0163

136-27

A REVIEW OF THE MANUFACTURER's COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE WOOL GROWER.

PART I.

WHEREIN

Of PITCH and TAR MARKS, the Exceſs, the Injury, and *their* reſpective Remedies, are conſidered minutely.

By the AUTHOR of

MEMOIRS of WOOL.

LONDON:

Printed for Meſſ. OSBORNE in *Gray's-Inn*; DODSLEY in *Pall-Mall*; MILLAN at *Charing-Croſs*; MILLAR in the *Strand*; SHUCKBURGH at *Temple-Bar*; KNAPTON in *Ludgate-ſtreet*; WARD at the *Royal Exchange*; and M. COOPER, in *Pater Noſter Row*, 1753. [Price One Shilling.]

A

REVIEW, &c.

AS *Juſtice* is reciprocally due, not only between Individuals, but each collective Branch of a Community: So in OURS the Woolen Mauufacturers have a Title to *Favour* beſides. With theſe Sentiments, and in this Diſpoſition, I ſit down to review their *laſt Year's* Complaints to Parliament, occaſioned by *Dearneſs of Wool*; which (ſaid they) being a *Temptation to increaſe the Weight*, produced theſe bad Effects: 1. *Exceſſive*

ceſſive Marking and Branding with Pitch and Tar. 2. *Falſe and deceitful Winding.*

The former, a Detriment to Manufacture, and Waſte of the Material; of which, thro' large Demands for *Goods*, there had been Scarcity to a Degree of Want.

The latter, a Fraud, and conſequently an Injury to the Buyer.

For *both theſe* certain Remedies *then* propoſed, having not obtained the deſired Approbation; and the Manufacturers remaining on that Account diſſatisfied; it was therefore thought not improper to have the Merits of this Affair calmly diſcuſſed in *Writing*. And becauſe WOOL is a Subject on which I had beſtowed much Time and Pains in ſome other Regards, *I was* for that Reaſon deſired, and *am* more inclined to give it a further Conſideration under the aforementioned Articles; adding ſome Obſervations on what has been occaſionally alledged concerning,

3. *Dear-*

3. *Dearneſs, and a ſuppoſed Want of Wool in this Kingdom of late Years.*

Previous whereto,

I am obliged to take Notice, that while Manufacturers have been *wonderfully* agreed in their Complaints, there has appeared on the Part of Growers, a Diverſity of Opinions and Deſires; owing to a Difference of Cuſtoms as to the Manner of treating *Sheep* and *Wool* in various Parts of the Kingdom. For all which local Uſages the reſpective Inhabitants have, or think they have their proper ſubſtantial Reaſons; and, many of them, that *their own* particular Methods are a perfect Pattern for others.

But it being difficult, in a Manner impoſſible for any one Perſon to be either fully informed of thoſe ſeveral Uſages, or to judge preciſely about the Reaſons of them; or what will ſuit every Place; I ſhall therefore confine myſelf chiefly to *Lincolnſhire*; where I am moſt converſant, and which is ſo eminently intereſted, that a *Rule*, in theſe

 Reſpects,

Reſpects, greatly inconvenient for *that County*, is not, in my humble Opinion, very fit to be made the *Law of England*; eſpecially, ſince great Parts of ſeveral *other Counties* are in the ſame Circumſtances, or nearly ſo. And in *all theſe together*, the Wool-Growers, with *their Principals*, are of ſufficient Conſideration, to merit *ſome Regard* from the Legiſlature.

To begin, then, with the Article of

I. *Exceſſive Marking and Branding with Pitch and Tar.*

I ſhall firſt enquire into the *Truth of this Charge*. 2dly, *What are the fitteſt Expedients in regard thereof, ſo far as true.*

1ſt, The *Charge* is, that Pitch and Tar Marks have been encreaſed and accumulated *generally*, ſince the *advanced Price of Wool*, in order to *increaſe the Weight of the Fleeces*. In conſequence whereof (computing by the whole Quantity ſuppoſed to grow annually in this Kingdom) there has been eſtimated no

no leſs than*360,000 *l. per Ann.* Loſs to the Public.

But this (whatever may be the Caſe elſewhere) I ſee no Reaſon to admit in the whole, or indeed in any conſiderable Part, ſo far as relates to the *County of Lincoln*. For whereas, formerly, branding a Sheep *there*, with Pitch, or Tar, was an univerſal Practice, many Growers latterly, underſtanding how obnoxious thoſe Ingredients are to Manufacturers, have wholly diſuſed them; and, in their Place, adopted *Ruddle*, *Oker*, or the like: So that of Wool without *any* Pitch or Tar-Mark there is no inconſiderable Quantity grown and ſhorn in *this County*.

But that this new Method of *Marking*, (without the Addition of a *Brand*) can ſuffice only in *ſome* Parts of it, and not in *all*, is owing to their different Circumſtances in ſeveral Regards. To inſtance in the *Marſhes*, one large Tract, not leſs than *fifty Miles*

* *Reaſons, &c. p.* 1, 2.

in length, and abounding with Sheep that produce the beſt *combing Wool*; Paſtures *there*, are not otherwiſe ſeparated than by Ditches filled with Water; which, when frozen over in hard Weather, become no Fence at all; inſomuch that Sheep, of ſeveral, for Miles together, are liable to be drove by a *Storm of Snow*, and ſo intermixed, that, if not branded, Proprietors (who live, many of them, at very diſtant Habitations) would not be able to reclaim their own. And this Circumſtance alone, tho' it happens but at ſome Times, is a conſtant good Reaſon for the Precaution.

Nevertheleſs, not only in *theſe Marſhes*, but in general, *throughout the County*, where for one Reaſon or another it is judged neceſſary, Sheep *fed conſtantly in Paſtures*, and from which ariſe the greateſt Quantities of Wool, far from Exceſs, are branded very ſparingly; and that almoſt univerſally at *Sheering only*. To do otherwiſe, Growers would think a Diſparagement to their Stock in Fairs and Markets, as likening them too much to thoſe *fed, ſome Times at leaſt, on Fens and Commons*, which are ever leſs eſteemed,

teemed, on more Accounts than one; and, moreover, they know it would be a Diſadvantage to the *Sale* of their Wool. And, thus far, I can with great Confidence ſay, for *Lincolnſhire*, that there is *no Exceſs*, *no Accumulation* of Marking; on the contrary, an Abatement of it.

But, with Regard to *Commons*, I dare not undertake to anſwer in like Manner. In ſome of theſe, Sheep are kept in diſtinct Flocks; in others, they feed at large. And, of the former, nearly circumſtanced alike, ſome are found to be branded, if not oftener, yet with larger Brands than others; conſequently, it may be imagined, *more* than is abſolutely needful; notwithſtanding which, even in Inſtances of this Kind, upon Enquiry, I have been informed, that it was rather from an Adherence to old Cuſtoms, than a new Practice.

And *where*, of all Places, Branding is *moſt* uſed, *there*, is a real Neceſſity for it in ſome conſiderable Degree, for the following Reaſons:

First, In *depaſturing promiſcuouſly* on very wide extended *Fens* and *Commons*, where a vaſt Number of Proprietors, from many different *Pariſhes* and *Towns* have equal Right, for the Sake of being able to diſtinguiſh their own in the ordinary Courſe of Shepherding.

Secondly, To deſcribe them occaſionally; *i. e.* in caſe of their Straying, or being chaſed from their Ground, or ſtolen.

Of this laſt there is ever moſt Danger, where is greateſt Poſſibility of the former; becauſe of *thoſe* Circumſtances, Rogues take Advantage, before Owners can ſatisfy themſelves, or almoſt ſuſpect that their Sheep wanting, are not chaſed by Accident from their wonted Grounds, or Strayed, but Stolen.

And this ſtrongeſt of all Reaſons, for Branding in a very conſpicuous Manner, holds alſo for *repeating* it oftener than otherwiſe would be neceſſary; in which, tho' the Practice is not uniform, yet is it by Perſons

Perſons who have known the Country many Years, judged to be, *for the moſt Part*, according to antient Cuſtom, and not a novel Uſage, *by Reaſon of the advanced Price of Wool.*

They admit, indeed, that the Buyers cannot know the preciſe Quantity of Pitch and Tar contained in every Parcel; but ſay, that beſides what their own Eyes may tell them, they cannot but know, both from the *Kind* of Wool, and *Country* where grown, whether it partakes of the greater or leſſer Portion of them.

Brands, they confeſs, *are repeated*; but not generally; nor often, if at all; except upon a Change of Property that makes it neceſſary; or when the old ones are too far effaced, to diſtinguiſh the ſame.

And notwithſtanding that this laſt will, perhaps, be called *Pretence* only; yet the ſame Perſons aſſure us, that to act otherwiſe would, in the very Reſpect for which *ſuch Repetition* is ſaid to be *intended*, produce either none, or a contrary Effect; for that the prime

prime Coſt of Pitch and Tar, the Waſte thereof incurred, and the Value of the Labour beſtowed towards and in doing it, with that farther Waſte, which Time, after it is done, occaſions before Sheering, being put in one Scale, and the Price of *ſo much* Wool in the other; the former would go near, at leaſt, to balance the latter, if it did not preponderate.

And therefore, tho' they will not take upon them to affirm, that the Manufacturers Charge of Annoyance on this Head, is in no Shape or Inſtance true, yet do they deny it in that particular Form and general Manner it has been laid; being clearly of Opinion, that, upon the whole, the moſt, and worſt to be obſerved of this Kind, muſt be conſtrued as done, howſoever injudiciouſly, yet chiefly out of an abundant Caution; rather with a View of inſuring Property, than for the other Reaſon aſſigned.

But this, and the utmoſt I have ſaid beſides, only ſhewing, ſo far as relates to *Lincolnſhire*, that the Charge of *accumulated Marking* does not hold, either in its *full Extent*,

Extent, or *generally*, or *to any Degree throughout*; very far from it. Thence it does not follow that there are not wanting certain Regulations even in *this County*: It being by no means a Conſequence, becauſe *Abuſes* are not altogether the ſame as repreſented, that therefore there are none at all, or none worthy of Redreſs. On the contrary, I think there is ſufficient Matter to require it in this Caſe of *Marking* and *Branding*; and indeed vaſtly more than I apprehended, before my Notice was particularly excited by the late Remonſtrances of Manufacturers againſt it. I mean chiefly *injudicious Branding*; which I obſerve to be ſurpriſingly great and frequent too, *i. e. upon very improper Parts of the Fleece*; and which the Complainants had no Need to have imputed to a ſordid Avarice or Fraud in the Growers; for granting it to be *mere Folly*, it is not leſs injurious, nor leſs a fit Object of *Prevention by Law*. Accordingly, from whatever Motive proceeding, *this Evil* not only merits a Remedy, but hath in my Opinion, a competent, and very eaſy one; which I ſhall take the Liberty of mentioning.

But,

But, firſt, having gone ſome Length, and without ſtraining a ſingle Point, in denying the *Charge* of *exceſſive Marking*, for *any Reaſon whatſoever*, as a *general* Practice in *Lincolnſhire*, I ſhall obſerve ſomewhat for the Veracity, nevertheleſs, of thoſe Manufacturers who ſpoke before the *Honourable Committee*, with Regard to *this County*; whoſe Teſtimony tho' I have, in one View, diſcredited; yet, to do *them* Juſtice, I admit the Truth of it in another: So that in the End, *we* ſhall be found to differ chiefly, in accounting for the ſame Thing, different Ways.

It was one of *their* Poſitions, "that more "*Pitch* and *Tar* had been uſed in Branding "Sheep,* for *Seven* Years paſt, than for-"merly." And this, though true, yet, I think, is to be accounted for, in the main, as follows:

* *Report, p.* 17, 19.

There

There had been, within the Period mentioned, *a great Increaſe* of Sheep; and by far the *greateſt*, on *Fens*, and other *Commons*, through a Series of dry Summers, and ſome very favourable Winters. And ſuch being Places, where is moſt Reaſon for Branding, 'tis no Wonder, that upon a *Medium*, Manufacturers had found more Waſte of *this Kind*, than at ſome Time foregone, when Sheep *ſo depaſtured*, were fewer in *Proportion*.

Further, theſe *Commons*, and *Fens*, are (beyond what is the Caſe of *Paſtures*) liable to *Rots*,* ſuch as ſweep away in a Manner the whole Stock of Sheep there. After which they are, at firſt, but ſcantily reple-

* *Nothing of this having happened for twelve Years ſucceſſively; while in about thirty preceding I can reckon up ten ſeveral Rots at the feweſt; ſome of them indeed more general than others; in which, though innumerable* Paſtures *ſhared in the Loſs, yet were not* they *upon the whole* ſo much *and* ſo often *affected, as* Fens *and other* Commons.

niſhed

niſhed, and, in a great Meaſure, with quite other *Kinds* of Sheep, from dry Foreſts, and barren, mountainous, or hilly Parts of the Kingdom; *which Sheep* afford a different Wool from what theſe *Fens* and *Commons* have produced of late Years.* But they being naturally good Land; apt to produce Wool; and Stock-Maſters, in order to change the Breed, providing themſelves with proper *Rams*; by theſe Means the *Staple* is improved in a few Years, from *ſhort Clothing*, to *long Combing Wool*; not to be diſtinguiſhed from much grown in *Paſtures*, otherwiſe than by *Marks* and *Brands*; which, for Reaſons already given, are indiſpenſably neceſſary. This is one Way of accounting for more Waſte, by *Pitch* and *Tar*, from *Combing Wool* eſpecially, of late Years, than at certain Times heretofore

Moreover (which makes ſtill more for the Teſtimony given on this Head, even in Regard to ſome *Paſture Wool*, the very beſt) ſuch had been dry parching Seaſons of ſeveral Summers ſucceſſively, within the Period witneſſed, that, I am well aſſured, many

many Graſiers, renting *Sheep-Paſtures* of the higheſt Value *per Acre*, with Right of Common, in Reſpect of their *Townſhips*, upon very large *Fens*, had, not becauſe the ſame were firm and fruitful, but merely for want of Paſturage, much againſt their Inclinations, been obliged to drive down almoſt their whole choice Stock of Sheep to the loweſt Parts of *thoſe Fens* (at other Seaſons under Water) and there to keep them for ſeveral Months, till by Rains falling, their *Paſtures* became fit to receive them back. And on theſe Occaſions * it has been held

* *As likewiſe on others that are ſimilar; which by Means of* dry Seaſons, *for one Cauſe, and* on Account of the Diſtemper among Cattle obliging to new Methods, *for another, have obtained latterly more than uſual. And theſe Things I have choſe to mention; being informed that* Two *at leaſt of the* Four *Manufacturers, who gave their Teſtimony in regard to* this County, *are furniſhed with much Wool from that particular Angle of it, to which I have here alluded. And here I think it but Juſtice to obſerve further, for* Lincolnſhire, *on this Head, as likewiſe* Nottinghamſhire *and* Yorkſhire, *that a* Third *Evidence touching the* Paſture, *or* Combing Wools *thereof, has confined his Complaints only to the Article of* Inwinding, *without a ſingle Word of* Pitch *and* Tar Marks. *(See Report, pag.* 15, 16. *Mr* John Huſtler.)

a Matter

a Matter of Neceſſity *always*, to give a *Brand extraordinary*. And I do imagine it muſt have been from Obſervations to be made of this Kind, that Manfacturers, not knowing, or at leaſt not conſidering the *Cauſe*, have formed a *wrong Concluſion* about *ſome Paſture Wool*. For though in this laſt Caſe there was properly an *accumulated Marking*, yet, in the whole, not *truly exceſſive*; nor was it *for the Sake of increaſing the Weight of the Fleece*. A Waſte hereby there was, but not a voluntary one; for that it is highly proper to avoid; eſpecially, if, as it hath been ſuggeſted, the Nation is liable to a *Want of Wool*. And it is a ſtronger Reaſon for uſing *Pitch* and *Tar* in the moſt ſparing and prudent Manner that is poſſible, ſince in their Conſequences they are found ſo detrimental to *Goods manufactured*. I inquire then

2dly, *What are the fitteſt Expedients in Regard thereof?*

The Detriment hereby to Manufacture, is in Part attributed to the *Winding up* of thoſe Marks in the Fleece: Wherefore it hath been

been propoſed that *Growers ſhould clip them off*. And on this Head it has been hoped, "that an Apprehenſion of its ſubjecting "[*them*] to any trifling Trouble or In-"convenience, will not be deemed a ſuf-"ficient Argument againſt it."* Which undoubtedly it ſhould not; providing nevertheleſs that thoſe mentioned for ſuch, are indeed not conſiderable, but trifling. However, before we examine *theſe* fully, let us ſee how likely are the Means propoſed, to obtain the End wanted; which is, to avoid *Tar Spots*, ſave *Expence*, and *Waſte*.

According to preſent Practice, *ſome Part* of the Mark (it ſeems) "eſcapes the ſtrict-"eſt Search and Notice of Manufactu-"rers;" ſo that "being wrought up in "Goods, they are ſtained and damaged."† Hereupon, I obſerve, it is not the groſſer, and more viſible Parts that do *this Hurt*, but the ſmaller and leſs perceivable.‖ If then

*Reaſons, &c. p. 3.
† *Reaſons, &c. p. 2.
‖ *Report, p. 9.*

theſe Marks are to be *clipped off, before winding*; by whom muſt that Operation, commonly ſpeaking, or at leaſt very often, be performed? Not by the Owner of the Sheep, or by the Perſons who affixed the Brands, but by the *Sheerers* or *Woolwinder*, which Servants are not likely to uſe equal Care, or indeed to have the ſame Skill in this Work, with the profeſſed Manufacturer. THEY will be apt, thro' Haſte or Ignorance, either to take off *too much* of the Wool, and thereby increaſe, inſtead of leſſening the Waſte; or to leave *ſome Part* of the Mark, though not very perceivable. And what ſhall be *ſo left*, will be poſſible Matter for Diſpute and Strife; and, in that Caſe, *a very great Inconvenience*: Alſo it will be more likely to eſcape the *manufacturing Searcher's Notice*; as in Courſe it *will*; and if Expence is to be ſaved in that Article, *muſt* become leſs ſtrict under this Regulation, than in the preſent State of Things: And thus Manufacture would not be *leſs* liable to *Stain* and *Damage* than before.

But

But whereas, on the other hand, a great Share of the preſent Inconvenience is ſaid to ariſe from this Marking being *broke* and *ſeparated* by the *Force uſed in Winding*; and a great Part of the Remedy propoſed, by obliging to *clip it off before Winding*, is expected from Growers not branding more than is abſolutely neceſſary: I think it is very eaſy to ſhew how the *one* may be *prevented*, and the *other effected*, without injoining *this particular Meaſure*.

As to *Trouble* or *Expence* alledged, and *Waſte*; granting that whoever hath the ſame (whether it is the Grower or laſt Buyer) will be paid for it: *Inconvenience* is the Thing principally to be regarded; and here (beſides what hath been already mentioned, of poſſible Diſputes about its being done perfectly, or not) is to be conſidered, how far it might be an *Incouragement* and a *Screen* to *Sheep-ſtealers*. A Propenſity to this Crime, we may remember, induced the Legiſlature, not many Years ſince, to make the Puniſhment of it *Capital*. By any Means, therefore, to increaſe ſuch Pro-

penſity,

penſity, would be, in ſome Meaſure, *to defeat the Intention of that Law,*

It has been complained of to Parliament, and ſo reſolved, "That great Abuſes are "practiſed in the Winding up of Wool for "Sale, by wrapping up in the Fleeces, "Dirt, Dung, Sand, and other Rubbiſh, "to increaſe the Weight."* And who that are capable of practiſing ſuch enormous Deceits, would ſcruple the Villainy of *Sheep-ſtealing* too, if they could do it under like Coverture, and with an equal Chance of Impunity?

Let me ſuppoſe a Caſe not unfrequent,† of an honeſt Sheep Owner miſſing a Part of his Flock, when the Time of Sheering is near at Hand; who ſuſpecting the ſame to be ſtolen, goes in Queſt of them, and after much tracing, finds certain Sheep newly ſhorn, which, from ſeveral Tokens, he has

* *Report, p.* 22.

† *By not unfrequent, I mean that of* Sheep-ſtealing; *not of diſcovering the Thief in ſuch Caſe; for that is nothing ſo frequent; although there is ſeldom a* County Aſſize, *without one or more being convicted of this Crime.*

Reaſon

Reaſon to think his own, is morally perſwaded that they are; but as a cautious Perſon does not chuſe to ſwear it poſitively, without ſome concurrent Proofs —— he obtains a Warrant therefore from a *Juſtice of the Peace*, to ſearch, where he ſuſpects, for the Wool; and having firſt deſcribed his *own Marks*, goes along with the *Conſtable*; and finding ſuch Fleeces as he judges his Sheep capable of having produced —— if, upon examining the ſame, *his Marks* appear, then that becomes plain and clear to himſelf and others, which before was ſomewhat doubtful —— OR, if it be found that the *Marking* or *Brands* have been *clipped off* from Parts before deſcribed (for that, I am told, is a Matter, generally ſpeaking, to be diſcerned) in ſuch Caſe, the Perſon in whoſe Cuſtody the Fleeces are found, is in a Manner, ſelf-condemned. — Nay, according to what the preſent Uſage is, if Traces of Marking *ſo clipped off*, ſhould appear, tho' on different Parts of Fleeces from thoſe which had been deſcribed; ſtill the Perſon claiming Property in thoſe Fleeces, would ſuffer in the Opinion of his Neighbours, as a *Sheep-ſtealer*; although not of thoſe particular

ticular Sheep, in Reference to which the Search was made:* While, upon the Foot of the propoſed Regulation, *every Stealer of Sheep*, provided he once gets them ſhorn, would, ſo far, be in equal Caſe with the honeſt Man who buys or breeds *his*.

To convince the Reader that I have not been ſuppoſing an *Improbability*, I ſhall give an Inſtance of a Perſon, in one Night, but a few Years ſince, ſtealing from two contiguous Pariſhes, about one † hundred good Sheep, newly waſhed in order for Sheering; and driving them to his own Habitation, at the Diſtance of ten or twelve Miles; for which Fact he ſuffered Death at *Lincoln*. He had not indeed ſhorn them; but was preparing to do it; and would have executed his Deſign, had he not been

* *For thus it often happens to Perſons of a ſuſpicious Character, that they are detected of ſome other Villainy, than is the immediate Cauſe of a* Search Warrant.

