England's Path TO Wealth *and* Honour, IN A DIALOGUE Between an ENGLISH-MAN AND A DUTCH-MAN.

LUKE V. 4.

Launch out into the deep, and let down your Nets for a draught.

LONDON:

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TO

The most Noble

THOMAS Duke of LEEDS,

Marquiss of CARMARTHEN,

Earl of DANBY,

Viscount LATIMER,

Baron Osborne of KIVETON;

AND

KNIGHT *of the most Noble* Order *of the* GARTER.

GOVERNOUR *of the Royal* Fishery *of* ENGLAND.

May it please Your Grace,

NO Person having spent more Money and Pains, than Your *Grace*, to Re-establish the *Fishery* of *England*; I presume to

Dedicate to you the following *Dialogue*: Not that I have the Vanity to think this my poor Mite can make any Addition to Your Grace's great Treasure of Knowledge: But as believing the Fact in this Little Book contain'd, so true, it might safely appear before the best of Judges.

With all Respect I am,

Your Grace's

most Humble,

most Faithful,

most Obliged,

and most Obedient Servant,

James Puckle.

PREFACE.

THE Highlands of Scotland, Wales, Biscay, Switzerland, *and other Countries (not worth the conquering) continue still in Possession of their Aborigines: Whereas,* England *being a Country (as was said of the Tree of Paradice) good for Food, pleasant to the Eyes, and to be desired, hath been possessed by Five several Nations, and coveted by many more.*

Yet view its Coasts they'll appear Bold, and but thinly Inhabited, and the Civil Wars of our Island having occasioned the demolishing of its strong Holds, in case of Attack, how can we be defended against Foreign powerful Enemies, but by a Naval Power?

Allowing us Masters of more Tall Ships than any of our Neighbours. What Security can a numerous Navy afford, if Mariners be wanting?

Whether England *wants Mariners best appears by our turning 'em o'er from Ship to Ship, by our long, long Embargoes, and yet excessive Charge in Pressing, and by so many of our Ships being lost (during the late War) for want of their Complement.*

Nor can the Number of our Seamen be readily Encreast, without Establishing a Fishery. *For Men of War and Merchant-Men spend many Mariners, and breed few, the great and best Nursery for Seamen is the* Fishery; *where each Dogger brings up (it may be) Six, Eight, or Ten new Men every Year, and the Fishermens Business lying where our Ships Danger lies, makes them know how the Sands shift, where the Rocks and Shelves are; consequently most able Coasters, and admirable Pilots.*

Besides by frequent riding out great Storms in small Busses and Doggers, Fishermen become so steeled and habituated to Danger, that in Tempests and Engagements

ments they work Wonders; and the Fish lying upon our own Coasts, the Men we employ to catch them (though out of his Majesty's Pay) will be ever at Hand, and so ready for Service, as to make our watchfullest Enemies despair of surprizing us.

Again, " *A due Care for our Poor,* " *is an Act of great Civil Prudence and* " *Political Wisdom, for* " *Poverty in it self is* " *apt to Emasculate the* " *Minds of Men, or at* " *least it makes Men tu-* " *multuous and unquiet;* " *where there are very many Poor, the* " *Rich cannot long or safely continue such;* " *necessity renders Men of Phlegmatick* " *and dull Natures, Stupid and Indis-* " *ciplinable, and Men of more fiery or* " *active Constitutions, Rapacious and Des-* " *perate.*

L. C. J. *Hale* in his Discourse touching Provision for the Poor.

The Poors Rates of England *(besides Voluntary Charity) amounts to near a Mil-*

Million per Annum; *by which it's Evident, what vast Numbers of Beggars and Idle Persons live upon the Publick, without return of Labour for their Bread; now Beggars Children (if not destroy'd in the Womb, or at the Birth) being bred up in Want and Laziness, become of unhealthful Bodies, and more than ordinary subject to many loathsome Diseases; whereof abundance die in their tender Age; and such as attain to riper Years, by Idle Habits contracted in their Youths, are render'd for ever unapt and undisposed for Labour, and serve only to stock the Kingdom with Thieves and Beggars; So that without a due Care for Relief of our Poor in a way of Industry, they'll daily encrease.*

Suppose, to employ our Poor any one Manufacture be encourag'd: It may perchance remove the present Trade of one City or County to another, and occasion such Complaints as the Button-Makers *(not long since) made against Cloth Buttons,*

tons, yet leave the generality of our Poor destitute of a convenient Support and Provision!

Nay, could we at once Encourage every Manufacture in England, *encreasing our Manufactures, and not our Food, would only lessen the Misery of our present Poor, by sharing it amongst all the People of the Kingdom.*

The most effectual Expedient then to employ our Poor, is to Establish a Fishery; *which by affording at once both Food and Emyloyment, would quickly turn the great Burthen of our Nation into an equal Benefit.*

Much more might be said to this Purpose; but at present shall only add that within thirty Years past, our active Neighbours the French *have encreased their Navigation to a Proverb; given* Europe *much disquiet, and cost* England *(in particular) abundance of Blood and Treasure. But had not* Englishmen *been guilty of more than* Spanish *Sloth, in*

in not putting forth their Hands to take that rich Bleſſing, (*the* Fiſhery) *which Providence, by placing upon our Coaſts, courts us* (*as it were*) *to receive, all our Sovereigns* (*as well as Queen* Elizabeth,) *might have bounded the Numbers of the* French *Fleet, and by the bleſſing of God have been*

Pacis Europæ Arbitri,

Maris Domini & Vindices.

1707.

A NEW

DIALOGUE

Between an

ENGLISH-MAN

AND A

DUTCH-MAN.

Dutch-Man, *GOOD morrow Friend, what art muſing on?*

Engliſh-Man, Conſidering the Extent of theſe your Dykes, I was thinking what exceſſive Charge and Pains *Holland* is yearly at to defend itſelf againſt invading Waves: Whereas the Sea that encircles *England* (Barrier like) fenceth it againſt Surprize and Ravages, exempts us from the Charge and Terrour of Garriſons and Fortifications, and (with our Floating Caſtles) continues to us that quiet Liberty

berty and Security the reſt of *Europe* more or leſs have loſt.

D. England *is fenc'd in by the Seas, but Money is the Sinews of War, and happier* Holland *hath a mighty Ocean of Wealth to defend it.*

E. The cold Winds (being moiſtened by the Vapours, or ſoftned by the warmth of the Seas motion before they reach our Iſlands) are leſs fierce, and the Air is far more Mild and Temperate (if not more Healthy) than any Part of the Continent under the ſame Climate; ſo that we have no neceſſity for Grotto's in Summer, or Stoves in Winter.

