

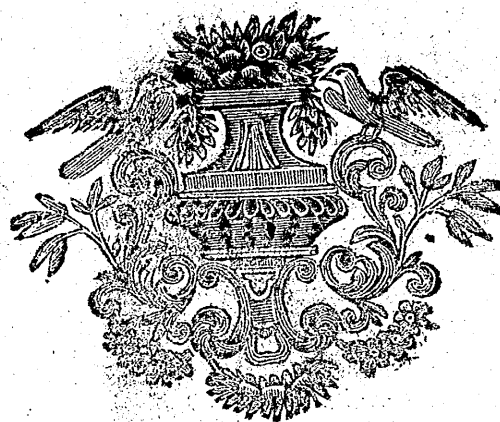
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THE *R*
PRESENT STATE
OF
Ireland Consider'd.

— *Certe cera*
Digni, remigium vitiosum Itbacensis Ulyssæi;
Gui potior patriâ fuit interdicta voluptas. HOR.



DUBLIN:

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T H E

P R E S E N T S T A T E &c.

THAT Mankind is in some measure ad-
dicted to Censure is past dispute, since
we see it practised not only by the In-
dividuals but by whole Kingdoms, witness the
national Reflections which almost universally
prevail: This probably is owing to self Love,
or a Desire of appearing innocent of the faults
charged on others: When any Number of Per-
sons are in one common Distress, each endea-
vours to throw the whole fault on another,
thereby tacitly acquitting himself.

At present *Ireland* is a melancholly instance
of this, that it is very poor and in most unhap-
py Circumstances every one allows, but every
one endeavours to charge some set of Men who
act differently, or are in a different Situation
from him, with the cause of those Misfortunes,
which he finds press so hard on his Coun-
try. Thus,

The Husbandman accuses the Landlord and
the Landlord the Husbandman. Many attri-
bute our Misfortunes to our Bankers sending
our Gold and Silver out of the Kingdom. But

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the most General complaint is against our *Absentees*, of whom we have lately seen a frightful List. Our *Absentees* in return say, our Miseries are equally owing to our *Luxury* at home.

As the greatest Enemy *Ireland* has, could not more effectually hurt it, at this critical Juncture, than by putting us on a wrong *scent*, or by making us attempt that for our relief, which is to us *impracticable*, and thereby slip an opportunity of doing what is in our power. It is certainly the duty of every true *Irish-Man*, to examine these contested points so as to form a judgment of what may be done in this Crisis of our Fate. The proper *Judges* of this Affair, have the Good and Prosperity of this Country so sincerely at heart, and are so firmly resolved to do what in them lies for its relief without passion or resentment, that there needs no Art or Eloquence to enforce what is reasonable, and they are so well acquainted with our Misfortunes already, that it would be cruelty to attempt painting them in their proper Colours, which would be a very disagreeable Object to a compassionate Eye.

The Husband-Man lays the Charge of all the miseries of this Country at the door of the Landlords. And alledges, ' that the Lands of *Ireland* are set at so excessive a Rate, that he is disabled from improving his Farm, or manuring, or tilling the Ground to the best advantage: That he is only a hewer of Wood
' and

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' and a drawer of Water: That the whole produce of his Farm, and what he can earn by any little Manufacture goes to pay his Rent, without one comfortable Meal for his Industry: That if he is able to pay his Rent, it is so near par, that one bad season throws him irrecoverably into real Want: That by reason of his Landlord's living in *Dublin*, or out of the Kingdom, and not on his Estate, little Money circulates in the Country, and the value of his Land is lessened for the same reason, that Land bears such a price near great Cities, where many Gentlemen live: That he has but a short Tenure of his Land, and no certain Habitation to encourage his Industry: That no one ought to wonder at the Lands of *Ireland* not being improved, or its *Manufactures* not flourishing, when there is no *Yeomanry* of Substance, the common people having little they can call their own, and scarce any stake in the Country.

