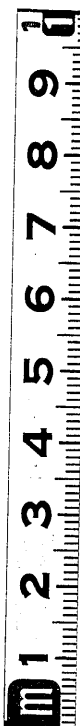


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18-19



OBSERVATIONS
 ON THE
 PRESENT STATE
 OF THE
Linen Trade of Ireland:
 IN A SERIES OF LETTERS,
 ADDRESSED TO
 THE RIGHT HONOURABLE AND HONOURABLE
 THE
TRUSTEES of the LINEN MANUFACTURE.
 IN WHICH THE
 Reports, Libel and British Examination
 OF
Mr. JOHN ARBUTHNOT,
 INSPECTOR GENERAL OF LEINSTER, MUNSTER and CONNAUGHT,
 ARE CONSIDERED AND REFUTED.
 By ROBERT STEPHENSON, Esq.

19
 " As the Linen Manufacture is, and must be, the main Support of Trade, and the chief
 " Inlet of Riches in this Kingdom, it must give them a more lively Satisfaction to be
 " useful there, than in any other Point. Improvements in any Branch of Business will
 " indeed adorn the Kingdom; but this maintains it: Whatever affects that affects our
 " very Vitals; and to correct an Error, or introduce an advantageous Practice, is there-
 " fore eminently beneficial.

DUBLIN SOCIETY, Tuesday, 11th October, 1737.

DUBLIN:
PRINTED IN THE YEAR MDCC LXXXIV.

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E R R A T A.

In Page 48 Line 16 after 'Trade is worse' read 'than it was.'
78 — 5 before 'whom' read 'with.'

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

T O T H E

R I G H T H O N O U R A B L E A N D H O N O U R A B L E

T H E

T R U S T E E S o f t h e L I N E N M A N U F A C T U R E.

M Y L O R D S A N D G E N T L E M E N,

Y O U R Inspector General, Mr. Arbuthnot, having wantonly published a Libel against me, which he calls a Report, in Consequence of two Schemes referred to his Consideration by your Honourable Board, it became necessary for me to Answer him; which I beg leave to submit to you and the Public, in the following Series of Letters, in order to Place his Schemes and Advice in a full Point of View; and at the same Time endeavour to vindicate my Conduct through the Variety of Business with which I have been intrusted, and the various Schemes I have had the honour of preparing for your Honourable Board; in all of which I trust it will appear, that the Trade, Manufactures and Prosperity of Ireland, and the Honour and Influence of your Board were my leading Objects.

When I first addressed your Honourable Board, in 1754, stating the Impropriety of many Schemes subsisting at that Period, you had no less than One Hundred and Ninety-nine Spinning Schools established through various Parts of the Kingdom, all Spinning Foreign Flax, at a yearly Expence of £8,000, and instituted only to teach the Children of the best Spinners in the World, as appears by the Resolution of the House of Commons on a solemn Inquiry in 1758.

You gave at the same Time, £4,400 yearly to Flax Shops for selling Foreign Flax, exclusive of a Scheme then subsisting for teaching Flax-dressers in the Poor House of about £1,200 yearly, all of which militated diametrically against Irish Flax Farming; you at the same time distributed Wheels that were mostly converted into Fire-wood, amounting to £4,496 yearly; and in various other Schemes, that in the whole exceeded the Fund of the Board at that Day £9,000 yearly, whereby the Importation of Foreign Flax in-

b

created

creased so as to amount to the enormous Sum of £138,444 17s. 6d. on a Medium of the Seven Years, ending 25th of March 1757.

The Considerations I addressed to your Honourable Board, in 1754; the Report I made, pursuant to your Orders, in 1755, and the Inquiry I wrote in 1757, produced a Committee of Inquiry in the House of Commons, in which, on a solemn Examination of the most respectable Merchants and others, (see Vol. X. Pa. 743) you were fully satisfied of the many Truths I had advanced, although clashing greatly with the Opinions and Schemes that had been delivered to, and adopted by you; in Consequence whereof, a total Reform took Place in all your Schemes, which produced the happiest Consequences to this Country, as your Exports fully testify.

All Spinning Schools and Flax Shops for vending Foreign Flax, were in Consequence struck off in a limited Time; and well regulated Flax Premiums established, whereby the Importation of Foreign Flax was reduced from £138,444 17s. 6d. the Medium Import of Seven Years, ending 25th of March 1757, to £15,980 the medium Value imported in five Years, ending 25th of March 1773, and to *£11,982 18s. being the medium Value of Flax imported in the five Years, ending 25th of March 1784, as stated by the Exam. Assistant's Acc. § Thus it appears that the increase of Irish Flax raised, must have been very great indeed, when it is considered that in ten Years after the County Premiums to Buyers commenced, which were, pursuant to my Scheme, and under my Inspection, beginning the 25th March

* An Account of the Quantities of Flax imported into the Kingdom of Ireland in each of the Five Years next preceding Lady-Day, 1784:

Years ending 25th. of March	F. L. A. X.					
	Drest.			Undrest.		
	Cwt.	Q.	lb.	Cwt.	Q.	lb.
1779	4	0	7	2,915	3	7
1780	37	2	14	7,990	3	21
1781	0	0	0	10,379	3	0
1782	0	1	0	4,898	2	7
1783	7	3	21	3,680	1	14

JOHN WETHERALL,
Ex. Assistant.

27th September, 1784.

§ Undrest Flax is estimated at 40s. per Cwt. as imported into Ireland.

