attempt (ours most certainly can never be the same) was to destroy Commerce; by his Success in it, he so impoverish'd the Subjects of France, that they were soon qualified for Slavery, by which he gain'd his first Point, and made the Monarchy Tyrannical: His Second was, by retrieving and increasing the Commerce, so to enrich that Tyrannical Monarchy as to make the rest of Europe soon become

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' lieu, and Monsieur Colbert, those excellent Ministers,
 ' so zealous for aggrandizing the *French* Monarchy,
 ' those Men of great Knowledge and clear Judg-
 ' ment, applied themselves very much to enlarge our
 ' Commerce; they did not take Measures just e-
 ' nough, and their good Intentions had but mode-
 ' rate Success: Yet the Augmentation of Traffick
 ' has enabled France to support three Wars of several
 ' Years continuance against all Europe united. What
 ' wou'd our Nation be then, if this never-failing
 ' Spring of Wealth were as ably manag'd by us as
 ' our Neighbours? My Lord Belafyse used to say,
 ' that if the *Turks* did but know what they might
 ' be capable of doing by Sea, and if the French
 ' shou'd come to apprehend rightly to what a Pitch
 ' they might carry their Commerce, the rest of Europe
 ' wou'd soon become their Conquest.

' The Example of *Bruges*, *Sluys*, and *Antwerp*,
 ' proves that Commerce may flourish in a Monar-
 ' chy, as well as in a Common-Wealth, * when
 ' the Prince and his Ministers know thoroughly the
 ' Importance of it, protect it with a high Hand,
 ' follow the true Maxims relating to it, prevent en-
 ' grossing and destructive Companies, leave the Mer-
 ' chant all the Liberty requisite for carrying it on,
 ' do not take upon them to subject it to the interested
 ' Views of their Courtiers, do not load it with too
 ' high Duties, do not prefer (like the Owner of the
 ' Hen that laid Golden Eggs) present Gain, how
 ' great soever, to a long Train of durable and cer-
 ' tain Advantages, which wou'd be a continual Fund
 ' of

become their Conquest, and render it universal. How near this was being
 accomplish'd, is still fresh in our Memories, and the Circumstance they
 are again put in of effecting it, is now the Terror of Europe. The won-
 derful Effects of Commerce!

* Wou'd the Ministers of G. B. but allow one Hour in a Week, to the
 Study of Commerce, 'twou'd be happy for this Nation. A poor Request!

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' of Supplies to them, by the continual Increase
 ' of the Riches of their People.

If it proceeds from Treachery, scarce any Punish-
 ment can be adequate to the Offence.

Sir, 'tis to you I thus speak, who Patronize our
 Trade, and am convinced you'll agree to the Truth
 of what I say. We all know that it was to your A-
 bility the Care of our Trade was left at the late
 Treaties, and to your discerning Judgment the Care
 of the Crown's Property in *America* was recom-
 mended. The Fatigues you underwent in your
 Journey to *Paris*, the indefatigable Industry and Skill
 you have shew'd in your Management of the late
 Treaties, and your *disinterested* Aims through the
 whole Course of them, are evident Proofs how *zea-*
lous you are for the Welfare of our Country. To
 whom then must I complain, but to you, of any At-
 tempts to the Prejudice of our Commerce, or of any
 Aspersions thrown on those who zealously oppose
 them? Give me then leave to bemoan our living in
 an Age among Cotemporaries, who not being
 contented to calumniate the living Patriots of our
 Trade and Welfare, even unjustly asperse and rake in
 the Ashes of the Dead. I say, in the Ashes of one,
 who has done more for the Trade of this Island than
 ever was done by any one Man: I mean the late
 Mr. *Methuen*. The Experience of the past and pre-
 sent Age justifies the excellent Treaty he made with
Portugal. I am sure you *intirely* agree in these Sen-
 timents, and did I not know the *Zeal* you have for
 the Justification of it to the Publick, I shou'd wave
 the producing any Vouchers to manifest this noto-
 rious Truth.

The last time I had the Honour of being with
 you, you may remember you reached from your
 Shelf, a Book call'd, *Salt and Fishery*, by *John Col-*
lins, Accountant to the Royal Fishery Company,
 printed *Anno* 1682. I was not a little surprized when

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you turn'd to that Part wherein he speaks of *Canary* and *Portugal* Wine, to find the following Remonstrance, which he says was delivered by the Merchants of *London*, to the Last Long Parliament.

Whereas the *Portugal* Trade is very advantageous to this Nation, because it does annually consume a great quantity of our Manufactures, Fish, &c. and of late declines, because the Sugar and other Commodities of that Country, are either so fallen in Price here, or grown so scarce there, as that the Merchants trading thither cannot procure wherein to have returns, nor the People of that Country wherein to make Satisfaction for the Goods they take, which hath occasion'd the setting up of Fabriks of their own, and the prohibiting of our Commodities; to prevent the said Inconveniency, being that Country abounds with several sorts of good Wine, and is capable to afford great Quantities thereof, which are in a manner totally prohibited from being brought into this Kingdom, by the great Custom charged thereon, of 16 l. 18 s. 11 d. per Ton, as on *Spanish* Wine, whereas their Use, nor Goodness, doth not render them capable of paying more than the *French*.

It is humbly conceived, it may be the Interest of this Nation, that by Act of Parliament, the Custom of the said Wines may be abated, and that seeing the Freight from *Portugal* is 40 s. per Ton more than from *France*, that the Custom may be less than what is charged on *French* Wine, for the Reasons following.

First, The abating of the Customs would certainly introduce the Expence of the said Wines, and make them serve to supply the great want of Returns, at present experimented in that Trade, and consequently be a great Means to increase the consumption of our Manufactory in that Country.

Secondly,

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Secondly, It would diminish the Importation of *French* Wines, which it is well known, are purchased with *Monies*; whereas it is probable, these will always be purchased with our Manufactory; and it may be convenient, to encourage the growth of Wines in *Portugal*, thereby to lessen the *French* Trade.

Thirdly, Whereas the Prince of *Portugal* did, about a Year since, make a Law to prevent the wearing of Foreign Cloth, Gold and Silver Lace, and some other Commodities, and did also set up Fabriks of Bays, and Serges in that Country, because they have not Effects to Ballance their Importations, which hath already proved of great Prejudice to the said Trade, and may prove very fatal if pursued: It may be hoped, that by thus introducing the Expence of their Commodities, and the taking of them in Exchange of our Manufactures, they may be brought to neglect the Observation of the said Law, and the said Fabriks, because the Occasion of them will be thus taken away.

Fourthly, It may advance his Majesty's Revenue, for the present extraordinary Custom is little less than a total Prohibition, so that the said Wines yield at present very little to his Majesty; whereas if the Custom be abated, they may yield a considerable Sum, and whatsoever may be received less on the *French* Wines, will be advanced on these, and probably more, because of their Variety and Goodness, and also because a great quantity of the Wines of that Country are not so strong as the *French*.

The Remark you made is very just, that the Merchants in those Days who made the Remonstrance, and Mr. Collins, who many Years after gave us this Copy, cannot be said by any one to have overseen the Controversie now in dispute about the

B

Trade

Trade of *Great Britain*, and therefore it must be allow'd by every body to be an Impartial Account of our Trade to *Portugal* and *France*; the World will certainly be pleas'd with this Copy, especially if I let them know that a Person of your *long Experience*, and *excellent Judgment* in Trade, *studyed* and *stuck close* to the Hints of it, in the late Treaty of Commerce; otherwise, how is it possible the excellent Treaty you made with *France*, could so *exactly agree* with it in *each Particular*.

I am of Opinion, that Mr. *Methuen* had a sight of this Paper, if not, I do affirm, that he understood the Advantage of the *Portugal* Trade, and the Perniciousness of the *French*, as well as any Man in *England*, except your self.

We may observe, that in those Days the *Portugal* Trade was (even before their Gold Mines were discover'd) extremely advantagious to this Nation: That it declined, because those People had not wherewithal to pay us our Ballance, and the Duties on their Wines being equal or higher than those on the *French*: These were also the Causes of the Prohibition of our Commodities; but by the Discovery of their Mines, and the making the *Portugal* Treaty, these Obstructions are now removed; Experience shews us how good Judges our Merchants were in those Days of proper Remedies to continue the Advantages of that Trade, and prevent the damage we sustain'd by that of *France*.

We find that they gain'd 40 s. per Ton, more by the Freight of our Ships from thence, than they did from *France*.

We may observe, that the raising of the Duties on *French* Wines higher, than on those of *Portugal*, (which is an Equivalent to what they desired) has brought the Wines of that Country into use in *Great Britain*, and that it occasions a great Consumption of our Manufactures.

It

It should be particularly regarded, that the *French* Wines in those Days were purchased with Money: And as the *French* have extremely encreased their Manufactures of Wool, must be again purchased with our Money, if the Wines of each Country are charged with an equal Duty: Nay, should the Duties on the Wines of each Country be lower'd, so as to sink that of the *French* considerably from the present Rate, and bring it near as Low as the Duty on *Portugal* and other Wines, the small Difference there would then be between them, would have still the same Effect. As for Example:

Suppose the Duty on *Portugal* Wines was sunk to 18 l. per Ton, and that on *French* Wine to 27 l. per Ton, (by which we should still keep up to the *Portugal* Treaty) yet the Difference then, between one and the other, being so little, would encourage the Consumption of *French* Wines, and abate that of other Wines. *French* Wines pay now about 30 l. per Ton more than other Wines, but if the Duty should be fix'd on this Foot, the Difference would be but 9 l. per Ton, and of Course but nine Farthings per Bottle, out of which is to be deducted three Farthings per Bottle as an Equivalent for the dearer Freight of other Wine, *France* being so very nigh, so that *French* Wine will pay but three half Pence per Bottle more than *Portugal* and other Wines.