On the other hand the Landlord accuses the Tenant. ' That he is not industrious in improving his Farm and pursuing the true Methods of *Agriculture*, but is bewedded to his own opinion: That he is not ambitious of making more than just pays his Rent, when his bargain is undeniable, being no way provident in laying up for a bad Season: That the Improvements and Conduct of those Tenants who have Leases for ever, give no Incouragement to Gentlemen to make such:
' That

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‘ That the *Manufacturer* always ruins the
 ‘ Market by raising the Commodity, as soon
 ‘ as any considerable Demand appears.

On this head it must be confessed, that it is probable there are faults on both sides; As to the Landlord; it is not to be doubted, but Gentlemen will reconsider the value of their Land at this *Critical Juncture*, and be of opinion, that *the Land-labourer is worthy of his hire*, and that he ought, with industry, to have a comfortable support out of the Land: And it is to be hoped the Husbandman will endeavour to improve himself in those methods of *Agriculture* which have enriched his Neighbours; and the *Manufacturer* grow wise by Experience, and see, that extravagant profit, gained by the Necessities of People cannot last; by which means, *he will become a Manufacturer for more than one Year*.

The Current Species of this Kingdom being by none, at this time, estimated at above 400000*l.* it is evident, the ordinary Business could not be carried on, unless something else supplied in part the use of Money; this the Bankers furnish us with by their Notes, and are in that respect of real advantage to the Country, and if by the same means they make a private gain, no one will envy them. But it is said, they send our Gold and Silver unnecessarily out of the Kingdom, which is one great Cause of our Poverty. If they have contributed
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towards our Calamities in this particular, they cannot be too severely used; but in order to form a true judgment in this case, it must be observed.

That, if our Exportations exceed our Importations, we have an overbalance in Trade, which will cause an Importation of Money, the common Measure of all Commodities: But if our Importation of *Consumable Commodities* exceed our Exportations, our *Money* must go out, for no Country will part with their Commodities without an equivalent, which not being in Goods, must be in Money.

The Difficulty which attended every particular Trader, in paying or receiving his Balance, as often as Business required in ready Money, gave rise to foreign Bills of Exchange, which keep even the Accounts of particular Debtors and Creditors in different Countries, as far as the Commerce between those places is equivalent; but the Debt of one Country to another cannot be paid without Money. For suppose *England* and *Ireland* to be only single Traders, who are by Agreement to exchange Commodities, and at certain Periods to balance their Accounts; If on settling those Accounts, *Ireland* should be indebted to *England* 100 *l.* it must be sent in *Money*, otherwise *Ireland* would become *Bankrupt*, for 'tis supposed, that is the *Ballance*, after the Exchange of Commodities is over.

Bills

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Bills of Exchange save the trouble of continually sending and resending *Money*, and therefore rise or fall in their Value, in proportion to the Demand or Scarcity of them, this makes the Course of Exchange the true *Barometer* of Trade, for when the Ballance of Trade is in our Favour, Exchange is below Par, when it is otherwise, above Par.

No one in the Course of Trade, will ever send Money over from hence, but when the Ballances due by us absolutely require it; and the Reason is, because it is not their Interest so to do: *Anno 1715*, Exchange was greatly under Par, by reason of an Overballance we then had in Trade; then the *English* and *French* Traders poured in Money to answer their Bills, the Effects of which continued many Years with us; should any Banker then have sent Specie over, he would have lost (at least) five *per Cent.* by it; But if I go to one who deals in Exchange for a Bill of 100 *l.* on *London*, and he has no Effects there, nor can purchase a Bill to answer his own Bill, he must send over ready Money to answer it, or it will be returned; and when this is the Case Exchange is always very high.

It is evident that there is little or no Difference, as to the Country in general, between sending ready Money or a Bill; For suppose, the whole *Kingdom* of *England* consisted but of ten Traders, and the whole *Kingdom* of *Ireland* was made up of the like Number, and that
five

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five of the Ten *Irish* Traders, were indebted each 100 *l.* to five of the *English* Traders, and that the other Five *English* Traders were each indebted 100 *l.* to the five other *Irish* Traders, it is plain, that by Bills these Debts may be discharged, without sending one Farthing of Money backwards or forwards; this is what Exchange will do; but if we suppose the five *Irish* Traders, who are indebted to the *English*, so ill-natured that they will send their *Ballance* which amounts to 500 *l.* in ready Money, then the five *English* Traders, who are indebted to the other five *Irish*, must likewise send their 500 *l.* in ready Money, for there is supposed no other Correspondence between the Countries, and all this without either Country gaining or losing one Farthing. This has been more particularly insisted on, that Gentlemen may not misapprehend the Cause of our Calamities, and expect Relief from a Quarter from which it can not come.