1761,

1761, and ending the 25th of March 1771, the Linen Exports encreased more than double, viz. from 12,048,881 Yards, the export of the Year, ending 25th of March 1761, to 25,376,808 Yards, the export of the Year, ending 25th March 1771, as appears by the Custom House Returns to Parliament; * I have stated the Particulars of the Quantity sent to Market by each County, to make up the Export of that Year, from the best Estimates that could be made, also † the Countries to which the Linens of that Year were exported. Thus the rapid increase of the Growth of Flax nearly supplied the former Deficiency, and this vast Increase in the Manufacture as appears demonstrably.

The prudent Schemes of your Honourable Board, corresponding at this Time with the Wishes of the Nobility and Gentry, whose utmost Exertions, with large Subscriptions in their several Counties, not less in Amount than the Fund of the Board, were brought to your Aid, as will appear in my Reports in your Office, and were a great Means of producing those national Advantages.

About the Year 1770, the Deficiency of the Fund became so visible, by a Dissipation of it in the Office, that great Complaints were made by all Persons intitled to Premiums, of their not being able to procure Payments; this produced another Committee of Parliament, and Examination of all Grants of the Board, by Order of the House of Commons and your Honourable Board, in 1771, commencing from the former Statement of your Accounts to the 1st of January 1757, on which occasion, in 1771, by order of both, I made a general Review and stated your Disbursements and Accounts, whereby there appeared a very large Ballance against your Secretary, Mr. Newburgh, and the Committee, on a thorough Investigation, Commons Journal, Vol. XV. Pa. 403. 'Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Claimants for Premiums, have been greatly discouraged by delays in Payment, arising from a pretended Deficiency in the Funds.' The Nobility and Gentry in general withdrew their Subscriptions, on the Boards failure in Payments; and your Officer, who had imbezzled and wasted the Fund before that Period, was then, unfortunately for the Public, joined by Mr. Archdall; by whose Management, thenceforward, a general Dissipation of the Fund took place. The Linen Manufacture was neglected, and the Declension became almost as Rapid as its Advancement had been the ten Years preceding, until by the utmost Exertions of the House of Commons you with Difficulty removed those Squanderers of your Fund.

* See Appendix No. IV.

† See Appendix No. V.

Thi

This was the State of the Linen Trade, and your Fund in 1781, with a Load of Debts due to various Persons in Consequence of the Bankruptcy of Messrs. *Newburgh* and *Archdall*, when you provided amply, in a Linen Bill for Officers, and enlarged the Fund by new Grants. But these Letters will, I trust, shew that your Object has been thus far totally defeated, as unfortunately you were not guided by past Experience how to re-establish your drooping Trade and Manufacture; but you went to *Britain*, a rival Country in the Manufacture, to find out an *Inspector General*, and you have procured one, perhaps the least qualified in the World, to serve you, a *Stranger* to the Country, its Circumstances, and the Abilities of the People, and what is still worse, almost totally Ignorant of every Branch of Manufacture. I am certain, on reading those Letters, you will be satisfied that although the Salary and Appointments were very convenient for his Circumstances, he was a very improper Object for your Choice; and if his Schemes are pursued one Year more, it will appear that your *Honourable Board* will inevitably experience another Bankruptcy. It is very extraordinary, as Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Reports are all made on *Oath*, according to the express Powers for his Appointment in the Linen Act of 1782, Pa. 51, to see such Assertions and unfounded Statements advanced as *Facts* by him.

It may seem unnecessary to repeat to your *Honourable Board* the great importance to this Country, that a prudent Distribution of your Fund evinces. You have the Proofs before you of the rapid Increase of the Manufacture, from 1761 to 1771, and the Declension nearly as great, from 1771 to 1781, without a Prospect of Advantage from your present Schemes; and all other Manufactures of *Ireland* in a great Measure depend on the Improvement and Extension of the Linen Manufacture, as the *Great Staple* of the Kingdom, to carry them to Market.

Mr. *Arbuthnot*, in his *Libel* (Pa. 9) denies his pleading Inability to visit *Munster*; I shall, in Answer, refer to his long Report (Pages 1, 22, 29, 37, 44, 49, 61, 63, 65, 81) in all of which, and in many other Places, in his several Reports, he apologises for want of Time. I confess my Ambition fears much higher than a separate Inspection as he supposes; it is to satisfy your *Honourable Board* of the Mischiefs he has already done to the three Provinces under his Inspection, the Miseries that await this Country if his Advice and Projects are pursued, and the Linen Manufacture farther deserted and neglected; the Declension in the coarse Trade appearing not less than £700,000 yearly, in Consequence of the neglect of the Manufacture and increasing Exportation of our best coarse Yarn, to supply the Manufactures of *Britain*, which, like a Contagion, has affected the whole Frame of the Linen Manufacture and general Trade of *Ireland*; and it requires no prophetic

prophetic Spirit to foretell, that the Value of Lands must follow the Trade of the Country.

I have endeavoured to answer Mr. *Arbuthnot*, in a Series of Letters, that may throw some new Lights on the great Advantages held out to this Country at present in her Manufactures and Commerce, and I flatter myself it will appear on reading his *Libel* and several *Reports*, that I shall stand acquitted of having said more than is absolutely necessary to apprise your *Honourable Board* of the evil Tendency of his Schemes and Advice. I have made no Assertions, stated no Matters as Fact, but such as I have brought unquestionable Authorities in Support of.