† *In which Number, though belonging to ſeveral Perſons, was included almoſt the* whole Flock *of one induſtrious ſmall Farmer; by which he was upon the Point of being* utterly ruined.

apprehended

apprehended the Day before. And if he had ſhorn them, 'tis great Odds whether the Sheep could have been challenged, without ſome Aid from the Fleeces. That he was detected, ſo ſoon at leaſt, was owing to the uncommon Number he had taken; which giving greater Alarm to the Owners, quickened their Inquiries and Purſuit; and rendering him more readily ſuſpected, contributed not a little to his Diſcovery in the very Nick of Time. And, notwithſtanding *he had not ſhorn them*; yet, provided he had got the *Marks* and *Brands clipped off*, in conſequence of *A Law*, by which the ſame had become frequent and commendable, 'tis very poſſible, in ſuch Caſe, that the Owners might *not have found them*; becauſe of *loſt Sheep* a primary Characteriſtic is, the *Marking*; which being amoved, other leſſer Tokens of Diſtinction have a Chance to be over-looked. — Nay, in a leſſer Number, which is more frequently the Caſe, this would be very likely to happen.

And this may ſuffice to ſhew how practicable, in ſome particular Places eſpecially, at ſo critical a Conjuncture (between, or any

Thing

Thing near the Time of Waſhing and Sheering) is the Crime of *Sheep-ſtealing*; likewiſe the Poſſibility of making it *more ſo*. And as it is no *ſlight Inconvenience*, or *trifling Trouble*, with *Expence* beſides, that an honeſt Perſon is liable to ſuſtain in that Caſe: So, without a better Proſpect of the deſired Advantage from *clipping off the Marks*, than to me appears, I think, a Step of that Nature and Tendency, ſhould not be taken. However, this being certainly one principal Objection, I leave it to be well conſidered; deſiring to obſerve further, that though we know what is the preſent State of the Kingdom in Regard to *Sheep-ſtealing*, yet there is no ſaying how far it might be extended under any *new Circumſtance* that ſhould *remarkably favour it*.

And *this* is in a Degree, like that of *removing Land-marks*. It would certainly be an Opening for Thieves; of which, as poſſibly they might take Advantage, ſo not improbably, or rather *moſt probably* they would. The *Policy of it* may be compared, in ſome Sort, to a Perſon's keeping his Caſh under a *ſtrong Lock*; but otherwiſe ſo ill ſecured, that

that an artful wicked Servant hath it in his Power, at certain Opportunities, to extract one Piece after another, without Diſcovery, unleſs taken in the Fact. For as one Piece of Money is like another of the ſame Kind, ſo, *very often*, is one *new-ſhorn* Sheep; and *A Fleece*, with the *Marks clipped off*, is *always* too like ſome other under the *ſame Circumſtances*, to be challenged at all. — Nay, two *unſhorn* Sheep, with the *Marks clipped off*, are frequently too much alike to be readily diſtinguiſhed —— So that inſtead of obliging Growers to this, I rather think they ſhould not be permitted; however not encouraged to do it. For, harmleſs as the Expedient might be in a Multitude of Inſtances, inſomuch as to have *no* ill Conſequence for the more Part, in one View; and although in another, it ſhould have *ſome* good and uſeful Effect; yet cannot that be deemed a reaſonable Inſtitution of this Kind, which does not ſufficiently reſpect thoſe particular *Tracts of Country* (I mean the ſpacious *Fens* and *Commons* of *Lincolnſhire* eſpecially) which, as Places where *Branding* is moſt uſed, and where indeed, beyond all others, it is moſt neceſſary, are conſequently the

the chief Objects of a Law for regulating that Uſage ; and therefore ought to be principally conſidered in it. Now of theſe *Fens* and *Commons* particularly, I will be bold to ſay, that *obliging Growers to clip out* ALL *Pitch* and *Tar-Marks*, is, in Effect, to *forbid the Uſe of them*, notwithſtanding their allowed Needfulneſs, both for *diſtinguiſhing* and *ſecuring Property*.

But why do I ſay, *allowed Needfulneſs ?* ſince that is a Matter controverted, and the *ſuppos'd Neceſſity* repreſented at the beſt, as a mere *Vulgariſm* of the *Engliſh* ; to whom it is recommended in this Caſe to learn *ſheer Senſe* from the School of *Ireland*, where (we are told) notwithſtanding the vaſt *open* Tracts of Country, Pitch and Tar for the Purpoſe of marking Sheep, are not uſed at all, or but very little. Now whether thus much is *gratis dictum*, or not, is neither very eaſy to be known, nor very material. For if *Example* in one Place, were a certain *fit Rule* for another, this Recourſe to the *Iriſh* would not be neceſſary ; becauſe there are Inſtances ſufficient in *England*, of Sheep, either not marked at all with Pitch and Tar, or

or but very little ; and that too in *open* Tracts of Country. But beſides, and beyond this, there is a Circumſtance to be obſerved, which in ſtating the Affair, hath been either over-looked or omitted ; namely, that of *promiſcuous Depaſturage*, on *Commons* in *England*, which are very numerous and vaſtly extenſive ; where a Multitude of different Owners *breed and feed their Sheep together*. And THIS is the *grand* Reaſon, and an *indiſpenſable* one, for branding with Pitch and Tar, in order to *diſtinguiſh* one Man's Property from anothers ; the ſame being ſo *intermixt*, that without THIS MARKING, or ſome *equivalent Compoſition* not yet invented, there could be nothing but *Confuſion* and *Uncertainty*.

Yet ſtill methinks I hear it ſaid ; admitting the Neceſſity, in *certain Places*, and in *ſome Degree*, of uſing Pitch and Tar Marks, why ſhould not the Grower be obliged to *clip them off*, ſince the *ſo doing* ſeems a Remedy quite natural and eaſy ? OR if *that* is not the proper Expedient ; what is ?

I an-

I anſwer, *1ſt*, (beſides the bad Conſequences already urged, from giving generally into ſuch a Practice) THIS in the whole is *not eaſy*; but the *Reverſe*; and, (more than that) *impoſſible*. There is, its true, no Difficulty in clipping off a Brand that is *recent enough* to be *conſpicuous*. And I do obſerve, that every Advocate for this Meaſure *affects* to ſpeak of it, as if ALL of them *were ſo* at the Time of Sheering. And to clip off *ſuch*, it muſt be confeſſed, would to a *Sheep-ſtealer*, be extremely convenient, provided he could do it without incurring the *leaſt Suſpicion*. BUT, except on *Fens* and *other Commons*, there are comparatively *very few* Brands on Sheep *recent*, or in *any Degree conſpicuous at the Time of ſheering*. And IF, as is far from being unuſual, for divers Reaſons, there ſhall have been, within the Courſe of a Year; MORE than ONE upon the ſame Sheep, at *different Times*, by *different Owners*; SOME of them will be ſo little diſcernable, as to make it, I think I may ſay, *impoſſible* for any other than a Perſon, whoſe Province it ſhall be to break

break the Fleece and ſearch the Wool (in a very good Light) to clip the ſame out * *ſo perfectly*, as either to anſwer fully the Purpoſes of Manufacture, or to avoid all Occaſion of Cavil and Diſpute between the Grower, and Buyer.

I think, I may well call it an *Impoſſibility*, for Growers (as is propoſed to be required of them) to free the Fleece entirely from Pitch and Tar; to make the ſame (in

* *And here Note, that altho' ſome Waſte is certainly incurred, even by the* Remains *of* obliterated Brands, *yet is not the Weight of the Fleece thereby* ſcarce at all increaſed. *And indeed Growers beſides, branding Sheep on particular Occaſions, which they purpoſe* not to ſheer: *This may tell Manufacturers that however certain they are of* increaſed *Waſte by Marking, they may ſometimes at leaſt miſtake in aſſigning the Reaſons of it. On the other Hand, it is a Leſſon for Growers to avoid branding, ſo far as poſſibly they can; ſince it is a Means of* ſpoiling, *and in courſe* waſting *ſome Wool; and as it may happen, without gaining any Thing in* Weight, *but in Fact* loſing; *becauſe for all experienced, and conſequently thenceforth expected Waſte, Manufacturers will, and juſtly may conſider themſelves, as they do for Carriage, or any other Expence incident to the Buſineſs.*

that

that Reſpect) *thoroughly clean and neat*;* ſince we have been told it is "apt to eſcape "the ſtricteſt Search and Notice of Manu-"facturers themſelves." And why? Becauſe it is often diſſipated, or expanded, uncertainly. Which laſt, eſpecially would be the very Caſe, of *old Marks*, of *Brands unrecent* and *obliterated*, with a vaſt Number of Sheep Owners, at the Time of Sheering. For here, inſtead of that *partial* reaſoning which hath been handed about upon this Topic, as if Circumſtances were in every Inſtance the ſame; or as if different ones made no Alteration in the Nature and Reaſon of the Thing, it is neceſſary to conſider that the *Surface* of a Sheep, new ſhorn (when commonly they are branded, if at any Time) is very ſmall, compared with the ſame in a full grown Fleece; that, of a Lamb in *June*, it is far leſs than what it will be, twelve Months after; and, of any growing Sheep, is greatly increaſed, between the Time of its being

* *The Complaints of the Manufacturers*, &c. p. 14.

ing new ſhorn, and the next Sheering; alſo, of every One that is full grown, but lean, when ſhorn and branded, after it hath been a Year in fattening. Suppoſe then, a Pitch-brand upon each of theſe in *June*; which at the Firſt is one *connected Mark*, like a *Seal of Wax*: In ſuch Caſe, the Carcaſe and the Wool both, growing; and theſe Marks riſing with the Extremities of the Fleece that is expanding continually to a *larger Surface*, they are, from their *united* State, diſtended and divided into *Parts*, more and more; of which, the Weather wearing and waſting *them all*; taking off *ſome*; and Accidents, *others*; the *Figure* is impaired by Degrees; and at Length, deſtroyed, altho', upon a nice Examination, in breaking the Fleece eſpecially, ſome Remains will be found, of Pitch-brands; and as to Tar-marks, though they are commonly reputed the more innocent of the Two, and are certainly the leaſt Conſpicuous, after a while; yet am I credibly informed, that the ſame will not wholly wear out, from one Sheering to anorher,

another, but that they adhere, to the laſt; notwithſtanding that, the Colour fading, they cannot in proceſs of Time be readily diſtinguiſhed upon the Sheeps Back, from the other outſide Parts of the Fleece, which by the Weather and Soil together, are always tarniſhed, more or leſs.

This being the Caſe, that numerous, uſeful Body of *Graſiers* particularly, who buy in a large Share of their Sheep, from various *Breeders*, the *Spring* before, cannot poſſibly undertake, *at Sheering*, to clip out *all* the Pitch and Tar-marks, which may have been put upon thoſe Sheep neceſſarily, ſome at one Time; ſome at another, juſt as Occaſion required. Conſequently, under the very hard Terms propoſed *(like that of being obliged to make Brick without Straw)* THEY, and *others too*, far from venturing to ſell their Produce, could not ſafely expoſe it to Sale; leſt there ſhould be eſpied upon it ſome *Fragment* of Pitch or Tar-mark, which (as very well it might) had eſcaped the Growers, or his Servants Notice.

Now

Now, altho' the Manufacturers intend not to carry Matters ſo far: Yet would they do well to conſider (or at leaſt I hope *others* will) that, as the Law cannot *effect*: ſo it ought not to *injoin* Impoſſibilities. But admitting it to be impoſſible without Diſpute, as in innumerable Inſtances of a *like Nature*, I verily think it (and think alſo I have plainly ſhewn) for Growers *ſo perfectly* to clip out *all* Brands and Marks from the Fleece, as to warrant the ſame thoroughly clean and neat, *i. e. wholly* free from Pitch and Tar; *that* Conſideration alone is a ſufficient Objection; although it were no Way improper, in another Regard already mentioned, for every of them indiſcriminately (howſoever they obtain their Sheep) to do their utmoſt towards it: BECAUSE *No Law*, in ſuch Caſe, would be able to diſtinguiſh between a Perſon's uſing his *beſt* Endeavours; or *leſs*; or *next to none at all*: In ſhort, to fix *any Medium*, whereon to reſt its Sanctions, between *doing*, or *not doing* the the ſame Thing.

But, 2dly, although the Practice of *Marking* and *Branding* with *Pitch* and *Tar* is antient; and they are cheap Materials; for the latter (ſo far as Growers are at preſent informed) *peculiarly* uſeful: Yet does it not follow, but that ſome other Ingredients might prove equally ſo, and not alike chargeable with the two Inconveniences, of *certain Waſte*, and *poſſible Damage*. And as it does not appear that much Invention hath hitherto been employed that Way: So it were to be wiſhed, that ſome Thought was taken towards finding out a *Compoſition*, which would anſwer the End of *Pitch* and *Tar* in *Branding*; which would admit of a *diſtinct Impreſſion*, or Figure, ſuch as to abide the Weather, and withal give Way to Soap in warm Water; ſo as to be fully diſcharged, without leaving any Stain, or other Injury upon Wool, to affect Manufacture. This being once compaſſed, the Uſe of *Pitch* and *Tar* for *that* Purpoſe, *might be wholly diſcarded by Law*.

But, as to effect ſo much (which I am willing to hope is not impoſſible) may require

quire ſome Time, and many Experiments; and as it would be an *extreme Hardſhip*, before that is done, to lay the Growers under a Neceſſity of diſuſing *what only*, they know by Experience, does anſwer their Purpoſe: So, in the mean while, what *Rules* and *Cautions* in this Regard, Growers would be likely to obſerve, were they themſelves the Manufacturers of their own Wool: THOSE, could they be defined with any Exactneſs or Certainty, if good Policy *did not*, the Law *might* very well oblige *them* to. And although different Circumſtances require very different Meaſures of *this Kind*; yet am I perſwaded that, for the preſent, the main Grievances complained of, do by a very eaſy Regulation, admit of conſiderable *general* Redreſs, *viz.*

1. *By confining all Brands to the Buttocks or hinder Legs.*

2. *By limiting thoſe Brands (on grown Sheep) to the Compaſs of* *Inches Diameter (on Lambs before* Michaelmas*) to one Half, or at the moſt, two Thirds of that Compaſs.*

3. *By inhibiting the Uſe of* Pitch *or* Tar, *in all* other Marking *thought proper to be put on Sheep or Lambs, either ordinarily, or occaſionally.*

For this laſt *(Marking*, as diſtinguiſhed from *Branding)* there is no Plea of Neceſſity, to juſtify the Uſe of either *Pitch* or *Tar*; ſeveral other more innocent Ingredients will, in all Regards, anſwer *that Purpoſe* full as well. And whereas many, it is obſerved, (I had even ſaid, moſt Perſons, on *Commons)* through aſtoniſhing Ignorance, or Careleſsneſs, *brand* their Sheep on the *Shoulder*, *Ribs*, or *Flank* (any one of which is improper on a double *Account); all that, and conſequently what Manufacturers do with *moſt Reaſon* complain of, under this Head, will be avoided.† And whereas ſome Perſons

* 1*ſt*, *Becauſe* theſe *are the beſt Parts of the Fleece: 2dly, In the courſe of Winding*, thoſe Parts *are much diſtended, and the Marking* broke *and* ſeparated, *as Manufacturers truly complain.*

† *Becauſe the* Buttock or hinder Leg *is not only one* coarſeſt *Part of every Fleece; but of ſome, which otherwiſe*

ſons *(on Commons)* not a few, indeed, make Uſe of *larger Brands*, than can be thought abſolutely neceſſary, *this Impropriety* alſo will be prevented. — Not that the ſame Dimenſions are ſufficient in every Place alike. For where * Sheep are apt to be ſcabbed, and to pluck their Wool, and leave it (through Poverty weak and looſe) on Hedges, Thickets, and Furz; *there*, a ſmall Brand will very often be too much disfigured, to anſwer its End.

wiſe are fine Wool, very coarſe; *moreover, a Brand* there, *is not liable, in winding, to be much, or ſcarce at all* diſtended, *or* broke, *and* intermixed with other Parts of the Fleece.

* *Which is the Caſe of* all Commons.

POSTSCRIPT.

IF, after having dwelt long upon *the Article* of Marking and Branding, I could not ſee Reaſon to commend *that Meaſure*, for preventing Abuſes and their conſequential Injuries, which the Manufacturers are *eager* to carve out for themſelves: Yet cannot *they* deny that the Regulations pointed to, would afford them infallibly a very ſubſtantial Redreſs; ſuch as, I perſwade myſelf, impartial conſiderate Perſons, who have any Knowledge in this Way, will think might well enough content them; provided a reaſonable Security on this Head, is in Truth THEIR *ſole Aim*; and THEY are not complaining of *one Thing only* that is ſufficiently

ently ſpecious; while, in Reality, THEY have their Eye alſo upon *another*, not ſo well to be avowed: To ſpeak plainly: IF, beſides ſeeking *Relief*, THEY are not, over and above *that*, intending *Oppreſſion*; of which, from the Beginning, I was not without a Suſpicion, that, ſince my writing what has gone before, hath not been leſſened; but on the contrary, greatly increaſed. And *therefore*, I think it incumbent on me to examine more narrowly than I have yet done, that *primary Poſition* of THEIRS, which is made the Foundation and Chief Corner Stone of a *dark under-ground Contrivance*, as I conceive. Which Poſition is, "That the "Growers *repeat* their Branding, ONLY "TO INCREASE THE WEIGHT OF THE "FLEECE; and for NO OTHER REASON."

They have, in ſhort, repreſented the whole Body of Graſiers and Farmers throughout the Kingdom, or at leaſt the *Bulk* of them, as conſpiring *moſt uniformly*, within *ſeven* or *eight* Years laſt paſt, to beſtow a DOUBLE PORTION of Pitch and Tar, upon their Sheep, as well in *Paſtures*, as on *Commons*; for

for the Sake of Selling the ſame, *as Wool*; and *by Reaſon* of its *latterly advanced Price*. This THEY have affirmed to be THE TRUE STATE OF THEIR CASE. And an *united Cry*, to that Effect, from ſeveral *Clothing Counties*, has been obtruded upon the Public, for an *indubitable Teſtimony*.

Now an *united Cry*, in the Name of *Woolen Manufacturers*, is a *particular* Kind of *Currency*, that, with me (who have had the diſproving of *many ſuch*) will not always paſs for *Sterling Truth* —— I have indeed hitherto only undertook to anſwer, as to the Point in Queſtion, for *Lincolnſhire*; and poſitively, for only the *Paſture Wool there grown*, that, *ſo far* this THEIR *State of the Caſe* IS NOT TRUE. And thus much I do again affirm; and that the ſame might be proved inconteſtably; as alſo, that the Amount of ſuch Wool, a large Part of it, without *any* Pitch or Tar Marks, the reſt with very little, and that applied chiefly at the *Sheering only*, is MANY THOUSAND PACKS a Year. But, moreover, in Regard to the *Fens* and other *Commons* of *Lincolnſhire*; conſidering that if the Manufacturers moſt

moſt grievous Charge was true, it muſt be ſo in one of theſe *two* Reſpects, *viz.* Either, Firſt, becauſe the Growers had, within *ſeven* or *eight* Years paſt, fallen *generally* into a Method of Branding *oftener*, that is, at *more* Times, in the Space of a Year, than *before*, they had been accuſtomed to do: OR, 2dly, had, within *that Period*, provided themſelves *generally*, with *new* Inſtruments for Branding; and *thoſe* conſiderably *larger* than their *old Ones*; neither of which, after ſuch Inquiry as I have been able to make, appearing to be *Fact*: I thence conclude, with Regard to *Lincolnſhire*, that *theſe Things* ARE NOT SO —— And, conſidering the Matter ſtill further, am of Opinion, *they are* NO WHERE, *credible*.

HEREIN, I govern myſelf by *the Nature of the Thing* (which is a pretty certain Guide) ſeeing that Growers cannot rationally propoſe to themſelves *any Advantage*, to make it *worth their doing*; as will be thus evident. Where, of all Places, Branding is moſt frequent; that is, *repeated moſt often*, the Method, ſo far as I can learn, is *three Times* a-Year; *viz.* 1. at *Sheering*; 2. about the Month

Month of *October* or *November*; 3. in or about the Month of *April*. And, of theſe, the *firſt* (I am credibly informed, nay have been convinced in ſome Meaſure by my own Eyes) diſappears to all common outward Obſervance, before the next Sheering, as if it had never been; and the *laſt only* is diſcernible enough at Sheering, to be *certainly* clipped out; or which (whatever Waſte *each* may occaſion) *can* give any ſignificant Weight to the Fleece; whereof, even *that alſo* will have loſt ſomething.

To compute then; the Price of *A Stone of Pitch* (which ſuffices, at once, for Branding *many* Sheep) is 1 *s.* 4 *d.* This multiplied by 3, makes *Four Shillings*. — But, for *every Stone* thus ſpent, I am further told, there is nothing near *that Weight* added to the Fleece, even in the firſt Inſtance; becauſe, not only in the *Apparatus* a Share evaporates in a very thick Smoke: but another, ſtill larger, is continually loſt upon the Ground between the Furnace and every individual Sheep *to be* branded. Beſides, a Multitude of Growers' branding *only once*; *viz.* at Sheering: Others, not a few, but *twice*

twice (and the laſt of thoſe *two Times* in or about *November*) I am, from all theſe Conſiderations put together, morally convinced, that upon an Average, (let Perſons brand how they will, in all the ſeveral Methods mentioned; that is, in a greater or a leſſer Degree; provided they do it each Time in the *ſame* Degree) *Every Stone Weight* added ultimately, (*i. e.* to the Fleece in the Scale,) by Means of *Pitch Brands*, does not ſtand the Farmers in leſs than *Five Shillings* (to ſpeak within Compaſs) over and above their Labour in putting it on; leaving which (as it is *ordinarily* done) to be computed at Diſcretion, I ſubmit the Growers *Profit* in like Manner; and, remembering that the *moſt Branding* is always to be found upon the *loweſt priced Wool*, if *this* ſhall be thought Nothing; or not any Thing conſiderable: I ſubmit it to be judged ſtill further, what *can be* the Share of *that Profit* ariſing to *any one Perſon* from the *advanced Price* of WOOL? which is the ſuppoſed *ſole Inducement*. And, if *this*, at laſt, be found inconſiderably ſmall, whether *very groſs Practices* are likely to prevail *commonly* and *generally*, for *very little Ends*. —— I go ſtill farther,

farther, and ſay: was it true, as repreſented, that Growers did, at any Time, or Times, *repeat Branding without Occaſion*, and for NO OTHER REASON, than to *increaſe the Weight of the Fleece to the Buyer*; even *that* would anſwer NO END AT ALL; becauſe it being (I inſiſt upon it) ONLY on *Commons* and *common Fens*, where *Branding* is uſed to any ſuch Degree, as *can* give the *leaſt Colour* for an Accuſation of this Kind: Conſequently, if that Accuſation is true, the reſpective Owners *there*, muſt have the *extraordinary* Trouble of *ſelecting* their *ſeveral* Flocks *promiſcuouſly* depaſturing, *far* and *widely* diſperſed among *many others*, PURPOSELY, and for NO OTHER REASON; at an Expence of Time and Labour, which the *increaſed Weight* of Wool, by Means of *Pitch Brands*, in ſome Inſtances, *would not* compenſate; in others, would afford *very little* Gain; *not much*, in any; the neceſſary Time and Labour in ſuch Caſe being (the Country Men tell us) *more* than either *Gentlemen* or *Traders*, are perhaps aware of; notwithſtanding that there are thoſe, of BOTH, who have treated this Point, as if *Farmers* (who have always *Buſineſs enough* upon

upon their Hands) made no Account of their Time; or, for Want of honeſt uſeful Employment, were apt, at certain Intervals of Leiſure, to ſet themſelves, unneceſſarily, unjuſtly, and fooliſhly, to the *earning of a Penny* (as they might think) BY BRANDING THEIR SHEEP — A Charge too heavy and general; too ridiculous indeed to be credited! the *Folly of it eſpecially* conſidered; ſince it is a known Truth, that on Account of *Waſte*, occaſioned by *Pitch* and *Tar Brands*, ſome Abatements are made *every where*, in the Price of Wool, ſo far as the ſame is diſcoverable (and it is a Matter not to be concealed); and this Abatement, in the *Fens* particularly, is eſtimated, for the moſt Part, at about Three Shillings *per Todd*; of which I could give a very pregnant Proof, from the Mouth of a *Manufacturer*, were that neceſſary, as I think it is not; the Thing in general being ſufficiently notorious. This, its true, is a conſiderable Difference *per Pack*; not to be compenſated by the ſuppoſed *increaſed Weight*, according to the *higheſt Computation* of Manufacturers. Yet the Waſte and Trouble extraordinary in ſearching and cleanſing this, beyond other

Wool

Wool of the *ſame Quality* are, I conceive, what makes that Difference; and which the reſpective Growers, no Doubt, would gladly avoid, if poſſible. But Perſons who will adventure their Money in *ſtocking the Fens*, muſt endure all the Inconveniences attending it. And the much cheaper keeping *there*, than in *Paſtures*, of far worſe Land, enables them to bear the ſame, and be Gainers alſo.

