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A Brief State of the Question

Between the

Printed *and* Painted

CALLICOES,

AND THE

Woollen *and* Silk

MANUFACTURE,

As far as it relates to the

Wearing and Using of Printed and
Painted CALLICOES in *Great
Britain.*

The Second Edition.



LONDON,

Printed for W. BOREHAM at the *Angel*
in *Pater-noster Row.* 1719.

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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

WHEN Men mistake in one Thing,
 'tis very usual to have the World
 think they mistake in every Thing;
 and 'tis an easy Thing to find a
 Stone to throw at a Dog.

Had the poor Weavers, who I am now to
 speak of, brought their Complaints against the
 exorbitant wearing of Calicoes in a regular
 and justifiable Manner, and before the pro-
 per Judges of those Things; as their Conduct
 could not have been reproach'd, so the Grie-
 vance which now suffers by their Mistake,
 would, perhaps, have met with more Friends.

But wise and impartial Men will learn to
 distinguish between the Justice of a Cause, and
 the Mistakes of the Managers of it; between
 the Reason of the Complaint, and the disorderly

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Manner of complaining: And this is all we shall have Occasion to say of the poor mistaken tumultuous Weavers, leaving them to the Clemency and Compassion of the Government whom they have offended, but recommending the Grievance under which they groan, to the serious Consideration of those in whose Power it is to redress it.

That the Weavers suffer under the general Calamity of Trade; that they, and even the whole manufacturing Part of the Nation, are oppress'd by the exorbitant Growth of clandestine Trade, and the unreasonable pouring in of East-India wrought Goods upon us; This will admit of no Debate, at least, none that can be supported by Reason: What little can be said for it, is so easily confuted and expos'd, and has so often been fully answer'd, that little will be wanting now, but, according to my Title, to state the Case clearly and impartially between Woollen and Silk Goods made at Home, and the Callicoes and Wrought Silks printed here, or clandestinely imported from Abroad.

In

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In Order to enter upon this Affair with all possible Clearness and Plainness, and, if we can, to strike at the Root of the Mischiefs we complain of, I shall first lay down some general Propositions, as Fundamentals in this Question of Trade; obliging myself to give such Evidence for the Proof of them, as shall take away all possible Pretences to deny the Fact; and this I do at first, that we may have no stumbling at the Threshold, no cavilling at the Terms, or shuffling off the Question from one Thing to another; but that as I talk to Men of Business, I may talk likewise to their Understanding and Conviction. My Propositions are,

- 1. *That the Woollen and Silk Manufactures of this Kingdom being the Staple of our Trade, and the most considerable and essential Part of our Wealth, the Fund of our Exportation, the Support of our Navigation, and the only Means we have for the Employing and Subsisting our Poor; it is therefore the common Interest of the whole Kingdom to discourage every other Manufacture, whether foreign or as-
sum'd,*

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sum'd, so far as those Manufactures are ruinous to and inconsistent with the Prosperity of the said British Manufactures of Wooll and Silk.

2. *That the Wearing and Using Printed or Painted Callicoes, as they are now almost universally worn and used in Great Britain, is ruinous to, or inconsistent with the Prosperity of our English Manufactures, as well those of Wooll as those of Silk.*

3. *That the total prohibiting the Wearing and Using of Printed or Painted Callicoes in Great Britain, is not ruinous to or inconsistent with the Prosperity of the East India Trade; or, to put it into an Affirmative, that may be more capable of Evidence, the East India Trade may and would remain in a very thriving and flourishing Condition, and be carry'd on to the Profit and Advantage of the Adventurers, tho' all the Subjects of Great Britain and of Ireland were effectually limited from and prohibited the Wearing and Using of Printed and Painted Callicoes.*

4. *That*

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4. *That the Printed and Painted Callicoes now worn or used in Great Britain, come under four Denominations, ALL pernicious and destructive to our Trade, (viz.) such as being imported by the Dutch, are either printed in the Indies or in Holland, and clandestinely run on Shore here, in Spite of former Prohibitions: OR such as being imported here by our own East India Company, and prohibited to be worn because printed in India, are pretended to be exported, but are privately run on Shore again and sold: OR such as being printed here, are entred and shipp'd for Exportation, in Order to draw back the Duties on the Stamps, but are re-landed and sold here; and lastly, such as are printed here, and legally worn and used, and under the Colour of which ALL the other Frauds are practis'd and conceal'd.*

5. *That this clandestine Importation and Re-landing of Printed and Painted Callicoes, is no Way to be prevented, neither is it in the Reach of the Wit and Power of Man to put a*

Stop

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Stop to it by any other Means but by effectually preventing and prohibiting the Wearing and Use of them.

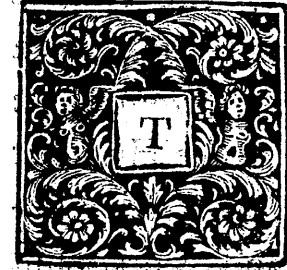
I have some other essential Propositions in Trade, which will come in Course to be laid down for the carrying on this Argument, as we proceed in the Consideration of these; but I shall reserve them in petto, till I see whether the Age is weak enough to struggle with Things so self-evident as these, and till I see what it is can be offer'd, if any Thing shall be muster'd up, against these Five.



