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A
LETTER
TO THE
AUTHOR
OF A
BRIEF ESSAY
ON THE

ADVANTAGES and DISADVANTAGES
which respectively attend *FRANCE*
and *GREAT BRITAIN*, with
regard to *TRADE*.

Containing chiefly

Some *REMARKS* on what is there said concerning
Mr. Smith's MEMOIRS of *WOOL*:
And the best Means of preventing the *Exporta-*
tion of WOOL unmanufactured.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *M. COOPER*, at the *Globe*, in *Pater-*
noster-Row. M. DCC. LI.

[Price Sixpence.]

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A
 L E T T E R
 TO THE
 A U T H O R, &c.

S I R,

I HAVE read Mr. SMITH'S
 M E M O I R S O F W O O L
 throughout, and several Parts of
 them oftner than once, which
 is what a Person, I think, must
 do, who would be Master of that long
 Chain of *Facts* therein exhibited; so as to
 comprehend fully the *Truths* he has esta-
 blished, with his Reasoning from them.

Having likewise, from the reading of
those Memoirs, been further induced to look
 into some other Books on *Trade*, particularly
 those which I have observed to be published
 since the Appearance of *that very elaborate*
Work: Thence I come to be acquainted

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with your *Brief Essay*, &c. (in the Second Edition) where I find what you are pleased to call "A SCHEME for preventing the Exportation of Wool unmanufactured.— A much better Scheme of Prevention", as you conceive, than that of "the Reverend Mr. Smith, in his MEMOIRS OF WOOL, in which HE has pleaded, &c." In short, "A SCHEME that will answer ALL the ENDS proposed by HIM; and is subject to NONE of those INCONVENIENCIES which HIS is GENERALLY supposed to be attended with."

You allow then, I presume, the END of His Scheme to be a good one, because the same with your own. And you further add, that "for his indefatigable Labours in collecting ALL that has been ever said upon the Subject, and presenting it to the Reader in one View—for his judicious Remarks, and the Pains He has taken in endeavouring to correct many popular Errors, which had too generally prevailed, HE most justly deserves the universal Thanks and Applause of his Country."

Give me Leave, Sir, to animadvert a little on these your Remarks.

I. Instead of *endeavouring to do it*, I think you might have freely allowed in plain Terms, that he had corrected many popular Errors; although perhaps (which possibly

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possibly you mean to say) the People are not sufficiently reclaimed by such his Corrections; either through inveterate Prejudice, or for want of Attention.

II. Besides bringing together under one View what has been said by various Persons, in different Interests and Opinions, *Those Memoirs* are no less a Collection of Histories upon the Subject of *Facts*, as well as *Sentiments*; and the former, many of them material ones; of far the most Importance to be known.

III. If his *Remarks* are, as you say, judicious, his *Scheme* methinks would not be very inconvenient, because *that* seems to be no unjust Conclusion drawn from *those* Premises.

IV. Your Representation of Mr. S's Work is not, I apprehend, altogether just and accurate, in saying that He has pleaded for the Liberty of exporting Wool, though under the Qualification of certain Duties and Restrictions, for hence a common Reader will be apt to understand him to have been a direct Advocate for *Wool being exported*. Whereas (*Mem. Vol. 2. p. 548.*) he has these express Words.

"But here let me not be misunderstood; as if, because I blame an *absolute Prohibition* in this Case, I am therefore an Advocate for the *Exportation of Wool*." — He had just before been observing (what you
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yourself admit) that the *Cause* of the *Runnage* of Wool, is the *Temptation* to it. This *Temptation* he has supposed to be the Consequence of a *Monopoly*, as occasioned by an *absolute Prohibition* instead of (what was heretofore the Case) *A Duty*. An *absolute Prohibition*, he seems to think, tends only to prejudice the *Grower* in the Price of his Wool, and in Consequence thereof, to promote the *Runnage* of it.—And therefore he adds, “was it in my Choice, I would endeavour to *discourage* the Exportation of Wool, in a Way that should not be *injurious* and *discouraging* to the *Grower* of it.” — For which Ends having given some *Heads of a Scheme*, with the *Grounds and Reasons of it*, he tells his Reader, (Vol. 2. page 566-7.) “Thus will be compassed the Thing so long fought after, of preventing not only the *Runnage*, but the *Exportation of Wool*.—Thus will be effected (what we may suppose has all along been ultimately intended and aimed at) a constant full Market Price for *British Wool*. — an enlarged Woolen Manufacture, as well as Woolen Exportation Trade.” — THESE *He* has supposed to be the genuine Consequences of *his Scheme*. And I see no Inconveniences to be apprehended from them.—So that either you must deny *these* to be the *Consequences*, or say that some Grievance more than equivalent, would attend

