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CONSEQUENCES
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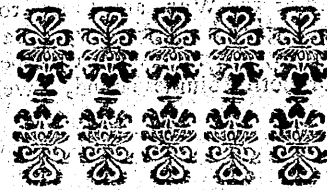
LAW

FOR

Reducing the DUTYs upon
French Wines, Brandy, Silks and
Linen, to those of other Nations.

WITH

REMARKS on the MERCATOR.



LONDON,

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The Consequences of a LAW
for Reducing the Dutys upon
French Wines, &c.

IN settling a Treaty of Commerce between *England* and *France*, three things ought principally to be taken care of on the part of *England*, viz.

1. That a Ballance of Mony may be annually gain'd by that Commerce to *England*, or at least not issu'd into *France*.
2. That our Commerce may contribute to the Increase of our Rents and the Value of the Landed Interest, or at least that the same shall not be impair'd.
3. And lastly, That by means of this Commerce greater Numbers of our People may be employ'd and subsisted than before, at least that no greater Numbers may be brought to the Parish and the Lands for Relief.

If all these things are taken care of, tho' *France* had laid five times as high Dutys on our Goods and Merchandizes as we have done on theirs, the present Treaty will deserve all the Panegyricks in the world. On the contrary, if by reason of this Treaty we shall issue greater Sums of Mony out of *England* than we did before, upon the Ballance of our whole Trade; if we shall lose any part of our present Rents, or yearly Value of our Lands; if less Numbers of People, than were before, shall be employ'd and subsisted by their Labour, and must therefore come to the Lands or the Parish for Relief; there is no Man who has the least regard for his Country will pretend to say, that the present Treaty, or the Commerce we shall gain by it, can be beneficial to this Kingdom.

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It is in vain therefore to say, as the *Mercator* does in his Papers, that *France* by this Treaty has taken off more of the Dutys upon our Exports, than we have done upon their Imports, or that their Imports are higher tax'd in *England* than our Exports are in *France*: for if the Dutys upon their Imports were 500 *per Cent.* here, and those upon our Exports not one *per Cent.* in *France*; yet if with the easy Dutys there we could export no Goods at all thither, and notwithstanding the heavy Dutys in *England* they will be able still to import great quantities hither; if by this means a greater Balance in Money shall be issu'd hence than was before; if the Value of our Lands shall fall, and greater Numbers of poor People shall be brought upon the Parish; all that the *Mercator* can say, will never be sufficient for his purpose.

All therefore that ought to be regarded in Treatys of this nature (besides the keeping and performing former Treatys) is either the increasing or not diminishing our present Stock of Money, the present Value of our Lands, or the Employment and Subsistence of our poor People. And how well these Rules are observ'd in the present Treaty, is in the next place to be consider'd. According to these Rules, I will examine the *Mercator's* Instances of our Exports into *France*, and their Imports into *England*, in his third Paper: *viz.*

Dutys by the present Treaty,

In France,		In England,	
	<i>l. sol.</i>		<i>l. s. d.</i>
On our Cloth,	55 10	On Wine per } 26 15 3 ⁴	
On Serges, —	11 00	<i>Ton,</i>	
		Brandy per <i>Ton,</i>	51 09 6
		Salt 800 Bush.	275 03 1
		20 wt. wr. Silk,	12 03 7
		20 wt. Lustring,	34
		106 Ells Doulas,	00 12 7

By the Tariff of 1664. Cloth 25 Ells, or 31 Yards *English*, were to pay 40 Livres or 3 *l. English*; by 1667. *France*

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France doubled this Duty; by the Tariff of 1699. this last Duty was reduc'd to 55 Livres 10 Sols, or 4 *l. 3 s. 4 d. English*, upon the aforesaid Length; which is the Duty settled by the present Treaty. Now the Question is, whether we are oblig'd to *France* for this, or whether we shall be able to export any Cloth to that Country?

1. In the first place it must be observ'd, that *France* has given no more ease to our Cloth by this Treaty, than she did by the Tariff of 1699. which was made without any Consideration to be perform'd on the part of *England*. To gain this Tariff, we did not repeal any one Prohibition, or lessen the Dutys upon any one Species of Goods imported from that Country. So that by the Liberty she has now given for the Exportation of Cloth, she has not merited any one of the Concessions that are made to her by the present Treaty.

2. It must be consider'd, that this Duty amounts to 2 *s. 8 d.* for every Yard; a fifth part of the Price of our finest, and a third part of the Price of our middling Cloth. As soon as the *French King* had made this Tariff, he let to farm all the Customs on our Exports. The Farmers must inevitably have been broken, if they had not conniv'd at our Merchants entring five or six Pieces of Cloth for one; by which only a fifth part of the Duty was paid for every Piece, not above 6 *d.* for every Yard. Yet even thus, of our whole Woollen Manufacture not above the Value of 27000 *l. per ann.* at a Medium was exported. But as soon as this Practice of the Farmers was discover'd, they were remov'd. And therefore, as appears by the Report of Dr. *Davenant*, an Author with whom the *Mercator* is well acquainted, during the last Year of the last Peace, the whole Value of our Woollen Manufacture exported into *France*, amounted only to 1580 *l. 6 s. and 8 d.* a very Trifle!

