

0485

111-2



GREAT BRITAIN
ARRAIGNED
As of *Felo de se*,
And Found Guilty.

IN A BRIEF
CHRONOLOGY
OF
COMMERCE
From its Original.

3

ALSO

Shewing that the *ENGLISH* is an
Original Language from the Tower
of *BABEL*.

LONDON:

Printed for the Author; and Sold by R. and
J. Bonwicke at the *Red Lion* in *St. Paul's*
Church-Yard: 1721.



Serenissimo Invictissimoq; Princi-
pi Georgio Dei Gratia Magnæ
Britanniæ Franciæ & Hiberniæ
Regi Fidei Defensori, &c.

AUGUSTISSIME REX,

CUM e mercibus e semet productis, ad plenum fabricatis, optimaq; methodo transmare & venditis & venditis, tam gloria quam opulentia Regni hujus illustris e confesso pendent & oriuntur; Cum Nos, Insula, per Deum & naturam ad maximum commercii beneficium designati & quasi sepositi videmur, (væ tamen & ratio mercium & merces ipsa non multis abhinc annis taliter gentibus & precipue Bataris aperta fuere & prostituta ut nunc nullo modo præstat indigenam fore): Cum auspicante Regum Rege ad vestram gubernationem felicissimam, quam Deus diutissime divinâ suâ tueatur providentiâ, per tot pervenimus discrimina; Cum patet Serenissimæ vestre majestatis cura, ad nostras & præsertim has res rescindendas, in auxilio Sueciæ tempestivo, in immune sine vestigali sine tributo ad vestri Harburgi portum Angliis commercium aperiendo, nobis & negotiis nostris maximum pro certo beneficium, in Subditorum commiseratione in d:clarand: publica regni debita onus fore intolerabile,

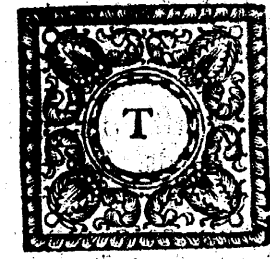
(verba verissima attestantur quam plurima vectigalia, inter lana operarios & pannifices fenestris & candelis gravissima, ideoq; operi ipso in quo contendimus maxime incommoda & damnifica) in monstrando libertates Anglicas per declarationem quod Britannici Principis gloria fuit specialis liberos regere, tales nullo modo nisi per Vestrae Majestatis Fortitudinem & Sapientiam efficiendos, effectos tamen sub Deo & Rege maximum contra Regis & Regni hostes & inimicos propugnaculum & tutamen; Cumq; ad hac patefacienda & promovenda totus hujusce operulae conatus molitur & tendit, fiat hoc mihi in tantillum tanto Regi sub tam inusitato titulo dicandi & presentandi aliquid excusationis. Et dummodo eadem libertas per Proavum vestrum Jacobum Regem Andoverpo, Extero, indulta fuit impune, me nullo modo in vestra Sacrae Majestatis in culpationem per hanc Obedientia & obsequii demonstrationem incidisse vereor, qui semper fui semper futurus,

Vestra Serenissima Majestatis

Verus & Fidelis Subditus.



Oh Fortunatos nimium bona si suavorint.



THE Illustrious Prince the Duke of Rohan in his Treatise of the distinct Interest of all the Princes and States of Christendom tells us, that France and Spain are the two Poles of Christendom, from whence descend the Influences of Peace and War upon the other States. But likewise tells us that England is a little World apart, and that Queen Elizabeth by the improvement of her Commerce did Equal the greatest Princes. And having made some severe Reflections upon the conduct of her Successor King James the first, he likewise tells us that England is a mighty Animal that will never Dye unless it kills it self: which odd Expression from so great a Man of thought, with a Maxim that he laid down in the Preface of his Book, the Princes Command the People, and the Interest Commands the Princes, according as it is Well or Ill understood, it makes States to Live, or Dye. It makes me think that he pointed out the dismal Tragedy which happened in the Succeeding Reign; which hath induced me to fix this so odd a Title; as a Buoy upon the Thames to avoid an Anchor, or a Light-house to point out some dangerous Sands, nothing being considered with greater Regret, and Reluctance than the Fate of that Person who was

(6)

was his own Executioner; and it is lamentable to consider the dismal Effects of our unhappy Divisions, by which other Nations obtain their Ends. And having made a diligent Search after the Original and Progress of Commerce; by which it appears to me that we have been imposed upon by Foreign Historians both in our Descent and Language, I have adventured (in great Submission) to offer the Reasons upon which this my Opinion is grounded: owning it to be a bold Undertaking to contradict that, which for Ages past hath been received (with Satisfaction) by Men of Learning, and Volumes of Histories now standing depend thereupon, in which I shall make my Story very short, and expect no more than fair Quarter as I am a *Brittain*.

Verstigan of *Antwerp*, who I think is the last Foreign Historian, begins his Book with these Words. *English* Men are descended of *German* Race, which is as it were the Tree from which *English* Men as a most Stately and Flourishing Branch are issued, and spring forth. He dates his Book from *Antwerp* the 7th of *February*, *Stilo Novo*. 1605. under the Title of a *Restitution of decayed Intelligence in Antiquity*; and dedicates it to King *James* the first of Great *Brittain*. A Book very well attested by his Country Men.

In the first place, he fixed the Original of the *Germans* from the Tower of *Babel*, and tells us they were lead thence by *Tuisco*, who was the great Grand Child of *Japhet*, which I find chiefly grounded upon their calling themselves *Tuitish*, and their Country *Tuitishland*, as they say from their God *Tuisco*, which at such distance of time may be subject to mistake, and I think a slender Foundation to Build upon, finding my Author to be, at a very great loss in fixing the Time when this Conductor of the *Germans*, from the Tower of *Babel*, brought them thence into *Europe*.

He tells us *pag. 33.* that it was the Opinion of *Occa* that they came into *Germany* in the Year of the Creation

(7)

ation of the World, 3670. others, he tells us make their coming to be 70 Years after, and others that it was in the Time of *Tiberius* the Emperor; and he farther debates the matter with himself upon the way of their coming, whether by Land, or by Sea, and gives his Opinion that they came by Land: So that in short I take the matter to stand thus. The Flood according to the best Opinions, was in the Year of the Creation of the World, 1656. and the Tower of *Babel* began to be Built one Hundred Years after, and was Forty Years a Building, which makes 1796. So that allowing the time of their coming into *Germany*, to be according to *Occa*, it must be 1874 Years to make up the 3670. from the Creation of the World, as he tells us the *Germans* came into *Europe*. And *pag. 10.* he gives his Opinion, that the same Man that brought them from the Tower of *Babel*, had likewise the conduction of them out of *Asia* into *Europe*, Which if so, by this Account he must be almost double the Age of *Metbuslah*; and my Author doth not make the least mention where these Followers of *Tuisco* resided, during that long space of Time. The World doubtless was Peopled by slow paces according to Human Apprehension, and we are told, that a Thousand Years is but as one Day with the Great Creator.

I come next to consider the first time that the *English* took their beginning, which my Author tells us *pag. 118.* was at the time that *Hingistus*, and his Brother *Horsus*, came into *Brittain*, which was in the Year of our Lord 447, which was Five Hundred Years after the *Romans* had the sole Government of the Island by their own tributary Kings, or by such Lieutenants as they appointed over them, as he tells us *pag. 115.* and in the Epistle of his Book to the *Brittish* Nation, he is angry with *John Boden*, for saying that *Caesar* in his Commentaries made mention of the *English*, which if so, his whole Fabrick tumbles. He

He Quarrels likewise with an *English* Author, that began his Epistle with *Constantine* the great and mighty Emperour, the Son of *Helen* an *English* Woman, as likewise with the Title of the Dictionary which is in *Latin* and *English*. *Theſaurus Linguae Romanae & Britannicae*, which had been true, he tells us; if the Dictionary had been *Latin* and *Welsh*, for that the Language now of us called *Welsh*, is properly the ancient *Brittish* Tongue, and *English* not so, nor ever was. The *Brittains* are likewise mention'd by our Poets, as *Horace* and *Virgil*; *Purpurea intecti tollant aulea Britanni*.

The next Difficulty that in this case I find my Author to be under is with King *Brute*, who by conquering the more Ancient Inhabitants obtained the Rule and Dominion over all *Albion*, which after him the Conqueror thereof, became according to the most general Opinion to be called *Brittain*, and that he divided the Kingdom between his Three Sons *Lochrine*, *Albanact*, and *Camber*; and in the Margent of his Book it is said, that *Brute* arriv'd in *Albion* about the 3000 Year of the World; and pag. 90, he clears the Doubt that some had taken up, whether ever there was such a Man as *Brute*, and tells you there was such a King; and that of him both the Country; and People of *Great Brittain* had heretofore their Appellation, it both is, and hath been the received Opinion. These are his Words.