A Brief



A Brief State of the Question
Between the
PRINTED and PAINTED
CALLICOES,
AND THE
Woollen and Silk Manufacture, &c.



HAT the Importation of Wrought Silks and Printed Callicoes from the *East-Indies*, and allowing the Use of them here when imported, has all along been found prejudicial to the Home Consumption of our Woollen and Silk Manufactures in *Great Britain*, needs no other Proof than the late Acts of Parliament, which were obtain'd in Consequence of the general Application of the Manufacturers, as well Masters as Workmen, thro' the

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the whole Kingdom, to prohibit and limit their Consumption.

In doing this, the Parliament, whose Wisdom and Justice was very conspicuous in that very Case, enter'd into the true Merits of the Cause, search'd it to the Bottom, and weigh'd the Allegations on every Side. The Members were neither clamour'd into it by the *Weavers*, byas'd to it by Parties, or hurry'd into it by the Multitude of Petitions from the Counties and Corporations they represented; but the Weight of the Cause supported itself, the Nature of the Thing pleaded it, and their own well-weigh'd Reason importun'd them to it: The Thing was self-evident; the Humour of the People, *as too often is the Fate of Nations*, seem'd, at that Time, possess'd against their Interest, and being hurry'd down the Stream of their Fancy, they ran headlong into the greatest Neglect and Contempt of the Growth and Manufactures of their own Country and People, and embrac'd, with a Violence in their Temper, not to be resisted, the Silks and Callicoes of *India*, in a Man-

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ner even ridiculous to themselves, as well as fatal to their Interest.

The Extravagance of that Time cannot be so entirely forgot, as that we should not reflect how the Ladies converted their Carpets and Quilts into Gowns and Petticoats, and made the broad and uncouth Bordures of the former, serve instead of the rich Laces and Embroideries they were used to wear, and dress'd more like the Merry-Andrews of *Bartholomew-Fair*, than like the Ladies and the Wives of a trading People.

The Consequence was, what any one might have foreseen would be, *viz.* The Ruin of our Manufactures, the stagnating of our Trade, the Stop of Employment, and the starving our Poor: The Cry was universal, not the *Spittle-Fields* Weavers only felt it; the Calamity was general, and the Complaint came from every Corner of the Nation.

As all Mischiefs in their Exorbitance tend naturally to their own Cure, so it was here;

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seeing the Thing was fatal in itself to our Trade, it was our Felicity that it run on to such Extremes as allarm'd the whole Kingdom; for this awaken'd the Parliament to its Redress: Such we cannot but hope will be the Case again; for like Causes generally produce like Effects.

The Proceedings of the Legislature might pass with us all, for Reason, in a Case of much more Consequence than this; but we have yet more powerful Auxiliaries to bring in Aid of the Case before us; I'll insist upon two only, 1st, The Pattern of our Neighbours; 2^{dly}, The Success of our own Prohibitions. I begin with the last.

What the Parliament did in the Case I just now mention'd, was abundantly justify'd in the Success: What can be more encouraging to apply the same Way, seeing the Case is the same?

No sooner was the Flux of foreign Manufactures stopp'd, and the *East-India* Goods prohibited,

hibited, but the Trade reviv'd; the Face of Things chang'd; Business and Plenty succeeded to Want of Employment and Want of Bread; the Numbers of Poor flocking to the Manufactures for Employment, and the Encrease of the Consumption of our Manufactures reviv'd the whole Nation. Nothing could be a stronger and more convincing Evidence of what had been alledg'd, *viz.* That the so general wearing and using *East-India* printed Callicoets, &c. had been the Ruin of our Trade, had put a Stop to the Employment of the Weavers, and, in a Word, had starv'd our Poor. I shall come to this again in its Place.

I come, in the next Place, to the Example of our Neighbours, and particularly the *French*, a Nation but too wise in the most proper Methods for erecting and encouraging Manufactures, of which there are such Testimonies given in the Administration of Monsieur *Colbert*, who was justly call'd, *The Father of the French Manufactures*, as we have felt the Consequences of in Trade for many Years past.

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The *French East-India Company* was establish'd by the enterprising Genius of the said Monsieur *Colbert*, in the Year 1664, and the Edict pass'd the —th of *August* 1686, settling all their Privileges for 50 Years; and they begun with great Advantages, tho' they had not Success, occasion'd by their own Mismanagement: However, the King of *France*, finding the using and wearing of *India* wrought Silks, Cottons, and Callicoes painted and printed, whether in *India* or at Home, began to encroach upon the Manufactures of his Subjects, as well Silk as Wooll; and foreseeing that it would be the Ruin of both, for which he thought himself oblig'd to preserve the utinost Concern, as being the Fundamental of the Riches of his Kingdom, he effectually prohibited the Wearing and Use of them, whether printed at Home or Abroad, among his Subjects, by an Edict in the Year 1686, and under very severe Penalties: And the late King of *France*, being mov'd by his Council of Trade, from Time to Time, by several subsequent Edicts, confirm'd those Prohibitions, adding farther

ther Penalties, more severe than before, for enforcing the Execution: By all which it appears, of what Consequence this Matter was thought to be for the preserving the Manufactures of his own Dominions.