3. But lastly, if the whole Duty were to be taken off, no Cloth could be exported: since they have the Materials for it as cheap as we, and the Labour with which it is wrought a great deal cheaper.

To begin with fine *Spanish* Cloth; the Materials are *Spanish* Wool, without the least Mixture of Wool from any other Country. This the *French* import by Land-Passages,

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Passages, by which they save the Customs we are forc'd to pay at *Bilboa*. This makes a difference of 5 l. 10 s. *per Cent.* in the Value of those Goods, to the Advantage of the *French*.

Then for the Labour with which it is manufactur'd; Wages in *France* were never above two thirds of those that were always given for the like Labour in *England*. This in all probability is owing to the meaner way of living in that Country. Labouring People have seldom any other Ambition, than to live and save nothing. Therefore if the yearly Subsistence of such Persons in *France* is purchas'd for two Thirds of the Price that is given for the Subsistence of like Persons in *England*, this will very well account for their receiving no more than two Thirds of the *English* Wages. And from hence it appears, that the *French* Refugees, when they came first to settle here, perpetually undersold the *English*, till they rais'd themselves by degrees to our Country-Diet.

There are others who affirm, that the Dearth in *France*, occasion'd by the War, have forc'd all People to work that they might not starve; and that this, together with the Reduction of the Value of their Coin, has abated even of those Wages. Be this as it will; if there are given for Labour in *France* no more than two Thirds of the Wages that are given in *England*, this, with the difference of 5 l. 10 s. *per Cent.* upon their *Spanish* Wool, will account for their making the finest Cloth 25 l. *per Cent.* or a fourth part of the whole Value cheaper than it can be made in *England*. So that our fine *Spanish* Cloths stand prohibited in *France* by their very Price, tho they were to be charg'd in that Country with neither Customs nor Dutys. The Experiment has been lately made, our finest *Spanish* Cloth has been lately run, by which all the Dutys have been sav'd in *France*; yet they could not be sold there, without an Abatement of a fourth part of their whole Cost.

It is ridiculous therefore in the *Mercator* to labour, as he does in his sixth Paper, the proving Cloth made in *England* of *Spanish* Wool not to be *English* Cloth; by which he would fain persuade us against common Sense, that

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that our *Spanish* Cloth is not one of the excepted Species of Goods in the ninth Article of the present Treaty, nor subject to the Dutys of 1699. but only to those of 1664. *viz.* to 40 Livres for every Piece, or 2 s. for every Yard; as if this mended our Condition. But unless *France* would be so kind as to give us more than a Bounty of 2 s. for every Yard, as long as they can make it cheaper by a fourth part of the whole Value, we shall send no fine Cloths to that Country.

The Duty is yet more exorbitant upon middling Cloth, and no less than a third Part of the Price for which it can be made in *England*. But tho this entire Duty were to be taken off, we should export none at all to *France*.

For the making these middling Cloths, and all the rest of their Woollen Manufactures, they have converted vast Tracts of Land within these few years into Sheep-Walks: so that they have Wool almost as cheap as we. And as for Soap, Oil, and many Dying Woods, they have these of their own Growth, and at much cheaper Prices than they can be had in *England*.

But tho they were to give double the Price for their Wool that is given here in *England* (which, in defiance of all the Laws we should be able to make, would still help them to enough from us) yet as long as Labour there is so much cheaper, their whole Woollen Manufactures must needs be afforded at least 20 l. *per cent.* or a fifth Part of their whole Value cheaper than they can be made in *England*: So that 'tis not probable any Quantity of these Goods can be exported into *France*.

The *Mercator* then may labour as much as he pleases, and make a Noise with his *Spanish* Cloths and Serges, his Bays and Says, Perpetuanas and Druggets, his Linsley-Woolseys and Kiderminsters, his Plaids and his Blankets, his Hose and his Knit-Caps, and all the things that are made of Wool. Tho he could bring them all down to the Dutys of 1664. nay tho he could get *France* to excuse those very Dutys with which he is so much in love, it would be still to no purpose. While they have the Materials almost as cheap, and Labour, which is much the greatest Part of the whole Value, so much cheaper,

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cheaper, we may send all these things to *France*, and bring them back again when we have done. Every good *Englishman* would be much better pleas'd with a Law to prevent their Woollen Manufactures coming hither; but 'tis to be fear'd, by the Cheapness of their Prices; and as an unavoidable Consequence of what is said before, they will be run in upon us, in spite of our severest Prohibitions.

But it will be objected here, How came it then to pass, that during the last four years Peace, by this present Tariff of 1699. which is to take place by this Treaty, or by the severer Duties of 1667. we were able to export to *France* any Woollen Manufactures? for according to Dr. *Davenant's* Report, the Value of 27000 *l. per ann.* at a Medium was exported during the last Peace. To this is answer'd:

1. This is already accounted for before in part; the thing was done by the Connivance of the Farmers, who contented themselves with a small Part of the Dutys; yet even with that Abatement our whole Exports of Woollen Manufactures did not exceed the Value above-mention'd. And how inconsiderable a thing is this, to balance the Imports they will be able to send hither in pursuance of the present Treaty?