I had the Honour of proposing so early as 1758, to the Committee of the *House of Commons* and your *Honourable Board*, the granting a Bounty on the Exportation of our Linens to Foreign Countries, which proves, at this Day, so interesting to *Ireland*; I also proposed, at an early Day, to withdraw the Bounty on Foreign Flax Seed imported, to give it as a Fund to raise Flax and Flax Seed at Home, and towards Payment of the Bounty on our Linens exported. In 1772, I proposed a Scheme to prevent abuses of Lappers and Seal Masters (*by a Jury*) in the Use of the national Seal, which has been partly adopted, and it will be of great Consequence to put the remainder of the Scheme in Execution (under the present Officer) as fully as it is reported in the Linen Committee, in 1781. My present great Object is a Restraint, by a regulating Duty, on the Export of Linen Yarn, to take Place as the price exceeds what can be afforded to protect our Manufactures for Exportation.

I entreat your *Honourable Board* to retrench your Line of Expence. The vast and unnecessary Train of Employments on your Books, bear no proportion to your Fund. Twenty-eight County Inspectors are almost totally unnecessary, and £40 the Salary of each Inspector, parcelled out in Premiums in a County properly digested, will produce more solid Advantage to the County than ten Inspectors at £40 yearly. One *Provincial Inspector*, with a Deputy Assistant, is sufficient until the Trade is placed on a better footing in *Leinster*, *Munster* and *Connaught*; and I will assert, that Mr. *Arbuthnot* has recommended this Train of Inspectors for no other Purpose but to obtain their assistant Knowledge to cover his own Ignorance.

The many daring Insults offered to this *Kingdom* by Mr. *Arbuthnot*, in this *Libel*, are alone sufficient to render him odious, and throw Suspicion on whatever falls from his Pen. In Page 5, he tells Ulster, *they are not yet prepared*.

pared to adopt the fine or French Spinning: In Page 26, he says, the African Trade will be a valuable Acquisition to this Kingdom, when we are prepared to adopt it: Page 11, he advises Munster, with some Parts of Leinster and Connaught, to follow and assist the Linen Business in the Countries where it has got a footing rather than to direct or change its Progress. Sir William Temple, who wrote in 1673, gave so favourable an Account of this Country for carrying on the Linen Manufacture from the fine Quality of our Flax, and the excellence of the Irish Spinners; that if this Branch of Trade was encouraged and attended to, we might beat both the French and Dutch out of the English Markets. It is necessary to observe, that at this Time the French supplied England with a great Part of the Linens consumed therein, as it appears by the British Merchant, Vol. I. Pa. 181, that England imported from France, in the Year 1673*, £507,250 4s. value of Linens of different Denominations. In 1678 the English prohibited the French Trade, but in 1685 the French, through K. James's Interest, had influenced the new Parliament to repeal the Act, and on K. William's Accession to the Throne, in 1688, the Prohibition was renewed in which the Trade was declared to be a common Nuisance, and the Irish and Scotch followed their Example in most Parts of their prohibitory Acts. It may be thought necessary to look farther back into History and Acts of Parliament, to prove to your Honourable Board, that the Flax and Linen Yarn of Ireland have been long in Estimation; as in the 13th of Queen Elizabeth, 'all Persons were prohibited from exporting the produce of the Kingdom, viz. Wool, Linen Yarn, &c. except Merchants residing in Cities and Boroughs;' and the same Year a farther Act was made, for the Employment of the Inhabitants, 'and encouraging the manufacturing of Linen, by fixing a Penalty of 12d. per Pound, on all Flax or Linen Yarn exported, and 8d. per Pound more

* Particulars of the French Linens imported into England in 1673, are as follows:

60,000 Pieces of Lockram or Sheeting, and Dowlas at 1. 6 os. per Piece	1. 360,000	os.
17,000 Hundreds of Vitry and Noyals Canvas	6. 0	per Hhd. 102,000 0
5,000 ditto of Normandy Canvas	7. 0	per Hhd. 35,000 0
2,500 Pieces of Quintins or Cambricks	0. 10	per Piece 1,250 0
1,500 ditto Dyed Linen	1. 0	ditto 1,500 0
7,604 Yards of Diaper Tabling	0. 2	per Yard 760 8
33,896 ditto of Diaper Napkinning	0. 1	ditto 1,694 16
1,376 Dozen of Buckrams	2. 10	3,440 0
1,200 Bolts of Poldavies	0. 15	900 0
2,820 Pair of old Sheets	0. 5	705 0
	<u>1. 507,250</u>	4

' for

' for the Use of the City or Town exported from; this was as effectual a protecting Duty as those of Russia or France, had the Irish been in a State of Tranquility to avail themselves of it. Fynes Moryson, Secretary to Lord Mountjoy, Lord Deputy of Ireland to Queen Elizabeth, in his History of this Kingdom, from 1599 to 1603, Vol II. Pa. 368, observes, 'that Ireland yields much Flax, which the Inhabitants work into Yarn, and export the same in great Quantity; and of old they had such plenty of Linen Cloth, as the Natives used to wear thirty or forty Ells in a Shirt, all gathered and wrinkled and washed in Saffron, because they never put them off till they were worn out.'

In all uncivilized Countries the Practise of Washing is little known. In Africa the Checks and other Manufactures, printed or dyed, are generally worn out without being washed; and the same Practise prevails among the Slaves in the West Indies, unless attended particularly to by their Masters or Owners. This will shew the Wisdom of Manchester Manufacturers in not adhering strictly to fast Colours on all occasions, which would greatly enhance the Price, which your Inspector, Mr. Arbuthnot endeavours to establish as a necessary Preliminary on all occasions, in the Line of Printing and Dying.

