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THE <sup>No 19<sup>th</sup></sup>  
GRASIER'S COMPLAINT

AND  
PETITION for REDRESS;

OR,  
The Necessity of Restraining *IRISH*  
WOOL and YARN;

AND OF  
Raising and Supporting the Price of Wool  
of the Growth of *GREAT-BRITAIN*,  
CONSIDER'D.

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By a LINCOLNSHIRE GRASIER.

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The Land-Holder, being the Person that bears the greatest Part of the Burthens of the Kingdom, ought, I think, to have the greatest Care taken of him, and enjoy as many Privileges, and as much Wealth as the Favour of the Law can (with regard to the Publick Weal) confer upon him. *Lock upon Trade, p. 100.*

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L O N D O N:

Printed for ARTH. BETTESWORTH at the *Red Lyon* in *Pater-noster Row*, and Sold by THO. WIGHTMAN in *Grantham*. 1726. Price 1s.

To his GRACE the  
**Duke of ANCASTER,**  
 LORD LIEUTENANT,  
 TO  
 The KNIGHTS of the SHIRE,  
 AND  
 The MEMBERS of PARLIAMENT,  
 TO  
 The GENTLEMEN,  
 Particularly to  
 Those of the GRAND - JURY,  
 TO  
 The LANDLORDS,  
 TO  
 The GRASIERS and FREEHOLDERS  
 OF  
 The COUNTY of *LINCOLN,*

These PAPERS with all Respect  
 and Submission are inscrib'd by  
*their humble Servant,*

The AUTHOR.



THE  
**GRASIER'S COMPLAINT**  
AND  
PETITION for REDRESS.

**E**Very Man is apt to be fond of his native Country, and jealous of its interests; especially when they are attack'd in the tenderest part; or seem to have other interests plac'd in competition with them, that are more remote and foreign, of less consequence and value.

As the landed interest in general, and the County of *Lincoln* in particular, are already, and likely to continue, great sufferers, under the present low price of Wool;

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Wool; it may not perhaps be an unacceptable service to my Fellow-Grasiers, and Country-Men, to enquire into the causes of its late declension in value; to insist more fully upon that which appears to be most material, most necessary to be restrain'd, and most capable of Redress; and to submit both the Grievance and the Remedy, where alone they can be properly debated and determin'd, to the Wisdom and Authority of Parliament.

The first, and most obvious cause of the low price of Wool, is the general Scarcities of Money in the Country; which has been frequently complain'd of heretofore, but never so sensibly felt as at present: And this may in part be ascrib'd to so large a proportion, of the Rents of *Great Britain* being yearly expended in *London*; to the many great sums subscrib'd out of all quarters of the Kingdom into the publick Funds; and to the much greater, collected and remitted yearly, upon the several heads of Taxes and Excise; And

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as a considerable part of these immense sums, either stagnates, or circulates chiefly in Town; and no adequate proportion returns back into the Country; it is no wonder the stock of current Cash, in the more remote counties, shou'd be apparently diminish'd, and the scarcity of it yearly increas'd. Especially if we farther take into the account, the many great sums, which were probably gain'd by Foreigners, in the general infatuation of the *South-Sea*; and which, it is to be fear'd, have been gradually and secretly draining off from the Nation ever since.

How far this affects the price of Wool, as well as of all other things, is evident from hence; that the necessary uses and occasions for Money are no ways diminish'd by the scarcity of it. The same Rents and Taxes must be paid; the same quantity of Provisions, for the support of human Life, must be bought and sold; the same quantity of Wool and Yarn must be wrought up, and fitted for the uses of our People; but

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but then, where there is less Money brought to market in exchange for them, every Seller's share must be proportionably abated.

Let us suppose nine millions of current Cash employ'd in driving the general Trade of the Nation; and that three of them are either sunk, or hoarded up, and no longer moveable in the channels of Commerce: It is plain the remaining six millions must supply the place of the nine; but then, by the distribution of a sum, so much lessen'd, amongst the same number of receivers, every receiver's share must fall short a third part, and the price of their saleable Goods, sink in the same proportion. So that a less quantity of Money will, in such a deficiency, pass in exchange for a greater quantity of the same Commodity, than it did before.

And for this reason; even Money itself (tho' it be the standârd to which we reduce, and according to which we rate every thing else) is yet mutable and unsettled, in its value; rising when it is scarce,

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scarce, and sinking when it is plentiful. And this uncertainty, both in the quantity and value, must unavoidably be attended with an equal uncertainty in the price of all things purchasable by it. The natural and artificial products of a Country, will be always dearer, or cheaper, in proportion to the quantity of Silver, or Gold, exchangeable for them. When we have a full stream of current Cash, turning and winding amongst us, and reaching the several branches of our Manufactures; trading will be brisk, and the necessaries and conveniencies of Life yield a good and ready price: But where Money is scarce, and the native commodities of a Country plentiful; a little of the one, will purchase a great deal of the other.

A bushel of Wheat, which in the beginning of *Q. Elizabeth's* Reign, ordinarily sold for one Shilling, will now, in a year of moderate plenty, as commonly sell for three, or four Shillings: Not that the Wheat itself is in truth more valuable now, or yields a greater quantity of Flower than it did 160 years ago;

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but because the quantity of Money, by the importation of Bullion from the *West-Indies*, is proportionably encreased. And thus also Wool, which about 10 years ago currently sold for a Guinea, will now hardly reach fourteen Shillings the Tod; because either the stock of Cash, circulating in Trade, is diminish'd one third; or (as we shall see by and by) the quantity of Wool augmented in the same proportion.

Another natural effect of the scarcity of Money is, that it encreases the numbers and necessities of the Sellers; and at the same time lessens the substance, and proportion of the Buyers: Making the former submissive and complying, and willing to part with their saleable Goods almost at any rate; and the latter, for the same reason, stiff and inflexible, insolent in prescribing the conditions of Sale, and averse to purchase where it is not altogether to their liking and advantage. These sorts of artifices are what the Wool-Buyers and Factors are but too well versed in; and by these they play upon the necessities of the poor Grafter, beat down the price of

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of his Wool, and sometimes maliciously prevent, or intercept any other fair Chapman, if they cannot drive a bargain upon their own terms for themselves.

If the careful industrious Grafter, disappointed at home, tries his fortune at the Markets abroad, he is pretty sure, whether at *Norwich*, *Bury*, *Colchester*, or *Sturbridge* Fair, to fall into the hands of the same vigilant Sharpers; who look with an evil eye upon any such independent Trader in Wool; and treat him with a scurvy hand, as an interloper in that Profit they wou'd wholly engross to themselves; and accordingly combine together, in glutting the Markets out of their own private stores, or setting the price at so low an ebb; as either to make him lose the profit, or charges of his Journey; or else to deter him from a second attempt, by defeating his success in the first.