The Government of *France* proceeding still upon the same Maxims, of a just Policy in Trade, continue as tenacious of their former Care to their own Manufactures as ever: And this appears by the Provision made by subsequent Edicts to continue the same Prohibitions, in the strictest Manner, of all such *East-India* Goods as are hurtful to their Manufactures, of which the following is a flaming Instance, viz. We all know that the present Government has united their old *East-India* Company to their new *West-India* Company, and what great Advances of Credit that Union has made in *France*; yet so far is the present Government from neglecting their own Manufactures, by forgetting to prohibit the Use of the Callicoes, &c. which the said Company may import; and so far are they from imagining that the said Company should

should not flourish and thrive, notwithstanding the Prohibition of those Goods, tho' so considerable a Branch of their Importation, that those Prohibitions are all expressly renew'd, repeated, and confirm'd by the Edict of Re-union, as appears by the IXth and Xth Articles of the Grant to the said new establish'd Company, as follows:

Artic. IX. ' We permit the said Company
' to import from the Countries within their
' Grant, all Sorts of Stuffs of pure Silk,
' and of Silk and Cotton mix'd with Gold
' and Silver, Bark of Trees, and Callicoes
' dy'd, painted, and strip'd. We require,
' that the said Merchandizes prohibited
' in this Kingdom, may not be sold but
' on express Conditions of being export-
' ed to foreign Parts, and that for this End
' they may be laid up in the Ware-houses
' of our Farmer-Generals, under two
' Keys; of which the Farmer-General, or
' his Deputies, shall keep one, and the
' Directors of the Company, or their Sub-
' stitutes, the other; and that all other
' neces-

' necessary Precautions be taken, to hin-
' der the Sale of the said Merchandize for
' domestick Consumption.

Artic. X. ' The said Company may also
' import from the Countries within their
' Grant, all Sorts of White Callicoes,
' Raw Silks, Coffee, Drugs, Spices, Me-
' tals, and other Things, except those pro-
' hibited by the preceding Article, paying
' the Duties which are actually paid by the
' *India* Company, according to the Edicts,
' Declarations, Arrêts, and Regulations of
' the Kings our Predecessors.

' Here we see the very Thing done in
France which we want here; and for the
very same Reasons for which we stand so
much in Need of it here; which Reasons,
we cannot doubt, will subsist with the same
Force here as there; the Foundations of
Foreign Import, and Home Manufactures
being the same; and especially, because we
cannot doubt but that a *British* Parliament
will appear inspir'd with all the just Prin-
ciples of Care and Concern for the Good

of our People, and the Prosperity of our Trade, as the Councils of the late King of *France* could be for his Subjects.

But I cannot forbear taking Notice here, how much stronger the Argument is on our Side for the doing this now, than it ever was before, even for this particular Reason, *viz.* because the *French* have, upon their new Establishment, continu'd their Prohibitions. I explain myself thus:

The *French* have not only re-establish'd the Trade to *India*, but they have put it into Hands which are not like to neglect it; run in Debt in the *Indies*, or sell the Liberty of Trade to others; but they who are now entrusted with the Privilege, know very well how to make Use of it, and want no Stock to carry it on: And as they are capable both in Knowledge of the Business, and Stock for the managing of it, so they appear resolute to proceed immediately upon it; and we are told, they have already taken up four large Ships for the

the carrying on the Trade, and that they talk of taking up several more.

The *Flemmings* under the Imperial Commission or Charter, are not only doing the same, but are actually embark'd in the *East-India* Trade, have several Ships now Abroad, and one great Ship just arriv'd from *India* at *Ostend*, being the second that they have receiv'd since their entering upon that Trade: And we are likewise told, that the Government of the *Austrian Netherlands* has already resolv'd on the prohibiting the Consumption of Printed and Painted Callicoes among them, and that they will be publickly prohibited there as they are in *France*.

Let any impartial Person then judge, whether we have not just Reason to be alarm'd at these Measures, while we lie open to a smuggling Trade so generally carry'd on thro' this whole Kingdom, and so impossible now to be prevented: Whither must the vast Quantities of Callicoes which these two new *East-India* Companies will import,

say, Whither must they go? Whither but to *England*, and *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, where the People are so fond of them, and where it is so easy to get them on Shore.

Our *East-India* Company has already shew'd themselves apprehensive of the Success of the new establish'd Imperial Company in *Flanders*; nor can they be justly unconcern'd at the setting up a Company in *France* upon so potent a Stock as that of 50 Millions: But what then have we not to fear for our Woollen and Silk Manufactures, which are so oppress'd already with clandestine Importations of Silks and Callicoes from Abroad, as well as Printing them at Home, and when the *French* will not fail to bring in Quantities equal to the Opportunities, which they have to land them?

