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TRACTS
UPON OUR
WOOL,
AND
Woollen Trade.

Wherein are consider'd the Irish Produce and Disposal of it; Advantages by preventing the Running of WOOL; The present advanc'd Price accounted for; Yearly Produce; Home Consumption; Penalties and Rewards in Cases of Informations; Regulations of a former Scheme; The Publick not to be answerable for all the Deficiencies; Proposals to Parliament for ascertaining the Produce, and the Number of Manufacturers.

WITH
Considerations on Mr. GEE's Impartial Enquiry:
WHEREIN,
Of the Growth, Running, Manufacturing, and Vent
of WOOL; And a Reply to his Letter,

By Henry Laybourn, M. A.

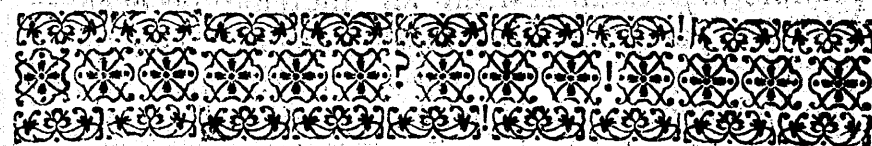
*Post majores quadrupedes ovilli pecoris secunda ratio est,
quae prima fit, si ad utilitatis magnitudinem referas.*
Columella de Re Rustica.

— fungar vice Cotis Hor.

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Norwich; and Mr. Hartshorn, in Leicester, 1744.

[Price One Shilling.]

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T H E
P R E F A C E,

IF we cou'd enrich the Nation by a Dexterity
 in Computation, it wou'd be a very pretty ea-
 ly Way of doing it ; but how much soever it
 may entertain in Theory, I fear it will always
 fail in Practice. The yearly Gain of 30 or 40 Mil-
 lions to a Nation, over and above its present Re-
 venue, is an immense Sum, and wou'd have a strong
 Influence upon all its neighbouring Countries : And
 as it is generally allow'd, that there has been a
 Time, when *England* did manufacture all its Pro-
 duce of Wool at Home, and had almost a Mono-
 poly of the Woollen Trade abroad ; I have won-
 der'd what became of our prodigious Riches, and
 why our Country was not able at that Time to car-
 ry All before it. In the Reign of *James I.* and for
 several Years after, this was the State of our Woollen
 Manufactory : But I don't find that *England* made
 so advantageous a Figure then, as such an Influx of
 Riches might have enabled them to do. If it is said
 our Sheep are increas'd in Number since then, —
 be it so — so are our Inhabitants ; and I believe
 more in Proportion : But not so much by far, as to
 enable us to work up such a Quantity of Wool as
 some have assign'd us. And therefore I think the
 Reasoning of the ingenious Author of the *Grassers*
Advocate consider'd as *Argumentum ad Hominem*,
 with regard to the high Computations, however
 Persons may cavil at it, neither is, or can be an-
 swer'd. I cou'd heartily wish that we cou'd get
 the Woollen Trade as entirely to ourselves as we

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had it in those Times; but if we shou'd, I cannot promise my Country-men an Increase of even 10 Millions yearly, by that single Article. Not but it perhaps might amount to above 2 Millions; and by the Influence it wou'd have upon other Branches of Trade, a careful looking into, and regulating them, and a proper Vigilance afterwards, it might be improv'd to more than double that Sum: And this I think is enough to merit our serious Attention. It some have stretch'd the Account too high, this shou'd not lead us into the other Extreme, — to make us fancy that the Notion of a national Gain arising from preventing our Wool being smuggled abroad is all imaginary — merely a Golden Dream.

It has seem'd strange to many that one Year shou'd thus follow another, without any Thing effectual being done with regard to our Wool. And I own I have been at a Loss to account for the Coldness with which several worthy Gentlemen have entertain'd any Proposals about it, whose Integrity at the same Time I was fully perswaded of. But I really think, their Intentions were good; but they pitch'd their Premises wrong. I must therefore beg this Favour, that every Gentleman who examines my Scheme will do it in the View I exhibit it with the Regulations here added, which I before offer'd in the Main. [Aug. 8. 1743.] To try one Man's Sentiments by the Test of another's; will make even a well proportion'd Production appear monstrous.

The yearly Produce of Wool I consider as the very Ground Work — The setting it high or low, entirely varies the State of the Question. The high Computations are involv'd in Difficulties, which in the other Light vanish; and all becomes easy and natural; — the present advanc'd Price of Wool may be accounted for, — Hands may be found to manufacture it, and a Vent for it when it is manufactur'd, &c. But the Reader will find, in the Perusal of this short Piece, these Things more fully discuss'd. I shall only add, that by my Estimate,

[v. Note

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[v. Note, p. 17.] a Million of Hands will be abundantly sufficient to work up the whole Produce of Great-Britain and Ireland, and 10 Thousands Packs of Spanish Wool into Medley Cloths besides, if they work only 42 Weeks in the Year. [Gent. Mag. Jan. 1743, p. 259, 537.]

If I can but engage my Reader's Attention to consider the Affair in this View, I am in great Hopes, he'll be struck with the Truth of what I advance. He will also see that there may be a cheap, easy, and safe Way of drawing off the Irish from sending their Wool to France, by giving them Liberty to manufacture only 10,000 Packs of their own Produce for Exportation, no very considerable Quantity, yet if prudently manag'd, will be of vast Service to the English; but inconsiderable as it is, it may prove the utter Ruin of the French Woollen Trade. I know indeed that some have estimated the yearly Produce of Ireland alone at 300,000 Packs; and told us of monstrous Quantities being run from thence. Even our Legislature seems to have had some such Apprehensions, by stationing Ships upon the Irish Coasts for that Purpose. I believe, indeed, there was more Out-cry than Danger. Not but a great deal has been run from thence, especially when they have been prohibited importing it hither free from Duty. But England, I'm afraid, has been the greatest Scene of the Smuggling Trade. The former have been more blam'd, but the latter more guilty. I wish some of these false Representations have not had their Rise from the English Smugglers, in order to cast the Odium upon others, and thereby skreen themselves from Suspicion; I have heard of some, suspected to be guilty that Way, who have magnify'd the Running of Wool from Ireland most wonderfully. I will not take upon me to say, that this was entirely an Artifice, but if it was so, it was not an impolitic one. It was cunningly enough contriv'd to divert the Attention of such Englishmen as were zealous for the Good of their Country, and to put them upon a wrong

[Scent.

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' Scent. I entirely acquit all such worthy Gentle-
 ' men as have been deceiv'd by it, from any Design.
 ' Many honest Men have often been misled by a po-
 ' pular Out-cry, without ever suspecting a Snake in
 ' the Grass. I might carry it farther with Regard
 ' to the Complaint made several Years ago against
 ' the Importation of *Irish* Wool and Yarn, and its be-
 ' ing almost universally alledg'd as the Cause of the
 ' low Price of Wool. I suspect the Running it abroad
 ' was the real Cause, and that was only the Blind.
 ' We see, that notwithstanding the *Irish* are now per-
 ' mitted to import their Wool and Woollen Yarn, yet
 ' so far from falling, the Price of Wool has been much
 ' advanc'd since that Time. Not that I impute the
 ' present advanc'd Price to that as the Cause of it;
 ' tho' probably it may have some Share in it. Nei-
 ' ther do I think that the same Effect is always pro-
 ' duc'd by the same Cause; the Mercury in the Ba-
 ' rometer will fall by great Winds as low as by heavy
 ' Rains. And so the Price of Wool, or the Decay
 ' of the Woollen Trade: may at different Times be
 ' owing to different Causes. Combinations among
 ' the Proprietors of it when Wool is got into few
 ' Hands, may easily advance the Price; and the same
 ' Combinations, when they shou'd buy it of the
 ' Grower, may lower it considerably. In short, all
 ' Sorts of Combinations may have a great Effect up-
 ' on Trade, but in general it is a bad One. But
 ' thus it will ever be, if Men greedily grasp at pri-
 ' vate Gain only, without a due Regard to a pub-
 ' lick Good. And therefore a proper and regular
 ' Vigilance over Trade is always necessary for the
 ' even conducting it to the Benefit of a Nation.

' But to speak particularly to the Papers which I
 ' here submit to the Publick: They are chiefly ex-
 ' tracted from Letters I wrote occasionally, some to
 ' Persons of high Rank, others to particular Friends
 ' and Correspondents without being digested in a re-
 ' gular Method. And as I have exhibited the State
 ' of the Case in many and various Shapes; I may
 ' probably want, and hope I shall meet with the
 ' Reader's

The P R E F A C E. 7

' Reader's Candour and Indulgence. I am sensible
 ' that there have been many Things offer'd by others
 ' as well as myself, worthy of Publick Attention:
 ' But it wou'd be very Assuming in me to point out
 ' the Particulars. As for my own Scheme, I hope
 ' every one will do me the Justice to say, that it has
 ' not any View to Parties, it leaves every Thing in
 ' Deposit, and will neither add or diminish the Pow-
 ' ers of any Set of Men consider'd in a Party View,
 ' so that here is no Danger from it. And as to the
 ' Trouble it will create under its present Regulations,
 ' I think it so small, as deserves not to be weigh'd
 ' in the Ballance against so important a National
 ' Good: Not but Gold may be bought too dear,
 ' and certainly wou'd be so, if bought at the Expence
 ' of our Liberty; but if that is secur'd, the Trouble
 ' is a Trifle, in Comparison of the Gains. Nay if Gen-
 ' tlemen are but satisfied, I don't think there is Occa-
 ' sion to *Register* any Thing but Stock and the Produce.
 ' I desire no one will apply to himself any general Re-
 ' flections; I make none upon any particular Person, but
 ' (at the same Time) I name him. I may be mistaken
 ' in some Things, I pretend not to Infallibility, but
 ' am willing to make the best Repair for it I can, I
 ' shall readily own any Mistake, and I take this Op-
 ' portunity of retracting what I advanc'd in my for-
 ' mer Preface about *Spanish* Wool, tho' it hardly at
 ' all affects my Scheme. Men in private Life, and
 ' small Fortunes, cannot easily come to the Know-
 ' ledge they wou'd desire to attain; especially in
 ' Points where there is a Collision of Sentiments. But,
 ' to support my own *Hypothesis* I will never advance
 ' any Thing, but what is true to the best of my Judg-
 ' ment. When I build upon the Authority of others,
 ' I consider it as true in the Main, tho' perhaps not
 ' quite so strictly speaking. But I take no Pleasure
 ' in remarking upon every one, who does not just
 ' tall in with my own way of thinking. Persons may
 ' mean well, and yet differ much in Judgment.
 ' As I writethis at a critical Juncture, when our great
 ' Rivals in this Branch of Trade threaten us with an In-
 ' vasion, I cannot forbear observing, how nearly it con-

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cerns us to be unanimous and hearty in supporting the just Rights of his Majesty, and the true Interest of our Country; and to use our utmost Efforts to prevent effectually, for the future, our Enemies from enriching themselves, and impoverishing us, by stealing away our Wool, our very Vitals, and so beating us with our own Weapons. But shou'd they be so intimated as to land a Body of Men in *England*; I'm persuaded, few wou'd return to tell the Story what Treatment they met with. However we may be divided in some Points, I believe, we generally agree in This, in a Dislike of a Popish Prince, and the *French* System of Politicks. If any one thinks that we have many disaffected among us, the Way to reconcile their Affections to the present Government, is for him to assist in promoting Measures most conducive to the true Interests of his Country. I will add a Word with Regard to *Ireland* — That this has farther convinc'd me, that it is good Policy to have due Regard to that Nation; by a little Indulgence we may secure their Confidence and Friendship, detach them from their Adherence to foreign Powers, and depend upon their uniting against an Invasion from any Quarter whatever. But those among them who consider the *English* as their imperious Masters, will be apt to listen to the Suggestions of our Enemies. Upon the whole, my View is to promote a general Good; if I succeed in it, it will give me a very sensible Pleasure; if I do not, I hope I may however escape Censure; and be allowed the Comfort, of reflecting, that I have contributed my best Endeavours; and shall only be one Instance, among many others, of having done it without Success.

