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A *n*
LETTER

T O
Sir *R*--- *H*---

Wherein is considered,
What **EFFECT** the **REPEAL**
of those **L A W S**

Which now Regulate Our
Commerce with *France*

Are likely to have on the
TRADE *and* MANUFACTURES
***of* ENGLAND.**

L O N D O N : 2

Printed for *A. Baldwin*, near the *Oxford-Arms* in
Warwick-Lane, MDCC XIII.

Price Three Pence.

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(1)

A
LETTER

T O

Sir R----- H-----, &c.

S I R,

NOTHING but my Zeal for the Publick Good of my Native Country ; being unwilling, after so many glorious Victories obtained over the Common Enemy and Oppressor, to see it ruined by a disadvantageous settled Commerce ; and the Haste the present Circumstances of Affairs required ; could have extorted my Thoughts in so rude a Dress. I am retiring from the Exchange and Business, being long since past my grand Climacterick, therefore the less to be suspected to be guided by particular Interest, the Grand Motive of Human Actions.

It was an important Question which an Ingenious Writer some time since asked, " Is there any Thing in the World that should be more thought a Matter of State than Trade, especially in an Island ; and should not that which is the common Concern of all, be the principal Care of such as Govern ? " Can

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“Can a Nation be safe without Strength? And is
“Power to be compassed and secured but by Riches?
“And can a Country become rich any way but by
“the Help of a well managed and extended Traffick?”

The *Woollen* and *Silk* Manufactures are two very great Branches of the Trade of *England*. The former for several Ages, the other of later Years have been the care of the Government: To these is owing a very great part of that Treasure with which we have maintained a long and expensive War with so much Honour and Success.

These Two Branches of our Manufacture do depend on one another; and the Interest of the Kingdom with respect to them inseparable; we Barter our Cloth and Serges, our Bays and Says for Raw-Silk, for Commodities used in making and dying them, for Pieces of Eight, Gold Bars, Gold Dust, *Crusado's*, and Bills of *Exchange*.

Nothing can be more mischievous to our Trade than the discouraging the Exportation of these Abroad, and their Consumption at Home.

And nothing will more fatally effect this, than the Suffering our Wooll to be carryed away in the Fleece; and Silks interfering with those made here, to be Imported ready Manufactured.

There is not a Gentleman in *England*, upon the least Consideration, can remain insensible of the vast Advantages that accrue to the Nation (his own Interest being included therein) from these Manufactures. For should these be discouraged, Wooll must necessarily become a Drugg, and it will be difficult to find some other Experiment to add to that of burying in Woollen, to advance its Price.

France

(3)

France very well understands her Interest; and knows, that the most effectual way to weaken and impoverish *England*, is, to Ruin our Trade, and Advance her own: And the present King of *France* hath attempted this, and succeeded beyond any of his Predecessors. From hence it was, that his Maritime Greatness had its first Rise; which we have seen so increased, as to contest with the United Fleets of *England* and *Holland*, for the Sovereignty of the Sea. I shall give several Instances, whereby Attempts have been made by him, to discourage our Merchants.

1. By Increasing the Duties on our Commodities, especially on our Woollen Manufactures; which in the Space of less than 40 Years, hath been advanced to Twelve times the Value it was before: *Viz.* That on *English* Broad-Cloth, from 6 *Livres*, to 80 *Livres* a Cloth; and on *English* Serges, from 1, to 12 *Livres* a Piece.

2. Under the Pretext of several Old Laws, His Officers have visited and inspected the *English* Drapery; and have thrown them into Water, adjudging them defective, whereby their Sales have been prevented.

3. *English* Merchants are not permitted, in many Places, to have any but *French* Factors, with whom they must trust their Effects; whereby they are hinder'd from Sending Young Men, their Apprentices thither, to Manage their Affairs.

4. By

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4. By Laying an Additional Duty of 20 *Sols per Ton* on *British* Ships, besides the Ancient Duty of 50 *Sols per Tun*; which hath been more than once in a Voyage exacted, in Case of Ships Unloading, and Loading in different Parts.

5. The *French* King, in several Places, requires a Custom of about 6 *per Cent.* of the *English*, for several Commodities, more than of his own Subjects of the same Places: And they have been confined to inconvenient Ports, to unlade their Ships.

6. Another Thing practised, hath been the Forcing *English* Masters of Ships, to take on Board the Goods of the Subjects of *France*; and often Delaying and Preventing their Ships Loading, in Favour of *French* Vessels, that the latter might have the speedier Dispatch, and the Precedency at the Market.