We may appeal for this, to any one that is acquainted on those Shores of *England* which lie nearest to *France*; are not *French* Brandies, *French* Wines, and *French* Silks to be had almost in as great Plenty in our Port-Towns

Towns on that Side of the Country, as in some Parts of *France* itself? And will it not be the same Thing with *India* Goods? Can *Rumney-Marsh* want *French* Callicoes, where all *French* Goods are, as it were, as familiar to them as in *France*? Can those People that know how to carry off whole Freights of Wool, the most bulky of all Merchandize, be ignorant to take on Shore *French* Callicoes, *French* Wrought Silks, *French* *East-India* Goods of all Kinds? It cannot be doubted, but when the *French* come to have a Quantity of Callicoes always by them, and no Consumption for them at Home, they will find Ways and Means to croud them in upon us, with much more Ease than they do now their Wines and Brandies. What the Consequence of this will be to our Woollen and Silk Manufactures, is very plain: They must be destroy'd, nothing can prevent it.

These Things serve to let us see that the present Debate is not the Concern of a few People in *Spittle-Fields* only, tho' their Poverty and Distress happens to be nearest our

our View at this Time, as their Complaints have been loudest: But, in a Word, the whole Body is affected; the whole Interest of our Woollen and Silk Manufactures throughout the Kingdom is concern'd in it; I mean, as to those Goods which concern our wearing Apparel and Furniture, which is the Bulk of our Manufactures; nay, the *East-India* Company themselves are concern'd in it; and, I believe, it might be very easy to prove, by a just Calculation, that if these Companies now set up in *France* and *Flanders*, prosper and thrive, as it is more than probable they will, the *East-India* Company of *Great Britain* will suffer more by their importing their Callicoes here, and thereby sharing the Trade with them, or rather taking it from them, than they will, by the general putting a Stop upon the Consumption, and thereby checking the Foreigners in their Beginning; so that upon the Whole, of the two, the Prohibition seems to me to be no Evil at all, but rather an Advantage to them.

It was, without Question, an unaccountable Mistake in those who solicited the first Prohibition of *Indian* Printed Callicoes, that they contented themselves with prohibiting and Use of Callicoes printed Abroad, but did not insist upon prohibiting the Wearing and Use of those printed at Home, as Things in themselves equally ruinous to our Manufactures; they had not then left the Door open to the Printing and Painting them in *England*, a Trade then scarce known; under Colour of which, all Sorts of Callicoes, wheresoever printed, have been worn here, and Foreigners thereby encourag'd to pour them in upon us by the Arts of clandestine Trade, and our People impose upon us by re-landing their own; in which, by the Way, the known and wilful Perjury that attends it, is one of the least Things in our Consideration.

But now the Work is to be done over again, with this Difficulty in the Difference, *viz.* that now we have the Pretences of the *Callicoe-Printers* to struggle with, their

their calling the Callicoes a Manufacture, because Painted and Printed here; tho' these are in themselves mere Trifles, like that of the Numbers of Families employ'd in Printing, &c. I say, Trifles, when compar'd with the Manufactures themselves, which we plead for, and the Numbers of Families and People maintain'd by and employ'd in them; of which I believe I am not arrogant, when I say, it is ridiculous to talk of any Proportion.

The Work has also another Difficulty in its Way, or rather a pretended Difficulty; that is to say, I foresee that some People intend to call this a Difficulty, I mean, the Fund form'd upon the Stamps upon Callicoes, appropriated, perhaps, to such or such Uses, or, as Security for such and such Loans: But as all those Funds are, to our great Satisfaction, made redeemable by Parliament, we have no more to do but to convince our Representatives of the Necessity of redeeming them, and leave the House, which is the inexhaustible Fund of Funds, to their own Methods for finding an equivalent

valent Security to the Satisfaction of the Lenders; and yet, even in this Point, when the House shall legitimate such an Attempt, something may be said farther. Difficulties therefore are no Discouragement, where absolute Necessity is the Motive: The Thing carries an apparent Necessity in it; it must be remedy'd, or our Trade must be ruin'd, our Manufactures be at an End, and our Poor not sent as begging only, but indeed be starv'd. And here, were it any Thing to the Purpose, I could spend some Time in Exclamation, at the preposterous unthinking Humour of our People; who, upon all Occasions, run directly counter to their Interest, as a trading Nation, in so visible and evident a Manner as this of wearing printed Callicoes; or, at least, wearing them so as to make it an universal Mode. We often see Clothiers, Drugget-makers, Serge-makers, Stuff-makers, &c. dress themselves and their Families in the Cloth, or Druggets, or Serges, or Stuffs they make; and tho' they may not be so very like their Neighbours, they

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will give this ready Answer, viz. 'Tis my own Trade; 'tis my own Manufacture. And the Answer is allow'd to be very reasonable: Why should it not be a National Answer, as well as a Family Answer? Why should not an *Englishman*, or an *English Lady* reject foreign and destructive *Gewgaws*, and choos'ing to wear the Woollen and Silk of our own Product and Manufacture; give this for a Reason for it, 'Tis our own Trade; 'tis our own Manufacture.