Morcot, Rutland,
March 15. 1743-4.

H. Laybourn.

E R R A T A.

p. 7. l. 1. read pay for. l. 22. r. it is. p. 9. l. 29. r. of the. p. 10. for have r. can. p. 14. Note l. 4. r. and it is. p. 22. l. 30. r. easily. p. 30. l. 9. r. Sheep Fairs. p. 40. l. 21. r. to the Consumption of the. p. 45. l. 9. r. exhibits, l. 34. r. just &c.

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T R A C T S

U P O N

W O O L, &c.

Of *Irish* Wool, &c.

YOU fear, Sir, that tho' the *British* Parliament should enact a Law, effectual to prevent the Smuggling our Wool, yet the *Irish* wou'd not be brought to join in our Measures. Give me Leave, Sir, to say, that I apprehend, we in general think too harshly of the *Irish*; and that a better Understanding between the two Nations, wou'd set Things upon a better Footing. *England* bears the Heat and Burthen of the Day, and therefore its Interests ought to have the Preference. Yet whether we consider her as the Mother Country, or as the elder Sister only, she ought to have a natural Affection for the Daughter, a Tenderness for the younger Sister. And where their Interests do not clash, she shou'd upon all Occasions express it. I will not say I can entirely account for the mutual Jealousies between *England* and *Ireland*. But I think it is the Interest of both, and it ought to be the hearty Endeavour of both to heal those Differences. Thus much in general I have observ'd, that we have for many Years been ready to lay the Cause of the Decay of the Woollen Trade at their Door. When the *English* Market has been open to the *Irish* for the Importation of their Wool or Woollen Yarn, did but the Price of Wool sink with us by any Accident whatsoever, immediately the *Irish* Wool imported bore the Blame. This sometimes occasioned a Prohibition of it. And we had no sooner almost

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done This; but finding not perhaps that Effect of it which we had hoped for, another Complaint has succeeded it; that they smuggled great Quantities abroad. Pray, Sir, what must they do with the Surplus they have above what they consume? They will not be so complaisant to our jealous Fears, as to burn it. And if we will neither take it off their Hands, nor allow them to export it manufactur'd, they will of course smuggle it, either raw, in Yarn, or in Goods manufactur'd, just as they can do it with the greatest Security from being discover'd. I will try to lay before you this Affair, in a cool, dispassionate, and disinterested Manner.

All our mistaken Policy in this Case, I apprehend, is to be ascrib'd to our not considering the Quantity of Wool yearly produc'd in *England* and *Ireland* respectively. I look upon it, Sir, that we go upon wrong Premises, and if so, then the Consequences we deduce from them will be wrong too.

The yearly Produce of *England* and *Wales* I think does not in general exceed 260 Thousand Packs, nor that of *Ireland* 70 Thousand. I suppose the *Irish* to consume yearly at Home about 45 Thousand of these; there remains then a Surplus of only 25 Thousand Packs. This we must either take off their Hands, or must suffer them to find a Market for it abroad in some Shape or other; or else they will smuggle it in that Shape which best suits with their Interest, their Convenience, or Safety. If they smuggle it abroad manufactur'd, they will take the readiest and best Market they can get, which possibly may interfere with the *English*; If they run it in Wool, the *French* will be their Purchasers; and will work up twice as much of their own with it. This wou'd be an immense Loss to us. Let us then, Sir, consider again what must be done with this Surplus. If we cannot spare Hands to manufacture our own and this too, with as much *Spanish* as is judg'd proper for keeping up the Credit of our Woollen Manufactures, and we cannot find in our Hearts to indulge the *Irish* a small Share

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Share in the Profits of the Woollen Manufacture, our best Way will be to buy it of them and burnt it, as the *Dutch* have been said to serve their Spices, when the Market is over stock'd; and we may purchase such a Quantity as they can spare, at not much greater Charge to us, than our Station'd Ships were; which the Parliament have laid aside, as judging the Advantage not to countervail the Expence.

If we can spare Hands to manufacture it, it can do us no Harm, because it cannot then be the means of overstocking the *English* Market, starving the Poor, or lowering the Price of Wool. But as this wou'd still make the *Irish* look upon us as selfish, and envious of their Prosperity, and for that Reason wou'd tempt them to steal away into *France* every Pound of Wool they cou'd with tolerable Safety: I will venture to propose to you another Method, and I really think it the best, the most equitable, and the most conducive, not to the Interest of *Ireland* only, but much more of *England*. Suppose that Liberty be granted them to export yearly only about 10 Thousand Packs manufactur'd; obliging them to send the Remainder to *England*, over and above what they consume at Home, either in Wool or in Yarn; * with some Restrictions to prevent the increasing their Stock of Sheep, and to prohibit the *English* from sending over any raw Wool to be spun or manufactur'd there: This, I verily believe, the *Irish* Parliament wou'd agree to, and it wou'd engage them to go Hand in Hand with *Great-Britain*, in exerting their utmost Efforts, to prevent the future Running of Wool. And if such a Law was made, at first for three Years only, the Effects of it wou'd be seen, and the Land-holders wou'd be watchful over Smugglers; for fear, least an ill Use of this Indulgence, shou'd give Occasion to subject them again to the same Restraints.

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* The Proportion of each may be fix'd, if judg'd proper.

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Let us now consider how this wou'd affect *England*. If I judge right, the *Irish* cou'd not spare us above 15 Thousand Packs yearly, * which is not near so much, as the Difference there is often in our own Produce, between a generally unhealthful Year, and that which preceeds it. Now whether this be brought over in Wool or Yarn, I cannot think, it wou'd either sink out Rents, or hurt our Manufacturies; nay, I firmly believe, it wou'd have a very good Effect upon both: For surely the *Irish* Wool must do us less Harm, when manufactur'd in *England* and *Ireland*, than in *France*, where it will serve to work up twice much of their own Wool, to the very great Prejudice of the *British* Merchant in his Market abroad: Whereas if the Priviledge granted the *Irish* of exporting a limited Quantity of Wool manufactur'd be prudently regulated, as to the Sort of Goods, the Fineness, and the foreign Market, &c. it may be contriv'd so as not to interfere at all with the *English* Trade, and we may serve ourselve at any Time of the cheap Labour of *Ireland*, to beat the *French* out of any Market as we please.

* When the *Irish* have been allow'd the Importation of Wool and Woollen Yarn, it has been computed to amount to 50, 60, and even 70 Thousand Packs; the last, I take it, is as much as their Produce. Even a Tenth of This Quantity if not properly distributed, but brought only to one Market, wou'd much affect the Interests of the neighbouring *Graiers* and poor Manufacturers. This may easily be guarded against.



Preventing

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Preventing the Running of Wool of Advantage to the Nation in general, and to Persons in all Stations and Circumstances.

SOME think, that the keeping our Wool at Home, will be beneficial only to the Land-Owner, the *Graier*, and Farmer; whereas I consider it as an universal National Concern. And indeed I am fully perswaded, that the true Interests of the Government, of Land, and of Trade, are so intimately connected, and as it were cemented with one another, that they must in a great Measure stand or fall together; they cannot, as I apprehend, be separated without giving a Shock to the Whole. The preventing the Running our Wool will, I apprehend, be attended with the following Advantages.

1st. It will greatly increase his Majesty's Revenue, by being, as I verily believe it will be,

2^{dly}, The great Means to discourage Smuggling: For so long as our Wool is owl'd abroad, it is uatural to fear, that such Commodities as pay high Duties will be smuggled in upon us: the same Hands, the same Coasts, and the same Vessels have served, all along for both; for the clandestine Exports as well as Imports. Whatever it is now, the Smugglers had brought it to that Pass, that there was quite an Intercourse maintain'd by way of Barter, almost as much as if it were an open and free Trade: And if no other foreign Nation has, the *French* however have so much found their Account in it, that they will encourage it by all Ways and Means possible: and

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the double Gains, to our own People by owling of Wool, and smuggling Brandies, &c. had enabled them to carry on the Trade so much to their Advantage, that they grew almost formidable. And therefore, if a Stop could be put to the owling of Wool; it wou'd, in my humble Opinion, lessen the Gains of the clandestine Trade to our Smugglers so much, that they would be discourag'd from farther pursuing it. Nay, I question, provided we cou'd stop our Wool from being carried abroad, whether it wou'd be worth while even for the *French* to carry on the smuggling Trade with us. I'm inclin'd to think thus; because upon those Coasts, where there was no owling of Wool, the smuggling Business was dwindled almost to nothing, (at least I have been inform'd so) especially, since we have been pretty well stripp'd by them of our heavy Money. However, I am fully perswaded, that preventing the Exportation of raw Wool, wou'd, for the present, be a considerable Damp upon the whole smuggling Trade; and that it must be quite new modell'd, before the Profits would ballance the Dangers and Risques, attending the Dealers in that iniquitous Way: And whatever new Methods they shall fall into, I presume, that it will be no difficult Matter to detect them in their Infancy, and then it will be easie, to provide proper Remedies in due time, to stop their future Progress. I'm led into this Way of thinking by recollecting only, what I had thought long ago; that a moderate Vigilance and Attention about the time of the late Peace at *Utrecht*, and for some few Years after, would have prevented both the owling and the smuggling Trades, from being so rife, as they have since been. Excuse me for just touching a little upon this Point, and if I am in the wrong, I shall be very glad to be set right. This I take to have been the Case. After the Peace the *French* began more strongly to rival the *Dutch*, in carrying on a clandestine Trade with the *English*. They took the Advantage of our high Duties, and brought in their Brandies, &c. upon us. The Re-

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ceivers of these might not always be furnish'd to pay them in Specie; and the *French* having long tasted the Sweets of our *English* Wool, (tho' they had been interrupted from having it in such Quantities as they desir'd) were mighty willing to take Wool in Return, and to afford a good Price for it in Exchange for their Trumpery. By thus getting some of our Wool, they were enabled to sell, in foreign Markets, Goods that appear'd of the same Fabrick with ours; and by the Cheapness of their Manufacturing they could undersell us: Our Merchants, Factors, and Clothiers, &c. instead of enquiring into the true Cause of the Evil, — the Running of Wool, and endeavouring to get a Stop put to it; fell to beating down Wages, lowering Prices, paying the Workmen in the Way of Truck, and even in Cloth, &c. at Home; that they might be able to sell Abroad as cheap as the *French*. Instead of remedying, this increas'd the Evil. The Consequence was this; the best Workmen look'd upon this Usage as oppressive, they consider'd their Masters as Tyrants; in the Heat of Resentment, they forgot that Love, which is natural for Men to have for their native Country; and many of them, especially such as had not the Endearments of Wives and Children to detain them at Home, having already met with very kindly Invitations, went abroad; where they met with good Words and good Wages into the Bargain; and, in Return for this Kindness shewn them by their new Masters, they establish'd Correspondencies in *England*; and were, in many Instances, the Instruments of vastly promoting the Owling and Smuggling Trade; infomuch, that, if I am not wrong inform'd, upon some of our Sea Coasts *France* was grown to be the usual Market for *English* Wool.