Were it necessary farther to shew the high Estimation that Irish Flax has been in for Ages past, the 13th Article of Impeachment brought against Lord Strafford, from Ireland, prove it. 'That Flax being one of the principal and native Commodities of Ireland, the said Earl having got great Quantities thereof into his Hands, &c. *'

I have been the more particular in stating those historical Facts, as Sir William Temple had resided many Years in Holland, France, and Flanders, before he accompanied the Earl of Essex into Ireland, and this great Man saw the Opportunity that presented a Manufacture of such Magnitude at that early Period to Ireland. He examined the Quality of our Flax and Spinning, and he found no such noxious or bad Quality therein as your Inspector, Mr. Arbuthnot pretends to have found out, and has invidiously endeavoured to persuade all Britain and Ireland that it contains, in direct Contradiction to all the Evidence of History, or examination of Witnesses at this Day. Louis Crommelin, who wrote in 1705, followed Sir William Temple in his opinion, and was the first successful Promoter of a

* In Lord Strafford's Reply to this Article, it appears that he was the first Person who caused Foreign Flax Seed to be imported into Ireland.

Linen

(xii)

Linen Manufacture fit for Exportation in *Ireland*. Had those great Men, with such as followed them, been of Opinion with your Inspector, (in pa. 11) *To leave the Manufacture to Shape its Course without endeavouring to direct or change its Progress*, the Dutch, French and Germans had rested secure at this Day in full Possession of the *British Markets*; and to use Mr. *Arbuthnot's* own Arguments, if this Country can possibly succeed without the Interference of a Board, Premiums, or Inspectors, where is the necessity of loading it with a Salary for this *Genius*—this *Paragon* of Knowledge; for if his Arguments prove any thing, they shew and prove him an Incumbrance that ought to be first lop'd off.

I beg leave to recommend those Letters to your Consideration, fully persuaded you will meet something new in them, that may assist your future Deliberations respecting the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom; and I have no Doubts, but whatever tends to that Purpose will be favourably received by your *Honourable Board*.

I Remain,

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

With the utmost Deference and Respect,

Your most faithful

and Obedient Humble Servant,

ROBERT STEPHENSON.

Dublin,
October, 1784.

LETTER THE FIRST
OF
ROBERT STEPHENSON, Esq.
TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE AND HONOURABLE
THE
TRUSTEES
OF THE
LINEN MANUFACTURE,
IN
ANSWER TO THE REPORTS, &c.

OF
Mr. JOHN ARBUTHNOT,
INSPECTOR GENERAL of LEINSTER, MUNSTER and CONNAUGHT.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I WILL not suppose that your Honourable Board, or any of its Members, would Countenance Mr. *Arbuthnot* in making invidious Remarks on the two Schemes I had, with great Deference and the best Intentions, submitted to Consideration; the first respecting a Provision of fine Yarn for the Cambrick, Lawn or other Fancy Manufactures of *Ulster*, addressed to the Board, and the latter addressed to the Nobility and Gentry of *Munster*; in Consequence whereof the Nobility and Gentry presented a Memorial to the Board, signed by the most respectable Number of Noblemen and Gentlemen
B that,

that, I believe, ever was laid before you, which * Memorial being referred to a Committee, you ordered your Inspectors General to give their Opinions thereon.

I shall, for the present, wave taking Advantage of the Impropriety of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Comments on my Address to the Nobility and Gentry of

* *To the Right Honourable and Honourable the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, the Memorial of the Nobility and Gentry of Munster hereunto subscribed, on their own Behalf, and all others interested in that Province.*

Sheweth,

THAT Memorialists observe, with Concern, that the Species of Premiums offered by the Linen Board of late Years, although formed with the best Intentions, for the Advancement of the Staple Manufacture of this Kingdom, yet has not had the wished-for Effect in the Province of *Munster*.

Your Memorialists are induced to think that the Premiums offered have not been adapted to the Genius and Circumstances of *Munster*, and they are confirmed in this by observing, that there have not been any Number of Claimants for these Premiums, in this Province, for some Years past.

The Fund offered in Premiums being all Transferable to such Counties as shall have Claimants, and not being adapted to *Munster*, it follows, that *Munster* cannot derive any Advantage from the general Fund under the present Mode of Distribution.

Your Memorialists, conscious that it is the sincere Wish of the Linen Board to promote the Manufacture in *Munster*; and thereby to assist a Country now labouring under great Poverty and Distress, beg Leave to suggest, as the most probable Means of producing so desirable an Effect, and as a fair and equitable Measure, the setting apart a Portion of the Linen Board Fund for the Province of *Munster*, not Transferable to any other Province, and to allow the Nobility and Gentry, immediately interested in *Munster*, to concert such Plans of Encouragement as may best suit their respective Counties, subject nevertheless to the Approbation of the Board, and when any of their Schemes may not prove Successful, to allow the Savings made by Non-Claims to be applied to such other Modes of Encouragement as may be found by Experience to be better suited to the Wishes of the Inhabitants of that Part of the Kingdom.

Your Memorialists observe, that upwards of £26,000, held out in Premiums for the present Year, will, they apprehend from past Experience, produce little Effect in *Munster*; and as they perceive that these Premiums are to be continued for three Years, unless Notice is given to the contrary before the 24th of *December* next, they presume to Hope that such Notice will be given for their Discontinuance in that Province, and that a Scheme for Premiums adapted to the infant State of the Manufacture in *Munster* will be advertised in their Place.

Your Memorialists will, if this should appear reasonable and just, endeavour to suggest, through such Members of the Board as are acquainted with the State and Condition of the Manufacture in their Province, such Premiums as they conceive will promote this useful Trade, and thereby tend to the Inrichment and Happiness of the People.

