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 T H E K I N G D O M O F
 N A P L E S a n d S I C I L Y, o r H O L L A N D:

S H E W I N G

The probable Ill Consequences of such a Measure in regard to the
Landed Interest, Woollen Manufacturies, Silk Manufacturies,
Fisheries, Wealth, and Naval Power of GREAT BRITAIN.



L O N D O N:

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MEMORIAL

PRESENTED TO

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN THE YEAR 1772

BY JOHN H. ...

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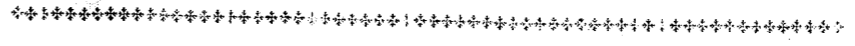
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REASONS

HUMBLY OFFERED

Against laying any further Duties on Wrought Silks, &c.



REASONS with Respect to Italy, the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily.

- 1.—**T**HAT the Silk Manufacturers of *Great Britain*, do wholly depend upon other Countries for all the *Silk* they manufacture; and that their chief Dependence is upon *Italy*, the Kingdom of *Naples* and *Sicily*.
- 2.—That great Quantities of *British Woollen Manufactures*, *Tin*, *Lead*, *Fish*, &c. are exported to those Countries; and that the principal Commodity imported from thence is *Silk*, most of which comes Raw or only Thrown.
- 3.—That the British Commodities so exported, being fully wrought or prepared, do yield their full Benefit to this Nation; and that this Nation doth reap a further and great Benefit by manufacturing the Raw and Thrown *Silk* so imported.
- 4.—That in Consideration of these great Advantages the Commodities of *Italy* are charged with only moderate Duties here; and that the Duties on Italian *Wrought Silks* are lower than the Duties on any other Foreign *Silks* worn in *Great Britain*.
- 5.—That Thrown *Silk* of the Production of *Italy*, the Kingdom of *Naples* or *Sicily*, is permitted to be imported into this Kingdom; and that those Countries are the more benefited by this Privilege as it is not granted to any other Country.
- 6.—That these wise Measures were taken in the Reign of King *William*, the Royal Founder of our Silk Manufactures; and that a reciprocally beneficial Trade was thereby established between *Great Britain* and *Italy*, *Naples*, *Sicily*.

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7.—That

- 7.—That this Trade was settled before the Royal Lustring Company of England was established by Charter; and that a Supply of Unwrought Italian *Silk* was thereby secured for the Silk Manufactures of this Kingdom.
- 8.—That the successful Establishment of those Manufactures was much owing to their being supplied with *Italian Silk*; and that their rapid Increase and long flourishing State are chiefly owing to a large and constant Supply of such *Silk*.
- 9.—That *Italy* and *Sicily* are the only Countries from whence we can be supplied with Unwrought *Silk* upon such good Terms; and that there are no other Countries in *Europe* from whence any considerable Quantity of Unwrought *Silk* can be had.
- 10.—That almost all the other Unwrought *Silk* imported into *Great Britain* is brought from *Turky*, *Persia*, *East India* or *China*; and that the *Woollen Manufactures*, &c. consumed there do bear but a small Proportion to our Trade with those Countries.
- 11.—That more than Half of the Raw *Silk* imported by our *East India* Company is purchased with *Gold* or *Silver*; and that since the Decrease of our *Woollen Trade* to *Turky*, much *Money* is sent to that Country to pay for Raw *Silk*.
- 12.—That it is against the true Interest of this Kingdom to pay *Money* for foreign Materials which interfere with our own; and that the *Money* so paid is really *lost* to this Nation, because *British Materials* might be used instead of them.
- 13.—That re-exporting of such foreign Materials, after they are manufactured here, doth not recover the *Money* paid for them; and that such Persons as think otherwise, do not consider that the Exportation of our *native Materials* is thereby prevented.
- 14.—That the national Loss sustained by our wearing of *Turky* and *East India Silk* bought with *Money* is really very great; and that the Advantage which this Nation is supposed to gain by the Manufacture of such *Silk*, is a Deception.
- 15.—That the said *Silk* doth prevent the Home Manufacture and Consumption of an equivalent Quantity of our *Wool*, &c. and that the Consumption of our *Woollen Stuffs* in other Countries is not increased by the British Consumption of such *Silk*.

