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A
SHORT
AND TRVE
RELATION

concerning the Soap-buſines.

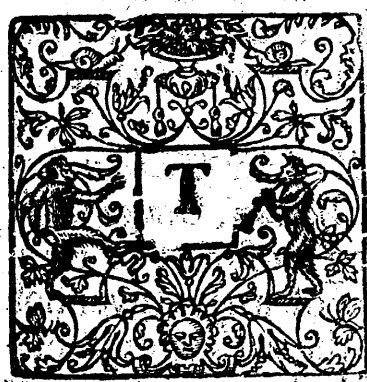
Containing the ſeverall Patents,
Proclamations, Orders, whereby the Soape-
makers of London, and other His Majesties
Subjects, were damnified, by the Gentlemen
that were the Patentees for Soape at West-
minster, with the particular Proceed-
ings concerning the ſame.



LONDON,
Printed for Nicholas Bourne at the South entrance
of the Royall Exchange. 1641.



A TRUE
RELATION
OF THE STATE
OF THE BUSINESS
concerning SOAP.



Thomas Overman, Edmond Whitwell, Edwyn Griffen, and divers others to the number of 20. or thirty or thereabouts, Freemen of London, that had beene apprentices to the trade of Soap-making; for many yeares together quietly used that trade, and was possessed of Soap-houses, which they had built; hyred and fitted, for that purpose, of a great yearly value; and built Tarris Fats,

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Fats, Oyle Cisternes, Set up Pans, and otherwise fitted themselves for that imployment, to their charge of many thousand pounds.

10. Feb.
1622.
23. Feb.
1622.

Two severall Lettees Patents granted to *Andrew Palmer*, and *Roger Jones*, during the space of 21. yeares in *England, Ireland, Wales, and Barwick* at their wills and pleasures to make hard soape with Berilla, and soft soap without the use of fire, by sundry motions, and not boyling thereof, and to make pot-ashes of the materials of this Kingdome.

17. Decem.
1631.

These Patents rested from the times of the making thereof, without any dammage done thereby, either to the makers of soape, or such as used the same, untill At which time, his Majestie being informed by the Petition of *Sir William Russell*, *Sir Basil Brooke*, *Sir Richard Weston*, *Sir Edward Stradling*, and others: That *Ioanes* and *Palmer* had communicated their Invention to them, who had at their great costs and charges brought the desired perfection. Hereupon his Majesty grants to the Petitioners power to make that hard and soft soape during fourteene yeares, with divers priviledges in that Patent contained, with a Proviso that his Majesty might dispose thereof.

20. Jan.
1631.

Sir Henry Compton, *Sir Henry Guilford*, *Sir Nicholas Forresene*, *Sir Basil Brooke*, *Sir Richard Weston*, *George Gage*, Esquire, with divers others (being most part of them Popish Recufants) upon pretence of a new Invention of making of white soape, with the native commodities of this Realme, which should be better and cheaper then the soape made by the Soap-makers of *London*; And that they would pay unto his Majesty foure pounds upon every tunne of soape they made and sold, did

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did procure themselves to bee incorporated, by the name of Governour Assistants and Fellowes of the society of Soap-makers of *Westminster*; And by that Charter got to themselves power.

1. To make a Charter of themselves.
2. To make all manner of soape, by any the wayes then used, or by any other new way.
3. To search all soape made by all others.
4. That none should sell soape till they had searched and marked it.
5. To destroy all soape sold otherwise.
6. To use the trade, and take apprentices though they were never any, notwithstanding the statute made 5. Eliz.

Sir William Russell, and other the Patentees, according to the Proviso contained in the Patent, 17 Decem: 1631. and according to His Majesties Writs in that behalfe to them directed, assigned over that priviledge of making soft soape by motion, and without use of fire, &c. unto the Corporation of *Westminster*.

17. April.
1632.

Indentures were made betweene the King and that Corporation of *Westminster*, whereby the Corporation

3. May.
1633.

1. To make yearly five thousand tuns of white soap, which will neere serve for expence of all the Kingdome.
2. After the first yeare to pay the King four pounds by tunne, and not to sell for above three pence by pound.
3. To make more then five thousand tuns yearly, if need require.

The

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The King covenants with them amongst other things.

- 1. To uphold their priviledges, and set forth Proclamations, that no soape shall be sold till they have tryed it.
- 2. To restrain the importation of pot-ashes, when they could make enough here.
- 3. To allow five thousand pounds for Sir *Iohn Bourchier* and *Iones* for their expences in the project.