I appeal to all the World, especially to you, Sir, if it is to be imagin'd, that any Body that can afford to drink Wine, will not sooner be at the extraordinary Expence of three half Pence for a Bottle of *French* Wine, than confine themselves to drink *Portugal* Wine, for the sake of saving three half Pence, especially when *French* Wine is so much more coveted than the other.

'Tis plain, by Experience, since Mr. *Methuen's* Treaty, that the Importation and Consumption of *French* Wines has been diminished, and that prejudicial Trade lessen'd.

B 2

And

And that the Wines and GOLD of *Portugal* has been wholly purchased by our Manufactures, Fish, and other Products. By our Fish, our *Newfoundland* Trade has been in some Measure supported, as well as that Nursery of Seamen maintain'd.

France by insupportable Duties, has prohibited our Fish, in order to discourage that Trade, but with a greater View to destroy our Nursery of Seamen. *Are they not in the right on't?*

We see that by Mr. *Methuen's* Treaty with *Portugal*, our Manufactures are re-admitted, and their Fabricks neglected. But by the present Treaty with *France*, there is nothing stipulated that can have that Consequence there, but on the contrary, the *French* Manufacturers working 7*d.* in a 1*s.* cheaper than ours, the vast Quantities of their Silks, Linnens, and Paper, that will continually glut our Markets, must effectually destroy all those Manufactures here.

We cannot but be sensible of the Advantages this Nation has receiv'd by Mr. *Methuen's* Treaty; that the beneficial Trade of *Portugal* in those Days declining, has not only been retrieved and most considerably improved, but we have been saved by it from Ruin, by the destructive Trade of *France*. 'Tis to be hoped these things will be so well weigh'd, that we shall never venture to put those two Trades on the ancient Foot, only to Experience what we know already has been fatal; if we shou'd, we are sure to lose by one most considerably, and being depriv'd of the vast Advantages we make by the other, shall be able to gain nothing by it to support our Loss: How long we shall be able to pay out of the Bag without putting in, I leave the World to judge.

Thus much as to that Remonstrance, which, no doubt, arose from the Experience of that Age, agreeable to the Observations which Mr. *Samuel Foretrey* made, amongst other Trades, on that of *France*, and

and presented to King *Charles II.* in the Year 1663 by which it appears we lost to *France* above One Million six hundred thousand Pounds a Year, by the Account the *French* themselves made of the Annual Gain they got by *England*. I give it in his own Words.

1. ' In the next Place, our Manufactures are to be consider'd, on which chiefly depends both the Wealth and Prosperity of this Kingdom; for by the Encrease and Encouragement thereof, the Subjects are employ'd in honest and industrious Callings, maintain'd and preserv'd from Want, and those Mischiefs which commonly effect Idleness: The People furnish'd at Home with all things both of Necessity and Pleasure, and by the Overplus procure from Abroad, whatever for Use or Delight is wanting.

2. ' The chief Manufactures amongst us at this Day, are only woollen Clothes, woollen Stuffs of all sorts, Stockings, Ribandings, and perhaps some few Silk Stuffs, and some other small things, scarce worth the Naming; and these already named, so decay'd and adulterated, *that they are almost out of Esteem both at Home and Abroad.*

3. ' And this, because Foreign Commodities are grown into so great Esteem amongst us, *as we wholly undervalue and neglect the Use of our own;* whereby that great Expence of Treasure, that is yearly wasted in Clothing, Furnitures, and the like, redounds chiefly to the Profit of Strangers, and to the Ruin of his Majesty's Subjects.

4. ' And this will more plainly appear, if we examine the vast Sums of Money the *French* yearly delude us of; either by such Commodities as we may as well have of our own, or else by such others, as we might as well in great part be without: *Whereby no doubt our Treasure will soon be exhausted, and the People ruin'd,* as this Particular may
' make

‘ make appear, which not long since was delivered
 ‘ in to the King of *France*, upon a Design he had
 ‘ to have forbidden the Trade between *France* and
 ‘ *England*; supposing the Value of *English* Commo-
 ‘ dities sent into *France*, did surmount the Value of
 ‘ those that were transported hither.

1. ‘ There is transported out of *France* into *Eng-
 ‘ land*, great Quantities of Velvets plain and wrought,
 ‘ Sattins plain and wrought, Cloth of Gold and
 ‘ Silver, Armoysins, and other Merchandizes of
 ‘ Silk, which are made at *Lions*, and are valued to
 ‘ be yearly worth One hundred and fifty thou-
 ‘ sand Pounds.

2. ‘ In Silk, Stuffs, Taffaties, Poudusoys, Ar-
 ‘ moyfins, Cloths of Gold and Silver, Tabbies plain
 ‘ and wrought, Silk-ribbands, and other such like
 ‘ Silk Stuffs as are made at *Tours*, valued to be
 ‘ worth by the Year above Three hundred thou-
 ‘ sand Pounds.

3. ‘ In Silk-ribbands, Galloons, Laces, and But-
 ‘ tons of Silk, which are made at *Paris*, *Roven*,
 ‘ *Chaimont*, *St. Estienes* in *Forrests*, by the Year a-
 ‘ bout One hundred and fifty thousand Pounds.

4. ‘ A great Quantity of Serges, which are made
 ‘ at *Chalons*, *Chartres*, *Estamines*, and *Rheimes*, and
 ‘ great Quantities of Serges made at *Amiens*, *Cre-
 ‘ vecoeur*, *Blicourt*, and other Towns in *Picardy*, by
 ‘ the Year above One hundred and fifty thousand
 ‘ Pounds.

5. ‘ In Beaver, Demicaster and Felt Hats, made
 ‘ in the City and Suburbs of *Paris*; besides many
 ‘ others made at *Roven*, *Lions*, and other Places,
 ‘ by the Year about One hundred and twenty thou-
 ‘ sand Pounds.

6. ‘ In Feathers, Belts, Girdles, Hatbands, Fans,
 ‘ Hoods, Masks, gilt and wrought Looking-Glasses,
 ‘ Cabinets, Watches, Pictures, Cases, Medals, Ta-
 ‘ blets, Bracelets, and other such like Mercery
 ‘ Ware,

‘ Ware, by the Year above One hundred and fifty
 ‘ thousand Pounds.

7. ‘ In Pins, Needles, Box-combs, Tortois-shel-
 ‘ combs, and such like, by the Year about Twenty
 ‘ thousand Pounds.

8. ‘ In perfumed and trimmed Gloves, that are
 ‘ made at *Paris*, *Roven*, *Vendosme*, *Clermont*, and
 ‘ other Places, by the Year about Ten thousand
 ‘ Pounds.

9. ‘ In Papers of all Sorts, which are made at
 ‘ *Auvergne*, *Poitou*, *Limosin*, *Champagne*, and *Nor-
 ‘ mandy*, by the Year above One hundred thousand
 ‘ Pounds.

10. ‘ In all Sorts of Iron-mongers Wares, that
 ‘ are made in *Forrests*, *Auvergne*, and other Places,
 ‘ by the Year about Forty thousand Pounds.

11. ‘ In Linnen Cloth that is made in *Britainy*
 ‘ and *Normandy*, as well coarse as fine, there is
 ‘ transported into *England*, by the Year above Four
 ‘ hundred thousand Pounds.

12. ‘ In Household-Stuff, consisting of Beds, Ma-
 ‘ tresses, Coverlids, Hangings, Fringes of Silk, and
 ‘ other Furniture, by the Year above One hundred
 ‘ thousand Pounds.

13. ‘ In Wines from *Gascoinge*, *Nantois*, and o-
 ‘ ther Places on the River of *Loire*, and also from
 ‘ *Bordeaux*, *Rochelle*, *Nantes*, *Roven*, and other
 ‘ Places, are transported into *England*, by the Year,
 ‘ above Six hundred thousand Pounds.

14. ‘ In *Aqua Vita*, Cider, Vinegar, Verjuice,
 ‘ and such like, by the Year about One hundred
 ‘ thousand Pounds.

15. ‘ In Saffron, Cattle-Soap, Honey, Almonds,
 ‘ Olives, Capers, Prunes, and such like, by the
 ‘ Year about One hundred and fifty thousand Pounds.

16. ‘ Besides five or six hundred Vessels of Salt,
 ‘ loaded at *Maron*, *Rochelle*, *Bouage*, the Isle of *Ole-
 ‘ ron*, and Isle of *Rhee*, transported into *England*
 ‘ and

and *Holland*, of a very great Value. So as by this Calculation, it doth appear, that the yearly Value of such Commodities as are transported from *France* to *England* amounts to above Six and twenty hundred thousand Pounds.

And the Commodities exported out of *England* into *France*, consisting chiefly of Woollen Cloths, Serges, Knit Stockings, Lead, Pewter, Allom, Coals, and all else, do not amount to above Ten hundred thousand Pounds a Year. By which it appears, that our Trade with *France* is at least Sixteen hundred thousand Pounds a Year clear Loss to this Kingdom.