Let us go to the *Indians* and the *Chineses* for Instruction, as *Solomon* sends the *Sluggard* to the *Ant*: Are they prevail'd with to lay by their own Manufactures for any of ours? No; 'tis evident, we are so far from being able to place any of our Manufactures among them, that they despise the Proposal; and refuse to sell those Goods, which we have *so little Need of* but for that ready Money which we have *so little Need to part with*.

But this is a large Field; I refer it to the Time when the Battle shall be more closely

ly join'd; then we may find Time to talk more feelingly of the Folly of carrying Money to the *Indies* to buy that which we ought rather to give Money to be without.

But I return to the *Indians*, who, as incapable as they may be to judge of their National Interests, are yet wiser in this Part, by the Strength of meer Nature, than we are, who pretend to so much Knowledge; for they wear their own Manufactures; nor can we bring them to alter the Manner of their Cloathing, any more than the Matter of it.

Some have alledg'd for a Reason of this, the Climate of the *Indies* being suited to the Manufactures they make; and that nothing can be so light, so clean, so pleasant in such hot Countries, as the *Callicoes* and *Silks* of their own making: But we might very well answer this, by giving the Patterns of our fine Stuffs; some of which, as well as the Manner of wearing them in hot Countries, are much cooler, and much more suited to the Heat of the warmest Climate, than the

uncouth Fashions, great Sleeves and pleated Gowns of the *Indians*, who even load themselves, rather than dress themselves with their Callicoes and other Manufactures of their own Make. Any Traveller might be left to judge of this, who has seen the *Spaniards* in *Peru*, at *Lima*, at *Panama*, *Cartagena*, and such like hot Places, where they dress much cooler and lighter in *British* and *French* Stuffs and Cloth, nay, even in *English* Black Bayes, than the *Indians* on the Coast of *Malabar* and *Coromandel*, or in the Bay of *Bengale*, do in their Silks and Callicoes; but Nature dictates to these Nations to cultivate their own Produce, to consume their own Manufacture, and encourage their own Commerce: And Nature would dictate the same Thing to us, if we did not obstinately put out Nature's Eyes, and act against Nature, in Pursuit of the most untractable Part of our Faculties, I mean, Humour and Fancy.

[Certainly, if we were free from this Trade-Frenzy, and were to act by the Dictates of Common Sense, we should reflect, that the
Woollen

Woollen Manufacture is the Staple of our Trade, the Soul of our Commerce, the Original Fountain of our Wealth, and, as I said in my *Introduction*, it is *the most essential Part of the Riches of the Rich, and the principal Means we have for employing our Poor*. Many Things might be said to prove, and some to illustrate whatever is contain'd in these Generals, concerning our Woollen Manufacture; but I am loth to suppose myself talking to any People so ignorant as not to know it, or so partial as not to acknowledge it. If I can meet with any *Englishman* so weak as to dispute it, I undertake, at Demand, to expose them, and prove my Proposition, both at once.

The Premises then being granted, my Inference is as just, namely, *that it is the common Interest of the whole Kingdom to discourage every other Manufacture, so far as those Manufactures are ruinous to, and inconsistent with the Prosperity of our Own*.

The late King of *France*, who so well understood the Interest of his Subjects in
Trade,

Trade, is a standing Authority for this very Thing: All the Edicts publish'd in *France* on this Subject, such as in the Year 1686, and in 1689, and 1697, prohibiting the Printing and Painting of Callicoes in *France*, and the selling Callicoes Printed or Painted in *India* when imported into *France*, are fortify'd with this Reason, as sufficient to justify their Government in the said Prohibition, viz. *That they were prejudicial to the Manufactures of Wooll and Silk, already establish'd in France.*

And there are two Things in those Edicts of the King of *France* which are very remarkable, and which I reserve for farther Explanation, if I find Occasion to speak in this Cause hereafter; I say, two Things are very remarkable in the King of *France's* Prohibitions and Limitations of his *East-India* Company's Trade, which stand as Precedents for our Practice; the same Reasons being much more strong and forcible at this Time in our Circumstances, than they could then be in *France.*

First,

First, That in the Edict or Arret, prohibiting or forbidding the Painting and Printing of Callicoes in *France*, is also included a strict Prohibition of the Painting and Printing any Kind of Linnen Cloth of Hemp or Flax, tho' such Linnen was the Growth and Manufacture of his own Kingdom.

Secondly, That in his Limitation of the Importations of the *East-India* Company, there is this Clause; That whereas the Company were allow'd to import some certain Wrought Silks, named in the Edict, to the Value of 150000 Livres a Year, so, *first*, they were oblig'd to bring in no more; and, *secondly*, they were oblig'd, in Consideration of that Liberty only, I say, they were oblig'd to export to the *Indies* the Value of 500000 Livres a Year in Goods of the Growth and Manufactures of *France.*

And even this Condition did not continue long; for the Council of Trade there, considering that the Consumption of the Manufactures, was by no Means an Equivalent

valant for the Injury those Silks, &c. tho' but to the Value of 150000 Livres a Year, did to the Manufactures of France, that Grant was also revok'd, and the Goods entirely prohibited, under the most rigorous Penalties, as they continue to be to this Day.