Munster,

Munster, and investigate his Conduct, Assertions and Opinions with Freedom, he having, wantonly, taken unbounded Liberties with mine.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* is the less excusable for this *Libel*, which he calls a *Report*, having before him the Report of Mr. *Greer*, the Inspector General of *Ulster*, a Gentleman of long Experience in Trade, whose Character had never been sullied by any *Slips*, or Guilty, or even suspected, of any *insidious Designs* against the Interests and Commerce of this Country in favour of *Foreigners*, whose natural Connections and Love for his Country must obtain his Report a superior Degree of Credit with every Friend to *Ireland*; Mr. *Arbuthnot*, I say, had this Example before him, and (forgetting his Conduct in his Examination in *England*, that he must now expect to meet him with all the Mischiefs it created and still continues to this Country) he has, wantonly, stepped out of his Line of Duty, as appears by your Orders of the 15th and 22d of *June* last *, to endeavour to persuade your Honourable Board and the Public, of his being the most immaculate Officer living, and that his Knowledge, Truth and Abilities are unparalleled in this or any other Country.

Linen Board, Tuesday 15th June, 1784.

* A Memorial of the Nobility and Gentry of *Munster*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, on their own Behalf and all others interested in said Province, was presented to the Board and read, setting forth, that appropriating a Portion of the Linen Board Fund, to be applied in such Schemes as the Nobility and Gentry of said Province shall think fit, subject to the Approbation of the Board, will be the most probable Means to promote the Linen Manufacture in *Munster*, and submitting the Premises to the Consideration of the Board.

ORDERED, That said Memorial be referred to a Committee.

A Scheme for procuring a sufficient Quantity of fine Yarn for the Cambrick and other Manufactures in the Province of *Ulster*, having been laid before the Board and read, was referred to the Consideration of a Committee.

RESOLVED, That a Copy of the said Scheme be sent to the Inspectors General, with Directions that they should report to the Board their Opinion thereupon after due Enquiry and Examination into the Practicability of the same, and the best Mode of putting it into Execution.

Linen Board, Tuesday 22d June, 1784.

A printed Paper, signed *Robert Stephenson*, addressed to the Nobility and Gentry of *Munster*, being this Day laid before the Board and read,

ORDERED, That a Copy of said Paper, together with a Copy of the Memorial of the Nobility and Gentry of *Munster*, presented to this Board on *Tuesday* the 15th *June* Inst. be sent to the Inspectors General, with Directions that they should report to the Board their Opinion thereupon after due Enquiry and Examination into the Practicability of the same, and the best Mode of putting the Matter herein contained into Execution.

Notwithstanding *this Arrogance of a proud Stranger*, as he truly stiles himself in his frothy Report (page 84.), I shall enter into a Disquisition of his Writings, not only to vindicate my own Character and Knowledge of the Interests of this Country, but once more to endeavour to rescue your Honourable Board, and the Kingdom through you, from the Miseries attendant on a Dissipation of your Fund and a Diversion of the People (by low Sophistry united with Ignorance) from obtaining Possession of suitable Manufactures in their respective Counties.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* sets out in a very bad Humour to fulfil your Orders, and seems as if he expected Opposition; but he ought to consider it is only by such a Conflict that a Man of his distinguished Fame (in his *Travels from the Rhine to the Shannon*, and his *Correspondence from the Royal Society down to the Journeyman Weaver*) can establish his Pretensions to that universal Knowledge and Consequence he aspires to in this Country; and he ought to plume himself on the ineffectual Reply that may be expected from my poor Abilities; I shall, however, endeavour to Support what I advance by the Writings and Opinions of some of the first Characters of this Country, and by the universal Approbation of the Trading Interest.

I am not for postponing, according to Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Language, until next Year what may be possessed in the present. This distressed Country has been too long harrassed and injured by Delays, and losing a Season in either Manufactures or any particular Line of Commerce, to make Use of his own Phrase, (page 27.) *such is the Struggle among Nations at present*, that we may be for ever excluded. But to return to the Point now before us: He is not satisfied with Mr. *Greer's* Report on the Scheme for fine Spinning in *Ulster*; he pronounces *the Province of Ulster not yet prepared to adopt the French Spinning*, altho' he must and does confess, that he knows nothing of the Province, the Abilities of the People, or the Quality of their Flax; and neither *the Line of his Duty*, as he phrases it, or what would have been a much stronger Incentive to me, *Curiosity and a Desire of Information*, could tempt him to take a View of the Manufactures of *Ulster*; and it must be admitted, he is the first of the Tribe of Adventurers that have visited this Country, who (like a Mountebank with his Nostrum) proposes the same Schemes for all Provinces, Counties and People, informed or uninformed, employed or unemployed.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* does not seem desirous to accelerate our Progress in any Branch of the Manufacture, as he thinks *Ulster not yet prepared to adopt the French Spinning*, altho' *Louis Crommelin* introduced the fine Linen Manufacture

ture at *Lisburn* and *Lurgan* in 1699, and published his Essay on it in 1705. Mr. *Crommelin*, being a Native of *St. Quintin*, was brought up in the Cambric and fine Linen Branches; and in his Dissertation recommends Spinning the long way, and the Efforts of all Persons employed in the Manufacture since that Time, have been to Effect what was then recommended; yet Mr. *Arbuthnot* thinks the Province, after 85 Years experience, not prepared to adopt the Measure. The Province of *Munster*, by this Scale of Progression, might only hope to get some small Share of the Manufacture in the Course of another Century.

