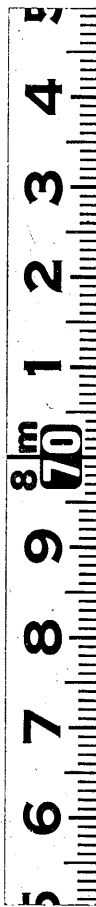


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THE
WEAVERS
True CASE;

Or, the Wearing of
Printed *Callicoes* and *Linnen*
Destructive to the
Woollen and Silk Manufacturies.

WHEREIN
All the material Objections against the
Weavers are fairly stated, consider'd,
and answer'd.

*Address'd to the Members of the Honourable
House of Commons.*

By a WEAVER.

Ad sanitatem gradus est primus novisse Morbum. ERAS.


L O N D O N:
Printed by *W. Wilkins*, and Sold by *J. Noon* at
the *White-Hart* in *Cheapside*; *J. Roberts* in
Warwick-Lane; and *W. Chetwood* at *Cato's*
Head in *Russel-street*, *Covent-Garden*. 1719.

(Price Six-Pence.)



THE

Weavers True Case, &c.



S'tis impossible for any *Judge* or *Fury* to decide *justly* of a Cause, without having a perfect Knowledge of both Sides of the Question; so likewise our *Parliament*, who is the *SOLE* and *ULTIMATE* *Judge* of all *Trade-Controversies*, ought to be fully and clearly apprised of every Circumstance of Moment on each side of the Question in Debate; every Thing ought to be laid open and naked before their Eyes, and nothing ought to be veiled, but to appear in its natural State; that after their mature Deliberations, they may finally determine the *grand Point* for the *Common Good* of the *whole Nation*.

In order then, that the *Parliament* may be completely apprised of the True State the Weaving Trade is in, at present; I think that 'tis highly necessary, first, to *answer all Objections and Difficulties* of any Moment, which have appear'd either in print, or in our Adversaries Mouths; that when all Incumbrances and Obstructions are remov'd out of the Way, our Case may appear in a true Light.

This is the Task, I am going to undertake; in order to ease my Fellow-Labourers, in this present Debate,

Debate, of that Trouble, which might perhaps lead them out of their Schemes. I have but little to say by way of Introduction; because the several Objections, (which I shall state singly, in their full Strength, and in as strong Terms as they came to me,) will naturally afford Matter to discuss on many Things; which I shall do promiscuously, as they fall in my way, keeping still my main Subject constantly within View. I shall say nothing concerning the Mischief of running and smuggling of foreign Goods; which perhaps will be done by another Hand; nor about the several *East-India* Companies of *France* and *Flanders*; that having been already well handled by the ingenious Author of *A brief State of the Question between the printed Callicoes and Silk Manufacturies*, &c. from page 18 to the 24th. but shall limit my self particularly to those *Branches* of the Weaving Trade, which only relate to Womens Garments, in order to shew that the wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen is destructive to the *Woollen* and *Silk Manufactures*. Therefore I shall, to proceed, begin with the first Objection.

OBJECTION I.

By the great Hue and Cry, and the Disturbance Weavers have made, on the Account of the wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen, one wou'd think that the wearing of them was intirely new, and that they had never been worn in this Nation before this Spring. Whereas there is nothing better known, than that English printed Callicoes have been worn ever since the *Prohibition-Act*, i. e. ever since the *East-India Silks*, and *East-India Callicoes*, were prohibited by Law. If the wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen be an Evil, with respect to the *Body Politick*, now; certainly it was so from the very beginning of the Wearing of them: And yet what is most strange, is, that the Publick hath never

never heard any Thing against the Wearing of Callicoes, &c. before this very Summer; altho' they have been worn very commonly, for several Years last past. Again, 'tis also well known, that the Weaving Trade, like all others, hath had, in its Turn, a Flux, as well as an Ebb: For the Weaving Trade in general, was as good the best part of Queen Ann's Reign, as it had ever been; and since King George's Accession to the Crown, that Trade hath had a greater Flux than ever; (considering the vast Numbers the Weavers at present are;) notwithstanding the wearing of Callicoes, &c. Therefore something else must be the Cause of the excessive Badness of the weaving Trade, as well as of all others.

As this Objection contains the most material Things which are alledged against the Weavers; so it affords likewise a good Opportunity to lay the true State of their CASE in the most clear Light. It must be own'd, that this Objection is not only very plausible, but also very natural: The more, then, the Objection is plausible, and natural, the more the Answer ought to be full and clear; even in such a manner, as every Part thereof be fairly answer'd and accounted for, to the intire Satisfaction of every reasonable and impartial Reader.

'Tis said in the Objection, that, *If the wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen be an Evil, with respect to the Body Politick now, certainly it was so from the very Beginning, &c.* which is very true. But that the Wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen is an Evil with respect to the *Body Politick*, will appear demonstratively, by calculating the Consumption of the said Commodities in this Nation only. That this Calculation may not meet with any Objection of Moment, we'll go by a most certain Rule, (*viz.*) the gross Product of the Tax laid on them, abstracted from those Callicoes, &c. which are, or ought to be exported,

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exported, the Draw-back being repaid. Tho' this Rule will fall very short of the real Consumption of these Commodities, by reason that the Quantity of them which are smuggled, cannot be exactly known; yet it will demonstrate sufficiently, that the wearing of Callicoes, &c. is a National Evil; and consequently shews the absolute Necessity of a Remedy.

The gross Product of 1717. is that of which I have the most Knowledge. To the best of my Memory then, for I have not that Account by me at present, the gross Product of that Year, for which there was no Draw-back repaid, was about 480000 l.

Printed Callicoes, &c. paying 6 d. per Yard Duty, the Number then of Yards must be 1,920000.

So that Callicoes being generally Ell-wide, and our Manufacturies for Womens Wear generally but half Yard wide; 1,920000 Yards of Callicoe make as much as 4,800000 Yards of our Manufacturies.

Now nothing is more obvious and plain, than that so much as is consumed of India Callicoe, whether white or printed, just so much of our own Manufactures are less consumed; and so much as is less consumed of our own Manufactures, just so much of our poor Peoples Labour is taken away.

Let us see how many of our Poor were deprived of their Labour and Subsistence in this Year 1717. by the wearing of Callicoe, &c.

Our Weavers, one with another, may weave 600 Yards yearly; so that 4,800000 Yards being

* N. B. This Calculation is made according to the Rules of the Silk Weavers, one Loom of which employs two Thirds of Hands less than the worsted Loom doth. For the Latter employs about Twelve to a Loom; and the Former but about Four of our Hands here in England. Therefore this Calculation is as modest as a Callicoe Printer, or an East-India Merchant can desire.

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divided by 600, the Year's Work of an English Weaver, makes, of Weavers, 8000

Each Weaver is supposed to employ Two other People in winding, warping, drawing, quilling, &c. which makes more 16000

The People which are employed in those Trades, which go always Hand in Hand with the Weavers, such as Throwsters, and their Attendance; Yarn-men, and their Attendance; Dyers, and their Attendance, can't be less than equal to a Third of those in the Weaving Trade; which make more 8000

The Number of the Poor which were deprived of their Employment from 1717 till 1718, by the wearing of Callicoes, &c. amounts to 32000

These working People may justly be supposed to maintain as many more 32000

Consequently this Evil (according to this modest Calculation) deprived of Subsistence in the Year 1717 64000 People.

If it be ask'd, What are become of these poor People which were thus deprived of their Subsistence? I answer; The more ingenious of them are gone into foreign Countries; others into the King's Service, both by Sea and Land; others are kept by their respective Parishes; others have wasted their little Substance, and ran themselves up to the Ears in Debt; and others have thrust themselves into different Business, &c.

Let us now see what Loss the Nation hath sustained in the Labour ONLY of these Poor; besides the Loss of our own Product, and the Trader's Profit; all which is swallowed up in the Consumption of printed Callicoes and Linnen.

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Suppose then, that these 32000 poor working People might Earn, one with another, Ten Pounds yearly; this will shew, that the Nation lost in the Labour only of these poor working People 320000 l.

If it be objected, that in this Account, nothing is deducted for those Weavers which were employ'd in weaving Scotch Linnens, that were printed in 1717, and are inserted in the foregoing Account; nor for the Number of People employ'd in printing of Callicoes, &c. I answer; That I have omitted, on the other hand, to bring into this Account, the vast Quantities of India printed Callicoes, which are smuggled, and run upon us, as well as those from Holland, which, by common Report, are as great, if not greater than those which are printed here. All which, if duly consider'd, will be thought more than sufficient to balance these Deductions.

If it be objected likewise, 'That several of our rich Silks are half Ell wide, or more; and consequently, that 'tis not possible for one Breadth of Callicoe to make Two and a Half of these rich Silks.' I answer, That English printed Callicoes do not interfere with these rich Silks; but with our lighter sorts, which are but half Yard wide: it being the smuggled India Chints which interfere with our rich Silks, and no other.

N. B. That double the Quantity of printed Callicoes and Linnen, have been worn these last Twelve Months past, than in the Year 1717. is the universal Opinion of all observing Men. For it doth not only appear to be so, but Weavers and Mercers, generally speaking, have not had half of the Trade for this Year, as they had in 1717. Again, our Women-kind us'd to line their English and Dutch Callicoes with light Silks, called Persians and Savsnets; which Silks employ'd many Hundreds of Looms: whereas at present there are not half of them employ'd, because of late our Women line their Callicoes

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licoes with some of the same kind. These Things are true in Fact; altho' it should appear that the gross Product shou'd be less this Year and last, than it was in that of 1717. Let those Callicoes therefore come from whence they will; and whether the lawful Duty for them is paid; or whether they are Run; 'tis not to my present Purpose to enquire.