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attend *his Scheme*.—If so, it would surely have been better to have given the Public some Hints at least of Argument in Proof thereof, rather than to have passed your *Sentence* in that superficial summary Manner you have done.—But this you did in Favour, I presume, to what you call *your own*, and “which you affirm is a MUCH BETTER *Scheme of Prevention*”. To which I should next turn for a Moment.

Only first, I desire to take Notice, that you set out, with proposing to RETRIEVE the TRADE and CREDIT of *Great Britain* as elsewhere you talk of OUR COMMERCE continuing to languish. This is indeed the Language of many Writers besides your self, upon the same Subject; and particularly of your admired Author of an *Essay on the Causes of the Decline of foreign Trade, &c.* whom you by Mistake, I apprehend, think to have been the late Sir. *M. D.* who was the reputed Author of a like, but lesser Tract, intitled *serious Considerations on the several High Duties, &c.*

—Be that as it will; and though, as I have observed, this *complaining Dialect* is not uncommon—yet had you given due Attention and Credit to Mr. *S—th's Memoirs*, you might have there found that particular Error, among others, corrected, even in the Person of your favourite Author of the *Essay* abovementioned. — *An Essay* which, you

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you say, “ *would do Credit to any Man*”, but which, nevertheless, I think, is not calculated either for the Edification, or Service of the Public: For Instance, what think you, after reading the *Memoirs of Wool*, and after what you yourself have said, (Page 19, 20.) of this particular Passage in the above *Essay*, to name no more? “ The *English*, who furnish ALL THE “ WORLD with WOOL, have the least of “ the manufacturing of it among them- “ selves”, Page 15, 4to. Edit.

If you are not already convinced of your own Error, in imagining that *our Commerce has continued to languish*; and that your *favourite Author* is likewise egregiously mistaken, not only in the Passage I have cited, but in the *Title* of his Book, which takes for granted the *Declension of our foreign Trade*, I desire to offer to your more mature Consideration what follows from a later Writer.

“ That the Trade and Commerce of “ this Kingdom has been increasing since “ the REVOLUTION can hardly be doubted “ by any body, and that the National “ Cash capital has in consequence annually “ augmented since that Period, in a greater “ Proportion than it did before, is as clear “ as Noon-day—Not to mention the Splen- “ dour of *Buildings, Gardens, Dress, Equi- “ page, Furniture, and luxurious Manner* “ of

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“ of living among the Great, we appeal to “ every Man’s Observation, whether the “ *Merchant*, who better knows the Value “ of Money by the getting of it; and con- “ sequently is not likely to run into an im- “ moderate Profusion in his Expences, did “ at any Period of Time approach so near “ to a Rivalship of the ancient Nobility and “ Gentry of the Kingdom in Splendour and “ Magnificence? Or whether *Tradesmen, “ Manufacturers, Artificers, &c.* were ever “ better clothed or fed; or maintained and “ supported their Families in a more decent “ Manner than at present? To construe all “ these into false Appearances, *as some do,* “ is to suppose a Confederacy among all “ Ranks of People, without a Motive, to “ deceive and impose upon one another; “ which is as impossible in Nature, as ridi- “ culous in Supposition; and an Absurdity “ so glaring, as to merit no Answer.”

There are, I know, who notwithstanding all that has been here said, will resolve *these Appearances* into the particular Folly and Extravagance of the present Age.—But, besides that, Complaints of a growing Luxury, &c. have been a constant Topic, as well as real Truth, ever since the Discovery of the *Spanish West Indies*; and a natural necessary Consequence of the same. Let us hear what the abovesaid Writer observes further.