2. And yet as inconsiderable as it is, our Exports of Woollen Manufactures to *France* are not likely hereafter to rise to that Value. Their own Woollen Manufacture was then in its Infancy, but is since arriv'd to very great Perfection. By a great Application to that Business, and a long Disuse of our Cloth, during the Interruption of our Commerce, they are now so very perfect, as to rival us in every Part of that Trade. Our Merchants in Town have Patterns of the Cloth the *French* send to *Turkey*, as good as can be made in *England*; which may serve for an effectual Confutation of the *Mercator's* idle Letter from *Galata*.

3. The very small Quantities of Woollen Manufactures exported to *France* during the last Peace, even with those Allowances made by the Farmers of the Customs, in comparison with our Exports before the first War, under the hard Tariff of 1667. are a plain
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Demonstration of their then advancing apace to that Perfection to which they are since arriv'd.

4. And Lastly, There can be no reason why they should want of our Perfection, if their Application has been equal. And as long as King *Philip* shall be their Friend, they are sure of never wanting Materials for this Work at cheaper Rates, and they are always sure of cheaper Labour.

Upon the whole matter, our Woollen Manufactures in *France* stand prohibited by the Cheapness and Perfection of their own, without either Customs or Dutys. It is ridiculous then in this Case to say, That *France* lays no greater Dutys upon our Goods than we do upon theirs. If she either lays such as amount to Prohibitions, or our Goods are sufficiently prohibited, (as in this very Case) without any Dutys at all, the smallness of her Dutys upon our Exports ought to be no Rule for those we shall lay upon her Imports. If notwithstanding the small Dutys in *France* upon our Goods, we should not be able to export any thither; and she, on the contrary, notwithstanding our high Dutys upon her Goods, should be able to import great Quantities into *England*, a Balance in Money would still be going to that Kingdom. And if our first Principle was right, that we ought to suffer no more Money to be carry'd out of *England* by the *French* Trade, than shall be again imported by that Trade, and the present Treaty of Commerce has not provided against this Mischief; all that the *Mercator* will be able to say will never justify the Treaty.

I have dwelt so long upon this Subject, because the *Mercator* has labour'd so very much to shew how low the *French* Duties are upon our Woollen Manufactures. If they were yet lower, or none at all, or they would even give us a small Bounty to import them, we should be able to make no Exports of them into *France*; so that by this part of our Trade, we shall be neither able to gain, nor save any Money to this Kingdom. When this Author will think fit to tell us what we shall gain or save by any other Articles, I shall consider all his Reasons. But I assure my self beforehand,
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he can never shew that this Treaty will enable us to make any Exports of Goods of all Kinds whatsoever to that Kingdom, of the Value of 200,000 *l. per ann.*

The next Question then is, What Imports *France* will be able to make upon us, notwithstanding the Dutys that are still to remain upon them by this Treaty, which are to be as low as those of the Nation the most favour'd. And then it will easily be seen what Money is likely to be carry'd out of *England*, how much our whole Rents shall be impair'd, and what Numbers of labouring People must come to the Land for their Subsistence, or starve for want of Employment.

The first Article the *Mercator* begins with, is that of *French Wines*; of which he says the Duty still remaining, even by this Treaty, is 26 *l.* 15 *s.* 3 *d.* $\frac{3}{4}$ per Ton: and he would insinuate that this is a very high Duty, because it is more perhaps than the whole Value of the Wines clear on board in foreign Countrys, and more than three times as much as the Dutys paid in *England* in 1664. But what is all this to the purpose, if, notwithstanding this Duty, we shall import great Quantities of Wine from *France*?

According to the Report of Dr. *Davenant*, we import 19000 Tons of foreign Wines by and at a Medium. This is what appears by the Entrys. Allowance ought to be made for 3 or 4000 Tons more, which are probably run to save the Dutys; and this will always be the Practice, where *Cent. per Cent.* or above shall be the Gain.

It is certain that *French Wines* are in greater Esteem than those of any other Country; they are generally more acceptable to our Palates; our Gentlemen chuse to drink them at twice the Cost of any other. The first Costs of them are as cheap, the Carriage a great deal less; and if the Dutys shall be reduc'd as low as those of the Nation the most favoured, we are likely to drink 20 Tons of *French Wine* for one of any other Country, and consequently we shall import at least 20000 Tons yearly from that Kingdom.

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At a Medium of many Years last past, the Cost of Wines in *France* clear on Board, has exceeded 20 *l. per Ton*; it will follow that for 20,000 Tons imported annually into *England*, at least 400,000 *l. per ann.* must be remitted into *France*.