7. *English* Ships, when forced into their Harbours by Strefs of Weather; their Masters have sometimes been forc'd to pay Customs, or give Security, when bound to other Ports of the Kingdom: Yea, sometimes have been Confiscated, and the Master forc'd to pay a Ransom.

8. They have burthen'd the *English* with extraordinary Taxes; and, for Non-Payment, have levied on One Person, what All resident on the Place have been charged at.

9. Refined Sugars, and Barrel-Fish, were either prohibited, or such excessive Duties laid thereon,

as

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as prevented their Exportation from *England* to *France*. By these, and many other Methods, they have depressed our Trade, and enlarged their own; that an Immense Treasure went yearly from *England*, to pay the Balance.

An Anonymous Writer, supposed to be Sir *Josiah Child*, taking notice of the exorbitant Impositions laid by *France* on our Manufactures, observes; That whereas there was formerly Vended in that Kingdom annually, to the Amount of 600,000 Pounds in *English* Drapery; there is now hardly Vended 50,000 Pounds Worth.

The Grand Senate of the Nation being sensible of the Artifices of *France* to Ruin our Trade, and Exhaust our Treasure; and being Jealous of his growing Greatness, wisely gave a Check thereunto, by Laying greater Duties on some, Prohibiting and Restraining other Goods of the Growth and Manufacture of *France*; at the same time, Encouraging the Making the same Sorts in *England* and *Ireland*, as Alamodes, Lustrings, and other plain Black Silks, Paper, Hats, *Normandy* Glafs, Looking-Glafs-Plates, and Linnen; in all which, our Artists and Weavers have arriv'd to a very great Perfection: Infomuch that there is above 300,000 Pounds Value made here of plain Black Silks *per Annum*; and consequently so much Money saved to the Nation; we being formerly chiefly supply'd therewith from *France*: The Silk of which made, is purchased with our Woollen Manufactures; besides numerous Families are maintained hereby

If

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If so much Coin or Bullion is preserv'd in the Nation by One Branch of the Silk Manufacture, it is easy to infer, How Mischievous it must be to the Interest of the Nation, to throw down the Fences the Legislature hath from time to time provided for its Preservation; and let in not only this, but all other Sorts of Flower'd Silks, Silver Stuffs and Brocades, and the whole Product of *France*; whilst that of *England* will, by their Duties, &c. be kept out of that Kingdom.

It is an undoubted Maxim, That in the Trade between Two Nations abstractedly consider'd, where the Goods Exported are less in Value than the Goods Imported, that Nation Loseth proportionably; for the Balance must be paid in Money. It must indeed be acknowledg'd, that if that Balance is from Commodities sent away Abroad, and its Trade thereby enlarg'd, the Nation may be reimburs'd: But if it be in Goods, that are neither necessary for Navigation, or used in its Manufactures, but interfering therewith, are superfluous, and tend to lessen or interrupt any Gainful, Establish'd Traffick with other Foreign Kingdoms or States; the Mischief is trebled. For not only so much of the Riches of that Nation is carry'd away, its Poor depriv'd of a Maintenance, but the Channels stopt, which would otherwise convey and supply it with Bullion. That this would be our Case with Reference to *France*, if those many Laws (several of which were made in a Time of Peace) that have preserv'd our Treasure, and guarded our Manufactures and our Trade, shall be at once re-
peal'd

(7)

peal'd, is evident. And that which accents the Mischief, and renders it irreparable, is, An Ambitious Prince aspiring after Dominion, who upon all Occasions hath been an Enemy to our Religion, our Trade, our Constitution, will hereby be enrich'd, and render'd more formidable to all *Europe*; for whose Repose and Liberty, we have spent so much Blood and Treasure.

There was an Act pass'd last Sessions of Parliament, for the Laying a Duty on Gilt and Silver Wire; in which all Gold and Silver Thread, Lace, Fringe, or other Work made thereof, was prohibited to be imported into *Great Britain*, during the Continuance of the said Duty. This Advance on their Goods, prov'd very injurious to the Manufacturers, who are very Numerous; taking in all the various Sorts employ'd therein, not less than Six Thousand Persons were found (upon a Calculation lately made) to be in One Parish, subsisting thereby. A considerable Part of this Manufacture (in which *Turky-Silk* is made use of) is sent beyond Sea, and Returns made in Silver and Gold. Should this Clause be repeal'd, it would be a great Detriment to the Nation, and the Ruin of many Thousand Families. For not only that unaccountable Fondness which *English* Ladies have for whatsoever is of *French* Fabrick, but Interest also, (being to be afforded cheapest) will give them the Preference, whereby what will be worn here, or sent Abroad, will (for the most part) be *A-la-mode de France*.