It is an unfortunate Circumstance attending Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Assertions, that in all the Conversations I have had with Mr. *Foster* and Sir *Lucius O'Brien*, since his Arrival in this Kingdom, they never mentioned his having suggested such a Plan for spinning fine Yarn in Immitation of the French; and still more so, that Mr. *Wright*, to whom also Mr. *Arbuthnot* alludes, attended your Board, with others, the Day I had that Scheme presented, to give Testimony of the immediate Necessity of its being executed: As for Mrs. *Owens* and Mr. *Gregg's* Knowledge of fine Flax or Spinning, I believe they are as little informed therein as Mr. *Arbuthnot*; and I will venture to assert, that neither Mr. *Foster*, Sir *Lucius O'Brien*, or Mr. *Arbuthnot* can teach a Spinner, at this Day, to Spin the long way in the *French* or *Flemish* Manner, although it is but a simple mechanical Art, which I see, by an Observation that has fallen from Mr. *Arbuthnot*, proves him totally ignorant of the Subject.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* says, *it is a visionary speculative Improvement, and may hazard the Loss of their old Employment in the Trial*, and concludes it best to begin with young People, totally ignorant, residing in other Provinces!—This is similar to one of his futile Answers to a Question relating to this Country, at the Bar of the British Parliament in 1774. (See his last Answer in that Examination in Letter the 4th.)

He thus exposes himself, as it would be a great Improvement, in our Manufacture, if all the Flax in *Ireland* was spun the long-way, which I assert is the common Practice, on Flax, not only in *France* and *Flanders*, but also in *Silesia* and a great Part of *Scotland*, and thereby renders their Yarn so much smoother, more even, and better adapted for Cambricks, Lawns, Hosiery, Threads, and all Fancy Goods.

He says, *he has, more than once, travelled through that Country where the Culture and Management of Flax and Spinning are carried on in the utmost Perfection:*

fection: * We are stored with such Travellers, incapable of making Observations, who (to use the late Mr. *Harwood's* remark on his old Horse) are much the worse of their Travels. He also says, he brought over not only the Implements, but a Sample of the Flax that is necessary for such Spinning; I have seen a Sample of his Implements, set out with his Schemes, recommended to your Honourable Board, in the Newspapers, and there is not an Old Woman in Ireland but has better adapted Implements than any he has yet produced; and I will prove to Demonstration, that we have fine Flax in Abundance to supply all our Demands for Cambricks, &c. and we know how to handle it in a more suitable Way, to our Climate, without his Advice, which only tends to mislead and not improve our Flax Farmers.

He appears totally ignorant of the Merits of our Implements, as a proper Flax Mill, attended by a skillful Workman, will produce more Tare and a leveller Strick than any Mode of Dressing by Hand; and the English Hackle, in a skillful Hand, surpasses the Dutch Hackle and Flemish Brush by 30 per Cent. in fine Work. The Subject he has boldly ventured on is a Science not to be acquired without practical Knowledge; and if he deigns to look into the first Volume of *The Dublin Societies' Weekly Observations*, in Letters, pub-

* In his long Report (page 13.) he observes, 'That when he quitted *Athlone* he made a tedious Journey to *Sligo* without seeing any thing that related to Manufactures, except scattered Pieces of late sowed Flax, which promised very ill, but which, on his return, had a very good Appearance, owing to the Quantity of Rain which had fallen.' Here is a Testimony from Mr. *Arbuthnot*, that he does not consider Spinning as a Manufacture, as it must be notorious to Mr. *Arbuthnot*, and every Manufacturer, that there is no Part of the World where superior Flax is raised, or the Women better employed in Spinning the best of Yarn for coarse Manufactures, than in this Tract through *Roscommon* to *Sligo* where he passed; but their Yarn is almost intirely exported, their Men unemployed, and their Villagers poor and wretched.

It is only where the Loom accompanies the Spinner, that Mr. *Arbuthnot* can cast his Eyes and his Pallate with a Weaver eating a fine Veal Cutlet, with a Pot of Porter before him, as at *Prosperous*; see his Report on County of *Kildare* (page 6) in 1782, or his Report at *Dundalk* in Messrs. *Wright and Co's* Factory (page 3) where he describes 'all the Weavers with good fresh Meat boiling in their Pots, and salted and dried Meat hung up in their Apartments;' and if he ever Travels through the manufacturing Parts of *Ulster*, he will meet in each Cabbins that happy comfortable Appearance that is the natural Effects of a Family fully employed; and I will even Appeal to Mr. *Arbuthnot*, that zealous Advocate for the Exportation of our Linen and Worsted Yarn, if, in all the Counties of the South and West where the Practice prevails of exporting the raw Material, he could observe a Village that did not present to him Filth and Wretchedness in the Extreme.

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lished in 1737, by the late Alderman *Rofs*, he will see the whole Process of the *Flemings*, *Dutch* and *French* in their Flax Farming and Manufactures, set out in the Language of a Gentleman, and with the greatest Ability; that Gentleman having spent a considerable Time amongst them, with a truly patriotic Zeal, to acquire a thorough Knowledge of whatever might be useful to transfer to *Ireland*: And Mr. *Arbuthnot's* travelling Hints, compared with that Writer's Observations, will shew his absurd Conclusions in a still stronger Light.