Whereby the King of *France*, finding it would prove to his Loss, to forbid the Trade with *England*, soon laid aside the Design; however, raised the Custom of some of our *English* Commodities, by which means the Vent of those Commodities is very much lessen'd and kindred.

Hereby it may appear how insensibly our Treasure will be exhausted, and the Nation beggar'd, whilst we carelessly neglect our own Interest, and Strangers abroad are diligent to make their Advantages by us.

In the second Paragraph, where Mr. Fortrey mentions the different sorts of Manufactures we had then in *England*, he does not so much as Name those of Silk, Linnen and Paper, from whence we may infer that they were, either so inconsiderable as not to be worth Notice, or that we had then none at all, and that they have been since that time brought to the great Perfection they are now in. Must they for the sake of *France* be destroy'd?

From the fourth, I must beg leave to observe, that it was the Intention of the *French* King, for his Country's Good, to have forbid the Trade between *France* and *England*, had he, upon this Examination, found it prejudicial to his Kingdom, as he

he suspected it was. Yet, notwithstanding he found it, upon this view, so extremely Advantagious to *France*, and so greatly Prejudicial to *England*, he was so far from being satisfied with the great Gain he made, that he loaded our Commodities with farther Duties, to prevent the Consumption of them in *France*, and to encourage his own Manufactures.

We have the same reason on our side, at least; to continue the high Duties and Prohibitions on all his Commodities, that are prejudicial to our Manufactures: Especially since, we seem to have lost an Opportunity of settling that Trade upon an advantageous Foot. What can we now expect from *France*? Is it to be supposed that *France* will do any thing in mere favour of our Trade, to the Prejudice of its own, that once intended wholly to have prohibited it, had it been the least detrimental thereto?

Mr. Fortrey has shew'd us, how detrimental the Trade of *France* was in the Year 1663, he gives it from the State the *French* themselves took of it, and that State must, by all impartial Men, be allow'd to be true. If this is to be contradicted by the *Merchant*, what must we believe? It is probable that the *French* at that time took an Account of the State of their Trade with all Nations. They were then considering, how to lay their Duties on Importations and Exportations equally over all Parts of their Country, and to Establish a general Tariffe: At this time the Duties were various in sundry, nay in most Parts of *France*, some Provinces paid more, and others less, for the same Commodities; and the Confusion was so great, that the Merchants in *France* hardly knew what Duties they were to pay, and the King's Collectors General unable to State any exact Account of that part of the Revenue arising from the Customs. This occasion'd the settling

settling the Tariffe of 1664, which was the first general Tariffe that ever was settled in *France*. I hope from hence, no body will think it improbable, that the *French* in or before the Year 1663, should take a true State of their Trade.

The confident Authors of the *Mercator*, notwithstanding, in their very first Paper, they say, it is hard to contend with a General receiv'd Notion, that the Trade to *France* was always Prejudicial, yet undertake to make the contrary appear, and that it always was, and always will be beneficial. Why would they have Mankind (contrary to all known Facts) believe that that Trade always was beneficial? I am sure I have Reason on my side to affirm directly otherwise, that the Trade to *France* always was prejudicial, and will be so again, whenever their Commodities are re-admitted by taking off the high Duties and Prohibitions.

From the State of our Trade in or about the Year 1663, I come to the Year 1674, when a Scheme of the Trade with *France* was drawn out of the *Custom-House* Books from *Michaelsmas* 1668, to *Michaelsmas* 1669. By this Scheme (hereto annexed) it appears that the Ballance *France* gain'd from us by Trade was reduced to about a Million.

A SCHEME

[Here place the Scheme.]

LONDON, 29 Nov. 1674.

A SCHEME of the TRADE

As it is at present Carried on

Between England and France

In the Commodities of the Native Product and Manufacture of each Country; Calculated as exactly as possible according to the Command of the Right Honourable Commissioners for the Treaty of Commerce with France. And humbly tender'd to their Lordships.

Quantities.	Commodities Exported from England into France.	Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Exports.	Quantities.	Commodities Imported into England from France.	
	<i>Woollen and Silk Manufactures.</i>				<i>Linnen and Silk Manufactures.</i>	
		<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>			<i>l. s. d.</i>
354	Pieces of Norwich Stuffs, at 2 00 0 per Pc.		708 0 0	60000	Pieces of Lockram and Dowlas, at 6 00 0 per Pc.	
5564	Pieces of Serges and Perpetuanas, at 2 10 0		13910 0 0	17000	Hundred of Vitry and Noyals Canvas, at 6 00 0 per Hund.	
2288	Pieces of single Bayes, at 2 10 0		5764 0 0	5000	Hundred of Normandy Canvas, at 7 00 0	
166	Small Minikin Bayes, at 6 00 0		996 0 0	2500	Pieces of Quintins, at 0 10 0 per Pc.	
466	Small double Bayes, at 4 00 0		1864 0 0	1500	Pieces of dyed Linnen, at 1 00 0	
2140	Dozen Mens Worsted Hoses, at 2 00 0		4280 0 0	7604	Yards of Diaper Tabling, at 0 02 0	
832	Dozen Mens Worsted Hoses, at 1 05 0		1040 0 0	33896	Yards of Diaper Napkining, at 0 01 0	
2170	Dozen of Childrens Hoses, at 0 08 0		468 0 0	1376	Dozen of Buckrams, at 2 10 0	
400	Yards of Flannel, at 0 01 0		20 0 0	1200	Bolts of Poldavies, at 0 15 0	
1200	C Goads of Cotton, at 9 00 0		10800 0 0	2820	Pair of Old Sheets, at 0 05 0	
112	Long Cloths, at 10 00 0 per Cl.		1120 0 0	150000	Pound of wrought Silk, at 2 00 0	
42	Short Cloths, at 8 00 0		336 0 0			
829	Spanish Cloths, at 15 00 0		12435 0 0			
97	Double Northern Dozens, at 5 00 0		485 0 0			
69	Single Northern Dozens, at 2 00 0		138 0 0			
13	Devon Dozens, at 2 00 0		26 0 0			
273	Cloth Rashes, at 5 00 0		865 0 0			
6	Pennystones, at 3 00 0		18 0 0			
3585	Keisies, at 1 15 0		6273 0 0			

Note, That this Year, 1674, there hath been received at the Port of *Dover* only, as we are informed, 15000 *l.* for Custom of Wrought Silk: So that considering what may be convey'd away privately, and that great Quantities are worth from 3 *l.* to 4 *l.* the Pound, we believe the Wrought Silk may amount to much more in Value than what is above.

LONDON, 29 Nov. 1674.

A S C H E M E of the T R A D E,

As it is at present Carried on

Between England and France,

In the Commodities of the Native Product and Manufacture of each Country; Calculated as exactly as possible, in Obedience to the Command of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for the Treaty of Commerce with *France*: And humbly tender'd to their Lordships.

Quantities.	Commodities Exported from England into France.	Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Exports.	Quantities.	Commodities Imported into England from France.	Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Imports.
		l. s. d.	l. s. d.			l. s. d.	l. s. d.
	<i>Woollens and Silk Manufactures.</i>				<i>Linnen and Silk Manufactures.</i>		
354	Pieces of Norwich Stuffs, at 2 00 0 per Pc.	708 0 0		60000	Pieces of Lockram and Dowlas, at 6 00 0 per Pc.	360000 00 0	
5564	Pieces of Serges and Perpetuanas, at - - - - 2 10 0	13919 0 0		17000	Hundred of Vitry and Noyals Canvas, at 6 00 0 per Hund.	102000 00 0	
2288	Pieces of single Bayes, at 2 10 0	5764 0 0		5000	Hundred of Normandy Canvas, at - - 7 00 0	35000 00 0	
166	Small Minikin Bayes, at 6 00 0	996 0 0		2500	Pieces of Quintins, at - - - - 0 10 0 per Pc.	1250 00 0	
466	Small double Bayes, at 4 00 0	1864 0 0		1500	Pieces of dyed Linnen, at - - - - 1 00 0	1500 00 0	
2140	Dozen Mens Worsted Hofs, at 2 00 0	4280 0 0		7604	Yards of Diaper Tabling, at - - - - 0 02 0	760 08 0	
832	Dozen Mens Worsted Hofs, at 1 05 0	1040 0 0		33896	Yards of Diaper Napkining, at - - - - 0 01 0	1694 16 0	
2170	Dozen of Childrens Hofs, at 0 08 0	463 0 0		1376	Dozen of Buckrams, at - - - - 2 10 0	3440 00 0	
400	Yards of Flannel, at - - - - 0 01 0	20 0 0		1200	Bolts of Poldavies, at - - - - 0 15 0	900 00 0	
1200	C Goads of Cotton, at - - - - 9 00 0	10800 0 0		2820	Pair of Old Sheets, at - - - - 0 05 0	705 00 0	
112	Long Cloths, at - - - - 10 00 0 per Cl.	1120 0 0		150000	Pound of wrought Silk, at - - - - 2 00 0	300000 00 0	
42	Short Cloths, at - - - - 8 00 0	336 0 0					
829	Spanish Cloths, at - - - - 15 00 0	12435 0 0					
97	Double Northern Dozens, at 5 00 0	485 0 0					
69	Single Northern Dozens, at 2 00 0	138 0 0					
13	Devon Dozens, at - - - - 2 00 0	26 0 0					
273	Cloth Rashes, at - - - - 5 00 0	865 0 0					
6	Pennystones, at - - - - 3 00 0	18 0 0					
3585	Kerfies, at - - - - 1 15 0	6273 0 0					
960	lb English wrought Silk, at 2 00 0	1920 0 0					

Note, That this Year, 1674, there hath been received at the Port of *Dover* only, as we are informed, 15000 *l.* for Custom of Wrought Silk: So that considering what may be convey'd away privately, and that great Quantities are worth from 3 *l.* to 4 *l.* the Pound, we believe the Wrought Silk may amount to much more in Value than what is above.