1. In the first place then, so great an annual Sum of Money will be remitted, and lost to this Kingdom.

2. The Wines we buy from other Countrys, we buy in exchange for our Manufactures, which is the same thing as if they were of our own Growth, and we made them up our selves; they are bought with the Product of our Lands, and the Labour of our People. It cannot be imagin'd but the Consumption of our Goods in those Countrys must be lessen'd in proportion to the Wines we shall cease to take from them; and consequently we shall lose the selling our Manufactures at least to the Value of 400,000 *l. per ann.* The Value of these Goods paid to the Rents (that is, for Wool, Corn, Leather, and other Product of the Lands) is not in all probability above an eighth Part of the whole; but if it is so much, there must be deducted from the present Rents of *England* for want of those Markets, at least 50,000 *l. per ann.* This is an immediate Deduction from the Rents, but the Charge upon them will be worse; seven Eighths of the Value of our Exports, *viz.* 350,000 *l. per ann.* are paid to the Labour of our People; and as these shall be depriv'd of those foreign Markets for their Manufactures, they must come to the Rents for their Maintenance: So that by an immediate Deduction from the Rents, and the Charge of so many new Poor, the Landed Interest will lose of its present Value, 400,000 *l. per ann.*

3. And lastly, if seven Eighths of this Value are paid to the Labour of our People, and the Markets shou'd be lost for the Manufactures of the aforesaid Value, the People must lose as much of their yearly Labour as amounts to 350,000 *l. per ann.* 6 *l. per Head* are the usual annual Earnings of Labourers, Men, Women and Children, at a Medium; according to this Computation, almost 60,000 Persons who now subsist by their own Labour must come upon the Parish Rates.

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If this Treaty has not provided against so great an annual Loss of Money, such a Diminution of our Rents, such a Destruction of our labouring People, we shall never be reconcil'd to it; let the *Mercator* be as eloquent as he pleases upon the Moderation of *French Dutys*, and the Exorbitancy of those of *England*. But so much for his Dutys upon Wines.

The next of the *French Imports* in the *Mercator* is, Brandys, with Customs and Excises of 51, or 52 *l. per Ton*, or above 200 *per Cent.* of their first Costs in that Kingdom. Yet when the Dutys were vastly higher, some Quantities were imported; and how much then are those Imports likely to be increas'd, when the Dutys shall be reduc'd to the Sums abovemention'd?

Those higher Dutys on *French Brandy*, put us upon distilling Spirits from our own Malt. The Excises are sufficient to shew, that from Malt are now drawn in *England* about 1600,000 Gallons of Spirits in a Year. A quantity equal to 7000 Tons of *French Brandy*, and not to be drawn from less than 80,000 Quarters of Malt. So that the Distillers have been a constant Market for so great a part of the Product of our Lands.

Such a Quantity of Malt is hardly to be produc'd from Lands of less Value than 13 or 14000 *l. per ann.* so that the Consumption of these new Spirits has added such a yearly Value to our Lands.

Moreover it has paid the Labour of our People of at least five times that yearly Value. For by that time every Hand is paid, from that which holds the Plough, to that which delivers the Spirits to the Retailer, the very Wages of our People in this Article must amount to 60,000 *l. per ann.*

Yet after all, where is the Carter, or the Porter that would not rather chuse a Quart of *French Brandy*, than a Gallon of Malt Spirits? And yet with the Dutys of 51 or 52 *l.* and the common Prices in *France* of 20 *l. per Ton*, the Quart of Brandy will generally be cheaper than the Gallon of Malt Spirits; so that in all probability this whole Manufacture will come to nothing.

And perhaps we shall return to our old annual Expence and Consumption of 5000 Tons of *French Brandy*,
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for which (at a Medium of several of the last years Prices) at 20 *l. per Ton* we shall pay to *France* 100,000 *l. per ann.*

The Consequences of which are as follow:

1. That so great an annual Sum will be remitted to *France*, and lost to this Kingdom.

2. By losing the Market for such a quantity of Corn, the Landed Interest will lose 13 or 14000 *l. per ann.* of the present Rents; and by being charg'd with all the People, from the first Hand to the last, that are employ'd in this Manufacture, will perhaps suffer another Loss of 60,000 *l. per ann.* in the whole, 73 or 74,000 *l. per ann.*

3. And Lastly, So many People as maintain themselves at the Charge of 60,000 *l. per ann.* without Charge to the Lands (which at 6 *l. per Head*, are 10,000 People) must come upon the Parish-Rates.

If this Treaty has not provided against these Mischiefs, all the Rhetorick of the *Mercator* will never be able to reconcile us to it.

The *Mercator's* next Instance is *French Salt*. It must be confess'd the Dutys are very large; but 'tis said this Salt will go so much farther than our own, that it will still be had cheaper; but what Value of it is likely to be imported, what Money we shall pay for it to *France*, or how our Rents or our labouring People will be affected by it, must be left to Time and Experience.