D. *In my Opinion, that Country is ſtill Happieſt that is ſtored with the richeſt Growths and Products for Trafick and Commerce, and the Air ever beſt where moſt Money is ſtirring; for Poverty and Want will render People unhealthy in all Climates.*

E. England abounds with Mines, Rocks, Pits and Quarries of (*a*) Aliblaſter, (*b*) Antimony, (*c*) Ardois, (*d*) Blacklead, (*e*) Chalk, (*f*) Chriſtal, (*g*) Tobaccopipe-Clay, (*h*) Coals of

(*a*) *Darbyſhire, Nottinghamſhire, Staffordſhire,* (*b*) *Darbyſhire;* (*c*) *Cornwal,* (*d*) *Cumberland,* (*e*) *Suſſex,* (*f*) *Darbyſhire,* (*g*) *Dorſetſhire,* (*h*) *Carmarthenſhire, Cumberland, Durham, Lancaſhire, Leiceſterſhire, Northumberland, Shropſhire, Staffordſhire, Yorkſhire.*

of divers Sorts, (*i*) Copper, (*k*) Fullers-Earth, (*l*) Freeſtone, (*m*) Iron, (*n*) Lapis Calaminaris to make Braſs, (*o*) Loadſtones, (*p*) Lead, (*q*) Marble, (*r*) Milſtones, (*s*) Plaiſter harder then that of *Paris*, (*t*) Potters-Oar, (*u*) Slate, (*w*) Salt, (*x*) Steel, (*y*) Tin, (*z*) Whetſtones, *&c.*

Upon its Coaſts are found (*a*) Amber, (*b*) Ambergreeſe, (*c*) abundance of Copperice Stone, (*d*) Jet, (*e*) Pearls, (*f*) fine Pebbles tranſparent like Diamonds, alſo Flint, Varrack, *&c.* to make Glaſs: Beſides (not to mention the rich Commodities yearly Imported from its Fruitful Plantations, that are to it as ſo many Mines of Treaſure, *England* affords Plenty of Corn, Cattle, Fowl, Fruit, Pulſe, Leather, Wool, *&c.* Whereas, *Holland* pro-

 ducetb

(*i*) *Cornwall, Cumberland, Darbyſhire, Staffordſhire, Yorkſhire,* (*k*) *Bedfordſhire, Surrey,* (*l*) *Dorſetſhire,* (*m*) *Darbyſhire, Durham, Glouceſterſhire, Hampſhire, Shropſhire, Staffordſhire, Warwickſhire,* (*n*) *Somerſetſhire,* (*o*) *Devonſhire,* (*p*) *Cardiganſhire, Carmarthenſhire, Darbyſhire, Durham, Staffordſhire, Yorkſhire,* (*q*) *Darbyſhire, Dorſetſhire,* (*r*) *Angleſey, Cheſhire, Darbyſhire, Flintſhire,* (*s*) *Nottinghamſhire,* (*t*) *Carmarthenſhire,* (*u*) *Cornwall,* (*w*) *Cheſhire, Cumberland, Worceſterſhire,* (*x*) *Glouceſterſhire,* (*y*) *Cornwal, Devonſhire,* (*z*) *Darbyſhire.*

(*a*) *Norfolk,* (*b*) *Cornwall,* (*c*) *Whitſtableſhallow,* (*d*) *Norfolk,* (*e*) *Cumberland,* (*f*) *Cornwall, Glouceſterſhire.*

duceth nothing but a few Hops, Madder, Butter and Cheese.

D. *The whole Product of your Islands is nothing when compared to the* (g) Golden Mines *of our Provinces, which have yielded us more Treasure than the Mines of* Potosi, *or both* Indies *to* Spain.

E. The *Golden Mines* of your Provinces; Pray where do they lie?

D. *In* Neptune's Stone-pond, *which the* English *call their Seas.*

E. Our Famous *Edgar*, with a Navy of Four Hundred Sail, vindicated his Dominion on our adjacent Seas; and Records mention his Successor *Canutus* to have laid that ancient Tribute call'd *Danegelt*, upon all (whether Strangers or *Denizons*) trading on our Coasts or Seas.

Egbert, *Alfred* and *Ethelfred*, all stiled themselves Supream Lords and Governours of the Ocean surrounding the *British* Shore.

King *John* (*b*) challenged the Honour (or rather) Duty of the Flag, universally paid us, not barely as a Civility, but as a Right (*debitâ Reverentiâ*) Acknowledging our Title and Dominion.

The

(g) So the *Dutch* in a Proclamation 1624, stiled the Fishing Trade. (*b*) *Anno* 1200.

The Famous Record entituled *Pro hominibus Hollandie*, shews how obsequious your Ancestors were, not only in acknowledging (*i*) *Edward* the First's Dominion on the Sea, but craving his Protection and Permission to fish on the Coast of *England*: And had not the Sovereignty of the *British* Seas in fact been in the Crown of *England*, why did the (*k*) Earls of *Holland* Petition *Edward* the Third (and the (*l*) *French*, our *Henry* the Sixth) for leave to Fish therein? And why did your (*m*) Skippers use to purchase License from *Scarborough* Castle, before they presumed to cast a Net upon the *North* Coasts of *England*? Wherefore did *Philip* the Second of *Spain*, (*n*) obtain License of Queen *Mary* for his Subjects to Fish upon the *North* Coasts of *Ireland*, for the Term of Twenty one Years, for which, was yearly paid One thousand Pounds into the *Exchequer* of *Ireland*, as by the Records appear?

D. *A Fig for your mouldy Records: I say the Sea is as free to Fish in as*——

E. —As the Roads of *Holland* are to Travel in, where both Natives and Foreigners are forc'd to pay Passage *Gelt*.

 D. *Don't*

(*i*) *Anno* 1295. (*k*) *Rot. Par.* 23. *Ed.* I. *memb.* 5. (*l*) *Rot. Par.* 22. *Ed.* IV. *memb.* 2. (*m*) *Camden's Britannia.* (*n*) 1552.

D. *Don't Interrupt me* Sir; *I say, the Sea is as free to Fish in as the Air to Breath in, who doubts it, may read our Great* Hugo Grotius's Mare liberum.

E. *Grotius*, in his *Sylvæ* upon the *Inauguration* of King *James* (before he was perverted by the Importunities of his Country Men,) speaking his Thoughts freely says,

——Tria Sceptra profundi
In magnum coiere Ducem.

The Rights of the *English*, *Scottish*, and *Irish* Seas, are united under one Scepter; neither is he satisfied with that bare Profession:

Sume Animos à Rege tuo, qui dat Jura Mari.

Take Courage from the King that giveth Laws to the Seas.

And in the same Book in the contemplation of so great a Power, he concludes.

Finis hic est qui fine caret, &c.

This is an End beyond an End, a Bound that knows no Bounds, which even the Winds and Waves must submit to.

And

And if you remember when King *James* observed your Encroachments, he enjoined his Ambassadour Sir *Dudley Carleton* to Expostulate it with your States, as may be seen in Mr. Secretaries Letter, (*o*) wherein he tells them, "That unless they sought leave from his Ma-"jesty, and acknowledged his Right, as other "Princes had done, and did, it might well "come to pass, that they who would needs "bear all the World before them by their *Ma-"re liberum*, might soon endanger their ha-"ving neither *Terram*, *nec Solum*, *nec Rem-"publicam liberam*: So much did that Wise Prince disdain to be wrangled out of the Ancient Rights, and Regalities inherently annexed to his Crown, by the subtle Arguments of Wit and Sophistry.

D. *Don't tell me of King* James, *I say, that the Sea is free for every Body, and defy you to shew the Contrary.*

E. Why then do the *Venetians* exercise Dominion in the *Adriatique*, and the *Tuscans* Lord it, in the *Tyrrhene* Seas? How comes it to pass that all your Skippers pay Toll to *Denmark* for passing the *Sound*, and to *Sweedland* for for Sailing in the *Baltick*? Wherefore doth the Republick of *Genoa* let to Farm the *Fishery* for

 Tunnies

(o) 21 Dec. 1618.