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To set in a clearer Light the pernicious Influence, and mischievous Effects, that the Repealing the Laws that Regulate and Restrain the Commerce of *France* with *England*, will have on these Two Branches of our Trade, *viz.* the Woollen and Silk Manufactures, and by Consequence on the Interest of *England*; I shall take a brief View of our Trade with some of the Chiefest Nations, with Reference to these Branches, that together with Us, are most likely to be affected thereby; *viz.* *Portugal*, *Italy*, *Spain*, *Hamburgh*, *Holland*, and *Turky*.

1. To *Portugal* we Export various Kinds of Worsted Stuffs, Serges, Bays, long and short Cloths, Says, Silk and Worsted Hose, &c. From whence we have for Returns, Wine, Oyl, Commodities for Dying, &c. Pieces of Eight, Gold Bars, and *Moyda's*.

2. We Import from *Italy*, *Sicily*, &c. fine Raw Silk, fit to make Alamodes, Lustrings, Mantua's, and all Sorts of Rich Silks plain and flower'd. And also we have from thence, several Sorts of Excellent Wines, Oyls, in Exchange for many Thousand Bales of Serges, Bays, Perpets, Kerfies, Says, *Spanish* Cloths, Long Cloth, Stuffs, Flannels, &c.

3. We send to *Spain*, *Bilboa* and *Cadiz*, Bays, Perpets, Stuffs, Cottons, Worsted Hose, and other Woollen Manufactures, in great Quantities. And from

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from hence we bring back *Spanish* Wool, and Oyls; without which, we should be at a very great Loss to make fine Cloths, and Medleys.

4. We Export to *Hamburgh*, Perpets, *Spanish* Cloths, Single Dozens, Bays, Flannels, Worsted Hose, &c. And Returns are made chiefly in Linnens.

5. *Holland* is the great Mart for very many of our Commodities, and that in vast Quantities; *viz.* Bays, *Spanish* Cloths, Serges, Flannels, Worsted Hose, Stuffs. Of which last, I have observ'd One Entry (not long since) of Twenty Thousand Pieces, made by Mr. *Cock*, a Merchant lately deceased. We receive in Barter, Linnens of various Sorts, &c.

6. The greatest Vent we have for Woollen-Cloth, is *Turky*; whither also are sent some Serges. The principal Returns are in Bales of Silk; *viz.* *Belladine* of several Sorts, *Sherbaffe* and *Ardafs*. Some Galls, useful for Dying, are imported thence. Many of these Bales of Silk are exported for *Holland* and *Ireland*; but the greatest Part Manufactured here; Serving for Diversity of Purposes, and Employing vast Numbers of Poor People, and Seamen's Wives and Children.

This Short and Imperfect Scheme, (by Comparing it with what upon a Free Trade we may expect will be Imported upon Us from *France*; the Effect it will have on our Foreign Trade; and

what we are likely to Export thither, in Lieu thereof) will sufficiently evince the vast Detriment and Loss the Nation will sustain, and what a Stab will be given, both to our Domestick and Foreign Traffick, and Negotiations thereby. For,

1. The Importation of Wines from *France*, will, in a very great degree, prejudice our Trade with *Portugal* (A Trade, that for several Years hath been very advantageous to *England*): For if put on an Equal Foot with those of *Portugal*, they will be afforded cheaper. For the Voyage being much shorter, and little Vessels serving for that Purpose, Charges of Freight, and Seamen will be proportionably less. Unless some will object and say, We shall buy *French* Wines cheaper, because we go thither to Market with our Money; the other we have in Exchange for Goods.

2. The Importation of Linnens from *France*, will be very detrimental to our Trade with *Holland*, *Germany*, and *Hamburgh*. Which Places take off very great Quantities of Woollen Manufactures made in various Parts of the Kingdom; besides Sugars and Tobacco's, the Product of our Plantations; and will also give a Check to the Linnen Manufactures in *North-Britain* and *Ireland*.