These two Clauses are of such Moment in the Case before us, and dictate so clearly not only what we have to seek, and what to complain of, with Respect to our Manufactures, and to our East-India Company, but also the Reasons of it, that I cannot but think it very much for the publick Service to publish the several Edicts, in which these Clauses, and the Reason and Causes given for them are contain'd, accordingly they are plac'd in the Close of this Work.

Thus I have touch'd at the Heads of this Matter, and have pass'd them over without other Enlargements than such as the present Occasion makes necessary. This Essay, for it is no more, is but a Specimen of the Controversy, every one of these Heads having necessary Explanations attending them,

them, and long debated Points of Commerce to speak to, in Order to set the whole Affair in a clear Light; all which it may be to the Purpose to enlarge upon hereafter.

CONCLUSION.

In the mean Time, I cannot dismiss this Affair, without turning a little to the trading Part of Mankind, and especially the Dealers in the Woollen Manufacture in this Nation: 'Tis not a little strange to observe how unconcern'd we sit, and seem to enjoy ourselves in a perfect Composure of Mind, and a most inimitable Tranquility; when our general Commerce, by which we all subsist, languishes, and, as it were, expires in our Sight. At Home, foreign Manufactures encroach upon us; Abroad, they are preparing new Projects to attack us; and, as they seem united to undo us, so, I must say, we seem unanimous in the Resolution of being undone.

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How can we sit still and see the Bread thus taken out of our labouring Peoples Mouths, even by those very Men who ought to be equally concern'd with us to prevent it? The Wearing and Use of Calicoes, is evidently the Ruin of our Manufactures: If we can distinguish between the Manufactures and the Manufacturers; if the Employment can be lost, and the Workmen not suffer; if the Trade can die, and the Tradesmen live; then I have no Foundation for my Discourse, no Reason for this Expostulation.

Nay, if this was a particular Article of Trade only; if a few Families were to be ruin'd, of this or that particular Employment only, and the Main of our People not be affected with it; we might be silent, and the Opposers might say, we made more Noise of it than there was Occasion for.

But since the Evil is general, and the Mischiefs which attend it are so spreading, that the whole Nation is more or less affected,

acted, from the Gentleman of the greatest Quality and Estate, to the meanest Woollcomber; and that we are all inevitably to feel the Consequences of it: How can we, I say, sit unconcern'd and see our Families impoverish'd, and the Foundation laid for the Ruin of our Posterity, and yet take no Notice of it? It is certainly our Concern, in a more particular Manner, to APPEAR, not in Arms, not in Mobs and Tumults, that neither is a lawful Way of appearing, nor would it give the least Aid in this Matter. Trade is the Daughter of Peace, and draws its principal Nourishment from the publick Tranquility: No Men in their Senses can propose raising Tumults and Riots for the promoting Trade, neither is it the Way to engage the Government, the Parliament, or the Ministry, to redress our Grievances in Trade. Such violent Ways only arm Power against us, and engage Governours to be our Enemies. My Arguments all run another Way; and, if I mistake not, have ten times more Force in them with wise Governments, than all the Clamours of a Rabble can be suppos'd to have.

I move you first to see the Mischief: To that End I set it in a clear Light, prove the Fact, shew you the slow Degrees by which the Poison works, how insensibly it grows upon you, and yet how sensibly some Parts of Trade feel it already, and how certainly all the other Parts will be affected by it.

I move you then to put your Hands to all legal Preventions; I aim at no other: I move you to join in all just Representations, both of the Mischief, and of the Remedy, to those in whose Power it is to relieve you, I mean your Parliament-Men; your Representatives; who, as they are most of them chosen by the several trading Corporations of *England*, may be more particularly call'd the Representatives of the trading Part of the Nation.

These are the profest Physicians of all our trading Maladies; I may say, 'tis their Business to heal you, and I am sure it is in their Power; represent it to them in
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Parliament, and represent it to them out of Parliament; let them come up to Parliament fairly appriz'd of the Case; fully convinc'd of the Justice of your Complaints and the absolute Necessity there is of relieving you: Let them see it; make them Witnesses, in the Countries where they live, of the Decay of the Manufactures; of the Abatement made upon the Poor in their Wages; of the Numbers of Poor that desert, and run from one Work to another for Want of Employment: Shew them the Rolls of our Parishes; which, I am satisfy'd, will discover how many Families, more than ever, are listed among your Pensioners; for whom Parish Provision is necessarily made, for Want of their getting Bread by the Works they were wont to be employ'd in; shew them the languishing Circumstances of the People, as *the Effect*; and then lay before them the languishing Circumstances of the Trade, as *the Cause*; then they will come up to Parliament convinc'd of your Distresses, fully prepar'd to receive your Petitions, and fill'd with compassionate Thoughts for your Redress. I must

I must confess, this seems to me to be the most proper Method, to spirit the approaching Assembly of Parliament with Sentiments of Pity for their Country, and with a just Knowledge of the Reality of, and the Reason for, the Complaints you make; and if I might be allow'd to suppose that these Sheets shall any where come to the Hands of the particular Members, in the manufacturing Counties and Corporations for which they serve; I would, with all possible Humility, but also with the utmost Importunity, petition them to look a little into the State of the Manufactures in their respective Countries where they live.