The late * Earl of *Clanbrassill*, who had resided many Years in *Holland* and *Flanders*, tried every Effort to establish the Cambrick Manufacture at *Dundalk*, and transferred the Flemish Mode of Flax-farming thither; and various Experiments were made many Times under my Inspection by *Flemings* and *Dutchmen*, brought over by his Lordship, and the Flax raised by them never exceeded, or even equalled, in Quality, for fine Spinning, what was and is to be had on the Sea Coasts of *Ulster*, where they Manure with Wreck or Sea Sand; and in the interior Counties of *Armagh*, *Monaghan*, *Cavan*, *Tyrone* and *Fermanagh* they have also Abundance of fine Flax yearly, to supply the Cambrick Manufacture fully: The only necessary Point of Acquisition is, to shew them simply how to make the Thread, which I will teach them with Pleasure, and which, I observe is still a Secret to Mr. *Arbuthnot*.

It seems Extraordinary that in all Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Searches through the Journals of the Linen Board, he has not found the Notes of the Trial made at the Linen Hall, between the *Dutch Flax-dressers*, with their Hackle, and *Irish Flax-dressers*, with the English Hackle, to decide which was most Beneficial for the Kingdom to encourage, it was about 1755, and it may surprize Mr. *Arbuthnot*, after his Searches, to see that the late *Patrick Ewing*, Esq. was appointed Judge, along with me, by the Linen Board, to try, experimentally which excelled, and the Decision was greatly in Favour of the English Hackle, not less than 25 per Cent.

But Mr. *Arbuthnot*, who is a Stranger to our Climate, Lands, People, their Employment and Abilities, is for treating us as if totally uninformed, and thereby visibly betrays his own Ignorance.

* See my Journal in 1755, at *Dundalk*, in the Linen Office, also the Inquiry, published in 1757 by me, (page 161.) on this Subject.

But

I have pointed out the Advantages we may now expect from a Monopoly, in the Cambrick Manufacture, of the British, Irish and West India Markets, and the American also open to us, and according to the Scheme of Mr. Arbuthnot's false Quotations, which shall not pass unnoticed, he forms a Story, on my sanguine Expectations of the American Market, without any Foundation, which induces a Belief, that he did not compare his invidious Comments with my Scheme for Spinning: He also shews a wonderful neglect in his Errors of the Press, or he could not have substituted *Linsies* * instead of *Lenoes*, Manufactures made of different Materials, or have placed a Comma between *Handkerchiefs* plain and printed, to connect the latter Words with *Kentings*. But my Suspicions of his Knowledge, even in the common-place technical Names of Manufactures, were raised on reading his former frothy Reports.

I am, &c

The Second Letter, to the Same.

MR. ARBUTHNOT, in Page 6 of his Libel, gives up his pretended Knowledge acquired by his Travels, and Appeals to the Evidence he has stated, and other Persons he has consulted, the most conversant in Trade, that the previous Step to introducing French Spinning is to improve the Flax; I again repeat, that his Ignorance of the Quality of our Flax, joined to his Zeal to appear a Man of Knowledge, has been his sole Cause of volunteering and hazarding an Opinion (as he often Phrases it) on the present Occasion, but Reason and Experience will not give Place to unfounded Assertions; it is Mr. Arbuthnot's Ignorance of the Method practised in France and Flanders that made him seek any Information in Ireland. He was introduced to you as the Paragon of Knowledge, who was to instruct the best-informed of the Irish in Manufactures and Commerce; and in the Course of those Letters it will appear that you were imposed on by adopting him, and his Noble Patron, and every one concerned in his Importation to Ireland, convinced of his Ignorance and Insufficiency to be of any Use to you.

* See my Scheme for Spinning fine Yarn. No. I. Appendix.

His

His next Assertion is, that we must make Use of French or Flemish Flax, if we adopt the Plan at present; even in that Case, surely it would employ our People, and be a Saving of at least five Parts in six of the Value of very fine Yarn procured by their Labour*; this saving would exempt Mr. Arbuthnot from Criticism or Censure, which he pretends (Page 6.) to fear: But I am a Judge of Flax, in every Stage, and I take upon me to say and prove his Assertion is without Foundation, and I know this Country can produce fine Flax in Abundance to supply any Demands we may have; I know from long Experience that our Culture, Climate, and Method of preparing it for the Spinner, although very different from the Flemish, produces as fine and as strong Flax as any raised in France or Flanders, and there has only been one bad Year of Flax lately, in 1782, and even then fine Flax might have been fully supplied of Home Growth, had our Spinners known how to use it: And Mr. Arbuthnot would be more prudent to dwell less on the Dangers and Fears he Expresses for Ulster, in this or any other Branch of their Manufacture, as he knows well, from the Contempt they shewed for his *Linen Act* that he was so humane, unfolicited, to draw for them, and other Circumstances, that they have strong Suspicions of his Heart as well as his Head.

I shall not tell Mr. Arbuthnot the Secret of making fine Yarn which he fishes for in Page 7; it is enough to assert, that Mr. Arbuthnot is ignorant of the Matter, and wants to deprive the Province of the proper and most profitable Use of their fine Flax and Spinners. There is no doubt but the Cambrick Manufacture would have succeeded long ago, in this Kingdom, if the Seat of the Factory had been first fixed among the finest Spinners in the northern Parts of Ulster; and this Overture of Mr. Arbuthnot's to have the Spinning of fine Yarn established in the South, and the Weaving in the North, corresponds with all his other absurd Schemes and Arguments respecting this Kingdom.

* "Mr. James Pearson, a Wholesale Merchant of London, examined before a Committee of the British House of Commons, in 1774, says, he bought several Boxes of *Winchelsea* Cambricks, but was underfold by the French, being smuggled and sold cheaper in the western Counties of England, observes, that during the War home-made and Irish Linens found their Way to the Spanish Main through *Carolina*, and for the French Islands."
"He had dealt both in Irish and Scotch Cambricks; that the Scotch complained the Trade would not be worth their pursuit, the French were so much increased in the Market, and he had not seen any from Ireland for three or four Years; and believes there are none imported."