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“ *Low Interest of Money, Increase of Shipping, improved Rents, and high Value of Lands in Fee, are by all political Arithmeticians allowed to be infallible Symptoms of the Health and Vigour of a Nation.*” — Consequently, these are strong Proofs of the Trade and Riches of this Kingdom being greatly increased, of which, if you still entertain any Doubt, I refer you, for more perfect Satisfaction, to the *Custom-House Accounts* of our Imports and Exports.

How improperly then do you talk of RETRIEVING the Trade and Credit of *Great Britain*? I will suppose therefore, that you only meant to say, INCREASE them; which is a laudable Desire. And by what Helps and Contrivances do you propose to effect this; and more particularly, to *prevent the Exportation of Wool unmanufactured*?

You propose, I. “ *To alter the Qualification of Voters; and to introduce a just Subordination among the People*”.

II. To erect a new sort of “ *Courts, under the Title of Guardians of the Morals of the manufacturing Poor.*”

III. “ *To incorporate into one Kingdom Ireland and Great Britain, as to Parliament, Trade and Taxes.*”

I shall begin with your third Proposal.— This in Theory may perhaps be right. I will not say it is not. Many Persons of good Judgment have pleaded for it.—BUT, is it easy

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easy for any single private Person to determine how far it is practicable, in what Juncture of Circumstances to be attempted, by what Means, and upon what Terms to be accomplished? It were surely wiser to wait for that great Event, before we lay down any *little Scheme* comparatively, that possibly might be grafted thereon. *A Scheme* clogged with such a huge Preliminary as this, is not very fit to be compared with almost any other. And yours Sir, in my Opinion, is infinitely less so, on account of your first Proposal, *viz. To alter the Qualification of Voters.*

A mighty *Revolution* this! Do you know a single Person of Consideration, who, however He approve your *Sentiments*, would appear to avow the *Design*, or make the least Step towards carrying the same into Execution? Can the wisest in the Kingdom tell us what would be the Consequence of such a Thought being entertained with a View of putting it in Practice? Or in case of its succeeding, what the Result might be?

As to your second Proposal, *viz. To erect a new sort of Courts, under the [specious] Title of Guardians of the Morals of the manufacturing Poor.*—I suppose it needless to make any Remark thereon, seeing that it is but intended in consequence of the former, without which, I dare say, your self will allow, that however well designed, and contrived,

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trived, it would be made use of chiefly for *Election Purposes*. But however, admitting the Purity of your Intentions, which I do not in the least question; and supposing (if that was possible to be supposed) these your Proposals to be as practicable and free from Inconveniencies, and upon the whole beneficial, as you are inclined to imagine them; and that they were accordingly carried into Execution.—What then, so far as relates to YOUR SCHEME for preventing the Exportation of Wool unmanufactured?

In such Case, you propose next, to set up *Woolen*, and *Silk* Manufacturies in the *West Coast of England*, and *South-West of Ireland*:—Because, First, “*Labour is as cheap in those Parts as any where in France, and would, upon the Foot of your Proposals, be still much cheaper.*” Secondly, In that Case, *it would be next to impossible to run the Wool to France, by Reason that it would bear a better Price at home; so as not to make it worth the Smuggler’s while; and besides, every Manufacturer would be a kind of CENTINEL THERE, to prevent its being exported unmanufactured.*

And it is, it is true, a very common thing, to hear Persons proposing to supply all Defects in the *Woolen Trade*, and to redress all Complaints on that Head, by setting up *Woolen Manufacturies*, in one Place, and another,—as if that would do the Business wanted.

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wanted. — But what, I pray, is the Thing, in respect of this Part of Trade, that either is, or at any Time can be wanted in *England*, where so many and large *Woolen Manufacturies* have been for so many Ages? A sufficient Vent abroad, and Consumption of *Woolen Goods* at HOME.— Provide for these two capital Points; and the Manufacture will extend itself in course to *all Parts* of the Kingdom, where it shall find it can thrive best. — Till that is done,—or so far it is not, all the Encouragement that *Woolen Manufacturies* TO BE erected, can receive from the Public, or from private Hands, will be but *so much* taken from those already established. And tho’ private Persons are always at Liberty to indulge themselves in Projects of this Nature, for the Sake of particular Advantages, yet are they in no wise fit Matter of public Policy.