As for foreign Lustrings and Alamodes, the Dutys on them are so very high, that none can fairly be imported from any Country whatsoever; and as *France* is to be used by this Treaty as the Nation the most favour'd, 'tis probable we shall have none even from thence except such as shall be run to save Customs. But then on the other hand, Lustrings and Alamodes are not now the black Silks commonly worn in *England*; at least seven Eighths of what are worn in their stead, are call'd Rastijans and Mantua Silks; and on these foreign Silks the Dutys are so easy (not more than 10 *s. 6 d. per Pound*, tho' valu'd a little higher in the *Mercator*) that *France* is able to pay this whole Du-

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ty, and yet by the cheapness of Materials and Labour in that Country, she will still under-sell our People. Tho' to save even that Duty, 'tis highly probable that great Quantities will be also run, by which they would under-sell us 20 *per Cent.* of the whole, and consequently would sell us as much for 80, as we can make for 100 *l.*

The Silks of this kind that are made in *England*, by reason of our Prohibitions or high Dutys on *French* Silks, amount to 300,000 *l. per ann.* If *France* can afford the same 20 *per Cent.* cheaper there than they can be made in *England*, and also under-sell us here after the Payment of the Dutys, it follows that this Manufacture must be lost in *England*, and that we shall pay in this single Article to *France* 240,000 *l. per ann.*

Brocades, plain and flower'd Sattins, and other colour'd Silks, are yet a more considerable Article than the *Rastijans* and *Mantua* Silks; and as Labour in *France* is but two thirds of the Price of *English* Labour, and is yet a greater part of the Price of the Brocade than of the *Rastijean*, the former can be afforded cheaper than the latter: that is, as good Brocades can be afforded from *France*, after paying the Duty here, for 3 *l.* 4 *s.* *per* Pound weight, as can be made in *England* for 3 *l.* 10 *s.* The *French* too have this Advantage of us, that they are generally thought in *England* to design better, and accordingly set the Fashions for us; by which means they usually stock the Beginning of the Market with great Quantities, which are sold off before our Weavers are able to follow their Patterns. And these several Advantages are thought to be at least 15 *per Cent.* difference in the Sale of all Goods that depend upon the Fancies of People. No doubt then there will soon be an End of all our *English* Brocades and colour'd Silks. The Increase of our Silk Manufacture, in this Article, is said to be 500,000 *l. per ann.* and if these Silks can be bought in *France* so much cheaper than they can be made in *England*, and can also be sold cheaper here with the Duty of 10 *s.* 6 *d.* on each Pound, we must remit for these Manufactures to *France* 400,000 *l. per*

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per ann. So that in these two Articles of black and colour'd Silk, there will be lost to *England* 640,000 *l. per ann.* of which the Value when made here amounts to 800,000 *l.* in the whole.

It can hardly be conceiv'd, that the Silks which we import from *Italy* and *Turkey*, and which with the Customs that are paid by them, and the Labour that is bestow'd upon them, amount to the last-mention'd Sum of 800,000 *l.* could be purchas'd abroad raw for less than the Value of 320,000 *l.* in our Manufactures.

If an eighth Part of the Price of our Manufactures, made from the Product of our Lands, is paid to the Rents, and seven Eighths to the Labour of the People; then by the Value of 320,000 *l.* of our Manufactures sent annually abroad upon this account, the Lands have gain'd a new Market for their Product in *Turkey* or *Italy* to the Value of 40,000 *l. per ann.* and consequently so much is yearly added to the Landed Interest. And if seven Eighths of the Value sent abroad upon this account is the Labour of the People, so many more People are employ'd without Charge to the Lands, as are subsist'd for 280,000 *l. per ann.*

But these are not all the People that are employ'd by the Increase of the Silk Manufactures. The Returns for 320,000 *l.* exported, must employ the Labour of as many People to work them up, as shall be equal to the aforesaid Value. And even this way, as many Persons are provided for without Charge to the Lands, as are subsist'd for 320,000 *l. per ann.*

Now if all these Silk Manufactures, by means of the cheaper Labour of *France*, shall be imported from that Country; this whole Increase of the Silk Manufacture must fall to the ground, together with all our Exportations to *Italy* and *Turkey* upon that account: Of which these will be the Consequences.

1. *Rastijans*, *Mantua* Silks, Brocades, Sattins, and colour'd Silks, will cost us annually 640,000 *l.* to *France*, as is said before, by which so great a Sum will be yearly lost to *England*.

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2. By losing the Markets in *Italy* and *Turkey* for the Exports of our Product, and Manufactures of the Value of 320,000 *l.* the Landed Interest must suffer the Loss of an eighth part, viz. of 40,000 *l. per ann.* by an immediate Deduction from the Rents; and also by the Charge of maintaining so many People as are employ'd in the Outset to *Italy* and *Turkey*, and the Returns from those Countrys, and shall hereafter be depriv'd of the means of subsisting by their Labour, 600,000 *l.* more; in the whole 640,000 *l. per ann.*

3. And lastly, so many People will be reduc'd from the Condition of subsisting by their own Labour to live upon the Parish-Rates, as are now maintain'd by this Article for 600,000 *l. per ann.* that is, at 6 *l.* per head, 100,000 People.

It is to be presum'd that this Treaty will never obtain the Sanction of a *British* Parliament, if these Consequences shall be observ'd.