And as the scarcity of Money (being lodg'd in few hands) lowers the price of Wool, by its lessening the number of Buyers, and adding to the necessities of the Sellers: So too great a plenty of Wool itself, must and will always be attended with the

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same effect. The number of hands employ'd in the Woollen Manufactures, the exportations abroad, and the consumption at home, are all limited within certain bounds; and require only a determinate quantity of Wool to supply their several demands, and to keep the wheels of Trade in motion. So long therefore, as a moderate proportion is preserv'd betwixt the yearly growth of Wool, and the yearly vent or consumption of it; so long will it continue a valuable Commodity, and make a quick and profitable return in our domestick Markets. But when the quantity of Wool growing, or expos'd to Sale, exceeds the consumption, the overplus will hang heavily upon hand, and be a clog upon the Sale of all the rest. For there being in this case more than the Market will take off, or, in other words, more Sellers than Buyers; the latter consequently will take the advantage of picking and chusing; and not be too hasty to buy, what they know the others (in too great a plenty) must be constrained to sell upon cheaper terms, at their leisure.

That there is, at present, too great a quantity

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quantity of Wool in *Great Britain*, more than the national Trade and Manufactures require, or can dispense with, seems very apparent; and several probable reasons may be assign'd for it.

Many Gentlemen of estates, in all parts of the kingdom, (for the improvement of their Land, and the advancement of their Rents) have of late years very much fallen into measures, which either the frugality of their ancestors had no occasion for, or their generous spirit disdain'd to have recourse to, viz. the grubbing up of their Woods, the dismantling of their Parks, and exposing them to the plebeian services of Tillage and Grazing; the enclosing their open Commons, and converting many thousand acres of arable into pasture ground: All which, as they have actually made a very great addition to the general stock of Sheep; have consequently increased the yearly growth of Wool to a much greater quantity, than the same lands, unimprov'd, produc'd before.

To these may not improperly be added two other reasons, that have in part contributed towards the same effect. The

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first is, the exceeding dryness and dearth of the Summer, 1723; whereby many thousands of Sheep (not being marketable through want of feeding) were reprieved from slaughter, and turn'd over as a supernumerary addition to the breed of the following year.

The other reason is, the uncommonness of what the Grasers call a Rot; or the long respite they have had, from any great, or general mortality amongst Sheep: And this, by a succession of several healthful years, has also made a farther addition to the national stock of Sheep, and growth of Wool; and kept them both on the encreasing hand.

(The force of this latter reason, in a retrospective sense holds good; but seems now, as many a broken Grasier finds to his cost, to be quite expir'd, and taking a very different and fatal turn: For if upon particular losses, in many different soils and places, we may warrantably ground a general Conclusion; it is very probable, that the present Rot, occasion'd by the excessive rains of the late Summer, will at once sweep away greater numbers out

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out of the general breed of Sheep, than have been added to it by the gradual encrease of many years. Such a calamity as this, will, it is reasonable to expect, give a sudden spring to the price of Wool, and occasion the gleaning up of the scatter'd parcels in the country, at something of a better rate, but cannot be attended with any great or lasting effect: Because, in such an emergency, the Grasers immediately fall into measures of encreasing the proportion of their breeding Stock; and will thereby supply the deficiency of Wool within a year or two after it begins to be sensibly felt. The same time that renews the full complement of their Sheep, restoring with it also the same quantity of Wool; and till this be done, the yearly product of their land being diminish'd, they will consequently be under a greater disability of paying their Rent.)

By these means, and by the care of the Government, in preventing any publick or private exportation; the quantity of Wool growing, and work'd up in *Great Britain*, has been of late years considerably augmented; so as to be



be very near sufficient to answer the demands of our Manufactures, without any large supplies from abroad. Now this, it is certain, is very far from being any real grievance to us, or attended with any national ill consequence; however it may affect some particular Counties, in lowering the price of their Wool: For where the material and the workmanship are entirely our own, there, whatever is acquir'd by either, or both, is so much clear national profit; nothing that is foreign being intermixt, or claiming any share of discount in it. The encrease of *British* Wool cannot therefore of itself have any ill effect in abating the price, unless, either the quantity produc'd, or the quantity of foreign Wool permitted to be imported, be so great, as to exceed the demands of our Markets: The former we are assur'd does not; and therefore, whatever disproportion there may be betwixt the present quantity of Wool and its vent, must be ascrib'd to the latter, *viz.* to the importation of Wool of foreign growth, as the great and principal cause of so pernicious an effect: It being

evident,

evident, that a considerable part of our native Wool must either stick on hand, or be sold at an under rate; when the markets are supply'd in a plentiful, and cheaper manner, from another place.

The reasons hitherto consider'd by us, have no doubt in part contributed, either to advance the quantity of our native Wool, or to settle the value of it: But what has a more immediate and fatal effect, in prejudicing the Sale of our native Wool, encreasing the general quantity, and lowering the price of it, is a legal hardship, a Partnership in Wool, and its primary Manufactures, indulg'd and granted by law to the people of *Ireland*; to those who are, in truth, likely to prove the most dangerous competitors we have in either. The privileges of bringing over their Wool, and afterwards their Yarn, were no doubt permitted and design'd at first for the advancement of Trade, and for the relief and benefit of *Ireland*; and answer accordingly: But being now imported Duty free, and rising yearly to greater quantities, prove, in the consequence, (which was never intended)

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of infinite detriment to the landed interest, and to the Growers of Wool in *England*.

As the general consent of Mankind, is an argument of the truth of those principles wherein they agree; so the general complaint of the whole body of Grasers against the importation of *Irish* Wool and Yarn, is a presumptive proof of their being a real and publick Grievance, very sensibly felt in their present ill effects, but more to be dreaded in relation to their future.

The Gentlemen of *Ireland*, as well as their Advocates here, must therefore excuse us, if we seem to argue with warmth, against what we suffer with reluctance; or be constrain'd to bear hard upon them, in endeavouring to relieve our selves. We are willing to consult, and ready to promote their wealth and prosperity, as far as may be compatible with our own; but cannot be so easy and complaisant, as to connive at their national profit, when it so manifestly tends to our ruin. The importance of this subject to the grasing interest, will therefore abundantly justify our ap-

pearing in it; as well as make it necessary for us to enlarge upon it, and to prove both the reality of the Grievance, and the equity and reasonableness of our hopes of Relief.

It is in some measure a misfortune to both Kingdoms, to have the same natural situation, the same kind of soil, the same products of Land, the same capacities of improvement by Trade from the very same Manufactures. So that *England* cannot take its full scope in Trade, without restraining, or cramping that of *Ireland*. On the other side, *Ireland* cannot fall into any branch of our Woollen Manufactures, without greatly prejudicing and impoverishing *England*.

For as the Land in *Ireland* is at the least one third lower in the rent, and the way of living and labour at the least one third cheaper than here; it is evident, that in whatever instances their trade, or the products of their land and labour interfere with ours, they will considerably undersell us; and consequently not only have the priority of sale, but even exclude us, till their turn is serv'd, out of our own Markets.