But if otherwise, why are *Woolen Manufacturies* to be fixed upon the *Coasts* of all Places, where the Inhabitants are, generally speaking, employed in very different Occupations, viz. *Ship-Building, Navigation, Fishing, Salt-Works, &c*? And when, as it is to be considered, that the *Spinning* Part is a very great Branch of *Woolen Work*, it is well known that Persons concerned in this Way, as MASTERS, require large Circumference of Country, for giving out the raw Material, and taking back the *Yarn* or *Worsted*;

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Worsted; of which *Circumference* the *Habitation* of *such Masters* is most properly the *Center*; but for which *your Proposal* admits at most but a *Semicircle*, or half the *Space* that is wanted.

Yet *Labour*, you tell us, “ *is cheap there, as any where in FRANCE; and might upon the Foot of your Policies, probably be still cheaper*”.—Pray, Sir, what is it that governs chiefly the *Price of Labour* any where? The *Number of Hands*, in proportion to the *Quantity of Work* that is wanted to be done; and the *Quantity of Money* to be expended on *Labour*.—As therefore, in those *Parts* you mention (be the present *Price of Labour* there what it will) *Work* and *Money* should become more plentiful; so would the *Price of Labour* increase also.

You project further, the setting up of *Silk*, as well as *Woolen Manufacturies*, in the *same Places*; notwithstanding that the *latter* has seldom, if ever, been known to keep its *Ground*, where the *former* has happened to prevail;—and for this obvious Reason,---because the *one* affords much better *Wages* to the *Hands* employed therein, than the other does or can do. *London, Canterbury*, and, I think, latterly, *Worcester*, are Examples of this *Truth*. The same might likewise be instanced from *Italy*, heretofore, and some *Parts of France*.

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Moreover, by fixing *your Woolen Manufacturies* upon the *Coasts*, it would be *next to impossible*, you say, to *run the Wool* to *FRANCE*.—On the contrary, I think, it would be so much the *more possible* to do it.—You know that at present, *the State* looks with a very jealous *Eye* upon all *Wool* grown and shorn near the *Coasts*,—that in *some* of the maritime *Parts of England*, it is subject to a *Registry*,—and that in *all Places*, within a certain *Distance of the Sea*, its *Motions* are by the *Laws* regulated, and watched accordingly. All which *Precautions* are found too little for the *Purpose of effectual Prevention*.—How much less then, when by the *Nature of your Project*, the whole *Quantity of Wool* grown, might colourably enough shape its *Course towards the Sea*, without being subject to any *Stoppage* or *Molestation*?—This is undeniable—Only the *Price*, you say, will so far advance as to cut off in a great *Measure* the *Temptation* to *run* it: And for the rest, “ *every Manufacturer* THERE, *will be a kind of Centinel, to guard it from being exported unmanufactured*.”

I will grant you that the *Temptation* is the *Cause of Runnage*. And what does *that* consist in, but the *Difference of Price here*, and in *France*, and other foreign *Parts*? Which *Difference* is the Effect of a *Monopoly*, occasioned by an *absolute Prohibition*; which
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Monopoly your Scheme is neither calculated to take away, or diminish ;— so that the Price of Wool here (*ceteris paribus*) remaining the same, the *Temptation* would continue the same also ; against which, that Manufacturers are either not *full Proof*, or not *sufficient Centinels*, both Reason tells us, and Experience further informs us, from several Instances to be met with ; particularly in *Memoirs of Wool*.

Thus, Sir, I think, I have shewn that there are not only Difficulties unsurmountable, in the Way of *your Scheme* ; but also, in case those could be got over, the Chance of Inconveniencies from it, which it would not be wise to hazard. And these too, without any Prospect of compassing the Thing said to be principally aimed at, the *Prevention of the Owling Trade*. — While on the other Hand it is to be observed, that you not only fall into the same Opinion with Mr. S. on which He chiefly grounds *his Scheme* ; but confirm the Truth of that Opinion by a certain Fact.