16.—That

- 16.—That neither the People of *Turky* nor the People of *East India* can wear more British *Woollen Manufactures* than they buy; and that no Nation in *Europe* will buy the more of those Manufactures because we consume *Turky* and *East India Silk*.
- 17.—That whatever prevents the Manufacture of our *Wool* at Home doth in Effect oblige People to send it Abroad; and that the more *English Wool* the *French* can get, the more *Woollen Manufactures* will they be able to export.
- 18.—That the greater their Exports of *Woollen Manufactures* are, the less will our Exportations of *Woollen Manufactures* be; and that the British Merchants who trade to *Spain*, *Portugal* or *Turky*, have found it so by frequent Experience.
- 19.—That *Three Millions of Pounds* have probably been exported for *Turky* and *East India Silk* consumed here within Thirty Years last past; and that the said *Silk* hath probably prevented the Home Manufacture of our *Wool* to the Value of *One Million of Pounds*.
- 20.—That if the said Home Manufacture had not been prevented, there would have been so much less *Wool* sent to *France*; and that the French Exports of *Woollen Manufactures* must then have been less by at least *a Million of Pounds*.
- 21.—That if their said Exports had been a Million less, the Exports of British *Woollen Manufactures* would have been so much more; and that our Loss of *Woollen Manufacture* by these Means is probably *One Million five hundred Thousand Pounds*.
- 22.—That the Returns for *Wool* run to *France*, are *Brandy* and other Commodities which prevent the Consumption of our own; and that for this Reason the aforesaid Loss may properly be estimated at *Two Millions*, the full Value of the Manufactures.
- 23.—That from hence it doth appear how dearly this Kingdom pays for having the manufacture of *Silk* bought with *Money*; and that the supposed Profit thereof hath produced a real Loss of *Five Millions of Pounds Sterling* in Thirty Years.
- 24.—That of this Sum the People of *Turky* and *East India* have gained *Three Millions*, and the *French* have gained *Two Millions*; and that the latter have beat us out of great Part of our *Woollen Trade* with the former, by the Help of *British Wool*.

25.—That

- 25.—That these Things may possibly appear extraordinary to some Persons, but that they are in Substance true is too certain; and that so long as the *French* can get such great Quantities of *British* or *Irish* Wool, so long will these Losses be continued.
- 26.—That from hence it doth also appear how far *Manufacturies of Silk* are consistent with the true Interest of this Kingdom; and that so far as they can be increased without decreasing our *Woollen Manufacturies*, so far it is right to increase them.
- 27.—That our *Silk Manufacturies* have unhappily much interfered with our *Woollen Manufacturies* of late Years; and that the Root of the Evil lies, in purchasing great Quantities of *Turky* and *East India* Raw *Silk* with *Money*.
- 28.—That it would be better to exchange our Staple Commodities for the *Wrought Silks* of *Italy*, than to pay *Money* for *Raw Silk*; and that if the former of these had been done for Thirty Years last past, this Nation might have saved *Five Millions* of *Money*.
- 29.—That this is really a weighty Reason against increasing the *British* Duties on *Wrought Silks* of *Italy*, *Naples* or *Sicily*; and that the Impossibility of supporting our *Silk Manufacturies* without a large Supply of *Italian Silk*, is still a weightier Reason.
- 30.—That the People of those Countries do give up to this Nation the Manufactory of three Parts in four of the *Silk* they send here; and that most if not all of the Commodities we import from thence are purchased with *British* Staple Commodities.
- 31.—That for these Reasons our *Silk Trade* with *Italy* and *Sicily* is consistent with our *Woollen Manufacturies* and *Landed Interest*; and that it doth much support our *Naval Power* by enabling the *Italians* to buy great Quantities of *British-caught* salted *Fish*.
- 32.—That *Italian Silk* enables our *Silk* Manufacturers to vie with, and to excel in some Instances, those of other Nations; and that the Goodness of our *Silk Manufactures* hath been the chief Means of preventing the Wear of *French Silks* in this Nation.
- 33.—That it hath also caused great Quantities of *British* *Silk Manufactures* to be exported to several other Countries; and that this Chain of good Consequences is derived from and doth wholly depend upon our *Silk Trade* with *Italy* and *Sicily*.