If the Method of computing I have here uſed, ſhall be thought too precarious, to overturn a Poſition ſeemingly avouched from many Quarters, let the Truth of that Poſition be tried in another Way, as follows:

Have the *Marking* and *Brands* on Sheep been *generally* increaſed? and with the *ſingle Intention* of ſelling Pitch and Tar (much cheaper Commodities) *as* Wool? In that Caſe, we ſhould, methinks, find Sheep to have been *generally*, or for the *moſt Part*, branded, rather ſome little Time before Sheering, than immediately after; becauſe, that done a little before, would add *ſome Weight* to the Fleece; that, immediately after,

ter, *next to none at all.* But as the former is rarely ſo, I venture to think it ſcarce ever practiſed, without ſome other very good Reaſon to be aſſigned for it.

Again, granting this celebrated Poſition to be true, it would be natural to find the *greateſt Increaſe* of Marking upon Wool of the higheſt Price, as that would be ſelling Pitch and Tar for the *moſt Money*. But this hath not been ſaid. And if it had, 'tis what almoſt every Perſon would have been able to contradict. It being therefore certain, that the Wool moſt incumbered with Pitch and Tar is of the loweſt Price; either it is ſo encumbered for a different Reaſon, than that of *increaſing the Weight*; or it is of the loweſt Price, for the Reaſon of its being ſo incumbered —— So that in the one Caſe is wanting the *Intention*; in the other, the *Gain* alledged.

But though (reckoning by the *Pack*) the *moſt Waſte* from Pitch and Tar is not ſaid to be found in the beſt or higheſt priced Wool; Yet hath the *Increaſe thereof* been charged to be in the ſame Proportion on the higheſt,

as

as on the loweſt, *viz.* *Twice* the Quantity of what was uſual before the late advanced Price of it. And the ſame hath been made to be all along; *i. e.* both before the *ſuppoſed Increaſe*, and ſince, about Half as much in *Paſtures*, as on *Commons*. And why Half? Becauſe, I ſuppoſe, of *Paſture Sheep*, they reckon, on a Medium, but Half the Number of *Fleeces* to a *Pack*, as from *Sheep* on *Commons*. Be it ſo. If then Half the Quantity of Pitch and Tar is found in *Paſture*, as on *Common Wool*; thence it will follow that *Sheep in Paſtures*, both before and ſince the pretended general Increaſe of Pitch and Tar Marks, have been uſually marked and branded full *as much*, and *often*, as thoſe on *Commons*. The contrary whereof I dare aver to be notorious; inſomuch that upon ſecond Thoughts, this Part of the Charge will not be maintained, but retracted. For *Paſture Sheep* probably never were, in this Century at leaſt, certainly have not been branded in the *ſame Degree* with thoſe on *Commons*. And, moreover, the Variation latterly, in that Reſpect hath been, from *more* to *leſs*, and to *none at all*; not *e contra*. So much at leaſt I can affirm for *Lincolnſhire*, without

without Partiality, both from the common Voice of the People (as well before as ſince it became a Matter in Queſtion) and of my own Remembrance and Obſervation.

Upon the Whole then, I think it demonſtrably evident, that in the *general*, nothing of what is alledged on this Head, by the Manufacturers, can be the *Intention* of the *Bulk* at leaſt of Wool Growers; and that, *mean* as thoſe are willing to have them accounted, they are not, cannot be ſo egregiouſly *ſilly*, as with greater Aſſurance, I think, than Wiſdom, THEY have repreſented them.

And what follows from all this? ONLY, in my Opinion, that the Complainants *have laid their Declaration wrong*; and inſtead of their unjuſt Calumny (I am free to call it ſuch, conſidering how it has been worded) ſhould have ſaid that "Growers "branding too frequently in a Way to "pleaſe themſelves: that is, *on improper* "*Parts of the Fleece*, without regarding "Conſequences to Manufacturers, THEY "by Means thereof, and the Careleſſneſs of

 their

" *their own* Servants, were liable to, and " did ſometimes ſuffer Damage in their " *Goods.*" Thus much I am ſenſible is true; and, in the main, I verily believe, THE WHOLE TRUTH. But, IF NOT, it is no neceſſary Conſequence, that, for Growers to clip out ALL *Pitch* or *Tar*, is the proper Remedy: OR, that the alternative Expedients, I have mentioned, are not adequate to the *Evils complained of.*

I ſhall conclude *this Part* then, with proteſting, that ſo far as my little Judgment tells me, the Demands of Manufacturers, as they have been ſpecified, touching *Marks* and *Brands*, are *needleſs*, *unſafe*, and *impracticable*; that the ſame paſſed into a *Law*, would be a *Trap* and a *Snare* to the Growers; expoſing them, on frivolous Pretences, to vexatious Proſecutions, without Number or End; and that they would be a *complete Inhibition* upon *all* Buyers of Wool in the Fleece, to ſell again in like Manner *(and are intended ſo to be)*, and in all their Conſequences to *Graſiers* and *Farmers*, the greateſt Hardſhip that ever yet was known to be impoſed upon *ſo large a Body* of

of honeſt Pains-taking, extremely uſeful, though, many of them, comparatively, poor Perſons; having, nevertheleſs, one or other of them, a *Landlord*, in perhaps every Member of each H—ſe of P————t; and in almoſt every Perſon of *Diſtinction* and *Property* throughout the Kingdom beſides; who *all* deriving a Share of their Affluence and Splendour from the *Sweat of the Country Man's Brow*: As *they* have not failed in their other Diſtreſſes, to ſhew Bowels of Kindneſs and Compaſſion towards ſuch of them particularly as were their immediate Vaſſals: So it is to be hoped *(this Matter* being once well conſidered*)* THEY will unanimouſly reach forth their Hands to ſave, and protect them againſt the rapacious Attempts of their inveterate Antagoniſts; for ſuch *(*notwithſtanding their Merit in other Regards*)* have *Woolen Traders* been to *Wool Growers*, for Ages, and Centuries; I mean *(*and I can prove it, have, indeed, *elſewhere)* they have been continually endeavouring to *graſp* the Wool of *this* Kingdom, upon their *own terms altogether.* And tho' *they* have *all along* had the Artifice to give it out (as on *this Occaſion particularly* they affect to

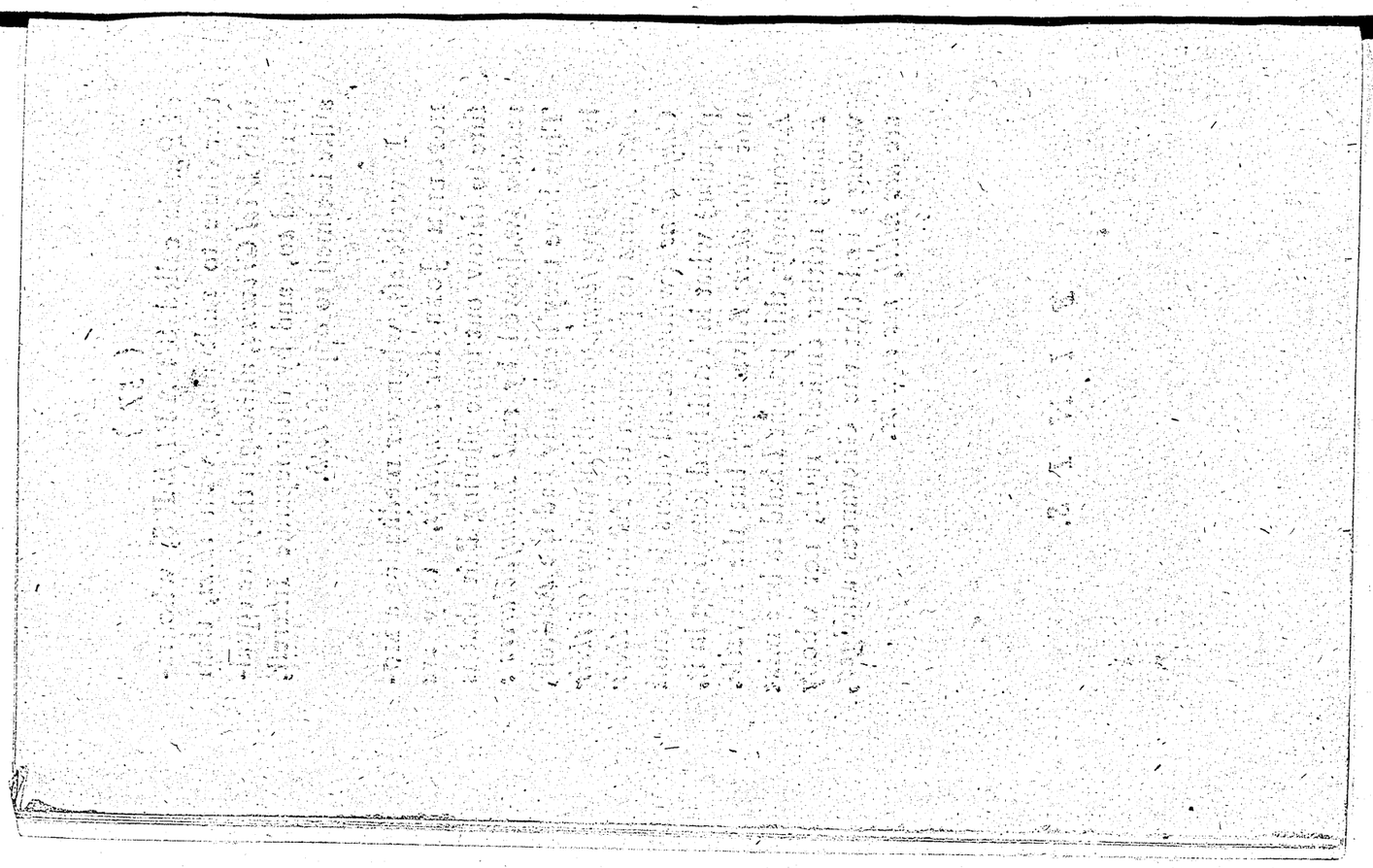
do) that "the Intereſt of Manufacturers and "Growers are *inſeparably connected*"; yet does that only remind me of the following homely but appoſite Proverb, *viz. When the FOX preaches, GEESE beware!* For ſo far are the Intereſts of Growers and Woolbuyers, from being *inſeparably connected throughout*, that, in *one very eſſential* Point, (the *Price*) they *ever were*, and *ever will be, unalterably divided*. A Reaſon why the Legiſlature ſhould fix a wiſe and equitable Barrier between them, in *that Reſpect*, and be a conſtant Guard to defend the ſame.

And now I deſire to obſerve, in the laſt Place, that though I have in my Title Page, and all along made Uſe of the Word *Manufacturer*, in Compliance with the Common Form of Speaking upon this Occaſion; yet don't I eſteem *them*, ſo far Principals in the Caſe, as that the Complaints exhibited, can properly be called *theirs*; much leſs *(for their own Sakes)* one Part of the Deſign couched under them. Conſequently, inſtead of being (which they ſeem) *ſpontaneous Agents*, I rather look upon them as (what they often have been) *practiſed upon* by a Claſs of

of People called STAPLERS, who rather chuſe to rank along with *them*, than with *Wool Growers*, although they are equally related to, and by their ſeparate Intereſt, alike inclined to oppreſs *both*.

Nevertheleſs, whenever meditating a MONOPOLISH JOBB for *themſelves*, they are ſure to throw out ſome alluring Bait that is readily ſwallowed by *real Manufacturers*: Thus have they frequently had the Addreſs, by engaging *them*, to avail themſelves of *their Intereſt*, and to paſs upon the Public for *their Cauſe alone* (whoſe of all others is the moſt popular) what in Truth had ſomething in it, not for *their* Advantage, but the Reverſe. Accordingly, this preſent I hold to be a mixt Affair; neither entirely right, nor wholly wrong; and that the Grievances alledged, are *nec nihil, nec omnino*.

F I N I S.



A REVIEW OF THE MANUFACTURER's COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE WOOL GROWER.

PART II.

OF

False Winding, and *Wool-Jobbing*.

By the AUTHOR of MEMOIRS of WOOL.

LONDON:

Printed for Messr. OSBORNE in *Gray's-Inn*; DODSLEY in *Pall-Mall*; MILLAN at *Charing-Cross*; MILLAR in the *Strand*; SHUCKBURGH at *Temple-Bar*; KNAPTON in *Ludgate-street*; WARD at the *Royal Exchange*; and M. COOPER, in *Pater Noster Row*, 1753. [Price One Shilling.]

A

REVIEW, &c.

PART II.

Of false and deceitful Winding.

THIS COMPLAINT I find distinguished into more Offences than one; of which the least heinous being, I apprehend, the most frequent: *It* calls loudest, in my Opinion, for Redress: I mean, what is properly termed *in-winding* * or *double winding*.

Whether that *other Extreme*, of dividing one Fleece into two or more Parcels, in order to sell the same as distinct Fleeces, is practised with like frequency, does not fall within my Knowledge or Information. But

* *Report, p.* 15.

thus much I am very ſenſible of, that, where done, it is not leſs *irregular*. For, as the Perfection of *ſome Kinds* of Wool conſiſts in the *Largeneſs* of its Growth; of *others*, in the *Smalneſs* of it: So by any Device to make one *more*, or the other *leſs* than *naturally they are*, is not agreeable to the Rules of *fair Dealing*.

If that of *in-winding* is permitted in any Degree, there is no ſaying to what Pitch it might be carried in Time; even till one half at leaſt of a Parcel, and thoſe, the moſt unſightly and worſt Fleeces ſhall be concealed under the Cover of better; whereas it is reaſonable that Buyers ſhould ſee the worſe as well as better; for which End they ſhould be alike expoſed to View.

For Growers, I know it is commonly ſaid, on this Head, that in every Parcel there will be, unavoidably, *ſome broken Fleeces*; which tho' equally good Wool as the whole ones, will not admit of being wrapped up in like Manner; and that therefore what is done in the Way complained of, is only to diſpoſe properly of *thoſe broken Fleeces*. And it is of this Kind of *in-winding*, I preſume, that it

it has been ſaid, "the general Practice makes it no Diſcredit*": The Growers, I conceive, ſuppoſing it no Injuſtice. And tho' it may not perhaps in ſeveral Inſtances, yet if what Manufacturers have alledged of *combing Wool eſpecially*, is true, *viz.* that by making one *Top*, on a Medium, leſs to a *Tod*, 2 s. 6d. *per Tod* is gained in Price; the Temptation is too great to be withſtood univerſally; and Tranſgreſſions, of a *lucrative* Nature, are apt to gain Ground inſenſibly, till they become no longer tolerable.

Suppoſing therefore, whether for Prevention, or Remedy, *all broken Fleeces* to be expoſed ſeparately from the whole ones, either quite looſe or bound up in ſuch Bundles as the Grower chuſes, and Buyer can inſpect. In that Caſe, he will have it in his Power to ſet his own Price upon them; or to inſiſt upon ſelling them along with his Fleeces, at the ſame Price: His own Judgment, and that of the Buyer, who ſees what they are, will determine them reſpectively. And if they are, as is alledged, only Fleeces which have been *broken by Accident*,

* *Report, p.* 8.

the Grower, who is ſenſible of it as the Buyer can be, may inſiſt accordingly. Or if they are not equally good Wool as the whole Fleece, altho' he may if he pleaſes, inſiſt upon the ſame Price for both, yet is it but common Juſtice that Buyers have the Means of ſeeing one as well as the other.

The Conſequence can be no more than this: The beſt Parcels will, as very properly they ſhould, take the beſt Prices; and the reſt in Proportion.—Nay, the beſt wanting no Artifice, and being unrivalled by falſe Appearances, will, for that Reaſon, take ſomewhat a better Price: Not to mention likewiſe, that Buyers being thus freed from all Miſgivings and Suſpicion, would in Time forego thoſe Abatements, which at preſent, it is to be preſumed, they make to themſelves in their own Minds, in a *great Part* of the Wool they buy, on Account of Deceits they find in ſome only; although upon that Suppoſition, they cannot deal with the ſame Satisfaction, as if Things were more at a Certainty.

In ſhort, as the right and fair putting up of Commodities, is a Means of eſtabliſhing that

that Confidence which is in a Manner eſſential to all Commerce, this of Wool, as well as any other: So I apprehend, the Reformation wanted on that Head, will be very readily agreed to, and eaſily effected: The Corruption complained of having obtained but by little and little, is far from being univerſal; tho' by what I can learn, grown more into Uſe, than heretofore; yet without any real evil Intention in thoſe by whom it is uſed in ſome Degree: Perſons not always conſidering the Pravity of what they do in Conſequence of *Cuſtom* or *Example*. But as *theſe* are apt to miſlead, eſpecially when the *Biaſs of Intereſt* inclines the ſame Way: So this Deviation, duly reflected on, will be thought proper, even by Growers themſelves; to be reduced to the Standard of ſtrict Truth and Honeſty. For,

If we conſider what is the *End* and *Uſe* of *winding*, we ſhall ſoon be convinced that it is not, to deceive the Buyer, by hiding from his Eyes, what the Seller judges not for his own Intereſt to have ſeen—But that it is for the Convenience of weighing; of packing, and unpacking; and in Order to exhibit the ſame (in a *Pile* fairly and equal-

ly laid down) more to the View of Chapmen than otherwiſe it can poſſibly appear. And in what Way ſoever it is capable of being *moſt* ſeen, that is but mutually proper on all Hands—But if any Grower ſcruples, for particular Reaſons, to admit this in its due Latitude, He needs only to imagine *Himſelf* in the Place of a Purchaſer; or to conſider *his own Circumſpection*, when about to make a Bargain; and He will ſoon perceive the Fitneſs of whatever may conduce to the Wool-Buyers fulleſt Information.

It is indeed vulgarly conceived, tho', I believe, untruly, that by ſome Law or Ordinance of the *Staple*, a Wool-winder is authorized to diſpoſe of *two* broken Fleeces in every *Score*. And were it ſo, it muſt be acknowledged that much would depend upon *his Integrity:* It might be an Inlet to great Abuſes (eſpecially if his Oath was out of the Caſe) againſt which the Buyer could not eaſily help himſelf. And if Experience ſhews, not only that a Liberty of this Kind, whether legal or not, is actually taken; but that an ill Uſe is ſometimes made of it, by putting the Wool of *poor Ewes* under the Cover

Cover of better Fleeces (which is both a conſiderable Fraud, and repugnant to the Oath of a Woolwinder) OR, by making the *ſame Wool intrinſically*, fewer Tops to a Tod, when *naturally* the Fleeces are *more* (which tho' not contrary to the *Woolwinder's* Oath, hath in it a degree of Fraud) theſe are good Reaſons why *all colour* for ſuch Practices ſhould be expreſſly and abſolutely inhibited; in as much as, to avoid the Vexation, and ſave the puniſhing of Frauds, it is good by all poſſible Means to *prevent* them; and the moſt proper, and effectual are, to cut off, ſo far as may be, every ſubterfuge of equivocal Pretences. Conſidering then that the *outſide* Appearance of every *Top* of Wool ought in all common Senſe, as well as Honeſty, to be a faithful Index of what is contained *within*; and that it is expected from the *Weight* of them, one with another, that IT ſhould further ſpecify in ſome Meaſure *their* Quality: THIS cannot otherwiſe be effected certainly, than by ONE *Rule*, for EACH to conſiſt of what is connected or hangs together in a *ſingle Fleece*,

as

as it was ſhorn; without adding to, or diminiſhing the ſame, otherwiſe than by clipping of *Skirts, Claggs* &c.

By a Reform of this Kind, tho' *ſome Piles* ſhall make a leſs ſightly Appearance, yet conſidering it to be the *ſame* Wool, of the *ſame* Value exactly, as if wound in a different Manner, the Seller cannot juſtly complain, becauſe the Buyer ſees *before Hand*, what he is to have for his Money; rather than be given to expect *better* than he will find. And were it ſo that *every Parcel* had been heretofore alike faulty, as to the Matter of inwinding; why then under this Regulation, *every Perſon's* would rank in its natural, juſt as it did in an artificial State; and conſequently take the ſame comparative Price, as before: The only Difference would be, that Buyers could no longer have this Handle for Diſtruſt, or complaint — But the Truth of the Caſe being, I apprehend far otherwiſe, it cannot affect thoſe for the worſe, who have been uſed to deal *quite fairly*

fairly; and to thoſe who have not, there needs no Apology for reſtraining *them*.