Teunies in their Neighbouring Seas: And the Emperour of *Russia* compel all Fishermen (within his Seas) to pay him Tribute: How is't that the like is done by the Duke of *Medina Sidona* in *Spain*, and by all the Princes of *Italy* bordering on the Seas? Nay, wherefore do the *Dutch* Stile themselves Lords of the *Southern* Seas, and allow far less Liberty in *India*, than they take upon the *English* Coasts?

But to wave this Dispute: Pray Sir, how many Labourers have you in your Golden Mines, as you call'd 'em?

D. *Upon taking an Account of the several Trades and Employments, by which the* Dutch *subsisted (in order to find which best deserved the Protection and Encouragement of the Publick) it appeared that in* Anno 1668, *The Subjects of the States General were* (p) *Two millions, Four hundred and Fifty thousand, of which (besides those employed in the Inland* Fishery,) *Four hundred and Fifty thousand were then maintained by Fishing at Sea, and the Trafick depending thereon; since which time we have much encreased the Numbers of our Fishing Busses and Doggers, to the great Encouragement of our Navigation, and all Trades depending on the* Fishery.

E. Which

(p) Pol. Gron. & Maxims van Holl. *Page* 43.

E. Which are they?

D. *Anchorsmiths, Bakers, Ballestmen, Basketmakers, Blacksmiths, Brewers, Butchers, Carpenters, Caulkers, Clapboarb-splitters, Compass-makers, Coopers, Duck-weavers, Hemp-dressers, Hook-makers, Hoop-Slitters, Joyners, Line-makers, Mariners, Mast-makers, Net-makers, Net-tanners, Plummers, Pully-makers, Pump-makers, Rope-Makers, Sail-makers, Sawyers, Ship-chandlers, Ship-wrights, Tallow-chandlers, Thread and Twine-spinners, &c. to the no small Profit of the Makers and Venders of all Materials, Tools and Utensils belonging to those Trades, and of all Tradesmen that make or sell Culinary Wares, Bedding, Cloathing, &c. for Mariners; to which may be added, Packers, Tollers, Dressers, and Couchers to carry, sort, and make the Herring lawful Merchandize; also Porters, Carmen, &c. In a Word, you can hardly cast an Eye upon any sort or condition of People, but profit by our* Fishery; *and the Community most of all.*

E. Pray where, and at what times of the Year do you fish for Herrings?

D. *In the beginning of* June, *the Herring rising about two Leagues off* Cranehead (*the outermost part of* Bratio-sound,) *stay there about fourteen Days, thence go to* Farry *Islands* (*seven Leagues to the* Southward *of* Shetland,) *round*

round which they remain one and twenty Days, thence to Buffinness (*about thirty Leagues to the* Southward *of* Farry *Island*) *the Fishing place is called* Buffin-deeps, *and is twenty Leagues to the* Northward *of the* Frith, *where the Herring abide about fourteen Days, and in the Fishing ground under* Chivit-hills, *and* Chivit-Chase *about fourteen Days; thence we follow them to the* Dogger-Bank, *where they stay about thirty seven Days; about the beginning of* September *they come into* Yarmouth *Seas, where they continue near seventy Days, from whence they fall to the* Southward, *followed by small Fisherboats, it being dangerous for Busses.*

E. What quantities of Fish are yearly taken by the *Dutch*?

D. *About* (q) *Three hundred thousand Lasts.*

E. This confirms Sir *Walter Rawleigh*'s Observations presented to King *James*, (r) and shews that the Learned Sir *John Burroughs* in his Sovereignty of the *British* Seas, upon good Grounds affirmed that the Fish yearly taken by Strangers upon our Coasts, did amount to (s) above Ten millions of Pounds Sterling; But pray

(q) L. v. Aitzma, Anno 1653.
(r) *Anno* 1633. (s) *Page* 140.

pray, *Sir*, where have you vent for all your Fish?

D. *At* Artois, Brabant, Bremen, Cleveland, Cologne, Dantzig, Denmark, Elbin, Embden, Flanders, France, Frankford, Germany, Gulickland, Hamburgh, Henault, Holstein, Italy, Liefland, Lithuania, Lubeck, Nerva, Norway, Poland, Pomerland, Portugal, Prussia, Quinsborough, Revel, Riga, Russia, Spain, Stade, Stratten, Sweedland, *&c.*

E. Are you never afraid of glutting the Markets?

D. *No more than we are that People will leave eating, great part of the trading World being yet unserved, which is the Reason we yearly so much encrease the Number of our Doggers.*

E. What Returns are made for your Fish?

D. *Allum, Armour, Baratees, and other* Frankford *Commodities, Brandy, Bullion, Clapboard, Coin, Copper, Corn, Currants, and other* Grocery *Wares, Damasks, Dealboards, Dollars, Flax, Fruit, Furrs, Fustians, Glass, Hemp, Honey, Hulsop, Iron, Lace, Linnen, Millstones, Oil, Pitch, Plate, Pot-ash, Prunes, Rashes, Rosin, Sarsenets, Sattins, Silks, Skins, Steel, Tapestry, Tar, Timber, Velvets, Wainscots, Wax, Wines, and other things in abundance; the exporting of which Commodities again to other Countries, gives our Ships full Employment, so that they need not go*

in

in Ballast to seek Freight, but by the Profit of our outward bound Voyages, are enabled to serve Foreigners so cheap, as to render us the common Carriers of the World, consequently Masters of the most certain Profit in Trade; for when Ships arrive safe in Harbour, though Merchants happen to lose by their Goods, Owners and Seamen are paid their full Wages.

Besides, by continual Bartering of such Exports, Holland *is render'd the mighty Storehouse, and Empory of all Foreign Products and Manufactures, from whose infinite Miscellany of Goods its Inhabitants are compleatly furnished with such sortable Wares, as enables them to Trade from Port to Port, without danger of glutting Markets.*

And thus as our Fishery hath encreased our Trade and Navigation; constant Employment hath still made Foreigners flock to us in such Numbers, that out of our Multitudes, supplying (from time to time) the loss of so many lives as the change of Climates, Successes against the Portuguefes, *and Victories against the* Indians *have cost us; we have forced Treaties of Commerce, Exclusive to all other Nations; Built Forts upon Straits, and Passes that Command the Entrances into Places of great Traffick; Monopolized all the Spice Trade, and mightily advanced towards Engrossing the whole Commerce of the East Indies.*

E. Well

E. Well may you boast, that *Amsterdam* is Founded upon Herring Bones; and no wonder that notwithstanding your so frequent and chargeable Wars ever since your Revolt from *Spain*, there is hardly a Beggar in your Streets.

But if in *Holland*, which contains not above Five millions of Acres, its Bogs and Sandy-downs excluded.

Holland, where you have no Minerals, and where it is in vain to dig for any thing but Turf and Clay.

Holland, where you have no Tree but what you planted, nor Stone but what you brought thither.

Holland, so much lower than the Ebbings of the Tides and Rivers, that at vast Expence you are obliged with Mills to drain the very Floods occasioned by Rain.

Holland, where notwithstanding your continual Charge (as was said) in repairing Banks and Dykes; frequent Inundations destroy Man and Beast for several Miles together, and then vast Sums (and whole) Years are spent e'er the Land can be regained.

Holland, where the *East* Winds coming to you o'er a mighty length of dry Continent, extream Cold, and long Winters, put you to the expence of much Fire, Candles, Food and Rayment; and to great charge and pains in housing and foddering your Cattle, all which

time

time they (living on dry Food) yield little Milk.

Holland, so exposed to bleak Winds, that blast the Blossoms of its Trees, and Storms that shatter off, e're ripe, their Fruit.