It is, without Doubt, the just Concern of our Representatives, to study the Interest and the Circumstances of the People who they represent. If these Gentlemen please but to look round them, they must of Necessity see that the Manufactures decline, that Trade languishes, and the Poor stretch out their Hands to them for Help; they must needs also see the Causes of it, even at their own

own Doors; while they cannot but see a willfully-possess'd Nation dress'd up in the Manufactures of Foreigners, and despising the Workmanship of their own People; madly sending their Money to *India* and *China*, to feed and support Heathens and Savages; and neglecting, nay, I may say, rejecting the Manufactures of their own Country, tho' they see the poor Families starving for want of Work.

I am not teaching our Parliament Men their Duty at all; tho' if I were doing so, and there were just Room for it, I would not doubt doing it with so much Caution and Respect, as that they would rather take the Advice, than resent the Advising; But I argue upon a better Foundation; I press the People in the Countries to lay open their Case before their Representatives, and convince them of the melancholly Circumstances they are in, by the Decay of Trade, and the Stop of their Manufactures; and give them a clear View of the Nature of the Grievance, and whence it proceeds; and there is no Room to doubt but the Members

bers would be affected with it, as well as other Men.

'Tis from the same Principle, that I move the Gentlemen themselves to enquire into the Case, and make themselves fully Masters of both the Fact and the Reason of it: After which, I would not suffer it to be nam'd as a Doubt, but that the natural Concern every Member of Parliament must have for the Prosperity of the People he represents, will move him effectually to apply himself in Parliament to the Remedy.

'Tis a great Mistake to suggest, that *Spittlefields* alone complains, or has Cause to complain; tho' as I said before, the Manufacturers there feel the Burden sooner; but all the Country, and almost all the Branches of the Woollen and Silk Manufactures feel it: And 'tis easy to shew why the Town Workmen feel the Stop of Trade sooner than the Country Workmen. The Case is this:

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The Clothiers, and Druggers or Stuff-makers in the Country, who are the head Managers of the Woollen Manufacture, are generally Men of Substance and good Stocks; they have often whole Towns and Villages employ'd in their particular Works; and tho' they do feel a Stop of the Trade at Market, they do not so immediately put a Stop to their Works, but they must keep their Markets, and make their Circuits, to take in the Yarn, and put out the Wooll, or their Neighbours will break in upon them, their Spinners will seek Work in other Hands, and, perhaps, not be gotten again when they may want them.

Thus they go on a great while, tho' the Goods, when made, do not sell; till *Blackwell-Hall* lies piled up to the Roof with Goods, and the Wholesale-Mens and Factors Ware-houses are throng'd with them; nay, even then they go on, and are forc'd to draw upon the Factors and Wholesale Dealers for the Money, whether the Goods sell or no: The Factors again are sometimes forc'd to

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sell them to money'd Men under the Price, and, perhaps, to Loss; nay, and even sometimes to pawn or pledge them for Money, in Hopes of a Market to come; and still with the Money answer'd by those Bills, the Clothier in the Country goes on, as long as he can get Credit for a Bag of Wooll to work, or a Penny of Money to pay his Workmen: And this causes the Country Poor not to feel the Checks and Decays of their Trade so soon as the Town Workmen. But then we must take this with us, as we go, *viz.* That when the Trade droops so long together, and the Country Manufacturer or Clothier is forc'd to stop, 'tis more fatal to the Poor, *as above*; for then, as they are long before they stop, so they are longer before they recover, and the Poor are, as it were, entirely destitute for a great while.

But in *Spittle-Fields* the Case alters; here the Manufacturers, I mean, the Masters, are near the Market: They do not put out the Wooll to Spinning, but generally buy it in the Yarn: As soon as the Market stops, they stop; if they cannot sell their Work, they

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immediately knock off the Looms, and the Journey-men as immediately starve and want Work. Thus, as Distempers near the Heart, or in the Vital Parts, are sooner and more sensibly felt, than in the less noble Parts of the Body; so the Disease of Trade, the Decay and Stop of the Sale, is more sensibly and sooner felt here than in the Country, and therefore here the Complaint is first made, and loudest.

But this, on the other Hand, testifies to us, that if it be not provided for forthwith, if some present Remedy be not apply'd to it, the spreading Malignity will soon extend itself, and the most extreme Part will then feel it: And what's the Consequence? But that then the Complaint will come up louder, and be more uneasy to us.

All these Things urge us, if possible, to apply some speedy, some immediate Remedy to the Evil. What that Remedy is, and what alone can cure us, I refer to the Season of it; the present Business is, to lay down the Fundamental, *viz.* shew

the Disease, awaken the Nation; open their Eyes to the Consequences of it, and guide them in their Applications to the proper Persons, who alone can take it in Hand, and that is, *as above*, the Parliament.