807250 04 0

A S C H E M E

[Here place the Scheme.]

is hard to contend with a General receiv'd Noti-
on, that the Trade to *France* was always Prejudicial,
al, yet undertake to make the contrary appear, and
that it always was, and always will be beneficial.
Why would they have Mankind (contrary to all
known Facts) believe that that Trade always was
beneficial? I am sure I have Reason on my side to
affirm directly otherwise, that the Trade to *France*
always was prejudicial, and will be so again, when-
ever their Commodities are re-admitted by taking
off the high Duties and Prohibitions.

From the State of our Trade in or about the
Year 1663, I come to the Year 1674, when a
Scheme of the Trade with *France* was drawn out
of the *Custom-House* Books from *Michaelmas* 1668,
to *Michaelmas* 1669. By this Scheme (hereto an-
nexed) it appears that the *Ballance France* gain'd
from us by Trade was reduced to about a Million.

A SCHEME

[Here place the Scheme.]

0268

ent Carried on

Between England and France,

In the Commodities of the Native Product and Manufacture
of each Country; Calculated as exactly as possible, in Obe-
dience to the Command of the Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners for the Treaty of Commerce with *France*:
And humbly tender'd to their Lordships.

Quan- tities.	Commodities Exported from England into France.	Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Exports.	Quan- tities.	Commodities Imported into England from France.	Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Imports.
<i>Woollen and Silk Manufactures.</i>				<i>Linnen and Silk Manufactures.</i>			
		<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>			<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>
354	Pieces of Norwich Stuffs, at 2 00 0 per Pc.	708 0 0		60000	Pieces of Lockram and Dowlas, at 6 00 0 per Pc.	360000 00 0	
5564	Pieces of Serges and Perpetu- anas, at 2 10 0	13910 0 0		17000	Hundred of Vitry and Noyals Canvas, at 6 00 0 per Hund.	102000 00 0	
2288	Pieces of single Bayes, at 2 10 0	5764 0 0		5000	Hundred of Normandy Canvas, at 7 00 0	35000 00 0	
166	Small Minikin Bayes, at 6 00 0	996 0 0		2500	Pieces of Quintins, at 0 10 0 per Pc.	1250 00 0	
466	Small double Bayes, at 4 00 0	1864 0 0		1500	Pieces of dyed Linnen, at 1 00 0	1500 00 0	
2140	Dozen Mens Worsted Hofe, at 2 00 0	4280 0 0		7604	Yards of Diaper Tabling, at 0 02 0	760 08 0	
832	Dozen Mens Worsted Hofe, at 1 05 0	1040 0 0		33896	Yards of Diaper Napkining, at 0 01 0	1694 16 0	
2170	Dozen of Childrens Hofe, at 0 08 0	468 0 0		1376	Dozen of Buckrams, at 2 10 0	3440 00 0	
400	Yards of Flannel, at 0 01 0	20 0 0		1200	Bolts of Poldavies, at 0 15 0	900 00 0	
2200	C Goads of Cotton, at 9 00 0	10800 0 0		2820	Pair of Old Sheets, at 0 05 0	705 00 0	
112	Long Cloths, at 10 00 0 per Cl.	1120 0 0		150000	Pound of wrought Silk, at 2 00 0	300000 00 0	
42	Short Cloths, at 8 00 0	336 0 0		<i>Note, That this Year, 1674, there hath been received at the Port of Dover only, as we are informed, 15000 l. for Custom of Wrought Silk: So that considering what may be convey'd away privately, and that great Quantities are worth from 3 l. to 4 l. the Pound, we believe the Wrought Silk may amount to much more in Value than what is above.</i>			
829	Spanish Cloths, at 15 00 0	12435 0 0					807250 04 6
97	Double Northern Dozens, at 5 00 0	485 0 0		11000	Tuns of French Wine one Year with another colt - 12 10 0 per Tun.	137500 00 0	
69	Single Northern Dozens, at 2 00 0	138 0 0		4000	Tuns of Brandy, one Year with another, at 20 00 0 per Tun.	80000 00 0	217500 00 6
13	Devon Dozens, at 2 00 0	26 0 0					
173	Cloth Rashees, at 5 00 0	865 0 0					
6	Pennyftones, at 3 00 0	18 0 0					
3585	Kerries, at 1 15 0	6273 0 0					
960	lb English wrought Silk, at 2 00 0	1920 0 0					
		63466 0 0					
	This is the full of what was Exported, according to the Cuslom-House Books in the Port of London, from Michaelmas 1668, to Michaelmas 1669. And for all England we calculate one Third Part more. Amounts in all to		84521 06 08				
	Since 1669, the Exports, as we conceive, are diminished, and not encreafed.						
2500	Fodder of Lead, at 12 00 0 per Fod.	30000 0 0					
6000	Hundred of Tin, at 4 00 0 per C.	24000 0 0					
100	Tuns of Allom, at 24 00 0 per Ton.	2400 0 0					
	Calves Skins and Leather	10000 0 0					
	Several sorts of Skins, Glew, Lanthorn Leaves, Butter, Copperas, Old Shoes, Sea Coals, Tobacco-Pipes, Gloves, Red-Lead, Linfeed, Candles, Iron-Ware, Haberdashery Ware, and other trivial Commodities, which may amount per Annum to	20000 0 0	86400 00 00				
			171021 06 08				
				Besides all manner of Toys for Women and Children, Fans, Jessamin-Gloves, Laces, Point-laces, rich embroidered Garments, and rich embroidered Beds, and other Vestments; which are of an incredible Value:			
				111400 00 6			
				1136150 04 6			

beneficial? I am sure I have Reason on my side to affirm directly otherwise, that the Trade to France always was prejudicial, and will be so again, whenever their Commodities are re-admitted by taking off the high Duties and Prohibitions.

From the State of our Trade in or about the Year 1663, I come to the Year 1674, when a Scheme of the Trade with France was drawn out of the Custom-House Books from Michaelmas 1668, to Michaelmas 1669. By this Scheme (hereto annexed) it appears that the Ballance France gain'd from us by Trade was reduced to about a Million.

In the Commodities of the Native Product and Manufacture of each Country; Calculated as exactly as possible, in Obedience to the Command of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for the Treaty of Commerce with France: And humbly tender'd to their Lordships.

A SCHEME

[Here place the Scheme.]

Commodities Exported from England into France.				Commodities Imported into England from France.			
Quantities.		Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Exports.	Quantities.		Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Imports.
Woollens and Silk Manufactures.				Linnen and Silk Manufactures.			
		<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>			<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>
354	Pieces of Norwich Stuffs, at 2 00 0 per Pc.	708 0 0		60000	Pieces of Lockram and Dowlas, at 6 00 0 per Pc.	360000 00 0	
5564	Pieces of Serges and Perpetuanas, at 2 10 0	13910 0 0		17000	Hundred of Vitry and Noyals Canvas, at 6 00 0 per Hund.	102000 00 0	
2288	Pieces of single Bayes, at 2 10 0	5764 0 0		5000	Hundred of Normandy Canvas, at 7 00 0	35000 00 0	
166	Small Minikin Bayes, at 6 00 0	996 0 0		2500	Pieces of Quintins, at 0 10 0 per Pc.	1250 00 0	
466	Small double Bayes, at 4 00 0	1864 0 0		1500	Pieces of dyed Linnen, at 1 00 0	1500 00 0	
2140	Dozen Mens Worsted Hofs, at 2 00 0	4280 0 0		7604	Yards of Diaper Tabling, at 0 02 0	760 08 0	
832	Dozen Mens Worsted Hofs, at 1 05 0	1040 0 0		33896	Yards of Diaper Napkining, at 0 01 0	1694 16 0	
2170	Dozen of Childrens Hofs, at 0 08 0	463 0 0		1376	Dozen of Buckrams, at 2 10 0	3440 00 0	
400	Yards of Flannel, at 0 01 0	20 0 0		1200	Bolts of Poldavies, at 0 15 0	900 00 0	
1200	C Goads of Cotton, at 9 00 0	10800 0 0		2820	Pair of Old Sheets, at 0 05 0	705 00 0	
112	Long Cloths, at 10 00 0 per Cl.	1120 0 0		150000	Pound of wrought Silk, at 2 00 0	300000 00 0	
42	Short Cloths, at 8 00 0	336 0 0		<i>Note, That this Year, 1674, there hath been received at the Port of Dover only, as we are informed, 15000 l. for Custom of Wrought Silk: So that considering what may be convey'd away privately, and that great Quantities are worth from 3 l. to 4 l. the Pound, we believe the Wrought Silk may amount to much more in Value than what is above.</i>			
829	Spanish Cloths, at 15 00 0	12435 0 0					
97	Double Northern Dozens, at 5 00 0	485 0 0					
69	Single Northern Dozens, at 2 00 0	138 0 0					
13	Devon Dozens, at 2 00 0	26 0 0					
273	Cloth Rashes, at 5 00 0	865 0 0					
6	Pennystones, at 3 00 0	18 0 0					
3585	Kersies, at 1 15 0	6273 0 0					
960	lb English wrought Silk, at 2 00 0	1920 0 0					
	This is the full of what was Exported, according to the Custom-House Books in the Port of London, from Michaelmas 1668, to Michaelmas 1669. And for all England we calculate one Third Part more. Amounts in all to	63466 0 0	84521 06 08				
	Since 1669, the Exports, as we conceive, are diminished, and not encreased.			4000	Tuns of Brandy, one Year with another, at 20 00 0 per Tun.	80000 00 0	217500 00 0
2500	Fodder of Lead, at 12 00 0 per Fod.	30000 0 0		160000	Reams of Paper, at 0 05 0 per Ream.	40000 00 0	
6000	Hundred of Tin, at 4 00 0 per C.	24000 0 0		1500	Pes of Pruens, at 4 00 0	6000 00 0	
100	Tuns of Allom, at 24 00 0 per Ton.	2400 0 0		400	Hundred of Feathers - 5 00 0 per Hund.	2000 00 0	
	Calves Skins and Leather	10000 0 0		5000	Hundred of Kidskins - 3 00 0	15000 00 0	
	Several sorts of Skins, Glaw, Lanthorn Leaves, Butter, Copperas, Old Shoes, Sea Coals, Tobacco-Pipes, Gloves, Red-Lead, Linfeed, Candles, Iron-Ware, Haberdashery Ware, and other trivial Commodities, which may amount per Annum to	20000 0 0	86400 00 00	3000	Weigh of Salt, at 2 00 0 per Weigh.	6000 00 0	
			171021 06 08	6000	Hundred of Rozin, at 0 08 0 per Hund.	2400 00 0	
	Balance gained by the French from us Yearly, besides the Toys, Gloves, Laces, &c.		965128 17 04	<i>Besides all manner of Toys for Women and Children, Fans, Jellamin-Gloves, Laces, Point-laces, rich embroidered Garments, and rich embroidered Beds, and other Veltments, which are of an incredible Value.</i>			
			1136150 04 00				