As for *groſſer Frauds* mentioned, by winding in Fleeces of good Wool, "Cotts, "Clag-Locks, Mortwool, *&c.* to the De-"ceit of the Buyer---and by wrapping up "in the Fleeces, Dirt, Dung, Sand, and other "Rubbiſh, to increaſe the Weight." I have already * numbered thoſe who are guilty of ſuch high Miſdemeanours, with *Sheep-ſtealers* in Point of Principle. They are alike *Knaves*, and not much more ſo than they are *Fools*. And indeed, who ever accounted of Thieves, Rogues in any Shape, as wiſe Men, however endued with Craft and Cunning? But *theſe* to my apprehenſion, have no great Share of either. — Whence it is reaſonable to believe ſuch Practices comparatively rare; altho' Inſtances of ſuch undoubtedly theſe have been; and which it muſt be confeſſed, are but ſo many off-ſets from, and Improvements upon what I call *properly inwinding*; for this

* *Part* 1ſt.

being

being admitted, *thoſe*, in courſe, will follow here and there; notwithſtanding that,

With Regard to *Clag-Locks* particularly, it may be ſaid that the far greateſt Part of *Sheep-Owners* do ſell one Portion of their Wool yearly, under that Denomination. And therefore for ſuch a Grower to ſecret a Part only of his *Clag-Locks* in the Manner mentioned, is to act very baſely for no conſiderable End; conſequently of *ſuch*, this *Kind of Fraud* is not very credible. Then for the Matter of inſerting Dung, Sand or other Rubbiſh, *to increaſe the Weight*, I ſhould think a Perſon capable of ſo doing, in Senſe not far removed from an *Ideot*; becauſe to make this Turn to any account in *Weighing*, he muſt either load particular Fleeces, to ſuch a degree, as in all Probability to betray the Fraud, and thereby expoſe himſelf, to Diſgrace equal to that of being *taken in picking a Pocket*; or he muſt practiſe, it almoſt *generally*, ſo as to blemiſh the Appearance of his Wool; whereof the leaſt ill conſequence will be, more Loſs in Price

Price, than Gain in Weight — So that this Crime, like many others, carries almoſt certainly its own Puniſhment along with it — Nevertheleſs, to prevent all Manner of Frauds and Deceits in this Caſe, as well the greater, which are not ſo frequent, as that leſſer, which is more uſed, of *inwinding*, it is indiſputably expedient to enact under ſufficient proper Penalties,

1. " *That no Seller of Wool put into one* " *Fleece, more than grows on, or is clipped off* " *from one Sheep at one clipping*

2. " *That all Sellers of Wool be reſtrained* " *from dividing one Fleece into two or more* " *Parcels, and ſelling the ſame as diſtinct* " *Fleeces*

3. " *That all proper Proviſion be made* " *by Law, for preventing all Sellers of Wool,* " *from winding or wrapping in any Fleece* " *for Sale, any Tails, Shank-Locks, Dung* " *or other Rubbiſh, to the Deceit and Loſs* " *of the Buyer* *."

* *Report* p. 23, 24.

And

And here I underſtand that to be a *proper Proviſion*, which ſhall be no Hinderance to traffic in Wool, and is not likely to confound the innocent with the guilty.

If therefore any Fraud appears on Wool, while in Cuſtody of the Grower, either upon its being expoſed to Sale, or when ſold in the Time of weighing and packing — in ſuch Caſe 'tis fit there ſhould be a proper Penalty upon the *Winder*, or *Winder and Grower both*, according to the Nature of the Offence. But after being once bought from the Grower, weigh'd and pack'd up, it ſeems to me not reaſonable that either one or the other ſhould be further accountable; becauſe there is a *Poſſibility* of Fraud or Miſtake in Buyers and their Servants, as well as in Sellers, and theirs.

I confine my Ideas in this Caſe, to the Uſages of *Lincolnſhire*; where it is cuſtomary to employ profeſſed Woollwinders * and

* *By profeſſed Woolwinders, I do not mean ſuch only as are regularly licenſed; who are perhaps but few in comparison;*

and where for the moſt Part it is abſolutely neceſſary ſo to do; and with whom Growers, many of them do not; none of them ſhould intermiddle, or concern themſelves in the leaſt; leaving that Affair wholly to their Care and Management, as to different Perſons, deſigned by their firſt Inſtitution;

pariſon; but Perſons who profeſs the Buſineſs, as an Occupation; in which, by Practice, they have acquired ſome Dexterity beyond common Farmers, Servants or Labourers; an Art, *which in the bulky Fleeces, eſpecially of* this County, *is requiſite for the more convenient* Piling, Weighing, *and* packing of Wool.

And whereas I have ſeen it propoſed in a printed Paper, ſaid to be the Norwich Scheme, *that Woolwinders, where uſual, ſhould be continued; and thoſe licenſed at the* Quarter-Seſſions; *paying the moderate Sum of three Shillings. I ſhould think the ſame (for Perſons not already licenſed) very proper, though at ſomewhat an higher Rate; as ſuppoſe, with the Addition of a* fifth Stamp; *and in caſe of any Offence; ſuch or any other to be forfeited; and if by* inwinding, *Perſons* ſo offending, *to be forever after diſqualified to act in the ſame Capacity. I venture to think that theſe Precautions, with what I ſhall mention beſides would in* Lincolnſhire *eſpecially, do all that is wanted very effectually. But where regular Woolwinders are not uſed; or ſhall not for the Future be thought neceſſary or proper; there it is fit that Growers ſhould be altogether reſponſible, as for their own Acts.*

nay

may " ſworn to do it truly between the Owner and the Merchant.*"

If

* *See* Chambers's Dictionary *WOOLWINDERS. But as the beſt Inſtitutions are apt in Time to loſe a Part of their Benefit; ſo now, it ſeems, ſeveral practiſe Woolwinding without a Licence; conſequently, without being under the Obligation of this Oath, or any Way reſponſible for their Doings. Hence, what Liberty* ſuch *take*, that *does the* licenſed *alſo in ſome Degree at leaſt, to preſerve* his Buſineſs. *And what one Grower hath done for him in the Courſe of Winding*, that, *another is ready to expect, and perhaps with ſome exceedings. This being the Caſe*, 'tis *no Wonder that we hear Complaints on this Head. The Matter is, what Remedy to apply? And though both Growers and Buyers have appeared, in many Places to diſapprove of* ſtated Woolwinders; *yet I ſhould think that* theſe, *licenſed as before mentioned, under proper Checks, and without Limitation of Number would as a general Rule throughout the Kingdom, anſwer every good Purpoſe wanted. At leaſt, I am not aware of any Reaſon why it would not; conſequently why the* Office *ſhould not again be made regular and General, as the Law* I *conceive at* firſt *intended to be. But this* I *mention only as my own private Opinion (meaſuring the whole Kingdom by* Lincolnſhire*) being willing to abide by what* I *have ſaid before*, viz. *that it is difficult to ſay* what will ſuit every Place; *much more, to know* what will pleaſe every Perſon. *Notwithſtanding which* I *may add, that though the Office of Woolwinders is* antique; *yet being erected in Times, when the Trade as well as Wealth of this Kingdom conſiſted almoſt* wholly *in WOOL, it had* then, *more the Attention of the choiceſt Underſtandings in the Nation, and moſt acute Merchants of that Age, than latterly, or at preſent. Which is a preſumptive Argument in Favour of that Office, and for the Continuance of it, under ſome neceſſary Improvements.*

If then, for Example, any Dirt or Dung is left upon the Fleece, ſufficient to charge the *Winder* with groſs Neglect, *he*, and *he only*, is properly to be puniſhed, for an *Omiſſion of his Duty*. But, in the Caſe of *inwinding*, in any Shape whatſoever, although that is a *Fault committed by the Winder*, yet, being done for the *Advantage of the Seller only*, it is to be underſtood, as done at *his Inſtance*, and by *his Direction*. Wherefore, in that Caſe, I ſhould think *both* to be properly puniſhable; the one, for *exacting*, the other, for *performing an illegal Deed.*

HENCE, he that is called a *Small Jobber*, who buys up little Parcels, to ſell along with his own, whether at Home, or at Market, ſhould be reſponſible for the ſame, as if of his own Growth; who, for his particular Security, may, without much Inconvenience

or Expence, have every Fleece of ſuch Wool opened and examined, and wrapped up again. And it ought to be at his Peril, if he has not this done. Nor, under theſe Terms, will the *next Buyer* have any juſt Cauſe of Complaint. For what though it be of ſomewhat an inferior Quality, as alledged,* to that of the larger Parcel (which does not always follow) yet, being alike expoſed to the Buyer's View, he forms his *Judgment*, from the *Appearance of the Whole* †; and makes his Price accordingly.

That Wool once ſold, weighed, and packed up, ſhould be deemed ſo far *free, from all Fraud in winding*, as to exempt the next, or any future Seller, from the *very ſame* Penalties, that ſhall be thought proper, by any *new Law*, to be inflicted on the *Winder* or *Grower*, for a Delinquency on their Parts, will, perhaps, be thought too great Indulgence on the one Hand, too little Security on the other. But if the Matter is well conſidered, I think, it cannot be otherwiſe,

Report, p. 8.

† *Which in no Parcel, is exactly the ſame throughout.*

without

without incurring greater Inconveniencies. And though in ſuch Caſe, Buyers of Wool in the Fleece, at *ſecond hand*, ſhould not have an abſolute Security of the ſame being *fairly wound*: Yet, (beſides what Remedy I ſhall propoſe) they would have a moral Aſſurance of it. And even that is the moſt to be had, in many Parts of Traffic, which, in the general, is not poſſible to be carried on, without ſome Reliance on the

FAITH OF THE SELLER,

in the Matter of Package, or putting up.

A Fleece of Wool wrapped up, though not tranſparent, is far from being inſcrutable, by the *firſt Buyer*, who, though he cannot be ſuppoſed to take Time and Trouble enough, to look into *every one*, as brought to the Scale; yet, having the Liberty to open *which*, and *what Number of them* he pleaſes, he *may*, and, if he intends to ſell again, *ſhould* make it a conſtant Rule, to look into ſeveral; and being able, very often, to give a ſhrewd Gueſs, from Circumſtances, when all is not right *within*; that Grower muſt be very unwiſe, who ſhall expoſe himſelf to a conſiderable Penalty, for the Sake of a Deceit, by which he has no Chance to gain in Proportion.

 And,

And, certainly, to make this Traffick eaſy and ſecure, as Things will admit, I think it both juſt and *politic*, that the Penalty of *any one wilful Fraud*, on the Part of a Grower, ſhould be ſufficient to make the Odds *greatly* againſt his practiſing it, *with Advantage*, or, indeed, *without conſiderable Loſs*.

The *ſingle* and *fair Winding of Wool, by the Grower*, being thus reaſonably provided for, could nothing further be thought of, and, was it not for the Expedient I have in my Eye, to be mentioned hereafter, I ſhould hold it good, to reſt the Matter there, without laying the profeſſed Dealers, who buy up large Quantities, *in the Fleece*, to ſell again, in like Manner, under *any* Difficulties, or Diſcouragements; ſuch being, I conceive, of *vaſt Uſe*, not only to Growers, but to Manufacturers, eſpecially, the poorer Part of them, who are ever the Majority.

To be convinced of which, we need only conſider how Things would be, if the Law was ſo, that *Breakers and Sorters of Wool* muſt be ſole Purchaſers, from *Growers*, in Order to ſell to Manufacturers. In ſuch Caſe, having it much in their Power, they would

would be apt to *ſet the Dice upon* BOTH. To relieve themſelves, therefore, Manufacturers would deſire to commence (what they are, at preſent, when they pleaſe, and it ſuits them) Buyers of Wool, in the Fleece, from Growers; and the *richeſt* of them would be ſure to find their Account in it. But how would it fare ſtill, with the *poorer Part of Manufacturers?* who purchaſing the Material near Home, in ſmall Quantities, from Hand to Mouth; and having, in a Manner, but *one Shop* to go to, *i. e.* one Kind of Dealers to trade with, would be liable to great Exactions.

This ſhews that a free unlimited Traffic in Wool, is advantageous to Manufacturers; and it is not leſs ſo, to Growers; who being for the moſt Part, alſo, in no very affluent Circumſtances, or not well accommodated with convenient Stowage, for the keeping of it, are, many of them, obliged to lodge the ſame, in their *Barns*, and, at all Events, to diſpoſe thereof, before the Time of Harveſt, in Order to give Place for their Corn, or to pay their Rent, or Reapers, or for ſome other equivalent Reaſon.

 And,

And, notwithſtanding it hath been ſaid, hereupon, that *Staplers*, alone, *viz. Breakers*, and *Sorters*, are a Body of Men, numerous and rich enough to purchaſe, and pay for the whole Wool of the Kingdom, in due Time: Yet, beſides the Advantage to Growers, from a Variety of Chapmen; and to Manufacturers, from all the various Ways, and Times, and Seaſons, in which it can be purchaſed. Experience tells us, that that the whole Number of *Wool Buyers*, of all Denominations put together, have not a Stock of Money, more than ſufficient to ſupply the Occaſions of the Grower. And this their Manner of Payment fully verifies. As I intend, by this I have ſaid, no Reflections, ſo, neither, when that is conſidered, which I am going to ſay, can it be thought any.

The annual Produce of Wool, in this Kingdom, by its Quantity, at what the Manufacturers have called a low Computation*, is to be eſtimated at about *four Millions ſterling*. A great Share of which (and Neceſſity ſo requires) is bought up from, and a great Part of that paid for to, the Growers, within *two Months* after ſheering;

* *Reaſons, &c. p.* 1.

although

although it is, in a great Meaſure, to ſupply the Manufacturers, for *one whole Year*; and, beſides a large Compaſs of Time, takes a vaſt additional Expence, before a Return can be had from its Vent in *Goods*. This requires a prodigious Stock of Money; inſomuch, that it is Matter of Wonder, how *Specie* enough is found, to turn the great Wheel of *Commerce for Wool*, in ſo ſhort a Space; and, at the ſame Time, ſo many others, as are continually carrying on.

And, indeed, was it not for *Wool-buyers of every Appellation*, who find an Account in employing their Subſtance upon the Material, and giving reaſonable Credit for it, to Manufacturers, who, in their Dealings, are under a Neceſſity of doing the like, the Caſe would be very different from what it is; and the Conſequences ſeverely felt by the whole Kingdom; foraſmuch as Money, *ſo paid*, does not ſtagnate, but iſſuing immediately, in Rent, Wages, *&c.* haſtens back thorough innumerable Hands, (with immenſe Uſe and Benefit, *in Circulation*) to thoſe from which it came; where it becomes a Supply for purchaſing the Wool of a future Seaſon.

 Yet

Yet, with all this, if every Grower was alike neceſſitous, there would be Money wanting, to anſwer all their Occaſions. But ſome can give *three*, or *ſix* Months Credit for *one Half* of their Wool; ſome for the *whole* of it. Others, (who are but few comparatively) will keep theirs *ſix*, *ſeven*, or *eight* Months on *Speculation*, expecting an Advance in the Price; which, if it does not happen, yet, provided there is *no Fall*, they not only expect, but obtain a Conſideration for the Time, equal, at leaſt, to Intereſt for Money. The like Conſideration, not only for Time, but for Riſques run, have thoſe, who give Credit for Wool, in the firſt Inſtance. Thus we ſee, that as Wool, while upon the Sheep's Back, is an increaſing Property, towards paying its Share of Rent, for the Land, whence ſuccoured, and Intereſt for the Money employed in ſtocking that Land. So, when ſevered, lodge the ſame where you will, it becomes a *capital Stock*; which is expected to carry ſome Intereſt *(within the Year)* for keeping. And, although Perſons are ſometimes miſtaken and diſappointed, as ſometimes they are, in buying, or keeping *Stock*, in *other Funds*; yet, in this,

this, as well as others, it is what the reſpective *Poſſeſſors*, whether Growers, or Buyers, always intend and expect.

And hence follows, in my Opinion, the great Propriety of *Wool-Jobbers* *, particularly; although I have occaſionally heard a Notion entertained, of their being not only unneceſſary to the Trade, but injurious to it; the Reverſe whereof appears to me; for which, after giving my further Reaſons, I ſhall ſubmit them to public Cenſure.

And, indeed, as *monopoliſh Principles* were bred up with Trade in general, from its Infancy; ſo the *childiſh Habit* is what OUR *Woollen Dealers* particularly, have never yet been perfectly weaned from: As a *Sign*, and *Conſequence* of which, the Buſineſs of *Wool Jobbing* is a Matter of Diſpute in this Kingdom, old as the Manufacture itſelf, at different Times, variouſly determined, juſt as

---

* *So called, in Contradiſtinction (it ſeems) to* Staplers, *i. e.* Breakers *and* Sorters of Wool; *but who, nevertheleſs, deſerve the Name of* Wool-merchant, *equally, as we ſay* Hop-merchants; *or &c.*

Parties

Parties intereſted, have happened to prevail. *Whether there be any Good at all from it*, was, in the Reign of King *James* the firſt, made *one* Article of a very ſolemn Inquiry; whereof we neither know the Reſult, nor the Reaſons, *then* urged, on one Side, or the other. And, becauſe *this Part of Traffic* ſeems to be, if not the *Thing* mainly *ſtruck at*, in the preſent Emotion; yet, a collateral Point, which *ſome*, at leaſt, of the *Staplers*, i. e. *Breakers and Sorters of Wool*, as well as *Manufacturers*, appear to have it much at Heart to demoliſh: therefore, I am the more free to offer my Sentiments, concerning the ſame.

Of *Wool Jobbers* then (under which Name we muſt comprehend *all thoſe* who buy and ſell Wool in the Fleece) I ſuppoſe, it is pretended, that THEY abſorb a Profit, which would fall more properly between the *Producers* and *Workers* of the Material. But in the whole Circumference of Trade, to what is Profit due? To a Perſon's Time, Labour, and Money, employed in any *one Part*: And *the Woollen Trade*, like many other *Buſineſſes*, is beſt to be carried on, *in Parts* (in the general, cannot be otherwiſe) where every

every one takes to himſelf juſt ſuch a Share, or Province, as ſuits his Talents and Circumſtances. And Wool Growers, and Manufacturers, living moſtly remote from each other, and having, each of them, ſufficient Employment at their own Homes, they can very well diſpenſe with, cannot, upon the whole, do without the Agency of *middle Dealers*, of whom, therefore, the more there ſhall be at any Time, it will be only ſo much better, in my Opinion.

If, indeed, this Commodity was produced in like gradual Manner as conſumed, then *Jobbers* of it might ſtand in the invidious Light (with *ſome other Jobbers*) of *Foreſtallers*, and *Regraters*. But the *great Harveſt of Wool* is not longer in reaping, than about three Weeks, in *any one Part* of the Kingdom; after which, it is either an Incumbrance to the Grower, or what *he* wants to convert into Money; while the Occaſions of Manufacturers are nearly the ſame throughout the Year; although, commonly ſpeaking, they have not wherewithal to lay in a Stock for ſo long a Time, or any Thing like it.

THIS proves *Wool Jobbers* to be neceſſary, if they muſt be ſo called, who have Caſh to lay out in the Material, and proper Warehouſes, wherein to beſtow it; from which, as *uſeful Reſervoirs*, it can be diſpenſed, at *all Seaſons*, when wanted, with greater Eaſe, and more Convenience, than from the Growers Habitation, it is poſſible to be done, for the moſt Part.—A manifeſt Convenience, this, both to Growers, and the *Bulk* of Manufacturers!

If ſome ſhall ſay, this is moſt properly the Province of thoſe called *Staplers*, for the Reaſon of their being *Breakers* and *Sorters*; I aſk, why not of *Jobbers too*, who, though not *Breakers*, are, in many Inſtances, convenient *Sorters* likewiſe? Is not *their* Money equally current and uſeful? Money, we know, is neceſſary to *all Trade*; and a greater Proportion of it employed in any particular Branch, is the Means of carrying it on to greater Perfection and Advantage. For Example, if the Number of *Wool Buyers* is increaſed, by Means of *Jobbers*, Growers have a quicker Sale at leaſt, if not a better Price. On the other Hand, as the more there

there ſhall be of *Wool Jobbers*, ſo the more their will be of *Wool Sellers* to the *Bulk* of Manufacturers; by which Means it will come rather cheaper than dearer to *them* alſo. And altho' this may be thought a *Paradox*; yet I hold it for a certain Truth, according to an unerring *Rule* of Mr. *Locke*'s, which makes Cheapneſs of all Commodities to conſiſt in the *increaſed* Number of Sellers at the *ſame Market*. For, notwithſtanding it be true (what *Lord Bacon* ſays) "that when a "Man buys, to ſell over again, that com-"monly grindeth double, both upon the "Seller and the Buyer": Yet as in this Article of WOOL, there muſt neceſſarily be *ſome Buyers to ſell over again*: So the more there ſhall be of *ſuch* at any Time, the leſs will *they* have it in their Power to grind either the *firſt Seller*, or the *laſt Buyer*; in ſhort, at the Expence of BOTH, to make a haſty Fortune, by *exorbitant Profit*. For, the more Dealers, the leſs practicable are *Combinations*: The more Hands a Commodity falls into, the leſs liable is it to *Monopoly*: And the more Money is employed, and Brokers concerned in Tranſactions of the ſame Kind, the lower *muſt* be the Intereſt of that Money, and the leſſer the Conſideration

ſideration for that particular Labour: And *low Intereſt*, with *cheap Labour*, are confeſſedly the prime Ingredients of a *thriving Commerce*. This is the whole Myſtery of what I have here advanced; which without Explanation, had to ſome Perſons poſſibly ſeemed a Contradiction. And altho' what I have now ſaid in Behalf of *Wool-Jobbers*, is the very Reaſon why Individuals, in *every Part* of Buſineſs, wiſh to exclude, ſo far as poſſible, all others from crowding into the ſame: Yet, that a free Admiſſion to all Parts (of the *commercial Kind eſpecially*) is an undoubted public Benefit; will not, I think, bear a Diſpute at this Day. To which I may add, that this Commodity, *Wool in the Fleece*, is not, like ſome others, liable to be adulterated or made worſe, for paſſing thorough ſeveral Hands.----So then, IF there is any Uſe in the Circulation of Money: TO Merchants and Wholeſale Dealers for Example: IN retailing Traders having, beſides a ſufficient Vent, their Bills regularly paid: By Land Owners and Labourers receiving duly their Rents, and Wages: FROM Tenants, with all poſſible Chances to command Money for their Produce at any Time after ſheering, which their Occaſions ſhall require,

require, at a Price equal to only a moderate Diſcount for prompt Payment: STORE SHEEP being in Conſequence, a good Commodity in all Parts of the Kingdom: THE BREED thereby upheld and increaſed: A CONSTANT AMPLE SUPPLY of the uſeful Material, ſo far as may be, provided for.——

AND IF, *on the other Hand*, it be deſirable, that the Manufacturer ſhould have HIS Option alſo, not only of buying the ſame either *in the Fleece*, or *ſorted*, as *He* chuſes; but upon the Spot, from the Grower, or at ſome Market, or other Place where repoſited; in what Quantities, and at what Times ſhall ſuit *him* beſt; with ready Money, or on Credit, as Parties can agree: ALL THESE TOGETHER, prove undeniably the Expedience of a FREE UNLIMITED TRAFFIC IN WOOL *within the Kingdom*.