34.—That

- 34.—That we do not receive all or any of these great Advantages from consuming *Turky* or *East India* Raw *Silk* bought with *Money*; and that since the said *Silk* prevents the Consumption of much *Italian Silk* here, it doth thereby lessen those Advantages.
- 35.—That the said *Silk* doth greatly decrease our *Woollen Manufacturies*, and as much increase those of *France*, I have already shewn; and that it hath not supported the Reputation of our *Silk Manufacturies* is proved by the superior Goodness of *Italian* *Silk*.
- 36.—That for this Reason, *Turky* and *East India* *Silk* cannot have prevented *French* *Silks* from being much worn in this Nation; and that consequently they cannot have been the Cause of great Quantities of *British* *Silk* Manufactures being exported.
- 37.—That the said *Silk* is not a Means of supporting our Fisheries, for neither the *Turks* nor *East Indians* do consume *British* salted *Fish*; and that by decreasing in *Italy* the Means of making Returns for such *Fish*, it decreases our Fisheries and *Naval Power*.
- 38.—That for these Reasons, all or most of the *Money* paid by this Nation for *Turky* or *East India* Raw *Silk*, is irrecoverably lost; and that upon the Whole, the said *Silk Trade* doth greatly decrease our *Wealth*, *Woollen Manufacturies* and *Naval Power*.
- 39.—That our *Silk Trade* with *Italy*, the Kingdom of *Naples* and *Sicily*, is well known to produce quite contrary Effects; and that these are very strong Reasons for putting an intire Stop to the former, and for wholly supporting the latter.
- 40.—That an Increase of *Wealth*, *Woollen Manufacturies* and *Naval Power* must be the Consequence of such a Measure; and that supporting of these three grand Concerns is the true and only Way to support the *Landed Interest* of *Great Britain*.
- 41.—That our *Landed Interest*, *Woollen Manufacturies*, *Wealth* and *Naval Power*, are the four Pillars which support this Kingdom; and that they might be much strengthened by the afore said Means is evident from what I have already mentioned.
- 42.—That the Truth of this will appear more evident when the Circumstances of the People of *Italy* and *Sicily* are considered; and that the first Thing to be taken Notice of is, their not having any considerable Mines of *Gold* or *Silver*.

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43.—That

- 43.—That their not being possessed of such Mines doth put it out of their Power to carry on a *losing Foreign Trade*; and that consequently, their Consumption of Foreign Commodities must be governed by the foreign Consumption of their Commodities.
- 44.—That their own Lands do furnish them with the same Sorts of Commodities which are produced in the Countries near them; and that there are no other considerable Commodities of which they stand in Need, excepting such as are produced in *Great Britain*.
- 45.—That on the other Hand, Custom hath made the principal Commodities produced there necessary for the *British* Nation; and that from hence there doth arise an Agreement of Commercial Interests which will out-last any Treaty of Commerce.
- 46.—That *England* hath carried on a considerable Trade with *Italy* and *Sicily* under all the Changes of their political Connexions; and that this could not have been if Nature had not in Effect made a perpetual Treaty of Commerce between them.
- 47.—That the People of those Countries and of this Country do find a mutual Profit from consuming each others Commodities; and that their Consumption of *British* Commodities may equal, but cannot exceed our Consumption of *Italian* Commodities.
- 48.—That *Silk* is the great Staple Commodity of *Italy*, the Kingdom of *Naples* and *Sicily*, at least with Respect to this Nation; and that the *British* Consumption of such *Silk* doth therefore bound the *Italian* Consumption of *British* staple Commodities.
- 49.—That if this Boundary be contracted, the Consumption of our *Woollen Manufactures, Tin, Lead, Fish, &c.* will decrease; and that increasing the *British* Duties on the *Wrought Silks* of those Countries will contract the said Boundary.
- 50.—That any considerable *Increase of Duty* on those *Silks* will in Effect prove a Prohibition to their being imported here; and that the Loss which the *Italians* will first suffer thereby must of Necessity ultimately fall upon *Great Britain*.
- 51.—That if they lose Ten Thousand Pounds a Year by this Means, they will have so much the less to lay out in our Commodities; and that no Nation will consume more *British* *Woollen Manufactures, Tin, Lead, Fish, &c.* because the *Italians* buy fewer of them.