And I find him still under a greater Difficulty in fixing the Place, from whence King *Brute* with his Attendants came into this Island, and to what People he did belong, his coming out of *Italy*, for having by Misfortune kill'd his Father *Saluvius* in shooting a Deer, his Descent from *Troy* with the remnant of the *Trojans*, he tells us are fabulous, and that it standeth with far more liklihood of Truth, (he is not positive) seeing out of *Gallia*, he came into *Albion*, that we hold him for some Prince of the same Country, and Nation, of the which Nation his People can no less be

be accounted to have been, and far more honourable it is (a perfect Wheedle) for the *Brittains* to derive their Descent from so Great, so Ancient, and so Honourable a People as the *Gauls* then were, than with so much Obscurity and Unlikelihood of Truth to seek so far off, to fetch their Descent from no better Ancestors than the poor miserable Fugitives of a destroyed City, making the Conqueror and the Conquered the same People and Language: And to make this his Opinion the more plausible, he proves that *Brittain* was no Island at the Creation of the World, but firm Land with *France*. In which, having before told us that King *Brute* conquered the Ancient Inhabitants, he seems to run counter to himself. And by other Historians we are told, that the *Phenicians* who came hither neither from *Italy*, nor *Troy*, were the People that conquered the first Inhabitants of this Island; and to me there is a far greater likelihood that King *Brute* was their General, and that the *English* Language was Established by him, as hereafter may appear. My Author hath filled up sixteen Pages of his Book, with Reasons and Fish Bones, to prove this Island to be fix'd to *France*, in very little Satisfaction to me; one of which, that he tells us is very considerable, I thought good to recite.

The *Patriarch Noah*, he tells us, having had with him in the Ark all sorts of Beasts (all else besides thro' the whole world being destroyed) these then after the Flood being put forth off the Ark to encrease and multiply, did afterward in time disperse themselves over all parts of the Continent or main Land, but long after, (it could not be before) the ravenous Wolf had made his kind nature known unto Man, and therefore no Man, unless he were mad, would ever transport of that Race for the Goodness of the Breed, out of the Continent into any Isles, but being fixt to the Continent in Consequence they themselves did pass over. And to prove that there were Wolves in this

B

Island,

Island, he tells us that King *Edgar* took order for destroying them throughout the whole Realm; which general Destruction they well deserved by a King's Command, having before that King's time been the Destruction of two Kings of the *Brittains*, which were, *Madan*, and *Mempricius*.

King *Edgar* lived above Two Thousand Years after *Noah's Ark*; and Historians tell us, that he remitted to the *Welch* a Tribute of Twenty Pounds Weight of Gold, Three Hundred Pounds Weight of Silver, and Twenty Hundred Head of Cattle, obtained of them by King *Ethelstan*, in Consideration of Three Hundred Wolves a Year; which I always thought was for the preservation of his Flocks of Sheep; and likewise shews a Contest between the *Welch* and the *Brittains*. I can't tell but my Author may be mistaken in the Wolves that destroyed the two Kings. He tells us, pag. 236. That the word *Werewolf* in the *Theutonick*, is as much as to say a *Manwolfe*; and that the Greek Word *Lycanthropus* is the very same, (which by it's sound may signifie a Lawyer) and then the Wonder may not be so great that the Two Kings, *Madan* and *Mempricius*, were by them destroyed. He likewise tells us of one *Peter Stump*, that was put to a miserable Death at *Bedbar*, not far from *Cullen*, for being a *Werwolfe*, and having destroyed Thirteen Children, two Women, and one Man; the Flesh of divers parts of his Body was pulled out with hot Iron Tongs, his Arms, Thighs, and Legs, broken on a Wheel, and his Body burnt. By the last Act that was signed by *Henry* the 6th, the Lawyers in the Counties of *Norfolk*, and *Suffolk*, were reduced from Fourscore, to Fourten (and Immediately the King dethroned.) And the Lord *Bacon* tells us, that one *Flamock* a Lawyer by his voluble Tongue stirred up the *Cornish-Men* into a Rebellion against *Henry* the 7th, and was hang'd for his pains.

I will in the next place consider the chief Support of my Author's Opinion, viz. the Etymology and like Sound of Words, (a Critical Paraphrast, like a fanciful

fanciful Man beholding the Shapes in the Clouds, may frame likeness to himself, and believe them so, when there is no solid Ground) in which I can't but admire his Patience, having made an Alphabetical Dictionary, though under correction of quicker Eyes, very little Satisfaction to me. I am of his Opinion, I must confess, that the Use of so many Latonized Words is no Credit to the *British* Language, and always thought that Man shew'd his own Weakness, that thereby clouded his Meaning; but can't but take notice of what my Author himself tells us, Page 27. That it hath been the Opinion of some, that the *Saxon* Language sprang out of the *Persian*, from the near Affinity and Sound of Words, some indeed the very same, as *Chodar*, *Pbedar*, *Madan*, *Beradar*, *Dotchtar*, *Star*, *Band*; and I dare say so many *English* Words can't be found that are Exact the same with the *Saxon*. He likewise tells us that in the Year 1601. he wrote to an Acquaintance of his in *Italy* when *Sir Anthony Serley*, and *Cuckin Ollibeag* were Ambassadors there from the King of *Persia*, desiring him to confer with the best Interpreters in their Train to know what Affinity there might be between the *Dutch* and the *Persian* Speech, for there were that spoke them exceeding well; but after they had used their Memories as well as they might, they could find but about these half dozen Words here set down, that could seem to have dependance on the *Dutch*, but more Words by odds there may be found in the same Tongue that seem to have dependance upon the *Latin*, and yet for all that they are far too few to make an Affinity between the *Latin*, and *Persian* Language; as are the broken *Latin* Words that are found in the *Welch* Tongue, able to bring a nearness between the *Latin*, and the *Welch*: And I have heard that a Man may find in the *Irish*, some that sound of the *Hebrew*, but they help little to make *Irishmen* thereby the better *Hebricians*; and he that will observe it shall find divers

Words, in divers other most different Languages, that also agree together: He hath translated some few Lines of the first Chapter of *Genesis* into the *Persian* Language, with *Latin* fixt against it, when in this case to me *Dutch* had been more proper: If Seventy Two Languages sprang from the Confusion of the Tower of *Babel*, it is beyond Human Apprehension to conceive how so many Languages could be Established without more Words of the same sound; and I am of Opinion that the *Italian*, *Spanish*, and *French* are Original Languages from the Tower of *Babel*; so that upon this Topick *Verstigan Verstigianum*. Thus much for *Verstigan* at present.

By other Historians we are told that the *Phœnicians* were the first People that conquered the Ancient Inhabitants of this Island; described by *Bocartus* to be an industrious People, and famed for promoting of Commerce, that they were driven out of their own Country by the *Israelites*, and took their descent from *Anak*; we are likewise told that they industriously conceal'd the valuable Products of this Island which they found here, from other Nations, of which they make no other mention but of Lead, and Tin, which they tell us were Commodities of great value in the *Mediterranean*: And likewise relate a memorable Passage from *Strabo* (a very considerable Author that lived in the time of our Saviour) of a Ship that was voluntarily sunk by the *Phœnicians*, sailing from *Britain*, to *Cadiz*, purely to conceal her Freight from a *Roman* Vessel that followed her; and that the Loss of the Goods was afterwards made good out of the common Treasury of the *Phœnicians*, which must be at the City of *Tyre*, that City being built by them; which Fact must in all likelihood happen in the Infancy of Navigation, and Commerce, and before King *Brute* got the sole Possession of the Island; without doubt when that was done they secured all Advantages to themselves, which might be their principal Aim, as the

the *Dutch* at this time have got the Spice Islands to themselves, and it is no way to be doubted but a strict Charge was given to all their Sailors to conceal their Lading, otherwise the Master of his own accord would never have sunk his Ship. Nor is the *Roman* Zeal at all to be wonder'd at, when so prodigious a Commerce was carried on at the City of *Tyre*, by an intercourse of Ships through the *Mediterranean*, which was so near to the *Romans*; and although there is no mention made of Wool by any foreign Historian, it being their principal Interest in general to have the value of that conceal'd, I believe this Ship was laden with Wool; had it been wholly laden with Tin and Lead, the Master had been under no Necessity of sinking his Ship; that Freight had easily been thrown over board in his sailing. We have likewise farther Ground to believe that Wool was carried up to the City of *Tyre*, from an Act of Parliament made in the 18th Year of *Henry* the Sixth, where a Liberty was obtain'd by the *Venetians* to fetch our Wool, and carry it up the Streights of *Morocco*, and from which at that time the *Venetians* became a very considerable People, as hereafter may appear: which is likewise farther strengthen'd by the present course of Trade to *Aleppo*, where the City of *Tyre* at that time stood, which is chiefly with Bails of Cloth, and Lead and Tin the Ballast. And as we are told by *Bocartus*, that these *Phœnicians* were driven out of their Country by the *Israelites*, it is a farther proof to me that King *Brute* was their Leader: finding this Account in *John Slaiden's* History of the Four Monarchies of the World, the first of which he begins from *Noah's* Flood, which was in the Year of the Creation of the World 1656, making *Nimrod* the first King in the *Babylonian* Monarchy, who was succeeded by his Son *Jupiter Belus*, that was subdued by *Ninus*, who was reckon'd the first Monarch succeeded by his Wife *Semiramis*, and she followed by *Zamis*, *Arius*, *Arialus*, *Balius*, *Armatrites*, *Belocus*,

(14)