You allow, for Instance, that by *raising* the Price of Wool in *Ireland and England*, nearer to the *Market Price of Europe* for that Commodity, the *Temptation to Rummage* is so far taken away, that no body can “ *find their Account therein, or will think it worth their While*”. — And you say further, “ *ther,*

ther, that you have Information from *Ireland* of Wool being smuggled from thence to *France*, at 50 *per Cent.* Advantage, *i. e.* so much above the Market Price of *Ireland*. And was it not, think you, *as much*, or nearly so at least, above the Market Price of *England* also? You may be assured of it ; otherwise it had been sold to *England*, where *no Risk* was to be run.

This *Difference of Price* Mr. S. has in a Manner *proved* to be the very *Cause* of the *Runnage* of Wool from *both Kingdoms*. And *how* has HE proposed to remove that *Temptation*? As one and the principal Means by substituting a *proper Duty* in the Place of an *absolute Prohibition*. The *Monopoly* He complains of being *thus* taken away, *WOOL*, He thinks, will in course advance in Price ; when He supposes *such a Duty* may be fixed, that the foreign Manufacturer *cannot afford to pay it* ; nor the domestic Smuggler to trade for *less* ; as certainly in such Case He must do, if He would trade at all.

Mr. S. has indeed proposed along with this, besides some others, a *Premium* on Woolen Goods exported from *Great Britain* ; for which perhaps in the present State of Things, a Fund would not be very easily found, or relished.—But I am apt to think, that was this Affair to be thoroughly scanned,

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A SCHEME might be brought to bear, pretty much upon *His Plan*, with a less, or perhaps without *that* Premium.—But if not, where would be the mighty Inconvenience of it, compared at least with YOUR SCHEME; or indeed compared with what HE has supposed, and nearly demonstrated the *Grower* to suffer, in the *Price* of *his* Wool, from the present *Monopoly*; and the Nation in general, from that *Runnage* of it, which is the unavoidable Consequence of *such* *Monopoly*:—Or compared particularly with *that Measure*, of Expence, and Incumbrance, I had almost said, intolerable, which, for the Prevention of *such* *Runnage*, the Nation, at sundry Times, and more especially not many Years since, entertained very seriously? I mean, a *general Registry* in this Case; of which be pleased to take the following short History, * from *Memoirs of Wool*.

About the Year 1731, The LORDS addressed his *Majesty*, “to direct the *Commissioners for Trade, &c.* to receive all such Proposals as should be laid before them, for preventing the pernicious Practice of running Wool, and to consider of, and

* Whence will appear some good Foundation for Enquiries heretofore, and Consultations on this Head; but *no sufficient* Reason since, for rejecting unexamined all further Notices about it; although that is pretty much the present Disposition of *England*.

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“ propose proper Methods for preventing
“ the same for the future; and to lay the
“ same before their Lordships, in their [then]
“ next Sessions of Parliament.”

His *Majesty* having signified his Pleasure to the *Commissioners*, THEY accordingly at their appointed Time, did report, “That they had given public Notice in the *Gazette*, that they were ready to receive any Proposals which should be made to them on this Head, from all Persons whatsoever.—That since the Publication of *such Advertisement*, which was often repeated in the *Gazette*, and other public Papers, they had been attended by several Persons; and many *Schemes* had been transmitted to them from different Parts of this Kingdom, and from *Ireland*, containing various Proposals upon this Subject; and for putting a Stop to a Practice so very pernicious to the trading Interest of their Country.”

They then proceeded to report the Substance of those several Proposals (the most of which centred in a *Registry*) adding, that they would all of them “probably be attended with a *Multiplicity of Accounts*, besides other *Difficulties* and *Expence*.”—And therefore offering at the same Time, some other Methods of *their own*, which they thought “liable to fewer *Difficulties*, but might nevertheless be very conducive to the Cure of this Grievance.”