Jobbers then (commonly ſo called) having, as we muſt needs believe (like any other Buyers) narrowly inſpected all Wool purchaſed by themſelves in the Fleece, as to the Matter of *Winding*; it is not probable that *they* will be guilty of any Frauds, either

either *to increaſe the Weight*, or by *inwinding*; for this plain Reaſon; becauſe ſuch *muſt* uphold their Credit by *Fair Dealing*; the Cuſtom they ſhall have from Manufacturers, will abſolutely depend thereon; and therefore it is not neceſſary nor convenient, for *them* to be ſubject in the *very ſame Manner*, as Growers, and *ſmall Jobbers* about *winding*; leſt that ſhould make ſome Part of *their uſeful Dealings* impracticable; for Inſtance, that of ſending away *Fleece-wool*, as they very often do, immediately from the Grower, either to a *Maker*, or a *Market* where it is wanted. Beſides,

The Caſe of *Jobbers*, with Regard to Frauds, is widely different from that of Growers. The latter are very numerous, a *Multitude*, compared with Buyers of all Denominations; and living moſtly at a conſiderable Diſtance from, have but very little Intercourſe with, any of them not above once a Year; and not every Year with the ſame Perſons. If then, *for theſe Reaſons*, ſome of them (and I hope it can be ſaid of but few comparatively) are leſs awed than, as honeſt Men, they *ought* to be by Principle, or as wiſe ones, they *ſhould* be

be by the Conſideration of another Meeting: On the other Hand, *Wool-Jobbers*, compared with the Number of Manufacturers, are but very few, *a mere Handful*; who furniſhing their Cuſtomers from Time to Time, and having frequently their Orders, are often converſant with them by Word or Writing; conſequently far more upon their good Behaviour as to any Frauds, of which otherwiſe they might be thought equally capable, as Growers: For natural Honeſty, or Diſhoneſty, belongs not to *one* more than the *other*. But as under the Regulations here propoſed, *Jobbers* can lay no Blame upon Growers, without convicting *themſelves* of undue Neglect, ſufficient to diſqualify them, in the Opinion of their Cuſtomers, for *dealing at all* ſo, for *them* to commit any Fraud in a *ſecond Inſtance*, from which the *Law* ſhall be known to have ſecured 'em in the *firſt*, is an *improbable* Degree of Folly, as well as Knavery.

Upon the whole then, *all falſe and deceitful Winding by Growers*, being effectually prevented; and the *firſt Buyer* conſequently indemnified; every after Purchaſer of Wool in the Fleece, will be upon an

 equal

equal Foot of Security with him who purchaſes Wool from the *Felmonger*, or the *Sorter*; and in general with *all other* Purchaſers of groſs Commodities in large Quantities; who not being able to ſee exactly what they do buy, *muſt* depend, in ſome Meaſure, upon the Honeſty of Perſons with whom they traffic; even as thoſe Perſons muſt conſtantly make their preſent Dealings t' e Ground of what future Advantages they expect *by Trade*;——Thus, there being no Rule more generally certain, than that *Honeſty is the beſt Policy*: So *that Policy* in *Wool-Jobbers*, might very well be thought, to thoſe who trade with them, if not an *infallible*, yet morally a *good* Security, and the beſt that in Reaſon need be required. Notwithſtanding which, I am told, nay I know it will be inſiſted upon, that the immediate Seller of Wool in the Fleece, altho' not the Grower of it, ſhall be liable for all Faults in the Winding. And altho' I have given ſuch Reaſons, as methinks might ſatisfy, why (the Courſe of Trade conſidered) this is not neceſſary; and how inconvenient and improper the ſame would be: Yet, if poſſible, to put beyond Exception that uſeful Buſineſs, called by the invidious

invidious Name of *Jobbing*, viz. *all Traffic in Fleece Wool*: I propoſe (as a Theoriſt only, for I preſume no farther) that every Seller, not being the Grower of it, ſhall be ſubject to the Penalty of 2 *s.* 6 *d.* for each Fleece unfairly wound, that is diſcovered, at, or before the Time of, Sale, or in the Weighing and Packing: And further (having not yet named the particular Penalty on them) that Growers of all or any Part, be liable to the ſtill higher Penalty of 10 *s.* for every Fleece found, as before, to be falſely wound. To this, ſeeing but one Objection; that I ſhall endeavour to anſwer. It will be ſaid, perhaps, 10 *s.* per Fleece upon the Grower, is too high; for upon the Jobber 2 *s* 6 *d.* cannot be thought too low; it being the very Sum inſiſted upon by *Manufacturers themſelves*, for *every Fraud*. And *theſe*, perhaps, will be ready, with a falſe Compaſſion, to cry out againſt the other, as exorbitant; whom therefore I wiſh to reſerve their Pity, for ſome other Occaſion that may better deſerve it. For, Friend as I am to Growers, I am, and for that Reaſon too among others, an utter Enemy to Fraud; and do think it no Matter, how great the Penalty ſhall

be upon any of them, in caſe they are detected of ſuch, by *inwinding*; the ſame being a poſitive deliberate wilful Tranſgreſſion, with open Eyes; for which there can no Plea be made, of Neglect, Ignorance, Inadvertency, or Accident: So that no one *can* incur the Penalty propoſed in this Caſe, but thro' his own Fault, or that of his Woolwinder, whoſe Puniſhment I ſuppoſe ſufficient to deter him alſo. Nor have I mentioned one ſo much higher upon the Grower than upon the next Seller, as if I thought *that leſſer* an inſufficient Check to all Frauds; but thro' a Love to the Growers Intereſt in general, and, *for their Sakes*, to preſerve the *Wool Jobbers*; that, in Conſequence of the Encouragement given 'em, by the Difference *they* may trade with equal Eaſe and Freedom, as any Manufacturers, or Staplers whatſoever; upon the very ſtrong and well grounded Preſumption, that *no Grower* will think of attempting any conſiderable Frauds in winding, after He knows they will make him liable to ſuch high Penalties; much leſs will He practiſe inconſiderable ones.

As therefore, if the Manufacturers ſhall diſlike the Terms, it muſt be from a Deſire to

to extirpate *Jobbing*, that is, the Trade of buying and ſelling Wool in the Fleece; ſo, in that Caſe, they will do well, I mean, *ingenuouſly*, to declare it openly; to pull off the *Maſk* of other Pretences, and put forth *their proper Colours*; to the End, that *Gentlemen*, and *Farmers*, may be generally ſenſible what it is they are driving at; namely, to make that Monopoly ſtronger, which the Law (with Submiſſion I think) hath already made rather too ſtrong. I will not ſay, it would be ſo much to their Benefit, as the Growers Loſs; for, tho' one Conſequence thereof would be, *cheaper Wool* (a favourite Point) yet another would certainly follow, not ſo well to be approved, *viz.* Runnage of it with more Frequency; and in larger Quantities. I hope therefore, the wiſer and more moderate Part of Manufacturers, if they do think it in their Power, will not puſh Things to ſuch an Extremity; OR, if otherwiſe, I ſtill hope there will be found in P———t, a ſufficient Number of *Land Owners*, conſiderate enough for *their Tenants* (who are in

 Truth,

Truth, in this Caſe, the *Price of Wool*, their *ſecond Selves)* to ſtop the Career of all ſuch undue Deſires.

There is yet one other Point behind, which tho' very Abſurd to my thinking, the Manufacturers I am told, inſiſt upon; namely, "That ſome ſtated Time after "Delivery of Wool, be allowed, for de-"tecting and proſecuting Frauds."

THIS, I apprehend, is againſt the *Fundamentals* of *Law*, and *Equity*; it being ſo, for any Perſon to be condemned *unheard*; and the very Reaſon of which *Hearing* is, in Order to his Defence and Acquittal, if found innocent. And altho' Innocence, in moſt Caſes, is ſufficient to plead its own Cauſe; yet the Circumſtances here, are ſo far peculiar, that, after Delivery of Wool in the Fleece, a Fraud might be falſely objected, to a Perſon's ſuffering wrongfully, without Remedy. I mean, there is a phyſical Poſſibility of it; inaſmuch as a Perſon ſo accuſed, is naturally

rally void of the common Means, in other Caſes, of defending and purging himſelf, as I ſhall endeavour to explain. And tho', in Order to this, not knowing the Law, I ſhall, perhaps uſe improper Terms; yet, Gentlemen of *that Robe* will know what I aim to ſay; and others will go near to comprehend clearly enough my Meaning.

It is well known, that there are ſome Crimes of ſuch a Nature, that a Perſon being *charged Home* therewith, however falſly, has no other Plea for the ſaving of himſelf, except that of an *Alibi*. And this will frequently beſtead Perſons truly innocent, to their Deliverance. But in this of falſe Winding, at ſome Diſtance of Time after Delivery, the *Alibi* is out of the Queſtion; and the *Aliter* (contrary to what is the Caſe in many moſt other Tranſactions) impoſſible to be proved.

A Farmer, for Example, ſells his Wool at Home; it is weighed and packed up (that is the Delivery) then conveyed by

Land-Carriage, to the neareſt Place of Navigation; there depoſited in a Lighterman's Warehouſe; thence removed into a Lighter; after a Paſſage not untedious, is transferred to other Hands for Land-Carriage again; laſtly, into the Buyer's Warehouſe, where he proceeds by Servant, to open and examine the Fleeces. A Fraud is found, or pretended, how to be proved? By a Train of Evidences, difficult, but neceſſary to be muſtered, and not extremely certain to be depended upon. But if all theſe together, are found to make out pretty well the Identity of the groſs Parcel in the Main; what Means hath the Accuſed, however, wrongfully and maliciouſly, of vindicating himſelf? For he ſold Wool, we will ſuppoſe, to the Party proſecuting; that would admit of Proof, either Way. But (beſides that the Wool of different Growers frequently goes to the filling of one and the ſame) if the Pack-Sheet, or Sheets, have been miſtaken, or the Wool totally, or any particular Fleeces changed; or ſome of them opened; Cotts, Clag-Locks, or *&c.* inſerted;

ſerted; in ſuch Caſe, a Proof would lye upon the Seller, generally ſpeaking, impoſſible to be made; which nevertheleſs, if he cannot make, he muſt ſuffer the Penalty; and, which is far worſe, the *Diſgrace*. This, its true, might not happen to one, in a large Number. But admitting it is poſſible to happen at all; *that* I conceive to be a ſufficient Objection, unleſs there was a more apparent Neceſſity, for laying a Seller of Wool under ſuch Diſadvantages, than I am pretty confident, can be made out.

This *poſſible* Fraud in Wool-Buyers, will, I am ſenſible, be ſaid to favour very much of the *improbable*. And though I have as good an Opinion of the *Bulk* of them, whether Manufacturers, or Sorters, as I have of any other Claſs of Traders; or, as they themſelves have of each other; yet, ſince their repreſenting the far greater Part of Wool-Growers in ſome Degree, at leaſt diſhoneſt; it would be an unreaſonable Arrogance, to aſſert of themſelves, that *They* are

are univerſally without *Guile*. Let me, for Inſtance, go no farther than to the Article of *weighing* the Wool they buy; is any of them ſanguine enough to ſay, that THEY are ALL faultleſs in that Reſpect? I am very certain, that Graſiers and Farmers think otherwiſe. And is not a Fraud in this Kind, an *Abomination*, equal to almoſt any other? May not he who is guilty of *this*, be thought capable of *that* I have been mentioning?

It will perhaps be ſaid, that for the ſmall Penalty inſiſted upon, to be recovered in the Manner propoſed (before a Magiſtrate where the Offence is committed, or the Wool ſold) there is no Temptation to accuſe falſly. But, however this Argument may hold in Regard to the Grower, who hath ſold and delivered his Wool *at Home*, to a diſtant Manufacturer; yet, is there a vaſt Variety of Circumſtances, and Tempers, and Principles, both in Buyers and Sellers of Wool; and no one can ſay how often, or how much, innocent ſimple Country Wool Growers,

Growers, as many of them are, might be intimidated and *gulled* out of their Money, by mere Threats and Pretences only, without any real Cauſe or Foundation. And in Regard to what ſhould be ſold at *Markets*, the Conſequences might be ſtill worſe; particularly in the Caſe of *Jobbers*; againſt whom, Envy, Emulation, Strife, Anger, *&c.* might operate very powerfully; and at the ſame Time, very unjuſtly.

But this is not all; I have ſaid, that the Traffic of Wool in the Fleece, hath a *peculiar* Circumſtance attending it; and ſo it hath, different from moſt, or perhaps, all other Traffic whatſoever. Is a Perſon taxed, after Sale and Delivery, with the Fraud of ſelling, knowingly, an unſound or diſtempered Horſe, or other Cattle, for ſound and healthy; or for Delivering foul and damaged Grain, or in ſhort Meaſure, for clean and good, and full Meaſure? In ſuch Caſes, provided the Charges is *not true*, the Defendant will be able to prove his Innocence, by Servants, or Neighbours, one

one or both, according as the Matter ſhall be. But how can a Perſon be able to prove, after Delivery, that his Wool *was not* unfairly wound? If the Shopkeeper objects to the Merchant, or Wholeſale Dealer, that his *Goods delivered* are not the ſame in *Kind*, or *Quantity*, with his *Bill of Parcels*; what hath the Latter to do in that Caſe? Why, to prove by his Servants (who are legal Evidence for the Maſter) that *Goods* were packed up and delivered, conformably to the *Bill of Parcels*. And this being a poſitive Teſtimony, the Law I conceive, will not admit a Negative; but conclude either an intended Fraud in the Shopkeeper, or that the Goods in Queſtion, were changed or damaged, in Carriage, after Delivery. And indeed, upon other Terms, Commerce (to my Apprehenſion) could not be maintained; Shopkeepers *might* be perpetually objecting falſly; or Carriers and Watermen playing Tricks, without Meaſure. But the Vender proving Delivery, according to his *Bill of Parcels*; that is ſufficient for his Vindication.

Now,

Now what Defence, or Remedy, like this, hath a Seller of Wool in Fleeces, tho' the Grower of it? Shall the *Winders* Evidence be to him the ſame, with that of the *Book-keeper*, &c. for the Merchant, or wholeſale Dealer? If it ſhall, I agree with the Manufacturers in their Demands of Time, *after Delivery*, for detecting and proſecuting Frauds in winding. In ſuch Caſe then, the *Winder* muſt not be a *Party* in the very manner I have ſuppoſed; but a mere Servant. And the Grower, under a Charge of Fraud, muſt be at Liberty to produce him for an Evidence; who teſtifying that He wound the Wool, and did it fairly, as an indifferent, diſintereſted Perſon, the Maſter is in Courſe acquitted. And what muſt the *Jobber* do, for *his* Security? He alſo muſt by the like open all the Fleeces He ſells at ſecond Hand; *rewind* and pack the ſame; making proper Entries of ſo doing; and ſuch Servants muſt be Evidences occaſionally for him alſo; *altho'* this, in *his* complicated Dealings, will be more tedious and troubleſome; alſo I think that the Manufacturers and ſorting Staplers would not be *thus* contented. *They* will have ſtill

their

their Scruples and Objections, on Account of the Trade in Fleece Wool not being put altogether upon a Foot of Mathematical Certainty; which is a Kind of Impoſſibility.

And after all, why ſuch *extreme Caution*, as if Wool was worth its Weight in Silver at leaſt? On Account, I ſuppoſe, of the Injuries which happen to Manufacturers, thro' Frauds in winding; to which the Growers (as hath been repreſented) are extremely and almoſt generally prone; and to ſave that Time and Trouble which Buyers otherwiſe muſt neceſſarily take in doing *this Buſineſs* with the Growers.

Now all Propenſity to Frauds is to be meaſured by the ſeveral Inducements, of *Profit*, and *Opportunity* with the *Chance of Concealment*. And altho' Frauds in winding undoubtedly there have been; and altho' the Amount of ſuch, to a Manufacturer in his whole Dealings, may ſometimes have been conſiderable: Yet, I think, the Chance of Advantage to *any ſingle Grower*, from Frauds of this Kind, cannot be ſuch, but that,

that, whatever his paſt Conduct hath been thro' Defects of Law on one Hand, and a Remiſſneſs of Traders, on the other) He will be very eaſily reſtrained for the future. And if there was nothing to be ſaid againſt *After Reckonings* for *Goods ſold and delivered*: Yet beſides that Conveniency ariſing from Diſpatch, is the principal Conſideration, on which a Penalty, in Caſe of *falſe Winding*, is inflicted; the Account of *Time* and *Trouble*, being fairly ſtated, *both Ways*, I think it far better, that ſo much of *either*, as is quite neceſſary, ſhould be taken upon the Spot of Delivery, in the Inſtant of bargaining, weighing and packing. This muſt be the beſt Expedient, and the only one; ſince Parties, on both Sides, are unwilling to truſt each other; and ſince the worſt Conſequence of it can be, only leſs Buſineſs diſpatched in one and the ſame Day; and not much leſs; as I ſhall go near to ſhew now in the laſt Place.

For, ſuppoſing a Purchaſer of any Denomination, ſhould make it a Rule with himſelf, in the weighing of Wool as he buys

buys it, of every 100 *Tops*, to open ten. This will be no ſuch Hindrance, as to occaſion any great Loſs of Time. In this Method, I am apt to believe, a Perſon might diſpatch as much Buſineſs in *three* Days, as before, He was wont to do in *two*; or however, *that*, in a *Fortnight*, which was uſed to coſt him a *Week*. And, in ſo doing, if the Seller hath unfairly wound, but after the Rate of *one* Fleece in *ten*, it will be more than an equal Chance, that He is detected. I ſay, *more than equal*; becauſe every Fraud in winding will carry with it ſome Symptoms, to create a Suſpicion. And the Buyer (whom we muſt ſuppoſe to have both *Skill* and *Obſervation*) pitching upon thoſe particular *Tops* for opening, which he obſerves to be *moſt ſuſpicious*, He cannot fail of diſcovering the unfair winding in ſome one Inſtance, altho' it ſhould be ſo little, as here ſuppoſed---But if it is more, the Odds will be abundantly greater on the Side of the Buyer. And, AS the detecting of a Perſon in *one Inſtance* would draw on a more ſtrict and general Inquiſition; when beſides the Diſgrace incurred by the Seller, He would make a very bad Hand of his Wool:

Wool: So it is not the Way of Mankind to perſevere in dangerous Practices, upon ſlender Motives comparatively, at the beſt. I ſhall only add, that if the detecting of Frauds is confined to the Time of Bargaining, Weighing and Packing, there cannot eaſily be any ſuch Thing as a *falſe Charge*; any *denying of a true one*. But, whenever a Diſpute ſhall ariſe; in ſuch Caſe, *Res ipſa loquetur*; the neceſſary Witneſſes will be few; the proſecuting, and defending, in a narrow Compaſs; the Magiſtrate under no Difficulty, how to determine.

F I N I S.

A REVIEW OF THE MANUFACTURER's COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE WOOL GROWER.

PART III. and Last.

CONCERNING

The advanced Price of WOOL, for several Years lately past; and the *Expediency* of searching into the *Cause* of it, all Circumstances considered:

Also, How, Best, and most Effectually, to prevent its being exported *Raw?*

With what follows from an UNBOUNDED artificial Cheapness of that *English* Commodity, in the first Instance.

By the AUTHOR of MEMOIRS of WOOL.

LONDON:

Printed for Mess. OSBORNE in *Gray's-Inn*; DODSLEY in *Pall-Mall*; MILLAN at *Charing-Cross*; MILLAR in the *Strand*; SHUCKBURGH at *Temple-Bar*; KNAPTON in *Ludgate-street*; WARD at the *Royal Exchange*; and M. COOPER, in *Pater Noster Row*, 1753. [Price One Shilling.]

(2)

ERRATA.

Page 6. Line 4. for *Fleece*, read *Fleeces.* P. 11. Line 20. for *these*, read *there.* P. 15. L. 6. for *different*, read *indifferent.* Line 20. for *fifth*, read *five Shillings.* P. 29. Line 2. for *their*, read *there.* P. 45. Line 22. for *Charges*, read *Charge*; besides various Mispointings, thro' the Author's Distance from the Press.

A REVIEW, &c.

PART III.

Of the comparative Dearneſs, *through a ſuppoſed* Want *of* WOOL *in this Kingdom, from the Year* 1743 *to* 1751 *inclusive; being* Nine *Years.*

THIS CIRCUMSTANCE the Manufacturers have barely mentioned (as if an *ordinary Occurrence*) for the ſingle Reaſon of its having afforded (as they ſuppoſe) ſome Temptation to the Irregularities by them complained of, in *marking the Sheep*, and *winding the Fleeces*! Whereas it is what I account *very extraordinary*; demanding a *particular* Notice, in *another* View; as well in Regard to THEM, as for the Sake of *Truth*; wherein only is *public Utility*.

And true it is, that without an Appearance of *Scarcity*, or (which comes to the ſame) an Apprehenſion of *Want*, there cannot be *Dearneſs* of any Commodity whatſoever. But Wool had been comparatively dear. A Perſon in 1751 (it being that Year, at the deareſt) was obliged to give 17 *s.* *per* Tod for,* the like whereof, he had bought, ten Years before, at 10 *s.* And to do him Juſtice who gave this Teſtimony, he frankly imputed that to the then large Demands for Woolen Manufacture; inſomuch that it was not eaſy (he ſaid) to procure *Wool enough for their Occaſions*; and the whole of his Complaint was, *exceſſive Branding, with fraudulent Winding*.

Now, altho' I muſt ſay, if *a large Demand for Manufacture* was the *ſole Cauſe* of the *Material* being ſcarce, as alledged; in that Caſe, the Price of it was rather moderate, than dear, compared with ſome of the dearer Seaſons for Wool ſince the *Revolution*, or the common uſual Price of it before the *Reſtoration*: Yet muſt I alſo obſerve,

* *Report*, p. 7.