the Account above, your Lordships may perceive, that the Linnen and Silk Manufactures only, Imported from France, amount to un-

This is the		Tuns of French Wine one Year with another cost		- 12 10 0 per Tun.	137500 00 0		
according to the Custom-House Books in the Port of London, from Michaelmas 1668, to Michaelmas 1669. And for all England we calculate one Third Part more. Amounts in all to		84521 06 08	Tuns of Brandy, one Year with another, at		20 00 0 per Tun.	80000 00 0	217500 00 0
Since 1669, the Exports, as we conceive, are diminished, and not encreased.			160000	Reams of Paper, at	0 05 0 per Ream.	40000 00 0	
2500	Fodder of Lead, at	12 00 per Fod.	30000 0 0	1500	Pes of Pruens, at	4 00 0	6000 00 0
6000	Hundred of Tin, at	4 00 per C.	24000 0 0	400	Hundred of Feathers	5 00 0 per Hund.	2000 00 0
100	Tuns of Allom, at	24 00 per Ton.	2400 0 0	5000	Hundred of Kidskins	3 00 0	15000 00 0
	Calves Skins and Leather		10000 0 0	3000	Weigh of Salt, at	2 00 0 per Weigh.	6000 00 0
	Several sorts of Skins, Glew, Lanthorn Leaves, Butter, Copperas, Old Shoes, Sea Coals, Tobacco-Pipes, Gloves, Red-Lead, Linseed, Candles, Iron-Ware, Haberdashery Ware, and other trivial Commodities, which may amount per Annum to	20000 0 0		6000	Hundred of Rozin, at	0 08 0 per Hund.	2400 00 0
					Vinegar, Rape, Cyder, Wadd, Cork, Oakam, Soap, Turpentine, Capers, Olives, Brignoles, Parchment, Window-Glafs, Teafels, Corn-Fans, Basket-Rods, Box-Wood, and Cremor Tartar, which may amount per Annum, at least to	40000 00 0	
			86400 00 00		Besides all manner of Toys for Women and Children, Fans, Jeffamin-Gloves, Laces, Point-laces, rich embroidered Garments, and rich embroidered Beds, and other Vestments, which are of an incredible Value.		111400 00 0
			171021 06 08				1136150 04 0
	Balance gained by the French from us Yearly, besides the Toys, Gloves, Laces, &c.		965128 17 04				
			1136150 04 00				

the Account above, your Lordships may perceive, that the Linnen and Silk Manufactures only, Imported from France, amount to upwards of Eight Hundred Thousand Pounds, and the Manufactures of Wooll and Silk Exported from England thither, do not amount to Eighty Five Thousand Pounds. As also all other Commodities of the Product and Manufacture of England Exported into France, do not amount to Ninety Thousand Pounds more: Whereas the Wines, Brandies, and other Commodities of the Product and Manufacture of France Imported into England, amount to upwards of Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds; besides an incredible Value of Toys, rich Apparel, Point-Lace, &c. So that it is apparent, that the Exports of our Native Commodities and Manufactures to France, are less in Value by at least One Million of Pounds Sterling, than the Native Commodities and Manufactures of France, which we receive from thence: And if it please your Lordships to reflect thereupon, your Lordships will easily discern the great Prejudice the English Nation hath sustained, and the great Advantage the French have, and do daily make, by holding this Treaty in Suspence; this Nation being upon the Matter excluded Trade thither, while in the mean Time the French enjoy all and as great Advantages, as they can reasonably expect by any Treaty.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Patience Ward,</i> | <i>George Torriano,</i> | <i>John Dubois,</i> |
| <i>Tomas Papillon,</i> | <i>John Houblon,</i> | <i>Benj. Godfrey,</i> |
| <i>James Houblon,</i> | <i>John Houghe,</i> | <i>Edm. Harrison,</i> |
| <i>William Bellamy,</i> | <i>John Mervin,</i> | <i>Benj. Delaune,</i> |
| <i>Michael Godfrey,</i> | <i>Peter Paravicine,</i> | |

[Place this SCHEME between Pages 18 and 19.]

This SCHEME of TRADE, the *MERCATOR* treats with Contempt, calls it a horrid Roguery, and many other hard Names, such as are the best Product of the Brain of his Prompter, who flew at first to the *Custom-House* Accounts that were laid before the last Parliament, to crush this SCHEME; but since he has found that those Accounts reduced the Loss by *France* but 62103 *l.* 1 *s.* 9 *d.* a mere Trifle, from what the SCHEME makes it, he is grown sick of *Custom-House* Accounts, and now says, that the Entries of Exports and Imports in the *Custom-House* Books, can give no true Account of the Matter, and that the Judgment made from them is all Fallacy and Cheat: Very fine! those Books are one Day his Refuge, another not Authentick; any thing to serve his Turn. The Truth of this SCHEME (which was sign'd about forty Years ago, by fourteen of the most eminent *French* Traders in *London*, all of them being required (by the Commissioners for making a Treaty of Commerce with *France* at that time) to give their Opinions on the State of the *French* Trade) is Evidently made out by the *British Merchant*, N^o 80 and 82, beyond the Contradiction of any but such whose Labours are employed in the Service of the *French* Trade, however detrimental to that of their own Country.

I shall only observe, that the Price of our Exports mention'd in the Scheme are put at much higher Rates than they are now worth. Lead over-valued above three Pounds *per* Fodder, Allom eight Pounds *per* Tun, and other things in Proportion. *Norwich* Stuffs, Serges, Perpetuanaes, and most of the Woollen-Goods, are rated one fourth Part more than they will now yield. On the other hand, the Imports are as much under valued, as Wine at 12 *l.* 10 *s.* *per* Tun, which is now worth 25 *l.* Brandy at 20 *l.* which is now sold in *France* for 25 *l.* the value

value of *French* wrought Silks ought at least to be doubled, in the first Place they are very much under-rated, in the next, more were clandestinely Imported, than paid Duty. Had this Scheme been exactly calculated, 'twould have fallen very little short of Mr. *Fortrey's* Account, which must be exact, because the *French* could better come at the Quantity and Value of the Goods exported from thence hither, by their *Custom-House* Books, than we possibly can at the Quantity of our Importations from thence by ours, by reason of the many clandestine Importations.

I will therefore, upon a modest Calculation, add to the Ballance of	l.	s.	d.
	965128	17	4
Said to be lost to <i>France</i> by this Scheme, but a fourth part of the value of the Exports, tho' some of them are over-rated near half the value,	42755	6	8
To the Wine 12 l. 10s. per Tun,	137500	0	0
To the Brandy 5 l. per Tun,	20000	0	0
To the Silks only,	300000	0	0
tho' it ought to be a great deal more, and the whole comes to	1465384	4	0

This Sum, besides all the Goods at the Foot of the Scheme not rated, and said to be of an *incredible* Value, we are yearly to pay to *France* upon ratifying the Treaty of Commerce in P--l--m--t, the whole will be about the Sum Mr. *Fortrey* mentions. A Free-gift of 2 s. in the Pound by a Voluntary Assesment on Stock in Trade, or otherwise, to be paid by the *British Merchants* to the *French Monarch* instead of Commerce on such a Foot, would be a saving of above 500000 l. a Year to the Nation.

The King of *France* judg'd right, when he consider'd that if *France* took more Goods from *England*

land than *England* took from *France*, his Nation must lose by ours, and his Intentions to prohibit the Trade were calculated for his Interest.