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But even these Methods of this Honourable Board, so far as pursued, being found ineffectual, there followed Applications to Parliament, from the two great Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, with so many others, from different Parts of the Kingdom, as occasioned the appointing a *Committee*, which ended in a Resolution, "that the Exportation of Wool could not be prevented by any thing less than a *general Registry*." — A *Scheme* for which Purpose was therefore ordered to be prepared by the *Lords Commissioners for Trade, &c.* against the next Sessions.—THEY, as already observed, had before reported their own Sentiments concerning a *Registry of Wool*, and in Disfavour of it.—Nevertheless acting in Pursuance of Directions not to be controuled, *They* did prepare a *Scheme*, and laid it before the Parliament, *Feb. 12, 1741-2*, which though at least as good as any other of the kind which had been offered, and perhaps as perfect as could be well imagined, was found, upon a nearer View, to be in a manner impracticable. And in Reference to every *Scheme* of the same kind, Mr. S. I find, has thus expressed himself. "The Thoughts of so great an Incumbrance, as a *general Registry for Wool* must necessarily be, imply a fundamental Mistake in the People at large on this Subject, *i. e.* Ideas in Regard to *English* and *Irish Wool*, which are in no wise
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" conformable to the real Truth of Things." (*Mem. Vol. 2. P. 405.*) — This He has not only said, but proved by Evidences incontestable.

To proceed,—Ever since the Year 1660, (when the Policy of *prohibiting absolutely the Exportation of Wool, &c.* became a standing Law of *England*.) this Subject appears to have had its Seasons of Agitation, and Intervals of Rest; and both the one and the other, always, from nearly at least the same Causes, *viz.* the *Prohibition*, has been attended with a *constant Runnage of Wool*. And that has put private Persons at distant divers Times, and the Public or Legislature likewise, upon devising Ways and Means to prevent it. Of these, many have been tried, and found fruitless; many more judged chimerical. And Mr. S. assigns it as a Reason for the Nation's having succeeded no better in their Disquisitions on this Head, that they have all along been taking their Aim the contrary Way; or "looking for that at a Distance, which lies near at hand; almost at their Feet."

Consequently, as a benighted Traveller, once out of his Road, having wearied himself with seeking to regain it, is at length forced to suspend his Wanderings, and expect *Day-Light*, when it is great odds, but that falling to Rest, he oversleeps his Time.

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— So seems it to have fared with this Kingdom, in respect of that considerable Produce, WOOL. They departed from the *Path* in which they had gone prosperously enough for several *Hundred Years*, without attaining the promised End of so doing. And for Remedy of this Disappointment, appearing desirous to make any Experiment whatsoever, rather than think of returning into the *good old Way* (which wanted only some few Reparations) have periodically laboured to no Purpose; and, after some Pause, resumed their Endeavours, and then sat down again, where they began, sufficiently tired, but not in the least satisfied.—Thus rests this Matter at present.—All the Stirring that attended the same for twelve or fourteen Years almost successively, as well *within Doors* as *without*; to the Year 1742, having ended very much, as it had often done before, in an *Address* to the CROWN, a *Proclamation*, &c.

Since *then*, the Kingdom has remained in almost a profound Silence and Negligence of this Subject, to a Degree of Insensibility, even as if they had abandoned all farther Inclinations of Discourse, Care, and Thoughts in Reference thereto,—except that Mr. S. seems, about that Time, if not somewhat sooner, to have commenced his Design of reviewing the whole Affair; for in 1747, I observe

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observe his *Memoirs* were published, and with *them* after the Manner of other Writers in the same Way, the *Heads of a Scheme* of his own annexed.

WHEREIN, you tell the Public, He has “pleaded for a Liberty of exporting Wool, —under the Qualification,” indeed, “of certain *Duties* and *Restrictions*.”—WHEREAS *He* has plainly pleaded for those *Duties*, &c. with a *View*, and for the *Sake* of PREVENTING the *Exportation* of *Wool*. What you have said is *true*.—But the last is the WHOLE TRUTH, which makes a wide Difference, although you did not give yourself Time to observe it;—but a Bystander will sometimes see more than a Person more immediately concerned. And therefore I desire to recommend to your *nicer* and *more strict* Examination the following *Articles* of *Inquiry*.

1st. Whether a *Duty* on *Wool* can be so fixed, as to prevent the *Runnage* of it; since an *Absolute Prohibition*, it is generally allowed, does not?

2^{dly}. Whether the *same Duty* that shall prevent the *Runnage* of *Wool*, can be supposed also to prevent the *Exportation* of it?