Holland, where that little Arable Land you have, lying generally on Sand or light Bottoms, requires much Soil, and where Seed-time is so short, that unless it be exactly nicked, no Profit can be reaped; for when the Seed rots in the Ground (as by great Rains it frequently happens,) the Season is generally past before it can be Sown again.

Holland, whose whole Product is scarce sufficient to serve (*t*) one Eighth part of its Inhabitants, consequently the rest are obliged to purchase the so necessary Commodities, Food, and Rayment, of Neighbouring Countries, at the Rates they can get them.

Holland, whose Territories extending upon powerful Neighbours, to defend its Frontiers, and draw out a War in length by Sieges, in order to determine it, by force of Money rather than of Arms; you are obliged to be at vast Expence in Fortifications and Standing Troops, to defend them even in the time of the profoundest Peace, for instance *Anno* 1670. After

(*t*) *Pol. Gron. & Maxims van Holland*, Page 44.

After all Reforms, you had Ten Regiments of Horse, and Nineteen of Foot, making together Twenty six thousand Two hundred Men, the constant Charge of which Forces was 556281 *l.* Sterling *per Annum.*

I say, if in *Holland*, naturally loaded with these Disadvantages and Misfortunes, and all their ill Consequences; notwithstanding you are (*u*) *Bridled with hard Laws, terrified with severe Executions, environ'd with Foreign Forces, and oppressed with the most cruel Hardships and variety of Taxes that were ever known under any Government*: Your People are become so numerous and wealthy, by Fishing upon our *Northern* Coasts.

Did we in *England* diligently apply ourselves to the Fishing Trade, what a continual Sea Harvest might we reap, whose Coasts so abound with Cod, Hake, Conger, Whiteings, Scate, Sprats, Soals, Oysters, Salmon, Pilchards, Turbets, Thornbacks, Mackerel, Herrings, or Ling, all the Year long?

D. *Why e'en just such a Sea Harvest as the* Hamburgers *did, who (after five or six Years trial to imitate us in the Herring Fishery,) found*

C *to*

(*u*) *Sir* William Temple's *Observation on the* United Provinces.

to their Cost we still outdid them, and so we shall you.

E. The Reason why you outdid the *Hamburgers*, was because they were yearly Frozen up (*w*) somewhat longer than you, but seeing by that Start you could outstrip them, surely we need not fear the Goal; who (besides what has been said,) have in Fishing many more Advantages of you, than ever you had of the *Hamburgers*.

D. *The generality of your Countrymen are of another Opinion.*

E. I am not Ignorant what Industry has been us'd to Poison *Englishmen* with an Opinion, that only *Dutchmen* can thrive by Fishing: But upon examining, it will appear:

The *Dutch* have above an hundred Leagues to Sail before they come to the *Herring Fishery*, which is only in the *British* Seas, and when there, must lie at the Mercy of the Winds for want of a Port to Friend, and in case of Unloading, have as far back again, which takes up a great deal of Time, hinders Business, and endangers the loss of their Markets: Whereas, in *England* we have the Fish upon our own Coasts, so near our Shores, that in case of Storms, Unloading, taking in of Provisions, or

(*w*) *Lex. Mercator.* Fol. 171.

or the like, it is but four or five Hours Work (commonly not so much) to recover an Harbour, and without loss of time put to Sea again; the Work of Unloading, Repacking, and sending our Fish to Market going on in all Weathers.

D. *And have not we Dogger Boats to take off our Fish at Sea, and refurnish the Fishermen with Cask, and other necessaries?*

E. Yes *Sir*, and you have the charge and risque of those Dogger Boats too (both which the *English* save) after all if it happens to be a Rowling Sea, you must lie by and wait for a Calm.

D. *What other Advantages can you boast?*

E. England, hath many convenient Tide-haven-Ports, as at *Hull*, *Harwich*, and *Hol-Island* to the *Northward*, and *Dover*, *Rye*, *Portsmouth*, *Southampton*, *Cowes*, *Weymouth*, *Dartmouth*, *Catwater*, *Hamose*, *Fowey*, *Falmouth*, *Hilford*, *Scilly*, and *Milford Westward*, where at low Water all of them are small Chingle or hard Sand; so that our Vessels may easily haul ashore, and Wash and Tallow at Pleasure; nor are Creeks and commodious Places wanting in *England* to lodge our Busses and Dogger's safe when not employed, so as to prevent wear of Cables, charge of Watching, danger of Fire, *&c.*

D. *What else?*

E. The Shores of *England* are bold, its Coasts high-land, easily discovered, several of our Cape-Lands opposite to *France* and *Holland*, make *Eddy-Bayes*, whose depth of Water is mean, as six, eight, ten, or twelve Fathom; the Tides (on our own Coasts) are small Anchor hold, generally stiff Clay, Chalk or hard Gravel, so that we need not dread Winter Storms; besides the Advantage we have of lying in a moderate Climate, and in the very Center of the Trade of *Europe*, affords us opportunity of sending to Foreign Parts, from divers of our Ports at all Seasons of the Year: Whereas, the Coasts of *Holland* are extreamly Low, subject to be Hazy and Foggy, have many Shoals and Sands, some of which lie so far off at Sea, that frequently Ships are Stranded before they see Land; its Ports are bad, and often choaked up with Quick-sands; its Haven's yearly frozen up two or three Months together: And the *Northwest* Wind (usually blowing the greatest part of the Year) makes *Holland* a Lee, and *England* a Weather-shore, so that (oft times) whilst you are Wind-bound or Frozen up at home, we can supply the Markets abroad.

Besides, wanting Wood at reasonable Rates, you cannot share with us in the Red Herring Trade.

As

As for Pilchards, they cannot be well cured unless brought Fresh on Shore, and being taken on our Coasts, will be Stale e'er they can be carried to your's.

Not to mention our Rich *New-England Fishery*, our *Western* Ports are incomparably situated for the *Newfound-Land Fishery*, and the Country itself belonging to the Crown of *England*, you can have no footing there.

Near the Pile of *Foudray* in *Lancashire*, and in several other Places along the Shores of *Wales*; we can Fish even without the Charge of Busses, for by only setting Nets on the Sands at low Water, great quantities of Herrings are taken next Tide of Ebb.

D. *Those Herrings on the Coasts of* Lancashire (*coming newly out of the Ocean*) *are so fat they will not take Salt kindly, consequently are apt to Reast.*

E. We now find by Experience, that fat Herrings being pressed and cured like Pilchards, take Salt kindly, and yield Store of Oil, to the great Encouragement of our Ship-wrights, Curriers, Soap-boylers, *&c.*

D. *How chance this Method was not found out sooner?*

E. Dies Diem docet; those noble Salt Rocks in *Cheshire*, (sufficient to supply all *Europe*) have not been many Years discovered.

Be-

Besides, of a Stone abounding in *Shropshire*, much Pitch is now made of so Excellent a Nature, Heat only causeth it to penetrate deeper into Plank, and Cold cannot make it crackle off; both which are Advantages *Holland* can't pretend to.

D. *What more?*

E. The Coasts of *Wales* abound with Ash; which as far excels other Wood for drying Herrings, as its Bark doth all others for tanning Nets: Nor do we in *England* (as you) want Willow-hoops from *Hamburgh*.