3. The Importations of Silks plain and flower'd, Silk and Silver Stuffs and Brocades, will greatly prejudice our *Italian* and *Turky* Trades: For these Manufactures, upon such Encouragement, will quickly

quickly revive and flourish in *France*; whilst we shall be as soon sensible of the Reverse thereof; by which means, they will in time become the best Chapmen for Silk. For as our Silk Manufactures decline, our Occasions for Silk will be lessened. Besides, *France* hath of late Years very much improved in making of Cloth; and by the Assistance of our *English* Wooll, Fullers Earth, which they will never want, they will be enabled to furnish the *Ottoman* Ports with great Quantities of Cloth; and as for Fine Cloaths they will have the Advantage of us, for by their Affinity with *Spain*, and the Interest *French* Councils have in that Kingdom, they will be supplied upon cheaper Terms with *Spanish* Wooll, than we are likely to be. This being of the highest Importance to the Landed Interest as well as to the Trade of *England*, I refer you to the Representation made by the *Clothiers* of *Wilts*, &c. to the Lords Commissioners for Trade, now lying in the Honourable House of Commons.

Upon a Computation made when the Trade was open between *France* and *England*, there was not less than a Million of Pounds Sterling *per Annum* Imported into *England*, in these three Species, of the Growth and Manufacture of *France*. Mr. *Fortrey*, an Ingenious Person, in a little Tract writ in 1663. lately Reprinted, makes the Value to be much greater. What was Exported from *England* to *France*, and from *France* into *England*, in Anno 1668. according to a Scheme of Trade laid before them by the Command of the Lords Commissioners

ners for the Treaty of Commerce with *France*, by the *English Merchants Anno 1674*. the Account is as follows, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
Woollen and Silk Manufactures Ex-ported to <i>France</i> , Valued at -	84621	06	08
Lead, Tin, Allom, Calve-Skins, and Leather, &c. Valued at -	86400	00	00
Total	171021	06	08

Linnen and Silk Manufactures Im-ported into <i>England</i> from <i>France</i> , Valued at -	807250	04	00
<i>French</i> Wine one Year with another 11000 Ton, at 12l. 10s. per Ton is	137500	00	00
Brandy, Paper, Kidskins, &c. amounting to per Annum -	191400	00	00
Total	1136150	04	00

Deduct the Amount of what was Exported from *England* to *France* -

171021	06	08
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Loss to *England*, being the Ballance - 965128 17 04

Besides Toys, Fans, Jeffamin Gloves, Laces, Point Laces, &c. a very great Value; of which no Estimate was taken.

The Quantities of the several Particulars Exported and Imported, with their respective Valuations, I refer you to the Scheme it self, lately printed and annexed

annexed to the Representation of our Merchants before-mentioned, which is full of many Rational and Curious Observations, with relation to the settling of a Trade of Commerce with *France*.

I shall dismiss this Head with two or three obvious Remarks.

1. Amongst all the Particulars imported us from *France*, there are none that we can Export to a Foreign Market, whereby any Advantage may accrue to *England*; very few, if any proper to be used about our own Manufactures, or of necessary use to the Nation.

2. One Half of the Commodities we have Exported to *France*, were what they could not well be without; the other Half being Woollen Goods, *France* hath laid an Additional Duty thereon *Anno 1667*, which is like to continue.

That unless the Balance be very much altered in our Favour by the Enlargement of our Trade thither, and by contracting of theirs hither, by a well concerted and settled Commerce between *England* and *France*, of which I see little likelyhood, by reason Four Species of our Commodities will still be subjected to the high Duties of 1699, the Nation must be ruined. For to suffer our Money to be continually carried to *France* to a very great Value, and a Stop at the same time put to its being brought into *England*, by obstructing and lessening our Exportations to all those Foreign Parts, which now make

make very considerable Additions Annually to the Treasure and Riches of the Kingdom, as a Free Trade to *France* will undoubtedly do ; must be of most fatal Consequence to this Nation.

The Legislature in the Thirtieth Year of King *Charles* the II^d's Reign was very sensible hereof; for in the Act of Prohibition, then made are these Words, *viz.* " Forasmuch as it hath been by long
 " Experience found, that the Importing of *French*
 " Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, Salt, and Paper,
 " and other Commodities of the Growth, Product,
 " or Manufactures of the Territories and Domini-
 " nions of the *French* King, hath much exhausted
 " the Treasure of this Nation, lessened the Value
 " of the Native Commodities and Manufactures
 " thereof, and caused great Detriment to this
 " Kingdom in general : Be it Enacted, &c.