ſerve, it is the firſt Time that *this Circumſtance alone* has been accounted of as *a ſufficient Cauſe* for Wool being *ſcarce* in *England*; although it may be mentioned, when *England* had both an *uncommon Vent* for Woolen Goods, and *far leſs* Wool grown than at preſent, and for ten Years paſt; yet without any Advance in the Price of it; but the Reverſe: For Inſtance, the Time of *Marſeilles* in *France*, being viſited with the Plague; and

The *Public Acts* of this Kingdom will tell us, as likewiſe our own Memories may, that another Incident, *an exceeding bad one*, hath been *thought* to attend *this Engliſh Material*; and to influence the Price; which (it may be proved) at *no Time* ſince the *Reſtoration*, till within ſeven or eight Years paſt; hath been wholly overlooked as if quite out of the Caſe, in all the ſeveral Deliberations that have been had in Reference to WOOL: Namely, *Runnage*; as certainly complained of ſo upwards of EIGHTY YEARS ſucceſſively, and almoſt without Interruption; and never ONCE diſputed, in Print, or, ſo far as

 public

public Accounts inform us, in *either Houſe of Parliament*. Nor does it appear to me, why *this* ſhould be thought a Thing more incredible, for *ſeven* or *eight* Years laſt paſt, than at ſome other Periods ſince the *Revolution*; ſeeing that we have not heard of any Means uſed *lately* for preventing it, beyond what had been *before* applied, and repeated *over and over again*, confeſſedly *(as all along ſuppoſed)* without attaining the deſired End.

Now, though a falſe Appearance of Scarcity; or an Apprehenſion of Want, ill founded, may raiſe the Price of any Commodity, for a Seaſon: Yet *every Advance ſo occaſioned*, will be of ſhort Continuance. But *this* having continued, and moreover increaſed, from 1743 to 1751 incluſive, it does in a Manner demonſtrate (what the Manufacturers have alledged) a *real Want or Scarcity*; however, *that* may have been occaſioned. And as it has not proceeded from any Deficiency in the Growth (for there *never* was the *like* Quantity in the ſame Space of Time, or any Thing *near* it; produced *before*, in *England*) ſo it *muſt* have been

been the Conſequence of either an enlarged Woolen Manufacture Trade, *in Proportion*, OR of a clandeſtine Exportation of Wool; or BOTH *in ſome Degree*. If the former, 'tis nothing ſtrange that the Grower perceived the Fruits of it in the Price of his Material; but very hard that any of them ſhould have been ſo abandoned, to take Advantage thence, to impoſe upon their Chapmen *Refuſe* and *Rubbiſh* for *pure Fleece Wool*. BUT, if notwithſtanding its increaſed Growth, the ſame hath been found actually ſcarce, in Conſequence of a clandeſtine Exportation, as *one Cauſe*; and if at the Bottom, *ſome* Manufacturers have been diſatisfied with the *Price*, eſteeming *that* any Part of their Grievance; it is with *more Reaſon* than otherwiſe could be well granted them: And *they* in Courſe, though not complaining altogether in the wrong Place; yet have been looking for Redreſs, where it *cannot* be had with ſufficient Effect, as to Matter of Scarcity. For, if *Waſte* by the *Increaſe* of Pitch or Tar-Marks, is *alone* of any Conſideration; much more, *Want* ariſing from *Runnage*, ſhould *that Circumſtance* be found to have contributed any

Thing towards this Scarcity. And as *Runnage*, we know, is a Point on which Complaints, at *all other Times*, have been uſed to turn chiefly; ſo here (ſeemingly) is a Problem wanting to be ſolved —— But how?

I ſhould think, from *Cuſtom-Houſe Accounts of our Woolen Exports*; which if not increaſed, of late Years, in Proportion to the *very great* Increaſe of WOOL in *England*, muſt be looked upon as an Indication of its having been clandeſtinely exported, in *ſome Proportion* to the advanced Price of it.

The *Parliament* hath, at Times, called for *ſuch Accounts*; and formed Reſolutions from them. But of late, *theſe* particularly are diſcredited; and though with more Reaſon, than formerly I did apprehend; yet ſtill, I think, beyond what is quite reaſonable. For ſurely, although not ſufficiently exact, yet are they the *beſt comparative Rule* we have to judge by; and do, in my Opinion, very well deſerve to be made, in ſome Shape, ſo far better, as to become a Standard of Certainty, for meaſuring

meaſuring occaſionally, the Increaſe, or Decreaſe of *this Trade*. For Occaſion † there hath often been (and the like may be again, if not at preſent; as methinks there is) to give the People requiſite Satisfaction on this *important Head*; rather than ſubject them to artful Practices of deſigning Perſons, or the *Reveries of their own Imaginations*,

OUR LAWS prohibit ſtrictly *the Exportation of Wool*. And ſuppoſing THEM to be duly obſerved, the Proportion there ſhall be, for any ſufficient Period of Time, between the Quantity *produced*, and the Quantity *exported in Manufacture*, is what MUST govern *the Price* of it (unleſs our *Home Conſumption*, for any particular Reaſons, ſhould vary conſiderably) and the *Meaſure* of that Proportion *muſt* be the *Increaſe or Decreaſe* of *that Produce* yearly, compared with the *yearly Increaſe or Decreaſe* of *our Woolen Exports*.——NOW ſo it happens, that the Quantity of Wool *produced* in *England*, from the Year 1743 (when it *firſt* advanced in Price, *to the Grower*)

† *See the* Draper *of* London, 1741, *&c. &c.*

Grower)* to this Time, hath, for divers concurrent Reaſons, been *continually increaſing at a moſt prodigious Rate*, FAR BEYOND what, EVER, was the Caſe BEFORE, in this Kingdom; and *(which*

* *I ſay* to the Grower; *for with Staplers and Manufacturers, among* themſelves *(the latter having frequently ſome Parts of Wool to ſell, as well as the former) this Commodity began to advance (ſee particularly Report,* p. 15,*) from its then long and deplorable low State, ſo early, as in the Year* 1740; *notwithſtanding which, it was not till latiſh in the THIRD YEAR after, that the Confederacy of* Wool-buyers, *under* every Denomination, *was ſufficiently broke, to let the* Farmer *into any Share of the Benefit; and which perhaps would not have happened* ſo ſoon; *or poſſibly,* not at all, *if the* Runners, *and other* Clandeſtine Exporters, *had not by an extraordinary Exertion of their* particular *Faculties, in that Year* (1743*) *contributed towards it,* more *than their uſual Share; tho' at the ſame Time, much againſt their natural Inclinations; if we are to judge of thoſe, by what is* their real Intereſt: *For THEY, above* all others *(let what will be ſaid for* Cheapneſs of Wool, *in Regard to the* manufacturing Trader*) find their Account* moſt, *in beating down the* Grower's Price: *Since* that *is what, in the Main, makes the Opening,* of Profit, *which is the Life and Soul of their* clandeſtine Dealings, *the great Inducement to their* illegal Adventures.

* Memoirs of Wool, *Vol.* II. p. 469.

(which is MUCH *to be remarked)* THE PRICE OF IT, till the Year 1752, was ALL ALONG *advancing*; CONTRARY to what *is uſual* in the Caſe of ALL OTHER *Produce*; of which *uncommon Plenty* is ſure to create a *proportionable Cheapneſs.*

I know it is ſaid that our Woolen Trade hath been *uncommonly great* (tho' *contingently* ſuch) for all the Time that has been mentioned: And, that it hath been *conſiderably ſo*, I make no Doubt.——BUT the Queſtion wanting to be reſolved is, whether or no it hath *exceeded* ſome given foregoing Period, in a *greater* Proportion, than the Produce of *this* may be thought to have *exceeded that?* I ſay, *greater*; not only becauſe *(Runnage aſide)* the Advance is not in any View, *otherwiſe*, to be accounted for; but, becauſe, even in that cheaper Seaſon, it was a general Belief, that Wool was *then*, RUN; tho' not in the exceſſive Quantities, which ſome extravagantly repreſented; yet to ſuch a Degree, that it was publickly, and ſeriouſly deliberated, how to contrive *A Scheme of Regiſtry*, that might prevent

prevent it. AND IF, all this conſidered, there is Room to believe that *the Price of Wool advancing*, for NINE YEARS SUCCESSIVELY, was owing to our Exportation Trade for *Woolens*, and to THAT CAUSE ONLY; it muſt have been GREAT INDEED, a glorious happy, providential good Circumſtance for this Nation, afflicted and diſtreſſed as it was in other Regards, during that whole Period!——— For here, let us conſider, upon the Suppoſition of NO RUNNAGE, *how cheap* Wool *muſt* have been, if the Trade had been leſs than it was; conſequently, *how impoſſible* for Farmers, *with diſtempered Cattle*, to have paid their Rents: On the other Hand, *how dear* it *would* have been, had not the Quantity of it increaſed proportionably with the *ſuppoſed Increaſe of Trade* for THOSE NINE YEARS; *which* I heartily wiſh to appear by ſome tolerable Evidence, rather than from bare Aſſertions, that without any Intention to deceive, may poſſibly not be altogether true: And, IF NOT, the *certain* Conſequence is, that RUNNAGE OF WOOL, in this Period, hath been ONE CAUSE

CAUSE of its Price advancing SO MUCH, and *for ſo long a Continuance*. But how far *that* hath been really the Caſe, I preſume not to ſay. Only *this* I ſhall venture to affirm; that from the *Reſtoration* (when exporting of Wool was *firſt* prohibited by a *Standing Law*) to the Year 1743, there is *no Time* aſſignable, in which, *ſelling dearer than common*, RUNNAGE OF IT might not be aſſigned for ONE CAUSE; ſo far as *thoſe Memoirs* I have been able to collect, inform us. At leaſt, there is *no Time* within the Period mentioned, when *being dearer than uſual* in *ENGLAND*, there was not Reaſon to *ſuſpect* its being *then* RUN, *no leſs* than at *other Times*. And *beſides*, a very authentic Example, to which I refer in the Margin,* does ſtrongly evince that the *Price* of

* *Woollen Exports.*		*Price of Wool* per Tod *from the ſame Farm*	
1718	£. 15,403,993	£.	1 — 1 — 0
Total 1719			1 — 0 — 6
1738	£. 7,376,916	£.	0 — 13 — 6
1739			0 — 13 — 0

Again,

of this Commodity hath not *always riſen* and *fallen*, with the *Increaſe* and *Decreaſe* of our *Woollen Exports*; although *(ceteris paribus)* THAT *muſt* have been the Caſe, if it had not been influenced in ſome Degree, by the *more* or *leſs* RUNNAGE OF IT.

I confeſs, the Nation now very lately ſeems, for the moſt Part, to have fallen into a *new Way* of thinking, in reference to *this Practice*; and from the *Strictneſs of our Laws*, with the Conſideration of its being a *bulky Commodity*, to treat it as a Kind of *Chimera* or *Impoſſibility*.* And though I

Again,

Woollen Exports.		*Price of Wool* per Tod *from the ſame Farm.*	
	£.		
1738	4,158,643	£.	0 — 13 — 6
1743	3,541,558	£.	0 — 19 — 6

Memoirs of Wool, Vol. II. p. 468.

* *There are nevertheleſs, and thoſe not a few, in the other Extreme; believing, not only that* Wool is run, *but that the preventing of it is an* Impoſſibility. *And altho' if it was neceſſary to ſubſcribe either to one, or the other of theſe ſo contrary Opinions, I ſhould more incline to the former than the latter; yet as I utterly disbelieve* this, *ſo, in*

I will not ſay it is not ſo, that *the People of England* have for a long Courſe of Time miſapprehended *this*, as they have done *ſome other Matters* relating to the ſame Subject; yet before we conclude them certainly under the like Deluſion altogether in *this Point*, with *thoſe others*, it would be well to do it upon *equal good Grounds*. And *no better* can I ſee, than by comparing our *Cuſtom-Houſe Accounts of Woolen Exports*, for *ſeven* or *eight* Years paſt, with the *ſame* for a *like Number* of Years immediately preceding. The Juncture of Circumſtances, for ſo long as I mention, is remarkably more favourable towards diſcovering, if not what is *exactly true* in this Caſe, yet what is *moſt probable*, than any that hath, EVER BEFORE happened, or can eaſily happen again.

But *Cuſtom-houſe Accounts* in this Particular, cannot (it's ſaid) be depended upon; and tho' I am ſorry they cannot, ſo much as

in regard to that, *I think it meet to hold myſelf in Suſpence till after the proper Means uſed, whereon to found more certainly than at preſent, a reaſonable Belief.*

as I think is to be wiſhed: Yet being *as much* to be depended upon, *at one* Time, as *at another*: They certainly are the *beſt Rule* we have to judge by. *They* are *ſo much* better to be depended upon for the Increaſe or Decreaſe of our woolen Exports) than Reports, or even Belief of particular Perſons, altho' Traders in that Way, by *how much*, a Map, notwithſtanding its being ſomewhat incorrect, is (for the Matter of Geography) a better Deſcription of a Country, than can be had from the *Table-Talk* of a Traveller in that Country. In ſhort, from any other View than of *Cuſtom-houſe Accounts*, a Perſon can no more compare *one Time* of our *whole woolen Exportation Trade* with *another*, than he can *ſee*, or *deſcribe* the *whole Kingdom itſelf*, by aſcending to ſome *few* Eminencies of it.

AND THEREFORE, with all due Submiſſion, I think it very material that the *Inquiry* I have mentioned, ſhould be made; *to the End* it may appear, ſo far as poſſible, whether OUR LAWS againſt Exporting Wool (intended *ſo much* in Favour to the Manufacturers) *have availed*

or

or not: Becauſe, IF hitherto *they have not*, 'tis not much to be expected that in their preſent Shape *they ever will*. Under this Perſwaſion, (taking my Opinion that *they had not*, from what *then*, appeared to be the *Senſe of the Nation*, of all Orders and Degrees of Perſons, in every Capacity, public or private; and that *they would not*, from conſidering the *Nature* of *Men* and *Things*) I THEREFORE, and for *ſome other Reaſons*, have elſewhere concluded that OUR *prohibitory Laws* in this Caſe, with *all* their penal Sanctions, were not equal to the *ancient Policy* of, A DUTY. And I the rather mention it; becauſe, I am ſenſible, that by an unhappy Combination of Ideas (as if Words and Things were always the ſame) I have been thought, *in this*, to entertain a very adverſary Principle to the *manufacturing* and *trading Intereſts of my Country*. Should I live to publiſh a ſecond Edition of *Memoirs of Wool*, I might, perhaps, hope to overcome that Prejudice in a good Meaſure. In the mean while, to ſtem a little the Torrent of it, I ſhall deſire the thinking Reader only to conſider with himſelf, what is honeſtly intended in this Caſe by *A Pro*

hibition?

hibition? And ſuppoſing him to ſay, *Prevention*; I aſk next, if he has not heard of *A Duty* amounting, or being equal, to *A Prohibition?* And again, whether he does not think *that* to be *a Poſſibility in the Nature of Things?* BOTH WHICH I perſwade myſelf *muſt* be anſwered in the Affirmative.

YET becauſe A DUTY is moſt commonly intended for *another Purpoſe*; namely, *to raiſe Money*; THEREFORE, I conceive, it is not ſo readily viewed in the Light of *A Prohibition*; or imagined capable of producing *that Effect:* WHEREAS (the *Spirit of Trade* conſidered) A DUTY *will*, in moſt Regards, this of WOOL I think eſpecially, do, to ſay the leaſt, full as much as a *A Prohibition* CAN. But as more of *the Hiſtory on this Subject* goes to make good that Argument (or however to exhibit the ſame in its full Strength) than can have a Place here: So I ſhall ſay the leſs about it at preſent; notwithſtanding that, I am willing to embrace the Opportunity of indulging myſelf in what happens to be a favourite Notion of my own, though relating

ing to that Kind of Knowledge, which, it hath been obſerved, Perſons "are more "ready to overlook with Contempt, than "to take into Conſideration." Nor, methinks, need I to caution the honeſt Manufacturers and Buyers of Wool, againſt taking Umbrage at my Sentiments (however *Owlers* and other clandeſtine Exporters may have Cauſe to be ſtartled and offended) ſince I verily think that the *Meaſure* I contend for in *Theory*, will never be attempted in *Practice*, by any others (how much ſoever it might import them) till there ariſe from the *Trading Quarter*, SOME, who in Conſequence of *new* Lights and *free* Principles, ſhall, with the Senſe to perceive, have Ingenuity enough to acknowledge an inveterate national Prejudice and Error in this Particular; to proceed therefore,

Athough this *prohibiting Part* of OUR TRADING POLICE, I have ſhewn at large heretofore,* depends not, as before was commonly ſaid and believed, upon any Circumſtances *peculiar* to this Kingdom:

* *Memoirs of Wool*, paſſim.

Yet does the *Thing* thereby aimed at, bottom upon a very ſound Principle, *common* to ALL NATIONS; which is (in Favour to *their own Manufacturers*, and in Order *to ſell more than they buy*) "By abſolute Prohibi-" tions, OR very high Duties, totally to " prevent, or ſufficiently diſcourage" [as the Caſe and Circumſtances ſhall be] " the Im-" portation of all foreign Manufactures, and " the Exportation of their own Materials; " at the ſame Time encouraging by an " Indulgence in the Duties, the Exporta-" tion of their own Manufactures, and the " Importation of foreign Materials." * THESE wiſe Maxims, with ſkilful Management, are, next to *Argriculture*, the great Sources of national Plenty, Wealth and Power. In the working of *theſe Mines*, is to be found that Jewel, the *Balance of Trade*; for which ALL NATIONS contend earneſtly alike; though not ALL with like *Wiſdom*, or *Power*. But in *both which* THE ENGLISH have not come ſhort of any others, the moſt induſtrious, and beſt policed.

* *Theory and Practice of Commerce*, &c. By *Don Geronymide Uſtarez*.

ONLY

ONLY, the Judgment required in Matters of this Nature, being to *diſtinguiſh* rightly between totally preventing, and ſufficiently diſcouraging; or, with an Eye to the Former, what is to be effected by *a Prohibition*; what by *a Duty*: It is not impoſſible but that WE may have erred a little in *that* Reſpect; eſpecially, conſidering that the greateſt Part of OUR *Prohibitions* commenced in Times, when the Maxims of Trade were not altogether ſo well underſtood, as they have been ſince. And *Uſage* or *Cuſtom*, *Prepoſſeſſion* and *Prejudice*, we know, are apt to hold out long againſt *Reaſon*, and even *Experience*. WHEREFORE, for *Diſtinction Sake*, I deſire to compare a little the *Point in Queſtion*, as to WOOL, with what is of a more modern Date, in Reference to certain *Eaſt India Manufactures*.

THOSE being rightly judged prejudicial to the *Manufacturers* of OUR OWN COUNTRY, are very properly prohibited. But how, I pray, ſo properly? Why they are prohibited to be *worn* or *uſed* in *Apparel*, or *Furniture*.

IF

IF they *were not*: OR IF (once imported *by any Means*) THEY could not be diſtinguiſhed from THOSE of *our own Manufacturing*; in that Caſe, it might admit of ſome Conſideration, whether *a Duty* would not anſwer all beneficial Purpoſes, equally as, or better than, *a Prohibition*. And I believe it would. But here we ſee that the *Prohibition* mentioned, has *an Effect* in the Caſe of certain *Eaſt India Manufactures* (by what Means ſoever imported) which can have no Place in *that*, on OUR WOOL; for WOOL having once *eſcaped* their Vigilance, whoſe Office it is to watch our *Ports* and *Coaſts*, is gone *irretrievably*, and the *Prohibition*, ſo far, *utterly eluded*. So that notwithſtanding it is *alike* pernicious, and for the *ſame* Reaſons, to *export Wool* from this Kingdom, and to *import for our own Uſe* and *Wearing*, certain *Eaſt India Manufactures*; yet we ſee that *a Prohibition* is not the *ſame*; cannot operate *alike* on *both*. And tho' it may be ſaid of *Eaſt India Manufactures*, that, being not of the ſame *bulky* Nature with *Wool*, they fall under a different Conſideration: And tho' *they* are certainly more capable of

of *Runnage* than *Wool* is; yet does that make no Difference upon the Whole; becauſe,

The Property of *a Duty*, for all beneficial Purpoſes (that of *Prevention*, among the reſt) is much the ſame in Regard to *all* Commodities; only requiring to be *higher*, or *lower*, according to the Nature of the Commodity it is intended to work upon; and as the more capable it is of *Runnage*, and in Caſe of *Runnage inwards*, leſs diſtinguiſhable, *as ſuch*, the *lower* muſt be *the Duty*, for that Reaſon; and *the Effect leſs*, as to *Prevention*, tho' doing *all* towards it that is poſſible in the Nature of Things: So, in Regard to WOOL, the *leſs* practicable *Runnage* is, for the Reaſon of its being a *bulky* Commodity, the *higher Duty* will it, for that Reaſon admit of; and at the ſame Time, provided *ſuch Duty* is rightly pitched (neither *too high* nor *too low*) IT will operate towards *Prevention*, equally at leaſt with *an abſolute Prohibition*. I have ſaid, *equally at leaſt*; but I think, *conſiderably more*. And therefore, according as it ſhall be ſuppoſed, upon, good Grounds,

either now, or hereafter, that *Wool* HAS BEEN, *at Times*; conſequently MAY, and probably WILL, *continue to be* RUN, notwithſtanding the great Precaution of our preſent Laws againſt it: So far, and not otherwiſe, would I be underſtood to plead for a *proper Duty* upon it, in the Place of (what I judge leſs effectual) *a Prohibition.*

THIS, which has for ſome Time been my Opinion, is agreeable to *a Rule* I have lately met with in THE NOBLE SPANIARD's *excellent Book on Commerce, &c.* which hath been already quoted, viz. "The principal Foundation "of the Felicity of a Kingdom is, impo-"ſing the higheſt Duties that are practi-"cable* upon all Materials (ſerviceable

"to

* *If in theſe Words,* [higheſt Duties practicable] *is a deeper Intention; and in the* thing itſelf *more Energy, than at firſt Sight Perſons are apt to imagine; yet I perſuade myſelf that the Conſiderate and Ingenuous, after a little Reflection, will readily ſee and acknowledge both;*

as

"to the Manufactories) exported," *adding,* "The eaſy Execution of this Meaſure, "is a great Recommendation to it."