3^{dly}. Whether a *Scheme* for *these Ends*, any Thing like what *Mr. S.* has given a Sketch of, would be attended with *fewer INCONVENIENCES* (I won't say than *YOURS* only;

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only ; but) than EVERY OTHER SCHEME that has been projected, OR than have been experienced from an *absolute Prohibition* and the *consequent Runnage of Wool*?

You will be pleased to consider that for *many wrong Opinions* given upon the same Subject, there *may be one* ; and indeed *can be but one* that is *right*. And it is not impossible but that *Mr. Smith's* may be *that one* in the Case before us. HE has seemingly spared *no Pains* ; hath plainly taken *more* about it, than any other Person appears to have done,—whence it is less to be wondered, in Case he should be found, if not, *perfectly so, yet, most, in the Right*.

THESE QUESTIONS at least I take to be the proper *Touchstones* of HIS SCHEME. And moreover, I fancy to myself that I see much towards proving the Affirmative of them, in the Course of *his MEMOIRS*—but to enter minutely into *them*, would exceed the intended Bounds of this *Letter*, and likewise my own Leisure and Inclinations.

Besides, the Article of INCONVENIENCES, is what only you have arraigned *Him* on.—And of what Kind are *they*?—you have not said—nevertheless, you should have been so particular as that comes to—suffer me then to remind you of what Mr. S. himself hath alledged on this Head.

“ In Behalf of *this Scheme* it may be urg-
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“ ed, with the greatest Truth, that *it* is free
“ from all those Cloggs and Incumbrances
“ so heterogeneous to *Commerce*, that have
“ attended almost *every other Scheme*, which
“ has at any Time been proposed in this
“ Case.—THIS (it is humbly conceived) has
“ nothing attending it, which is in the least
“ embarrassing to the *Fair Trader* ; or which
“ deviates from the ordinary Course of
“ Traffic.—It is designed to operate alto-
“ gether by the trite and easy Methods of
“ *Premiums* and *Duties*. And so far as *any*
“ *Bias* is requisite to Trade ; *these* are of all
“ others, the most *politic* and *just*.”

And if these Things are so, to whose Interest is *His Scheme* an Enemy? — Or rather to whom is it not most friendly, except to the *Runner* of WOOL ?

But if this is not a true Representation, should not you, to support your Charge of *Inconveniencies*, endeavour to prove them, by Arguments drawn from the Circumstances of *his Scheme*, and from the Nature of *Men* and *Things*? — In that Case, you have nothing more to do, than to point out something in *it*, that either would be *embarrassing* to Fair Traders ; or that *deviates* from the common *Course* of Traffic, — OR which would have a more *unkindly Influence* than *Premiums* and *Duties* ; — OR else, to shew that *these* are *Means* unpractised, unknown
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in Trade, OR that *no Kind of Bias* is requisite on this Branch of Commerce, in any Part of it; — consequently, not so much as a single prohibitory Law in Respect thereof: OR otherwise, that *Premiums* and *Duties* considered as a *Bias*, are in themselves both *impolitic* and *unjust*.

After all, you will perhaps think it hard, and somewhat strange too, that having bestowed the *Eulogium* you have done, on MEMOIRS OF WOOL, you should be thus questioned for derogating from the *Heads of a Scheme*, which make but a small, and not the most considerable Part of *that Work*. And I can so far agree with you, that though the *Scheme* in Question had been omitted, yet the *Memoirs* themselves might very well have been esteemed an *useful Performance*. — Nevertheless, *some Scheme* on this Head is confessedly wanting: The publishing of YOURS implies as much, in your Opinion at least; as also, that next to YOURS, Mr. *Smith's* is the *best* you have seen, otherwise, to what Purpose was the Comparison made by you? But whether you did it for that, or any other Reason, you should, methinks, have condescended to *argue*, instead of contenting yourself to *assert* only. The considerate impartial Reader will not be satisfied with the single *Dixi* of any Author. YOUR SCHEME has here had different Treatment.
You

You have not only had *Objections* to it, but the *Reasons* of them. And though you will perhaps think *it* has been used with some Freedom, yet do I beg you to believe, that I am, with all due Respect,

S I R,

Your Humble Servant,



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