Now, if these Things are, so as I have humbly represented them; if the putting a Stop to exporting raw Wool, will greatly increase his Majesty's Revenue, as a necessary Consequence of suppressing in a great measure the Smuggling Trade; I beg Leave to observe further, that consequently, in the

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3^d Place, it will be of great Advantage to every fair Trader, in all the several Commodities which are now smuggled upon us from abroad. This carries its own Evidence along with it. I beg Leave therefore, to say

4^{thly}, That it will be the Means of finding Employment for our Poor, and therefore will both force and shame many of our idle Vagrants into Work; because it will cut off all Excuse for their Strolling, and make them be consider'd in a true Light as loose disorderly People: Thus will they be confin'd to their own Parishes through want of Encouragement in the begging Trade, and made more useful Members of the Community. And the Consequence of this being

5^{thly}, That the Parish Levies will be lessen'd; it will be an Ease to Persons who contribute to them, in all Stations of Life whatsoever. And as the Poor will hereby be able to meet with full Employment, it will of Course increase the Number of his Majesty's Subjects: for

6^{thly}, It will be the greatest Encouragement imaginable to them to marry, when they see before them a fair Prospect, of being able to maintain a Family by Labour and Industry. And this will be the Means

7^{thly}, Of increasing the Value both of Houses and Lands; the former being sure never to stand empty, nor the latter untenanted; and it will also enable the Tenants to pay their Rents well and cheerfully. And, as every Man will be thriving that will be industrious, it will occasion a quick Circulation of Money, among Persons in all Ranks, and of all Employments, and diffuse a Face of Plenty and Cheerfulness thro' the whole Land. Thus will our Consumption be increased, and consequently his Majesty's Revenues will increase in Proportion, and Trade will look up in every Branch of it.

8^{thly}, It will be an Advantage to the Merchants, and Factors. 1st, By increasing their Demands from abroad.

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abroad. 2^{dly}, By enabling them with more Speed to furnish out a sortable Cargo. 3^{dly}, By securing to them a certain Market, as no other Nation will then be able to fore-stall it: And the Vent of our Goods will not depend, as it has done very much, upon the capricious Circumstances of Peace or War, &c. with this or that foreign Power.

9^{thly}, It will be a general National Advantage; there is no Branch of Trade except our Woollen Trade but other Nations may rival us in; Providence, by having bestow'd upon us the best Wool in the World for marketable Manufactures, seems to have pointed out to us the very Way, of being a rich, powerful, and happy People.

I beg Leave to observe, that 'tis now but about 100 Years ago, that the *French* and *Dutch* became our Rivals in the Trade of Woollen Manufactures. Till then we work'd up our raw Wool at Home, and had the sole Trade for our Cloths in several Countries, and made the Returns in such Commodities of their Produce as we wanted, where we now are forc'd to pay for them; either in ready Money, and consequently we carry no Goods, but Ballast only; or else in foreign Goods, which we buy with our Money elsewhere. The *Baltick* Trade particularly furnishes us with a melancholy Instance of this; I have in View more especially that to *Sweden* and *Denmark*. If we look back to those Times, we shall find, what was the Cause of Decay of foreign Trade for the *English* Manufactures. It was by reason of Foreigners procuring our Wool, and by the Help of that, and working cheaper than we cou'd, beating us out of the Market. This points out to us the proper Method for retrieving that Trade, viz. by working up all our raw Wool at Home. And though I will not pretend to say, that we shou'd be able to gain such a Monopoly of the Woollen Manufactures as we formerly had; because so many other Countries having since that Time fallen into the Manufacture of Woollen Goods, the lower People abroad wou'd probably

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bably be serv'd with coarse Woollens at a cheaper Rate than we cou'd serve them. But as to the fine Woollen Cloths, for the Sale of these, I humbly apprehend, we shou'd have no Rival, provided we kept but our raw Wool at Home; and it is the fine Woollen Trade, which employs the most Hands, and brings in the greatest Riches to a Nation. The single Observation that formerly we manufactur'd all our own Wool, shews plainly enough, that we have spare Hands to do it now; for I believe our Inhabitants are increas'd more in proportion since those times than our Sheep are: And I hope, what I have publish'd in the *Gent. Mag.* for *May* and *October* 1743. has satisfied all disinterested Persons in that Particular. The two last Observations bring me naturally to take Notice.

10thly, That by keeping our raw Wool at Home, our Navigation will be greatly increas'd; not only, as we may hereby entirely secure to our selves the Sale of our own Wool, exported in our own Bottoms when manufactur'd; whereas a great deal of what has gone abroad raw, has been carried off in Vessels navigated by Foreigners; but also, as it will be the Means of ingrossing to our selves the Trade to some Countries, which other Nations share with us at present; by our being the only People on Earth, who can supply them with all the Necessaries which they want, and can alone furnish our Ships with a Freight of portable Goods for their Markets. And the necessary Consequence of this will be

11thly, The curbing the Power of *France*, by considerably lessening her foreign Trade. And, I am perswaded, that if we do but take effectual Care, to keep our raw Wool at Home; it will be the most deadly Stroke to the Power of *France* that we can give her; for, as I humbly apprehend, it will effectually disable her from profitably carrying on several Branches of her Trade; because her Merchants will want a proper Supply of Goods, for sorting their Cargoes to many Countries, whether they have for
many

many Years traded by Help of *English* and *Irish* Wool, to a great National Advantage.

You will of Course observe, that I mention *Irish* Wool, as well as *English*. I desire always to be understood to include both; for I am very sensible, that a Restraint upon *English* only will be doing nothing to the Purpose.

Queries concerning the Reasons of the present advanc'd Price of Wool.

First, **I**S there not more Danger now in Smuggling, than there was before the Breaking out of the War, both on account of our own Ships of War, and the *Spanish* Privateers, which have often hover'd near our Coasts?

2dly, Has not *France* lost abundance of Men in the present War; insomuch as to have been forc'd, to have Recourse to extraordinary Means for recruiting her Armies, and, as some say, even to drag away her Manufacturers from the Loom, &c.? And *England* having not yet declared War against her, has she thought fit to send her *Privateers* upon our Coasts, as she did in the late War, who help'd much to drain us of our Wool, by maintaing a friendly Intercourse with our Smugglers?

3dly, Are not the *English* who are now in Arms few, in Comparison of what they were during the late War with *France*, by which means our Manufacturies are not so much drain'd of Men as they then were? Or can the usual Increase of Mankind be so much interrupted in the first Beginnings of War, as it, in Course, must be by a long Continuance of it?

4thly, Has not the brave Admiral *Vernon* open'd us a Way for carrying on a very profitable Trade with the *Spaniards* in *America*? And is not our being engag'd in War with *Spain*, the Means of our appropriating, in a great Measure, this Trade to our selves? For, is it worth while, for either the *French*

or *Dutch* to trade thither on their own Bottoms wholly? And, if they have Goods on board for the use of *Spain*, will they not be condemn'd as lawful Prizes? *

5thly, Have not the Manufacturies in *Hungary*, *Germany*, upon the *Rhine*, &c. which, as I take it, were very considerable been ruin'd, or however very much interrupted by the present War? *

6thly,

* I have been since inform'd by a very worthy Correspondent, that there has been a much greater Demand for our Woollen Manufacture in the *West-Indies*, than has been known for these twenty Years past, owing to Admiral *Vernon's* opening a Market at *Porto-Bello* and *Chagre*: And that the Prohibition of all *French* Goods, by the *Q.* of *Hungary* in her Dominions, has open'd a large Trade into those Countries, where the *French* us'd to have the principal Share. My ingenious Correspondent apprehends that the *Levant* Trade has not contributed much to the Advance, our *Turkey* Merchants having rather declin'd in their Exports than otherwise; which has put our Clothiers upon thinking of Methods to extend that Trade. He lays a greater Stress upon the *Russia* and less upon the *East-India* Trade, than I have done: He thinks the Home Consumption of our own Wool larger than usual, from the vast Quantities of Bear-Skins, Rough-Coatings, and many other Species of a coarse Manufacture, which have been the prevailing Fashion for several Years past; and these, in the room of Drabs, and other Cloths chiefly made with *Spanish* Wool. This last no doubt is a very pertinent and just Observation: But, I think, in one thing he has been misinform'd, and that is, that the severe Winters, and the great Quantities of Land formerly Sheep Walks and now turn'd to Arable, have both lessen'd the Number of Sheep, and lower'd the Price of Grain. As the Gentleman has said this, not upon his own Knowledge, but merely upon the Information of others; which shows that some Persons have entertain'd such a Notion, I hope he will not think himself at all concern'd in my making a few Observations upon it. 1st, I believe, that in general, the Black Cattle and Horses, for want of Hay in the preceeding Summers, felt the Effects of the severe Winters much more than Sheep did. 2dly, The Stock of Sheep is much sooner recruited. 3dly, It is wet and not dry Seasons, which are pernicious to Sheep; and we have not had a general Rot of them for many Years. 4thly, The succeeding dry Years, have made many of our richest Grounds, such as Fens, Marsh, Meadow, and in general all low Grounds, the very best of Pastures, and many of them very good Winter Grounds, which in wet Seasons carried but little Stock, in Compari-

6thly, Have not the *French* Ships of War been block'd up along with the *Spanish* in *Toulon*? And must not this of course occasion a Decrease of their *Levant* Trade? For tho' the *English* wou'd not take their Merchant Men; yet wou'd not the Corsairs of *Africk* do it if they cou'd? And do we not know, that they have not been upon very good Terms with some of them?

7thly, Is not the *French* Woollen Trade in *Turkey* very much declin'd of late, and have not the *English* recover'd in some measure, that Trade, which the *French* had before almost beaten them out of?

8thly, Are not the *French* *East-India* Ships detain'd at Home? And can they therefore send many Woollen Goods to that Market? And has not our *East-India* Company bought up a larger Quantity of those Goods than usual? Or however, more than they wou'd have done, if the *French* had carried on their

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son of what they have done of late Years. And this alone, taking the Kingdom throughout, I believe, will very much over-balance any Deficiency in the Stock of Sheep that cou'd arise from the hard Winters, or the plowing up the Pasture Grounds, &c. Besides that many Grounds which us'd to feed Beasts, have, for want of Water, been turn'd to Sheep Pastures. 5thly, The present low Price of Grain is chiefly owing to there not being a Demand abroad for its Exportation. I allow, that perhaps in some Counties. The high Price which Grain bore (tis now not so long as two Years ago) might induce some, to convert more of their Grounds into Arable; and this is the constant Method with Graziers and Farmers, where they have free Liberty from the Land-Owners to do it. They will always be managing their Lands, as they will bear it, either for Tillage or Grazing, as shall be most profitable: When Grain is dear, they will run upon Arable; when it is cheap, they will lay it down again. Not, but if we carry our Inquiry many Years backwards, we shall indeed find, that a great deal of Ground upon many of our Downs, &c. which was us'd for Grazing, and of Sheep chiefly, is now turn'd to other Uses, and particularly Arable; and the Bounty upon Exportation, has greatly encourag'd this Improvement. *Hampshire*, *Wiltshire*, and *Dorsetshire*, to go no further, will furnish us with abundant Proof of this.

their *East-India* Trade as before; considering the Way lately open'd for carrying on a Trade with *Persia* thro' the *Russian* Dominions.

Indeed I do not know that we ought to lay any great Stress upon the new Trade to *Persia*, as to the present advanc'd Price of Wool; because the Rise was not till a considerable Time, as I take it, after our Merchants made their first Venture that Way; and I do not yet hear, that they have made a second. But, I do not know particularly what Quantity of Goods was shipp'd thither.

I submit it to every Gentleman, to lay what Stresses he pleases, upon each of the above Particulars.— Singly they may not, but united they may be able to produce the Effect; by enlarging our Trade abroad, and thereby advancing our Wool to the Price it is now at. This I believe, will, in general, be allow'd me, that the Woollen Manufacture of *England* is in a much more thriving Condition, and the Demand for it greater now, than it was a very few Years ago, and that the contrary is true with Regard to *France*. *

Sufficient

* The same ingenious Gentleman tells me, that the Manufacture of Woollen Goods in *England* is in a more flourishing State, than it has been for many Years, and that, that of *France* is upon the Decline. If so, and is on all Hands allow'd to be so, it is highly prebable, that less Wool is now owl'd to *France*, than was a few Years ago: 30,000 Packs of *English* or *Irish* Wool work'd up with *French* Wool is a considerable Thing; and such a Quantity more than usual being kept at Home, wou'd give a great Turn in our Favour, according to my Estimate.