A Grafter that hopes to live and thrive upon his Farm, expects one half of his rent payable by his Wool; the other half by the carcases of his breeding and feeding Stock; together with an overplus in both, to contribute towards his own maintenance, and that of a servant, or labourer, requisite for the management of his land. Let us suppose that he rents 60*l.* a year, keeps 160 sheep, that the fleeces run at four and an half *per* Tod, amounting to 35½ or 36 Tods; and that the labour and maintenance of two persons for half a year is computed at 9*l.* Let us suppose again, that an *Irish* Grafter cuts the same quantity of Wool off of 40*l.* a year, which the *English* does off of 60*l.* and that their labour, necessaries of life, and the charges of managing their respective Farms, bear the same proportion. The account will stand thus.

<p><i>English.</i></p> <p>Half a year's rent 30 00 00          Maintenance and Labour } 9 00 00  <hr/>         Wool 36 Tods at 15<i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Tod } 27 00 00  <hr/>         Deficiency 12 00 00</p>	<p><i>Irish.</i></p> <p>Half a year's rent 20 00 00          Maintenance and Labour } 6 00 00  <hr/>         Wool 36 Tods at 15<i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Tod } 27 00 00  <hr/>         Gain 1 00 00</p>
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Difference 13 00 00

From hence appears upon what different terms the products of *England* and *Ireland* will stand expos'd to sale in the same Markets; and that the *Irish* can undersell us 7*s.* *per* Tod in their Wool, and be notwithstanding upon an equal or better foot than our selves.

But if instead of this state of the account, we suppose the product of 60*l.* *per* Ann. pasture Ground (as it more generally is, to be but 140 Fleeces, and those to run at 5 *per* Tod (equal to 28 Tods) and to be sold at 13*s.* *per* Tod, amounting to 18*l.* 4*s.* (which is near the present price, and a mean proportion in the greater part of pasture Wool) it is

is plain, according to this estimate, that our Wool, instead of defraying half a year's rent and charges; especially, if according to Sir *W. Petty's*, and Dr. *Davenant's* computations, we raise the account upon the *English* score, and sink the value of *Irish* Rent, labour, and necessaries for life, to half the proportion: which will still further widen the difference, and allow a greater latitude for gain on the *Irish* side, and encrease the disadvantage on the *English*.

(We would not here be understood to include in this valuation any Lands lying contiguous to *Dublin*, or to any other great and populous Boroughs, which are usually rented for other purposes; and by the number of competitors for them, are commonly let as dear as Land in *England* in the same situation; but only such Land in general, as lying without the reach and influence of trading Towns, is accounted fittest for, and employ'd by the common people of both Nations in grasing; and here the proportion of one third difference in the Rent, if not of a full Moiety, will generally take place.) Upon

Upon this account, and more especially since the prohibition of *Irish* Cattel, the Grasers there have turn'd their industry more towards encreasing the general breed of their sheep, than is, in truth, consistent with the landed interest here; and by the vast quantities of Wool and Yarn they yearly spin and import, they have of late made such advances, and continue still growing so fast upon us, that in all appearance we must in some little time sink under the advantages they have over us; unless the legislative Power repress the growing mischief, and interpose with timely care and vigour to prevent our ruin.

We are, no doubt, bound in many cases to submit our private interests and concerns to the common good of our Country; but no patriotism, no publick spirit extends so far, as to oblige us to suffer great and lasting inconveniences for the sake of a foreign Nation, tho' it be dependent upon us. 'Tis generous to acquiesce under the loss or diminution of our properties, when our native Country is benefited, and our liberties secur'd by it; but 'tis unreasonable to expect we should

shou'd pay the same compliment to *Ireland*, and be easy under the impoverishment of our own inhabitants, to enrich theirs.

As the landed is the most considerable national interest, that of pasture Ground the most valuable of the landed, and Wool the principal article for the support of both; it seems too dear a purchase to court the dependance of *Ireland* at the expence of the most valuable product of our native Soil; and by making that unsaleable, and of little value in our own Markets, in favour of *Irish* Wool and Yarn, which used to be a constant fund of wealth and credit to us, supplying our wants, answering the demands of Foreigners, and enriching our selves.

In this truly consists the strength and riches of *Great-Britain*; and tho' in the opinion of some, we want the mines of *Potosi*, the quarries of *Indostan*, and the fragrant and costly product of the *Spice-Islands*; yet we have what is more than equivalent to all these in our *British* or *English* Wool (for so we beg leave promiscuously to call it) and the several Manufacturies employ'd

ploy'd in it; which not only furnish us with what we spend of foreign Growth, and turn the general balance of Trade to our advantage; but at the same time find employment and maintenance for several millions of our people, either in growing or working it up at home, or exporting it abroad to foreign Markets.

As it is the natural product and advantage of our Soil; our *English* Grassers seem to have a sort of natural right to supply *English* Wool to *English* Manufactures; not only preferably to, but even exclusively of any other Nation, till their Wool be all work'd up: but if the whole product of *Britain* in Wool will not supply the Manufactures; it is then reasonable that *Ireland* (as a Kingdom depending upon us, and whose welfare we are concern'd for in the second place) should make up the deficiency by importing theirs. The Rent and Taxes which we yearly pay, entitle us in a more peculiar manner to the favour and protection of our Country, than *Ireland* can lay claim to; and give us besides a legal right to reimburse

our selves, by the yearly sale and consumption of what we yearly grow, and many of us pay too dearly for: and for this reason, we cannot be thought partial to our selves, in petitioning that the disposal of *British* Wool be in the first place settled and provided; nor hard upon *Ireland*, in insisting that their Wool, rather than any part of our own, remain unfold. The burdens and the privileges of a Nation ought ever to be inseparable, and the one recompensed with the other; and since so great a charge, both in Rent and Taxes, lies upon pasture ground, and Wool is the main product the landed interest depends upon; we shall be inexcusably negligent, if we do not in some measure ascertain the working up of our own Wool, and turning it into Specie, before we permit any Wool of foreign growth to interfere with us.

The native Commodities of our Country are of greater value, and the disposal of them in our Manufactures of greater consequence to us, than any others of the like kind of foreign Growth; and ought therefore chiefly to be regarded and promoted

moted by us: but if instead of domestick, we encourage foreign Consumption; if our Markets be over-stock'd with *Irish* Wool and Yarn, and our Weavers and Factors rather chuse to buy and work them up, because (being inferior in goodness and service) they come at a cheaper rate; this is plainly to divert the Woollen Trade into an *Irish* Channel, to enrich their Grassiers, and impoverish ours; and in effect to make the Wool of *Ireland*, tho' of a coarser staple, to give price to that of *England*. For if our Markets be equally open to their Wool and Yarn, as well as to our own, and they can undersell us for the reasons abovemention'd, at the least a third part in the price; it is evident, that no Weaver or Factor (whose views are govern'd by the prospect of gain) will give 15 s. per Tod for *English* Wool, if he can buy *Irish* in any degree suitable to his purpose for ten; and consequently, we must either abate, and sell at their rate as the Market price, or keep our Wool unfold.