That, our *Absentees* are one great Cause of all our Misfortunes cannot be deny'd, they annually draw *immense Sums* out of the *Kingdom*, none of which ever returns; If they took the Value transmitted to them in *Manufactures*, they would in some measure contribute to the Maintenance of the *Poor*, but as it goes in ready Money or Bills, which is the same thing, they are a dead weight on the *Nation*, and cause that great over *Ballance* in Trade, which drains us of our *Gold* and *Silver*,
starves

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starves the *Manufacturer* and *Husbandman*, and will in time, if our other Drains likewise continue, reduce the *Kingdom* to *Beggary*. But 'tis needless to aggravate their Case, every one already is sufficiently alarmed about them.

Our *Absentees* retort upon us thus. ' It is true, we increase the Ballance against you by spending our Fortunes out of the Kingdom, on Account of our Health, our Pleasure, or our Business: And do not you for a very slight Pleasure alone do the same? by large Importations of *consumable Commodities*, the true fuel of *Luxury*, as Variety of *Wines* and all sorts of *Silks* from *France*, *Velvets* and *Damasks* from *Genoa*, *Hollands*, *Velvets* and *East-India Goods* clandestinely run into the Kingdom from *Holland*, and *Cambricks* and *Laces* from *Flanders*: Many of us are obliged to spend our Money out of the Kingdom by Business or an ill state of Health: Your whole Importation of such *Commodities*, as have been mentioned, is intirely owing to the profitable Pleasure which attends *Luxury*; the *Bane* of every State: You by these Means promote *Luxury* in your Inferiours, by their following (tho' at some distance) your Example, as the Increase of your Importations of *Wine* sufficiently show: while we are entirely out of Sight, and only hurt by taking out the *Money*: We chiefly spend our Money in *England* among your *elder Brothers* and *Friends*, to whom you lye under

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so many Obligations, that you cannot grudge them any Advantage or Profit by your Country, which you can bear, and continue to support his Majesty's Establishment with Honour: You by the above-mentioned Importations only enrich *France*, *Italy*, *Holland* and *Flanders*: May we not therefore come safely and stand in the midst of you, own we have been of Prejudice to our native Country, and desire the innocent to throw the first Stone; For where is the Difference, I spend a hundred Guineas out of the Kingdom: You send a hundred Guineas to *Holland* for *old China*, to which, *Luxury* has annexed a fantastick Value, in both Cases the 100 Guineas goe out, and nothing of Value is brought in.

If any of these Allegations be true, if there be any reason in this Defence, or rather *Recrimination* of our *Absentees*: Let us begin at home, and first pull the Beam out of our own Eyes.

The grateful Remembrance of the *British Blood* and *Treasure*, spent in Defence of the *Protestant* and *British* Interest of this *Island*, is so strongly impressed on the Minds of all *Irish Protestants*, that nothing could give them greater Pleasure, than to be able to render a considerable Service to *England*, and the *Trade* and *Manufactures* thereof, and at the same time to support his Majesty's Establishment with Honour; The *English* have always been

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been remarkable for Wisdom, and have always made choice of a small Profit which will continue, rather than a temporary great one. Now if the many Drains of *Ireland* continue flowing, the Fountain must be exhausted; then our Establishment must be supported by *England* as formerly: Let us therefore to demonstrate our Gratitude and Affection to *England*, do all that is in our Power to support our sinking Country: Then, and not 'till then, we may expect the Interposition of *Providence* in our favour, Let every one by his Example discourage the Importation of foreign Manufactures, by Foreign is meant those which are not *English*: If such a Conduct was universal, it is not to be doubted, but our Scenes of Sorrow would soon be turned into Joy.

It would be an Insinuation of a very evil tendency, to say, what would this signify, this would only enable our *Absentees* to live out of the Kingdom.