The *Mercator's* last Article of Imports from *France*, is that of Linens, against which he thinks the Treaty has sufficiently provided, by leaving still a Duty of 12 *s.* 7 *d.* upon every Piece of Doulas, containing 106 Ells, that is, less than Three Halfpence upon every Ell.

It must here be observ'd, that *French* Linen was almost the general Consumption of all *England* before the beginning of the first War, and before the Prohibitions or high Dutys that were afterwards laid on those Goods. In the Judgment of People, who are most conversant in the Linen Trade, a third Part of our whole Consumption was *French* Linen. If it shall be allow'd that there are Seven Millions of People in this Kingdom, and that but Two Shillings yearly was paid to *France* for every one for a third part of all their Linen, it will follow that there was paid to *France* for the Imports of Linen from that Country the Sum of 700,000 *l. per ann.*

There are many who think this Sum very short of our Remittances upon that Account; and they give this reason for it, that the very Increase of our Imports from *Germany*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, together with the Increase of our Linen Manufacture in *England*, since

since the Difuse of *French* Linens, is vastly beyond that Value, and is therefore sufficient to demonstrate, that we formerly paid to *France* much more than the above-mention'd Sum for the Article of Linens.

	<i>l. per ann.</i>
They say, that the Increase of our Imports of Linen from <i>Germany</i> , since the Interruption of our Commerce with <i>France</i> , amounts to —————	450,000
From <i>North Britain</i> to —————	130,000
From <i>Ireland</i> to —————	80,000
The Increase of our Linen Manufacture in <i>Lancashire</i> , <i>Cheshire</i> , <i>Yorkshire</i> and <i>Cumberland</i> , amounts to —————	250,000
In <i>Somersetshire</i> and <i>Dorsetshire</i> , to —————	100,000
In the Countys of <i>Worcester</i> , <i>Warwick</i> , <i>Stafford</i> , <i>Leicester</i> , <i>Lincoln</i> , <i>Cambridg</i> , <i>Norfolk</i> and <i>Suffolk</i> , &c. to —————	60,000

Of all which the Total Sum is ————— 1,070,000

The Increase of our Imports of Linens from *Germany*, might very easily be known by the Entrys at the *Custom-House*. Nor can the Manufacture amount to less in our *Northern* Countys, than is here set down; if it is true, as has been represented, that the People of *Lancashire* only, which have their whole Dependance upon this Manufacture, are at least Sixty Thousand Persons, Men, Women and Children: Four Pounds per Head, which is but a small annual Subsistence for every one, amounts to 140,000 *l.* of that Mony, and leaves no more than 10,000 *l.* to the Rents for the Flax; whereas 15,000 *l.* or a tenth part even of this Manufacture ought to be allow'd to the Rents. Surely Gentlemen will think it their Interest to be fully satisfy'd concerning these Facts, before they will make a Law to let in an Inundation of *French* Linens upon this Kingdom; for if the Increase of the

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Consumption of *German, Irish and British* Linens amounts to more than the Sum of one Million, it can hardly be conceiv'd that we imported from *France* less than the yearly Value of 700,000 *l.* in Linens.

Whatsoever Linens we import from *Germany*, we receive in exchange for the Manufactures we send thither; so that 'tis the same thing as if we made them all our selves, as if the Flax which grew in the Fields of *Germany* had been shear'd from the Backs of our Sheep, and dress'd, and spun, and wove by the Labour of our own People. For the Value of 450,000 *l.* of Linens imported thence, it cannot be thought that we send thither of our own Manufactures, less than the Value of 400,000 *l. per ann.*

If this be true, then, as in the former Article of Wines, an eighth Part of this yearly Sum is added to our Rents by our Exports to *Germany*, or 50,000 *l. per ann.* and also to manufacture our Exports for *Germany*, seven times that Sum is paid for the Labour of our People, or 350,000 *l. per ann.* more than was paid before, during our Imports from *France*.

Let it be suppos'd that the Increase of the Linen Manufactures in *England* is also the Value of 400,000 *l. per ann.* Perhaps the Price of the mere Flax, as separated from the Labour of the People, and paid to the Rents of the Land, is not above one tenth Part of the said Value; yet even thus, by the Interruption of the *French* Commerce, the Lands have gain'd an additional Value of 40,000 *l. per ann.* and if all the rest of the Price is paid to the Labour of our own People, so many more of these are employ'd as are subsist'd for 360,000 *l. per ann.*

Not to mention what is gain'd to *North Britain* and *Ireland* (which are also Subjects to the same Sovereign) by the great Increase of the Linen Manufactures in those Countrys. But all these Advantages must be lost, if the *French* Linens shall be let in upon us.