And if we compute this Kingdom, by its being larger in extent, and better stock'd

and cultivated, to cut yearly three times as much Wool as *Ireland*; the lowering the price of *British* Wool a third part, in proportion to the *Irish*, will be evidently a yearly loss to our Graziers here, equivalent to the full value of the whole stock of *Irish* Wool. So that we do in effect purchase the privilege of being supplanted at our Graziers expence; and are in truth so unaccountably generous, or impolitick, as to depreciate and make a Drug of our own Wool, on purpose to make room for the sale of theirs.

And this also, in its natural consequence, must in some little time sink the Rents of *England*, to the *Irish* rate. For if the product of 60*l.* per *Ann.* here; and of 40*l.* in *Ireland*, be equal in quantity and value, and make the same returns when brought to sale in the same Market; there can no just reason be given, why the two Farms should differ in their respective Rents, or the one be a third part dearer than the other; unless it must be a peculiar hardship upon Graziers to be impoverish'd because they are *English*, and have the misfortune to rent Land in their native Coun-

Country at a higher rate, than the products of it, under their present abatement, can answer or defray.

About ten years ago (the last *Æra* of the golden age for Graziers) when Wool sold above a Guinea a Tod, and Stock proportionably; there was in many places an answerable rise in the Rents of pasture Ground, and Leases let accordingly: And as many Gentlemen have their Tenants ty'd, to what in the event proves so hard a bargain; they seem oblig'd in justice and pity (especially such as have any share in the Legislature) to use their endeavours to raise and support the price of Wool suitably to the Rents they receive, and to prevent and remove all foreign impediments to it; or else they will be presum'd to act only upon selfish views, to live upon the sweat and blood of their Tenants; and perhaps be constrain'd to maintain their families as a burden upon their Estates in the heaviest way.

As *Great-Britain* is the almost only Nation on this side of the Globe, wherein are left any valuable remains of publick liberty; it is in truth a most desirable privilege,

privilege, as well as honour, to be natives and denizens of it: but it is an uncomfortable reflection to us Grassiers, that the very same spot of Ground which gives Wealth and Liberty to others, should by the immoderate value set upon it, or indulgence to its dependent Dominions, enslave and impoverish its Proprietors; should be so generally beneficial to People of all Ranks and Conditions; and only ruinous to that particular body of Men, who make it their business to cultivate and improve it, and to yield the utmost it is capable of to the publick Service.

Every Man has, no doubt, a natural right to live by his industry, and to acquire a competent share of the necessaries and conveniencies of Life, by care, discretion, and diligence, in his station; but if his way of livelihood be affected with publick Losses, or oppressed with legal Discouragements; if all his care and industry plainly tend to the service and benefit of his Country, but at the same time unhappily turn to his own impoverishment; such an useful, though unfortunate Subject, deserves the pity at least, or rather

ther the relief and assistance of the legislative Power, in abating or removing the hardships he labours under, and placing him upon a more equal foot of ease and prosperity with his fellow Subjects. Nothing being more reasonable, than that every Man, or every body of Men should receive protection and encouragement from their Country, in proportion as they contribute to its real benefit and welfare.

'Tis something unaccountable, that the plenty of Wool should make it a mere drug to the Grower and first Seller of it; and at the same time, when wrought up, very little, or scarce at all cheaper to the Buyer: Cloths and Stuffs in the retail, may be generally observed to preserve and retain their usual price; though the material whereof they are made, be at the least sunk one third part in the price it formerly bore. This we are aware of, is commonly ascrib'd to the prime cost of the Wool bearing so small a proportion to the Manufactures; and to the several under-workers in them, being obliged (by the many Taxes making labour and subsistence dearer) to raise their wages. But why,



why, in the balance of equity, must any such additional charge fall wholly upon the Growers of Wool? or why must they only be distressed and loaded, that the Draper and Merchant may advance their Gains (which are otherwise not inconsiderable) in their respective Markets? As the several dealers and retailers of the Woollen Manufactures, make at present a better penny of them, than the Grasiers; it is but reasonable they should bear their share in the burden, and not increase the weight where there is the least strength to support it.

To set this in a clearer light, let us suppose a Tod of Wool, value 15 s. to yield about twenty three pounds of Yarn, and to run after the rate of nine pounds to thirty eight yards; and accordingly producing in Crape, Camlet, or Calamanca, one with another, about ninety six yards; and selling at 15 d. per yard, or 6 l. it is plain that the prime cost of the first material amounts to no more than an eighth part of the whole; and that the other seven parts divided amongst the several Manufacturers, will by such a repartition leave

leave to each of them a greater proportion of gain, than accrues to the Grasier for his share, discounting the necessary abatement for Rent. If we pursue these speculations further, in the middling sorts of cloth, by comparing their weight, length and price; the same proportion of an eighth part, (making allowance for the waste of Wool in dressing, &c.) will hold good with little variation: The quantity of Wool in the fine cloths and draperies, usually diminishing to an eleventh, or twelfth part; and sometimes rising to a sixth, fifth, or fourth part, in the coarser Drabbs and Kerseys.

Computations of this nature, may perhaps, to some persons, appear too vulgar and frivolous to be taken notice of, but are of great consequence to us; as well to prove the comparative hardships we labour under, as the equity of our Petition for Relief. For if he that combs, dyes, weaves, works, or exports Wool thrives, why shou'd he that grows it be impoverish'd? why must the Grasier be the only sufferer, where all other dealers in Wool are gainers by it? The Grasier

fier is at the least equally serviceable to the Publick; and deserves at the least equal favour and encouragement: Nay, properly speaking, he is the very Basis and Ground-work upon which they all depend; and to whom they owe their respective Trades and Employments, and the capacity of acquiring Riches by them.

Under this view, the great extent of our Trade, the prodigious exportation and consumption of our woollen Manufactures, the publick splendor of Cities, and the private affluence, in which the greater part of Merchants and Tradesmen usually live, are, in truth, no other than very melancholy and uncomfortable appearances to the poor Graziers; who are gradually impoverish'd, by what others gain their Riches; and can hardly pinch out a wretched maintenance, whilst the more remote dealers in Wool, are more easy in their circumstances, and abounding in wealth and plenty. Not that in this case, we desire, or think it adviseable, to lay any Tax upon others, for the relief of ourselves: Because any such Tax upon the native products of land,

land, will either affect the land itself, or terminate upon the first Grower, or last Consumer: Besides, it is certainly both for the landed and trading interests, that the several intermediate dealers in Wool, and its Manufacturers, shou'd thrive and grow wealthy by them. Let them therefore, without the least envy or repining on our side, flourish and prosper; but let us too, who are immediately concern'd in the growth of Wool, acquire a livelihood by it, and come in for a reasonable share of honest gain with our fellow subjects.