Belocus, and *Belius*, and so down to *Sardanapalus*, who was the last King in the *Babylonian* Monarchy, when it had stood Thirteen Hundred Years. *Belocus* of *Babylon* was the first King in the *Persian* Monarchy, who made *Hezekiah* pay him Tribute, and he was succeeded by *Phalasar*, who took divers Cities in *Samaria*, and led the Children of *Israel* Captive into *Assyria*, which made up the Three Thousand Years from the Creation of the World, which all Historians agree was the time that King *Brute* with his Three Sons came into *Albion*; and there may be some ground to believe that the coming of these *Israelites* into *Assyria* might force some of the *Phanicians* from their Habitations, or at least quicken their designed Expedition. And I am now to make good my Opinion from Sacred Writ. A more speedy dispersing of People to remote parts of the World, as well as the Establishment of quite different Languages to possess the several Districts and Bounds of the Earth, was doubtless the chief end of the wise Creator of the Universe, by the Confusion of Language at the Tower of *Babel*, with a farther Aim likewise that there should be a mutual Commerce between Nations; which is seemingly pointed out by his wise distribution of some particular Favour, or Blessing, to each Nation, or People; for the promoting of Commerce: To the *East-Indians* the Spicery, to the *West-Indians* the Silver Mines and *Cocheneal*, to the Island of great *Brittain* Wool, Tin, and Lead, to others in a like degree with some Species or other: which *Seneca* tells us the Ebbing and Flowing of the Sea, and frequent change of the Winds, do likewise declare, and point out: and as the Island of *Great Brittain* is bounded by the Sea, and could have no Correspondence with other Nations but by Shipping, I find the inspired Patriarch *Jacob* in his Last Will hath therein took particular care, by making his favourite Son *Zebulon* a Merchant: He was the Sixth Son by Birth, but is made the

Fifth

(15)

Fifth in his Father's Will, *Zebulon* shall dwell at the Haven of the Sea, and shall be for a Haven of Ships, and his Borders shall be unto *Zidon*. *Genesis* 49. ver. 13. By Divine Inspiration Navigation soon sprung up, and according to the particular appointment of his place of residence, *his Borders shall be unto Zidon*; I find by *Hyllen* that the *Tyrians* were the first People that undertook the Art of Navigation, *Prima ratem ventis credere docta Tyros*. And from the City of *Tyre* which stood near to the place that *Aleppo* now stands, I believe they try'd their new Sails down the *Mediterranean*, pass'd the *Streights*, and came to this Island as it was the particular place that stood in need of such a correspondence, and as it had likewise the blessing of Wool, Tin, and Lead, the best freight for their Ships in return. We have also a particular Instance of the Industry of their Women in Spinning of Wool, we read, *Exodus* 35. ver. 25. that *all the Women that were wisebearded, did Spin with their hand, and ver. 35. Them hath he filled with Wisdom of heart, to work all manner of Work, of the Engraver, and of the cunning workman and of the Embroiderer in Blue, and in Purples, in Scarlet and in fine Linnen, and of the Weaver.* And *Exodus* 48. ver. 23. we read of an Embroiderer in Blue, Purple and Scarlet, which could never be obtain'd in so short a time but by Divine Inspiration; the Scarlet, the *Tyrian* Dye so often mentioned in History, being to this very time the Glory of the Woollen Manufacture, which was doubtless transmitted from *Tyre* to *Rome*, from thence to the *Flemmings*, afterwards to this Island, as we find in the Reign of *Henry 7.* at which time it was so taking a Colour and sold so dear, that an Act of Parliament was made that a Yard of Scarlet Cloth should not be sold for more than sixteen Shillings, which according to the Standard of the Coin now, is Twenty four Shillings; and that which in this case is most material, how this Colour is made, the *Cocheneal* from the *West Indies*, Tin and *Copperas* from *Great Brittain*, Salt Peter from the *East Indies*; and if the Learned

Dr.

Dr. Read may be allowed his Opinion, that the conversing of distant Nations by Letters was, *Ars caelo delapsa virus*, an Art of an Heavenly extraction; much more this. Had *Aristotle* beheld the Dyer pouring melted Tin into Water to divide it into small particles in order to the making this glorious Colour, by qualifying a Spirit extracted out of Salt-peter, and Copperas, to Spirit up the Cochineal to its glorious Lustre, it would have puzzled his Understanding. It was certainly found out by Divine Inspiration: and in *Leviticus* 36. we read of *Warp*, and *Woof*, which are the Terms used for the *Chain*, and *Shute* at this time; and we have farther ground to believe a Divine Inspiration from a second Blessing that was given to *Zebulon*, by *Moses* the Man of God upon his Death Bed, *Deuteronomy* 33. ver. 18. *Rejoyce Zebulon in thy going out*; as if he had then been setting out a Fleet of Ships for some distant Country; ver. 19. *for they shall suck of the abundance of the Seas, and of Treasures hid in the Sands*; and the advance of Riches and Power that sprung from thence is manifest from *Judges* 12. ver. 11. where we read that *Elon*, a *Zebulonite*, Judged *Israel* Twelve Years; and much more from *Hiram* King of *Tyre*, who voluntarily built a House for King *David*, as we read in the second Book of *Samuel* Chap. 5. ver. 11. whose Assistance *Solomon* likewise wanted in the Building of his Temple: the First Book of *Kings*, Chap. 5. ver. 6. *For thou knowest that there is none amongst us that can skill to hew Timber like the Zidonians*; and Chap. 7. ver. 14. we read that the curious Brass Work of the Temple was done by a Man of *Tyre*; and Chap. 9. ver. 27. it appears that when King *Solomon* had got Ships ready to fetch the Gold of *Ophir*, that *Hiram* King of *Tyre* lent him his Seamen to guide his Ships; from whence it is evident that the greatest Improvement in Arts and Sciences do spring from Commerce, and that the Glory, and Magnificence of *Solomon's* Temple was owing to Merchandize. Which brings me to the High Characters given of the Merchandize

chandize of *Tyre*, and *Zidon*, by the Inspired Prophets *Isaiab*, *Ezekiel*, and *Zechariab*, and that they traded to this Island. And first I will consider the Navigation of *Tyre*, and *Zidon*, from the Expression of the Prophet *Isaiab*, Chap. 23. ver. 3. *The Harvest of the River is her Revenue*, alluding to the short time of Harvest in which the Husbandman collects his whole Year's Labour, as likewise shewing that the whole Crop, and Benefit of the Merchandize of the Sea was in their Hands; and *Ezekiel* upon the same Subject, Chap. 27. ver. 9. *All the Ships of the Sea, with her Mariners, were in thee to occupy thy Merchandize*; and the building of their Ships is as plainly described in this Chap. ver. 5. *They have made all thy Ship Boards of Fir Tree of Senir, they have taken Cedars from Libanon to make Masts for thee, ver. 6. of the Oaks of Basan they have made thine Oars, the Company of Ashurites have made thy Benches of Ivory, brought out of the Isles of Chittim.* A full Description of the Materials with which their Ships were Built, and by which it is evident they had a Glorious Fleet. I am next to shew the Extent of their Merchandize, and that they Traded to this Island, ver. 12. *With Silver, Iron, Tin, and Lead they Traded in thy Fairs.* Tin, and Lead, are the peculiar Commodities of this Island, and that with which our Historians tell us the *Phœnicians* Ship that was voluntarily sunk was wholly Laden; and a very considerable Article of Trade at this time; and altho' foreign Historians make no mention of Wool, the Inspired Prophet hath given us our due, ver. 8. *Damascus was thy Merchant in the multitude of the Wares of thy making, the multitude of all Riches, in the Wine of Helbon, and white Wool*; the Multitude of Wares and all Riches must have their reference to the *White Wool*, plenty of which without peradventure was brought from this Island to this Grand Mart of *Tyre*, and sold to other Towns, and places of its Manufacture, from which sprang the Riches before recited; and from the Epithete *white* given to the Wool, and the Expression

pression in the Psalmist, *he giveth Snow like Wool*, it is evident to me that this Island from hence was called *Albion*. *Exuberans candore nives*, ver. 15. *The Men of Dedan were thy Merchants, many Isles were the Merchandize of thy Hands*: the Isle of *Albion* in this verse doth seem to me, to be particularly pointed out, *Dedan* being a second time express'd, ver. 20. *Dedan was thy Merchant for the precious clothes for Chariots*, for the making of which nothing is so proper as the Wool of this Island, and the Merchandize from Isles being four times express'd in this Chapter, it leaves no room for me to doubt of a settled Commerce between the City of *Tyre* and this Island, from its first Sailing, to its Overthrow: and if at this Time *Great Brittain* was an Island, I believe it was so from the Creation of the World, notwithstanding *Vershigan's* Opinion. It is farther evident from the particular Commodities which in this Chapter were mentioned, as *Emeralds*, *Purple*, and *Broider'd Work*, *Fine Linnen*, *Coral*, and *Agate*, *Honey*, and *Oyl*, *Balm*, *Bright Iron*, *Cassia*, and *Calimus*, the chief of all Spices, and with all precious Stones, and *Gold*: that the City of *Tyre* Traded Eastward, and to other remote Parts of the World, as well as down the *Mediterranean* to this Island; and I will appeal to the thoughts of any knowing Merchant, in averring that it was impossible that this greatness in Trade could be Established without the Wool, Tin, and Lead of this Island. The Prophet *Isaiab* tells us, Chap. 23. ver. 3. *She is the Mart of Nations*, ver. 8. *the Crowning City; Whose Merchants are Princes, whose Traffickers are the Honourable of the Earth*; *Ezekiel* 27. ver. 32. *What City is like Tyrus?* ver. 33. *Thou didst enrich the Kings of the Earth with the multitude of thy Riches, and Merchandize*. *Zechariah* Chap. 9. ver. 3. *And Tyrus did Build her self a strong hold, and heaped up Silver as the Dust, and fine Gold as the Mire of the Streets*. And from these considerations that *Zebulon* was a Merchant, that this Island could have no Correspondence but by Merchandize, and