Certainly, if the Members of Parliament in the several Countries would but enquire a little into the Particulars, now they are at Leisure, they would come up big with a Desire to set their helping Hand to it; they would come up fill'd with Resentment at those who have been Instruments to ruin the flourishing Trade of their Country; and nothing could influence them against the humble Proposals that may be made to them for restoring the Trade and Prosperity of the Kingdom.

It is suggested, that all Applications of this Kind will meet with a powerful Opposition, and that the Manufacturers, however numerous they are, will not find Friends enough to carry their Point against the Wearing and Using the Printed Callicoes.

For

For my Part, I cannot be of this Opinion: It is true, I have not *told Noses*, as they call it, or cast up the Strength on either Side, or examin'd who shall be the Friends, or who the Enemies of the Weavers Petitions; but this I venture to say, that as I have prov'd the Grievance is National, this, I think will follow, that none of the Nation's Friends can be Enemies to the Proposals for a Remedy. It is our Satisfaction, that this is no Party-Cause, unless any one should vilely insinuate, that there is a Party that would not have the Manufactures thrive, or would have the Poor starv'd and perish; and I cannot have such ill Notions of any Man as to think Party can carry them that Length; Trade is a perfect Neuter in all our unhappy Strife: Spinning and Weaving are neither *Whig*, or *Tory*, but the great Articles by which we live, by which the Consumption of our Produce is carry'd on, and by which the Poor are subsisted; who, without it, in a Word, eat us up all.

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If this Cause meets with Enemies; if any one Man can be found in *Britain*, who would not have us leave off Painted Feathers, and stick to our own Manufactures; I say, if one Man can be found so prepossess'd, it must be either a Man perfectly ignorant in Matters of Trade, and so, not worth talking to; or it must be some Callicoe-Printer, or his Employer and Dependent, who, finding his Account in the Mischief, acts upon the corrupt Principle of being willing to get Money, though at the Expence of the Ruin of his Country; something like the wretched Sexton of *Cripplegate*, in the Year 1663, who, being employ'd at the *Pest-house* near *Old-street*, would have had the *Plague* continue, that his Fees might not abate, but that he might have People enough to bury.

But let us not fright ourselves with the imaginary Notion of Enemies, and a strong Opposition: *Nil desperandum*, let us take but true Measures, setting the Fact in a clear Light, and convincing our Representatives,

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in a peaceable, but effectual Manner, of the Weight of the Cause, and how justly they are concern'd, as Representatives, to espouse the trading Interest of their Country; I can never imagine, that any Cabals of Drapers, *East-India-Men*, Brokers, and Jobbers shall be able to bias the Members of a *British* Parliament against it; or to blind their Eyes in a Case so clear as this, that wearing a foreign Manufacture, and despising our own, is the most preposterous, tho' the most certain Method of starving us all, that can possibly be invented.

Here follow the two Clauses in two several Arrêts of the French King's Council, mention'd in this Work.

In the Arrêt of 3 Decemb. 1697, after other Clauses, as follows:

“ His Majesty ordains, That the Arrêt and Regulations formerly made, prohibiting the Consumption and Wearing of Painted Callicoes aforesaid, shall be executed according to their full Tenor and Form, and according to the aforesaid Arrêt of the 14th of *May*, 1689, and has prohibited, and does hereby prohibit all Persons, of what Quality or Condition soever, to Paint or Print, or cause to be Printed or Painted any Silks, or all Callicoes whatsoever,

and

" all Linnen Cloth, or Cloth made of Flax or Hemp,
 " new or old, or to sell, or expose the same to Sale, on Pain
 " of Confiscation, and 3000 Livres Fine. And his Majesty
 " likewise ordains, That the Moulds or other Instruments
 " made Use of, for the Printing or Painting the said Linnen,
 " shall be broken and defaced: And to this Purpose, there
 " shall be an exact Search made through all Places in the
 " City of Paris, by the Lieutenant-General of the Polity;
 " and in the other Provinces, by the Intendants and Commis-
 " saries, respectively; whom his Majesty hereby requires to
 " put the said Arrêt in Execution.

The other Clause is from an Arrêt of
 July 31, 1700, wherein, after other Clauses,
 it is expressly said THUS:

" His Majesty has permitted, and does hereby permit the
 " East-India Company, according to an Arrêt of Council, of
 " Jan. 22, 1695, to bring from the Indies every Year Painted
 " Callicoes and Stuffs to the Value of 150000 Livres, on Con-
 " dition the said Company shall export to the Indies every
 " Year, (as is likewise ordain'd by the said Arrêt,) the Value of
 " 500000 Livres every Year, in Goods of the Growth and Ma-
 " nufacture of France; which said Callicoes, nevertheless, shall
 " be sent into foreign Parts, on Account of the Company,
 " and not sold to any of the Merchants of France: And if
 " the Company brings any greater Quantity than is limited,
 " as above, they shall be confiscated and burnt.

" His Majesty also strictly forbidding all Persons of what
 " Quality or Condition soever, to make any Garments or
 " Household-Stuff of the said Painted Callicoes or Stuffs, and to
 " all Taylors or Upholders, to have any Thing made of the same
 " in their keeping, on the Pain of 3000 Livres Fine, &c.

F I N I S.