52.—That

- 52.—That from hence there will follow, a Decrease in the Exporration of our Staple Commodities to the Value of Ten Thousand a Pounds a Year; and that to make Amends for this Loss, £10,000 a Year in Specie may be imported here in Return for *British* *Wrought Silks*.
- 53.—That this is the utmost Advantage which can arise to the Nation by increasing our *Silk* Manufacturies as aforesaid; and that this is not a national Equivalent for losing the Exportation of Staple Commodities to the Value of £10,000 a Year.
- 54.—That the Value of the *Materials* of which such Staple Commodities consist is thereby lost to the Landed Interest of this Kingdom; and that losing the *Manufactory* of those *Materials* is equal to gaining the *Manufactory* of so much *Raw Silk*.
- 55.—That the *Freight* of so many Staple Commodities from *Great Britain* and *Newfoundland*, to *Italy* and *Sicily*, is thereby lost; and that if the said Commodities had been carried there, these *two* Losses would have been prevented and more Money gained.
- 56.—That the Value, in *Italy*, of those Commodities would have bought more *Wrought Silks* there than it will buy of our *Wrought Silks*; and that if in this Case the *former* had been exported from hence instead of the *latter*, the Return in Specie would have exceeded £10,000.
- 57.—That from hence it seems impossible for this Nation to reap any Advantage by increasing the Duties on *Italian* *Wrought Silks*; and that the Losses thereby in our Staple Commodities and Naval Power would exceed the increased Profits by manufacturing of *Silk*.
- 58.—That this Case is stated upon a Supposition that the Trade of *Great Britain* with *Italy* and *Sicily*, is equal as to Money; and that if the said Trade be ultimately in our Favour as to Money, the Arguments in this Case will be stronger.
- 59.—That to the Exports from hence to *Italy* must be added, the Value of the *British* caught *Fish* sent there from *Newfoundland*; and that from our *Italian* Imports, there must be deducted the Value of *Italian* *Silk* re-exported from *Great Britain*.
- 60.—That these Things are mentioned in order to prevent any fallacious State of Trade from misleading the Public; and that if there be any Fallacy in what is here mentioned, I shall be obliged to any Person who will publicly point it out.

61.—That

- 61.—That to me it appears impossible for this Nation to be a Gainer by increasing the *British* Duties on *Italian* Wrought Silks; and that there doth also appear some Probability of such a Measure being attended with many bad Consequences.
- 62.—That it is extremely natural for the Princes and States of *Italy* to consider and pursue their respective Interests; and that the *Italians* are too wise a People to supply us with *Unwrought Silk* any longer than it is their Interest.
- 63.—That some Nations do manufacture all their *Raw Silk* for the same Reasons that we manufacture our own *Wool*; and that the Profits arising from Silk Manufactures are too great to be given up without a valuable Consideration.
- 64.—That the superior Goodness of *Italian* Silk will always secure a Demand for it preferably to *Turky* or *East India* Silk; and that the small Bulk of *Silk* in Proportion to its Value facilitates the setting up of Silk Manufactures in any Country.
- 65.—That wise Counsels have turned this Facility of establishing Silk Manufactures greatly to the Advantage of this Nation; and that as such Manufactures are happily fixed here, all possible Care should be taken to prevent their Removal.
- 66.—That increasing, without Public Necessity, the *British* Duties on *Italian* Wrought Silks cannot be called a friendly Measure; and that when such Measures are begun, the suffering Nation is at Liberty to retaliate, or to go further if they think proper.
- 67.—That a Misunderstanding between this Nation and the States of *Italy* may put them upon manufacturing *all* their Raw Silk; and that if, unhappily for this Nation, such a Measure should be taken, the best of our Silk Manufactures must be ruined.
- 68.—That if those States should not take this Step they may lay high Duties on their *Unwrought Silk* exported to this Country; and that if their *Silk* should be so made dear to us, the Manufactures here wrought out of it must be proportionably dearer.
- 69.—That this would decrease, if not wholly stop, their Exportation, by which our Silk Manufactures must of Necessity suffer; and that they must in all Probability sustain a further Loss by the great Encouragement there would be to run *French Silks*.