As this Nation has found by long Experience, that considerably greater Quantities of Goods have been imported from *France*, than ever were exported thither, and that we lose most considerably by *France*, 'tis our Interest to continue that Trade upon the present Establishment; For the Consequence to us would be more fatal than to *France*, if they lost by us, it would not be only the loss of a Million and a half in Money, but greatly Impair, if not totally Ruin most of our other foreign Trades. For Example:

We Import and Consume annually a certain quantity of Wines, suppose it be 20000 Tons, or any other quantity; if we import from *France* 14000 Tons additional to this quantity, we yet shall be able to consume no more, than now we do. As we shall certainly covet to drink the best Wine, we must import so much the less from other Nations, which is now purchased by our Manufactures, our Manufactures must then lye on our Hands; when the Vent is stopt, our Looms must stand still, and our Manufacturers starve, come upon the Parishes for a Maintainance, or go to *France* to find Work, as many did from *Ireland*, when their Woollen Manufactures were prohibited to be exported to foreign Parts, we not having work for them here; to that Act of Parliament the Woollen Manufacture of *France* is extreamly obliged. I hope we shall not now oblige them with such another.

I am very apt to think that when the Authors of the *Mercator* threaten'd to prove that the Trade to *France* was always beneficial, they imagin'd, after poring on this Scheme, that the 965128 l. 17 s. 4 d. ballance, was our Gain, because it stands in the Column

Column of the Exports : And this may be as well supposed, as that such an one should venture at T—ties of Commerce, who has not Brains enough to distinguish between the Gain of a private Merchant, and the Gain of a Nation. This Creature says, that we cannot gain above 20 *per Cent.* of the Value of the Woollen Manufactures we export to *Portugal*; that to gain a Million yearly by our Trade to *Portugal*, we must export thither five Millions yearly in Woollen Manufactures.

If *Portugal* pays to *England* for the Value of a thousand Pound in Woollen Manufacture, a thousand Pound in Money; does not *Portugal* pay for the Wooll and Labour of all the People concern'd in the working up of this Manufacture? And is not the whole Sum clear Gains to the Nation?

If *England* pays to *Portugal* a thousand Pound for a quantity of Wine, does not *England* pay for the Product of the Vineyard, and to the Labourers of *Portugal*, concern'd in making of the Wine, their Wages? And is not this Sum clear Gains to *Portugal*?

But, Sir, to set this matter in a light that you will perfectly understand, Suppose that the King of *France* should pay to a Subject of *Great Britain* fifty or one hundred thousand Pounds for any good Service, is not this Sum clear Gains to that Subject, for his *honest* Industry and Labour?

It is just the same thing between Nation and Nation, whatever one Nation vends in another, of its own Product and Manufacture, the Sum it is vended for is clear Gains to the Vending Nation.

A Merchant may gain one thousand Pounds to his Country, and yet get nothing, nay even lose, by the Adventure himself.

What

What can we say of the *French* Trade, if we may not believe the Experience of former Times? What Judgment can be made? There has been no open Trade between us for about twenty or thirty Years. I hope we shall rely on what is Evident, and not on the Judgment, Computations, and Prophecies of the Authors of the *Mercator*.

I must trouble you with one Voucher more, to prove the Disadvantage of the *French* Trade to this Nation, and that it was acknowledged so at a Time, when every thing that was *French* was generally favour'd amongst us; 'tis the Sense of King, Lords and Commons, about three or four Years after this Scheme last mention'd was made, and when nothing but a Prospect of the Ruin of our own Trade could have occasion'd it.

Prohibition Act, *Anno* 30, *Car.* 2.

‘ **F**Orasmuch as it hath been by long Experience
 ‘ found, that the Importing of French Wines,
 ‘ Brandy, Linnen, Silk, Salt and Paper, and other
 ‘ Commodities of the Growth, Product, or Manufa-
 ‘ ctures of the Territories and Dominions of the French
 ‘ King, hath much exhausted the Treasure of this Na-
 ‘ tion, lessened the Value of the Native Commodities
 ‘ and Manufactures thereof, and caused great detri-
 ‘ ment to this Kingdom in general: Be it Enacted by
 ‘ the King’s most Excellent Majesty, the Lords Spi-
 ‘ ritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament
 ‘ assembled, and by Authority of the same, &c.

These Vouchers will easily find Pardon at your Hands, they are so exactly conformable to your Opinion; you would lay your Country under an extream Obligation, if you would be pleased to give us such farther Remarks on 'em, in behalf of the Trade

Trade of *Great Britain*, as a Person of your Abilities, and *unsuspected Integrity* is capable of; and I doubt not, but with a very little of your help, all such will easily be confuted, who dare presume to write against the Trade of our Country. I point in particular at the *MERCATOR* and his *Prompter*, and since I have mention'd them, I must with humble Submission, give you the best Information of them that I am able, and leave the World to judge, if the Assertions of two such Wretches merit any Credit: They being both the Off-spring of the Pillory, no doubt are naturally endow'd with a large Portion of Sincerity. One of 'em, I must acquaint you, is so insolent as to interfere in your Province, and to assume the Management of our Commerce to himself, he says he is Prime Minister of Trade, and has the Assurance to stand at the Door of the M—try, and forbids Entrance to any who offer to Adventure with any Informations for the Benefit of our Trade; he is a huge Fellow, and has a Face that strikes Terror into all who approach him, he has kept this Post so long, and scared so many, that none of late dare go nigh 'em. You know, Sir, he has assumed your Province, and will do unspeakable Damage to our Country, if you don't take care to get him turn'd out. Such an Impostor as this ought to be sent to *Newgate*, and from thence—

The Man has good Understanding, and talks well, but makes a base Use of all his Talents; he has however raised himself by his Genius, from a mean Native of the Town of *Monaghan* in *Ireland*, to the Titles of *Don Arturio*, *le Comte de Tariffe*, *Marquis d'Assiento*. The first and last of his Family that ever was upon Record, had a Post of publick Trust in the Town, and the *Marquis d'Assiento* was born at the Paternal Seat of his Family, the Tap-house at the Prison-gate.

As

As I am unwilling to eclipse the Ambition of any great Man, I must assure you, this Affair was told me as a very great Secret; however, I venture to impart it to a Person of your *Integrity*, being Confident you'll let it go no farther.

As to his Secretary *Daniel*, I believe he must make a second Entry, and another Hymn, before he can have any Pretences to vie Merits with the Family.

Having given some Account of the *Mercator*, and his *Dictator*, 'twon't be amiss to shew the Method of their Writings. They go on without confusing or answering any Objection made against their Assertions, as a Lawyer at the Bar pleading a bad Cause: *Having proved this Point, my Lord, I proceed to shew your Lordship, &c.*

So *Don Arturio*.

Having confuted the *general received Notion*, that the Trade to *France* was always prejudicial to this Nation, notwithstanding it appears to have been so by the Experience of many Ages, and the Opinion of Parliaments long before the Revolution, and of the late *House of Commons*; and proved that that Trade was always Beneficial, and that the Opinions of those Parliaments, and of the late *House of Commons*, are the Clamours of the present Faction: I proceed to shew, that by destroying the *Portugal* and other Trades, and *England's* losing above a Million a Year to *France*, we shall be greater Gainers, than ever we were before.

He will much sooner be believed, if he should say,

Having proved that *Daniel D— F—* comes every Night to my House in *Bl—y Sq—re*, I proceed to shew, *that Birds of a Feather flock together.*

D

That

That there is not one Whig or Tory in G. B. that can say either of us is an honest Man; I proceed to shew *both Parties speak Truth.*

That, when I was an Arbitrator between Sir T. C—ke, Sir B— F—b—, and the E. I. Company, I extorted of the said Gentlemen a Bribe of above Ten thousand Pounds in I—-a Stock, for awarding and Procuring them a *general Release*; I proceed to shew *that I am no Fool.*

That the chief Value of a Man centers in his Honesty and Integrity; I proceed to shew that I am not of that Opinion.

That I order'd Captain M—rs to leave his Remonstrance of the Importance of the Island of B—-t-n at my House, it being refer'd to me, and sunk it from the M—ry; I proceed to shew that *Monfieur de T—y is a generous Man.*

That all my Transactions in the publick Affairs are with a View to Stock-jobbing; I proceed to shew, that when ever I am Bit, my Broad-brim'd *Jesuitical Lyon* in Sheeps Cloathing at *Jonathan's Bawls* out, *What! does the Wind blow in your Face?*

That it is for the Honour of the Nation to prostitute the Dignity of the Cr—n, to the little Tricks and Arts of Stock-jobbing: I proceed to shew, *That by misleading the M—y, I am a Man of Integrity.*

That at settling the T—ty of Commerce, *Monfieur de T—cy* shaked me by the Hand, I proceed to shew *he was a wise Minister in so doing.*

That the Trade of the Nation is neither Whig or Tory: I proceed to shew, *'tis a very WHIMSICAL thing to be an honest Man.*

That my Countryman *Don M—uel M—sses Gil—n*, an *Irish* Papist, was the only fit Person to make the *Ass-nto* T—ty: I proceed to shew,

shew, *I imposed him on the M—ry for a true Protestant.*

That by my Mountainous Water-works of *Le—d*, I vie with the *French King*: I proceed to shew, *'tis with his own Money.*

That as a Reward for my Honesty, I }
enjoy as C—r of Tr— per Ann. } l. 1000
As the K. of *Sp--n's* Agent for the *Ass-nto*, } 3000
As Ditto, by *Gil—an*, my Deputy, } 3000
As Pay-master, } 6000

And I proceed to shew, I pay out of it to my two Deputies, my Brother *M—re*, and *G—an*, but 500l. per Annum each.