Many of our *Absentees* could live if *Ireland* did not exist, and if those who could not, were obliged to return out of a necessity arising from the Poverty of the Country, we would only be involved with them in one common misery; And it is to be observed that every Body-Politic is made up of Individuals, of which every one is only answerable for his own Actions; And there is not a more universal Proposition; than, *That no one ought to do anything which if universally practised, would become a uni-*
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versal Evil. If I desire every one should be oblig'd to do a *certain Thing*; that I will do; and if that way of thinking was universal, the *Thing* would be done without any Obligation of a *Publick Nature*.

If this be the Case, let every Member of the Society, promote to the utmost the Manufactures of this poor *Island*, if they mean to preserve the Husbandman from breaking, the Manufacturer from starving, and the *Kingdom* from being depopulated.

It is not sufficient for any one to say, such or such a part of my Dress is *Irish*, the whole Man, his Family, his House and his Equipage, must confess themselves Patriots, and have nothing of the *Absentee* about them: If I have 1000 *l.* per *Ann.* and Annually lay out 200 in foreign consumable Commodities, necessary only to *Luxury*, I am one fifth part of an *Absentee*, let me live where I will.

The *Manufacturer* is in strict Justice intitled to the consumption of the Gentleman; for if the Manufacturer consumes the Commodities of the Gentleman, which is the Produce of his Land; the Gentleman ought to consume his; If the Manufacturer enables the Gentleman to live in Grandeur, which he cannot do (let his Estate be ever so large) without him, sure the Manufacturer is intitled to a comfortable Support, with Industry, from the Gentleman, and not be left to starve, when *Italian, French* and *Dutch* Tradesmen are maintained in *Luxury*.

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Among Tradesmen who are upon an Equality, the Rule is, if I consume your Labour, you must consume mine.

But it may be objected, that if we take not off the Commodities of other Countries, they will not accept of ours; This is true of Manufactures, but I don't know of any Manufactures which we export but to *England*, which is always accepted out of this Reasoning: We send the *Necessaries of Life*, and bring home *Toys* nay often send *ready Money* for them.

If the not consuming our own Manufactures be a kind of Robbery, and it is a great Charity to use them, our *Ladies* will be easily convinced, that they are more amiable, when their Dress showers down on them the repeated Blessings of the *Poor* and the *Indigent*, of the *Widow* and the *Fatherless* of their own Country, than when they have only contributed towards enriching *foreign Manufacturers*; The Reflection that they have contributed towards the Support of so many poor Families of their own Country, would give them an inexpressible Peace and Tranquility of Mind in their Devotions, would make their most Solitary Hours chearful, and they would appear with more Lustre in publick. But the Gentlemen, must lead the Way, and convince the World that they think thus, and then 'tis not to be doubted but our *Ladies* who have on all Occasions demonstrated such a Love to their Country, and have acted

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acted in such a continued Course of *Virtue*, will chearfully follow their Example.

What good Clergy-man, that goes into the Pulpit to exhort his Audience to Acts of Charity, setting forth the Rewards of those, who *feed the Hungry* or *cloath the Naked*, whereby a *Treasure is laid up in Heaven*, would not rather appear in an *Irish Linnen Band*, and thereby help to maintain and employ the *Poor* of this Kingdom, than in a *Cambrick* one, which only enriches a *Flanderikin*, or would not rather dispence with the Roughness of an *Irish Stuff Gown*, and do thereby a Service to his Country and Countrymen by whom he is supported, than to indulge in an *Italian Mantua Silk* or *Paduasoye* to the real prejudice of both.

To Act with these Views for the good of our Country, would be a *ROMAN* and true *heroick Virtue*, and if it would

— *vis rectè vivere: quis non?*
Si virtus hoc una potest dare: fortis omisiss
Hoc age deliciis: — HOR.

F I N I S.

0528

Handwritten text on a rectangular piece of paper, possibly a page from a book or a document. The text is extremely faint and illegible due to the quality of the scan. It appears to be organized into several paragraphs or sections, with some lines possibly starting with capital letters or numbers. The paper is held in place by a vertical strip on the right side, which is attached to a black bar at the top containing the number '0528'.