This Corporation and priviledges thus gained, much skill and endeavour was used to bring their white soape in use, and amongst other practises a certificate was procured from Sir *Robert Ducie*, then Lord Major of *London*, That upon a tryall by him made (which was made in his owne private house, without the knowledge of the Soap-makers of *London*) the white soape was certified better then the soape made by the Soap-makers of *London*: But finding, that notwithstanding all their endeavours, their white soape would not vent according to their expectation, they laboured to draw the Soap-makers of *London* to joyne with them, using many perswasions and promises of great profit, but not prevailing, and conceiving, that if the Soap-makers of *London* were restrayned from the use of fish oyle (which had beene in use for making soape many yeares before) then they could not afford to sell soape at three pence by the pound: The new Patentees Soap-makers of *Westminster* tooke this course, viz.

28. Ann. 1632.

The said Soap-makers of *Westminster* procure His Majesty to set forth a Proclamation, whereby (*inter alia*) it is commanded.

- 1. No oyle to bee used in soape but olive and rape oyle.
- 2. None

A true Relation concerning the busines of Soape. 7

- 2. None to sell any soape or pot-ashes before they shall be assayed and tryed by the Searchers and Assay-master of the Soapers of *Westminster*.

And although the Soapmakers of *London* had at this time great quantities of Whale and other fish oyle upon their hands, wherewith to make soape, and much soape unfold made, with such oyle, before the Proclamation, yet was not one day given or allowed, to vent the same.

An Information was exhibited in the Starre-chamber against *Thomas Overman*, and fifteene other Soap-makers of *London*, whereby they are charged. 22. Nov. 1632.

- 1. With assembling together being no Corporation.
- 2. Secondly, for opposing and affronting the Letters Patents of the new Corporation of *Westminster* and Proclamation.
- 3. For setting prices of oyle, soape and tallow.
- 4. For using fish oyle, since the Proclamation opposing the Searchers, and selling soape not marked, by the Searchers or Assaymasters of the Soapers of *Westminster*.

That the Searchers and Assay-master appointed by the Patentees of *Westminster*, were men unexperienced in soape, The Assaymaster being agent, and their Searchers one a Black-smith, and another a Serving-man.

To this Information the Defendants put in a plea 9. Ia: 1632. and Demurre contayning above forty sheets of paper, thereby shewing at large (*inter alia*)

- 1. The Charters and Acts of Parliament for a free trade in *London*, and elsewhere.
- 2. That they were all Free-men of *London*.
- 3. That the Patent to the Soapers of *Westminster*, was

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was a Monopolie, and contrary to the lawes and statutes of this Kingdome.

15. Jan:
1632.
28. Jan:
1632.

This Plea and Demurre was referred to two of the Iudges.

They certifie this Plea and Demurre to be insufficient, but yet verbally declared, that the matter thereof was fit to be put in by way of answer.

22. Feb.
1632.

Being Thursday, and out of Terme, ordered that the Defendants should answer by Friday seven-night, or the Information bee taken *pro confesso*.

7. Mar.
1632.

The Defendants answer, and therein set forth what the Iudges declared (*viz.*) that the matter was fit to be put in by way of Answer. They set forth all that in their Plea concerning the liberties of the Citie of London, and use of free trade; The great damage that will come to the Kingdome by prohibiting the use of fish oyle; The losse of the Greene-land, and New-found-land, voyages for their oyle-shipping and Mariners; The dammage that will come to the East-land, trade, and to the Kingdome, by prohibiting forraine potashes; And that the Patent to those of *Westminster*, was a Monopolie, and ought to be tryed by the Common law, with other materiall things for their defence. And to the offences not guilty; And this Answer contained above fifty sheets of paper.

8. Marc.
pri.

Being the day after their Answer put in, all the Defendants were committed for not putting in their Answer sooner, although they made Affidavit, that they could not do it, for severall reasons in that Affidavit expressed, where they continued untill they were examined upon Interrogatories being 16. dayes.

23. Marc.
1632.

Ordered in the Starre-chamber, that the Defendants should

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should be enlarged out of prison.
The defendants answer was referred to two of the Iudges, who were not the Iudges that considered of, and over-ruled the Plea and Demurre.

29. Marc.
1633.

Being the very next day, the said Iudges certifie that they are of opinion, that all the Answer except the four first words, & the last ten lines, is fit to be expunged.

30. Marc.
1633.

Ordered by the Lord Keeper, that it should be expunged, and it was expunged accordingly.

The same
30. Marc.

Master Attorney replied; All this was in the vacation time.

pri.
1. April.
1633.

A Rule for publication to be 15 April. 1633.