70.—That

- 70.—That the *French* would be sure to take the Advantage of such a Misunderstanding, to effect the Ruin of our Silk Manufactures; and that as they were near succeeding in such an Attempt formerly, there cannot be too much Care taken to discourage a like Attempt.
- 71.—That the Essence of Friendship between trading Nations consists in their laying only moderate Duties on each others Commodities; and that the Essence of Enmity between Nations, in Matters of Trade, doth consist of express Prohibitions or high Duties.
- 72.—That laying high Duties on *English* Commodities in *France* obliged *England* to lay high Duties on *French* Commodities here; and that it cannot possibly be for the Interest of *Great Britain* to begin a commercial Enmity with the Princes and States of *Italy*.
- 73.—That the Public Necessities of this Kingdom, at different Times, have much increased the Duties on *Italian* Wrought Silks; and that the valuable Consideration given to *Italy* and *Sicily* for *Unwrought Silk* hath been thereby diminished.
- 74.—That the Princes and States of *Italy* might have taken Occasion from hence to make very unfavourable Alterations; and that by not doing so they have given a strong Proof of their Disposition to continue in Amity with *Great Britain*.
- 75.—That *French* Influence hath of late Years introduced *French Woollen Manufactures* and *Salted Fish* into some Parts of *Italy*; and that increasing the *British* Duties on *Italian* Wrought Silks is not the Way to regain that lost Trade from the *French*.

REASONS with Respect to the Republic of *Holland*.

- 76.—THAT the Trade carried on between the People of *Great Britain* and the People of *Holland* is very extensive; and that the great Quantities of *British* Staple Commodities which are sent there do make it a valuable Branch of Trade.
- 77.—That the said Commodities are not all consumed in *Holland*, but part of them re-exported to several other Countries; and that the *Hollanders* do thereby facilitate our Trade and the Sale of our Commodities in many Parts of *Germany*, &c.

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78.—That

- 78.—That fine *Linsens*, *Sail-cloth*, and *Whale-fins*, were formerly imported into this Kingdom from *Holland*, to a very great Value; and that these Importations are much decreased of late Years by our own *Linen Manufacturies* and *Whale-Fishery*.
- 79.—That as these are capital Articles in *Holland*, the decreased Consumption of them here doth much affect the *Dutch*; and that as this Alteration is much in favour of this Nation, there is the less Reason for making another of the same Sort.
- 80.—That if I am rightly informed, the *Dutch* did more than retaliate an Increase of Duty on some Part of their Linen Manufactures; and that supposing I should have been misinformed, yet their Right of retaliating in the present Case is not thereby lessened.

REASONS with Respect to the Silk Manufacturies of Great Britain.

- 81.—THAT high Duties were laid on *French* Commodities here, because the *French* laid high Duties on *British* Commodities; but that there are no such Reasons for laying high Duties on the Commodities of *Italy*, the Kingdom of *Naples* or *Sicily*.
- 82.—That the Duties on Wrought Silks of *Italy*, *Naples* and *Sicily*, were intended to protect the *British* Silk Manufactures; and that the said Duties are amply sufficient for this Purpose, is proved by their having answered the End proposed by them.
- 83.—That the Duties laid on such Silks, before the Reign of *Queen Anne*, were a sufficient Protection to our Silk Manufactures; and that if those Duties had not been so, the said Manufactures could not have been established in the Reign of *King William*.
- 84.—That they were happily established in His glorious Reign, under Cover of the Protection which was then granted to them; and that they rapidly increased for Fifty Years, without the least Increase of Duty on Wrought Silks of *Italy*, *Naples* or *Sicily*.
- 85.—That Public Necessities made a general Increase of the Duties on Foreign Commodities unavoidable in the Year 1747; and that a further Duty of Five per Cent. was then laid on *Italian* Wrought Silks, as well as on other Commodities.