Of this the *Mercator* is in no fear, while the Duty is almost Three Half-Pence upon every Ell of Doulas. To convince him that this Duty is by no means

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means sufficient to keep them out of *England*, I shall shew him how much cheaper *French* Linen will be than *English* Linen of the same Goodness, by means of their Labour, which is but Two Thirds of the Price that is given for the like Labour in *England*. I will instance this in the *French* Doulas of 10 *d.* 15 *d.* and 20 *d. per Ell.*

<i>French</i> Doulas, 10 <i>d. per Ell.</i>	<i>Engl.</i> Linen.
<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Duty paid in <i>England</i> ——— 01 $\frac{1}{2}$ ———	00
Flax ——— 01 ———	01
Labour ——— 07 $\frac{1}{2}$ ———	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
10	12 $\frac{1}{4}$

<i>French</i> Doulas, 15 <i>d. per Ell.</i>	<i>Engl.</i> Linen.
<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Duty paid in <i>England</i> ——— 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ———	00
Flax ——— 01 $\frac{1}{2}$ ———	01 $\frac{1}{2}$
Labour ——— 12 ———	18
15	19 $\frac{1}{2}$

<i>French</i> Doulas, 20 <i>d. per Ell.</i>	<i>Engl.</i> Linen.
<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Duty paid in <i>England</i> ——— 01 $\frac{1}{2}$ ———	00
Flax ——— 02 ———	02
Labour ——— 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ ———	24 $\frac{3}{4}$
20	26 $\frac{3}{4}$

Here at one View the *Mercator* may see that the *French*, notwithstanding the Duty of Three Half-pence, will be able by the Cheapness of their Labour to undersell our low Linen at least 15 per Cent. that of 15 *d. per Ell* above 20 per Cent. that of 20 *d. per Ell* above 30 per Cent. so that our whole Linen Manufacture must be drop'd in *England*. And for the *German* Linens, they are little cheaper than our own, considering the Dutys we lay upon them: Besides, the *French* Linens are in so much greater

greater Reputation than either the *German* or our own, that all Demands of these last are quite stopt by the great Expectation of those from *France*. So that we are sure of having an Inundation of them from that Kingdom. The Consequences of this, and of a Law to reduce the Duty upon *French* Doulas, are,

1. That we shall pay *France* for Linens 700,000 *l. per ann.* and so much will be annually lost to this Kingdom.
2. That the Lands, by an immediate Deduction from their Rents, upon the ceasing of our Exports to *Germany*, and the sowing Flax in *England*, must lose 90,000 *l. per ann.* and by a Charge of new Poor brought upon the Parish, from manufacturing our own Linens or the Exports made for *Germany*, 710,000 *l. per ann.* more; in the whole 800,000 *l. per ann.*
3. And lastly, That as many People who now live by their own Labour by the Wages of 710,000 *l. per ann.* must hereafter live by the Parish-Rates; which at 6 *l. per head* makes the number near 120,000 People.

If I have made it probable, that the Reduction of the Dutys upon the Imports from *France*, to the Sums mention'd in the *Mercator*, will increase our Imports from that Country to the Quantities and Values above-mention'd; that is to say,

	l.
Of Wines to 20,000 Tons, at 20 <i>l. per</i> } Ton	400,000
Of Brandys to 5000 Tons, at 20 <i>l. per</i> } Ton	100,000
Of manufactur'd Silks, Rastijeans, Bro- } cades, &c.	640,000
Of Linens	700,000

It follows that we shall annually pay }
France in Money for the said Goods, — } 1,840,000

And consequently so great a Sum must be annually lost and deducted from the Capital Stock of this Kingdom. Before a Law shall be pass'd to reduce the Dutys to the Sums mention'd in the *Mercator*, Gentlemen will

will consider how long we shall be able to bear and support our selves under so great an annual Loss.

	l. per ann.
Again, if I have made it probable, that by losing the Markets of <i>Italy</i> and <i>Portugal</i> , for our Manufactures of the Value of 400,000 <i>l. per ann.</i> which are usually exported to those Countrys for their Wines, the Landed Interest will lose of the present Rents, —	50,000
Also by losing the Markets of the Distillers for 80,000 Quarters of Malt, —	13,000
Also by losing the Markets of <i>Italy</i> and <i>Turkey</i> , for the Exports of the Value of 320,000 <i>l.</i> usually sent thither to buy an Increase of Silks, —	40,000
Also by losing the Markets of <i>Germany</i> , for Exports of the Value of 400,000 <i>l.</i> usually sent thither to purchase Linens, —	50,000
Lastly, by losing the Markets for the <i>English</i> Linen Manufacture of the Value of 40,000 <i>l.</i> a tenth Part of which is lost to the Rents, —	40,000

It will follow that the Landed Interest }
must lose of the present Rents, — } 193,000

But to this I have also added, as a Loss to the Landed Interest, the Charge it must be at to subsist the Poor, who, by the Loss of these several Markets, will be depriv'd of the means of living by their own Labour; I have affirm'd that the Exports to *Italy* and *Portugal* for Wines pay the People for their Labour

The Manufacture of Malt Spirits pay them	60,000
The Manufactures of the Exports to buy Silks, and also of the Returns, pay the People for their Labour	600,000
The Manufactures of the Exports to <i>Germany</i> to buy Linens, pay the People for their Labour	350,000

And

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And, Lastly, the Linen Manufacture in } *l. per ann.*
England, pays our People for their Labour, } 360,000

And since all the People who earn this }
Mony, are likely to be depriv'd by the *French* }
Imports of the Means of subsisting by their }
Labour, and yet must still be maintain'd at } 1,720,000
the Charge of the Parish, I have join'd all }
these Sums together, and made them an an- }
nual Charge upon the Lands, *viz.* —

In this I am said to be in the wrong, since }
not only Lands, but even personal Estates, }
must bear their Part of the Charge to the Pa- }
rish-Rates.