Ordered that publication should be in Easter weeke.

9. April.

It being the Thursday in Easter weeke the Bookes were published.

1633.

In the vacation time ordered, that the consideration of suppressing, the Depositions of the Defendants witnesses should be referred to three of the Iudges, or to any two of them.

24. April.

1633.

26. 28.

April.

1633.

Vpon the Certificate of those two Iudges, the Depositions of the Defendants witnesses taken upon nine and thirty Interrogatories, are suppressed: Although the same second of May, the Defendants exhibited a Petition to the Iudges before they certified, desiring them to take into consideration that their Councell was not instructed; And that their Interrogatories and Depositions tended to prove the Patent to those of *Westminster*, was a Monopolie within the statute 21. Jac. Regis.

3. May.
1633.

The Defendants were ordered to be examined touching the drawing and consenting to this Petition, and *Edwyn Griffen* was re-examined.

3. May.
1633.

B

The

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10. May
1633.

The matter being thus posted on, and the plea and demurrer over-ruled; The Answer expunged; The depositions suppressed; And the defendants refusing to joyne with the Patentees of *Westminster* (although they were much laboured therein) came to hearing, where the Defendants being sixteene in number, were all sentenced to be imprisoned, during His Majesties pleasure; To be disabled to use their trades, whereto they were apprentices, and fined, some at 1500 l. other of them at 1000 l. and the least at 500 l. a man; And nine of them were fined only for using fish oyle in soape, contrary to the said Proclamation; And upon these proceedings the Defendants were presently committed to the Fleet, where fourteene of them personally remayned prisoners till the 22. of *February* following, being above forty weekes; And one of those fourteen, viz. *Edwyn Griffen*, from 10. May. 1633. unto the sixt of *April*. 1634. Two other of the sixteene dyed, during this restraint.

It is proved by severall witnesses, That the Soapers of *Westminster*, and particularly *Sir Basil Brook*, *Sir Richard Weston*, and *Master Gage* prosecuted, and personally sollicitated this suit in *Starre-chamber*, and disbursed monies therein, on the behalfe of themselves, and the rest of that Corporation.

And that these Soap-makers of *London* could not be enlarged from prison, untill they had entered into bond before the Corporation of *Westminster*, not to make any soape, and had a Certificate thereof, from the said Corporation of *Westminster* unto the Lords of the Councell.

June 4.
1633.

Ordered that divers Soapmakers of *London* which were

A true Relation concerning the busines of Soape. 11

were sentenced, should bee examined touching soape made, and the Iudges to consider of Presidents for drawing up a generall Decree touching the regulating the trade of soap-making.

Ordered at Councell Board to estreat the Fines, *July 13.* 1633. which were not mitigated, and divers extents were issued forth against the Soap-makers of *London*, that were sentenced; and their goods (even to the beds whereon they lay) extended for their Fines, and severall summes of money, paid upon those extents.

A generall Decree in *Starre-chamber* was made, *August 23.* 1633. whereby it was (*inter alia*) decreed.

1. That no Soape should be sold till it were marked by the Soapers of *Westminster*, Assaymasters.
2. That no soape should bee sold for above three pence the pound, and hee that sels for above shall bee punished, as one that oppresseth the Kings subjects.
3. None that used not the trade before the 22. of *Nov.* 1632. (which was the day of exhibiting the Information) shall use it, unlesse first approved of by the Court.
4. Searchers for the Patentees of *Westminster*, to enter into houses.
5. No Soap-houses, but in or within a mile of *London*, and in *Bristol*.
6. All

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- 6. All Soap-makers to be under the survey and government of the Soapers of *Westminster*.
- 7. Offenders to be fined and punished as the court of Starre-chamber shall thinke fit.

1633. By severall Orders made in Starre-chamber 16. Oct. 23. Oct. 24. and 25. Oct. many Soap-makers of *London* which were never parties to any suit, without any Bill against them; were examined in the Starre-chamber upon severall Interrogatories, touching the making of soape.

6. Decemb. 1633. Ordered at Councell-board (in regard women and others in the street in open manner published, that the white soape made by the Soapers of *Westminster*, spoyled and burnt the linnen, and fretted the hands of the washers) That the Lord Major of *London*, and others named in the Order should make a tryall of the white soape, with soape by the Soap-makers of *London*, which was sequestred as bad soape.

14. Decemb. 1633. Sir *Ralph Free-man* Lord Major, Sir *Henry Spiller*, and others certifie, that the white soape washed as white and sweeter then the soape made by the Soap-makers of *London*.