N. B. If there has been double the Quantity of printed Callicoes, &c. worn this last Year than there was two Years ago, which I have prov'd as much as the Nature of the Thing can allow: It must necessarily follow, that 128000 of poor People are deprived this Year of their Subsistence; and that the Nation will lose this Year, in the Labour ONLY of the poor People 640000 l. which is double what the Nation lost in the Year 1717.

N. B. That these Commodities are yet a greater Evil to this Nation, if we consider that they lessen the Exportation of our own Manufacturies into foreign Parts.

But to sum up my Argument, which is, 'That the Wearing of any Commodity whatsoever, which taketh away the Labour of the Poor, and impoverishes the People, is an Evil, with respect to the Body Politick.'

'The wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen, taketh manifestly away the Labour of the Poor, and impoverishes the People.'

'Therefore the wearing of printed Callicoes, and Linnen, is an EVIL with respect to the Body Politick.'

This Evil began with the very first Callicoe Gown that ever was put on a Woman's back, tho' then but insignificant: Neither was it minded much by the poor working People, till it began to affect them: Tho' sedate thinking Men found Fault with it from the very Beginning, and foretold this Evil we are complaining of. The Reason why it was

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not minded till it came to such an Height was, because the Prohibition of *East-India-Silks*, and of *East-India printed Callicoes*, together with several other good *Laws* made in favour of the *Manufacturies* of this *Kingdom*, had not only restored those *Manufacturies* to their former flourishing Condition, but also had much increased them: For several very considerable Branches sprang up, and flourished extremely for Ten Years together; such as the *black Branch*, i. e. *black Lustrings*, *Alamodes*, *Ranforcees*, *Rasdegene*, *Poudefoy*, &c. the great Branches of *Handkerchiefs* and *Persians*, &c. This accounts fairly, for that good Trade the *Weavers* had, during the best part of *Queen Ann's* Reign.

But the Wearing of printed Callicoes, &c. increasing at the same Time to such a degree, that it turn'd more Men out of Work from the other Branches of the Weaving Trade, than these could well employ; this Evil began to be felt, and to be complained of also, even by the poor working People.

The Objector says, that 'Tis very strange the Publick hath never heard anything against the Wearing of Callicoes before this very Summer.' 'Tis true, the *Weavers* have not published any Pamphlets against Callicoes, &c. before this Summer: For the *Weavers* in general never trouble the World, in that nature, about their Trade, but when an indispensable Necessity forces them to it; such as when they were almost ruin'd by the *East-India Silks* and *Callicoes*, about Twenty Years ago, and at this present Time, when they struggle under as GREAT an EVIL. But tho' they don't write Pamphlets at every Footstep, yet they make their Complaints at proper Time and Place, as Occasion requires. In this very Instance of Callicoes, they complained to the Parliament in 1713. I have in my Hands a Pa-

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per *, that was presented to the Parliament at that very Time; in which 'tis asserted, as an undoubted Fact, that CALLICOES were then Exported to GERMANY, instead of EXETER-SERGES. But if the Objector and his Brethren know nothing of all this, 'tis not the Weavers Fault; neither is it reasonable they should be blamed for other People's Ignorance.

I own, the *Weavers* might have obtain'd almost any Thing about that Time, if they wou'd but have stood Neuter with respect to the Darling of those Days, viz. the *French Commerce Bill*. But that Bill was of such pernicious Consequence to the Nation, that they chose to struggle some Time longer under these Hardships in Trade, rather than to sacrifice the Common Cause; well knowing, that any Favour they could have obtain'd then wou'd have done them but little Service, after the Loss of their Religion, and their English Liberties. After that Bill was thrown out, and done with, perhaps it had been needless for the *Weavers* to have sought for a Redress from a Ministry, whose Favour they had so lately, in some measure forfeited, by opposing vigorously, and with Success, an Essential Part of their Scheme. Besides, things were then in such a Confusion, that those who were zealous for the true Protestant Cause, stood in the utmost Jeopardy: The Fears and Dreads of having a Pretender thrust in upon us, fill'd every true Englishman's Breast; and all other Things were look'd upon as insignificant, in comparison to the common DANGER.

But to proceed to that part of the Objection which relates to the present Reign. This Reign began with Tumults, Riots, and an unnatural Rebellion: These Disorders, while they lasted,

* This Paper is intitled, The Naked Truth.

took up most Mens Attention, and consequently prevented the *Weavers* from applying themselves for a *Redress* at that Time. This Complication of Troubles obstructed Trade in general, and kept it back; which laid the Foundation for that Flux of Trade the *Objector* speaks of: For when the *Rebellion* was happily terminated, and *Lewis* the Fourteenth dead, our Dreads and Fears vanished, and were dissipated; the Storm, which had so long threaten'd us, seem'd to be remov'd at a greater Distance than ever, and succeeded by a serene and calm Scene; and almost all the *European Powers* courted our *British King's* Favour, seeking his Alliance and Friendship. This fair and pleasant Prospect gave a new Life to the whole Nation, and raised as 'twere all Trades from the Grave; and consequently the Weaving Trade among the rest.

But as at the same Time it rais'd the *Callicoe* Trade still above it, that soon suffocated the Weaving Trade, as being inconsistent with one another. Accordingly the *Weavers* had a very bad Trade the last Year, which made them resolve to lay their Case before the *Parliament* last Winter: But, as they say in their Advice to their *Journeymen*, (see the *Appendix*) 'It was thought most adviseable first to see a Bill for the better preventing the Clandestine Running of Foreign Goods, pass into a Law; which could not be done till the Rising of the Parliament.

Thus I have fairly answer'd the *Objection* now before us, in all its Parts. I have proved, that the Wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen, is an Evil with respect to the Body Politick. I have accounted fairly for every Flux and Ebb of Trade the *Weavers* have had ever since the *Prohibition Act*. I have shewn, that the *Weavers* have complained to the *Parliament* in the Year 1713. I have given Reasons why the *Weavers* have not troubled the *Parliament* since; and I shall

shall prove also, as I go along, that the War with Spain, is not the Cause of the low Ebb of the Weaving Trade, (as I suppose is meant in the Conclusion of this Objection,) but chiefly and principally the Wearing of CALLICOES.

I come now to account for that excessive Badness of the Weaving Trade in the last Spring. I have already said, that the *Weavers Trade* was very Bad the last Year; it was so bad, that a great Part of their Winter Stock of Goods remain'd unsold, upon their Hands: Yet expecting a better Vent for them in the Spring, they kept their Men at Work, and went on as usual, and not without hopes, till the whole Month of April was over. But instead of having a better Sale this Spring for their Goods, than they had the Spring before, it prov'd worse by far: for, modestly speaking, in general they have not sold above half of their last Winter's Stock: Which hath necessitated them, not only to turn some Thousands of their Men out of Work, but also to abate the Wages of others, and make them stand still, now and then, for that Work they have: so that by this means, their poor working People, one with another, about this famous City, are not half employed; and the Number of the poorest sort, that are almost out of Work, and which cannot subsist without Employment, cannot be less than Two Thousand Families within the Bills of Mortality. Let the World judge what a dreadful Calamity and Misery this must necessarily produce this Winter, when some Thousands more shall be in the same Case? Such are the pernicious Consequences of the wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen. I believe this will not be contested by any Man that hath his Eye-sight, and will give himself the Trouble to consider the Extensiveness of that abominable Fashion.

As 'tis the constant Method for wise Nations to make a proper Use of their Neighbours Misfortunes;

tunes ; so in this present Case, the *French Nation*, who never were wanting in raising and encouraging new Manufacturies, have been extraordinarily industrious this Summer, in taking all the Advantage which our present CALAMITY and MISERY affords them. We have been told in the Publick News, of some *French Agents* being very busy in enticing *Artificers* and *Manufacturers* to go over into *France*, in order to set up our *Woollen Manufacturies* ; 'tis also well known, that they have bought several *Presses*, *Calenders*, *Mills*, &c. The *Post-Boy* of the 24th of *September* last, says, from *Paris*, that ' *Mr. Law* hath designs to establish a ' *Manufactory of Cloth and Stuffs*, at his Lordship ' *of Tankerville on the Seine*. ' A Person lately come over in the *William and James*, from *Haver-de-grace*, saith, and is ready to make Oath before a Magistrate, ' That 30 or 40 *English Manufacturers*, both ' *Men and Women*, together with four *Mills* for ' *throwing Worsted*, had been brought from *England* in the said *William and James*, belonging to ' *Mr. Law*, and landed at the abovesaid Port, in ' *order to go directly to Tankerville on the Seine*. ' This most certainly demands our Parliament's most serious Attention. But to return to the Objection before us.

This common EVIL to the whole Nation, hath spread it self, like an inveterate Plague, over all our *Women-kind*, from the *Ladies of the best Rank*, down to the lowest *Servant-Maids* ; from the best *Citizens Wives* to the meanest *Country Women* : So that it seems as if our *Women* had resolv'd to put no other Bounds to this Flood of Evil, than the utter RUIN AND DESTRUCTION of our most famous *SILK AND WOOLLEN MANUFACTURIES* ! *Manufacturies* ! which are so beneficial, and whose Welfare is so nearly linked with that of the whole Nation ! For, as *Bread* is called the Staff of

of Life, so the *Woollen Manufactory* is truly the principal Nourishment of our Body Politick, says *Dr. Davenant*.