But if by Personal Estates are meant the }
Farmers Stock upon the Lands, the Farmers }
will always take their Leases with regard to }
the Poores Rate; so that the Tax upon the }
Tenant to the Parish-Rate, will be found to }
be a Tax upon the Landlord. And as for o- }
ther movable Estates, the Owners of them }
are not confin'd to Place or Parish, but they }
will always remove to any Place where they }
can be easy; and consequently the whole Bur- }
den of new Poor, whatsoever it is, must fall }
upon the Rents.

But again it is said, the Burden upon the }
Lands cannot possibly be so great: for the }
People indeed may subsist themselves by }
their own Labour at the Charge of 6 *l.* per }
Head; but if they shall be depriv'd of the }
Means of subsisting themselves, and must }
come upon the Parish for a Maintenance, } 1,140,000
they will be forc'd to contract their Expen- }
ces, the Parish will think 4 *l.* yearly suffi- }
cient for every one of them at a Medium: }
Yet even thus the Charge upon the Lands to }
the Subsistence of the new Poor, will be }
Two Thirds of the Sum last mention'd, *viz.* }
above

And

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And the Deduction from the Rents, by } *l. per ann.*
the Loss of Markets, being added, *viz.* — } 193,000

The Lands will be impair'd only in the }
annual Value of — } 1,333,000

So much for the Deduction from the annual Value of }
our Lands and Houses, which, at Twenty Years Pur- }
chase, will make the Total Value of the whole Landed }
Interest, 26 or 27 Millions less than it was before.

But there is another thing that will contribute to re- }
duce the Total Value of the Landed Interest yet a }
great deal lower, and that is, the Remittance of such }
a Sum as 1,800,000 *l. per ann.* into *France*, which in the }
Space of eleven or twelve Years, will amount to the }
Sum of Twenty Millions.

One of the Publick Papers of Monday *June 8.* was an }
Essay towards shewing, That the Gain of Twenty }
Millions clear to *England*, would make an Addition of }
the Value of four years Rent in the Purchase of every }
Estate. If that Computation was well grounded, there }
is much stronger reason to believe, that the Loss of }
Twenty Millions will prove a Deduction of four Years }
Rents from the Total Value of every Estate in *England*, }
and even of the whole Landed Interest, impair'd as a- }
bove, to the Value of 1,300,000 *l. per ann.* and con- }
sequently by those Remittances to *France*, in the Space }
of eleven or twelve Years, so much of the Total Va- }
lue of the Landed Interest must be destroy'd. Whe- }
ther Gentlemen are able to support themselves under so }
great a Loss, they will do well to consider.

Lastly, I think I have made it probable, } *l.*
that our labouring People, by want of the }
Markets that sell us Wine for Manufactures, } 350,000
will lose their Wages, to the yearly Value }
of — — —

By

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	l.
By want of the present Markets for our Malt and Spirits	60,000
By want of the Markets that sell us Raw Silks for Manufactures, and also Markets for those Silks when manufactur'd here,	600,000
By want of the Markets that sell us Li- nen for our Woollen and other Manufac- tures, and also of Markets for our own Li- nen,	710,000
<hr/>	
So that the Total Loss of Wages, by the <i>Mercator's</i> Trade with <i>France</i> , will amount to	1,720,000

As 6 *l.* per head is the common Price of the Subsistence labouring Persons at a Medium, here are no less than 286,666, almost 300,000 People, reduc'd from the means of subsisting by their own Labour in a more comfortable manner, to the unhappy necessity of living by Parish-Alms, and becoming a Charge upon the Lands, of above a Million Sterling every Year.

These will be believ'd to be the unhappy Consequences of an open Trade with *France*, upon the foot of those Dutys which the *Mercator* thinks sufficient. How much soever he would be thought a Patriot of *England*, he will hardly be able to persuade thinking Men that he is not a hired Factor for *France*. *France* no doubt would give Millions for such a Commerce as must gain her almost Millions every year, besides the robbing *England* of those Sums, and the making such havock of the Landed and the Trading Interests, such universal Desolation in the Kingdom.

It must be observ'd here, that I have confin'd my self to the Dutys and Goods only mention'd in the Third *Mercator*, without troubling my self with any other Goods that are likely to be imported from *France*, tho we shall also buy great Quantities of other *French* Goods, and make great Remittances for them thither. I have only shewn too what our Damage will be by the Importation of those *French* Goods, in losing the Sale of just so many Manufactures at Home or Abroad, as are Equivalent to those Imports, tho the Exports and Manufactures we shall cease to make upon that Account, will very much exceed the Goods that shall be imported from that Kingdom.

F I N I S.