and Navigation, the early intercourse that in all likelihood was Establish'd between *Tyre* and this Island, the Opinion of our Historians that the *Phanicians* that Built the City of *Tyre*, were the first People that conquered the Ancient Inhabitants, the Ship that was voluntarily sunk by them to conceal her Freight from a *Roman Vessel* that followed her, the near Affinity hereby to *Zebulon*; who can think otherwise but that the *English* are *Zebulonites* by descent, as we are the most considerable Trading People in the World, and an Original Language from the Tower of *Babel*. And if any stress may be laid upon what *Bo-cartus* tells us, that the *Phanicians* claim a Relation to *Anak*, that Character seems to be particularly preserved in the Stature, Spirit, and Courage of the *Brittains*, as was lately manifest at the Seige of *Namur*, and upon the *Danube*; *Deutrenomy* 9. ver. 2. *A People Great and Tall, the Children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, who can stand before the Children of Anak? who can stand before the Brittains?* But alas! Answerable to the Greatness of the City of *Tyre*, was likewise their Pride, such is the Ingratitude of Human Nature, *Ezekiel* 28. ver. 2. *I am a God, I sit in the Seat of God in the midst of the Seas*. And as remarkable their Fall and Overthrow, *thou shalt fall into the midst of the Seas, and never shalt be any more*: ver. 36. *All the Inhabitants of the Isles shall be astonished*. It was doubtless astonishing News to their Friends, and Correspondents in this Isle.

I am next to consider the course of Trade from hence, and am told that the *Greecians* were the next People that possess'd this Island, but can find no Foot-Steps of Commerce that was Establish'd there, either in Sacred, or Foreign History; what the Fable of *Jason* Sailing to *Colchos* with his Noblemen the Flower of all *Greece* upon his new-built Ship the *Argo*, to fetch the *Golden Fleece* might allude to, I can't tell: and we have high Characters of *Solon* and *Lycurgus*, from his

his Sumptuary Laws, but rather think from the Roman Vessel that chased the Phœnician Ship, that they were the next People that fetch'd the Products of this Island, possibly many Years before *Cæsar* came and got the sole Possession, after which doubtless the *Romans* secured the whole Benefit to themselves, which was very considerable; otherwise *Cæsar* would not have come the second time, as our Histories tell us he did: and during the Five Hundred Years that they had the sole Command of the Island, sprang up likewise their Grandeur, and sunk from the very time they left it. It was but one part of *Germany* of all Christendom but they conquered, and as hereby they were advanced to a like pitch of Greatness with the *Assyrians*, I believe from the Satyr of *Juvenal*, they came to the like degree of Lewdness, and that the Whoredoms of *Mesalina*, *Iberina*, *Hippia*, *Largia*, *Tullia*, and *Tuckia*, which in his Satyr are particularly named, did equal *Abolab*, and *Abolibab*, mentioned by the Prophet *Ezekiel*, and that their overthrow from hence was very remarkable. *Verstigan* tells us, that by an Invasion made on them by *Atilla* King of the *Hunn's* in their own Country, they were forced to give over, and relinquish the Rule and Protection of the *Brittains*, and draw their best Men of Arms for their Aid, and Service, out of *Brittany* into other parts, at which time the *Brittains* elected *Vortiger* to be their King, who being oppressed by the *Scots* and *Picts* sent over for Assistance to the *Germans*, and that *Hingistus* and *Horsus* in the Year of our Lord 447. came with Nine thousand Men from *Westphalia*, *Friesland*, and *Holland*, in Three long Ships, then called *Keeles*; which I am of Opinion were the chief places of the Manufacture of the Wool of this Island, whilst it was in the possession of the *Romans*, and the obtaining of the Wool of this Island to themselves was the chief end of their coming; nor doth it appear to me that the *Saxons* had ever a like command in this Island as the

Romans

Romans had before them. He likewise tells us that *Hingistus* at an Entertainment of King *Vortiger* brought in the fine Lady *Rowena* with a Cup of Gold fill'd with Wine in her Hand, and making in very seemingly manner a low Reverence unto the King, said with a pleasing Grace and Countenance in our Ancient Language, *Wæs heal blaford Cyning*; which being rightly expounded according to our present Speech is, *Be of health Lord King*. The King not understanding what she said, demanded it of his Chamberlain who was his Interpreter, and when he knew what it was, he ask'd him how he might again answer her in her own Language, whereof being inform'd, he said unto her, *Drinc heal*, that is to say, *Drink healib* of the Beauty of this Lady: the King took so great liking, that he became exceedingly enamour'd with her, and desired to have her in Marriage, which *Hingistus* agreed unto, upon condition that the King should give unto him the whole County of *Kent*, whereunto he willingly condescended, and divorcing himself from his former married Wife, married with the *Saxon* Lady *Rowena*. After which *Hingistus* obtaining likewise hereby *Middlesex*, *Essex*, and *Suffolk*; (there grew so great an Aversion in the *Brittains* against their King, that they dethroned him, and elected his eldest Son *Vortimer* into his Father's Dignity) which was the whole extent of Land that came into the hands of the *Saxons*, and this obtained by the Beauty of *Rowena*. And to believe that the *English* Tongue in so short a time sprung out of the *Saxon*, when King *Vortiger* did not understand one Word that the Lady *Rowena* said, I think is swallowing, without chewing; nor do I find that it was with any great Difficulty that they were driven hence by the *Danes*, which shews that their footing was not so great, neither doth it appear that any Alteration was made in the course of Trade by the *Danes*, but as the Wool of this Island was worked up in *Westphalia*, *Friesland*, and *Holland* at the time they

came

came into this Island, it so continued down to the Reign of King *Edward* the Third; and what History can be depended upon in any relation of the Affairs of this Island down to *William* the Conquerour, when it had been divided into several Dominions amongst themselves, and were in Subjection to the *Phenicians*, the *Romans*, the *Saxons*, and the *Danes*; during which times it's reasonable to believe that they parted with their Wool at a miserable low Price, I believe not above One Fathing a Pound: For I find by an Act of Parliament in the Twenty fifth Year of King *Henry* the Eighth, that Fourteen Pounds of Wool was sold at Eighteen Pence.

From *William* the Conqueror, which was in the Year 1066. there was a Succession of Kings, and Queens, down to *Oliver Cromwell*: And in the Reign of *Henry* the Second I find a Lady sprung up, that out-shone the Lady *Rowena*, the fair *Rosamund*; as likewise that a Contract was made between King *Henry* the Third, and the *Saxons*, in the Fifteenth Year of his Reign, at which time he granted them a Charter with a parcel of Ground call'd the *Stillyard*, to Negotiate their Merchandize Custom-free, under the Title of *Merchants of the Hanse of Almaine of the house Guibalda Theutonicorum*: which Charter was never totally overthrown until the Fifth and Sixth Year of King *Edward* the Sixth. What Ground they lost in the Freedom of their Trade in one King's Reign, they got by their Gold in the next: which brings me to the Twenty fifth Year of his Son King *Edward* the First, at which time a Toll of Forty Shillings a Sack was collected out of each Sack of Wool exported. This wise Prince having in the Thirteenth Year of his Reign, by his Statute *De donis conditionalibus*, entail'd the Lands of *England*, and by this extraordinary Tax tryed its Strength: I will date the beginning of our Happiness from this King's Reign, his Father having granted to the *Hanse Towns* for a good Sum of Money a Liberty of Traffick

Traffick at the *Stillyard* Custom-free; the Payment of this Toll was doubtless to them very irksome, and they stir'd up the People to a loud Complaint against it, notwithstanding which they were forced to pay it, and it brought in an immense Sum of Money, it being according to the present Standard Six Pounds a Sack; the Manufacturers belonging to those Towns could not subsist themselves without it, as by many subsequent Examples may be seen, of People hereby drawn from thence to this Kingdom by King *Edward* the Third, and Queen *Elizabeth*, and from this Kingdom into *Holland*, and the *Palatinate* in the Reign of King *James* the First, and his Son King *Charles*; and it is evident by the Example of King *Edward* the Third, who afterward charged it upon an extraordinary Occasion with Fifty Shillings a Sack, which brought in a Thousand Pound a Day, as Sir *Walter Rawleigh* tells us; that it was no dangerous Tax, but bore by the Consumers abroad, nor do I think that the Breeders of the Wool here were much injured, Wool before this time I dare say was sold at a very low Price: What was the first Duty upon Wool is to me uncertain, what was laid by King *Edward* the Third in the Twenty Seventh Year of his Reign was Six Shillings Eight Pence a Sack, containing Twenty Six Stone, the Stone Fourteen Pounds, to be paid by the Natives, and Ten Shillings by Aliens; and notwithstanding any Duty, this wise Prince thought it a far greater Advantage to have it worked up in his own Kingdom, and put a total stop to its Exportation for a short time, which drew many of the Manufacturers from the *Hanse Towns*; and from Invasions he hereby came to Conquests abroad, and by getting of *Calais* he establish'd there a grand Mart for the disposal of that Wool which was not work'd up in his own Kingdom, which Duty at *Calais* brought in Sixty Eight Thousand Pounds a Year, as is express'd in the Act of King *Henry* the Sixth, *Vicesimo Septimo*