But that which is yet most unaccountable, and not much unlike Witchcraft, is, that its Inveteracy, like a Canker, hath reached even those, who are all equally, and immediately affected by its mortal Sting ; such as the *Turkey Merchants*, *Italian Merchants*, *Silk-men*, *Throwsters*, *Mercers*, *Wool-staplers*, *Yarn-men*, *Thread-men*, *Weavers*, *Dyers*, *Calenders*, *Loom-makers*, &c. Which instance of Madness and Folly, among many others, plainly demonstrates the absolute Necessity there is for Mankind to have a Government, and wise Legislators to take dangerous Weapons out of their Hands, and not to leave Poison within their reach, as careful Parents do by their Children.

This Infatuation may, in some measure, be accounted for, if some penetrating Men are right in their Observations, viz. ' That the disaffected Party hath greatly forwarded and encouraged this pernicious Fashion of wearing Calicoes, &c. for these ' 18 Months past : ' which was not a very difficult Thing for 'em to perform, considering the great Vogue it had before. As strange as this may appear to some at the first Sight, yet if we compare this with their Behaviour of late, we shall find that both are very consistent together : For they, in concert with the Court of Madrid, have done all they could to render our Government odious to the Nation. Our Jacobites had prognosticated, That a very bad Trade would be the Consequence of the WAR with SPAIN ; and that we should be inevitably ruin'd. This has been their common and constant Cry, all last Year, and this ; and when it has been answer'd, that it cou'd not be, because of the former Instance, i. e. that we had a good Trade, during the former Spanish War in Queen Ann's Time ; their only Reply was always,

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always, No, no, 'tis the War with Spain, and the King's going to Hanover, that will ruin the Trade and Nation: Which are such Absurdities, that 'tis not possible but they themselves must be conscious of their Falsities; for, in the first place, as they have been told a Thousand times over, we have had a War with Spain before now, for Ten Years together, and never had a better Trade than we had then; because there was not, at that Time, one Fourth Part of the Callicoes worn, to what there is now. 2dly, His Majesty went once before to Hanover, and we had then as good a Trade, as if he had stay'd at Home. Therefore 'tis neither the one, nor the other, of these Incidents, which hath caused this excessive Badness of Trade; but the wearing of Callicoes, &c. is the chief and principal Cause thereof. If we suppose, therefore, that the disaffected Party knew these Things as well as we, as undoubtedly they did, what could better support, and back their whole Scheme, (viz. of inviting the Pretender, and the Spaniards, to invade this Nation at several Places, and to raise a Rebellion to favour it,) than the universally promoting the Wearing of such Commodities, as they knew must necessarily bring the utmost Calamity and Misery upon the poorest sort of working People; and then to tell 'em that it was the King and Government's Fault. But I forbear going farther upon this Topick, and return to my main Subject.

The Circumstances which attend this Calamity, make it abundantly worse than it is in its own Nature; such as befalling free-born Subjects under the best constituted Government in the World, and under as good a King as ever sat on the English Throne; and that in a Country, which may be justly said, to flow with Milk and Honey, in comparison to those many others. Therefore we ought to take special Notice, that this Calamity doth
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not proceed from the People's having the least Jealousies or Uneasiness whatsoever, from our King, Ministry, or Parliament. For every Corporation's Charter is secure and untouch'd; every Man's Right, Liberty and Property, whether it be Civil or Religious, is secured and kept sacred: even the stale Cry of the Church being in Danger, is almost worn out; so that there remains not the least Shadow of Complaints in all our Streets, against our most excellent and wise Government. If we keep these happy Circumstances in our full View, on the one hand; while we contemplate, on the other, the Misery and Poverty of our poor Fellow Subjects, who are Free-born as well as we; and who used to live much better than any poor working People of any other Nation; but now are perhaps as miserable as any, if not more so; as they want all Necessaries, such as Bedding, Sheeting! Shifting! Clothing! and what shall I say further? THEY WANT! yes, THEY WANT, EVEN COMMON BREAD! (which is the Staff of Life) as much as if we were in the midst of Famine and Confusion: Whereas we live in the very height of Plenty and Cheapness. So that this is properly starving, and perishing in the midst of great Plenty; which Fate is much more desperate, than starving and perishing in the midst of Scarcity and Famine; or in those Countries wherein 'tis not known what Plenty is. This height of Misery, in this plentiful Country, will seem to be a strange Paradox to those, who know nothing of the Matter. But the FACT is full as true, as it seems strange. If this was a Narration of many Years standing, or of some Country afar off, it might, perhaps, be eluded: But this is a Matter of Fact under our own Eyes; and who-soever that doubts of it in the least, may fully satisfy himself, by taking a small Journey into the Out-Parts of this famous City, and viewing the Inside of our poor working People's Habitations. There! they

they will see, themselves, the Reality of this lamentable Account! and there! they will see what a Devastation and Desolation, the wearing of printed Calicoes, &c. have caused! I verily believe, that the sight only of these miserable Objects would sensibly touch the Heart of any Man, were he even an East-India Merchant, or a Callicoe-Printer! I say once more, that any one may satisfy him, or her self, (and I would to God they were but willing!) of the Truth of this Matter, at a very cheap Rate: They need not bestow any Charity to 'em, unless they will; and the most that it may cost them will be only a little Trouble, attended with Sighs and Tears.

So that this common Evil, viz. the Wearing of Calicoes, &c. hath brought us under as bad a Condition as we were in before the Prohibition of East-India Silks, and East-India printed Calicoes. Therefore the same Reasons which caused the said Prohibition, holds good for the Prohibition of wearing of printed Calicoes, &c. which Reasons are in the Preamble of an Act, intituled, *An Act for the more effectual employing the Poor, by encouraging the Manufactures of this Kingdom.*

The Preamble runs thus;

Whereas it is most evident, that the continuance of the Trade to the East-Indies, in the same manner and Proportion as it hath been for Two Years last past, must inevitably be to the great Detriment of this Kingdom, by exhausting the Treasure thereof, and melting down the Coin, taking away the Labour of the People; whereby many of the Manufacturers of this Nation are become excessively burdensome and chargeable to their respective Parishes; and others are thereby compelled to seek for Employment in foreign Parts: For Remedy wherefore, Be it Enacted, &c.

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As this is a national Evil, and its pernicious and dreadful Consequences are so plain, and so obvious to all thinking Men; so the Weavers humbly hope, that when the Parliament is fully apprised of their true and deplorable CASE, they will, in their great Wisdom, apply a proper Remedy to this great Evil! Which, together with the Intreaties of the Journeymen Weavers in their Answer to their Master's Advice, (see the Appendix) have induced the Master Weavers to keep as many poor People at Work as 'tis possible for them to do; and consequently they will have a greater Stock of Goods next Spring upon their Hands than ever they had.

But, if after all our Endeavours, the Parliament should not be fully apprised of the true State of this Calamity, through our want of Capacity to lay it in a full and clear Light; and consequently should give no Redress. Upon this Supposition, I must beg leave to deliver my own Thoughts, and say,

That the Wearing of these pernicious Commodities, [printed Calicoes and Linnen] (for I cannot call 'em otherwise) will encrease, in all likelihood, still more and more. So that the vast Stock of Goods the Weavers shall have upon their Hands next Spring, will be great enough to supply those little Demands they'll be like to have, for several Years. This being the Case, the Masters must turn off their Looms: About fifteen Thousands of poor Families, or more, must be deprived of Employment, and of Subsistence, within the Bills of Mortality only, and so in proportion all over the Kingdom; and the Numbers of the poor People, and others, that will fall immediately under this inconceivable Calamity, cannot be less than one Million of Souls; which is the Sixth Part of the English Nation. This will necessarily put a prodigious stop to all other Trades and Business whatsoever; whereby every one will find himself obliged to lessen his respective

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Expences

Expences in every Particular, whether it be in Food, Clothing, or House-Rent. He that can afford to pay Twenty Pounds yearly for House-Rent now, must make shift with one of Ten, or perhaps with one of Six. Two or Three Families will crowd themselves into an House, instead of One, to save Expences; which will cause many Thousands of Houses to be emptied. The Landlords of these emptied Houses will lower the Rents thereof, rather than have them stand empty. The Landlords of the inhabited ones, rather than lose their Tenants, will let their Houses yet lower than the others; and so on, till the Land and Houses become as great a Drug, and as dull a Commodity, as our Woollen and Silk Commodities are at present. The Gentleman which has 3000 *l. per Annum*, will be glad to have but 4000 *l.* And he that has 4000 *l.* will be as glad to have Two, and perhaps less; and so on to the End of the Chapter: for we are all embarked in the same Ship, and are all threatned with the same Storm; only with this difference, that he that can Swim best, and hath the longest Breath, shall sink the last. For, (as Monsieur Barbeyrue says in his Notes on Pufendorf's Law of Nature, &c.) *'Humane Society is built like an Arch of Stones, which is by this means only supported, and upheld from Ruin, that each Part hinders the Fall of the other.'*

But to proceed to the next Objection.

OBJECTION II.

'If the Wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen be prohibited, what must many Hundreds of Linnen Drapers do with the Stock of those Commodities they have upon their Hands, and for which they have paid the Tax laid on by the Law?'