That above fourescore, whereof some Countesses, Viscountesses, Ladies and common Laundresses certified the white soape made by the Soap-makers of *Westminster* to be the better.

29. Dec. 1633. Vpon reading of the said Certificate of the Lord Major

A true Relation concerning the busines of Soape. 13

Major at the Councell Table, it was there ordered; that Master Attorney should draw up a Proclamation, And that divers Lord Lieutenants Major of *London*, and Sheriffes in their persons should repaire to certaine houses, and there seize and sequester the soape made by the Soap-makers of *London*.

A Proclamation was accordingly published, where- in is incerted. 26. Jan. 1633.

- 1. The said Generall Decree made in Starre-chamber, 23. August. 1633. for regulating the Soape-trade.
- 2. The Certificate of Sir *Ralph Free-man*, Major; and of the rest concerning soape.

In this Proclamation it is recited (*inter alia.*)

1. That the Soape-makers of *London* with much contempt opposed themselves against the Letters Patents made to the Corporation of *Westminster* and Proclamation aforesaid, and had endeavoured with all their power and skill to frustrate his Majesties intention, and utterly refused to adjoyne themselves, or be incorporated with the said societie of *Westminster*, although they were offered the managing of the whole businesse, and refused to assist so good a worke, or to accept of any termes of accomodation with the said societie of *Westminster*, albeit they were offered more yearly to every of them, then themselves affirmed to have year-

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ly gained, and fully secured thereof, and to have their servants employed.

2. That in contempt of the Proclamation they made Soape with fish oyle; opposed the searchers, &c. and werethereupon sentenced in Starre-chamber, and disabled to use their Trade, and now others made Soape with their stocks and materials.

And therefore it was commanded by the said Proclamation.

1. That none make Soape contrary to the said speciall or generall Decree in Starre-chamber.

2. That none sell Soape till it be searched, and marked by the Assay-master, and Searchers of the societie of *Westminster*.

3. That all Pannes and vessels employed, or set up for making of Soape contrary to the Letters Patents granted to the Soapers of *Westminster*, or Decrees in Starre-chamber be pulled downe.

4. That none resist the Searchers or Assay-master.

5. That the Patentees of *Westminster* sell not Soape for above three pence the pound.

The Soap-makers of *London*, having before this time divers times petitioned for the pardoning or mitigation of their fines, and to be restored unto their Trade, some of them did now againe petition the Lords of the

A true Relation concerning the busines of Soape. 15
the Councill to that purpose, who referring them to the Patentees of *Westminster*, they told them, if they would become bound unto his Majestie not to make any Soape without their Licence, they would certifie unto the Lords that they had conformed, which the Petitioners for the gaining of their enlargement out of prison consented to doe.

Richard Cocks, and *Richard Hynd*, two of the Soap-makers of *London* which were sentenced upon Certificates from the Corporation of *Westminster*, that they had given bonds not to make Soape without their approbation, had an Order thereupon made at Councill Board, that his Majesty should bee moved touching their Fines imposed in Starre-chamber. Jan. 17. 291
1633.

And in *February* following, the rest of the Soap-makers of *London*, that were sentenced (except hee which dyed) having remayned above forty weeks in prison, as aforesaid, upon their Petition to the Lords, obtayned an Order that they might with their Keeper, goe to the Patentees of *Westminster*, and enter into Covenant with them, and upon Certificate that the Petitioners had submitted and conformed, their Lordships would give further Order.

Hereupon Sir *Richard Weston* Governour, and other the Patentees of *Westminster* certified, that the said

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said Petitioners had entered bond to his Majesty according to a former President drawne by the Kings then Attorney Generall, not to make any soape without the approbation and leave of the Corporation of Westminster.

22. Feb. 1633.

By an Order at Councell-Board, the Soap-makers which were sentenced (save the two that dyed, during their imprisonment) were discharged from the Prison of the Fleete. Master Griffen excepted, who continued in Prison untill April. 1634.

These bonds (whereof the penalty was 1000. l. a peece) being since delivered up) are extant.

In Michaelmas Terme and Hillary Terme, 1633. divers Soap-makers of London, which were not sentenced, and had served seven yeares to the trade, moved to bee admitted to worke, and were by Orders in Starre-chamber, referred to the corporation of Westminster, who would never permit them to worke; And although Thomas Williams, Robert Drinke-water, Iohn Carter, Thomas Hart, Joshua Phines, Roger Peeres, and others made severall Affidavits, that they had never broken any the said Decrees, and were referred to the said Corporation, as afore said, yet could they not be admitted to worke in their trade.

Attach-

A true relation concerning the businesse of Soape.