In matters of such a general concern, it is the part of wise Governors, to overlook with a watchful eye, and act with a steady hand; and to take care that all persons employ'd in the natural, or artificial products of their Country, be set upon an equal and impartial foot, and preserv'd and supported in it: So that no one body of Men, no one set of Dealers, may interfere, or bear hard upon another, or thrive to their prejudice, or ruin. This being as absurd in politicks, as it wou'd be unnatural in a common Parent;

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to pamper one child, and starve another, or to promote the exorbitant growth of one limb, to the danger and disability of the whole body.

And as this appears reasonable betwixt natives and fellow subjects; it will hold much stronger where the competition lies betwixt natives and foreigners. A sovereign independent people, need not stand much upon ceremonies with their neighbours, in matters of great and publick utility; wherein any kind indulgence, or generous condescension to others, may and must prove dangerous, if not fatal to themselves. What if *Ireland* be a province depending upon us, and peopled mostly with natives, or colonies transplanted from hence? we must not therefore consult and promote its interests, to the prejudice of our own; we must not like, the Pelican in the fable, feed our dependants with our own vital blood, with what shou'd nourish and support ourselves.

When one Man supplants another in his trade, or interest, it is sometimes proverbially expres'd in a neighbouring Kingdom,

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dom, by cutting the turf under his feet: (Alluding therein to boggy places, where the outward turf is the only support from sinking into the mire.) As the *Irish* dealers in Wool and Yarn, must and will always, in a free open trade, undersell us; they may be truly said, in a literal sense, to cut the turf under our *Grasiers* feet; to supplant them in their way of livelihood, and to defeat their just expectations of competent gain, from the natural and principal produce of their pasture ground.

It is no doubt for the interests of trade in general, and of the Manufacturers of Wool in particular, that it be bought and work'd up at the cheapest hand, and in the greatest quantities; that the Merchant may take in his freight, and make his outfets cheap; may extend and enlarge his commerce, and turn the ballance of Trade to the greater advantage of the Nation: But what is all this to the particular case before us? What if the Weavers, the Drapers, and Clothiers thrive, and the Stuff-merchants, wallow in wealth and plenty; if the poor *Grasier* (who is the foundation of

of all their trade and riches) fare hardly, and be unable to pay his Rent, and maintain his Family? Will the wealth of a *Norwich Weaver*, or *London Merchant*, satisfy the demands of a strict Landlord, or unmerciful Steward? will the national ballance of Trade support a Grasier's credit, or prevent his going to Jail for non-payment of his Rent?

It wou'd be much for the advantage of Trade, and enable us to undersell our competitors in foreign Markets, if our Wool grew, like Cotton in some parts of the *West-Indies*, and only put us to the charge and trouble of gathering: But since it is our misfortune to have our land ascertain'd in property; and no man can be entitled to keep a flock of Sheep, or cut a pack of Wool, without paying a valuable consideration for the pasture, upon which the one feeds, and the other grows: It is plain the legal inconveniencies of Rent and Taxes must be provided for; and that no Grasier can be at liberty to attend to a consequence so remote as the national ballance of Trade, till he first knows how to make up (what is,

is, in truth, of greater, and more immediate concern to him) the private ballance of his own accounts with his Landlord.

Not that we are so stupid and ignorant, as to be insensible of the advantages of Trade, or imagine ourselves unconcern'd in the consequences of it. It is that alone which has hitherto rais'd and supported the price of Land; that increases the bulk of our foreign exports, and by the returns they make, gives value to the natural and artificial products of our Country. And thus, when in exchange for our native, we bring home less in value of foreign commodities than we carry out; that is, when the overballance of Trade lies on our side, it will by degrees enrich the Merchant, the Clothier, the Manufacturers, and add to the stock of national wealth; and afterwards by encreasing the quantity of Bullion, or current Coin, will consequently sink its comparative value, and raise the price of land, and its products, by promoting still greater demands and exportations: But this remedy, how sure and



ments *Ireland* is making upon us; and instead of exerting any commendable endeavours to retrieve our credit, to acquiesce stupidly under an approaching prospect of beggary and ruin.

The Poor are already a very heavy burden upon us; but their numbers and charge must in all appearance be greatly augmented by the continuance or increase of the importation of *Irish* Yarn, which more immediately affects the industrious part of them; intercepting the bread they are capable of earning, and diverting that relief amongst Foreigners, which we equally, or rather more, stand in need of for the poor amongst our selves. In a case of this nature, our charity may both justly begin, and laudably be confin'd at home, without extending to any more remote and distant objects of it; whilst we daily see such crowds at our own doors destitute of employment and subsistence. The Carders, the Combers, the Spinners, especially the latter, are a very numerous and necessitous multitude, consisting chiefly of such, as either through age, weakness, or other infirmities, are hardly able

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to turn a penny towards their own maintenance, or employ their time any other way. All these, as they are the very first and lowest rank of Woollen Manufacturers, ought to be supported and encouraged, and the numbers of them as much as possible encreas'd; because they raise a spirit of emulation and industry amongst their poorer neighbours, and are at the same time serviceable to their Country, and helpful to themselves; and to supplant or discourage them in their way of livelihood by the importation of *Irish* Yarn, is in truth, to consult the benefit of a few Traders and Merchants, to the detriment of the poor and needy; to derive supplies of wealth, where they are superfluous, and to divert or obstruct them where they are most necessary.

The several Excises, affecting the inferior people here, through whose hands spinning chiefly runs, will, we are sensible, make their maintenance and labour dearer; and though they cannot therefore work so cheap as the *Irish*, they have notwithstanding the same need of being employ'd, the same wants to supply, the

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same

same right to subsist, as the *Irish* have; and to make use of Foreigners, when we abound with Natives equally necessitous, may perhaps be an instance of frugality or good-nature misplac'd; but of very little care or regard for those, who, being more nearly related to us, have upon that account a better title to our compassion and favour.

The labour of the meaner sort of people, is of too great consequence to a trading Nation, to be any way slighted or disregarded; and though the *Irish* under-working us, may allow a greater freedom to commerce, a greater latitude of gain to the Merchant; yet that will by no means depreciate *English* labour, or render it of less benefit or value. Every native well employ'd in any of our Manufactures, is a benefactor to his Country, and makes a real addition to the general Stock, or artificial product of the Kingdom: Whereas nothing of foreign labour can be used or imported, without something equivalent to it going out of the publick Stock in discount for Wages; and since the very meanest under-workers

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in Wool contribute in some measure towards the support of the State, and the movement of the great wheels of Trade; it seems a peculiar hardship upon them, as well as inconsistency in the management of affairs here, first to put them under a necessity of raising their Wages, by taxing many of the necessaries of life; and afterwards to make the dearness of their labour, occasion'd by those Taxes, the very ground and reason of discouraging, or declining to make use of *English* hands, and of employing foreign (as in this view we must account *Irish*) hands in their stead.

In short, if by the importation of *Irish* Yarn, the employment of their Poor, and the payment of their Rents be consulted; it is equally certain, that the very same interests here, of so much greater concern and importance to us, are, in the consequence of such an importation, overlook'd and disregarded.