Answer. When a Calamity falls on a whole Community of Men, 'tis neither just, nor reasonable, that

that only one Part thereof should bear the whole Burden; but it ought to be divided in such Proportion as may least hurt the common Good of the whole. Which Rule ought to be observed between the Linnen Drapers and the Weavers. In order thereunto, the Case must be fairly examin'd, and weigh'd between each: accordingly it will be found, that the Weavers have bore a very great Share of the common Burden, as it has been already shewn, by keeping such a vast Stock of Goods upon their Hands for a long Time. Now 'tis but justly reasonable, according to the Rule laid down, that the Linnen Drapers should, in their Turn, bear an equal Share of the common Burden, by keeping some Part of their Stock upon their Hands a little longer than ordinary.

Tho' the Linnen Drapers should magnify and increase their Stock of Callicoes, &c. which is too natural for Men to do, in order to make good their Cause; yet if a due regard is paid to the strictness of Reason, and to the constant Rules and Maxims in Trade, it will appear that their Stock of the said Commodities cannot be very large: Because it must be supposed that the Linnen Drapers are as prudent with respect to their Trade, as other People are with respect to theirs. Now all that know any thing of Trade (*i. e.* of a Trade that consists only in Buying and Selling: for with Manufacturers the Case is very different) know that the constant Rule and Maxim in Trade, is, not to *over-stock* themselves with Goods, no farther than a good Sortment; especially when 'tis not difficult for the Trader to come at them; as 'tis not, I presume, for Linnen Drapers; and that for several Reasons. 1. Because 'tis so much dead Stock upon their Hands; which Traders do not care to have. 2. Fashions may alter, and do consequently often alter. 3. As Kings and Princes are mortal, like other Men, so we have frequent-

frequently publick Mourning. Now I appeal to our *home Traders*, for Womens wearing Garments, (for this is the Case, and no other) whether this (*i. e.* not to over-stock themselves with Goods) is not their constant *Rule* and *Maxim*? and whether these are not the true Reasons thereof? And therefore it cannot reasonably be supposed that their Stock of *printed Callicoes* and *Linnen* can well exceed one Year's Sale, and perhaps not so much. Upon the whole, if on the one hand the Consumption of *printed Callicoes* and *Linnen* were totally prohibited, it wou'd, I humbly conceive, be an insupportable Grievance to the *Linnen Drapers*: for doubtless many of them are not acquainted with an *Outlandish Trade*; so on the other hand, if the *Wearing* of *printed Callicoes* and *Linnen* are not at all prohibited, then most certainly many of the most considerable and most beneficial *Manufacturies* of this *Kingdom*, must necessarily be ruin'd; (as it hath been demonstratively shewn in the foregoing Pages:) For who can tell where this dreadful *Evil* would end at last?

That these *Manufacturies*, therefore may be maintain'd and encouraged, and that the *Linnen Drapers* Property may be secured; (for 'tis all, I suppose, they will, or can contend for, considering the great Calamity and Misery other People lie under; for if they must not deal in these Commodities, surely they may deal in any others; it being the same with a Trader that buys and sells, provided he hath, in either, a reasonable Profit;) let the Consumption of *printed Callicoes* and *Linnen* be prohibited but in part; that is, that *printed Callicoes* and *Linnen* be allow'd for so many Years as shall be thought expedient by our *Legislators*, for *House Furniture*, and for *Childrens Frocks*, (for I must say this by the Way, that perhaps the Nation may, in Process of Time, find it self necessitated to prohibit them

them intirely, as they have done in *France*.) And that all other Bodily Garments, of *Callicoes* and *Linnen*, be prohibited after such Time as shall be fixed by the great Wisdom of the Nation.

OBJECTION III.

' If *printed Callicoes* and *Linnen* be prohibited, what must become of so many Hundreds of poor People that are employ'd in that *Business*; and of many Hundreds more who subsist by it?

Ans. Altho' the Number of *Callicoe Printers* are but very inconsiderable, in comparison to the great Number of those *Manufacturies* they are *Competitors* or *Rivals* to; yet I wou'd be very sorry to do by them that which I wou'd not have other Men do unto me, were I in their stead.

If the Case was such, that either the *Weavers* or the *Callicoe Printers* should absolutely perish and starve; then the common Good of the whole *Body Politick* wou'd determine this Fate against those that should be found to be the *least numerous*, *useful*, and *beneficial* to the *Nation*. But, God be thanked, this is not the present Case; for the greatest part of the *Callicoe Printers* are of other *Trades*, such as, *Weavers*, *Tailors*, *Shoemakers*, *Bakers*, and *others*; and I greatly question, whether in that whole *Business*, there are *Fifty People* which have been brought up to it; besides those *French Roman Catholicks*, who were forced to fly from their Country, after this *pernicious Trade* was totally forbidden in *France*?

Now all those which are of other *Trades*, may return to their respective *Business*: and there will be room enough to employ them all, when once the *Wearing* of *printed Callicoes*, &c. are prohibited.

But for those few that have nothing else to go to, 'tis but just and reasonable, that some *Provision* be made, to prevent them from starving and perishing: such as allowing them to come into other *Business*,

finest, or any other Relief, as our good and wise Legislators shall think convenient. For the greater, or lesser Numbers alters very little the Nature of the Calamity and Misery, in regard to those whose unhappy Fate it is to fall under it.

OBJECTION IV.

‘ If printed Linnen be prohibited, will it not manifestly discourage our own Linnen Manufacturies, which are also of our own Growth, in North-Britain, and in several other Places? And ought not the Government to be as careful of these Manufacturies, as of the Woollen and Silk?’

Ans^r. That this Objection may be fairly and fully answer’d, I shall consider it under these two Heads, viz.

1st, With respect to the Nature of these several Commodities.

2^{dly}, With respect to the Nation’s Interest in general.

But before I proceed, I must observe, that this Objection is grounded upon a very gross, tho’ common Mistake, viz. That Linnen is as proper a Commodity for Garments, as those either of Silk or Woollen; which will appear to be very absurd, if we do but consider, that the only wise and great Creator has endowed every Thing in the whole Creation with different Properties, and consequently for different Uses. So that every Thing undoubtedly suits best to that Place, and for that Use, for which Providence seems to have designed it. If we consider also, that the great variety of Things in the Creation, doth not only declare more eminently the Wisdom, and Glory of God; but contributes much more also, for the Good and Happiness of Mankind: I say, that these Considerations shew the Necessity of keeping every Thing in its own proper Order and Place; and that we ought not to suffer one good Thing to

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destroy, and ruin, another as good, through the Humour and Fancy of Mankind. This being premised,

I proceed to the first Head, which is, To consider the Nature of these Commodities.

The Linnen Commodity has a peculiar Property, which no other Commodities have, viz. for Sheeting, Shifting, Tabling, and many other necessary Uses in Families: So likewise, the Silk and Woollen Commodities have a more peculiar Property for Clothing, and Furniture, than any other: yet we see that the former has strangely incroached upon the Woollen Commodities. For, as the printed Calicoes interfere more especially with the Silk Commodities; so the printed Linnen interferes at present more particularly with those of Wool. Nay, if printed Linnen should be allowed, the Linnen Printers would soon improve their Art to that degree, as to become as pernicious to both the Woollen and Silk Manufacturies, as the Calicoes and Linnen together are at present. Of this there cannot be the least doubt, if we consider the present Frenzy of our Women-kind. For, the Meanest of them threaten us already, that they will not wear Woollen Stuffs, altho’ printed Calicoes and Linnen shall be prohibited; but are resolved to wear STRIPED Linnen, rather than rough Woollen Commodities. Therefore, in order to preserve our Woollen Manufacturies, which have always been the main Support of our Poor, ’tis highly necessary to provide also against this Humour and Caprice of our Women. (For, what Manufactory is there in this Nation, which employs half so many Hands as that of Wool? Fifty Thousand Looms of woollen Stuffs for Womens Wear, employing about Six Hundred Thousand Hands.) This Consideration shews the Danger there is of our Woollen Commodities being over-run with those of Linnen.

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On the contrary, there is the highest improbability in the World; that either the *Silk*, or the *Woollen Commodities*, shall ever interfere with those of the *Linnen*; for who can imagine, that *Silk Broccades*, or any other *Silk*; nay, *Woollen Calamincoes*, or any other *Woollen Stuffs*, shall ever be made use of for *Napkins*, *Table-Cloths*, *Sheeting*, *Shifting*, for *Swadling Clothes* for young *Babes*, and for many other necessary *Uses* in *Families*? Whereby 'tis most evident, from the *Nature* of the *Things* themselves, that the *Linnen Commodities* have their proper *Uses*, tho' not for *Clothing*, or for *Furniture*; and that they may be encouraged in their proper *Order* and *Place*; and ought, therefore, to be kept thereunto, and not suffered to destroy or ruin so beneficial *Manufactures*, as the *Woollen* and *Silk* ones are: For, every individual Subject, except some *Weavers* at this present *Time*, wear and consume *Linnen*, both *Night* and *Day*, as also *Tabling*. Besides, there are several *Trades*, in which *Men* are necessitated to wear *Linnen Aprons*; and many others who must wear *Linnen Frocks* over their *Clothes*, such as *Soap-boilers*, *Chandlers*, *Butchers*, *Waggoners*, and others. So that by a modest *Computation*, there is more *Linnen* consumed in this *Nation*, (besides that which is printed) than wou'd employ an *Hundred Thousand Linnen Weavers*, which is abundantly more than there is in this *Nation*. But,

2dly. To consider this *Objection* with respect to the *Interest* of the *Nation*; which is the *GRAND BASIS* of *All National LAWS*.