D. *Notwithstanding all the Advantages you speak of your Chief Fishing Towns,* Yarmouth *and* Lay-stoffe *are beholden either to us at* Enckhuijsen, *or to the* French *at* Diep, *for selling them Nets?*

E. Before the late War, they used to buy Sail Cloath of you too, but that now made at *Fulham*, &c. is brought to equal Perfection with your best Hollands-Duck; and as for Nets, the Towns you mention, have these seven Years last past made most they used; and who knows, but that our Artisans (universally allowed the best upon Earth for Improvements) may in a little time as much Excel you in these Things, as they outdo the *Germans* in fine Steel-works; which though they first Invented, yet we now make and sell to them?

But

But seeing you talk of being beholden: I think you are beholden to us, for selling you our Thames Lamprons wherewith you bait for *North* Sea Cod, else you might go ..... whistle for 'em.

D. *Have you any more Advantages of us?*

E. I omitted to tell you, that upon Exporting our Fish, we have the Benefit of a considerable Drawback upon Salt.

D. *If that's all, rather than suffer that Tide of Wealth that flows in our* Fishery *to be diverted to another Channel; no doubt but our* States *will allow the* Dutch *the like Encouragement: But now you have told me all your Advantages; I hope.*

E. Excuse me *Sir*, *England* affords Timber, Iron and Hemp; whereas, you are forced to purchase those Commodities in Foreign Countries.

D. *Nevertheless we have all Naval Stores in Barter for Herrings, which cost us little but the trouble of hawling up out of the Sea, which being considered, and how much the catching such Herrings (by employing and encreasing our Ships and Mariners, adds to the Wealth and Strength of our Country,) it conduceth far more to our Advantage, than if* Holland *had Naval Stores of its own Product: Whereas, to purchase* East *Country Wares, the* English *are year-*

ly

ly forced to Export much Coin, to the great exhausting of their Treasure.

E. We do not (as you) depend solely upon the *East* Country for Naval Stores; no, in case of Exaction or Rupture, we can be sufficiently supplied from our *American* Plantations.

But if a *Fishery* be established in *England*, what should hinder us from having Naval Stores in Exchange for Herrings as well as you?

D. Your White Herrings are not so bright and good as ours.

E. Whilst your Clapboard is floating from *Germany*, the Rhine draws out its Sap, and if we also soak the Corrosive Sap out of our Clapboard, which now discolours and preys upon our Fish, and like you, gip and salt the Herrings as soon as taken, they'll be every whit as bright, and good as yours.

D. *We build cheaper in* Holland *than you do in* England.

E. Our Ships are much stronger and abler to brook the Seas, and will last twice as long.

D. *Our Vessels are sailed with fewer Hands.*

E. We have no reason to envy you that Happiness, whilst (in proportion to your Tunnage and Number of Mariners) you yearly lose (by undermanning) far more Ships and Mens Lives than we, for which Reason, in above three Parts of the World, our Ships yield better Freight, where then lies the Odds? Which were

were there any, could be only in Merchantmen to carry our Fish to Market; Doggers and Fisher-boats carry more Men to catch Fish than are needful to Sail them: And in the *Greenland* Trade, each Ship to Man their Shallop when a Fishing, must have Three times the Crew that can Navigate her. Were not this true, since in building, *English* Shipwrights know no Masters, surely we might easily cause our Ships to be built and manned after your Mode.

But supposing your Assertion true, if as all Ships that carry Corn to *Venice*, are permitted to Load Currants at *Zant*; so all Bottoms which exported *English* caught Fish, might be allowed to return with a Loading of Naval Stores, without paying Aliens Duty: That would set us upon even Ground with you, as to the Business of our *Fishery*.

D. *Two thousand five hundred Persons are hardly able in a whole Year, to make a Fleet of Nets for Five hundred Doggers: Now* England's *many Wasts and unimproved Lands, shew it's not half Peopled, and of those in it,*

Consider,

How many Women and Children do just nothing, but spend what others get.

How

How many are meer Voluptuaries, and as it were Gamesters by Trade.

How many by perswading credulous, delicate and litigious Persons, that their Bodies or Estates are out of Tune or in Danger.

How many by Trades of meer Pleasure or Ornament.

How many by Mysteries of Vice and Sin, or in a lazy way of Attendance upon others; where then can you hope to find Hands to carry on your Fishery?

E. The Numbers of our Idle Persons, denote rather want of Business than want of People. However, a full Employment of the Hands we have, is the best way to get more; for such as our Employment is for People, so many will our People be.

The far greatest Part of *England*'s Drones, are neither so Young, nor yet so Old or Decripit, but they may either turn Wheels, spin Twine, braid or beet Nets, cut Corks, cast Leads, make Herring Spits, Norsels, Swils or Baskets, gip, spit, salt, hang or pack Herrings, or at least tend Fires to smoak or dry them, pick Oakum, or the like; and as a constant Employment of our Poor, will be a continual Ease and Comfort to them, by amusing and diverting them from thinking of their Poverty and other Misery; so will it alleviate the Nation's Burthen, and in some measure be a Re-

peopling of us too, by adding so many lost Hands to the Service of the Publick.

In *England* we have Numbers of *French* Protestants who fled from *Diep* and the Coasts of *Normandy*, &c. bred to the Business of the Fishery from their Cradles, that (if settled in our decay'd Fishing Towns) would as certainly make them Flourish, as the *Walloon* and *Burgundian* Refugees, planted by Queen *Elizabeth* (*w*) at *Norwich*, *Canterbury* and *Colchester*, raised them (then so Poor) Cities, to such great Trade, Riches and Plenty.

In *England*, we have no Sumptuary Laws; So that Mercers not foreknowing Fashions, dare not lay out their Stocks till the Spring, at which time their sudden great Demands render Journey Men scarce, and oblige Weavers to draw in Numbers of Apprentices, who in few Months supply the Trade of the Nation; when being turned off, many (like the Inhabitants of the *Bath*, *Epsom*, *Tunbridge*, &c. who live by exacting in Summer,) are ready to starve for want of Employment before the next Spring.

Were a National *Fishery* established in *England*, our Gentry, by causing their Footmen and Servants to rise early, and employ their idle

(*w*) 1568.

idle Hours in making Nets, might not only reap the Profit of their Work, but by accustoming them to Business in their Youths, beget in them such industrious Dispositions, as would prevent (what now too frequently happens) their becoming Beggars, or worse in Old Age.

The Time of Labouring, and industrious People well employed, is the best Commodity of any Country; and were a *Fishery* established in *England*, how Advantagious would it be to the Publick. When all our disbanded Soldiers, poor Prisoners, Widows and Orphans, all poor Tradesmen, Artificers and Labourers, their Wives, Children and Servants, each vacant Interval may be getting a Penny by braiding and beeting of Nets, &c.

D. *But still you want Mariners; whereas Sailors in* Holland, *are as common as Beggars in* England.

E. 'Tis own'd, our want of Mariners enough at once to Man our Navy, and Collery, cost *London*, and the Dependencies upon the Rivers of *Thames* (during the late War) above Seven hundred thousand Pounds, only in the Price of Coals; by which may be guessed, how Detrimental it was to the Trade of our Nation in general.

But the more we want Mariners, the greater Reason we have to establish a *Fishery*, which

which (the *Preface* shows) is the best way to Encrease their Number.

The many Thousands *English*, *Scotch* and *Irish* Mariners, who now yearly Fish for you, would hardly seek Work abroad, if a *Fishery* afforded 'em full Employment at home; and 'tis odds, but a finer Country, cheaper and better Food and Raiment, wholesomer Air, easier Rents and Taxes, will tempt many of your Countrymen to cross the Herring-Pond.