Sufficient Vent for our Woollen Manufactures: And an Account given why Wool has advanc'd in Price.

THE Fears which you express, that if we can keep our raw Wool at Home, we shall not be able to find a Vent for it when manufactur'd, I think you will lay aside: when you consider that it is at present all dispos'd of; and if Foreigners cannot carry it to Market, the *English* may, and will soon recover that Trade for Woollens, which they have been beat out off, by other Nations getting their Wool from them. The high-Price given for our raw Wool by the *French* plainly shews, that it is for the Use of their Manufactures; and I make no Doubt, but the Countries, who buy it of them, will be willing to be supplied by the *English*, when they can have it by no other Channel. But I'm perswaded, you have been led into this way of thinking by the high Computations. Were they indeed true, I do not see how we cou'd spare Hands to manufacture our Produce; or, if we cou'd do that, where we cou'd find Sale for our Manufactures. But if, agreeably to my own Computations, our utmost yearly Produce never exceeds, and, in general, falls a good deal short of one Half of what these Gent. compute it at; then, I think, I can not only find Vent for it; but I can much better account for the present Rise of Wool; than can be done, so far as I can see, upon the Footing of the high Computations. If we suppose the *French* never to have got yearly more than 30, 40, or 50,000 Packs of *British* and *Irish* Wool; then it will be easie to account for the present Advance in Price; by the *French* Trade having declin'd, and our own having flourish'd more of late than for several Years past. But, if they had from us, ten times as much raw Wool as I have set it at, I own I cannot account for it: Neither is it my Concern

cern to do it. We know in the Article of Grain, what a vast Alteration has been made on a sudden in the Price, by a pretty brisk Demand for it for Exportation: tho' the highest Demand we ever have, I believe, hardly exceeds one Tenth of the Produce of a single fruitful Year. And I own, I can see no Reason, why the Price of Wool may not be equally affected, by an Increase in the same Proportion, in the Demand abroad for our Woollen Manufactures. * That it is increas'd, I believe, is on all Hands

* To make this the more intelligible to my Reader, I will lay the State of it before him, according to my own, and according to the high Computations.

Wool grown yearly in Great Britain and Ireland.	Smuggled yearly	Manufac- tur'd till lately only.	Increase of our Manufac- tures at Home.	Sum Total now Manufac- tur'd at Home.	Remains for Smuggling
<i>By my Computations.</i>					
Packs 450,000	50,000	400,000	30,000	430,000	20,000
<i>By the high Computations.</i>					
Packs 900,000	300,000	600,000	30,000	630,000	270,000

N. I have not here made the Abatement, according to what I think our yearly Produce falls short of 450,000 Packs: If I shou'd do that, it would exhibit it in a still stronger Point of Light: Nor do I pretend to ascertain the Quantity that has been, or is at present smuggled; 'tis certain, there is less smuggled now, than there was a few Years ago, because it is on all Hands, so far as I know, allow'd, that our foreign Trade for Woollens is increas'd, and that of France is lessen'd. An ingenious Reader, I think, will know my Meaning, and will easily see, that such an Increase in the Demand for Woollens, as, according to the high Computations cou'd have no very great Effect upon the Price of Wool, must very much advance it, if my Computations are tolerably near the Truth. But not to keep any one longer in Suspence, I will venture to give my

Hands allow'd. But, that it is so much increas'd, as to work up even 200,000 Packs, more than it did two Years ago, I own, is quite above my Comprehension.

Home

my own Conjecture, (for I cannot call it more) about the general Produce of our Wool. I say the general Produce, for in severe Rot Years the Farmer shall sometimes lose almost every Sheep upon some Grounds; and if such a Rot is general, it may in the whole Kingdom sweep of some Millions of Sheep. But I speak only of the general yearly Produce; and I shou'd chuse to set it for South Britain not lower than 230,000, nor higher than 280,000 Packs; and for Scotland and Ireland, between 115,000 and 130,000, or at most 140,000 Packs. I believe our Produce of Wool is at present as high, as it has in the general been. I will only beg Leave to observe, that this is not mere Guess-Work; it is the Result of many Computations. But I have no Right, neither do I desire it, that others shou'd sit down by it: I only use the Liberty, which every Man is entitled to, of giving his own Opinion. If, in the Table above, I have chanc'd to set the Quantity smuggled near the Matter; I beg Gentlemen would consider what must have been the National Loss, by 60, 80, or perhaps even 100 Thousand People or more by this Means wanting Employ; while the British Merchant at the same Time had his Market abroad forestall'd, by the Help of that very Wool, which he wou'd otherwise have carried himself in Manufactures to the Market unrivall'd. And suppose the French to get no more from us now than 20,000 Packs yearly; yet surely the Nation is a sufficient Sufferer even by This to engage a serious Attention; for by the Help of their own Wool of Berry, and the Spanish Wool which they can buy, the French may still be very formidable Rivals to us in the Woollen Trade. And tho' the Grower of Wool may be easy with the present Price: Yet if there is Wool still smuggled abroad; this Acquiescence does not exhibit him in a Light becoming a true Lover of his Country; but rather as one quite unconcern'd for a National Good, and provided he can but sell his Produce at a high Price, not caring what becomes of it after. This is all Self-Interest, pure, and unmix'd: heighten it but a little, and then you have a perfect Idea of a Smuggler. For my own Part, with all due Submission to my Superiors, I apprehend this to be a very proper Time for suppressing Smuggling. — We having, in some Measure, regain'd our Woollen Trade, and France having declin'd in hers; now is our Opportunity, and if we strike while the Iron's hot, we may quite beat our Rivals out of the Market. But, if they can but get, comparatively a small Quantity of our Wool; This mix'd with their own will a little uphold their Credit, till, the Posture of Affairs changing, and no further Provision than usual having been made, all will naturally return again into its old Channel.

Home Consumption of raw Wool.

I Submit to your Perusal the following Computations. Yearly Home Consumption of raw Wool by a Million of Souls, from 3 lb. to 6 lb. for each Person; taking into the Estimate not only Apparel, but Furniture, &c.

At lb. 3 for each	12. 500 Packs.	at lb. 5	20, 833 $\frac{1}{3}$
lb. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	14. 583 $\frac{1}{3}$	lb. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	22, 916 $\frac{2}{3}$
lb. 4	16. 666 $\frac{2}{3}$	lb. 6.	25, 000.
lb. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	18. 750.		

I think few have set the Inhabitants of *England* and *Wales* of late Years lower than 8 Millions, or higher than 10 Millions. I have given here an Estimate of the Consumption at the Rate of 8, 9, and 10 Millions.

Millions	at lb. 3.	at lb. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	at lb. 4.	at lb. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	at lb. 5.	at lb. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	at lb. 6.
8	100,000	116,666	133,333	150,000	166,666	183,333	200,000
9	112,500	131,250	150,000	168,750	187,500	206,250	225,000
10	125,000	145,833	166,666	187,500	208,333	229,166	250,000

Scotland I think is computed to have about a Million and Half of Inhabitants; and *Ireland* to have about two Millions. But not to be sparing in my Computations, I have given you Estimates for 3, 3 and a Half, and 4 Millions.

Millions	at lb. 3.	at lb. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	at lb. 4.	at lb. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	at lb. 5.	at lb. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	at lb. 6.
3	37,500	43,750	50,000	56,250	62,500	69,650	75,000
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	43,625	51,041	58,333	65,625	72,916	81,008	87,500
4	50,000	56,333	66,666	75,000	83,333	92,566	100,000

For

For the Home Consumption of *South-Britain*, I think we cannot allow less per Head than 3 lb. nor need we, I believe, set it higher than 5 lb.

For *North-Britain* and *Ireland*, 4 lb. per Head I imagine is the lowest that it can, and 6 lb. the highest that it need be set at. But I leave every Gentleman to compute by the Tables according to his own Fancy. I am sensible, my own Way of Estimating wou'd be too low, were it not for the great Use of Things made of other Materials; as of Silks, Cottons, Mohair, Flax, Hemp, and Leather; tho' the Young from their Birth, and the Old even to their being laid into the Grave are taken into the Account, and their Consumption is but a very Trifle; and in general, the Consumption of Females falls much short of that of the Males.

I have allow'd more, in Proportion, for the Inhabitants of *North-Britain* and *Ireland*, than for those of *South-Britain*; because, as I take it, their Cloathing is in general coarser, and therefore takes more Wool; and they consume less of other Materials.

Dr. *Davenant* and Mr. *King* computed *South-Britain* to consume at Home 3 4ths of the yearly Produce of Wool; their Computations might be very right at that time; but, notwithstanding the Increase of Inhabitants, I much question, whether the Home Consumption has been so great for many Years past as it was in those Times; owing to Velvets, Silks, Plushes, (and Calicoes not very long ago) Printed Linnens, Cottons, &c. &c. And their using then thick Woollens, very heavy in comparison of those light ones which came afterwards in Fashion. Not but the Prohibition of *Spanish* Wool, upon the breaking out of the War, certainly increas'd the Consumption of our own Wool, if not by introducing, however by extending the Use of our heavier Woollens.

Of

Of the Quantity of Wool grown in England and Wales.

Suppose we have 40 Millions of Acres in *England and Wales*. The Deduction for Lands cover'd with Water, for Rivers, Drains, &c. and otherwise utterly incapable of being depastur'd, as being quite barren, or overgrown with Reeds, or us'd only for Turbary, or taken up with Roads, Fences, Ditches, &c. or with Buildings, and the Yards, Gardens, and Orchards belonging to them; cannot, I think, be well set at less than 4 Millions.

Remains then of Land pasturable, if not otherwise employ'd, 36 Millions.

Suppose between *Martinmas* and *Christmas* a Sheep to 2 Acres equal to 18 Millions

It is certainly setting it too low, to suppose only 2 Millions of these to be slaughter'd, or to die before next Sheer-Day. But if 2 Millions only be deducted, this will reduce the old Sheep to be shorn to 16 Millions.

To make up 300,000 Packs.

These 16 Millions of old Sheep, when shorn, must produce 4 lb. to a Fleece, equal to Packs 266,666.

Add 1 8th. for Lambs and Felt Wool, which is as high as any one, I think, has set it at, equal to Packs 33,333.

If we set the Fleeces on Sheer-Day at 3 lb. and a Half, there must be shorn above 18,666,000 And by the same Proportion as before, there must be 21 Millions between *Martinmas* and *Christmas*.

If we set the Fleeces at only 3 lb. each at Sheer-Day, then there must be shorn above 21,333,000 and between *Martinmas* and }
Christmas there must be } 24 Millions.

Whether we compute the Fleeces at 3 or 4 lb. it will come to much the same.

If

If we set the Fleeces at 4 l. each, [60 to the Pack] I fear it is setting it too high, upon the Average, for the Produce of *England* and *Wales*.

If we set them at 3 lb. each; I have the same Fears that that Number of Sheep between *Martinmas* and *Christmas* [24 Millions] is more than we can support in the Winter; consistent with our other Stock, our favouring of Pasture Lands for the Spring, our Methods of Husbandry; and the great Tracts of Land which are not proper Winter Grounds, besides our Wood Lands, Hop Grounds, &c. Parks, Warrens, Heaths, Moors, and Commons, &c. many of which carry little or no Stock at that time of the Year.

Letter of August the 8th 1743. re-printed, with Notes upon it.