That the *Strength* of a *Nation* consists in the *Multitude* of the *People*; and its *Power* and *Glory* in the *flourishing State* of *Trade* in general; and particularly in the *advantageous Manufactures* thereof, are *Maxims* universally receiv'd. Therefore, I humbly conceive, that in order to increase the *Number* of the *People*, and to encourage the *Trade* and the *Manufactures* of the *Nation*, 'tis absolutely necessary to prohi-

prohibit the *Wearing* of *printed* and *strip'd Linnen* for *Women's Garments*. Because, if printed and strip'd *Linnen* are allow'd to be worn, the *Consequences* must necessarily be,

1. That vast *Quantities* of *Linnen*, both printed and strip'd, will be poured in upon us from all *Parts*; which *Mischief* will be covered under the *Pretence* of encouraging our own *Linnen Manufactures*; (which, as I have already said, can very well be encouraged without the pretended *Help* of either printing or strip'd:) whereas 'tis wholly impossible for *Foreigners* to hurt us in the *Woollen Stuffs*.

2. The intire *Ruin* and *Loss* of our *Manufactures* of *Woollen Stuffs* for *Womens Wear*; as is already the *Case* with some of them, viz. *woorsted Damasks*, *flower'd Russels*, and *flower'd Calimancoes*, &c. Whereby our best *Manufacturers* will be forc'd to seek for *Incouragement* in foreign *Parts*; and their *Families*, and the meanest sort of *Workmen* must be maintained here by their respective *Parishes*.

3. That our *Wool* must be carried, and run out of the *Nation* to those *People*, who need not be told what to do with it: For 'tis very reasonable to suppose that our *Farmers* and *Wool-staplers* will seek for a *Market*, where 'twill be to be had, rather than see their *Wool* rot upon their *Hands*, or have little or nothing for it.

4. That several *Hundred Thousands* of *People* will be deprived of their *Employment*, only in the *Woollen Stuff-way* for *Womens Wear*; and that even without doing any *Service* to our own *Linnen Manufactures*, as may be seen in the first of these *Consequences*.

5. and lastly, That the present *Evil* will not at all be removed, but perhaps will be much greater in a very few *Years*; because, tho' some of the best *Gentry* shou'd leave off these printed *Commodities*, yet it wou'd spread much more in proportion among

mong the common Sort ; and that on a much better Foundation than *Callicoes* are on at present ; that is, on the Pretence of encouraging our own *Linnen Manufacturies*.

But that I may put this Matter into as clear a Light as I am capable :

Let us consider this Objection, with respect to the Nation's Interest, in quite another View ; suppose, then for once, that our Legislators should think it expedient to prohibit the Wearing of *Callicoes* and *Linnen*, both *printed* and *strip'd* ; the Consequence, as I conceive, would be,

1. That all our *Woollen* and *Silk Manufacturies* would not only be restored to their former flourishing Condition, but would also very much increase them ; so that all our *Poor*, old as well as young, would be employ'd both in *City* and *Country* ; and consequently the *Parishes* would be eas'd of abundance of *Pensioners*, and other *accidental Poor* ; and those, who should be incapacitated to do any manner of Work, would be better provided for.

2. That many of the *ablest* Manufacturers in *foreign Parts*, would be encouraged thereby to come and settle among us ; as has been the Case, in many of the preceding *Reigns*.

3. That our *Wool* would then bear a reasonable Price at Home ; and consequently, our *Farmers* and *Wool-staplers* not be forced to run the Risk of carrying and smuggling their *Wool* beyond the Seas ; which would effectually incapacitate Foreigners from being our Rivals in the Exportation of our *Woollen Manufacturies* abroad.

4. That our *Farmers* and *Grafiers* would have a better Market for all their Commodities, as *Cattle*, *Hay*, *Corn*, &c. all *Handicraft Trades* would be abundantly the better, and every *Workman* would be employ'd. The *Merchants*, and *Shopkeepers* ; would have a better Sale, and a quicker return for their several Commodities. And consequently,

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5. The *Estates* of our *Noblemen*, *Gentlemen*, and other *Landed Men*, would be, not only more secured, but would also very much improve.

6. And lastly, The *King's Revenues* would not only considerably increase, but would also add much Lustre to his *Glory*, and *Strength* to his *Power*. In short, every *individual* Member of the whole *Body Politick* would find his respective Account herein, from the *King* upon the *Throne*, down to the *Beggar*.

Before I dismiss this Objection, 'twill not be improper to observe, that not only *printed* or *painted Linnen* ought not to be worn for Garments ; but even in the strictness of Reason, that no *printed* or *painted Commodities* whatsoever, are proper, or becoming, for *clothing Garments* ; because it seems that Providence has appointed other Subjects to print, or paint upon ; in order that every *Art* or *Science* may increase and flourish in its proper Order and Place. So that what has been said upon the Nature of *Woollen*, *Silk*, and *Linnen Commodities*, may very well be applied in this present Case, of Wearing of figur'd, or flower'd Commodities : for, as there is no fear that the *Silk* and *Woollen Manufacturies* should ever interfere with those of *Linnen* ; so in like manner, who can imagine that woven, figur'd, or flower'd Commodities shall ever interfere with printed, or painted Commodities ; such as *Pictures*, *Landskip*, *flower'd Pieces*, *Sea-pieces*, *Fortification*, *Structure-pieces*, and abundance of others. On the contrary, we see to the Ruin of many Thousands of Families, that printed and painted Commodities have, and do highly interfere, prejudice, and discourage that famous and * noble Art of Weaving all manner of figur'd, or flower'd cunning Work.

* This Art was immobled by God Almighty, in filling Bezaleel, the Son of Uri, with the Spirit of God, in Wisdom, and in Understanding, for to perform fine flower'd, woven Commodities. See Exod. xxxi. 2. and xxx. 35.

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Therefore printed or painted Commodities ought to be restrain'd from interfering, and prejudicing that incomparable handicraft Trade. Besides what might be said on the behalf of that fine Art of Embroidering, which used to be the innocent Amusement of our greatest Ladies formerly; whereas at present 'tis almost unknown to them, through those pernicious painted and printed Calicoes. Again, the Wearing of printed or painted Commodities, puts all Degrees and Orders of Womenkind into Disorder and Confusion, and the Lady cannot well be known from her Chamber-Maid. In this Confusion, Men often pay Honour to those to whom 'tis not due, and withhold it from those to whom it justly belongs: But when our Women-kind were clothed with Silk and Woollen Commodities, those Mistakes were avoided, and a tolerable Order observ'd. But to proceed.

OBJECTION V.

'What is the Reason we shou'd not wear what we please, and that which is most convenient for us, both for cheapness, for washing, and cleaning?

Answ. The common Good of the whole Body Politick, is the GRAND, and ULTIMATE RULE of all that ought to be eaten, drank, and worn, by every individual Member thereof. As for the rest of the Objection; Monsieur Barbeyrac will answer for me, 'Those Wretches, says he, are worthy of the utmost Detestation, who regard only their private Interest, and neglect the COMMON GOOD of Mankind; as if they were born for themselves alone, and not for an innumerable Society, &c. in his Notes on Pufendorf, Book 3. chap. 3.

OBJECTION VI.

'If the Wearing of printed Calicoes and Linnen are prohibited; the Consequences will be, that many of our

'our Woollen Commodities will be worn instead thereof, which will raise the Price of our Wool, and so likewise the Price of our Woollen Commodities, and prevent thereby, in great Measure, the Exportation thereof.

Answ. 'Tis very true, undoubtedly, that if printed Calicoes and Linnen are prohibited, our Woollen Commodities will be worn instead of them, which will be no more than what was formerly; that it will raise the Price of our Wool, is also very rational to foresee, as well as that our woollen Commodities will be dearer. But it doth not follow from thence, that our Exportation will be prevented: The natural Consequence of this must be, that our Farmers, and others, will have a good Market for their Wool at Home, as I have shewn elsewhere; as well as that if Foreigners are once deprived of our Wool, it will then not be in their Power to be our Rivals, in the Exportation of our Woollen Commodities. But let us suppose, tho' not grant, for Argument sake, that this Prohibition wou'd really prevent some part of our Exportation, &c. must we therefore ruin our most beneficial Manufacturies, and impoverish the whole Nation, for the sake perhaps to increase our Exportation? By the same Parity of Reason, it wou'd be an extraordinary good Thing if none but wooden Shoes were worn in this Land: And when Shoemakers shou'd complain of being starv'd and ruin'd for want of Work, they shou'd be answer'd, 'tis very true: But then you must consider that it encourages the Exportation of our Leather, and that some of our Merchants may perhaps enrich themselves thereby. If that would be a very comfortable Answer to those poor Shoemakers, let the World judge. I might produce many more such Instances: But a good one is more than sufficient.

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OBJECTION VII.

' If the Wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnen
' are prohibited, how shall the Fund form'd upon
' the Stamps of Callicoes, which is appropriated,
' be made good ?

Answ. This Objection is answer'd in *A brief State of the Question, &c.* p. 24, 25. viz. ' As this Fund among many others, is redeemable by Parliament ; so we have no more to do than to convince them of the Necessity of redeeming it, &c.

OBJECTION VIII.