I ſhall add, by Way of *Example* to the *above Rule*, what hath been delivered to me for Truth, *viz.* that in ſome Parts of *Europe*, OUR *Woolen Manufactures* find Means of Admittance, *by Runnage*, tho' *abſolutely prohibited*; while from ſome others they are *totally barred* by A DUTY. This Information I received accidentally from *a Trader*, who mentioning it with no particular View, I had Reaſon to think ſpoke nothing but what he knew, or at leaſt believed. And whether or no this

be

as alſo, that the eaſy Execution *of a* ſalutary Meaſure, *is no ſmall Recommendation to it; and particularly to this, of* a Duty on Wool, *with the View of preventing its being exported; if the ſame (maturely conſidered) ſhould be thought likely; and (once again experienced) found actually to be, in every Regard, the* moſt ſalutary *after various Trials of the ſevereſt Pains and Penalties, without their deſired Effect.*

be true of Manufacture in the *former* of theſe Inſtances, is not of ſo great Conſequence to my Argument, as the *latter* being *notoriouſly ſo*, is very much to the Purpoſe of it; becauſe, *that* makes it ſtill *more credible* of the Material, that A DUTY is the *moſt effectual Bar* to its Exportation; and NO WONDER; ſince in general IT is the STRONGEST GUARD on *Coaſts*, and *Ports*, and *Frontiers*, that CAN be deviſed. And AS the Benefit ſought for in this Caſe, is NATIONAL, by exporting Wool, rather *manufactured*, than *raw* (an obvious Advantage, in ſelling with the Produce it ſelf, *ſo much Labour*, and in Effect *much Produce beſides*, and *many other* Commodities *along with it*) SO if *this* Expedient ſhall be judged *more effectual* for the END aforeſaid, than *the other*: IT is beyond all Queſtion, the *more eligible Meaſure* of the TWO; altho' the *Price* of WOOL ſhould be abated thereby.——Nay, I add, or even tho' Manufacturers ſhould in the Conſequence, pay for it ſomething dearer. And certain I am that ALL *artificial means* (that grievous one,

one, of *a Regiſtry* *, excepted) to reduce the Price in *ENGLAND*, do (as the *Laws* are at preſent) conduce to *facilitate* the RUNNAGE OF IT.

Nevertheleſs, an ARTIFICIAL CHEAPNESS hath, I am ſenſible, its Advocates; under the Notion of much *publick Spirit*, and a *deep Sight* into the *Nature and Conſequences* of TRADE; altho' in my poor, plain Opinion, there is Fallacy in the *Argument for it*; Injuſtice in the *Thing*; eſpecially as that Matter is managed, and the Circumſtances of *this Kingdom* are, in Regard to WOOL.

The *Argument* is, that if a leſs Price is given for the Material in the firſt Inſtance (however compaſſed) the Manufacture being

---

* *Grievous as* that *would be, and to* Traders, *beyond all others: Yet Mr.* Webber, *attempting it in the worſt Shape that was poſſible, found Means to have* his Scheme *of* a Charter *for that End, recommended by the Hands of no fewer than SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND of* them; *as he publickly aſſerted.* (*See* Memoirs of Wool, *Vol.* II. *p.* 329.)

ing therefore *to be* afforded cheaper in a foreign Market, the Vent of it *will be* ſo much more in Proportion; and tho' the Growers *narrow Intereſt* is thereby made *narrower*; yet in Conſequence of *ſo critically* lopping and pruning, *ſuch* judicious Stricture and wholeſome Bandage in the *right Place*, there will enſue a great Increaſe of Foreign Trade; and THE NATION in Courſe, be a conſiderable Gainer.

Now although a proper Supply of the Material for *this Manufacture*, ſo far as to prevent its being either comparatively *ſcarce*, or truly DEAR, does well deſerve the NATION's Care; yet does it not follow that the ſame *cannot be*, and indeed *is not* (as the very beſt Things often are) carried to *Exceſs*; or, which comes to the ſame, *ill judged*.

Firſt, does it neceſſarily follow, from an UNBOUNDED *artificial Cheapneſs of* WOOL *here, in the firſt Inſtance*, as occaſioned by an ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION,

HIBITION, * *&c.* (which I conceive to differ widely in its Conſequences, from a *natural Cheapneſs*, through a natural Plenty, of OUR OWN GROWTH; and likewiſe from that artificial, but *limited* Cheapneſs, which a *proper* DUTY † would create) that Goods manufactured will be ſold juſt *ſo much* cheaper in the *laſt*, at a foreign Market? I think not; and therefore, not in *ſo much* greater Quantities.

For this *Engliſh* Material paſſing from Growers, thorough ſeveral Defiles, in different Shapes, before it can arrive in Manufacture,

* *An abſolute Prohibition on OUR Wool and Yarn, together with the Liberty of importing thoſe Commodities, is literally, creating an* artificial Cheapneſs *of it, that hath NO BOUNDS, except from* Runnage; *which, it muſt be allowed, is a very IMPROPER* Boundary; *undeſerving of the Name, as it is a* Tranſgreſſion *of* Law; *by which every Thing, and Perſon, ought to be bounded.*

† *A DUTY on* Wool exported, *would create an* artificial Cheapneſs *of it*; *which nevertheleſs* might *be wiſely kept within SOME PROPER BOUNDS. For* Runnage *having* its Price, *like all other Things, the WISDOM would be* ſo to pitch *A DUTY, as not to be higher than the* Price of Runnage; *but ſomewhat lower*; *yet near it as the ſame well can be.*

facture, at a foreign Market, the Perſon who buys it firſt, to any conſiderable Advantage, does not think himſelf obliged to tranſmit the ſame intire, if at all, to the next Purchaſer; nor, if he did, would the next, and ſo on, to the laſt Merchant in Manufacture. On the Contrary, beſides the Liberty SUCH artificial Cheapneſs does give for *clandeſtine Exportation* (and which *alone* is a Means of raiſing the Price at *ſecond Hand)* the firſt Buyer, and every intermediate Broker, or Worker, is *always* at Liberty, and in Courſe endeavours *conſtantly*, to make the moſt of what is *ſqueezed* thorough their Fingers—Conſequently, the laſt Merchant alſo.—Nay, HE would be ſure to do it, although all the reſt did not.

If any Doubt is made of this, let us conſider how the Caſe would be, if we *could* conceive THOSE who *now* have cuſtomarily, the WOOL of *England* at the *firſt Hand*, to receive the ſame in their uſual Portions, *Gratis*, and (after the Manner of ALL *Preſents) Carriage paid.* Is it to be imagined, in *ſuch Caſe*, that the TRADE of *ENGLAND* would advance, BECAUSE

CAUSE the Growers *Property* and *Intereſt* had veſted in other Hands than his own? And will not this Way of Reaſoning about the WHOLE, hold alike, for ANY PART* belonging equally to the Grower?

BREAD, that *Staff of Life*, is no leſs eſſential to ALL Manufacture, than are the Materials from which the ſame are compoſed. And a plentiful and good Harveſt, which makes CHEAPNESS of BREAD, is held to be a *common Bleſſing*; and undoubtedly is ſo——Nevertheleſs, it is currently affirmed by *Woolen Traders*, that THIS *particular* CHEAPNESS is a Detriment, inſtead of Benefit to THEIR *Trade*. Moreover, THEY account for it, not unplauſibly. AND, by Parity of Reaſon at leaſt, what *natural Cheapneſs* of BREAD is to the *poor*, but *idle headed*

* *He who ſells his* Property *at an Undervalue, does in Effect* give away *SO MUCH* Property, *as the Undervalue amounts to. And he who makes the advantageous Purchaſe, acquires SO MUCH* Property; *which he will not knowingly, diſpoſe of again, for leſs than its* true Value.

Artiſan;

Artiſan; the ſame is an UNBOUNDED *Artificial Cheapneſs of* WOOL *in the firſt Inſtance*, to the AVARITIOUS or LUXURIOUS TRADER in it, whether *raw*, or *wrought*.

In ſhort, I conceive an UNBOUNDED *artificial Cheapneſs* of WOOL in this Kingdom, as occaſioned by an *abſolute Prohibition*, &c. to differ thus, both from a *natural* one occaſioned *merely* by Plenty of OUR OWN GROWTH altogether, and from an *artificial Cheapneſs*, WISELY *limited* by *a* PROPER *Duty*, viz. that of the *two* latter, *one* being inherent, is accordingly laſting; *the other*, ſo *well contrived*, as to be *immoveable* by RUNNAGE, *they* will BOTH hold tolerably at leaſt, thorough *every* Stage in Manufacture, and ALL the Proceſſes of Traffic; while the former being *exorbitant* and *Top heavy*, is *tottering* and *looſe*; an eaſy Prey for every Hand that touches it; either ſliding off inſenſibly, by *Runnage*; or drained into *private Hoards*, or conſumed in *Waſte*, inſtead of being converted, as is pretended

pretended into NATIONAL BENEFIT.

And what then, beſides RUNNAGE, may we ſuppoſe, does follow from THIS *Policy*, ſo much in Vogue and long in Uſe? ONLY, that ſome others *fare better* at the *Growers Expence*. And, of what Advantage is that to the NATION? None at all! Particular Perſons, ſo advantaged, do, ſome of them, raiſe larger Fortunes, or ſooner. But, in Regard, the Generality, of all Denominations, are inclined to live in the beſt Manner they *can afford*, the far greater Part do only inlarge *their own Expences*, from their *good Pennyworths extraordinary*, whether accidental, or habitual. And the one, or other of *theſe two*, with equal Benefit to the NATION, would the *Farmers* do, or their *Landlords* (for they are to be conſidered as one and the ſame in this Caſe) if not abridged of their *common Right*, to ſave, or ſpend, as they like beſt, *their own Fortunes*.

SECONDLY, Suppoſe, for Argument Sake, in Conſequence of WOOL being rendered ARTIFICIALLY cheaper next Year, in the *firſt Inſtance* than it NOW is (and, as I think, ARTIFICIALLY TOO) the Manufacture ſhould be afforded SO MUCH cheaper in the laſt; and the Vent, next Year, increaſed, in Proportion: If, for Example, *ten* Bales ſhould be ſent and ſold abroad, inſtead, and at the Price of *Nine*: Would the NATION be richer, by *ſuch* an increaſed Vent? NO! There muſt, in that Caſe, either go *ſo much more* Wool, and Labour, in equal Portions (which would be *ſo much* WOOL *and* LABOUR *loſt*) OR the Proportions muſt be unequal, and the Loſs *ſo much* greater, where the Inequality falls. But the Labourer cannot give his Time; on the Contrary, if *more Work* is required of him in the *ſame Time*, HE will *raiſe the Price of it*. Conſequently, the *ſuppoſed* increaſed Vent will be altogether *at the Grower's Expence*. HE muſt not only *give* towards it, the *increaſed Quantity of* WOOL, but alſo a further Contribution of MORE WOOL, to pay for the increaſed Labour, *as ſuppoſed*

poſed, at advanced Wages. Whereas, the PROFIT of the NATION is, TO SELL WOOL, as ſo much *natural Produce*; and to SELL LABOUR, as ſo much that is *artificial*, ALONG WITH IT; and NOT to GIVE AWAY either the one, or the other; ſince that, as Mr. *Locke* hath ſaid in another Caſe, would be only to have the *Appearance* of Trade and Buſineſs, without the *Fruits* of it.

Yet, ſay ſome, the *Fruits* are this —— If *more* Manufacture is exported, next Year, altho' for the *ſame Money* that a *leſſer* Quantity produced, the Year before, yet more Hands are thereby employed, and more Produce, *&c.* conſumed, and paid for. But I anſwer, Hands *ſo employed*, afford *no Profit*, upon the Whole, by their Conſumption: They pay, its true, to *Paul* for what they do conſume; but then that, wherewith they do pay *Paul*, was firſt *pillaged* from *Peter*, WHO, had HE the beſtowing of ALL *his own Goods*, would em-

ploy Hands, that would conſume, &c. with *real Profit* to the NATION †.

Thus much, I think, may ſuffice to ſhew, in ſome Sort, a Fallacy in the *Argument*, as commonly urged for an *Artificial Cheapneſs*

† *I deſire to be underſtood here, of an unnatural Increaſed Vent of Manufacture abroad, as* forced, *merely by an* extraordinary Artificial *Cheapneſs of OUR very plentiful Material, WOOL; the natural Cheapneſs of which, at any Time, from a* real Plenty, *of OUR OWN GROWTH, with an ARTIFICIAL INDUSTRY, ſo far as that can be promoted, are very different Things, producing a very different and far better Effect. In that Caſe conſidering the WOOL GROWERS of THIS KINGDOM* (rightly enough) *as ONE POLITICAL PERSON, what ſhall be wanting in* Price, *will be made up by the* increaſed Quantity: *And then, an Acceſſion of Art and Induſtry will be truly* ſo much *CLEAR GAIN to the NATION. Not ſo, if that Plenty, and conſequent Cheapneſs, ariſes from* Iriſh Wool *and* Yarn; *becauſe the* Iriſh *Wool Growers, and the* Engliſh, *with their* Landlords *reſpectively do not, in the ſame Manner at leaſt, the* Engliſh *Growers only, conſtitute* one political Perſon; *they are different in many Things; and in one ſingle Article, generally, after the Rate of, from* two *to* four Shillings per Pound. *And this I mention, not out of any Malignity or Envy to the* Iriſh;

neſs of WOOL here; *in the firſt Inſtance*; and in Part the Injuſtice of ALL *Meaſures* having ſuch a Tendency.

While, on the other Hand, we may fairly argue that there neither *is*, nor *can be* a Neceſſity for *any Meaſure* tending to depreſs the Price of *Engliſh Wool* in *England* below its *natural Value*; or to compaſs *artificially* its Cheapneſs; otherwiſe, than by preventing, ſo far as may be, *its being exported raw*; and at the ſame Time, *encouraging the Growth of it*. For tho' certainly it does not follow that Goods *will be* ſold cheaper abroad, or in larger Quantities, to any Benefit, on Account of undue Advantages gained from the Grower; nor certainly, that HE will always find his pro-

Iriſh; *which I am far from entertaining; but only to inſinuate that the* Engliſh Wool Growers *have a* Right *to ſupply the* Engliſh Manufacturies, *ſo far as* they can; *and that the* Engliſh Manufacturers *OUGHT NOT to go* any where elſe *for Wool of the* ſame Kind, *ſo long as the* Engliſh Growers *CAN ſupply them; and are debarred by* Law, *for THEIR Parts from any other Market, abſolutely.*

per Share of Advantage from the advanced Price, or *naturally increaſed* Vent of the Manufacture in foreign Markets; ſince that is a Matter, of which HE has no Opportunity for Information; and it is ſubject to ſeveral *Stops*; liable to be *intercepted* many Ways: Yet in Caſe of any Failure in Foreign Markets, THE GROWER will be ſure to hear of, and to bear a full Share in *that*: The laſt Merchant, and all intermediate Dealers, will with the utmoſt Readineſs, give the Intelligence, and make their Repriſals backwards, unto HIM, ſo that (*Runnage* being wholly out of the Caſe) WOOL in *England* (where it is ſo remarkably plentiful) *cannot poſſibly* be dearer in the firſt Inſtance, than the *Trade will afford*; ſince from THE TRADE ALONE, in ſuch Caſe, it MUST *take its Price*. Conſequently, there cannot be a Neceſſity for any Contrivances, beyond what I have mentioned, againſt *Engliſh Wool* being TOO DEAR in *England*.

It is indeed a CONTRADICTION IN TERMS (all Circumſtances conſidered)

ed) to talk as if it *could be* TOO DEAR; unleſs it was to be exported *raw*, and *duty-free*; OR, with *too low a Duty*. For tho' WOOL is neceſſary almoſt throughout the World; yet is it almoſt as generally produced; and in conſiderable Plenty too; but confeſſedly in greater Plenty, in *England*, than upon any other Part of the Globe. The *Soil* of *England* is extremely proper for *Sheep*; where they are kept in *prodigious Numbers*. And *Lands* diſpoſed more particularly for *that Purpoſe*, are yearly augmenting, and improving; and do admit of *immenſe* Augmentation, and Improvement. And *Sheep* being of a *very quick Increaſe*, a *good Price* and *ready Sale* for WOOL is (by leſſening the Slaughter of Lambs, and increaſing the *Breed*) a *certain ſpeedy* Means of *increaſing the Growth*; and of making that natural great Plenty of it, ſtill greater. IT is beſides, a Commodity too periſhable in its Nature, to be held up, with ſiniſter Views, for any conſiderable Time, and not applied to its proper Uſe. The longeſt Reſerve of it, that can be propoſed with any Advantage, is only for a few Months; when, if not diſpoſed

of *critically*, that is, *within the Year*, the whole Advantage of *that Year's Keeping*, is loſt, by the Succeſſion of *another Growth*; which, commonly ſpeaking, is better eſteemed, for the Reaſon of its being the *neweſt*. Add to this, that the *Engliſh* have beſides their *own Wool*, a Liberty of importing that Commodity from every Part of the known World, except from their own foreign Plantations. All which conſidered, it cannot properly be called TOO DEAR, even when RUNNAGE *does* contribute to *raiſe the Price of it*; becauſe *Dearneſs* in this Caſe, being but a *comparative Term*, RUNNAGE *cannot* raiſe it *above*, or bring it *up to* the Market Price for WOOL in *Europe*; which is, properly ſpeaking, its *natural Value*. For *Gain extraordinary* being the ſole Inducement to the *great Riſques* of RUNNAGE, *that* cannot ariſe, but from an *extraordinary Difference* between the *Price* of WOOL in *England*, and at foreign Markets.

Now tho' it does not follow that RUNNAGE is no improper Vent for OUR WOOL,

WOOL, becauſe it CANNOT make it TOO DEAR: Yet, in Regard, the ſame is a moſt pernicious Practice, for many Reaſons, it is a very good Argument againſt its being ARTIFICIALLY rendered TOO CHEAP; ſince that is only opening wider the Door of RUNNAGE, or rather ſetting it wide open. AND nothing better, to my Apprehenſion, hath been the *Effect* of our *Imports* of WOOL and YARN from IRELAND * particularly, as Matters have been, and

---

* *For here it is to be obſerved, that the* Policy, *of* importing foreign Materials, *is only* ſo far good, *as* they *happen to be* wanted; *and therefore, it ſhould be* ſo underſtood, *in any Country, of* ſuch Materials only, *as either are* not produced *THERE*; *or not of the* very ſame Kind; *or not in* ſufficient Plenty. *But Imports of WOOL to THIS KINGDOM, of the ſame Kind (like the* Iriſh) *with the* Bulk *of OUR OWN, is like (as we ſay)* carrying *COALS TO NEWCASTLE.*——*It is* helping *THE LANDED INTEREST of* Ireland, *at the Expence of* hurting *THE SAME in* England; *incouraging the* Growth *of* Wool *THERE, and diſcouraging the* Increaſe thereof *AT HOME: Altho' it muſt be allowed, that to carry on the Manufacture, with OUR OWN, or with FOREIGN WOOL, are very different Advantages;*

and as I ſhall ſhew clearly; notwithſtanding the Advantages promiſed thereby, even to the *Engliſh Grower*; for that hath been all along given out; although, now and then, one or other, more ingenuous than the reſt, and aſhamed of ſo palpable an Abſurdity, hath taken off the *Maſk*, and declared an ARTIFICIAL CHEAPNESS OF WOOL *in the firſt Inſtance*, to be the very Thing intended; arguing at the ſame Time, for the *public Benefit* of SUCH AN ARTIFICIAL CHEAPNESS; wherein I think them miſtaken * and that the Effect hath

vantages; and although (ſo far as concerns foreign Trade) BOTH *are* profitable, *yet the* former *brings conſiderably MOST PROFIT to THE NATION; and the* latter, *for HOME USE (IF the ſame* can *be ſupplied from OUR OWN GROWTH) is, next to that, of importing FOREIGN MANUFACTURE, for* Engliſh *uſing, and wearing, the WORST of* all Policies, *or however,* very bad Policy.

* *I would not hereby be underſtood to condemn abſolutely the Importation of WOOL and YARN from* Ireland——*But to import THENCE, and at the ſame Time,* prohibit abſolutely *the Exportation of OUR OWN, is what I cannot bring myſelf to commend, for* good Policy; *unleſs it was true,* both, *that*

hath been, like that of pouring Water into a Veſſel already *Edgeful*, and *running over.*

WOOL then, however unfaſhionable that Doctrine is, may certainly, in my Opi-

that ENGLAND did not *commonly produce a ſufficient Quantity for any Trade THE NATION ever yet had*; and, *that it* was not capable *of producing MUCH MORE, upon proper Incouragement, if found to be wanted*; *neither of which, I think is credible*; *not the latter eſpecially, as ALL Perſons converſant in theſe Matters, may be ſoon and fully convinced by conſidering,* how far, *a ready Demand for this Material,* one Year, *occaſions an increaſed Growth of it,* the very next *(by leſſening, as beforementioned, the Slaughter, and increaſing the Breed) and* how, *by one Improvement or another, it is capable of an* immenſe Increaſe *in a* very few Years. *To verify what I have ſaid, let any Perſon ſee what hath been, on a Medium, the Amount of our Imports of WOOL and YARN from* Ireland, *for any Term of Years*; *and then (laying Runnage out of the Caſe) aſk himſelf the following Queſtions.* 1. *Whether the ſame have not ſo far contributed to make an ARTIFICIAL CHEAPNESS, as to have been ſo far diſcouraging to the increaſed Growth thereof in* England? 2. *Whether, under proper Incouragement, the* Engliſh Growth *might not have increaſed, tantamount to the Quantities imported?* 3. *Whether that Difference would not have been conſiderable to THE LANDED INTEREST, and in Courſe to THE NATION?*

nion

nion, for the Reaſons here given, be made *too cheap* ARTIFICIALLY, in *England*. AND *SO*, I contend, it often hath been, and for a long Time together, with manifeſt Injuſtice to the Grower; notwithſtanding a contrary Perſwaſion in great Numbers; whoſe *Property* conſiſts not, to any Degree, in WOOL.—Nay, even many, who have a conſiderable Property therein, have been carried away, at Times with this falſe Notion, among others, * of Benefit from an ARTIFICIAL CHEAPNESS; and through a miſtaken Generoſity, and timorous, falſe Tenderneſs for TRADE, *&c.* into a Party againſt THEMSELVES,

* *I ſay*, this falſe Notion among others; *becauſe it muſt be acknowledged, that an ARTIFICIAL* Cheapneſs of *WOOL, is a* Pill *not ſo readily ſwallowed by the OWNERS of SHEEPLANDS, without ſome Diſguiſe, or tempting Vehicle; and THEREFORE, it hath (ſince the* Reſtoration) *received many Gildings, of* very falſe Hiſtory, *and in Courſe, bad* Argument, *to intice it down, and keep it upon the Stomachs of OUR NOBILITY and GENIRY; much whereof the Reader may, if he pleaſes, ſee at large, in* Memoirs of Wool, *&c.*

and

and the NATION too; as I think, at leaſt.

For, after all, why, in the Name of *common Senſe*, and *Equity*, is the *Engliſh Wool Grower alone*, to forego his *natural Right*, of ſelling his Produce, at its *natural Price?* I know, I ſhall be readily anſwered, for the Sake of promoting *Manufacture*, and *foreign Trade*; and thereby, the Good of the NATION; which is the Intereſt to be preferred.*

BUT who is the NATION? and what are their *Names*, and *Places of Abode?* Mr. *Locke* hath divided the People or Nation into Land-Owners, Labourers, and Brokers. And if he had ſaid only, *Land-Owners*, and *Labourers*, his Diviſion had not been leſs accurate, in my Opinion; ſince *Brokage* is but one Species of Labour. *He* hath ſaid likewiſe, that "A Kingdom, "or NATION grows rich, or poor, "juſt as a FARMER doth." Again,

* *The Complaints of the Manufacturers*, p. 27.