The Wool of *Great-Britain* being our best and richest product, requires our utmost care and attention to the management and improvement of it; and might perhaps, under proper regulations, rise, to be

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be of it self near sufficient for the supply of our domestick Manufactures, (as we have already in part observ'd) because there are few Parishes producing any quantity of Wool, wherein there are not several parcels of it yearly left unfold. And as the number and quantity of such unsaleable parcels, since the late fall in the price, have been very much encreas'd; it may be worth while to consider, whether it be not of real consequence both to Tenants and Landlords, that the quantity of Wool yearly shorn, should be yearly sold and work'd up? whether it be not strictly necessary, and for the publick benefit and service, to take a distinct account of the general quantity of Wool, as well growing, as manufactur'd, in *Great-Britain*? in order to collect and discover from thence, with some sort of certainty, what proportion the yearly growth of Wool bears to the yearly consumption of it; for without some such settled Standard, whereby to guide our judgments, we can at the best but reason and conjecture in the dark; we shall be liable to pursue false and mistaken measures, either by

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prohibiting

prohibiting what is necessary, or by importing what is superfluous and consequently prejudicial to us.

But whatever our Wool may be, the labour of *Britain* is undoubtedly capable of very great improvements; there being many thousands of vagrants and beggars, of hands able and liable to work, and yet useles and unemploy'd, living like drones upon the Commonwealth, and contributing little or nothing either towards their own maintenance, or the support of the Government, under which they are, to its reproach, suffer'd to loiter away their time and strength in the most unheeded and unprofitable manner. All these, by a wise and strict management (either in the execution of the Laws in being, or of new ones devised for that purpose) might, and ought to be reclaim'd to a more orderly and industrious course of life; and by degrees dispos'd of in the several Manufactures, according as they are wanted, or appear fitted for them; and wou'd by that means become a very great and new accession of wealth and strength to the Kingdom. It

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is certain, that we neither want Heads to contrive, Hands to work, nor variety of native Commodities and Manufactures to employ them in; but only such a coercive Power in our Laws, and steadiness in the execution of them, as may more fully and effectually reach all that in a reasonable account ought to work, or that are in any degree capable of it; and press their limbs and labour into the publick service, who are by no means willing to use them to any good purpose themselves.

And thus, when the numbers of our workmen are encreas'd, and the native product of our Soil improv'd and manag'd to the best advantage; when we are so busy as to have no hands unemploy'd, so wise and careful as to have no Wool of our own growth unmanufactur'd, and the demands abroad still rising above our supplies at home; then, and not 'till then, is there properly room for the importation of *Irish* Wool and Yarn; and we ought in strictness of reason and policy to lay a partial restraint upon them, 'till our own, we are well assured, are in a course

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course of manufactory, and of being converted into Specie; for otherwise, in so material and fundamental an article their gain will be founded upon our loss, and their thriving terminate in our beggary and ruin.

The importation of *Irish* Wool and Yarn, appearing thus in many instances prejudicial to us; let us proceed to enquire into the general damage which the Grassers and landed interest here may be presumed to receive from it: And herein, a distinct account of the quantities of Wool and Yarn, shipp'd and landed at the several licens'd Ports, and to what branches of the Woollen Manufactures distributed, wou'd enable such as are better vers'd in political Arithmetick, to be tolerably just in their computations, and accurate in their conclusions. But since enquiries, or inspections of this nature (as we find by experience) lie without the reach of Men of private interests, and narrow fortunes, we must content our selves, either with the imperfect informations we can get, or with the most rational conjectures we can make.

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If

If we suppose the importation of *Irish* Wool and Yarn (as we judge and find by the effects) to be gradually encreasing upon us; and the value of a thousand Pounds of both to be weekly wrought up in the City and neighbourhood of *Norwich*; (which we are credibly inform'd is no extravagant conjecture) if we farther suppose, *London*, and the Western and Northern Manufactures, by the advantage of their situation, to work up about five times the quantity and value of *Irish* Wool and Yarn, here assign'd to *Norwich*; and its dependents, it is plain, that above 300000 *l. per Ann.* either in Money, or Goods equivalent, must go out of the publick stock of the Kingdom, to ballance the importation. And as this must in a more peculiar manner distress the grasing Counties; it is no wonder, either that our pasture Wool shou'd hang so heavily upon our hands, or that the scarcity of Money shou'd so sensibly encrease upon us, as hardly to leave sufficient wherewith to turn the common payments of Taxes, and Markets.

As *Lincolnshire* abounds with Wool, and produces a greater quantity of it than any other County of *Britain*; it must be consequently more affected by the importation of *Irish* Wool and Yarn, and receive greater prejudice from it. How far the damage rises, and to what degree the advance or fall in the price of Wool, may, and must affect us, will be in some measure collected from the following Computations.

The general survey of the County of *Lincoln*, is usually rated at 1740000 Acres; by others, upon account of the great acquisitions of Land upon the Sea-Coasts, at 1760000. Let us then, for fear of having overstretch'd the measure, strike off at once, for Woods, Ways, Towns, Land lying under Water, or otherwise unserviceable for grasing, 500000 Acres. The remainder (which to those who are acquainted with the fertility of soil in the Western, the Northern, the Fenny, and Marshy parts of the County, will appear a very moderate proportion) let us rate at one Sheep *per Acre*, amounting to

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1260000. As the fallow Wool must be included in this valuation equally with the pasture, let us compute 8 Fleeces to the Tod; and then the total produce of the County of *Lincoln* in Wool, will, by such a reduction, appear to be 157500 Tods.

To examine the justness of this estimate, I proceeded by another medium; and computing the number of Parishes in the County, *viz.* 630; and rating every Parish, one with another, at two loads and a half of Wool, or 250 Tods *per* Parish; the two sums, arising from the different operations, appear'd surprizingly coincident, amounting each to 157500 Tods, without the least variation.

These premises being thus laid down, it is evident, that the advance, or fall, of every Twelve-pence *per* Tod in the price of Wool, makes an addition or abatement of near 8000 *l.* out of the publick Stock, or current Cash of the County. And consequently, if Wool has been gradually sinking, and in seven years,

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years, fallen from twenty one, to thirteen Shillings *per* Tod; it is plain, the stock of current Cash, in the hands of Grasers, will be diminish'd in the same proportion; and that there must be in this one article, beside other heads of discount, about 63000 *l.* less ready Money, to carry on the general Trade, and Business of the County, than there was before.

But if, in regard to the superior quantity of pasture Wool, we compute the Fleeces at 7 *per* Tod, which seems to be the fairer proportion; the total produce of the County in Wool, will then rise to 180000 Tods; the abatement of every Twelve-pence *per* Tod, will be 9000 *l.* discount; and the general loss in sinking from a Guinea to thirteen Shillings *per* Tod, will be 72000 *l.* or near 115 *l.* diminution in the current Cash of every Parish, one with another. Which soever of the two computations be admitted, the deficiency, we are sure, is very sensibly felt, and must continue to distress us in our common payments, till either the

the great drains to *Ireland* be effectually stopp'd, or the price of Wool takes a different turn in our *English* Markets.