WHEN I first publish'd my Scheme, I foresaw, it would give more Trouble both to the Grower of Wool and the Manufacturer, than I wou'd willingly have laid upon them; but, a general Notion that the smuggling our Wool abroad was an incurable Evil, occasion'd my being so cautious in every Article; and, I was in Hopes, that, as I had drawn out the Particulars at full Length, it would be easy for others to contract and abridge them; * And, any one that reads my Scheme with tolerable Candour, may easily see, that it was very far from my Intention to clog Trade. The Scheme itself indeed has by one Gentleman been represented as utterly impracticable; but by the Account he gives of it, I am ready to think, he was satisfied with looking over the Contents, and only dipp'd into the Scheme itself; if he perus'd it, it was very cursorily, and with too much Warmth to form a right Judgment of it. I

D do

* The Way of carrying on the Woollen Manufacture is different in different Places. If Persons concern'd in it, wou'd lend their helping Hand; All Things, with regard to Accounts, so far as I can learn, might be settled to general Satisfaction.

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do not in the least call in Question the Uprightness of the Gentleman's Intentions ; I regard every Writer upon the Subject as my Fellow-labourer in the same laudable Cause : I only wish, that every Gentleman would employ his Pen, rather to build up, than pull down ; and not think it enough to note the Errors of others, without offering a Method to correct and amend them. The former can be of little Use, 'till we see there is some Danger of a Law being framed upon such a faulty Scheme ; the latter will help to clear up Difficulties, to remove Objections, to put to Silence the Opposers of a National Good, and to encourage those who are sincerely zealous to promote it.

Some Gentlemen have unhappily entertain'd a Notion, that we cannot spare Hands sufficient to manufacture our Wool at Home ; a Notion in general quite new ; and which, I am persuaded, took its Rise, from the exaggerated Accounts which were given us of the Loss to *Great-Britain* by our Wool being smuggled abroad. These Gentlemen have computed *England* to lose above 40 Millions, and *France* to gain above 50 Millions yearly, by this one Article. Were this Fact, what could have hinder'd *France* from executing, what has been said to be her favourite Scheme, — arriving at UNIVERSAL MONARCHY ? The Danger of our not finding Hands to manufacture our Wool I look upon as a mere Scar-crow. But, if any Gentlemen continue to have these Fears, the Danger is easily provided against, by empow'ring and obliging a Person in every County, &c. (Suppose the Clerk of the Peace) at a certain time of the Year to take what shall then remain in the Grower's Hands, at the Price, with some little Abatement, * which the

* If they were to have the full Price, which their Neighbours sold for ; All, who wanted not ready Money, wou'd keep their Wool, till the Time appointed for the Clerk of the Peace, &c. to take it off their Hands : Because, though it shou'd not rise, they wou'd be secure from being Losers ; but if it did, the Profit wou'd accrue solely to themselves. — This might have a very ill Effect upon Trade.

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the Wool of the same Township where it grew, was generally sold for the preceding Year, and, it may be afterwards dispos'd of, as the Parliament shall direct.

To obviate all Objections, which I have hitherto heard of against my Scheme, I beg leave to make the following Proposals.

I apprehend, that the Wool-winders Account, as requir'd in *Art. 7*, and a general Registry of Stock once a Year, as in my Proposals to Parliament in a printed Half-Sheet, † will be a sufficient Check upon the Grower of Wool ; especially, if all Wool-buyers be requir'd to give and take Certificates of all Wool bought or sold above Pounds Weight ; and both Buyer and Seller be oblig'd to preserve and produce such Certificates, when legally requir'd. *

D 2

As

† If the Method I propos'd for ascertaining the Stock, &c. [Proposals to Parliament of March 5, 1742-3.] shou'd be approv'd, I humbly propose, that when the Grower gives in an Account of his Stock, he may also give in the Weight of his Wool cut between *February* last and that Time : and the Total enter in the general Account. I desire, the worthy Author of the *Grafiers Advocate* will accept my Thanks for this Improvement.

* For my own Part, I lay a very great Stress upon This ; and, for want of some such Provision, I humbly apprehend, many of our Laws against Smuggling have fail'd of Success. — Put the Case, that a Dealer buys Wool in *Lincolnshire*, or *Leicestershire*, and sends it Coast-wise to a Port in the *British Channel*. The Accounts between the Officers of the Customs may agree, and the Wool may be fairly lodg'd in the Buyer's Ware-House. — He has got it in a very convenient Place for the Purpose. — After all this, it may by Stealth be carried into *France*. — If he sells it again at *Southampton*, he must take a Certificate, from the Person he sells it to ; This will discharge him if he is call'd upon. If he employs Hands to work it up ; though I make no Doubt, but at present he keeps an Account with his Workmen ; he ought, as I humbly apprehend, to be oblig'd, under severe Penalties, to keep a regular Account of all Wool deliver'd out ; as to Weight, Time, Place, to whom, and by whom it was deliver'd ; and of the Return in like Manner in Goods manufactur'd : And to produce such Book before the Justices, when requir'd, in order to clear himself from any Suspicions of Fraud. I see no Hardship upon the fair Dealer in this.

As it will be little Trouble for the Officers of Excise to take down the Number of Skins at the Fellmongers. &c. (*Art. 15.*) I humbly propose, that that may stand as it does, and all the rest of the Scheme, except what concerns the Grower and Manufacturer; all which, upon admitting the Regulations above-mention'd, I propose to strike off at once, to prevent any Complaint on account of the Trouble or Intricacy of it. And, I am persuaded, that the other Articles with regard to Licensing of Buyers, Carriage of Wool, Penalties upon the Guilty, and Encouragement to Informers, especially, if the Informer be intitled to the whole Reward, and effectual Means taken to promulge the Law, so as that every private Person may know his Reward for Information: * These Things, I say, I am fully persuaded will answer the End, and prevent any considerable Quantity of our Wool from being smuggled abroad. My Reason for it is this: 'Tis the Prospect of Gain which makes Smugglers; but, a Man must be blind to his own Interest, who will venture to smuggle, when his Servants, Accomplices, and all that are privy to his indirect Practices, are tempted to make Discovery of them, not by Indemnity only, but, by such great Rewards. (See Articles, 18, 19, 20, 21.) He smuggles for his own Advantage, and they'll detect him for theirs; if they do not, they foolishly betray both their own Interest, and that of their Country. 'Tis not with Wool, as it is with
Tea,

* I believe there are few Owlars of Wool, whether Growers or Buyers, but their Neighbours either know it, or strongly suspect it; and if the Penalties and Rewards are well known, they will watch them narrowly. Time brings many Things to Light; and a wholesome Law to prevent the Owling our Wool; and the Care or Neglect in the Execution of it, will shew plainly, who are, and who are not Friends to the Trade and Interest of Great-Britain. And if the Restrictions here propos'd be tried; and, upon Tryal, shou'd be found insufficient; they may afterwards be extended: And the People will more chearfully bear farther Restraints, if Experience evinces the Necessity of them.

Tea, &c; Wool's a bulky Commodity, and 'tis not easy to conceal any great Weight of it; and if we can keep our Wool at home, I believe it wou'd be one of the most effectual Means, to discourage the smuggling other Goods upon us from abroad; and, how considerably this wou'd increase his Majesty's Revenue, I leave it to Gentlemen conversant in it to judge.

Some Cautions may be added, as to Persons near the Sea Coasts, and to Article 21, with regard to keeping Wool within Miles of the Sea, especially upon such Coasts as are most suspected; (for that some are deservedly more suspected than others, I believe, every one will allow.) All which may, with little Trouble, be thrown into a clear and easy Method, if Encouragement is given to hope, that any Scheme, relating to this Affair, will meet with Success.

Some think, the Gentlemen of Ireland will not come into our Measures; I am persuaded, they are truer to their own Interest than to refuse it; when they consider the Encouragement that has been already given by England to their Linnen Manufacture, and how unreasonable it wou'd be in them to distress her in the Woollen Trade. But, besides what has been offer'd by others, in which I have no Concern. I have myself propos'd several farther Encouragements for the Benefit of Ireland.

The whole Penalty for Smuggling to be the Reward of the Informer, out of the Offenders Effects, if they amount to it: But the Publick not to be answerable for the whole Deficiency.

IT was at the Instance of a very worthy Friend above a Year ago, [Dec. 30, 1742.] who gave solid Reasons for suggesting it, that I afterwards propos'd

pos'd appropriating the whole Penalty to the Informer. And not long after this first Proposal, he made another [March 5, 1742-3.] "That if the Effects of the Offender and his Accomplices do not amount to the Penalty; the Publick shou'd supply the Defect for the Encouragement of the Informer."

This seem'd very specious in one View, as it wou'd encourage Informations. But it is carrying it too far. * 1st. Here must a considerable Fund be rais'd by the Publick, by some Means or other, for answering such Deficiencies. And 2^{dly}, Here would be a great Temptation to Collusion between Smuggler and Informer, to enrich themselves by defrauding the Publick. For let us suppose 100 l. worth of Wool to be carried to Sea: At 8 d. a Pound, which is not setting it at all high, especially, considering that what they run is some of the best of our Wool in general; this wou'd

* I own there is an apparent Deficiency here in my Scheme; which I would endeavour to supply in this Manner, from some Hints given me by my worthy Friend, and other Things which have since occur'd to me.— If the Offenders escape and leave no Effects behind, or not amounting to the full Value of the Wool carried off; let the Hundred, from whence it is exported, be liable to make up the Deficiency, *i. e.* the Value of the Wool; and Informers and Prosecutors intitled to that Reward. If the Offender or Offenders are seiz'd, and their Effects do not exceed one 4th of the full Penalty for clandestine Exportation of Wool; let them be committed to the House of Correction and hard Labour for Months; and for a second Offence be transported for Life. — If there was a Default in the Hundred; it may be proper to subject it to some farther fix'd Penalty, according to the Quantity or Value of the Wool. This will make it worth the Informer's while to prosecute; and the Method of recovering the Penalty may be settled in such Manner as shall be judg'd effectual and least expensive; I humbly apprehend that if this Point be well settled and secured, that it will have a much better Effect, than subjecting the Nation to pay the Reward to Informers; because that will engage the Hundred, where the smuggling Trade is carried on, to watch the Smugglers very carefully. There is indeed some Provision of this Kind already; and a due Enquiry how it has prov'd ineffectual, may lead Gentlemen, into a proper Method of guarding it better for the future.

wou'd be 3,000 lb. Weight, not quite 13 Packs: no very great Quantity! I'll suppose, that it can be fully prov'd, that the Owner of the Wool, and the Master of the Vessel which it is on Board of, were knowing and concern'd in illegally exporting it: The Persons, who are to make the Information, suffer them both to escape. They have beforehand taken Care to secure their Effects in a foreign Country: — Full Proof of this clandestine Exportation is afterwards made in *England* by the rest of the Ship's Crew. According to my Scheme [Art. 20.] these Informers are intitled to 5 l. Reward for every Pound Weight of Wool, out of the Effects of the Master of the Ship and the Owner of the Wool severally; that is, to 10 l. in the whole for every Pound Weight, which is equal to 300 *per Cent.* above the Value of the Wool: This will amount to 30 Thousand Pounds. Now, according to my Scheme, this Juggle won't do. If the Offenders have no Effects, the Informers must go away empty handed. * And the Masters of the Ship, and the Owners of the Wool must spend the Remainder of their Days in Exile, for the sake of the Advantage they can make by smuggling 100 l. worth of Wool. And the Nation cannot suffer very much by about 13 Packs of Wool being carried off. But if the Publick are to make up the Deficiency, here must be 30,000 Pounds paid to the Informers, Half of which I'll suppose them to carry over with the first fair Wind to their Accomplices in the Villany, *viz.* the Master of the Ship and the Owner of the Wool; and so they may all spend the Remainder of their Days; the Exporters abroad, and the Informers where they please, in full Affluence of all Things. The Publick, however, would lose considerably by the

* All collusive Informations shou'd be discourag'd, and fair Ones pountenanc'd. See the last Note.