Since the Peace is concluded, and our great Ships laid up, we have Mariners enough to begin a *Fishery*; and as that goes forwards, it will proportionably encrease their Numbers.

D. *Fishing is a Work for which the* English *are unfit, and requires such skilful, industrious and robust Seamen, as no Country breeds but* Holland.

E. Your learned *Keckerman* says, *Omnibus Hodiè Gentibus, Navigandi, industriâ & peritiâ Superiores esse Anglos*,

'Tis certain, our Mariners do as cheerfully undergo Hardships, and are as bold in Danger as any; and for hard Labour, the Working of a Mine is incomparably harder than that of a Ship. No Country but *Great-Britain* can boast, that after twelve Hours hard Work, its Natives will (in the Evening) go to Foot-ball, Stool-ball, Cricket, Prison-base, Wrestling, Cudgel-playing, or some such vehement Exer-

 cise

cise for their Recreations; and as for their Genius, it's Remarkable, that such Lads and Country Fellows, as at *Yarmouth*, *Laystoffe*, &c. are once hired into the Fishing Trade, and come to feed on the Fish they catch, it improves them at such a rate, that of pitiful Weaklings at Land, they become healthful, stout and hardy Persons, and upon trial find it so much to their liking, that not one in twenty but take to the Sea for good and all.

D. Englishmen *are dainty Chapt, and when a Fishing cannot fare like ours.*

E. It is certain, they need not; for Meat and Drink in *Ireland*, and in many Parts of *England* are above as Cheap again as in *Holland*, which produceth no other Provisions (for Traffick) than Butter and Cheese, and even those with us are Cheaper than with you: Besides 'tis observed, that whatever *Dutch* Fishermen save by eating of *Grout*, they drink more than ours in *Brand*.

D. *The Act of the* 18 Car. II. *prohibits the Importation of* Irish *Cattle, to keep up Rents: Now catching much Fish (by hindering the Consumption of Flesh,) will make Lands fall.*

E. Doubtless Plenty of Food is a great Blessing of God, and no Good *Englishman* will desire to grow Rich by a Famine.

It's generally the landed Men bear the Burthen of the Poor; without finding them Work, they

they must maintain them Idle: Where the Poors Rates are high, Lands will fall, and Rents are ill paid.

The cheaper Provisions are, the less Taxes will serve in time of War, House-keeping will be less chargeable, and a less Rate maintain our Poor: But where Provisions are Dear, Work and Wages will rise in proportion, to the great Detriment of Husbandry, and stop to Improvements, which (*pro tanto*) will fall Rents; and raise all Manufactures, yet lessen their Consumption both at home and abroad, and Necessitate Masters for want of Vent (by turning off their Journeymen) to make whole Families of Beggars at once.

Catching much Fish will, Morally speaking, render *England* less subject to a Famine, which generally exhausteth more of our Wealth in one Year, than War doth in two.

Catching much Fish will give Work to many Thousands of both Sexes that now are cloathed in Rags, and (through Poverty) live only on Bread, Water, Pulse, Roots, and the like; who, when they come to have the rewards of their Labours in their Hands, will encourage the Woollen Manufacture, by buying new Cloaths; and our Farmers, by a greater Consumption of the Product of the Earth; by drinking Strong-beer, will advance the King's Excise; by encreasing the Number of

 Te-

Tenants, raiſe our Rents; and Eaſe our Poors Rate and Taxes, by helping to pay them.

Catching much Fiſh, will occaſion the expence of much Butter, and make our Farmers run much upon Daries, the Buſineſs whereof, though performed by the Fair Sex, turns to as good Account, as the hardeſt Labour the Husbandman can employ his Time in: Put caſe the Market ſhould be overſtock'd at Home, *Engliſh* Butter is too good a Commodity in *Flanders*, *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, &c. ever to want Vent abroad.

The Cheaper our Proviſions are, the more Navigation will be encouraged, more Foreign Ships will Victual with us; fewer of ours in *Ireland*, and the more Beef, Pork, &c. ſhall we Export to *Barbadoes*, *Jamaica*, &c. ſo that ſuppoſing Meat ſhould not always remain at a very exceſſive Rate, yet where a greater Conſumption cauſeth a quick Market, though at a midling Price; if the Proverb be true, light gains will make a heavy Purſe.

It is cheap Proviſions that enables the *Indians* to Supplant the *Europeans* in their Manufactures; and ſhould a *Fiſhery* make Proviſions in *England* but one Tenth part Cheaper, Wages would fall in Proportion, and our Artiſts grow never the Poorer, yet our Merchants be enabled (by underſelling) to beat all the reſt of *Europe* out of the Woollen Trade, and then our

our Farmers would gain far more by the riſe of the *Fleece*, than they'd loſe by the fall of the *Fleſh*.

Beſides, the Profit of Land doth not wholly ariſe from Breeding, abate in Graſing, and plow up more Paſture, and *Fleſh* will hold its Price.

D. *Corn is ſo Cheap in* England, *your Farmers are often Broke by it, what then could you do with greater Quantities?*

E. The Reaſon why Farmers ſometimes want Vent for their Grain, is becauſe we have not always Store, and therefore Merchants make no Proviſion for the Trade. But if we yearly Sow ſuch Quantities of Corn beyond the Expence of the Nation, as Merchants may be no leſs certain of a conſtant ſupply here than they are in the *Sound* (where the Country depends as much upon their Harveſt, as *France* does on its Vintages,) Plenty would ſoon create a Trade, and the Advantage of *England's* lying ſo much nearer than *Dantzig* to the Places to which Corn is uſually exported, together with the Allowance granted by 25 *Car.* II. upon the Exporting thereof, will ſufficiently Encourage Merchants to deal therein.

Moſt of our Ships are now ſent light to *Bilboa* and *Lisbon*, (now what loads our Ships helps our Navigation,) and our Exports to *Lisbon*

bon not anſwering our Imports from thence; the more we ſend them in Corn, the leſs their Wines will coſt the Nation in ready Money, or Bills of Exchange, which is all one.

Gold and Silver Mines *England* hath none, and in time of Peace no way to get Bullion, but by Foreign Traffick; to which, nothing can more conduce than cheap Fiſhing, and cheap Working and Manufacturing the Commodities, which compoſe the Exports of our Kingdom, and that is *not* to be effected except Labour be Cheap, which it can never be where Proviſions are dear: But the cheaper our Proviſions are, the cheaper our Exports may be afforded, conſequently the more Vent we ſhall have for them, and much Vent will cauſe many Workmen, and when the Wheel is ſet agoing, Trade begets Trade, as Fire begets Fire; and the more Trade encreaſeth, the more will Induſtrious People from all Parts flock to us, and Tenant our Houſes, enclose our Waſts, improve our Lands, encreaſe our Manufactures, and enlarge our Products, far beyond the whole Expence of our Nation, and thereby in Proportion add to its Wealth and Treaſure; for Merchants exporting the Surplus, will in Returns bring back Gold, Silver, and other valuable Commodities, which in *England*, that hath property by Succeſſion of Contracts, will diffuſe among its Inhabitants, and thus as the

the Number of Perſons made Rich by their Labour and Induſtry encreaſe, and the Choice of Tenants and Chapmen are enlarged, a kind of Competition amongſt them muſt and will make Rents and Lands advance in Proportion: Witneſs *Holland*, and ſuch of our Lands as lie near Great and Populous Corporations. So true it is, that *Trade and Lands are Twins, that always wax and wain together.*