That by the Ruin of the Tr--de of the Nation, I hazard the Fall of the present M—y: I proceed to shew, *I am hired by the Whigs for that Purpose.*

Instead of proving the above FACTS, or any thing else, that has the least Tendency to Truth, he goes on thus:

Having proved that thirty Shillings per Ton Freight from *France*, brings a larger Gain to the Nation than four Pounds per Ton Freight from *Portugal, &c.* I proceed to shew that thirty Shillings is a larger Sum than four Pounds.

That the *French Weavers* have nine Sols, or five Pence *English*, per Ell, for weaving of Lutestring, and the *English Weavers* twelve Pence per Ell, and each work in Proportion in all other Manufactures; I proceed to shew that Lutestrings and all other Manufactures are made cheaper in *England*, than in *France.*

That the more Lutestrings and other Silks are imported into *England*, the fewer Weavers will be employ'd in *France*; I proceed to shew that the more will be employ'd in *England.*

That the larger Quantities of Silk, Linnen, and Paper that we import, the more will be made here; I proceed to shew that the less will be made in France.

That the greater the Woollen Manufacture is in France, the larger Quantities they will take from us; I proceed to shew that the higher the Duties are they lay on ours, the more it will facilitate our Trade.

That France has no Commodities that we can take from them, without Prejudice to our own Manufactures; I proceed to shew that therefore we ought to pass a Bill of Commerce on the Foot of the present Treaty.

That two Woollen Drapers, two Mercers, two Linnen Drapers, and two Stationers, vying for Customers, in their distinct Trades, ought only to trade with each other; I proceed to shew that we shou'd only trade with France.

That forasmuch as our Acts of Parliament say, No Alien whatsoever shall have Liberty to Fish at Newfoundland; I proceed to shew that Acts of Parliament contrary to the French Interest are not in Force.

That the more the French and Spaniards fish in our American Seas, the greater Number of Seamen we shall raise; I proceed to shew that a Prohibition of our Fish in France, is the only way to encrease that Trade.

That the French have ever had as much right to Newfoundland, and other Parts of America, as the English; I proceed to shew that they have also a Right to the Industry, Labour, and Gain made by the People of G. B. in all other Trades.

That by our Entries to be made only at St. Valery upon the Somme, Rouen, Nantes, Libourne, and Bourdeaux, with a Prohibition in the Mediterranean,

is

is meant, at all Places of Entrance in the Kingdom, Countries and Territories under the Dominion of the French King; I proceed to shew that the May-Pole in the Strand, is the Pike of Teneriff.

Such are his Arguments, as if his Readers had the same Motives to believe them, as he has to write them, and took for granted all he asserts to be true. This sort of proceeding may do with such as understand nothing of Trade, and read only his Papers; but they who read all, and such who have been bred to Merchandizing, and know what Trade is, must have other sort of Proofs than his Papers, to convince 'em that the French Trade, on the Foundation he would have it, can ever be otherwise than ruinous and destructive. Trade can only be cultivated by Experience, and never supported in Opposition to it, by any SHIM SHAM Projects, tho' form'd in the refined Air of Bl——y Sq—re.

The Pusillanimity of Mankind must be exreamly great, if among so many worthy Gentlemen who walk the Exchange of London, and are sincere Lovers of their Country, most loyal and dutiful Subjects to Her Majesty, and hearty Well-wishers of her M——rs, there are not a Number to be found, who out of Respect and Service to the M——y will commit to writing their sincere Thoughts on the present Treaty of Commerce, and subscribe their Names, that we may see who are for preserving the Trade of G. Britain, and who are for yielding it to France. For my Part, I shall readily make one of the former, but do not care alone to be the single Butt: Tho' if I shou'd, I am certain I can incur the Displeasure of no M——r, nor can I conceive it to be any blot in a M——r of S——te, according to the unfortunate Fashion of G——t B——n, not to be a perfect Master

ster of its Trade: I will be bold to say, but with Sorrow, no Man in this Island is, tho' particular Branches are extremely well understood by those concern'd in them. I believe in all T——ties of C——rce, as well as the present, it has been the Custom of M——rs to pitch upon some one Person or Persons, who they thought Judges of Trade, to consult with. A M——r in such a Case may easily be mistaken in the Person he chuses, especially if he on whom the Choice falls has a good *Assurance*; a Man that has but a small Portion of Knowledge in Trade, or a few general Notions, may easily shine before another who is no way Master of it, or pretends to it. If such is our Case, whoever the Person is, he ought to acknowledge the Mistakes he has made, and the M——ry be informed of the Truth, by such as understand it: And not endeavour by persisting in his Errors to bring Reflections on the well-meaning M——ry, Destruction on the Trade of the Nation, and on our Country, by using Arts and Tricks to get it past. The owning his Ignorance will merit Forgiveness, and it would be too severe even to think he understood it.

I am of the Opinion so good a M——ry as ours, will think themselves obliged to any Gentlemen, who shall endeavour to set them right in the Affair of our Commerce, and make 'em sensible how much they have been impos'd upon, by the Person they rely on, who stands between them and the World, and brow-beats all Mankind that endeavour to approach them with Zeal for theirs and their Country's Service. When the M——ry is sensible of this, no doubt but they will discountenance such a Procedure. Had we a bad and destructive M——ry, as *England* has too often had, they would for their own sakes, as their Interest, rectifie such
notorious

notorious Abuses: What then is there that may not be expected from a wise, just, and prudent M——ry?

I say again, had we the worst M——ry that ever were at the Head of Affairs, can they deter the Gentlemen of the *Exchange of London* and other Parts, from speaking up for the Trade of our Country? What dependance can they have on a M——ry? what do they, or can they expect from them? nothing, but what they may demand; the just Protection of our Trade: And can any M——ry refuse it? Why should we then be afraid to defend our Trade? The Expectation of Posts and Places is sordid and despicable, when compar'd with the more noble Profession of the Merchant. How many have on this Foundation raised themselves to grace the present Age, and will leave a Race to grace Posterity? Must they then be Silent, when their Estates, the Product of their Industry, lyes at stake, and this prospect of their Posterity may not only be precarious, but they themselves deprived even of the Means whereby their Ancestors obtain'd them? No! they will defend their Cause. Sir, if you should be asked who speaks this, say 'tis a Merchant, say 'tis a *Briton*, say 'tis one that like a *Roman* dares defend his Country's Good, that detests the Name of Faction, of Whig and Tory, of Parties contending for Posts and Places, 'tis one that regards no Country under Heaven, whose Interest interferes with that of his own, say 'tis one *that will never sell the Trade of his Country.*

You'll pardon this Warmth, a Man of your *Virtue* and *Zeal* I am sure can't do otherwise.

I have another Secret to impart to you. I am just now informed that our *Don* has lately furnish'd his
Man

Man *Daniel* with Materials for a Pamphlet. The *Don*, notwithstanding his Love for Money, has been so Zealous in communicating it, that he has disperst many thousands by the *Penny-Post*. Amongst the Aspersions on many worthy Gentlemen, the *Don* chiefly aims at Her Majesty's ablest and best M——r.

He Taxes him with *Trimming*, and with *Cowardice*, he calls him a *Waxen L. L.* and pronounces him *Contemptible*. What! Is this great and experienced Statesman, to be taxed with *Trimming*, because he does not implicitly follow the Dictates of a Little Tricking Politician, a M——r of Yesterday? Is the Descendant of that noble Family, from whose Valour our Sovereign bears the Title of *France*, to be taxed with *Cowardice*, because he was the first who offered to the P. of O—— his Sword and his Purse, to rescue the Liberty of his Country? Is he a *Waxen L. L.* because he did not receive *Impressions* destructive to the Interest of the Kingdom which he governs? Is he *Contemptible*, who will not give into those Measures which can only make him so? Must all the ancient Nobility of this Kingdom be render'd *Despicable*, by *Upstarts*? Must the illustrious Name of T——t, which for many hundred Years has been the *Terror* of *France*, be now branded with *Cowardice* because it *was so*? and because the present great Owner of it cannot degenerate from his noble Ancestors, and dare not (if that be *Cowardice*) comply with Schemes which may in the end give up his Country to *Tyranny*, and a *French* Power.

But to return to the *Mercator*. Says *Don Arturio*, First, The *Dutch* are our Rivals, and have robb'd us of many of our best *Trades*, therefore 'tis our Interest

Interest to give the Benefit of *those we have left* to *France*.

Secondly, The *Dutch* have robb'd us of our *Spice*, therefore the *French* shou'd have our *Sugar*.

Thirdly, The *Dutch* wholly reap the Benefit of our *Herrings*, therefore we should give our *Cod* to *France*.

Fourthly, The *Dutch* by bubbling of us have rais'd a great *Naval Power*, therefore the *French* shou'd have our *Nursery of Seamen* to raise such another.

Fifthly, The *Dutch* embrace the *French Trade*, therefore we should do the same.

Sixthly, The *Dutch* are our Rivals more than the *French*.