(20)
 the Bargain. † I think I foresee many ill Uses, that might be made of this. It may be farther consider'd, that such Persons as have little Effects, can of themselves smuggle but little to do a Nation Damage; they may be Instruments to Men in good Circumstances, but their Poverty and high Rewards, will be great Inducements, to inform against their Masters.

† Suppose this Trick to be play'd in 100 Instances; the Value of the Wool wou'd be 10,000l. the Quantity only 1250 Packs, a small Part! — no more than the 240th of 300,000 Packs, which some suppose to be smuggled yearly. Yet this wou'd cost the Nation, no less than 3 Millions Sterling to Informers. We know what Tricks have been play'd sometimes, when a Ship and Cargo have been insur'd above Value, but here the Gains would be vastly greater than can, in general, be made by sinking or bulging a Ship at Sea. And there is another material Difference; that if the Informers in this Case were discourag'd, there wou'd quickly be an End of all Informations.

P O S T S C R I P T.

THE curious Reader may find [*Annals of Europe for 1740, Pag. 337.*] that the yearly Produce of Wool in Ireland, according to an Account laid before the Parliament there, fell short of 67 Thousand Packs. I would beg Leave to refer him also to my Letters in the *Gent. Mag.* for 1743. Pag. 259. 537. and to observe, that I purposely omitted the Article of Hats, an Article I was quite ignorant of, and therefore I set the Quantity for Stockings wrought in the Way of publick Manufacture too high, in order to answer the Omission of the other. I suppose likewise the Number of Persons assign'd to each Branch of our Woollen Manufacture, to be constantly employ'd in the working Part; and exclusive of Mercers, Drapers, &c. Wool-Buyers, Factors, Merchants, &c. which wou'd very much, I own, swell the Number of Persons employ'd in or maintain'd by the Woollen Manufacture: Not to mention the Hands employ'd on board the Ships which export those Manufactures.

(29)
AS most of the Tracts in this small Piece regard the Quantity of our yearly Produce of Wool: I have here subjoin'd so much of the PROPOSALS to PARLIAMENT of March 5, 1742-3. as respects the *ascertaining of Stock, and the Number of Woollen Manufacturers by Profession*; with the Addition of the *Weight of Fleece Wool*, cut between the Month of February preceding, and the Time of giving in the Account, &c. I take no Notice of *Fellmongers*; because that, I think, may be pretty nearly estimated from the other. But if Gentlemen think there is Occasion to compute to a Nicety, that may be easily added. But I do not think, that the difference of Sentiments about the Quantity of our yearly Produce, is a sufficient Reason for postponing a Law against Smuggling; because, if there is any Danger of a Surplus, which I do not in the least suspect, it may easily be otherwise obviated [v. pag. 22, 23.]

The following Proposals are re-printed with the same View, as the Letter of Aug. 8, 1743. because, as they were distributed only, it was not in every Man's Power to come at the Perusal of them.

For ascertaining the Stock.

Suppose one and the same Day be fixed, for giving in an Account of Stock throughout *Great-Britain*: Distinguishing the Number of Sheep, and Lambs, which are the Property of each Grower. And the Weight of Wool in Pounds which he has cut since the February preceding. This Account to be given by the Owner, to the Petty Constable of the Constabulary where they then depasture. Notice whereof shou'd be given to each Grower, 6 Days before, by the Petty Constable, and a pretty high Penalty upon Defaulters, or Persons giving in false Accounts; the Penalty to be wholly given to the

E Informers,

Informers, and recover'd in an easy Way. The Day, I humbly apprehend, must be critically the same throughout the Kingdom; and the Penalties fix'd pretty high, to prevent any collusive removing of Stock. Some Day about the middle of *July*, I apprehend to be the properest for this Purpose; because Shearing Time is then over; and most of the Lambs are then dropp'd: *Smithfield* Markets are low; and there are few or no Fairs at that Time. But, if it is thought necessary, some Provision may be made for Registering such, as shall happen to be then upon Drift: The Account to be enter'd by the Petty Constable, as under the following Article.

To know the Number of Woollen Manufacturers by Profession.

Every one that is such, upon a fixed Day, must be register'd by the Petty Constable of that Constabulary where he resides. Masters or Mistresses must give in the Number of their Journeymen, and Apprentices, severally; and if their Apprentices are under such an Age, as shall be fixed, they must give in their Names separately: And the same as to Parents or Guardians; and they must be distinguished, as to that particular Branch of the Woollen Trade in which they are employ'd. The Method will be thus.

<i>Mary Webb</i> , Spinner and Carder.	6	<i>John Thomas</i> , Weaver, 5 Journeymen 4 Apprentices 2 Under 12.
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All these Accounts, the Petty Constable, or whom he shall employ, must enter in a Book, to be provided for that Purpose; and, within a Month after the Day fix'd (which it would be proper to settle the Beginning of *August*, that the Accounts both of Sheep and Manufacturers may be perused by the Parishioners, &c. at the same Time;) he must give publick Notice of a Parish Meeting, at which all the Parish-Officers, under a certain Penalty, may be obliged to attend. And the

the total Number of Persons employ'd in each Branch of the Trade must be set down, in such Book, and those under such an Age distinguish'd; and also the total Number of the Sheep and Lambs depasturing within that Constabulary; and the total Weight of the Wool cut; and then the Account must be sign'd by the Parishioners, and the Minister, if it is judg'd proper. And a true Copy of the *Total* of both, the Petty Constable shall take Care to send, fairly transcribed, and sealed up, with the Name of the Constabulary indorsed, through the Hands of the Chief Constable, to the Clerk of the Peace, at the Quarter Sessions next ensuing. All these Accounts to be seal'd up in a Parcel double paper'd, by such Clerk of the Peace, with the Name of the County or Division of County indorsed on the inside Paper, to the Register or Accomptant-General, to be nominated by Parliament, and Notice of the Place where his Office is fix'd must be given in the *Gazette*, that the Clerk of the Peace may know how to direct it.

By this Means, all the Accounts may be sort'd, and rang'd Alphabetically, under the several Counties, without Trouble. The Accounts of *South-Britain* must be by themselves, and the Counties dispos'd also Alphabetically, and the same for *North-Britain*. One Person, I suppose, sufficient to sort them for 5 Clerks; and the Accomptant-General and a Deputy will be enow to examine and compare them. It will be very easy Work for each Clerk to transcribe the Accounts of 100 Constabularies in a Day; thus will the Accounts of 3000 be dispatch'd in a Week. Two Examiners, I suppose, may be sufficient to compare the written and the printed Copy, to prevent Mistake; and to sum up and set down the Total of each Particular at the End of the Accounts for each County: And, in like Manner, to give the Total of the Accounts for *South-Britain*, and *North-Britain*, severally, and, lastly, the Total Accounts of the whole Kingdom. And the Accounts being disposed in this regular Manner, it will be even an Entertainment to peruse them,

to such as have a Curiosity that Way; and, for that Reason, I hope, as many may be printed, as will defray the Charge.

By this Means, the printed Copies may be laid before each House of Parliament, and two sent to every Clerk of the Peace for publick Inspection. The Pay to the Officers in the Register's or Accomptant's Office needs not exceed 500 l. and good Pay it will be, for the short Time it will require their Attendance.

To raise Money to pay the Officers, the Charge of Printing, &c. it will, I judge, be sufficient; if the Petty Constable is paid by the Proprietor of the Stock, a Penny a Score for all Sheep and Lambs; and, by each Carder and Spinner, a Half-penny; and by every Weaver, and other Woollen Manufacturer, a Penny; and by every Wool-Buyer, Factor, &c. 2d. 4d. or 6d. as the Parliament shall think proper. The Account must be stated and settled at the Parish-Meeting, along with the other Accounts; and, one Fourth Part of the Money, which the Petty Constable has received, he must send, by the High Constable, to the Clerk of the Peace, at the next Quarter Sessions, along with his Account; for carrying which he must pay the High Constable Sixpence out of the Three Fourths, which are to remain to his own Use for his Trouble. Out of the Money so received, the Clerk of the Peace shall deduct one Shilling in the Pound for his own Use; and the Remainder he must return to the Register, or Accomptant-General, who must pay for Carriage of the Accounts to London, and of the printed Copies into the Country; and for Printing and Binding the printed Copies, and all other Charges. All which Receipts and Expences he shall cause to be printed, at the End of the Accounts, and the Ballance thereupon

The whole Account will be very short: For the Name of the County will be express'd but once, except on the Top of the Page. The Division of the County only once, in like manner. The High Constabulary will not be at all mention'd; and the Constabulary

stabulary itself but once. And if that be printed in black Letters, and Alphabetically, it will be easy, in a Minute's time, to find the Accounts of any Place proposed.

The whole Account for a Constabulary will stand thus: For Instance;

Wethering Sheep	2534,	Lambs	1603.
Wool, Pounds	7505.	Wool, Pounds	5.
Spinners and Carders	—	1095	521
Combers	—	66	00
Weavers	—	333	67
&c. &c. &c.			

The latter Column is for those under the limited Age.

If there are any Constabularies, (as I make no Doubt but there are some) in which there are neither Sheep or Manufacturers, let the Constable send in the Name of his Constabulary, with a Blank, and the Sixpence paid by him to the High Constable, in such Case, may be allowed in his Accounts, thus,

Orton Sheep — Manufacturers —

And where it is known, that there are more than one Constabulary in the same County, or Division of County, which have not some Appellative to distinguish them; there the Petty Constable should set down the Hundred, along with the Name of his Constabulary.



Observations upon Mr. Gee's Impartial Enquiry, &c.

MR. Gee sets out with Coolness and Moderation; he not only thinks there is a Right, but that it is a Duty incumbent upon every Man, to communicate his Thoughts to the Publick. P. 1. It's pity but he had been uniform, and kept his Temper throughout his whole Performance; for the first Position was certainly true, provided Persons advance not any Thing which is shocking, and deliver their Sentiments with Decency and good Manners. I know not, what made Mr. Gee vary from what he first advanc'd: I think so extraordinary a Demand for his Book, as to bring it to a 4th Impression, ought to have kept him in good Humour; and the Compliments paid him upon it, need not have made him think contemptibly of others. To treat this Subject in the way of Jest and Raillery, (I will use no harsher Expression) does not seem to me a proper Method, to induce the Parliament to think we mean well, but rather to suspect us of some secret Selfishness; and the Receivers of our smuggled Wool must certainly laugh in their Sleeves; to see us fall foul one upon another, about the Means propos'd to prevent it.

I never indeed saw Mr. Gee's Book till the 4th Edition; and therefore I may presume, I see it to the utmost Advantage; the Author having had several Opportunities of reviewing it. And yet I cannot think, it deserves those high Commendations, he and his Friends have given it. Both Praise and Censure are given sometimes very arbitrarily: And I doubt not, but others as well as Mr. Gee might be able to give Proofs, of their Schemes having met with Approbation from some Quarter or other. But, it is not of any Consequence to the Publick, whose particular Scheme is accepted; provided it be a safe one, and bids fair to be effectual: And the next, and indeed the

the main Thing is, its being duly carried into Execution. But, if we are to stay till one is started that every Man will approve, we may stay as long as our worst Enemies wou'd wish for.

Mr. Gee thinks his own will infallibly answer the End, and that no other can ever so effectually do it, p. 48. He proposes the Duties to be taken off Soap, Candles, Leather, &c. and a Tax upon Wool to be substituted in their Room. And the Officers of Excise, who are now employ'd in these Duties, he thinks are sufficient to take Charge of our Wool; for he allows, p. 70, "That the multiplying Excise Officers will be, to say no more, a Measure very unpopular, will create Jealousies in the People, and spread an Alarm like a Pestilence, over the whole Nation."