Septimo, Chap. 2. As all the exported Wool of his Kingdom was brought to *Calais*, it hugely advanced his Navigation, Wool being a bulky Commodity; otherwise he had never appear'd upon the Coast of *France* with Eleven Hundred Sail of Ships, as our Histories tell us. From these Two Reigns the Glory of the *Brittish* Kingdom was hereby advanced by Commerce, the last Act but one that this Excellent King signed, was, that no Cloth should be exported before it was Fulled; and which is very remarkable, the *Hanse Towns* by their Gold in the succeeding Reign recover'd the whole again; they obtain'd first a Liberty to import their Cloth of all Kinds, by an Act made in the Second Year of King *Richard* the Second, and in the Fifth a Free Liberty of the Wool for a limited Time, which soon overthrew the Fabricks of Cloth Establish'd by his Grandfather, and the Habits of the Kingdom were soon chang'd; Our Histories tell us, that a fine Coat was made for the young Prince, that was worth Thirty Thousand Marks, and that Sir *John Arundel* lost Thirty Sutes of Cloth of Gold and Tissue, Sailing to *Brittany*. He was soon dethroned, and King *Henry* the Fourth in his stead, of the House of *Lancaster*, which secured the *Hanse Towns* in their Commerce the three succeeding Reigns, by the Quarrel between the Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*. The Government in the Minority of King *Henry* the Sixth did a little exert their Power in bringing all the Wool of the Kingdom to the Staple at *Calais*, and in the Tenth Year, this Law passed, all Wools and Woolfells, that shall be carried to any other place than *Calis*, shall be forfeited to the King, and the Finder; which was doubtless a good Act. In the Eighteenth Year of this King it was made Felony, to carry any Wool, or Woolfells, to any other Place than *Calis*, saving such that pass the Streights of *Morocco*; which gave it a loose to *Zeland*, *Brabant*, and *Holland*, and the Cloth Trade was so far advanc'd there, that

that the Duke of *Burgoine* put a total stop to the Importation of any *English* Cloth into his Dominions; upon which this Act was made *Anno Vicefimo Septimo Henry* the Sixth Chap. 1. If Woollen Cloths made in this Realm be prohibited in *Brabant*, *Zeland*, and *Holland*, then no Merchandize growing or wrought there, within the Dominion of the Duke of *Burgoine*, shall come into *England* upon pain of Forfeiture thereof; and it appears in the next Chapter, that the Customs of *Calis* by this Felony was sunk to Twelve Thousand Pounds a Year, which in the Reign of King *Edward* the Third was Sixty Eight Thousand Pounds a Year, as is express'd in the Statute. This King was hereby dethroned, and the *Stillyard* Merchants attacked by King *Edward* the Fourth, their Charter Examined, and continued unto them upon the Payment of a considerable Sum of Money, and likewise upon this strict Condition, that they should Colour no Foreigners Goods, as appears by the Journals of King *Edward* the Sixth, and many good Laws made after the Example of King *Edward* the Third; that no Cloth should be Imported from Foreign Parts, with Sumptuary Laws for the Wear of that was made in *England*, and whether this did not put those Towns upon Assisting King *Henry* the Sixth to the recovery of his Crown, which for some short time he did, may be matter of thought: Which brings me to the Reign of King *Richard* the Third, and King *Henry* the Seventh, the First of which upon his coming to the Throne, (finding the Kingdom full of *Callicoes* and *Indian* Fabricks brought hither by the *Italian* Merchants, who, as I shew'd before, received our Wool up the Streights of *Morocco*, and being likewise in the Possession of the *East India* Trade, were become very considerable Merchants) made a very severe Act to the total overthrow and extirpation of those *Indian* Fabricks, upon very great Penalties upon the said Merchants if they in the least transgress, which

D Act

Act of his gave him the Reputation of a Wise Prince; and notwithstanding his sudden Overthrow, the Act was so well approv'd of by King Henry the Seventh, that in the First Year of his Reign this Law pass'd, viz. the Statute of Richard the Third touching Italian Merchants, and other Strangers whatever, and the Penalties, Forfeitures, and Seizures therein limited, be revoked from all others, and by this Statute be given to the King only; with a full Intent without doubt, to have the Act fully executed. It was likewise at this time enacted, that Aliens made Denizens by the King's Letters Patents, or by Act of Parliament, should pay Aliens Duties, and in Opposition to the Charter of the *Hanse Towns*, he establish'd a Company of Merchants to carry on the Cloth Trade for *Flanders, Brabant, and Holland*, exclusive of all others; gave them the Title of *Merchant Adventurers*, and establish'd their Residence at *Antwerp*; a convenient Town to be resorted to from all Places within the limits of their Charter; upon which the Dutcheſs of *Burgoine*, Sister of King *Edward* the Fourth, and Dowager of *Flanders*, upon the Instigation of her Merchants, as the Lord *Bacon* tells us, trump'd up *Perkin Walbeck*, and *Lambeth Simnel*, to the Disturbance of his Reign, whose Attempts by the Improvement of Commerce in the Hands of his own Subjects, were easily blown over, and in few Years he obtain'd vast Riches by the Encouragement of this Company of Merchants. A very remarkable Turn of Affairs followed when his Son *Henry* the Eighth came to the Throne; all the Laws that had been made, or should be made, which gave the least check to the Merchants of the *Stillyard* were repeal'd, and made void, (a Fee Simple Entail) and they were as much the Favourites of this Reign, as they had been check'd in the former, *Empson*, and *Dadley* Beheaded, who were employ'd by King *Henry* the Seventh in Collecting their Fines. As had been the Fate of a certain

certain Lord for making a Peace if—*Saepe premente Deo fert Deus alter Opem. Ovid.* The *Merchant Adventurers* sunk, and the Emperor *Charles* the Fifth advanced his Merchandize hereby to a very high degree, who for some time flattered King *Henry* the Eighth with an offer of Marriage to his Daughter *Mary*, and singed his Letters, *Filius tuus & Cognatus*: but afterwards married the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, and thereby got the Possession of the *East India Trade*, by which he soon became too great for his Neighbours, and this Kingdom sunk to a very low ebb of Poverty, Beef and Pork sold for a Halfpenny a Pound.

Which happily turned in the fifth and sixth Years of pious King *Edward* the Sixth; and carried, as some Histories tell us, but by One Vote in the House of Commons. The Charter of the *Stillyard Merchants* was totally destroyed, notwithstanding the strenuous application of Embassadors from *Hamburg* and the Regent of *Flanders*, that came over to support it. He put a total stop to Usury, lowering of it by degrees was too narrow a Plaister for the Sore. The Marriage of King *Philip* with the Queen of *England*, the Duke of *Roban* tells us, was a Mysterious Marriage, and I find that the Merchants of the *Stillyard* made their application as soon as he came to the Throne, but it proved ineffectual at that time. And upon this Foundation Trade was carried on by Queen *Elizabeth*; She added *Germany* to the Charter of the *English Merchants*, and gave them the Title of *Merchants Adventurers of England*, the Products of the Kingdom was hereby Marvellously encreas'd, Wool that sold at Eighteen Pence in the Reign of *Henry* the Eighth, was now worth Fourteen Shillings; in the Fifth Year of Her Reign, she put a total stop to all Credit, the Taylor if not paid for his Work in Fourteen Days, had no way to recover his Money; and had this Act subsisted there had been no need of a *Peerage-Bill*: how many noble Estates entail'd, within this Thirty Years have

(28)

have been cut off by *Indian Silks*, and *Callicoe*, deliver'd upon Credit by the Dealers in those Commodities? and had not Money been taken up at Interest by our Joynt-Stock Companies, few Estates had been advanced to qualifye for the Title of Noble-Men. She left her Kingdom in a Flourishing Condition to King *James* the First, when *Holland* and the *Hanse Towns* recover'd themselves again by a Subsidy granted to the King during his Life natural out of Wool exported, by which the *Merchant Adventurers* soon sunk in their Trade, and the Cloth Trade so far Advanc'd in *Holland*, that they laid a Tax of Nine Guilders upon a Packcloth, Eighteen Guilders upon a Long Cloth, and Twenty four Guilders upon a Fine Cloth; which is Eighteen Shillings, Thirty six Shillings, and Forty eight Shillings, of our Money; which, according to *Mr. Misselden*, brought the Kingdom to a very low ebb, *the Poor Starve in our Streets for want of Labour*, which are his Words: and upon this Foot it continued to the end of the succeeding Reign, and in the Years 1635, 1636. One Hundred and Forty Families out of *Norfolk*, and *Suffolk*, transported themselves into *Holland*, and Two or Three Thousand of our *English* Clothiers settled themselves in the *Palatinate*, as I have it from credible Authority. In the Year 1647. *Oliver Cromwell* put an effectual stop to the Exportation of the Wool of this Kingdom, Establish'd the Charter of the *Merchant Adventurers of England*, removed their Factory in *Holland* from *Delph* to *Dort*, and totally destroyed the *East India Company*, which is well in Memory. At the Restauration of King *Charles* the Second, *Lewis* the Fourteenth of *France* began to exalt his Banner; that Prince in his Exile having been under some extraordinary Obligations to him, the Affairs in *England* were very much carried in his Favour; and an Act pass'd which made the Exportation of Wool Felony, soon after which the Cloth Trade Sunk in the hands of the *Merchant Adventurers of England*, and