86.—That

- 86.—That this new Duty comes to 1 s. 8 d. per lb. on such *Wrought* Silks, 10 d. per lb. on *Thrown* Silk, and to only 6 d. per lb. on *Raw* Silk; and that our Silk Manufacturers do acquire further Protection thereby, because they pay only 8 d. and Foreigners pay 1 s. 8 d. per lb. more.
- 87.—That if such an Increase of Duty had been necessary for our Silk Manufacturers, they would certainly have prayed for it; and that their not doing so, makes this present Application for a further Increase of Duties the more extraordinary.
- 88.—That there is a wide Difference between protecting the *British* Silk Manufactures and distressing those of *Italy*, *Naples* and *Sicily*; and that if there be any Deviation from the Medium between these two Extremes, it is in favour of our Manufactures.
- 89.—That this may be made appear by concurring Facts, which are supported by such Authority as doth not admit of Doubt; and that the first thereof is, a considerable Decrease for Thirty Years last past in the Importations of *Italian* and *Dutch* Wrought Silks.
- 90.—That the second is, a considerable Increase, during the same Period, in the Exportations of *British* Silk Manufactures; and that this Fact doth furnish a third and most conclusive Proof, that our Silk Manufactures are amply protected.
- 91.—That the Bounty allowed for *British* Wrought Silks exported, is but barely equal to the Duties on Unwrought Silk imported; and that though this be not in Reality a Bounty, yet are there respectable Quantities of our Silks sold at foreign and open Markets.
- 92.—That these three Facts do even prove more than is necessary with respect to the Protection of our Silk Manufactures; and that an Increase of Protection ONLY, would in the End decrease those Manufactures, is all which remains to be shewed.
- 93.—That keeping up a Spirit of Emulation among Manufacturers, is the only Way to keep their Manufactures good and cheap; and that the Prosperity of the *British* Silk Manufactures depends upon *British* Wrought Silks continuing to be so kept.
- 94.—That this only, can secure a Continuance of the Demand for *British* Silk Manufactures from several foreign Nations; and that this is our great Security against the Revival of that illicit and ruinous Trade to *France* for Wrought Silks.

95.—That

- 95.—That preventing the Importation of *Italian* and *Dutch* Wrought Silks, would make a Monopoly of our Silk Manufactures; and that the People of *Great Britain* would then be to buy such *Silks* as our Manufacturers would make, and at their Prices.
- 96.—That if this was once effected, the Spirit of Emulation which is now kept up, would in a very few Years become languid; and that the Master Silk Manufacturers would then have an Interest separate from and opposite to the national Interest.
- 97.—That the Condition of their acquiring Fortunes now is, their making *Silks* as cheap and good as foreign Wrought Silks; and that it would then be in their Power and for their Interest to gain Fortunes *without performing this national Condition*.
- 98.—That though in this Case, some Master Silk Manufacturers might continue to act properly, yet others might not do so; and that ill Examples seconded by private Interest, are too powerful Persuatives for the generality of Men to withstand.

That for these Reasons, an Increase of Duties as aforesaid is likely to be very prejudicial to the *British* Silk Manufactures; and that for the Reasons before given, it is likely to be so to the *British* Landed Interest, Woollen Manufactures and Naval Power.

That the Whole of what I have here offered appears to me to be for the true and general Interest of *Great Britain*; and that I shall think myself much obliged to any Person who will publicly point out any material Errors herein contained.

WESTMINSTER,
14th March, 1758.

J. Massie.

The present British Duties on *Raw, Thrown, and Wrought SILK.*

	Paid by Britons.			
	£.	s.	d.	cents
<i>Raw</i> , called Long Silk; the Pound, containing 24 Ounces	0	1	11	2
<i>Thrown</i> , or <i>Orgazine</i> ; the Pound, containing 16 Ounces	0	3	11	7 1/2
<i>Wrought</i> , of the Manufacture of <i>Italy</i> , in British built Ships; the Pound, containing 16 Ounces	0	12	1	1
— from <i>Italy</i> , in foreign Ships; or from any other Parts of the World (excepting <i>France</i> and <i>East India</i> , and excepting <i>Lustrings</i> and <i>Alamodes</i>) the Pound, containing 16 Ounces	0	14	2	3 1/2

F I N I S.