' If the Wearing of *Callicoes* and *Linnen* was destructive to the Woollen Manufacturies ; the undeniable Consequence would be, that Wool would fall much in Price, and be a Drug at Market : Whereas the Case is quite otherwise ; for 'tis scarcer at Market than it has been for many Years, notwithstanding the vast Quantity we have imported from *Ireland*.

Answ. This Objection is grounded on the Impossibility of running our Wool into Foreign Parts ; which is false and absurd : For there is no Fact better known, than that Foreigners, especially the *French*, * are provided with *English* Wooll. Besides, every Man, that knows any Thing of the present State of our Woollen Manufacturies for Women's Garments, knows, that almost all over the Country the Woollen Manufacturers, whether they be *Weavers*, *Wool-Combers*, *Spinners*, &c. are not half imploy'd : Those Masters who are so prudent as not to turn off any Hands, to prevent their Work-People from wandering about, allowing but one

* I am credibly informed, that a Gentleman lately arriv'd from France, met in his Journey near Abbeville, no less than 15 Loads of *English* Wool,

Week's

Week's Work for two. So that if Wool is scarce, and bears a good Price at Market ; the undeniable Consequence must be, that our *Farmers* and *Wool-staplers* have another Way for the Consumption of their Wool than our Woollen Manufacturies. To say then, that our Woollen Commodities are a Drug, and our Markets glutted and surfeited with them, at the same Time that Wool is scarce, and bears a good Price at Market ; and yet that no Wool is exported into foreign Parts ; is one of the most evident Contradictions in the World.

Tho' the next Objection has not appear'd in print, yet as 'tis commonly in our Adversaries Mouths, so I shall give it a place among the others.

OBJECTION IX.

' Tis for the Interest of the *East-India* Company, that the Wearing of printed Callicoes shou'd not be prohibited : They have lent great Sums of Money to the Government, and are very powerful, and will oppose the said Prohibition vigorously.

Answ. As this Objection has no Pretension whatsoever of Argument, so it does not deserve any manner of Answer. All that is imply'd in it, is nothing but *Power*, *Money*, &c. as if our *Legislators* were to be forced, and threaten'd into any *Measures* whatsoever, whether they be for or against common Right, Reason, or even the Welfare of their Country. This is such a piece of Arrogance and Insolence, that 'tis by no means tolerable. Besides, because there are some *East-India* Merchants, who are very rich, and live like *Lords*, therefore a whole *Million* of Souls must starve and perish, and the *Nation* be ruin'd, to satisfy the boundless Ambition of these Men.

But as the Author of the *Brief State of the Question, &c.* has engag'd himself to prove, ' that the *East-India* Trade may, and would remain in a very thriving

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‘ thriving and flourishing Condition, and be carried
 ‘ on to the Profit and Advantage of the Adventu-
 ‘ rers, tho’ all the Subjects of *Great Britain* and of
 ‘ *Ireland* were effectually limited from, and prohi-
 ‘ bited the Wearing and Using of printed Callicoës;
 so I shall leave it entirely to him, not only because
 he has engaged himself so to do, but because he is
 much more capable for it than I am.

OBJECTION X.

‘ If the Wearing of printed Callicoës and Linner
 ‘ is destructive to the Weaving Trade, why did the
 ‘ Weavers suffer their Wives to wear these Commo-
 ‘ dities?

Answ. As this Objection is very just and reason-
 able in it self, so nothing else can account for the
 Weavers Folly, than their Pride and Ambition,
 which is too common among Mankind; of which
 we see lamentable Examples, even among those,
 who have had all the Education that the World can
 afford; whose *Honour*, and *Interest*, and even their
natural Ties of Love for their *Offspring*, have not
 been potent enough to shelter them against the Ra-
 pidity of that incorrigible *Vice*. And shall we af-
 terwards wonder that some Weavers, the most part
 of which have had but little Education, have suf-
 fer’d their Wives and Daughters to wear such
 Goods, as were inconsistent with their Welfare?
 Besides, if they have committed this Incoherence,
 it has been in good Company; for, as I said before,
 the *Turkey Merchants*, *Italian Merchants*, *Wool-staplers*,
Tarn-men, and many other *Trades* who are equally
 affected by this *Evil*, have all committed the same
 Folly. Again, all that may be said against the
 Weavers upon this Account, may be justly said a-
 gainst the *Nation* in general as *Trading People*, be-
 cause they prefer foreign *Commodities* to those of
 their own *Product* and *Manufacturies*; which has
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been put in a very clear Light by the Author of *A
 brief State of the Question*, &c. p. 25, 26. to which I
 refer the Reader, as being worthy of his serious
 Attention, as well as the whole Book.

OBJECTION XI.

‘ Seeing there are so many Weavers out of Work,
 ‘ why do they not go and work as Labourers to
 ‘ Bricklayers, for they want Hands? Again, ’tis no
 ‘ wonder they are poor, for many of them, when
 ‘ they are full of Business, will not work above
 ‘ Three Days in a Week; but will run to the Ale-
 ‘ Houses, drinking and gaming away their Money,
 ‘ &c.

Answ. If a Man was never so much given to ca-
 lumniate his Neighbours, yet one would think, if he
 had any Remains of *Humanity* left, that he would
 forbear to caluminate those who are immediately un-
 der *Affliction* and *Distress*: For to afflict the *Afflicted*,
 or to oppress the *Oppressed*, is certainly one of the most
 heinous Crimes that Men can be guilty of. That this
 Objection is crowded with that wicked Spirit of Ca-
 lumny, we shall soon see. The *Objector* insinuates,
 that every Weaver is fit to be a *Bricklayer’s Labourer*,
 which is very wrong; for not one Weaver in Fifty
 is capable for that *Business*; and no Handicraft
 Tradesmen are less fit for it, than they are; by
 reason that the Nature of their Business is one
 of the most delicate and nice, and which requires
 great Attention and Sedateness, and consequently
 very unfit for such labouring Business. Again, is it not
 reasonable to think, that Masters of any Business
 whatever will turn off those Hands which are least
 capable to serve them upon Occasion, such as old,
 sick, and weakly Men: And are these infirm Men fit
 to be Labourers? Men, who perhaps when they
 were young and well, never went twenty Steps up
 a Ladder with any Burden. That there are some
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idle and drunken Fellows among the Weavers, is very true, and I shou'd be very glad to know that Trade which is so happy as to be without. But that *there are MANY that will not Work above Three Days in a Week, when they are full of Business*, is a gross Falshood: for there is not One in Forty that is really such; which is so far from being MANY, that it is very few; fewer, perhaps, than in any other Trade; because, as I have said before, the Nature of their Business is such, that it forbids them almost any strong Drink, while they are at Work, which must needs use them to Sobriety. But is it unreasonable for Men, who work *early and late*, as is the Custom of the Weaving Trade, to take Three or Four Hours Diversion, and drink One or Two Pots of strong Drink when their Week's Work is done, to cheer their fatigued Spirits, and enjoy a little of their Labour, and to ease themselves for a Moment of their whole Week's Burden, and their heavy Family Cares? Surely this is such little Comfort, as one wou'd think ought not to be grudged or envied them; especially by those Men who can drink their Bottle of Wine every Day, ride out of Town and take their Pleasure when they think fit, go to Bed at Night, and rise in the Morning at what Hour they please, without obstructing their Business.

OBJECTION XII.

Is it not the Weavers taking so many Apprentices for the sake of the Money they have with them, that causes their Trade to be so bad? For if People will all run to one Trade, let it be never so good, will it not over-fill it with Hands, while other Trades want them; as is now the Case with *Carpenters and Bricklayers*?

I answer, 1. That this Objection is grounded on a very false supposition, viz. That *Weavers take too many*

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many Apprentices, &c. For Master *Weavers* seldom or never take any *Apprentices* but their own *Sons*, or some *Relation*. And as for *Journey-men*, they have not one Penny of Money with One in Forty, for those Reasons alledged in the *Just Complaints of the Weavers, &c.* p. 29, 30. Besides, 'tis not very rational to think, that Parents shou'd put their Sons to a Trade which is in a starving Condition; but rather they wou'd put them most certainly to those which are in a thriving way, as the Objection says the *Carpenters and Bricklayers* are.

2. 'Tis very true, that if People will all run to one Trade, let it be never so good, it will over-stock it with Hands: But as there never was such an Instance, because common Prudence forbids it, so 'tis not the Case now. For, if Men wou'd give themselves time to think a little, and not speak and write at Random, as they often do; they wou'd soon see the true Cause why *Carpenters and Bricklayers* want Hands at this present Time. All the World knows, that after the Fire of London this City was rebuilt somewhat in a Hurry; that those Buildings are at present in a decaying Condition; that many Houses have drop'd down, and many People have suffer'd very much, and others have been kill'd thereby: What is more reasonable than that the *Citizens* shou'd secure themselves against such dreadful Accidents, by sufficiently repairing, or rebuilding their Houses; which has been the Case above these Two Years last past? This being so, what wonder is it that *Carpenters and Bricklayers* shou'd want Hands at this present Time? For certainly Workmen are not cast in a Mould.

I might fairly dismiss this Objection now, it being fully answered; and the Calumny is cast on the Weavers being also fully destroy'd. But as it affords me an Opportunity to illustrate the *Weavers Case*, so I must beg the Reader's leave to dwell upon it a little longer.