Whatever hardships we suffer, or streights we are reduc'd to, have been hitherto chiefly confin'd to ourselves; the other members of the body politick, lying either at too great a distance, or being too little conversant in country affairs, to have a competent sense, or knowledge of them: tho' in the end, they must alike come in for their share, and be involv'd in the same publick calamity with ourselves. The Court sees nothing but a daily circle of pomp and magnificence, gaiety and pleasure; the Cities and trading Towns, in appearance at least, abound with wealth and plenty; and many of them, in degrees above their sphere, with luxury and profusion; the Nobility and Gentry fall in with the taste of the Court, and are generally more ambitious of making a figure with the rents they receive, than desirous of acquainting themselves with the hardships their tenants undergo in the payment of them; the Farmers, for the most part

part, make a quick and profitable return of the corn they grow: But it is the poor Grasier, that finds and feels the difficulties encrease of paying Rent and Taxes, which the others are in a great measure insensible of, and can hardly be induc'd to believe.

To those who are appriz'd of country affairs, or in any degree vers'd in them; it is plain, that the Grasers cannot at present supply their Necessities, and pay their Rents, without breaking up part of their Farms, and converting pasture into Tillage: This must in a little time, as the practice grows general, lessen the quantity of Wool yearly cut, as well as sink the price of grain, by encreasing it beyond the quantity consum'd at home, or transported abroad; and consequently render Corn as great a drug as Wool; as unable to supply the Rents of the Farmer, as the latter is those of the Grasier. And if neither Corn, nor Wool bear any price equivalent to the value of Land, nor the charges of Tillage; the consequences must be, that neither Rent, nor Taxes can be paid;

paid; and the Grasers and Farmers, the Landlords and Tenants, with the several Traders depending upon them, must be alike in danger of turning Bankrupts.

For when the Graser fails in the payment of his Rent, the Landlord must of course disappoint the Tradesmen he deals with; the Tradesmen, their wholesale Dealers and Merchants; the Merchants, the Clothiers and Factors; and those again the Weavers and Dyers, the Woolcombers and Growers: And by this means, the mischief circulates; and by an unhappy chain of consequences, one deficiency extends itself to an unconceivable length, and produces many; spreading thereby a fatal diffidence upon Trade and Credit, a general weakness and insolvency through the whole Kingdom.

Some people indeed confidently assert, and others are credulous enough to imagine, that the importation of *Irish* Wool and Yarn is of little detriment to us; that beside *Lincoln* and *Leicester* Shires, the other parts of the Kingdom are very little affected by it; and that the damage done

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to two or three grazing Counties, ought not to be laid in the ballance, with the advantages of Trade, and the national interests of *Britain* and *Ireland*.

How little weight, or truth there is in these suggestions, will best appear from the ensuing computations. The yearly Rent of pasture ground, in the Southern parts of *Britain*, by those who sink it lowest, is rated at 4500000 *l.* of arable land at about 2500000 *l.* Besides these two principal articles, there are about twelve millions of Acres, in Heaths, Moors, Forrests, Commons, Roads, Mountains and barren Land, which produce little else besides a small, or middling breed of Sheep; and these, rated by a proportion of one Sheep to three Acres, and twelve Fleeces, and as many Shillings to the Tody, will, within a trifle, amount to 2000000 *l.*

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Let

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Let us rate the value of	}	1500000
pasture Wool at a third		
part of the Rent, viz.		

The fallow Wool (be-	}	400000
ing betwixt a sixth and se-		
venth part of the Rent) at		

Heath, Moor, and For-	}	200000
rest Wool, &c. at		

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2100000

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If then the general rental of the land of *England*, as it is usually computed, rises to ten millions; it is evident, here is more than a fifth part charg'd upon Wool, and defrayable by it. And if *English* Wool, by the importation of *Irish*, be sunk one third in its price; here is plainly 700000 *l.* yearly going out of the pockets of the Grasier, the Farmer, the Cot-tager and Labourer; (the two latter having generally a small tale of Sheep faring hardly upon the Commons) and this, not

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to enrich the nation in general, but a very small number, as we shall see by and by, of their fellow subjects.

Let us now pause a while, and ask; whether these are national interests; and whether the Wool and Yarn of *Ireland* are worth purchasing at so dear a rate? But to go on.

The persons maintain'd and employ'd in the woollen Manufactures, when they drew up a general muster of their Forces, at the bar of the *House of Commons*, were computed at 700000; to shew them we will not be overstrict and niggardly in our calculations, we will throw in the Merchants, the Factors, the Sailors, concern'd with them in the same business, at 300000, advancing thereby the total number of persons to a million.

Let us consider now on the other side, what numbers we have to confront this formidable Body. The Grasers of the County of *Lincoln*, or such however as are any way concern'd in the growth of pasture Wool, are, by a moderate computation, reckon'd to be 10000; sup-

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posing these to be about a fifteenth part, the whole body of the Grasers will amount to 150000; and rating their Families, one with another, at four heads per Family, the number of persons depending upon grasing, will be 600000. The Farmers being more numerous, we shall lay at 160000; and at five heads per Family, amount to 800000. The Labourers and Cottagers cannot be estimated at less than 600000; nor at three and one third heads per Family, at less than two millions, viz. 2000000.

Total under the Head of Grasers } 600000  
 Total under the Head of Farmers } 800000

3400000

This numerous body of people being one way or other concern'd in the growth

Vide Mr. King's Schemes, D. and E. in Dr. Davenant's upon the Land and People of England.

of

of Wool, are immediately and sensibly affected by any considerable abatement in the price of it. Whereas, of the million allotted to the woollen Manufactures, we will boldly venture to affirm, that not one in forty, or not more than 25000, are real gainers by Irish Wool. The Pay, Wages, and Profit of the 975000 poorer Manufacturers, being the same, whether the Cloth and Stuffs they weave, dress, and vend, or the Wool and Yarn they are made of be *English*, or *Irish*.

Upon the view of so great a disparity in numbers, it would be an affront to common sense, to ask, which of these two is the most valuable and important national interest; or whether it can be worth while to pursue measures, for enriching twenty five thousand, who stand in no need of it; at the expence and impoverishment of more than three millions, who are truly diligent and necessitous, and employ'd chiefly in supplying the principal material for the most beneficial trade of Great Britain?