"that

" that in ſome Regards" (and I think, he might have ſaid, in all) " A FARM, " and A KINGDOM, differ no more " than as greater and leſs."*

NOW, as the FARMER is certainly not *above* the LANDLORD; nor the *Servant* and *Labourer* to be preferred to the *Maſter:* SO THE LAND-OWNERS are plainly the great *Stamina* of the NATION; and the *Wool-Growers* Intereſt is as plainly THEIR Intereſt; and, as THEIR LANDED ESTATES ſupport THEM; ſo THEY ſupport principally that other Part of the NATION, who are in a certain Senſe THEIR *Labourers.*

But, if the Caſe was otherwiſe; and ſo far

* *This Compariſon of Mr.* Locke's *is ſo juſt, that I verily believe it will hold in every Queſtion of Commerce whatſoever; and it is withal ſo familiar, that a* Gentleman, *under any Problem of that Kind rendered difficult by Art (as ſuch is apt to be, the better to puzzle and deceive) need only to look into* his *FARM, for the* right Policy, *as he would into a* Map, *to ſee how Countries are ſituated, in Reſpect to each other.*

far as Matters may be conſidered in ſomewhat another View, " Is not the Exceſs of " the Value of the complete Manufacture, " compared with the Value of the Ma- " terial of which it is made, generally " *very great*; in ſome Caſes *immenſely* " great?" May not " a certain Quantity " of [*Woolen*] Goods worked up and finiſh- " ed, exceed in Price, when ſold abroad, " to a *vaſt Degree*,* the Quantity of the " Materials of which it is made?"

And does not the *Price* then, at which ſuch Manufacture *can be afforded*, depend in Proportion, upon the *Price* of numberleſs *other Articles*, beſides the WOOL; in ſhort upon ALL, which the *firſt Buyer* of it, and the *next*, and *every ſubſequent Dealer*, with *all* their *Underlabourers*, eat, and drink, and uſe, and wear? And have not ALL THESE a natural Market Price? And do not Manufacturers, and Merchants, and ALL, with whom they are concerned, pay for THOSE, in the very ſame Man-

* *The Complaints of the Manufacturers*, p. 6.

ner

ner with ALL OTHER Consumers of them?

Amidst then such Variety of *other*, and (when added together) SO MUCH *larger Expence*, than is the prime Cost of the WOOL, *how great*, and *how unnatural*, and consequently *how* UNJUST, must that Advantage be against the *Grower*, which, in Spite of so many possible either Imbezzlements, or Diversions, into private Coffers, shall give any significant Weight to the *Scale of our Woolen Exportation Trade?*

AND, if all Prospect of Advantage to the NATION, from this *partial Policy*, *an* UNBOUNDED *artificial Cheapness of* WOOL *in the first Instance*, be held in this, which I conceive to be a true Light, dwindles to *nothing*: On the other Hand, how glaring is the Injustice of making it the *Misfortune*, or rather *Punishment* (as if for SOME CRIME) of particular *Provinces*, or *Parts* of this Kingdom, that *Lands* THERE, being converted into *Sheep Pastures*, to the *Sustaining*, and PROMOTING of *Woolen Manufacture*, the OWNERS

OWNERS and OCCUPANTS are not upon the same Foot, with ALL OTHERS, their *Fellow-Subjects?* THEY pay *Taxes* in *Common*; and likewise a *common Market Price* for every necessary THEY want, even to THEIR *Woolen Cloathing*; and for all Superfluities used by THEM. But THEIR WOOL being a PRINCIPAL Part of what THEY have to give in Exchange — IF the Price of THAT is depressed *artificially*, and *unmeasurably* in the *first Instance*, the Terms of THEIR Commerce are not reciprocal, THEY either have not *just* Usage, or else THEY do not deserve to be treated as *Denizens*, or *Friends*; but as ALIENS and ENEMIES.

AND can there possibly be *so much* Merit in our *Woolen Manufacturies*, as is generally, and *very justly* acknowledged, and yet such *Disregard*, such *Despight* due to THOSE who furnish the *Material* that principally SUPPORTS *them?* Is this a Means to *incourage the Growth* of WOOL? which, besides what I have

 mentioned

mentioned (of a *proper Duty*, to prevent, ſo far as may be, its Exportation) is the ONLY *wiſe* and *juſt* Policy, by which it can be rendered ſufficiently plentiful, and competently cheap, to any NATIONAL good Purpoſe, or however to the beſt Purpoſes, for the NATION.

There is no other *Article* in the *Farming Buſineſs* of *England*, that cauſes ſo briſk a Circulation of Money; that gives ſo much real Life and Spirit to the *Inland Trade* of the Kingdom, as doth a *good Price*, and *ready Sale* for WOOL; which communicates its Effects in an extraordinary Manner, to the *whole Maſs of Country People*, and to all adjacent *Inland* Traders; and in Courſe to all their remote *Merchants* and *Wholeſale Dealers*, without the leaſt ſenſible bad Effect in the *general*, or any Kind of *common repining*; contrary to what is the Caſe, when *Corn* and *Fleſh*, and other *Proviſions* are *dear*; as ſometimes they are *too dear*, and calamitouſly ſo, to the poor Conſumers; and without Benefit to the Venders that produce them; but the Reverſe; as that never happens, except, through a *real Scarcity*;

city; ſo that altho' ſelling dear, yet the *Farmers* have proportionably *leſs*, and ſeveral of them, *none of the Kind, to ſpare*.

But, notwithſtanding that a *good Price*, and *ready Sale* for WOOL, is ſo extremely beneficial to the *Farmer*, and to our *whole domeſtic Trade*, even to that of OUR *Woolen Manufacture* for HOME USE, and which is conſiderably the *Major* Part of it: Yet, as a *ſufficient Plenty* of this Commodity, and eſpecially of *our own Growth*, is deſirable on all Accounts: So *competently cheap*, I grant, it ſhould be, for the Sake of that moſt valuable Branch of our *foreign Trade*, conſiſting in Woolens; although it is not more than 1-4th of the whole of *our* Woolen Manufacture, according to ſome of our beſt Arithmetical Politicians; but certainly, I think, a minor Part conſiderably. HENCE therefore ariſes the following Queſtion, What is *Competency* in this Caſe? According to the perverſe Deſires of human Nature, it hath been defined in the general, to be, ALWAYS, ſome ſmall Matter *more*, than a Perſon happens to poſſeſs. And thus hath it fared with us

exactly, in Regard to the *Price of* WOOL in particular; which never was *ſo cheap* (and it hath been *often*, *long*, and *piteouſly ſo*) but that the *Buyers of it* appeared deſirous, ARDENTLY deſirous, of having it ſtill CHEAPER * in the firſt Inſtance; notwithſtanding that: AS all Commodities are naturally cheapeſt upon the Spot, where produced in the greateſt Plenty (which is the undoubted Circumſtance of *England* in Regard to WOOL) SO, Chapmen for it in the firſt Inſtance, have *always* had, and *always* will have that Advantage, naturally, on their Side. Which, if it is not ſufficient; and if a further Bias, on the Side of the *Engliſh Manufacturers*, for the Sake of *foreign Trade*, and thereby, for the Good of the NATION, ſhall be judged convenient (and I will not diſpute it) yet ſuch being a *common Conveniency*, in which ALL are to partake alike, it ſhould be, methinks, at a *common Expence*, and not a *partial* one. But if it is ſtill inſiſted upon, that the *Engliſh* WOOL GROWER *muſt* contribute

* *Of which there is abundant Proof to be given; and I ſhall exhibit a notable Inſtance of it, a few Pages hence.*

a *Share*

a *Share extraordinary* in *the Price* of HIS *Wool*; and that, as well to the *Manufacturer* for HOME USE, as to the *Exporter of it to a foreign Market*: Why then, let it be named, HOW MUCH he ought to contribute; HOW MUCH he ought to ſell the Material BELOW its *natural Value*; HOW MUCH CHEAPER than the Foreigner, if he hath any at all, the *Engliſh* Manufacturer, (whether for *Home Uſe*, or for Exportation) ſhall be AUTHORISED to have it (For certainly it is proper to have *ſome Gage* in this Caſe.) And let that *Difference* be eſtabliſhed in the moſt certain Manner poſſible, *i. e.* by A DUTY. And let Foreigners be left to ſtruggle, not only with THAT DUTY, but with Freight and Factorage beſides. What can be deſired *more* in Favour of *our own Manufacturers*, from the Growers eſpecially? HOW, otherwiſe, in the Nature and Reaſon of Things, and conſiſtently with paſt Experience, can SO MUCH be effected for THEM and the NATION?

O yes, by an ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION, *much more*; which promiſes them the WHOLE without Exception; very much *at their own Price*; with what they can purchaſe conveniently from *abroad* beſides. And the more they can purchaſe *abroad*, the cheaper will it come at *Home*. But is this feaſible, exactly as THEY would have it? THEY cannot think it is. Nevertheleſs, of this Caſt are THEIR darling Policies, of a PROHIBITION; of *importing Iriſh Wool*, &c. and ſuch as they be, THEY are bent upon reaping the moſt they can from them; altho' *Clandeſtine Exporters*, THEY very well know, both *do*, and *will* come in for a Share of *that Spoil*, which is *thus* committed upon the *Engliſh Grower*, and his LANDLORD.

In diſapproving this, as thinking it too partial, I ſhall be ſaid perhaps, to argue upon "miſtaken Principles, from narrow "Notions, not ſeeing Things thro' a pro-"per and true Medium," for that, altho', "BEFORE the Exportation of raw "Wool was abſolutely prohibited, the nar-"row minded Grower might, though ve-"ry falſly, think his Intereſt different "from that of the *Engliſh* Manufacturer: "The Intereſt of the *one* [being] to have "WOOL *cheap*; the *other* [wiſhing] to "ſell it *dear*; yet NOW, the narrow im-"mediate Intereſt of the Grower depends "upon the *Engliſh* Manufacturer IN-"TIRELY." And what HE does not buy "MUST lie upon the Hands of the "Grower, and * ROT."

'Till my being thus inlightened, I was at a Loſs to conceive what was often meant by the MISTAKEN INTEREST *of the Grower*. But now I find that the MISTAKE is, in imagining the *Grower* to have ANY INTEREST, properly HIS OWN; and that HE and HIS LANDLORD, are but UNDERLINGS in the *Commonwealth*, to Manufacturers, or STAPLERS, who upon any Redundancy of that Commodity, have it in their Choice to ſpurn at the *Grower*; condemning his WOOL, unleſs he will truckle at any Rate, to LIE UPON HIS HANDS AND ROT. WRETCHED ALTERNATIVE! *a ſevere Sentence!* was it to be fully executed; conſidering eſpecially, that altho' the *Manufacturer* or *Stapler* hath Ports and other Markets open for the buying of WOOL; and that tho' many Stops may happen in foreign Trade, through Default of *Manufacturers themſelves*, or *Merchants*, and for other Reaſons, which the *Engliſh Grower* can neither ſee, nor help; yet muſt HE depend upon the *Sale of his* WOOL, for the Payment of his RENT; and that too, at ſome *ſtated Time*, or near it.

* *Complaints, &c.* p. 27.

Under

Under theſe diſadvantageous Circumſtances, the FARMER muſt neceſſarily ſell that Part of his Produce ALWAYS at an *under Value*; often for what the Purchaſer pleaſes to give (what the Manufacturer can, or might afford, being out of the Caſe) And SOMETIMES, it muſt bear NO PRICE AT ALL; but LIE UPON HIS HANDS AND ROT. Conſequently, ſo far, HE can pay no RENT. And as Mr. *Locke* hath juſtly obſerved, if "HE "fail the LANDLORD, he muſt fail "his Creditor; and he his; and ſo on, till "ſome Body break; and ſo Trade de-"cay."

Thus ſtands the Matter in *Theory*; and SO the *Law* hath been in a great Meaſure, for near a Century. And it hath received ſome auxiliary Additions ſince, at Times. BUT, the Fact hath been ALL ALONG, ſomewhat different, according to the many Repreſentations to be ſeen in the Journals of P————t, and elſewhere; and with which Repreſentations there is *one Circumſtance* tallying too exactly, not to merit a particular Notice; namely, that, notwithſtanding the ſeveral Ebbs of Trade that have happened ſince the *Reſtoration*, there hath not been at any Time, that *woful Waſte* mentioned (*in Terrorem*) with all its horrible Conſequences, for want of Vent at SOME PRICE. And yet this might have

have been expected; moſt certainly would have happened, not unfrequently, had an ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION given to *Manufacturers*, in *Reality*, SO MUCH MORE than a *Pre-emption* of the *Engliſh* WOOLS, as THEY deſire, and as the LAW (it muſt be ſaid) *intends* THEM; namely, AN ABSOLUTE MONOPOLY; the ſole purchaſing of them, FOR THEIR OWN WORKING ONLY; and in Failure thereof, to LIE UPON THE HANDS OF THE GROWER AND ROT.

But ſo it ſeems, that WHAT happened from Time to Time, NOT TO BE WANTED HERE, hath ALL ALONG, tranſpired BEYOND SEA; and tho' the *narrow minded Grower*, COULD NOT; yet OTHERS have found Means of ſending ABROAD, what was *ſuperfluous* (or what was *made ſo* by Importations from *Ireland*) to the *higher Market*. And THUS, *Runnage* hath *conſtantly* ſet SOME BOUNDS to that, otherwiſe *unlimited*, *artificial*, ARBITRARY CHEAPNESS, which an ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION on this *Engliſh* and very plentiful Commodity, with a Liberty and Incouragement to import the LIKE from a neighbouring Kingdom, does, NATURALLY, and NECESSARILY create.

FOR

FOR INSTANCE, *when*, as we are reminded, "our unkind Situation, not many "Years ſince, was ſuch, that the WOOL "[of this Kingdom] though not above "3-4ths of the preſent Growth, COULD "NOT ALL BE CONSUMED, * and "what was ſold, was on VERY LOW "TERMS," and this, for MANY YEARS TOGETHER; yet, during that long Period, did not any of it lie upon the Hands of the Grower to ROT. It was ALL ſold, tho' on *very low Terms truly*; lower than had been known, from the *Reſtoration*; and MUCH LOWER, than for Ages before it.

And REMARKABLE IT IS, that in this very Period, when OUR OWN WOOL COULD NOT ALL BE CONSUMED, the *larger Importations* of that *then, redundant* Commodity, were called for loudly, and ſolicited earneſtly, HERE, as if they had been *really wanted*; and as if OUR OWN WOOL HAD BEEN ALL CONSUMED; and HAD NOT GONE UPON THOSE VERY LOW TERMS.† And could this be for the Good of that *great Farm*, OUR NATION? Would it

* *The Complaints, &c.* p. 28.

† *This is the Inſtance I promiſed, of WOOL having never been* ſo cheap, *but that it was deſired to be ſtill* ſomewhat cheaper.

be

be Oeconomy; or rather would it be not rank *Folly*, or *Madneſs*, in a *ſingle Farmer*, to be employing *his Hands* to gather in his Neighbours Harveſt, while *his own Corn* was ſhaking in the Field, deſtroyed, or *pilfered* from him? 'Twas the very ſame (NATIONALLY ſpeaking) to be ſeeking, nay, *clamouring* for *foreign Wool*,* when OUR OWN, of the *very ſame Kind*, COULD NOT ALL BE CONSUMED; and *was ſold*, on VERY LOW TERMS. *This* could be calculated only for an UNBOUNDED ARTIFICIAL CHEAPNESS, not to be defeated, only (as in ſome Degree it was) by RUNNAGE; otherwiſe, ſince it *could not* ALL *be conſumed*, SOME of it MUST have bore *no Price at all*; but MUST have *laid in the Hands of the Grower*, to ROT.

THE VERY LOW TERMS mentioned, at which OUR WOOL did go, for many Years together, have been reſolved in-

* *I would not be thonght to quarrel at any Rate with the Wool and Yarn of* Ireland; *which (with Black Cattle alive from that Kingdom) might, as well be imported, as not, under a due Regulation of Things—BUT I* remark *here, the PRINCIPLE, upon which the former were at THIS TIME demanded——that it WAS NOT, to ſupply A WANT; but to CONTINUE, at leaſt, without Remorſe, a CALAMITOUS, UNWARRANTABLE CHEAPNESS; although it COULD iſſue in nothing better than MORE RUNNAGE from* England.

to

to a *Deadneſs of Trade*,* for that Period (which there is Reaſon to believe WAS NOT the Caſe) and the Commodity advancing ſince, notwithſtanding a *vaſt Increaſe* of it, hath been imputed to a MUCH MORE flouriſhing Trade, though owing to "accidental Circumſtances that have "NOW, in a great Meaſure ceaſed."† And HERE again, it is to be *remarked*, that at the very Inſtant, of this *diſagreeable Event* being FIRST declared, MORE *Ports* for the Commodity, from *Ireland*, were to be opened; as if the very Reverſe had been the real Circumſtances of *England*. But THIS, I ſuppoſe, with a View of *humbling* the *Engliſh Grower*; and to reduce *him* the more readily, to a *lower Price* for HIS WOOL; which, though produced, its true, in *far greater Plenty*, than uſual, yet had been ſold, NOT DEAR, but, for *nine Years ſucceſſively*, DEARER, than of a very long Time before. HOW all this came to paſs, ſeems, as I have before mentioned, to merit *ſome Inquiry*; it being much to be ſuſpected that ſuch very different Appearances at different Times, as to the *Price* of WOOL, under ſuch contrary Circumſtances, as to the *Plenty* of it produced, are not altogether truly accounted

* *Complaints, &c.* p. 28.
† *Ibid. &c.* p. 29.

for;

for; they certainly do not accord with the general *Phænomena*, in Regard to WOOL from the *Reſtoration*, downwards.

For *thence*, are we to date its being abſolutely prohibited to be exported raw. And *ſo long*, hath the RUNNAGE of it prevailed certainly; though more, I make no Doubt, at ſome Times, than at others: *Since that Time*, the PRICE of *Engliſh* WOOL in *England*, hath, upon an Average, been ſenſibly lowered, from what it was, for at leaſt, a Century before. And though it hath varied conſiderably; and though that Variation hath been for the moſt Part, aſcribed to the Better or Worſe State of our *woolen Exportation Trade*; yet hath this appeared to be a *Miſtake*, ſo often as there has been any Means of coming at the *Truth of Things*.——So that, in ſhort, what ſeems, upon the whole, moſt credible, is, that the *Price of* WOOL, throughout the World, like that of moſt other Commodities, *does fluctuate*--that by Reaſon of its great natural Plenty, joined to an *abſolute Prohibition*, &c. the ſame is *always* cheaper in *England*, than elſewhere—that, without regarding our woolen Exports, it riſes and falls here, in ſome Proportion, with the Price of *all other* WOOLS, in *Europe* at leaſt—that by Means of an *abſolute Prohibition*, &c. it is, in all the general Ebbings and Flowings of that Commodity, *firſt on Ground*

Ground, and *floats laſt*.---That this is, what cauſes *Runnage*, at Times; and a *conſtant Propenſity* to it; not to be ſubdued by other Means (a Regiſtry excepted) than that of *a proper Duty*, inſtead of an *abſolute Prohibition*. And the *former*, I am perſuaded, would ſerve for *more* good Purpoſes to the NATION, than the latter ever *did*, or *can do*.

This at leaſt I will venture to ſay; that a DUTY, rightly pitched, *cannot*, any more than RUNNAGE (and for the ſame Reaſon) make *Wool* TOO DEAR in *England*. But it will rather have a natural Aptitude to prevent its being too CHEAP, and thereby to prevent its Exportation, *raw*, on any TERMS.

That it would anſwer better the grand Purpoſe of *Prevention*, than *a Prohibition* does, even Traders, the more ſenſible and conſiderate Part of them, MUST, I think, be fully convinced, in their own Minds; but then, that *narrow immediate Intereſt*, conceived from an UNBOUNDED ARTIFICIAL CHEAPNESS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, is what not only blinds THEIR Imaginations; but the Policy of a PROHIBITION, hath in Virtue of *long Uſage*, too many other Votaries beſides; altho' in Reality, the NATION cannot be ſaid to have found any better Fruits than what I have ſo often mentioned (RUNNAGE)

NAGE) in departing from the *old Syſtem* (a DUTY) which had prevailed in this Kingdom, for ſeveral Centuries; the *woolen Manufacture* and *foreign Trade* for it, growing up, and proſpering abundantly ALL THE WHILE †; as it might have done to this Time, in the ſame Way, equally at leaſt *, if not more ſo, than under the *more narrow* Meaſures that have ſince been purſued with *much Applauſe*, tho' as I think, *no Deſert*; and which (one great Miſchief thereof is) on the Part of *Traders*, hath tended to raiſe, and cheriſh *in them*, an EVIL COVETOUSNESS, which *they* have been continually plying againſt the *Grower*; if I may take the Liberty of *ſo terming* THEIR conſtant Endeavours to beat down, and keep low, the Price of *Engliſh* WOOL in *England*. And yet in this are not the Traders

† *For it is a great hiſtorical Miſtake, or rather ſhews a total Ignorance of Hiſtory in this Particular, to ſay that the* ENGLISH Woolen Manufacture Exportation Trade *was not, all Circumſtances conſidered, full as great in this Kingdom, while the* Exportation *of* WOOL, *only ſtood limited by a* DUTY, *as ever it hath been, ſince* ſuch Exportation *was* abſolutely prohibited, *under ſevere Penalties.*

* *For we are not to imagine, tho' there is no Reaſon to think our* woolen Exportation Trade *hath been better for the PROHIBITION, that therefore we ſhould expect to find it had been very ſenſibly worſe. It is enough, and* too much, *that it hath been remarkably* worſe *for the Grower, and* ſo much Food *for the* Sly *clandeſtine Exporter; and (which is worſt of all) a* Counterpart *for that moſt audacious and pernicious Practice*, Smuggling.

ders MORE TO BE BLAMED (who act but the Part of *Men*, when left too much to *themſelves*) THAN IT IS TO BE REGRETTED that THOSE, whom it much imports to traverſe *all undue Deſires*, and who have it accordingly, in their Power, do not give *this Subject*, occaſionally, or even habitually, more of THEIR Attention; which tho' immediately the narrow Concern of *Tenants* only, is ultimately alſo THEIRS, who are LORDS of the SOIL; and *peculiarly* THEIRS, whoſe *Province it is*, and HONOUR, to give to every Part of Society, ſo far as is conſiſtent with the *common Good*, what *naturally* and *rightfully* belongs to them.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

P. 36. l. 23. *the* Engliſh *Growers only*, r. as the *Engliſh* Growers do; Alſo ſeveral Miſpointings.