(29)

and their Trade to *Holland* and *Flanders* was throw'd open, and no one Act pass'd in this Reign for the Benefit of the Trade of this Kingdom. A pretended Kindness was offer'd by the Act of Navigation, but it had much the contrary Effect, the Silks of *Persia* were carry'd Three hundred Miles by Land-Carriage to *Aleppo*, *Smirna*, and *Constantinople*, to the Benefit of private Traders, when it might be brought a much nearer way through the *Empire*, and the *Black Sea*; and *Cocheneal* hereby hinder'd from coming into this Kingdom from *France*, or *Holland*; Aliens Duties were taken off from our Wollen Manufacture in the Twenty fifth of King *Charles* the Second, and a Liberty given in this Reign to export Foreign Coin and Bullion, contrary to many former Acts; (and it seems strange to me that a Landed Parliament should give a Liberty for Freemen of *London*, to be Factors in *Smithfield* to sell their Cattle) the Price of Wool Sunk in this Reign from Five and Twenty, to Twelve Shillings the Tod. King *James* the Second put out a Proclamation to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, and took that effectual care to have his Order executed in *Kent*, and *Sussex*, which were the chiefest places for it's exportation into *France*; that the *French* Ambassador at our Court complain'd that his Master's Fishing-boats were disturb'd upon our Coasts, notwithstanding which it was so far pursued that it drew over vast numbers of *French*, that could not subsist themselves without our Wool. And thus I have traced out the Footsteps of Commerce from this Original down to the late Revolution; at which time a Fatal Wound was given to the Merchandize, and Navigation of *Great Britain*, by our own natural born Subjects; the ill effects of which at this time in many particulars being very pressing, if I assume to my self a formal Authority to put this Matter into a clear Light, and make good the Title of my Book, I hope I may be excused, which must be carried on by a Commission of

of Enquiry from his Majesty, which Commission being open'd and read in Court, the Parties that had been Summon'd to attend were call'd upon to appear.

Cryer, call Sir *William Cranburn*.

Vousavis. Sir *William Cranburn*.

Cryer, call Sir *Peter Freeport*.

Vousavis. Sir *Peter Freeport*.

Judex. Gentlemen, upon some Complaint made to his Majesty by the *Merchant Adventurers of England*, he hath been pleas'd to issue out this Commission of Enquiry into the Merits of that matter, having nothing more at Heart, as he hath told us, than the Good of his own Subjects in the promoting of their Commerce, which is evidently made good by his Indefatigable Endeavours in forming Alliances for the establishing his Factories in Foreign Parts; and in my Opinion, Gentlemen, his late Acquisition of *Bremen*, and *Verden*, is an excellent step in order thereunto, by the Navigable Rivers of the *Elb*, and *Wezer*, whereby settled Factories may be established to the Benefit of *Great-Brittain*, as well as *Hanover*; and I take it to be no small Addition to the Strength of this Kingdom, as well as to his good Ally the Emperor, whereby the Linnens and other Products of the Empire, may be brought down, and there meet the Woollen Manufactures, and other Products of this Kingdom at a general Mart; and likewise a Commerce hereby may be extended into *Persia*, to the farther advantage of the Empire, as well as *Great Brittain*, nor is there less Advantage to be expected up the River *Skelde*, by an establish'd Mart at the City of *Antwerp*; which as in the Reign of King *Henry the Seventh*, may again furnish those parts with *English Woollen Manufactures*. The Relief of *Sweden* by *Brittish Arms* will be no small Advantage to Commerce; and in former time, Gentlemen, there was an Established Company of Merchants that

that Traded in Woollen Goods to *France*; and nothing can be more strengthening to Alliances than mutual and beneficial Commerce; and I dare say, his Majesty will not suffer the least Encroachment in Trade upon the Ancient Liberties of his Subjects, as he hath in effect told us, so long as he wears the Crown, having at this time, as Elector of *Brunswick*, established a Freedom of Commerce at *Harburgh*.

Gentlemen, you are both Men of Honour. I doubt not but you will act with Candour in what relates to this Affair, and you may depend upon my Favour, and Attention; I only recommend a due Temper without Reflections, and that no Time may be lost, I desire you, Sir *William Cranburn*, to open the Grounds of your Complaint.

Sir *William*. I am extremely satisfied in his Majesty's Care of Commerce, and your Lordship's Favour in executing his Commission, and to put this Affair in a clear Light, I must desire that the Clause in the Convention Act, that totally destroyed the Company of *Merchant Adventurers*, may be read.

Judex. It is *Anno Primo Guilielmi & Mariae*, in an Act relating to Wool, and you need not read any more than the Clause that relates to this Affair.

And for the better Encouragement of the Manufacture, as well as the Growth of Wool, be it farther Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from henceforward it shall be lawful to, and for, any Person or Persons whatsoever to buy any Cloth, Stuffs, Stockings, or other Manufactures of Wool made in the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, or Town of Berwick upon Tweed, and the same freely, without any Molestation, or Trouble whatsoever, to export to any Parts beyond the Seas, paying the usual Custom; provided that nothing contain'd in this Act shall be construed to avoid the Charters, and Grants made to the Levant Company, to the Eastland, the Russia, and to the African Companies, or to the Privileges granted to them or any of them.

Sir *William*.

Sir *William*. I beg leave in the first place to give your Lordship a short Account of the Original of the *Merchant Adventurers of England*, which by this unnatural Clause were totally destroy'd, they were first Establish'd by King *Henry* the Seventh, exclusive of all others, by his Charter to carry on the Trade to *Zeland*, *Brabant*, and *Flanders*, and their grand Mart fix'd at *Antwerp*; they soon became a Flourishing Company, and the good Effects thereof visibly appear'd in a great Encrease of Riches to the whole Kingdom; the King at his coming to the Throne borrowed of the City of *London* Two Thousand Pounds, and in Two and Twenty Years he left in the Treasury One Million eight hundred thousand Pounds. And here, my Lord, I must own in the Favour of Sir *Peter*, that there was a Company in *England* of a much Elder Date, even from King *Henry* the Third, belonging to the *Hanse Towns*, the City of *Hamburg* being one, which were totally overthrown in the Fifth and Sixth Years of King *Edward* the Sixth. Queen *Elizabeth*, my Lord, added *Germany* to their Charter, and gave them the Title of *Merchant Adventurers of England*; the Cloth Trade was so far advanced hereby, that Wool that was sold in *Henry* the Eighth's Reign for Eighteen Pence, was now worth Fourteen Shillings. I beg leave in the next Place, to shew your Lordship the Nature of this Company, and the good Rules which hath been observed in its Management for the Benefit of the Community; each Member, my Lord, tradeth with his own Stock, so no colour of Monopoly; the Fine always easy for the Admission of Merchants, and the Strength of the Company or Fellowship depending solely upon an Oath that they colour no Foreigners Goods; by the By-laws of the said Company care hath been taken that no one Merchant should Ship above a limited number of Cloths, in Favour of Young Merchants; and in Favour of the Fair Sex, a By-law was made,

made, that if any Merchant at the Factories abroad Married with any Foreign Woman he should thereby lose his Freedom. The sole Aim of this Company, my Lord, was the prudent Management of the Trade by regular Shippings, and preserving the Benefits thereof to the Natural born Subjects of *England*.

Judex. I am satisfied, Sir *William*, in this Account of yours, but as you go on Sir *Peter* must have liberty to make his Objections.

Sir *Peter*. I want words to express my Gratitude and Satisfaction for your Lordship's Favour, I hope you will excuse my Inability in the Management of this great Affair, and what I first observe is the particular Reigns, as King *Henry* the Seventh, King *Edward* the Sixth, and Queen *Elizabeth*, in which this Company had this particular Favour, from which, my Lord, I infer that other Reigns were wiser in not suffering Trade to be cramp'd and shackled by Charters, which ought to be free, in which down to the Reign of King *William* of Glorious Memory, I have two to one. The Happiness of Man's Life, my Lord, doth very much depend upon Society and Intercourse of Commerce, which can't be carried on but by the Exchange of Commodities, and as *Great Britain* is blest with Woollen, *Germany* doth likewise excell in Linnen, and the *Brittish* Merchant free to purchase that and all other Products of the Empire, and I can't but a little reflect upon my Friend Sir *William* for his harsh Expression that the Convention Parliament gave a Fatal Stroke to the Merchandize, and Navigation of *Great Britain*, when the greatest Happiness that (in Submission I will say) ever happen'd to this Kingdom, was by the coming of King *William*, and he Signed the Act.