I have throughout this Paper omitted to speak of several other of our Commodities, as Tobacco, Sugars, &c. as also what Influence an Open and Free Trade with *France* is like to have on our Fisheries and Navigation ; as being inconsistent with my intended Brevity, and in regard they are like to be the Subjects of abler Pens. I shall therefore only present to your View one Argument more, drawn from Experience and founded on Matters of Fact, which will, as I conceive, convince all unbiassed Persons, of what dangerous Import it will be to the Trade, the Interest, the Prosperity of *England*, to Repeal those Laws, that the Experience of many Years have found to be advantageous and absolutely necessary for the preserving and increasing thereof

thereof. And here I shall briefly consider the State and Condition of our Woollen and Silk Manufactures, at the time the Act of Parliament passed for laying a Restraint on the Manufactures of *India*, as Silks, &c. and what a happy Change thereof appeared soon after passing of the said Act.

1. Some time after *French* Silks were prohibited, the Humour of our *English* Ladies, always variable, and prone to desire Foreign Rarities, gave such a sudden and strange Turn to their Fancies, that nothing would please but what was of *Indian* Make. It must indeed be owned, that by the Assistance of *Dyers*, several Artists and Patterns sent from hence, they were wonderfully improved in the Colours, Figures, and Goodness of their Manufactures. This Demand for them quickly brought over vast Quantities. And whereas formerly Raw Silk, now Wrought Silks were a considerable part of the Company's Cargoes. Persons of all Degrees, and Qualities, that could purchase them, made use thereof for Apparel, for Furniture of their Houses, for Coaches, insomuch as that it raised general Murmurs throughout the Kingdom. Numerous Petitions came up to the Parliament, complaining of the Decay of Trade, craving their Commiseration. *Canterbury* (where lately was a flourishing Trade) almost ruined ; and the Looms of that City which were near a Thousand, reduced much beneath one Hundred : Whole Streets in *Spittle-Fields* almost uninhabited ; several Ingenious Artists left the Kingdom ;

dom ; others not half employed ; many were forced to seek Relief from their respective Parishes, others to beg their Bread. It must have melted any Heart but one of Adamant, to have seen the various Distresses and Perplexities numerous Families were in, through Hunger and Cold, Poverty and Sicknes; and heard, in what different Dialects they gave vent to their Passions and their Sorrows : And what can we expect but to have this dismal Scene renewed, if *French* Silks shall be suffered to be imported ? yea, if possible, their Condition would be worse. For

1. The Weaving Trade is greatly increased since, and Alamodes, Lutestrings, &c. and Rich and Silver Stuffs of a very great Value, and Brocades, will be Imported from *France* ; few of which ever came from *India*.

2. Importations from *India* were not so frequent, so that our Manufacturers could better guard against them ; whereas those from *France* will be every Month, every Week, and from thence our Gentry are too apt to take their Fashions ; by which means our Manufacturers will lye under the greatest Discouragements imaginable, and this will prove very calamitous to the poorer Sort ; for now in Winter many Rich Silks are made, which employ many poor Hands ; but then they must refrain, for they know not what Fancies, what Figures will be brought over from *France*, and the Hazard will be too great to make any considerable Preparations upon such Uncertainties.

3. There

3. There is a very high Duty on *East-India* Silks, should liberty be given for their Consumption here ; but *French* will be admitted on easier Terms, and our *Weavers* will be forced to a double Struggle, for Cheapness, and for Preference in the Lady's Favour.

2. Upon the many Petitions of the *Woollen* and *Silk* Manufacturers, the Parliament took their deplorable Condition into Consideration, and Ordered a Bill for their Relief ; which met with fierce and violent Opposition from a Great and Potent Body, who had the ablest Pens, the greatest Lawyers their Gold could procure, to manage and plead their Cause ; but Reason and the true Interest of the Nation being on the *Weavers* side, the BILL passed both Houses, and obtained the Royal Assent ; and the Effects thereof ever since have sufficiently justify'd their Wisdom therein.