I will not trouble my Reader with an Abstract of Mr. Gee's Scheme: It may be seen at large Pag. 37. — 48 of his Book. — As he puts it under the Regulation of an Excise, I will only trouble my Reader with the Concern which the Officer of Excise has in it; tho' that will lead him with little Reflection to see the whole Scheme in the main.

The Business of the Officer of Excise by Mr. Gee's Scheme.

1st. **H**E must search at the Excise-Office, that is within his District, for the several Accounts deliver'd by the Farmers and Grassiers of the several Townships within his Survey. * In which they are to specify their Number of Sheep, and the Kind or several Kinds of Wool they bear, and give him Notice of the Day of their Shearing.

2^{dly}. He must attend the Farmer's, &c. House, after the Wool is shorn and wound by the sworn Wool-winder

* Where Villages are thick, I have known 12 or 13 survey'd by one Officer.

winder of the District, and see it weigh'd, and take an Account of it.

3dly. Whenever the Wool is sold, and the Seller and Buyer have in Conjunction enter'd at the Excise-Office the Quantity and Price; he must call in another Officer of Excise, * or the Woolwinder of the District; and they must go together to the Place where the Wool is lodg'd, to see it weigh'd; and then, he must either declare that he will take the Wool, at the Price, out of the Buyer's Hands, paying him over and above 5 per Cent. † and subjecting himself to pay Duty again at the first Price; or else he must, after having received the Duty, § grant a Permit for Removal of the Wool, and it must be convey'd by Permits and an Exchange of Intelligence between the Officers who grant the Permits, and those of the Place it is sent to, till it comes to the Manufacturer's Hands.

4thly. He must immediately send Advice of it to the Officer of the Place where it is to be carried, with an Account of the Quantity and Assortments.

5thly, The

* Wool is sold at all Seasons of the Year; and, if there is not an Officer, nay two Officers, or one and a Woolwinder always attending at the Excise Office: the Buyer and Seller will have to hunt after them from House to House, from Parish to Parish (to use Mr. Gee's own Words, Pag. 70. 71.)

† If the Officer takes the Wool, who is to be a Check upon him? That ought to be more guarded. — The Officer of Excise may be subject to human Frailties: And the Wool-Buyer perhaps may not like this Regulation.

§ Methinks the Duty shou'd not be paid at first, for fear of Remission after it is once paid. — It is Mr. Gee's own Reflection upon the Crown, Pag. 71. but I dare not suspect it, I mention it only, that Mr. Gee may correct it, for Uniformity's Sake. Mr. Gee does not say who must pay the Duty. But the Time of the first Removal being fix'd for the Time of Payment will, I fear, sink the Price to the Grasier, &c. and will be Two-pence in the Shilling, — above 16 half per Cent. clear out of his Pocket, No very agreeable News to the Grasier! Here can be no buying of Wool of the Grower, without a 6th Part of the Value in ready Money: which will be a farther Means to sink the Price.

5thly. The Officer of Excise where the Wool is sent to, must write him an Account whether his Survey and the other's Account correspond.

6thly. As often as the Wool is sold, before it comes into the Manufacturer's Hands, he must grant fresh Permits.

7thly. He must grant Permits also to the Manufacturer for every Parcel of Wool he sells.

8thly. He must survey the Manufacturer's Stock in Hand before every Sitting.

9thly. He must take in, at every Sitting, the Manufacturer's Accounts of the Wool he has manufactur'd, the several Persons by whom it was dress'd, and administer to him an Oath, that the Copy deliver'd in is true and authentick. *

10thly. He is to take the Weekly Entry made at the Excise Office, by Fellmongers, and Skinners, of the Number of Sheeps Skins, Ram Skins, and Lamb Skins, with the several Sorts of Wool, and the Computation of their respective Quantities. †

11thly. He must attend and weigh those Wools, when pluck'd and dried; and charge the Skinner and Fellmonger with the Stock.

12thly, As the Skinners and Fellmongers Wool is to be brought under the same Regulation with Fleece Wool: The Officer must do what is requir'd in Articles 3d. 4th. 5th. and 6th.

The Honourable the Commissioners of Excise, I dare say, are thoroughly sensible, that the common Officers, and Supervisors, have already in the Country as much Business on their Hands, as they can possibly attend with due Care: and I doubt not at all but the Honourable Board of Trade were sufficiently

* † Mr. Gee does not tell us who is to examin these Accounts; but the Officers of Excise will have Trouble enough otherwise, in all Reason, if they never read a Syllable of them. And as to Oaths; I fear too general an Imposition of them will make them disregarded: It may serve to intangle the Consciences of good Men, but will be little Restraint upon the Bad.

ently appriz'd of it; otherwise, in their Report to the Right Honourable the House of Commons, I make no Question but they wou'd have subjected the Wool to the Inspection of the the old Officers; and not have propos'd new Ones to have been created; for 'tis ungenerous, to charge them with a Design, of multiplying Officers of Excise without any Reason or Occasion.

The Officers of Excise upon Malt and Beer survey, in the Country, every Thing that is at present Exciseable. 'Tis true, it is otherwise in London; but the greatest Part of the Wool Business is transacted in the Country; and many Parishes sometimes survey'd by one Officer. Neither will the Wool-winder's Assistance obviate the Objection, made by the ingenious Author of the *Grassiers Advocate*: For, considering the Business they will have to attend by Mr. Gee's Scheme, either the Grower of Wool must suit his Day of Shearing to the Wool-winder's Leisure; or there will be Occasion for abundance of Wool-winders; and as their Licences* are very chargeable to them, and only 4d a Score, so far as I know, is paid them; Mr. Gee shou'd have made some farther Provision, or he will find no new Persons willing to qualify themselves for the Business. So that upon the whole, either Mr. Gee's Scheme must be very carelessly attended to; or we must have a considerable Set of new Officers of Excise, to inspect the Woollen Business; and he has already told us, what a terrible Outcry that wou'd raise.

As he is quite satisfied himself, he seems to expect that others will entirely acquiesce in whatever he has advanc'd: I think his Piece has already met with full

* Licens'd Wool-winders have a Certificate under the Hand and Seal of the Mayor of the Staple at *Westminster*, and are sworn before him. The whole Charge is about 3 l. besides the Expences of Journey and Attendance. I do not see they are debarr'd from breaking the Fleeces, a Practice which gives a great deal of Trouble in sorting the Wool

full as much Praise as it deserves. And, for my Part, I want to see some Things in it a little more clear'd up.

Thus, when he calculates p. 83, that 1,440,000 Persons are able to manufacture a Million of Packs, in a Year; that, upon an Average, our whole Produce is manufactur'd by 72 Persons a Week: When I compare this, with what he had said p. 34. that our Wool at a Medium is now manufactur'd at 20 l. a Pack; and that if we cou'd regain our Trade, and the manufacturing our Wool into fine Goods, it wou'd amount to 40 l. a Pack; and yet no more than 72 Hands a Week allow'd for manufacturing it, p. 83; I must conclude, that it has not far'd ill hitherto with our Manufacturers; tho' Mr. Gee says otherwise, p. 5, and that, except he will allow more Hands, they will fare extremely well for the future. I wish Mr. Gee had been more uniform.

Thus again, when he tells us, p. 79, that it is allow'd by most, that our Home Consumption of Woollen Goods is not above one Quarter of our Produce; the Remainder being exported either in Wool or Woollen Goods: I really wonder'd at it, because just the Reverse had been said by Dr. *Davenant*, Mr. *King*, and others.

I desire my Readers Attention, while we consider this Affair upon Mr. Gee's Premises. Pag. 60, He computes the yearly Produce of *England* and *Wales* at 600,000 Packs and upwards; of *Scotland* and *Ireland* at above 300,000. It is plain from p. 61, 62, that he sets the Inhabitants of *England* and *Wales* at about 10,500,000. He estimates the Inhabitants of *Ireland* (p. 88.) at about 2 Millions; *Scotland* is generally set at a Million and Half. Here are then in all 14 Millions. These he furnishes with Woollens, out of a 4th Part of our Produce, which he sets at 900,000 Packs, p. 33, 53. Therefore here are 14 Millions of People supplied with Woollen Goods by 225,000 Packs* consequently, we have 675,000 Packs for Exportation. F 3 I

* I believe that the Home Consumption of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, does not very much exceed 225,000 Packs.

I believe every one will allow, that *France* does not use more Wool than *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*. And if these Computations for *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, are true; they exceed us little in Number of People; and considering their Convents, and the Wear of Silks, Velvets, &c. and their not burying in Woollen, it is probable, they fall near one Half short of us in the yearly Consumption. But, not to insist upon this: Let us suppose their Consumption to be equal to ours. Mr. *Gee* says, p. 33, that *France* produces yearly 600,000 Packs.* Then the Thing stands thus:

Yearly Growth of Wool No. of Packs	Home Consumption	Remains for Expor- tation.
In <i>Great-Britain</i> } and <i>Ireland</i> , } 900,000	225,000	675,000 †
In <i>France</i> , } 600,000	225,000	375,000
Total of <i>British</i> } <i>Irish</i> and <i>French</i> } 1,500,000	450,000	1,050,000

Consequently, over and above serving their own Uses, and in Proportion to the Inhabitants of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* by Mr. *Gee*'s Estimate, they will be able to supply the Uses,

Great-Britain and *Ireland* } *France* of } Total
of 42 Millions, — } 23 Millions } 65 Millions.

Now I should be glad to know, WHERE all this must be manufactur'd. *France*, I believe, cannot find Hands

* If *France* produces so much Wool; considering their Number of Falling Days, they must be provided much more plentifully with Mutton than *England* itself: If I compute right for *England*, they must have above twice as much. I appeal to Gentlemen who have made that Tour.

† But by Mr. *Gee*'s Computation, p. 33, the Tables are just turn'd; and *France*, by getting 300,000 Packs of our raw Wool, has the Manufacturing for Exportation of 675,000 Packs, and *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* of 375,000 only. I hope these Things are not so.

Hands to do it; For, considering their Holy-Days, it wou'd require between 3 and 4 Millions, if Mr. *Gee* is right, p. 34, that they have engross'd a great Part of the Trade of high priced Goods. Neither can I find a Vent for it; but most surely there has been a Vent, or *France* never could have afforded 50 s. a Tod for our Wool, as I am inform'd they have. Surely they wou'd never give such a Price, with an Intention to burn or bury it. I therefore take it for granted they had a Vent for it, and so may we. And this confirms me in the Opinion, that Mr. *Gee* sets both our Produce and theirs vastly too high. Besides the fine Wool of *Spain*, most Countries in *Europe*, and several in *Asia* and *Africk*, and some even in *America*, have Wool more or less. Tho' in general 'tis of a coarser Sort than the *English*, yet it serves for all the Uses of the lower People, [except the Soldiery] who are by far the most in Number in all Nations. The cold Countries very much use Furs and Skins; in many of the hot Countries they go naked, or almost naked; Silks, Cottons and Camels Hair, are the general Wear of most of the *Asiaticks*,* besides the great Use of them almost every where among Persons of Rank; and the Consumption of such as wear a foreign Commodity, can hardly be set so high by one Half, as the Consumption of those whose Manufacture it is. When these Things are duly consider'd, *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* only, if they keep their Wool at Home, by the Help of *Spanish Wool*, without at all stretching the Account, may fairly be suppos'd, to be able to answer all the probable Demands of 100 Millions of Foreigners. Notwithstanding Mr. *Gee*'s 1000 different Channels, p. 84. I believe he will be hard put to it, to find the *British* Merchants a Market for all their Woollens, upon his Computations.

Again,

* In some Places they make Cloth of the Threads of Plantain Wood. In many Countries, both of the East and West Indies, they use *Palmeto* Leaves instead of Hats.