D. *Notwithſtanding what hath been ſaid, I adviſe all your Country Men not to be concern'd in a* Fiſhery, *for in* Holland *we have Money at Three, whereas the Trade of* England *is burthened with Six* per Cent *Intereſt, conſequently you can never keep pace with us.*

E. Why do you not (for the ſame Reaſon) adviſe us, to forbear Trading to *Eaſt India*, *Turkey*, *Spain*, *France*, *Italy*, *Portugal*, &c. nay, to quit all Navigation, and abandon ourſelves to the next Comers. Was it not the Fiſhing Trade gave riſe to all your Wealth, and as Money grew plentiful in *Holland*, did not Lands riſe gradually to near forty Years Purchaſe, and Intereſt fall by degrees from Eight to Three *per Cent*? Why then may not we expect, that a *Fiſhery* will do the ſame in *England*, and be a means to regain our *Muſcovy*, *Greenland*, *Norway*, and *Eaſt* Country Trades? For, ſtill as Trade by encreaſing of Wealth,

Wealth, causeth an abatement of Interest, abatement of Interest will yet cause a further encrease of Trade.

D. *The* Dutch *are already settled in the Fishing Trade.*

E. Stately *Genoa*, that once employed Forty thousand Hands in the Silken Manufacture, declines now as fast, as her formerly neglected Neighbour *Leghorn* riseth: And if the *French* King continues to court all the World with popular Immunities, *Leghorn* (in time) must give Place to her Sister *Marseilles*.

The King of *Portugal* having discovered the Passage to the *East Indies* (x) by the *Cape* of *Good Hope*, and so diverted the Course of Trade driven by the *Venetians*, from *Alexandria*, and the Red Sea to his Port of *Lisbon*; kept Factors at *Antwerp*, to vend there his *Indian* Commodities; which drew several Merchants from divers Parts to reside there, and made that pleasant seated City the Pack-house of *Europe*: But when the *Dutch* (y) also found the Way to the *Indies*, and began to rival *Portugal* in that Trade, Merchants resolving not to lose the Advantage of their Skill in *Indian* Commodities, by removing to *Amsterdam*, im-

(x) *Anno* 1500.
(y) *Anno* 1602.

improved their own Estates, but ruin'd *Antwerp*.

Trade, like the Sea, its Element, often ebbs and flows from one Place to another. Not many Years since, we Imported Silk-stockings from the *Levant*: But now the Tide is turn'd, and we send them thither.

D. *It's too great an Undertaking.*

E. The *Flemings* were long settled in the Manufacturing of our Wool; yet (in *Edward* III time) when the *English* set about it themselves in good earnest, they effectually fix'd that rich Staple in *England*. The *Dutch* likewise for many Years after had the Dressing and Dying of our Woollen Manufactures; but when we undertook the Work, they were soon deprived of that Advantage, which so great Benefits our Country would have yet wanted, had all Men thought them too big to be accomplished.

D. *Projects in* England *have of late proved very unsuccessful.*

E. What though some Men have run upon wild Notions, and catching at Shadows lost their Substance, that's no Objection against our *Fishery*, which is a certainty; for the *Sea* yields her *Fish*, as well as the *Earth* her *Fruit*, in due Season: And *Neptune* hath been far more bountiful to you than *Ceres*.

D. *Have*

D. *Have you drawn up a Method for Employing the Poor of* England *in a National* Fishery?

E. I have attempted it, but find the well contriving the Business requires far better Heads than mine.

D. *However, lets see your* ESSAY.

E. Here it is, Sir.

THE

THE

PROPOSAL.

1. THAT towards raising a Joint-stock for employing the Poor in a *National Fishery*, a Million be subscribed.

2. That the Money subscribed be called Stock, and be Assignable.

3. That every Subscriber, at the time of such their Subscriptions, pay to ..... One full fourth Part of his, her, or their respective Subscriptions; and in Default of such Payment, every Subscription to be utterly Void and Null.

4. That the residue of the said Subscriptions be paid by such Proportions, and at such Days and Times, as by a General Court of the said Subscribers, shall from time to time be appointed: And in Default of such Payment, that then the fourth Part first paid, as aforesaid, be forfeited to the Use of the Corporation herein after mentioned, their Successors and Assigns.

5. That the Subscribers be Incorporated by *Act of Parliament* (by the Name of the Corporation

ration for employing the Poor of *England* in a *National Fishery*) with perpetual Succession.

6. That at a General Court to be held for the said Corporation, Thirty be chosen out of the said Subscribers, by plurality of Votes, and presented to the Parliament.

7. That out of the said Thirty, Ten be nominated Fathers of the Poor, and Directors of the National Fishery by both Houses of Parliament, approved by His Majesty and accountable to them for their Trust.

8. That in case of Vacancy (by the Death, or Misdemeanor of any one of the said Fathers of the Poor (during Sessions of Parliament,) the said Corporation to present Three, out of which His Majesty and Parliament to nominate One, as before, and so *toties quoties*. But in case the Parliament shall not then be sitting, that such Vacancies be filled up by the Majority of the Surviving Fathers until next Sessions of Parliament; and then the Corporation to present, and the *King* and *Parliament* to approve as before.

9. That such Fathers be impowered to Constitute, under the Seal of the said Corporation, a sufficient Number of Deputies in each County in *England*; and that such Deputies be, and be called Stewards of the Poor.

10. That

10. That the said Fathers, and such Stewards of the Poor, be exempted from all Parish Offices.

11. That the said Fathers, and such their Stewards be vested with all Authority now in Justices of the Peace; and that all Parish Officers be subordinate and accountable to the said Fathers (and such their Stewards,) in all things (only) relating to Employing the Poor.

12. That the said Fathers and Stewards have Freedom to set the Poor on Work, about such of the said Trades relating to the *Fishery* as they shall think fit, with a *non obstante* to all Patents that have been, or shall be granted.

13. That to prevent People from being oppress and ground to Poverty by Pawn Brokers, that screw out of them 40 or 150 *per Cent*; the said Fathers may be allowed to erect Lumber-Offices in every City and Town in *England* exclusive of all others, upon Condition they take not above . . . . . *per Cent, per Annum*.

14. That in all Churches (as in *Holland*) at every Solemn Assembly, the Church Wardens with a long Staff, Bag and Bell during the Sermon, receive the Charitable Benevolence of the whole Congregation, and pay the same to the said Fathers, who shall cause a true Account to be kept thereof, and apply it to the Erecting Hospitals in *London* and other great Cities, wherein Poor Women near the time of

 their

their Travel, may be received and carefully Delivered, and remain till they are in a condition to return Home, and follow their Work: And if at the Years end, any *Overplus* of such Collections remains, that the same be yearly applyed for *Marrying* poor *Maids*.

15. That until the Business of the *Fishery* be sufficient alone to give Employment to all our Poor, (or at least during Ten Years next after the Establishing a *National Fishery*,) the said Fathers and Stewards of the Poor may be impowered to Imploy such of them as they shall think fit, in erecting Free-Schools, Hospitals, Work-houses, and Ware-houses; for the Corporation, in making Enclosures, in repairing Sea Banks, draining Fens, cleansing and deepning Rivers and Havens, in building and repairing Churches, Bridges and Causeways, in mending Roads, in planting Oaks near Navigable Rivers, and Fruit Trees, in Inland Countries, also in cleansing of Streets, Common-shores, and the like.