It must be from Ignorance, or a baser Motive, which makes any one assert that the *Dutch* rivaling and interfering with us in Trade, can sufficiently justify any of the *Don's* late Concessions in Favour of *France*. If we are Sufferers by the *Dutch* in our Trade, as we most certainly are, must we likewise be greater Sufferers by the *French*, tho' in our Power to avoid it? Must every Body be afraid to open his Mouth against a T——ty injurious to our Country, for fear the *Don* and *Daniel* shou'd call him a clamorous factious Party-Man? have they not had the Insolence to call the Gentlemen of the late *House of Commons* such, who wisely rejected that T——ty? When all the Gentlemen of *G. B.* are abused by those Wretches, you may be assured, it is for their good Actions; They can rail at nothing that is *Base*.

'Tis no new thing, and I believe will not sooner be forgotten than the Injuries we have receiv'd from *France*, that the *Dutch* robb'd us of our *Spice* Islands in the *East-Indies*, an inestimable Treasure! Are we therefore to agree that the *French* shall prohibit our *West-India* Commodities?

Can any *Briton* think it reasonable, that because our Supineness has given up the *Herring-Fishery* to the Industry of the *Dutch*, and because our *Greenland Fishery* is shared by the *Dutch* and *French*; that we should give that of our *Cod in America* to *France*, which is our best Nursery of Seamen? We have establish'd and confirm'd the *French* in the largest and best Part of that Fishery, to which before they never had any manner of Title, as will be made appear at a proper time.

Are we just to our Country, in establishing to the *French* Nation a Nursery of Seamen (who thirst after a Naval Power, and whose Fleet, entirely raised in the latter Years of her present Monarch by this Fishery, has singly contended against the united Naval Power of *G. B.* and *Holland*;) because the *Dutch* have through our Indolence and Stupidity, raised to themselves, in our Fisheries, a greater Number of Ships and Seamen than the rest of *Europe* is Master of?

Is it a Reason that we should embrace the *French* Trade on the Foot of that T——ty, because the *Dutch* Trade to *France*? The *French* Trade, considering the different Circumstances of the *Dutch* and *Ours*, may be Beneficial to them, tho' it is destructive to us. *Holland* is to be look'd upon as a Sea-port to a vast Country on the Continent, they consume but a trifle of the Goods they import from *France*; after receiving a very good Toll of them, they are sent to other inland Countries to be consumed; *Great Britain* must consume all her Imports, by which she would prevent the Consumption of those from such Countries, whose Goods she has in Exchange for her Manufactures, and such Goods of *France* as interfere with her Manufactures must in time, by the cheapness of the *French* Labour, destroy such Manufactures. Can any Goods of *France*

pass

pass through *Great Britain* or its Dominions, as they do through *Holland*, to other Countries, that cannot be carried much cheaper to those Countries, directly from *France*? If not, she must consume them her self.

As to our Manufactures of Wool, we know the *French* King wears his own, nor dare his People appear in his Presence clad in any other. Who then can suppose he will ever encourage ours? But to come closer to the Point, the Manufacturers and Labourers of *France* work seven Pence in a Shilling cheaper than ours, they have Sheep all over *France*, and of course have Wool: Their Wool indeed is not so good as ours, but they have *Spanish* to mix with it much cheaper than we can have; *France* and *Spain* join; with their own, and *Spanish* Wool, they make very good Manufactures, with which they content themselves. Their Gentlemen of Estates may now and then fancy a Suit of *English* Cloth, if they do, they'll have it as the Trade now stands, and if the Bill of Commerce were past, they'll not take a Piece the more. The great Consumption of Wool does not lye amongst these Sort of People, 'tis amongst the inferiour Sort, and the Manufactures they consume are made much cheaper in *France* than any we can send them. What View can we then have of encreasing our Woolen-Manufacture by this T——ty?

Besides, our finest *Spanish* Cloaths have no mixture of *English* Wool; others have, as from one Pound of *Spanish* in twelve Pounds of *English*, to all Degrees, 'till the major Part is *English*; they are Coarser or Finer according to the Sorts of *Spanish* Wool, and in Proportion to the Quantity of *English*; by the first Sort we Vend only the Labour of our People, not the Product of our Country. Thus we see the *French* want not Wool, only the Art to make as fine Cloth as we.

Great Britain and France, are like two Woollen-drapers struggling to get off their Commodities, with this distinction that *France* makes her Goods above 50 per Cent. cheaper than *Great Britain*; will you confine these two Drapers to deal together?

Their Manufactures of Silk, Linnen and Paper, are made still much cheaper in proportion than those of Wool: Their Silks are better fancied, and our Ladies fond of them; our Silk Manufacture is wonderfully encreased and improved within these twenty Years, and may still improve, if not discouraged by this T——ty, even to excel those of *France*. Improvement is peculiar to the Genius of the *British* Nation, we excel all Nations in most Arts we learn from them: 'Tis pity we should then destroy those Manufactures, that are already brought to so great Perfection.

'Tis very plain that their Silks, Linnen, Paper, Wines and Brandies, admitted on the Foot of the T——ty of Commerce, will Ruin the Woollen, and all other Manufactures of this Island.

The Cost and Freight of *French* Wines and Brandies, being cheaper than those of other Countries, will prevent the Consumption of such as we now have from those Countries, of course; if we do not take the Wines of *Portugal*, &c. and they cannot pay us for our Manufactures otherwise, and will therefore take none, who will be our Chapmen? We have already proved how very inconsiderable Quantities the *French* can take.

Their Silks, Linnens, and Paper, will more immediately destroy those Manufactures in our Country, by being cheaper imported than we can make them; as also prevent the Importation of such from other Countries, as we have in Exchange for our Woollen-Manufactures.

I would willingly ask an honest Country Gentleman, that loves to drink a Glass of Claret, and to see

see his Wife and Daughter in *French* Silks; whether it would be more welcome to him, to hear that the labouring People of *France* are well employ'd, their Wines and Silk very cheap; and that his own Tenants are come upon the Parish; or that *French* Silks and Wines are dear, and his Tenants thrive, and pay their Rents?

Those that are for the former may be for the T——ty of C——rce.

I take this to be our present Case, there are no Commodities in *France* but will in some Measure be prejudicial to our Manufactures.

We have many Commodities in *G. B.* that *France* must and will have.

For these latter they must pay us ready Money, and did in the last Interval of Peace, when we gain'd on our Ballance between 300000 and 400000 *l. per An.* by them; and *French* Pistoles were almost as plenty as Guineas. I say we now gain by them in the same Manner, and are paid in Gold for our Commodities; I appeal to the Gentlemen of the Mint in the Tower, if they have not had since the Treaty of Peace considerably above half a Million of *French* Money sent in to be recoin'd.

If the Trade is open'd on the Foot of the T——ty, they will not only pay for our Commodities, in Commodities, but by an Innundation of them, prevent not only the Consumption of our own, as well as the Commodities of other Foreign Nations, and hinder the Exportation of ours, but require above a Million *per An.* in ready Money, and they must be paid it.

Since this Affair of our Commerce appears to be so prejudicial, 'tis our wisest way to keep upon the Foot we now are. I would not be understood to mean that Commerce with *France* could not have been settled upon an advantagious Foot to us; it

most

most certainly might, but as the time is past, I shall only ask you a few Questions.

If we had been as much in the Power of the *French*, as they lately were in ours, what T---ty of C-----rce should we have been compell'd to have accepted from them?

Would they have suffer'd us to have continued the least Prohibition on any of their Commodities or Manufactures?

Would they have allow'd Imports at a few particular Ports, to be a proper way to facilitate their Trade?

Would they have permitted us and the *Dutch* to have fish'd at *Newfoundland*, as we do them and the *Spaniards*?

Would they have yielded the Isle of *Breton* to us, as we have affectionately done to them?

Sir, These Questions you can easily answer. But pray, what does *Don Arturio* mean, by saying the *Dutch* are our *Rivals* more than the *French*; he allows both to be our *Rivals*, but how are they so?

Are the *Dutch* such, because they industriously reap those Blessings which Providence and Nature design'd for us, and which from our Indolence and Stupidity we refuse?

Are the *French* so, because they are grown sensible of the Importance of Commerce to a Nation, zealous to propagate their Naval Force by the Treasure of our *American Seas*? Which Naval Force, for many Years the Terror of this Island, has now a Foundation laid to become the Terror not only of *Europe*, but even of the World, and all owing to their M-----ters, industriously Wise, and studious in the Affairs of Commerce, the chief concern of Nations; which with ours are Trifles, beneath the Care of the Great; the Business of Footmen.

Or

Or are they both our *Rivals*! because their M-----ters and Managers of their Commerce are too hard for ours, and shew as much Skill and Care of their Trade, as we can Ignorance and Negligence of our own?

These, Sir, I suppose are the *Don's Reasons*, for calling them *Rivals*, but you and I cannot call them so, for laying hold of those Advantages, despised and neglected by those they are said to *Rival*, but on the contrary each of them a wise, an industrious, and a great People. What Opinion the World will have of us, I leave you to judge, who am,

S I R,

Your Humble Servant.

F I N I S.

Errata. In Title Page, lege,
Vendidit HIC Auro Patriam— Virg.

On the first day of the month of
January, 1863, I received from
the Hon. Secretary of the
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C., a letter
in relation to the land
claims of the State of
California, and in reply
to the same I have the honor
to acknowledge the receipt
of the same, and to inform
you that the same has been
forwarded to the proper
authorities for their
consideration.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
John W. Wells

JOHN W. WELLS

Witness my hand and seal
at the City of Washington
this 1st day of January, 1863.