Attachments were awarded out of the star-chamber against Blackall and Quinline, for making and selling of soape contrary to the generall Decree. And it was then ordered that forty others (named in that Order) should have their Pans, Fats, and Vessels pulled downe, unlesse they shewed cause the next sitting day.

It was moved that diverse Soap-Makers of London (having never offended) might use their trade according to the generall decree, but the motion was not granted. 11 Jun. 1634.

Whereas severall motions had beene made by the Counsel of Thomas Woodstock, and many other Soap-makers of London, to have liberty to use their trade, they having never offended, it was then ordered in star-Chamber, that the examinations of such of them as had bin examined, should be referred to the two chiefe Justices; and that those which were not examined and desired to use their trade, should first be examined upon such intergatories, as the Kings Counsell should think fit, and then the two chiefe Justices to consider of their examinations likewise, and ordered that in the meane time all soape Makers of London, both those disabled, and not disabled, shall forbear to make soap that Vacation (it being the long summer Vacation, and if any should make soap, an attachment awarded against them: and their Lordships declare, whosoever shall in the meane time use his trade, they hold him unfit to bee admitted to the use of the trade. 26 Jun. 1634.

Came forth a third Proclamation, wherin is recited that London soap was sold for 6.d. 8.d. 10. and 12. d. the pound, which was formerly sold for 2.d. the pound, and sometimes for 2.d. the pound. 13 July. 1634.

C

2. That

A true Relation concerning the businesse of Soape.

That the prizes of *London* Soape grew to this height, by reason of the extreame badnesse of the White Soape, and none sold but privately, and with great danger if discovered.

Its therefore commanded by that Proclamation,

1. First, that Commissioners should issue for rectifying of prizes, and finding out offenders, as well such as import or make Soape, contrary to the Proclamation and Starre-Chamber Decree, as such as sell, spend, or receive the same.

2. Authority is given to the Patentees of *Westminster*, to make old Soape, with Fish-Oyle, for which, those of *London* was sentenced, for Diers, Wool-Combers, Saye-Thickers, and the like, but not to sell it for above three-pence the pound.

3. The Corporation of *Westminster* are to have recompence out of the fines of the delinquents, because faulty and unmarked Soape is to bee destroyed.

4. Noneto make any Soape for their own private use, or otherwise, unlesse they be permitted by decree in Star-Chamber.

5. Power given to the Officers of the Corporation of *Westminster*, to enter into any houses &c. and a Command to Officers to assist them.

6. The Kings Attourney Generall required to pro-

A true relation concerning the businesse of Soape.

proceed in Star-Chamber or Exchequer, against offenders, not yeelding obedience to his Majesties commands in the premisses.

Order at Counsell Table, upon Petition of the Soape-Makers of *Westminster*. 29 Sep. 1634.

1. To restraine importation of Soape.

2. Against owners of soape-houses.

3. For a warrant dormant to apprehend such persons, as the Governour of the Corporation of *Westminster* should nominate.

Then the Corporation of *Westminster*, by a Remonstrance shew.

1. That they have spent in Law suits &c. 6000 li.

2. That the totall of their expences was 115000 lib.

3. That their yeerely charges are 8427 li.

4. The impediments for their vent of soape.

5. The Remedies which they propounded as followeth.

1. A vigorous prosecution in Star-Chamber, against such as oppose them.

2. Breaking of Pannes, Tubs, &c.

C 2

3. That

A true relation concerning the businesse of soape.

3. That punishment be inflicted upon dwellers in houses where soape is made.

4. Confiscation of all soape, save that made by the Corporation of Westminster.

5. A Warrant Dormant to remaine with the Governor of the said Corporation, to apprehend whom he thinke fit.

24. No.
1634.

An Order at Counsell Board then made, whereby the Corporation of Westminster had liberty to make old soape with fish-oyle, (for which those of London were sentenced) and to sell the same for 3. d. ob. the pound, which was 1. d. in the pound more, then soape of the like goodnesse was usually sould for by the Soape-makers of London before their trouble.

Yet by the Decree 23. August 1633. all that sold for above 3. d. the pound were to be punished as oppressors of the Kings subjects.

And presently upon this Order the Corporation of Westminster gave warrant unto Thomas Mouncke (one of the sixteene that were sentenced) to make old soape for them, notwithstanding the covenant which he had given them to the contrary.

And the Corporation of Westminster did make such great quantity of old soape, insomuch, as it is proved that in Feb. and March, or Aprill, they sold neere 500. l. worth of soape in one day, and so continued severall dayes together, and wholly used the trade wherein those of London was bred, and from which they were debarred by the Decrees aforesaid, and sold that soape made with fish-oyle for 3. d. ob.

per l.