16. That the said Fathers of the Poor be impowered to send such Refractory Poor as they shall think fit, to serve in his Majesty's Plantations, taking Security for their comfortable Maintenance during ..... Years Service, and for their Freedom afterwards.

17. That

17. That all the Poors Rates in *England* be Collected, as formerly by the Church-Wardens of each Parish, and by them quarterly paid into the Treasury of the said Corporation, as a Recompence for their providing for the Poor, and freeing the Nation from Beggars.

18. That the Million Subscribed, be always kept Intire, as a Security to Indemnify the Nation against the Charge of the Poor; and the Income and Profits be only divided amongst the Subscribers.

19. That the Treasure of the said Corporation be accounted as Sacred, and that it be Felony to imbezel, lend, convert, or apply the same to any other Use, than maintaining the Poor, or carrying on the Business of the *Fishery*.

20. That His Majesty may be addressed to grant Leases to the said *National Fishery*, of all Waste and Derelict Lands to be by them used in building Warehouses, curing Fish, spinning Twine, and drying and beeting their Nets and the like; and also to be by them distributed amongst such of their Apprentices, their Heirs and Assigns, as shall have faithfully served them Eight, or more Years, not more than five Acres apiece.

21. That the said Fathers may buy up, when cheap, a certain Quantity of Corn, Coals, &c. yearly, and lodge the same in their *Granaries*, for the Use of the Poor, but not make Merchandize

chandize of them, or sell them again in *England.*

22. That the Stock in the said *Fishery* be not chargeable with any Rates, Duties, or Impositions whatsoever.

23. That Debts due to the *Fishery*, for Goods by them *bona fide* sold and delivered, take Preference of all others, except those due to the *King*.

24. That all Persons may Fish as formerly, and sell what they catch in *England*; but none Export any Fish but the *National Fishery* without paying them ..... *per Cent.*

25. That the said Fathers and Stewards be Impowered to bind such single Persons to the Company, as the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor by the Statutes of 43 *Eliz.* 2. 1 *Jac.* 25. 21 *Jac.* 28. and the 3 *Car.* 4. are Impowered to put out Apprentices, the Boys to serve till twenty four, and the Girls till twenty one Years of Age; at one of the two and thirty Trades more immediately relating to the *Fishery*.

The Companies Interest will oblige them to provide the best and sobereſt Masters.

How to prevent their Desertion can be shown beyond Objection.

The Boys being in the Fishing Season employ'd at *Sea*, and working at other Times at that Trade relating to the *Fishery* to which they

they were Bound, when their Time is out, will be able to get their Livelyhoods either at Sea or Land; and if to render them more capable of serving their Country, the said Fathers or Stewards (at Four a Clock each *Saturday* in the Afternoon) should cause them when (on shore) to Muster, and Exercise, although only with Staves,) and for Diversion to play at Cudgels, or Fence, and reward the Conqueror with liberty of wearing a small Riband, whose distinguishing Colour of *Red*, *Blue*, &c. should Entitle them to be called *Captains*, *Lieutenants*, &c. by the rest of their Fellows, till next Weeks trial of Skill: How soon would Emulation beget Address? And what a Treasure and Strength to *England* would such a *Militia* be, always ready for Service both by *Sea* and *Land*, and yet no Charge to the Nation till actually in it?

Nor will such Lads be less profitable to the Corporation, for suppose (as usual) the charge of Fishing to consist one third in the Dogger and Rigging, one third in Victuals, Nets, &c, and one third in Seamens Wages; and the whole, to amount to nine hundred Pounds.

Admitting our Craft, Rigging and Victualling, as chargeable as the *Dutch*, and that they amount together to six hundred Pounds, then

then three hundred Pounds remain for Wages.

Should the Corporation, the first Year, have but one third of a Doggers-Crew their own Servants, (bating what is paid more to Officers till their own Apprentices are fit to Command) it will save them one of the said three hundred Pounds, and if the next Year the Corporation have the half of their Doggers-Crew their Apprentices, it will then save them one hundred and fifty Pounds of the said three hundred Pounds; and thus their Fish would stand them the first Year in about ten, and the next in near fifteen *per Cent.* less than the *Dutch*, and so proportionable to the Numbers of their Servants, their Profits will encrease; till at length, paying little or no Wages, they may afford to sell Fish to the *Hollanders* cheaper than they can catch them.

D. *Money is scarce in* England.

E. The greater the Dearth, the more care should be had to Seed the Ground, lest the Famine encrease: the more our Wealth is exhausted, the greater Cause have we to lay hold on the *Fishery*, which (as hath been shown) so much enrich'd *Holland*, and by Parity of Reason will abundantly add to our Treasure.

D. *Upon*

D. *Upon the whole, I confess, that* England *may outfish us, but then you must have nothing to do with Companies, only make it every particular Man's Interest, and they'll soon make it their Business.*

E. It's dangerous taking a Rival's Advice, and well known why *Fish* was so cheap this Year in *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and other *English* Markets; yet sold so well in the *East* Countries.

Glutting Markets may ruin particular Men, but it's far more difficult to put tricks upon Companies.

D. *After all, where can you find a Set of Honest Men, to carry on a* National Fishery *in* England?

E. In *Amsterdam*, you have your Church-Wardens; Directors of *Betklem*, of your Rasp-house, of your Spin-house, *&c.* Commissioners for your small Differences, and those of your *Levant* Trade, your Sea Affairs, *&c.* also your Vroedschap, your Schepens, and your Burgh-masters, which are Places of far more Trouble than Profit, yet (being the usual steps to Preferment) are generally (*like that of Common-Council-Men in* London) officiated without Reproach. Not for that the *Dutch* are honester Men than their Neighbours: But because such as are found tardy in those Employments, are bar'd all future hopes of Advancement. And should

ſhould our *Parliament* addreſs his *Majeſty* to preſer in the Cuſtom-houſe, Exciſe, *&c.* ſuch as behaved themſelves well in the *Fiſhery*; and make breach of Truſt therein, to incapacitate Men from ſerving the Government in any Employment Military or Civil for ..... Years (how ſmall Wages ſoever the Corporation allowed,) the Company would never want Servants, that, Voluntier like, would vie with each other, who ſhould beſt ſerve their Country by moſt promoting its *Fiſhery*.

D. *An Honeſt Man is a Citizen of the World, Gain equaliſeth all Places to me. And when you ſettle a* Fiſhery *upon better Terms than ours, (as my Grandfather left* Antwerp *when its Trade began to decay, and removed to* Amſterdam) *I'll bid adieu to* t'Vaderlandt, *and remove to* London *in the interim: Farewel.*

C O N-

CONCLUSION.

SEeing in the Preamble of an *ACT* paſſed in the 14 *Car.* 2. 'Tis declared, **That the Publick Honour, Wealth and Safety of this Realm, as well in the Maintenance and Support of Navigation, as in many other Reſpects, doth in an high Degree depend upon the Improvement and Encouragement of the** FISHERY:

And ſeeing the way to all this Honour, Wealth and Safety is ſo plain and Eaſy, that by only a Frugal and Induſtrious Management of Affairs (*without quarrelling with our Neighbours,*) we may quickly become ſole Maſters of the *Fiſhing* Trade:

For ſhame let not *Engliſh-Men* longer ſay, *with* Solomon's *ſlothful*; ☞ *There is a* **Lion** *in the Way.*

Prov. 26.13.

CONCLUSION

London 23. Mar. 1797.