It

It appears to me as if there was a Snake in the Grass, wrapped up in this Objection; else what can be the meaning of such an obstinate, and general, though nonsensical, Cry, that **THE WEAVERS ARE TOO NUMEROUS?** For, if this Cry be once receiv'd for a certainty; then the **CAUSE** must be remov'd; and what that Cause is, we shall soon be told, 'tis the **FRENCH REFUGEES** that make the Weavers too numerous, and who eat the *Bread* out of our Mouths: Therefore they must be sent Home to their own Country, or be made away with. Some People have been very industrious to spread about this Summer, that the *French Refugees* were as bad an *Evil*, as the *Wearing* of printed *Callico*s, or worse. I know no other Reason, why the *French Refugees* are such an Eye-sore to a certain Set of Men, than their constant and unanimous Zeal for the *Protestant Succession*, and *Loyalty* to our present Government: For they have no other Failing but this (if it be one) than what is common to the rest of Mankind. Again, all Persons know, that they are as industrious, and as laborious, as any other People; and consequently, are very fit Members for a *Body Politick*. But I must own that *Loyalty to King George*, is, with some Men, a **SIN** of the highest Magnitude. These Men perhaps imagine foolishly, that if so considerable a Body of *Loyal Subjects*, as the *French Refugees* are, were once remov'd out of the Way, it wou'd afford them a better Opportunity to bring about their wicked and traiterous Designs. But this only by the way; I return now to the Objection before us.

To shew evidently that the *Excessive Badness* of the *Weaving-Trade* does not proceed from the *Weavers* being too numerous, but from the *Wearing* of *Callico*s and *Linnen*: Let us cast our Eyes Fifteen Years backwards, and see with what *Commodities* our *Womenkind* were then clothed: We shall see that

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our Women among the *Gentry*, were then clothed with fine *English Brocades*, and *Venetians*; our common *Traders Wives* with slight *Silk Damasks*; our Country *Farmers Wives*, and other good Country *Dames* with *woorsted Damasks*, *flower'd Ruffels*, and *flower'd Calimancoes*, and the meanest of them with plain *woorsted Stuffs*, &c. Whereas now those of the first Class are clothed with *Out-law'd India-Chints*; those of the Second with *English* and *Dutch* printed *Callico*s; those of the Third with ordinary *Callico*s, and printed *Linnen*; and those of the last, with ordinary printed *Linnen*; whereby these famous Branches of the *Weaving Trade*, viz. *Venetians*, *slight Silk Damasks*, *woorsted Damasks*, *flower'd Ruffels*, and *flower'd Calimancoes*, and others are almost *Extinct*.

But to put this yet in a clearer Light, and to convince, if possible, those who seem resolved not to be convinc'd, let us suppose for a Moment an impossibility; that is, that *India Merchants* could import from the *East-Indies*, *Houses* to live in, and that they should let them *Three Parts in Four* cheaper than our *Landlords* do theirs: the Consequence then would be, that the *Inhabitants* of the *English Houses* wou'd leave them to go and live in the new cheap *India Houses*, to save so much Money. Our *English Landlords* then wou'd exclaim against these new *India Houses*, and wou'd certainly make *Ten* times more Noise against them than they do against paying *Four Shillings* in the Pound for the *Land-Tax*; they wou'd be ruin'd, starv'd, and undone, &c. But if they were answer'd, 'That they (the *Landlords*) are too numerous, and have too many *Houses*; that these *India Houses* encourage our *Importation*; that they wash and clean well, and are cheap; that we are a free People, and live in a free Country, and shall we not inhabit in what Houses we please? Therefore, Gentlemen, 'tis not these *India Houses* fault that you are ruin'd and undone, but 'tis your own

* own Fault: For, instead of *drinking* so much
 * *French Wine*, of having *Country Seats*, of going a
 * *Hunting*, &c. you shoud *save* your *Money* against
 * *the bad Times*, &c.' I say, if our *Gentlemen* and
Landlords were thus prevaricated with, I wou'd fain
 know what they wou'd reply for themselves, which
 wou'd not at the same Time be equally on behalf
 of the *Weavers*; because our *Landlords* supposed
 Case, and the *Weavers* real one, are exactly the
 same.

OBJECTION XIII.

* Are *Riots*, *Tumults*, *Assaults*, and *striking* People
 * in the *Streets*, as the *Weavers* have done this Sum-
 * mer, proper *Methods* to obtain any *Redress* of
 * *Grievances*? And if the *Parliament* do relieve the
 * *Weavers* upon the Account of Wearing printed
 * *Callicoes* and *Linnen*, will it not encourage any Set of
 * Men to raise *Riots*, *Tumults*, &c. whenever
 * they'll fancy themselves oppress'd by any Thing?

Ans. 'Tis most certain that *Riots*, *Tumults*, *As-
 saults*, &c. are no proper way to obtain any *Redress*
 of *Grievances*. No Man in his Senses will ever say
 they are, because those Proceedings are in them-
 selves intolerable. But to say, that if the *Parlia-
 ment* remedies this present *Evil*, it will encourage o-
 thers to raise *Riots*, *Tumults*, &c. is not only very
 unreasonable, but also very absurd, for the follow-
 ing Reasons, viz.

1. Because if the *Misbehaviour* of some inconfi-
 derate and distressed People, be a sufficient Reason
 to prevent the making of good and beneficial *Laws*,
 for the common Benefit of the whole *Nation*; it
 will follow, that when the Enemies of our Coun-
 try are minded to prevent the making of any such
 good and beneficial *Laws*, their only way will be
 to spur up some poor and distressed People to *Riots*
 and *Tumults*, &c. and so their Turn will be serv'd;
 which perhaps is the present Case.

2. Be-

2. Because 'tis not the *Weaving Trade*, as such,
 that has raised these *Riots* and *Tumults*, &c. but
 they are some of the poorest and miserable among
 them, who are in a desperate Condition, spirited
 perhaps thereto by some disaffected People to our
 happy Government.

3. Because the whole Trade in general, both *Ma-
 sters* and *Journeymen*, have not only protested against
 those Proceedings, but have done also all they could
 to appease and pacify these *Riots*, *Tumults*, &c. which
 may be seen by the several Pieces they have pub-
 lished in the publick News, and otherwise; and
 which are inserted in the Appendix: Pieces which
 have receiv'd the Approbation of the whole Trade.
 Now, if the Reader will be so kind as to peruse the
 said Pieces attentively, let him judge whether both
 the *Masters* and *Journeymen* could have acted more
 becomingly, and prudently, under such Circumstances?

Lastly, There has been no *Riots* and *Tumults*
 since the publication of these Pieces, but by a Mix-
 ture of the most unruly, stubborn Rabble of all Trades,
 who are always but too numerous in populous Cities.

'Tis true, those Women, Boys and Girls, which
 belong and depend on the *Weaving Trade*, cannot
 endure to see any *Callicoe Gowns* pass in their Streets
 unmolested; which I own also to be intolerable:
 but no private Man can help it, without doing
 greater Mischiefs: and therefore they ought to be
 submitted to the Correction of the Civil Power.
 But then these petit Disturbances are properly a-
 mong the Women themselves; which proceeds from the
 foolish Fancy of some, and the Madness and Rage of
 others: Which might easily be prevented, if Wo-
 men wou'd only put on other Clothes when they go
 into those Parts of the Town. But it will presently
 be said, What, must we be dictated by the Mob,
 what to wear, and what not? I answer, No, by
 no means; but we ought to be dictated by Reason
 and common Sense; which will teach us, that we

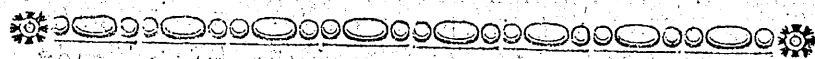
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ought to forbear provoking those poor and miserable People, with those very Things that are the true Cause of their desperate Condition.

Having answer'd all the foregoing Objections, I humbly beg leave to conclude this Book with only one Query, viz.

Whether it would be just and reasonable to omit redressing one of the greatest National EVILS that ever was; because some poor People, deprived of their Senses and Reason through this very Evil, have committed some unwarrantable Proceedings?



POSTSCRIPT.

The State of the Woollen Manufactory for Womens Garments.



ONE Hundred of these Stuff-Weavers employ almost Eleven Hundred other People, which make about Twelve Hundred Hands for One Hundred Looms. viz. 1200 Pound Weight of Wool, for one Week's Work, employs

Of Weavers	100	Doublers	50
Wool-sorters	4	Bobbin-winders	12
Wool-pickers	10	Back-throw Winders	12
Wool-combers	20	Quill Boys	50
Spinners	900	Warpers	5
Throwers	4	Dyers	6
Turners of the Throwing		Pressers	6
Mill	4		
Thread-makers	4		
			1187

As this famous Manufactory employs a prodigious Number of Hands; so it vastly increases the intrinsic Wealth and Treasure of the Nation, as will appear by the following Calculation, (viz.)

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The Price of the Workmanship for 12 Pounds of Wool.

Wool-sorting	00 00 03	Warping	00 00 06
Wool-picking	00 00 08	Weaving	00 12 00
Wool-combing	00 02 00	Calendering	00 00 06
Spinning	01 04 00	Pressing	00 01 06
Throwing	00 04 00		
Dying	00 04 00	Total	02 10 05
Winding	00 01 00		

These Twelve Pounds of Wool manufactured into Woollen Stuffs, is the Week's Work for one of these Looms, and its Dependents.

According to this Calculation, 50000 of these Weavers, &c. bring to the Nation yearly above Six Millions. This immense Treasure is of such a quick Circulation, that it disperses it self almost as fast as it rises, over every individual Part of the whole Body Politick, from the Head to the Feet, which is thereby refresh'd, nourish'd, and strengthened.