A true relation concerning the businesse of Soape.

per l. which was proved to be usually sold by the old Soapemakers of London before the said new Patent obtained at 2. d. ob. per l. and under, and yet better soape.

Came out a fourth Proclamation in the behalfe of 25 Jan. the Patentees of Westminster, whereby it was com- 1634. manded.

1. That none should make soape in their private houses, for their owne private use or otherwise.

2. The Corporation of Westminster to search for and seize soape, and to destroy it, or reboyle or amend it.

3. The said Corporation to reward their Agents out of the soape seized.

4. None to import any soape.

5. Grocers, Salters, Chandlers and others not to buy, utter, use, or spend any soape, but that which shall be made by the said Corporation.

6. The Owners of houses where soape should be made, to be proceeded against in Star-chamber.

7. Power to enter houses and carry away soape unmarked.

8. A command to the said Corporation and their officers, to breake downe all Pannes, Fats, Lec-tubs, &c.

A true Relation of the businesse concerning Soap.

Officers to assist, and M. Attourney to proceed against delinquents in star-Chamber. That by colour hereof, the Officers of the Corporation of *westminster*, brake downe the Pannes, Fats, and Cesternes of the soape-makers of *London*, that were sentenced, which cost many thousand pounds.

Also about this time, Extents were againe issued forth against the bodies and goods of the soape-makers of *London*, that were sentenced for the remainder of their Fines, and divers of them committed againe to prison, where they lay 36 weekes, and others of them to escape imprisonment, were forced to abandon their owne houses, and to live obscurely in the Countrie, and some for to flye beyond the seas.

16 July,
1635.

Walcot, Drinkwater, and other Soap-makers, of *London*, were by Order of the Councell Board, recommended to the Corporation of *westminster*, to be set on worke, but without any effect.

29 July,
1635.

Ordered at Councell Board, and a warrant to the Justices of Peace, to commit offenders to prison, which made soape, where they were to remaine till Order given by the board.

And the Corporation of *westminster* having from *January*, 1634, continued the making of old soap, with fish-Oyle and otherwife, as they pleased, and wholly practised the trade of those which were sentenced.

Eu-

A true Relation of the businesse concerning Soape.

Entered into new Covenants with the King, where 12 A. by the said S. Henry Compton, S. Henry Guilford, S. prill Bassill Brooke, S. Richard Weston, S. John Hales, and others, being all members of the Corporation of *Westminster*, 1636.

Covenant with his Majesty.

1. To make yeerely 5000. tunnes of good soape in three houses onely, and in a joynt stocke, and so paye his Majesty six pound the tonne, and to make more then 5000 tonne, if occasion be.

2. To vent and sell soft soape by them made with Whale-oyle and other merchantable oyle and tallow of the best sort at 3. d. ob. per pound, which is 3. l. 14. s. 8. d. the barrell (which was sold by the Soape-makers of *London* before the said new Corporation and Project at 50. s. 52. s. and 54. s. the Barrell, and sometime cheaper, and yet better soape) and soape to be made with oyle olive and rape oyle, being the best crowne soape at 4. d. ob. the pound in the barrell, halfe Barrell, Firkin, or halfe firkin, and not above, which doth amount to 4. li. 16. s. the barrell, which was sold by the Soape Makers of *London* before the said new Corporation and Project for 3. li. 4. s. 3. li. 6. s. and seldome above 3. li. 12. s. the Barrell.

His

A true Relation of the businesse concerning Soap.

His Maiesties Covenants with them.

1. To restraine exportation of Tallow, or ashes from *England* or *Wales*, and the importation of pot ashes, when the said corporation can make sufficient in *England* or *Ireland*.

2. That the said Patentees of *Westminster* may lawfully make all kinds of soft soape, as well with oyle olive, whale oyle, as other oyle and tallow, notwithstanding any decree or Ordinance, paying onely 6*.li.* by the Tonne to his Majesty.

3. That they shall have the moiety of all forfeited soape, and may take bonds in the Kings name, upon sale of soape; and they covenant to mannage the businesse for the Kings advantage.

18. Dec. 1636. Ordered at Counsell Board for a commission to issue under the great Seale, to *S. John Hale*, and *John Hon*, to enquire against offenders in making of soap, and to compound with them, and the commissioners to have halfe the composition money, the charges deducted.

Nota. That by colour of this commission, *S. John Hale* did draw great sums of money from diverse persons as *Ieffery Brittingham*, *William Nelson*, and diverse others, keeping them in the custody of *Messengers*, untill they had compounded, as appeared by the proofes.