There was Eighteen Months allowed by the Act for Persons to dispose of their Stocks, but these were much sooner swept away, even at advanced Prices, by the Eagerness that appeared in all sorts of People to furnish themselves therewith. No sooner was the Act passed, but the fainting Spirits of the Manufacturers revived ; new Life and Vigor seemed diffused throughout the Nation upon the Prospect of those Advantages, which before the Eighteen Months were expired they began to be instated in ; Manufacturers returned from their Retirements,

tirements, Empty Houses re-inhabited, new Looms daily mounted, Ingenuity discovering it self in great Improvements, in inventing new Species, fitted to the Genius of our Neighbours, whither many were Exported, adapted for the various Expences of all sorts of Persons; insomuch that for the Neatness and Variety of Figures, and Curiosity of Work, we are exceeded by no Artists in the World; and no doubt they will still advance, if our Gentry continue to encourage them. Many new Buildings have since been Erected in and about *Spittle-Fields*, and Rents risen 20 per Cent. *Canterbury* soon experienced the Effects hereof in the Return of their Inhabitants, and the Employment of all amongst them. And the Influences hereof was not confined to our Manufacturers, our Merchants were Sharers in the Benefits thereof. To this Act it is owing that those advantageous Trades to the *Levant*, to *Italy* have ever since flourished.

Thus I have given you a short but true Representation of what I have seen and know, and what Thousands can testify; and there is no doubt but the same Causes, whether they proceed from *India* or from *France*, or any other Kingdom, will have the same Effect: For what can be plainer than this, that to Import Goods Manufactured into a Nation interfering with, and used for the same Purposes with its own Manufactures, must necessarily deprive the Makers thereof of so much of their Employment? And must not these poor Labouring People, with their Families, be reduc'd to the utmost Distress;

Distress; be forc'd to travel, to seek Relief of their respective Parishes, to beg their Bread, for to prevent Starving? Can any Person imagine, that the Repealing those Laws that now keep out *French* Manufactures, will not bring them in great Plenty upon us? Can we suppose, that such an Advantage, such an Opportunity offer'd *France*, will be neglected and slighted? The Reverse hereof is equally plain. If we keep such Foreign Manufactures from being imported, our own People will have Employment, whereby to Maintain themselves, their Wives and Children; our Manufactures will be preserv'd in a flourishing Condition, and the Riches of the Nation increased.

The Nation is now Rejoicing for a Peace Concluded and Proclaim'd; of which, Glorious Things have been spoken: We are all in a waiting Posture, expecting the Fruits and Issue thereof. May it answer all those Great and Just Ends, which engaged the Government in so long and Costly a War; May it exceed our Hopes, and be attended with Love and Charity, with Tranquility and Unity in the Church, in the State; That the Honour, the Safety and Happiness of Three Kingdoms may be establish'd thereby: And, as a Means conducing thereunto, May our Trade be increas'd, our Navigation enlarg'd, our Manufactures prosper: May that Barrier, which our Laws have fixed to Guard and Preserve them, be continued; That our Naval Force may never decay, nor our Trea-

Treasure be exhausted; That our Manufactures may never fall a Victim to the Power, Policy, and Artifices of *France*; nor the Expressions of our Joy allay'd, by the Tears, the Sighs and Lamentations of distressed Weavers.

I shall conclude these Lines (which I submit to your Disposal) with an Observation of an Ingenious Author; (*Dr. Davenant, in a late Tract concerning Trade*), "The *French* have dealt with Us, "as if they thought the Genius of *France* had "got a perfect Mastery over the Genius of " *England*; otherwise they would not have so "imposed upon Us in Matters of this Nature: "Where, tho' our Court would not See, the People must needs Feel; and where the Legislature was certain to be alarm'd; and at last to "interpose".

I am,

S I R,

Your's, &c.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

THE Duty on an *English* Broad-Cloth, imported into *France*, Anno 1632, was 6 Livres; Anno 1664, 40 Livres; Anno 1667, 80 Livres.

The Duty of a Piece of Serge, in Anno 1632, was 1 Livre; Anno 1664, 6 Livres; Anno 1667, 12 Livres.

Whereby it is plain, that in Three Years Time, the Duty on our *English* Woollen Manufactures was doubled. And this is One of the Four Species of Commodities, excepted out of the *Tariff* of 1664; and is of the greatest Importance to *England*.

N. B. A Representation made to His Late Majesty, King *William*, dated *December* the 23d. 1697. by the Lords Commissioners for Trade, asserts, That the *French* over-balance Us in Commerce, about a Million per Annum.

It

It asserts also, That Anno 1685, there was Twenty Thousand Ton of Wine, and Six Thousand Ton of Brandy imported. And Anno 1688, the Quantity was somewhat more.

	l.	s.	d.
The Value of 20000 Ton of Wine, at 12 l. per Ton, amounts to-----	240000	00	00
The Value of 6000 Ton of Brandy, at 20 l. per Ton, amounts to-----	120000	00	00
Total	360000		per Ann.

F I N I S.