It is doubtless for this vast Advantage that Foreigners are so eager for our Wool, and do all they can to entice our Manufacturers over to them, in order to supply themselves with these Commodities, and to under-sell us in foreign Markets; which they'll soon be able to do, unless they are prevented by some effectual Laws; because they can have them Manufactured cheaper than we, by reason their Countries are poorer than our's: For the richer a Country is, the higher Rent the Houses and Land go at; and the higher the Rents are, the dearer the Tenants must sell their several Commodities, whether they be Corn, Cattle, Hay, &c. and the dearer these Commodities are, the greater the working Peoples Wages must be, that they may be thereby in a Capacity to purchase those good Things which are necessary for Life.

These weighty Considerations, most certainly, are the true Causes why our Parliaments have always been, from Time to Time, earnest in encouraging all our Manufacturies, but more especially those of Wool and Silk; witness their prohibiting the Dead from being

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buried

buried any otherwise than in Wool; the Prohibition of East-India Silks, and East-India printed Calicoes; the laying such high Duties on all foreign Wrought Silks, but more particularly on those of France; and lastly, that good Law, made the last Sessions, to prevent Manufacturers and Artificers of any Manufactory of this Kingdom, from going into foreign Parts.

In order then to secure the advantageous Woollen Manufacturies to our selves, as of right it belongs by the Blessing of Providence, 'tis highly necessary to make a more effectual Law, to prevent the running of our Wool beyond the Seas. But as 'tis objected, ' That if an effectual Stop is put to the Exportation of our Wool, it will necessarily fall in Price, and so lessen immediately the Landed Men's Income; to which they will not agree. To this I humbly beg leave to answer, That tho' this is very likely, yet it would soon rise to its Price again: For, (as I have said, in the Answer to the Fourth Objection, and elsewhere) if Foreigners were once deprived of our Wool, it would be utterly impossible for them to interfere with us in our Woollen Commodities; and even they themselves would be forced, in Process of Time, to be supply'd from us with these same Commodities. Again, tho' Wool should fall immediately, yet our Landed-men would most certainly be indemnified by the Improvement of their Estates, and the immediate Rise of their other Commodities, such as Corn, Cattle, Hay, &c.

But after all, let us suppose that it would be Four or Five Years (which is the utmost) before all Things could well be brought into a flourishing State; shall it follow from thence, that we must suffer that Evil to go on in its Course, and Foreigners to run away with our best Manufacturies, to our own Destruction, because it cannot be remedied without a present (tho' inconsiderable) Loss? By the same Parity of Reason, the Nation ought never to enter into any War, tho' it should be ever so just and necessary; no private Man

ought

ought to go to Law for the security of his lawful Estate; no Reversion ought to be purchas'd; in short, according to this Rule, no Remedy ought to be apply'd to any Evil or Disease whatsoever, whether Natural or Political; because it will be immediately, either chargeable, troublesome, or painful, &c.

I own this would be pressing the Matter too close, if there were none but the Parliament to be satisfied; because this is not only very obvious and plain, but it has always been the settled Sense of the Nation, as I have taken Notice of in this Postscript: But as there are some Gentlemen who insist (as I am inform'd) for Reasons why our working People cannot Work as cheap as those of other Countries; and that they cannot agree to an effectual Stop of Running our Wool beyond the Seas, because it would immediately lessen their Incomes; so it is for their sakes that I have consider'd this Matter more precisely.

A P P E N D I X.

ADVICE of the Master-Weavers, to the Journey-men of their Trade.

Publiſh'd in the Daily-Courant, the 19th of July last.

BRETHREN,

THE Violences which many have run into of late, upon the account of the Wear of Printed Calicoes, have given us great Disturbance and Concern for those of you, that have suffer'd your selves to be so far misled, as to act both against your Duty and Interest.

We are very sensible of the great Decay of our Trade; and that it proceeds chiefly from the Use of Printed Calicoes: And we heartily lament the sad Condition of Multitudes of Families in our Trade, that are in great Distress at this Time for want of Employment. But we beg you to consider coolly the Consequences of such Outrages as have lately been committed, in defiance of Law and all good Government.

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There are proper Seasons, as well as proper Methods, to be us'd to get Redress of Grievances: And sure you cannot think that we, who are Fellow-Sufferers with you, will be wanting at the proper Season to lay our Case before the Parliament; where, no doubt, the same will be duly consider'd by those, who in every thing shew they have the Good of their Country at heart. And this was intended to have been done last Winter: But as there was then a Bill of great Importance and Difficulty depending, for the better preventing the Clandestine Running of foreign Goods upon us, it was thought most adviseable to see that Bill pass first into an Act; which could not be done till the rising of the Parliament.

You must needs be sensible that violent Means can bring no Redress in such a Case as ours, it being only to be had in Parliament; but it may possibly remove the Remedy at a greater distance, by rendring those who use such Methods odious to the whole Nation; and so we may lose our Friends: For after such Proceedings, who can appear for us?

We therefore earnestly intreat and beseech you all, for the sake of the common Good, and your own Welfare in particular, to live quietly and peaceably, and not to insult or molest any of your Fellow-Subjects on any account whatsoever; and that you shew your selves upon all occasions Dutiful and Loyal Subjects to His Majesty, the best of Kings. And this you ought to be the more careful of doing at this time, since it has appear'd that there have been seditious People who have endeavour'd to stir you up to Tumult: And 'tis to be fear'd, there will be those likewise who will take Advantage of your Follies, and endeavour to represent you as Persons disaffected, thereby to deprive you of the Favour of the Government. But as you know that the far greater Part of you are well affected to His Majesty, we hope you will not fail to give all the Proofs of it that are in your power; and there shall be nothing wanting on our Part to serve you. *Wea-*

Weavers-Hall, July 1. 1719.

THE above Paper being brought to the Court of Assistants of the Company of Weavers, London, this Day held, was read Paragraph by Paragraph, and approved of by the said Court, and ordered to be signed by their Clerk, and then printed and published.

CASE SHEWELL, Clerk.



The Journeymen Weavers Answer to their Masters Advice, approv'd of at the Weavers-Hall, July 1. 1719. Publish'd in the Daily-Courant the 27th of July last.

Masters and Gentlemen,

WE return you our humble Thanks, for your Good and Seasonable Advice, viz. That we should live quietly and peaceably, and not to insult or molest any of our Fellow-Subjects, on any account whatsoever; and to demean ourselves as becomes Faithful and Loyal Subjects: All which we'll not only practise ourselves, but we'll exhort our Neighbours and Brother-Trades to it also. We heartily thank you also for that Justice you are pleas'd to do us, that the far greater part of us are well affected to His Majesty King *GEORGE*.

As we have always, upon all Occasions, shewn ourselves zealous for the Protestant Succession, and Loyal to our present Happy Government; so it hath very much griev'd us, to see that some of us have suffer'd themselves to be so far misled, as to have disturb'd the Publick Peace: especially at this time, when not only His Majesty is absent, but also when 'tis well known, that there are many Disaffected Persons to our Happy Government, who are perpetually seeking for such Opportunities in order to bring about if possible their Wicked and Traiterous Designs.

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The repeated Assurance you are pleased to give us, of representing and laying our Case before the *Parliament*, in its proper Season, is very agreeable and comfortable to us. We make no doubt of your good Intentions; because, as you very well say, *you are Fellow-Sufferers with us*. But,

In order to obtain these great Ends, so beneficial to this Nation in general, give us leave, Gentlemen, in our Turn, to beg of you the Favour of two Things: First, That you would be pleased, in the mean while, to employ as many of us as you can; because the far greatest part of us are destitute both of *Substance and Credit*, so as 'tis impossible for such to *subsist without Employment*; and as *Solomon* says, *Oppression maketh a wise Man mad*: because also we have all the reason in the World to hope for a Redress of our Grievances, not only from a KING who is so universally renowned for *Wisdom, Goodness, and Clemency*; but also from a *Parliament*, who hath distinguish'd itself in a more particular manner, for the *Common Good and Welfare of their Country*; but more especially for the better Encouraging the *Manufactures* of these Kingdoms, by making a very strict Law, last Sessions, for preventing any *Manufacturer and Artificer*, from going into *Foreign Countries*. The other Favour we beg, is, That you would be pleased to hinder any *Printed Calicoes* to be worn in your Families for the future; because you agree with us, That the great Decay of our Trade proceeds chiefly from the *Wearing* of them: so that those of you, who have suffered themselves to be so far misled, through the boundless *Ambition and Pride* of their *Wives*, as to permit them to wear *Printed Calicoes*, have acted the most foolish and inconsistent part; for 'tis neither more nor less, than to destroy with one Hand, that which they take so much pains to build with the other: Because also those, to whom we complain of the *Excessive Badness of our Trade*, upbraid us JUSTLY with these *Follies and Inconsistencies*. The Tumults and Riots which we have had of late, are perhaps owing to these excessive *Follies*; for the poor working People have certainly been much exasperated to see such an evil Example among *Master-Weavers, Throwsters, Silkmens, Dyers, and Mercers*.

To conclude; If we all act and behave our selves as we ought to do, who can doubt but our Superiours, in their great *Wisdom*, will take our most deplorable Condition into their serious Consideration? In the mean time, we'll heartily pray, that God may long preserve his most Gracious Majesty KING GEORGE. Amen.

F I N I S.