Sir *William*. It is Natural to all Countries, my Lord, and what is in Practice, to secure what Privileges they can to their own Native Subjects, as the Spicery in *Holland*, nor hath the *Brittish* Merchant an equal Liberty

Liberty with the Native Subjects in the purchase of Linnens in Foreign Parts; and as my Friend Sir Peter hath allowed us the Merchandize of Woollen, reserving to himself the Merchandize of Linnen, if I can make it appear, my Lord, that the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom, are of a far greater Value, and Excellency, it will in a great measure support my Plea: in which, my Lord, should I descend to Particulars, as from the thickest Drabb, to the thinnest Crape, I should tire your Patience, and shall only refer to the expression in the preamble of the Statute of King Edward the Sixth, in which it is said to be *a Great and Notable Commodity; the like of which is not in any Foreign Nation*: and I should be glad upon that Topick, my Lord, to join Issue with my Friend Sir Peter. And Although, my Lord, in the Preamble to the Statute they told us it was for the Encouragement of the Wollen Manufactures, their Principal Aim, was the getting of our Wool, and for the First Six Years it was so freely carried into *Holland*, that the Manufacturers of *England* were ready to Starve, as by their Annual Application by Petitions to the Parliament, and Bills brought into the House to prevent it, will make it appear; and had it not been by the Favour of King *William* in appointing Sir *Henry Gooderick*, one of his Privy Counsellors, to Sollicite the Bill in conjunction with the Wollen Manufacturers, I believe the Act would neve have been obtain'd, *Holland* had so great a Favour in the Convention Parliament, by which Ninety Thousand Families depending upon our Wooll were drawn into *England*, as by a Creditable Account will appear, and in the Year 1695. Printed Tickets were given out in *Holland* to give notice of One Thousand Sacks of *English* Wool to be sold at a Publick Sale, and I have as great a veneration for King *William* as my Friend Sir Peter, in as great a dislike of the Convention Parliament, as for some farther Reasons in due place. And the saving of all other

other Companies by a Proviso was the same thing to *Holland*, when our Cloth and *Exeter* Serges are Carried White thither, and fully Manufactured, and they Carry them where they think fit.

Judex. I desire to be fully satisfied in that Point wherein you seem to disagree, whether the *English* Merchant is upon an Equal Foot in Trade with the Native in Foreign Countries, as I find by this Act the Foreigner is here, in which I desire to be satisfied by you, Sir Peter.

Sir Peter. Through the whole course of Trade, my Lord, in my Observation the Makers have always courted the Buyers, and the *East India Company* in *Holland*, or some other little Matters that may be Alledged, is of very little Consequence. And if the *Brittish* Merchant is free to vend the Fabricks of *England* in Foreign Markets, why, my Lord, don't they do it? and if they don't, is it not a kindness that Foreigners bring their Money and take them off the Makers Hands? I believe they think it so, and I have heard of the Dog in the Manger.

Sir William. This answer I believe is very little to your Lordships satisfaction, and I desire to know of Sir Peter, why the City of *Hamburgh* did collect in the Years 1692 and 93. the Sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred Pounds Sterling, which was remitted to their Treasurer *Martin Elking*, who at that time attended the Parliament to preserve this Liberry of Trade that they obtained in the Convention Parliament, if they did not think it a Priviledge? If the City of *Hamburgh* collected such a large Sum, as I was told by Mr. *Hawker* of *Hamburgh*, who refus'd to come into the Subscriptions, what may we think was collected by the States General? This my Lord was that which preserved their Freedom, and can't be thought less than Bribery. A few Years after a Bill came from *Holland* to take off all the Duties of our Woollen Manufactures exported, no Application was ever made by

our *English* Merchants to procure any such Bill, and indeed it was a surprize when it appear'd in the Votes. But to my own Knowledge several Packs of Cloth belonging to *Dutch* Merchants, that were pack'd up before any such Bill was brought into the House, and usually Ship'd as soon as pack'd, were now kept here, and had the Benefit of the said Act. A Petition signed by the chiefest *English* Merchants upon the *Exchange* was at this time put into the House, praying that the Remittance of this Duty should be limited to the Natural Born Subject of *England*, and then the Merchant Alien had been upon the same foot as he was before Aliens Duties were taken off, by the Statute of the Twenty Fifth of King *Charles* the Second: a Strenuous Debate arose in the House whether or no the Petition should be consider'd, and upon a Division in the House it pass'd in the Negative: and no wonder, my Lord, in this, when King *William's* Speeches to the Parliament at that time pressing the Encouragement of *English* Merchants and fair Trade was not in the least regarded; you know, Sir *Peter*, that the *Merchant Adventurers* at *Hamburg* were confined to Two Shew-Days in a Week, and to sell their Cloth by Parcels, and restrain'd from sending them to the Marts of *Germany*, in which Particulars you are at Liberty, and are now in full Possession of the Trade.

Judex. You hear, Sir *Peter*, the Facts alledged.

Sir *Peter.* Yes, my Lord, and supposing he is quite out of Trade, as he tells you, if better Traders are come into his stead, and that the Consumption of your Woollen Manufacture is hereby encreased, I will allow that he may be a Loser, and the same time the Publick be a Gainer; which, my Lord, I take to be the Stress of this matter, and if this point hath been gained by some Trouble, and Expence, (if what I have advanced be true) it deserves, the greater Com-
mendatio.

Judex.

Judex. I think, Gentlemen, the Consumption of the Manufacture is a matter of Weight which ought to be fully proved, and I desire you to stick close to that.

Sir *William.* To make a true Judgment of this matter, my Lord, in great submission I think the former Course of Trade carried on by the *Merchant Adventurers*, and the present Course of Trade carried on by the *Interlopers*, ought to be fairly represented. In the First Place, my Lord, the *Merchant Adventurers* bought their Goods of the Manufacturers for ready Payment, (who bought their Wool of the Growers) and they were limited by the Act of Parliament of the First of Queen *Elizabeth* to Two Shippings a Year, they inspected their Goods at their own Ware-Houses, and thereby their Goodness was preserved, and their Apprentices became knowing Merchants; their Merchandize carried over to their Factories at seasonable times of the Year, when there was little Hazard, and upon large *English* Ships chosen by the Company, which would be of Service in a War; and to their Honour be it spoken, a Ship Laden with Powder, and other Warlike Stores, came to the Fleet in the *Spanish* Invasion: *Articulo Temporis* and the Glory of the *Brittish* Nation was hereby represented in Foreign Parts, and upon this Subject, my Lord, I beg leave to recite a Resolution of the House of Commons in *Oliver's* time, viz. That the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom could not be issued out to the Benefit of the Publick, but by Rule, and Government in Trade. In the present Course of Trade, my Lord, the last disposal of this noble Commodity of ours is by the Makers, by the Weakness of whose Stocks upon the least stop in Trade the Prices are sunk, and a Quantity of Cloth resting in their hands to supply the Occasions of these Foreign Interlopers as their Commissions are sent over, which happening at all Seasons of the Year, the Clothier is brought under the Necessity of a Factor to dispose of his Cloth, who hath establish'd a Credit of
Six

Six Months with the greater part of Cloth that is Sold, which hath been the Ruin of many Families, and not less than Five hundred Thousand Pounds within few Years last past, hath been lost in bad Debts; and as a Fleet of *Amsterdammers* go off, a Fleet of *Roterdamers* come on, to the irreparable Loss of our *English* Navigation, whilst *English* Seamen employed in this Home Trade would be ready at hand upon any sudden Occasion, as if they were kept in the King's Pay. By the Stop of the Exportation of our Wool, my Lord, by the Act of the Seventh and Eighth of King *William*, we export a Million a Year in Wollen Goods more than we did before the said Act was obtain'd, there is not the least Ground to apprehend, my Lord, that the Consumption of our Cloth should be lessen'd in a regular Exportation by *English* Merchants, in the manner I have observed, when it will hereby likewise be releas'd from the unnecessary Charge of Ten per Cent. by Factors, Wool-broggers, &c. and the late encrease of it's Exportation doth make the Loss of the Merchandize, and Freight, be still the greater, and hereby there is the more room for *Brittish* Merchants, and I believe, my Lord, there was never more need of Employment for the Younger Sons of our Gentry.

Judex. I am glad to hear, Sir *William*, that we have so great Encrease of our Exportation; do you allow that, Sir *Peter*.

Sir *Peter.* I do, my Lord, in some measure agree with Sir *William*, and do likewise believe that it hath been chiefly occasioned by the Freedom of Trade, and Plenty of Money, thereby brought into the Kingdom by Foreign Merchants, and hath not, my Lord, the Government been subsisted by Foreign Money? I can assure you that little less then Forty Thousand Pounds hath been lent by some Friends of mine, and all little enough to stop the Torrent of *France*, which otherwise had overwhelmed the whole Kingdom; notwithstanding which I find my Friend Sir *William* is like

like the Fox in the Fable, that had a bone in his throat which would soon have choaked him, had not the Crane by his long neck relieved him, and then was told by the Fox that it was a Kindness to him that his Head was not bit off. *Tritum quod facis ingrato perire.*

Sir *William.* This Answer of Sir *Peter*, my Lord, is very sharp, and chargeth me with Ingratitude for pleading for my ancient Right in which he is in Possession; and I would in the first place ask him if those numerous *Dutch* and *French* that came into *England* in the Year 1699. were not employ'd in their own Country by our Wool, which at this time they are working up here, which must encrease the Exportation of Woollen Goods, and if the Generosity of their Country-men have given them any extraordinary Advantage, that, my Lord, in all likelihood hath sunk it the more in the hands of the Natives; and this I will say, that all possible Endeavours were used by the Interlopers to prevent the passing of the Bill that took off the Felony; and the stop of our Wool from Exportation was the only step that broke their Measures; and I am of Opinion, my Lord, that if a sudden Turn of Affairs had not happened since; our Wool had been as freely exported again, from a Complaint that was made by Captain *Ellisdon* to a Committee of Parliament, of which I was one, Alledging, that he was turn'd out of his Place for his extraordinary Diligence to prevent the Exportation of Wool; at which Committee he produced a Letter that he had received from the Commissioners of the Custom-house, an exact Copy of which I took, and desire, my Lord, that it may be read.