There

There are no persons in a publick estimate, more truly valuable and useful, than the fair-dealing and industrious Trader and Merchant; who dispersing the labours of others, and contenting themselves with moderate gain, distribute wealth and plenty to those numerous tribes of people that work under them: Nor any more hurtful and detestable, than those griping selfish wretches, who extorting an unreasonable lucre from the industry of others, resolve, at any rate, to grow immensely rich out of the publick necessities. Let but these arbitrary Gentlemen retrench their gain and expences within a narrower compass, and the profits arising from Wool and its Manufactures be more equally and impartially divided; and then the complaint and grievance here represented, will, in a great measure, cease: Whereas they must and will unavoidably continue and encrease, so long as the growers of Wool are so numerous and necessitous, and their applications for relief unconsider'd and unregarded.

The

The Merchants, the Drapers, the Clothiers, &c. may perhaps triumph for a while, in the superiority of the trading to the landed interest: But when the supplies of Rent fail; when their foreign and domestick goods of the greatest value stick on hand; and luxury and vanity are unsupported by national wealth; they will then, awaking out of their golden dream, find themselves miserably distress'd and deluded; and that the private streights and necessities of the growers of Wool (tho' they may not perhaps be felt, or believ'd at present) must, and will in the event, affect the whole body of the people, and lead to, and end in publick poverty.

We wou'd not willingly be charg'd with aggravating any speculations of this nature, beyond their just consequences; but shall shelter ourselves under the authority of Dr. *Davenant*, (the most accurate and judicious writer upon the land of *England*, and its product) who asserts, page 124, that the fall either of one third in the Rents of *England*, or an abatement

ment



ment of 10 per Cent. forc'd upon us (in Wool and its Manufactures) by the rivalship (in trade) of another country, (viz. Ireland) wou'd throw us into more disorders than the most knowing Man in England can readily describe.

How well grounded this Author's judgment may be, or how near the crisis, he mentions with so much dread, may be approaching, we shall not presume to enquire, or determine; but endeavour to prevent any further ill consequences, by an immediate and submissive application to the Government, referring our different interests to its arbitration and decision; and reposing that confidence upon its equity and wisdom, as to believe it will in due time, as far as possible, extricate us out of our present difficulties.

The taking of matters so nice and intricate under consideration, and wherein so many different interests are twist'd and involv'd; will, we expect, be attended with debates and difficulties, with clamour and opposition; nor indeed can any thing of consequence be transacted without them;

them: But what are any such trifles to the publick service? What is there that the wisdom and sagacity of a British Parliament cannot contrive, and their steddiness and courage put in execution? They, and they only are the proper judges both of the disease and remedy; of the particular season, and manner of application: And all opposition, both in this and the neighbouring kingdom, whenever they seriously engage in the reconciliation of their jarring interests, must of necessity sink and fall before them.

Whatever difficulties we may at present labour under, or how great a drug soever Wool may be in our domestick Markets, yet the price of it, we reasonably hope, may be rais'd and restor'd; and the drooping credit of the Grassiers again revive and flourish; if both the ministerial and legislative parts of our Constitution, think it of sufficient consequence to attend to it; and join their endeavours in finding out ways and means to relieve a body of Men, so necessary and useful to the Publick, by whose industry the national

tional Rents are in a good measure paid, and the great wheels of Trade set and kept in motion.

Nor are any of their own acts so far binding upon themselves, as to be irrevocable: Because their power of repealing, must and will be always equal to their power of enacting, in matters of publick detriment, or Service.

It is possible for the wisest bodies of Men to be sometimes surpriz'd into error, to be liable to mistakes in political Theories; and not to foresee the evil consequences of several apparently good laws, till some years trial and experience have made them plain and palpable: And then, with all due submission be it spoken, it is their duty to reconsider and repeal such laws in their exceptionable parts; and to frame them in a manner more consistent and agreeable with the publick welfare.

As the present race of the people of *Ireland*, is in truth no other than the descendants of transplanted *English*; their affinity to us in Blood, in Religion,

and Government, ought to endear them to us, and oblige us to treat them with friendship and kindness, with indulgence and favour; nay and even to grant them all the encouragement, all the privileges in point of traffick, that can be in any reasonable degree consistent with our own welfare.

But then in order to do this wisely and safely, we must not consider *Ireland* in its distinct and separate interests, but under a comparative view, as it stands in a state of dependency upon *Britain*. For this exceedingly alters the case; not only making their interests subordinate to ours, but justifying those very measures, which may appear severe and rigorous to them, as truly wise and necessary towards our own preservation. If *Ireland* be in truth the most dangerous and formidable rival we have in Wool, and its Manufactures; *England*, in all good reason and policy, must be allow'd to have a right to preserve itself, by guarding against encroachments. And upon this account,

whatever concessions may have been formerly, or lately made in favour of *Ireland*, ought to be retracted, with as little scruple as granted; when found in the event prejudicial to ourselves. Because, in all competitions of national interests, the greater and more valuable ought always to be prefer'd.

If the price of *English* Wool cannot be rais'd, or supported, without the restraint or prohibition of *Irish*; if the interests of *England* and *Ireland* interfere in their principal branches, it will be worthy the care, and becoming the wisdom of a *British* Parliament, to reconcile and adjust them in the most candid and equitable manner; but if upon examination they shou'd be found incompatible, there can be no competition in the choice, whether a dependant Province ought not to be limited in its Trade, rather than the Rents of *Britain* sink; or the Grassiers, throughout the whole Kingdom, be impoverished.

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The supreme legislative Power of *Great Britain* (being of equal weight and authority in *Ireland*, and acting with the same paternal tenderness and regard to both Nations) is the only Bar we can appeal to, the only proper Arbitrator of our interfering rights and interests. And whatever they in their legislative capacity judge and determine to be best, and most expedient for the mutual and general welfare of both Kingdoms; must be equally binding, and finally conclusive to both.

Whatever has been here advanced against the importation of *Irish* Wool and Yarn, will not, we hope, be taken in so strict and rigorous a sense, as to extend to a total and immediate prohibition of both; but rather limited to such a gradual and partial restraint, as may be consistent with the support of *Ireland*; and in a competent degree, serviceable and beneficial to ourselves. An entire stoppage of the woollen commerce, will, we are justly apprehensive, give a sudden and fatal

fatal damp to Trade, reduce *Ireland* to the greatest streights, and perhaps, notwithstanding all our care, force the exportation of their Wool into foreign Markets; where it will be as much, or more dangerous to our Manufactures, than the importation hither is prejudicial to our native growers of it. Whereas, if we proceed in the restraint of *Irish* Wool, by gentle steps and degrees, and proportion the quantity permitted to be imported, either to the demands of our Manufactures, or the deficiency of our native supplies; We shall thereby keep the Wool and Yarn of *Ireland*, (as in good reason we ought) under a state of dependency and subordination to our own: We shall farther give the Grasers there fair warning and leisure sufficient to turn their stock and industry, and employ their land some other way, wherein they will find less opposition from us; and may perhaps acquire an equal or greater profit to themselves.

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But these, and other expedients, as well for the disposal of *Irish* Wool, as raising the price of *British*, (if they shall be thought of any consequence) would be more properly and seasonably offer'd, when the more weighty and publick affairs, before the Parliament, will give them leave to take these matters under consideration.

F I N I S.



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