War-

A true relation concerning the businesse of Soape.

Warrants of Assistants to search for and to seize soape, &c. granted unto severall Messengers.

A Warrant dormant directed to all Maiors, Sheriffs, Justices of Peace, &c. to arrest, take and apprehend all such persons as the Governour of the Company of the Soapers of *Westminster* should nominate and direct; And by like direction to make stay and seizure of all unmarked soape, not made under their Government; and to bring the persons apprehended to the Counsell Table.

18. Dec. 1636.

Afterwards the Patentees of *Westminster*, having for about three years vexed the whole Kingdome by their white soape, forced and obtruded upon the people, and for about one yeare and three moneths, used the Trade of the Soape-makers of *London*, obtained a grant from his Majesty of 40000 *li.* for surrendring up their Patent, and of 3000 *lib.* more for charges of their houses, the which hath bin since payd unto them by the Soapemakers of *London*, it being assigned unto them by his Majestie out of the moley which they were to pay to the King; and the Soapemakers of *London* were also enforced to their great losse, to take off all the materials of the Corporation of *Westminster*, at their owne rates and prices, to the value of above 20000 *li.* and to give them 500 *li.* not to meddle with their houses, and all this onely to have use of their trade againe, whereof they were deprived in manner, and by the meanes aforefaid.

The King incorporates the Soape-makers of *London*, which were bred up to the trade, who admitted into their Company, all that had beene Apprentices, or had right to the Trade; and whereas the Patentees

22. M^o 1637.

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tentees of Westminster paid to the King but 4 lib. per toane, and for a small time 6 lib. they, without raising the prices of soape any thing at all, paid to the King, 8 lib. per toane, the which in about three yeares time did amount unto above 90000 lib.

The Patentees of Westminster alledge.

1. That there was a Contract betweene the Lord Treasurer and the Lord *Cottington* on the one part, and *Jones Palmer* and *Turner* on the other part.

This was put in execution, nor were any of the Kings people grieved or restrained thereby.

2. They say that the cause prosecuted in the Star-Chamber against the Soapemakers of *London* was at the Kings suite.

1. They personally followed it.

2. Disburfed money in it.

3. Made certificates to discharge the Defendants out of prison.

4. Disburfed 6000 lib. in suits, &c.

As by their remonstrance 29. Sep. 1634.

5. It redounded to their benefit to advance their project.

3. They object, that the Soapemakers of *London* 1634, made propositions to give the King 20000 li. per Annum.

1. These Soapemakers of *London* refused all offers of benefit, as appears by the Proclamation 26 January

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January 1633, before mentioned.

2. They had beene sentenced, fined, and three times imprisoned, and kept out of their Trade from June 1632. to May 1637. being neere five yeares, and almost utterly ruined.

3. Before this offer, the Patentees of Westminster had entered upon the Trade of Soapemakers of *London*.

4. This never tooke any effect, nor was the same accepted of.

The substance and conclusion of this Relation is. That many Citizens of *London* were put out of an old Trade, in which they had beene bred all their time, and which was their onely lively-hood, by Knights, Esquires, and Gentlemen, never bred up to the Trade, upon pretence of a Project and new invention, which in truth was not so, Their prosecution of the Soapemakers of *London* in Star-chamber, being beyond example, both in respect of the manner of proceedings, and of the Sentence it selfe, who for using fish-oyle, and not obeying their searchers, were fined at great summes, imprisoned at three severall times about twenty moneths; Their goods extended; Their Pannes, Fars, &c broken and destroyed; Their houses of a great yearly value made unusefull; Their families dispersed and necessitated; and their estates almost ruined.

The Generall Decree in Star-chamber and Proclamation
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A true Relation concerning the businesse of Soape.

clamation, kept all men (but the Projectors) from making soape, though for private use, contrary to Lawes.

Their imprisoning of makers and sellers of soape, taking of compositions of them, seizing soape and goods, breaking houses, &c. was daily and frequent.

The price of the commodity by this Project and Projectors raised above 1. d. per pound and the commodity worse.

The East-country trade; The Greenland trade, and all fishing trades most extremely interrupted and damnified by this Project.

The Projectors by selling at above three pence per pound, according to the Decree obtained by themselves, became oppressors of the Kings people.

Concerning the Soapemakers of London, it is acknowledged, that being thus persecuted and brought into great want, by being kept neere upon five yeares from their trade, which was their onely meanes of maintainance for them, their wives, children and families; And their trade being taken up by the Pattees of Westminster, they endeavoured to obtaine their trade; and upon some propositions made unto them, and by adding an increase to the Kings benefit, without the least further damage to the subject, obtained it.