Judex. I think, Sir *William*, that can't be denied. Let the Letter be read.

Captain

Captain Ellifdon,
CAPTAIN Baker having laid before us a Paper of Causes depending for Trials this Term, amongst which is an Information in your Name against Henry Deeds for some Wool not duely Register'd, we do not think fit upon Enquiry into the Merits of that Cause, and hearing the said Captain Baker thereupon, to Engage the Queen in the Charge of Prosecution, leaving you nevertheless at liberty to proceed at your own Charge if you think fit. We are your Loving Friends.

Arthur Manwaring.		J. Werden.
Samuel Clark.		R. Breton.
Thomas Newport.		
William Culiford.		

Custom-House, London,
 27th January, 1703.

And, my Lord, I have some ground to think that some Emiffaries of *Holland* are at this time endeavouring to bring on the Felony again. And as to the large Sums lent the Government by Sir Peter's Friends, my Lord, I beg your Patience to set that matter in a clear light. The First Seven Years after the Revolution, whilst Interlopers were in the Possession of our Trade, the Ballance was so much against us at *Hamburgh*, that we had but Five and Twenty Shillings, or Five and Twenty Shillings and Six Pence *Flemmish* for our Pound Sterling, by which they gain'd Five and Twenty *per Cent.* the Par of Exchange being Thirty Three Shillings Four Pence, at which time Tallies were bought at Fifty *per Cent.* and afterwards engrafted into the Bank at Eight *per Cent.* Interest, which was a short way of raising Estates; and I dare say my Friend Sir Peter was very sharp at this Market for his Friends. I could enumerate a great Number of *Hamburghers* that Saddled out Clothiers with many bad Debts, nor do I think that he came into *England* with a Silver Spoon in his Mouth, or that his Mother had any one to feed him with in his own Country.

O Nummi

O Nummi vobis hunc prestat bohorum. And to enumerate the Losses that have happened to our Clothiers by *Soams*, *Howbright*, and others that were devour'd in the vast Warehouse of *Dorveile*, the Serge-buyers of *Exon* that turn'd Merchants and were there eat up, I should tire your Lordship's Patience.

Judex. Gentlemen, you have both given me a Satisfactory Account, and I am for an Accommodation between you; Supposing, Sir Peter, that I could prevail with his Majesty to Admit you, and some other Foreign Merchants into the Benefit of this Trade, would it not be an Honour to you of Servants to become Masters, and Trade as Principals?

Sir Peter. I am extreemly obliged to your Lordship for your intended Kindness, but can't but think it reasonable if we are hereby limited by the Government, our Debts should be paid; and then it might appear that the Clothiers would want our Assistance in taking off their Cloth, and Petition for a free Trade again.

Sir William. I find Sir Peter is very sharp upon us in the Demand of his Debts; and by a little of your Lordship's Patience, I dare undertake to prove that they are in Debt to the Government.

Judex. That indeed, Sir William, would deserve some Patience, in which I desire you to keep close to matter of Fact.

Sir William. In the first place, I must beg leave to acquaint your Lordship that by the Acts of Parliament of the Third of *Henry* the Seventh, Chap. 7. The Second and Third of *Edward* the Sixth, Cap. 22. the First of *Queen Elizabeth*, Cap. 11. All Merchants are strictly obliged to enter their Merchandize exported, and imported, in the Name of the Merchant that is the true Owner of the same, upon Forfeiture of the Goods, Imprisonment and Fine at the King's Pleasure, which are Strong Matters of Fact,

F that

(42)

that although, my Lord, the Aliens Duty was taken off from all Woollen Goods exported by the Statute of the Twenty Fifth of King Charles the Second, the old Subsidy upon Aliens Goods imported by Foreigners was never taken off; which, my Lord, is near two per Cent. and by the Entry of these Goods in *English Mens* Names the Government have been defrauded of that Duty; and I dare give Forty Thousand Pounds, which is the Debt Sir Peter says is owing to his Friends, for what the Government have been defrauded of by Linnens imported by the Family of the *Lewis's* in *Hamburg*; and I believe if this matter was nicely examined in all the Importations from *Holland*, a greater Sum would be due to the Government from them, than is at this time owing; nor can I, my Lord, at this time forbear Mentioning the Ten Millions of Florins, lent them by Queen *Elizabeth*, for the Security of which she had Cautionary Towns, which Debt was discharged by King *James* the First, upon very Easy Terms.

Sir Peter. These are Obsolete Laws, my Lord, mentioned by Sir *William*, and I have heard it said, that there was never a Good Law made but preserved its own being.

Sir *William*. The Destruction of this Company, my Lord, and the Loss of the Publick Market of *Blackwell-Hall* hath altered the whole course of Trade: the Old *Hamburg* Merchant, like *Dedalus*, steer'd the Course of his Trade without any Straits or Difficulties, or Force to sell his Merchandize at Foreign Markets at any Under Value; and proportioned his Expences to his Profits: A Foreign Minister that came into *England* deliver'd a large Sum of Money to the Correspondents of one *Hopgood* a *Hamburg* Merchant, and took a Bill payable by him in *London*, and came himself to fetch his Money, being a very large Sum; and in *Lotbury* enquir'd of a Man, that had on a Green Say

(43)

Say Apron with a Besome in his Hand sweeping before his Door, for Mr. *Hopgood*; and the Man told him his Name was *Hopgood*; to a little surprize of the Foreign Minister, who told him he had a Foreign Bill of so great a Value drawn upon one *Hopgood* in *Lotbury*; the Man told him he had Advice of the Bill, and desired him to walk into his Compting-House and he should have his Money, which was paid by his Apprentice out of his Iron Chest. The Old Ware-House in which the Merchandize were inspected is now divided into a Withdrawing-Room and a Coach-House. And our *Icarian* Merchants steer a quite different Course in Trading and Living; take Six Months Credit with their Cloth they buy; like *Icarus's* Wings, Trade by Drawing, and Redrawing Bills of *Exchange*, and being often put to Straits, under sell their Merchandize Abroad, borrow of their Goldsmiths some of their Notes, and upon Occasion many times give out Promissary Notes of their own payable at some distance of Time. Nay our *East-India-Company* hath bought Cloth for Time, and being expired, hath forced the Clothiers to take their Seal'd Bonds for Payment, wick at this Time seems to carry Credit to *Icarus's* Pitch, when the heat of the Sun melted the Wax of his Wings, and he fell down and was drowned in the *Icarian* Waters.

Dum petit infirmis nimium Sublimia pennis

Icarus Icaris nomina fecit aquis. Ovid.

And seems to verifie the Expression that *Riches make themselves Wings and fly away*. And in great Submission, my Lord, I think nothing at this Time can help us but the Establishment of a like Company under his Majesty's Charter, and the raising the Standard of our Coin to Sixty Five Pence, equal to the Standards abroad, and turning the Plate that stands in the Bouffets in the new Withdrawing-Rooms into Silver Coin, and coming to *Tully's* General Ensurance. *Quantum quisq;*

0507

(44)

quisq; sua nummorum scivit in arca tantum habet & fidei.
The Iron Chest. I should tire your Lordship's Patience in saying what might be offer'd upon this Topick.

Judex. Both of you Gentlemen have managed this matter with a great deal of Prudence and Discretion, and from what doth appear to me, this Act in the Convention Parliament hath some resemblance of *Felo de se.* I shall discharge my Commission in all Fidelity to his Majesty, and at this Time, Gentlemen, you are discharged. *Exeunt.*

Jamque Opus Exegi. And thus I have finished that Task which my Native Interest engaged me in, and briefly shewn that the Merchandize of *Tyre*, in great measure, sprang from the Wool, Tin and Lead of this Island; as likewise the Grandeur of *Rome*, with the Aspiring Greatness of *Spain* and *France*, which is well in Memory, and from his Majesty's generous Declaration that he will not suffer any Encroachment upon the Commerce of his own Subjects so long as he wears the Crown and Glory which he hath already obtain'd, I will assume a like Freedom with the Duke of *Roan*, in declaring Great *Brittain* at this Time to be the Pole of Christendom; from whence descend the Influences of Peace and War upon other States. Who dares contend his Majesty's Power upon the Ocean? and we can't be unhappy but through our own Divisions and Falling as *Felo de se.*

Ob Fortunatos nimium bona se sua norint.

F I N I S.