Again, when Mr. Gee tells us p. 56, 57, That London is supply'd, with more than one Half of the Sheep and Lambs slaughter'd there; not by *Smithfield Market*, but by such as are bought in the Country Fairs and Markets at 40 or 50 Miles Distance. I wish he had named those Fairs and Markets for his Readers Satisfaction, least his own bare Word for it shou'd not meet with the Credit it may deserve.

There are other Things, which I think Mr. Gee shou'd have discuss'd more fully; what he has said, by many may not be thought satisfactory.

Thus, p. 30, that the *French* can give 10 or 12 Hundred *per Cent.* Profit for our Wool, rather than want it: And p. 32, that they can afford 78 l. a Pack, * and sell their Goods in foreign Markets, cheaper than we can afford to do.

Again, in the same Page, what he says about Drainage of Fens, &c. I wish he wou'd reconsider; and, in order to form a right Judgment, wou'd look over Sir *William Dugdale* upon Drainage, and a late curious Piece, wrote by Mr. *Badeslade* of *Lynn*, Anno 1725.

So likewise, p. 35, the 31 Millions and upwards yearly Gains which are to accrue to the Nation, by preventing the Running of Wool, seem to require his second Thoughts. †

* If this were really the Case, and Mr. Gee's Computations right, our best Way wou'd be to sell our Wool to the *French*, in the Way of an open free Trade; reserving only about 225,000 Packs a Year for our own Consumption: And the Remainder wou'd bring yearly into the Nation no less than 52 Millions of Pounds and upwards. 'T wou'd be worth while to contrive to find out some other raw Materials for employing our Poor; and till then, we might appropriate 10 or 20 Millions for mending our Roads, and other publick Occasions—build a Palace at *Whitehall*, — make Rivers Navigable, and attempt many Things without Danger of impoverishing ourselves.

† I gave an Estimate [Proposals to Parliament, March 2, 1742-3] of the National Loss by Running of Wool, at the Rate of only one Million a Year. And, at 7 *per Cent.* Compound Interest, This wou'd now in 31 Years from the Peace of *Utrecht* amount to about 107 Millions Sterling. I humbly presume, that Money circulated, in Trade, ought to be estimated at Compound Interest, and 7 *per Cent.* is setting it low for a reasonable Profit to the fair Trader.

Thus again, what is quoted from Mr. *Chamberlain*, p. 59, of the yearly Consumption of Beefs, Sheep, &c. in *London*, he may, I believe, see in Dr. *Heylin's* *Cosmography*, and the Grounds of it. And what he says of the Number of Souls, p. 61, upon the Authority of Sir *William Petty*, he may himself compute according to the present Bills of Mortality. *

So also his Assertion, p. 60. of 64,800,000 Sheep in *England* and *Wales*, † and his slipping it over a little too hastily, without explaining how many he supposes to be yearly shorn, or taking any Notice of those which die: And his Calculation upon the same Article, p. 58, are quite above my Reach: And likewise his tying up every Person, Man, Woman, and Child, Master, Journeyman, &c. employ'd in the Woollen Manufacture, to work compleat 50 Weeks in the Year: § And several other Things, which I cou'd mention,

* 27 Thousand is as high as I can set the Burials in moderately healthful Years; and, if we suppose no more than one in 35 to die yearly; which is not paying any ill Complement to the Healthfulness of *London*, it will not advance the Inhabitants to above one Million.

† Sure Mr. Gee thinks we keep no other Stock but Sheep. Let any one consider our Butter, Cheese, and Milk, the Produce of Cows only; our Bulls, Steers, and Heifers; the vast Number of Beeves and Calves slaughter'd yearly; the first not only for Home Consumption, but Shipping also; and he will see that we must allow much more Ground, the Quality of it consider'd for Black Cattle only than for Sheep: Besides our other Stock of Horses, &c. our Tillage, &c. &c. &c.

§ I do not think, we cou'd ever be able to manufacture the Wool Mr. Gee has bestow'd upon us, without Work-houses in the several Hundreds, or something of that Kind, to confine Vagrants, &c. for I think it would find full Employ for 2 Millions and 100,000 Hands, besides Wool-buyers, Merchants, Mercers, Drapers, &c. and we must consider the Manufacturies of Silk, Cotton, Mohair, Linnen; of Iron, Lead and Tin; our Miners, Seamen, and Persons employ'd about Shipping; the Number of Artificers, and Shopkeepers; our Men of Fortune, and Clergy; besides Grasers, Farmers, and Labourers, &c. &c. &c. and Children, and those who are disabled or past Work. N. About 20 Years ago, I think it was on Occasion of the Callico Bill, the Persons maintain'd and employ'd in the Woollen Manufacture, were computed at 700,000. I doubt not, but they represented themselves as numerous as they fairly cou'd.

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mention, seem to me, to require to be spoken to a little more particularly. — What Mr. Gee says of Wool exported to *Fersey, Guernsey, &c.* seems to deserve the serious Regard of the Legislature.

But it is high Time, to look to the personal Attack which Mr. Gee has made upon me; I cannot but say that softer Words might have done full as well, however, I shall waive any farther Notice of That. But Mr. Gee must not expect me to use the same kind of Banter with him; that sort of Wit I don't at all approve; perhaps it may be, because I have not any Talent for it, neither shall I envy any Man a Superiority that Way.

But the Subject is serious, and will not admit of it; I wonder how he himself cou'd put on that Air of Mirth and Drollery. If he has stated the Case right, with regard to the Ballance of Trade; it is enough to make any thinking Man, whether Landlord or Tenant, Merchant or Manufacturer, serious if not sad, to reflect upon it with any moderate Degree of Attention.

I'm not concern'd at Mr. Gee's Censure for my not setting forth myself, as self-sufficient and infallible. — If that is a Fault in his Eyes, it is none in mine.

But my Scheme is oppressive, impracticable, and tends to promote Smuggling. I will but just touch upon these Things; for his declamatory way of Writing does not deserve an Answer in Form.

I hope, he does not think I'm so foolish, as to require an Account from Apprentices, Journeymen, &c. That wou'd be setting them upon a Foot with their Masters. The Master Weaver will indeed be oblig'd to make a Duplicate, of the Account which he now keeps with his Clothier, and this Mr. Gee has required; and therefore he ought not to make an Outcry against it. It may as well be deliver'd to a Constable, as to an Officer of the Excise.

But Weavers, who cannot write, will never be employ'd by a Clothier — Does Mr. Gee really think, that if we were to work up between 8 and 900,000 Packs,

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Packs, as he supposes that the Clothier cou'd be capricious, as to what Weavers he wou'd employ? Or wou'd he attempt to be so, when his Gains arise from their Labour? No, I hope, he knows better Things; and that the Case wou'd rather be alter'd the other way; and the Weaver might then chuse what Clothier he wou'd work for. But, notwithstanding all the Black Side of my Scheme which Mr. Gee exhibite to the Weaver's View I dare say, there is not one in the Kingdom, who sees it in its true Light, but wou'd be glad also to see it put in Execution; and, I fear, *hinc illæ Lacrymæ.*

Next we have a Smuggler canvassing to be Constable; and, if he can but arrive at that profitable Post, all is safe; he may carry on the Trade with Impunity. Who wou'd not think so from Mr. Gee's Representation of my Scheme? But is the Case so, or not? No, 'tis quite otherwise: and he is himself to be subject to the same Laws, and the same Punishments, with the rest of his Fellow Subjects. Nay, his Office will set him in a more distinct Point of View, and he will thereby run the greater Risque of a Discovery. But the Justice, even tho' he be a *Senator*, and had a Hand in giving a Sanction to the Law, will screen the Offenders from Punishment, Hard Fate for *England*, if all are so corrupt! And I can make no Defence for the Legislature in Point of Sincerity, Love for their Country, or even of common Honesty, if they will connive, in their executive Capacity, at the Transgression of Laws of so high a National Concern as this, after having enacted them in their Legislative One. But I dare not be guilty, of barely suspecting these Things of them, which Mr. Gee has asserted. In justice to them he ought to retract his harsh Censures, and not thus to scatter his Firebrands thro' his Country. But if there are corrupt Justices, *

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I have

* I cannot conceive why Justices shou'd be harshly treated: There is a very great Power lodg'd in them by our Legislature: and 'tis not many Years since, that the People commonly call'd *Quakers* who are Men of great Repute, as well as great Dealings in Trade, form'd a strong Interest to have them made the only and the *dernier Résort* in the Article of Tithes

I have endeavour'd to guard against their Influence. Art. 24, 27.

But tho' Mr. Gee thinks thus hardly of the Legislature, the Magistracy, and Gentry of the Land; yet, it seems, he has a chosen *Few* in Reserve, of whom he has a better Opinion; the Officers of Excise, he thinks, are honest Men, and won't be corrupted.

But, does not Mr. Gee know it, nay has he not noted it himself, how little has been done towards preventing the Running of Wool, notwithstanding the stationing of armed Sloops, and the giving extraordinary Powers to the Officers upon the Coasts of *Kent* and *Suffex*? I'm glad, however, to find there are some Men that escape Mr. Gee's Censure; for, were it not for this laudable Exception, I think he has charg'd all his Majesty's liege Subjects, either with Corruption on the one Hand as their Vice, or Ignorance * on the other as their Failing. Nay indeed I can hardly say, that the Crown itself has quite escap'd the Lash of his Pen, p. 71. There seems something insinuated there, too harsh for me to repeat. Therefore I need not at all be out of Humour, at any thing he has said of me, I fall in Company with the highest and greatest of the Nation.

I have but one Thing more to take Notice of with Regard to Mr. Gee. He suspects, it seems, that I have been promoting all the while the Interests of Smugglers. † It is a very notable Discovery! This is

* His Objection as to the Ignorance of Constables, &c. is pretty well obviated, by the Regulations I propos'd in my short Piece of Aug. 8, 1743, and the farther Notes upon it. That Piece he may not have seen, but he might have consider'd what is said in my Preface, p. 10, 11.

† I can assure Mr. Gee, that I am so far from encouraging the Owling of Wool; that I look upon every Man, as a downright Betrayer of his Country, and devoid of Humanity to his poor Countrymen, let him have ever so many other good Properties, who does not absolutely discourage it. When he finds that I really act the Part he suspects, he knows what to charge me with.

is grounded upon what I have offer'd, Art. 10. p. 13. of my Scheme. If he had observ'd the wide Difference between the *disjunctive Or*, as it is in my Scheme; and the *conjunctive And*, as he has plainly taken it; I should perhaps have escap'd this Censure. But this it may be, was an *incomprehensible* Place in my Scheme. I will therefore endeavour to clear it for Mr. Gee's sake. It is plainly design'd for the Advantage of the fair Trader, and to provide against his having his Wool Waggons, &c. stopp'd by a rascally Informer. If the Information seems to the Justice well grounded, then he is to require no Security from the Informer; if it seems to him groundless, then the Informer is oblig'd to give Security of 10 s. the Tod; and the Person claiming as Proprietor, to give Security for the full Penalty, of 20 s. for the Fleece of every Sheep, or 10 s. for every Pound Weight: And then the Justice suffers the Wool to go to its proper Market. This I think is all fair. For, as well grounded Informations ought to be encourag'd, so groundless ones ought to be discourag'd in some Degree; otherwise our Race of Smugglers wou'd turn to a Race of Informers; and the ill Consequences of that ought to be guarded against by every Well-wisher to the fair Trader. I have for the present done with Mr. Gee, and if I have any farther Attack from him, I desire he will endeavour to be Master of his Question; and not think that a Joke is to pass for a Reason, or a Sneer for an Argument: And I hope he will look over the Papers with Attention, which I have here humbly submitted to publick Consideration. But I don't desire, to hear from him, that they are *good for nothing, and uniformly ridiculous*; except he can give proper Reasons, to convince Mankind of the good Effects of that extraordinary Politeness of Style.

F I N I S.

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8-1-17