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A true Relation of the businesse concerning Soape.

It is humbly desired.

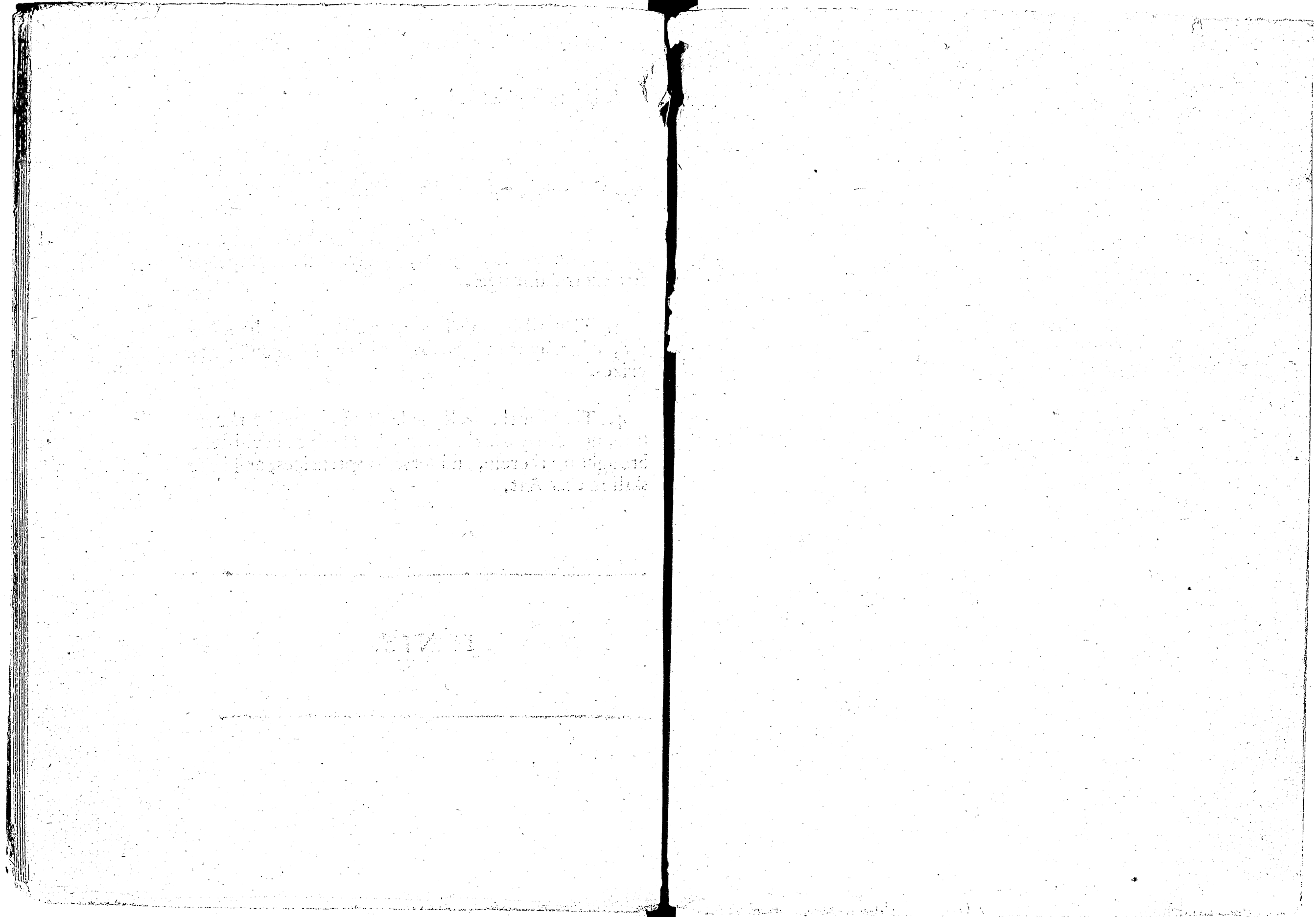
1. That the Patentees of the Corporation of *westminster* in the before mentioned notable Project and Monologie may be punished.

2. That the Soap-Makers of London, who have so much suffered by it, may receive full recompence for their dammages.

3. That all imposition upon soape may be taken off, whereby it may be sold at the old accustomed prizes.

4. That for the well making of soape for the future, none may use the trade, but such as have beene brought up therein, and served apprentices, and have skill in that Art.

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