"He had also tried all Sorts of British and Irish Dowlafs when the Foreign were dear."

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Mr.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* next agrees in the Propriety of extending this Manufacture, and mentions my *sanguine Expectations of an American Market*, which I place the last of Four open to us, besides many others that may follow; and I must here differ in the Line of improving our Manufactures totally with your *Inspector*, as through all his futile *Reports, Libels*, or whatever they may be called, he supposes the Manufacturers and Merchants of *Ireland* to be the most abandoned Fools in the World; and in every Part and Scheme he is against attending to the Quantity or Value, but to the Quality of the Goods, as if their own Interests were no way concerned in obtaining Reputation or Perfection.

If Mr. *Arbuthnot* had any Knowledge of the great Markets in Europe, or the other Parts of the Globe, he would know, even *arrogant proud Stranger* as he is, that there is not in the World a Market where so much Business is done with so little *Noise, Frauds*, or more *upon Honour* than at the *Linen Hall of Dublin*; he would also have known, that there are more Linens returned to *Germany and Holland*, in Proportion to their Imports into *Britain*, for Faults and Frauds, than to *Ireland*; and he would know, that all the Train of Manufactures of *Britain* bear no Comparison to the *Irish* in respect to Honesty in the *Lengths and Breaths* they are sold for; nor do the *French Cambricks, Dutch Hollands, or Silesia Linens* hold the Lengths they are nominally sold for: But I am losing my Time in stating the Customs among Foreigners to Mr. *Arbuthnot*, who, being asked at the Bar of the British Parliament, in 1774, pleaded total Ignorance, as follows:

Quef. "Had he any Acquaintance with the Export Trade when the Bounties existed on Printed Linens?"

Anf. "I can't say I have attended to that Circumstance—it is Foreign to my Trade—I am not an Exporter or Importer."

How Mr. *Arbuthnot* has become such a Judge of the Commerce of the World, since the Year 1774, seems Extraordinary, and throws strong Suspicions on any thing he advances, especially as we know he became a Bankrupt soon after that Examination, and resided in a Part of *France* little concerned in any Trade but Smuggling; and the early Part of his Life was employed in acquiring some little Knowledge of the Printing Business, in which he did not succeed; or in planting Madder, a *Hobby Horse* of his, at *Caschorton*, near *London*, where I have been in his Printing Yard.

I have

I have thought this Detail so far Necessary to give a perfect View of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Pretensions to *Experience and Knowledge*, well knowing that *Gentlemen* are too apt to ascribe to *Strangers Abilities and Experience* that has often lead public Bodies, in this Country, into expensive Errors, some of which shall be instanced: And now that I have informed you how he has been employed since he left *Scotland*, until Lord *Loughborough* brought him in his Suit to *Ireland*, and had him adopted by your *Honourable Board* to instruct the poor *Irish*, and form *Schemes and Bills for Parliament*, to regulate and extend all their *Manufactures*, as if by *Instinct*, without either seeing the *Country or People*. This is a true Picture of this *Man*, who thus presumptuously calls me to Account for my Conduct these *thirty Years past*, in a Country that I speak of from my Knowledge, and of a *Trade and Manufacture* which I have experimentally tried in almost every Branch in Imitation of the *Foreign*; and I have exported to every *Country* where a Market could be expected, with a View to obtain Information; and though many Experiments have not succeed, they have enabled me to speak with *Firmness*, not as a *Speculist*; and I hope for Credit in Preference to any *Adventurer* whose Assertions I shall Demonstrate to be ill-founded; and only exposing his Ignorance, and too often, it is to be feared intentionally made to lead the People from their true Interests.

Mr. *Arbuthnot's* pretended Ignorance of the Transactions of the British Parliament (Page 7.) only proves his Inattention to the most important Interests of this Country, which his great Salary of £700. yearly, a House, and other lucrative Advantages cannot Bribe him to consider. Our Newspapers convey to the Public a Narrative of every thing, relative to this Country, that is agitated in the British Parliament, which even the lowest Class of People read at this Time; and a Man of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Researches ought to have also known the several Acts passed in *Britain*, and still in Force, to give us Possession, equal to a Monopoly, of the *Cambrick and Lawn Manufactures* there, viz. Act 18 *Geo. II. Cap. 36.*—Act 21 *Geo. II. Cap. 26.*—Act 32 *Geo. II. Cap. 32.*—and Act 7 *Geo. III. Cap. 43.* I say these several Acts give us Possession of the British Markets, which are the best in the World for *Cambricks, Lawns, and all Fancy Goods*, which Mr. *Arbuthnot* so unfeelingly treats with Levity (Page 7.); but what can be expected from a *Mercenary* who has no Interest in, and is not warmed with a Love of, this *Country*.

He lays down, as a Postulatum, through all his Reports, and this Libel, (Page 14.) that raising Flax in Abundance will introduce the *Linen Manufacture*; I deny the Proposition on the strongest Evidence. In *Russia* the *Flax and Hemp*, for Exportation, is raised in the *Ukraine*; and the *Linen and*

Hempen Manufactures of *Russia* are carried on about *Mosco*, many hundred Miles from thence; in *Poland*, a great Flax Country, they import their fine Linens; in *England* their principal Flax Farming is in *Lincolnshire*, and on the *East Side of Yorkshire*, and they vend their Flax to the Manufacturers in *Lancashire*, *Westmoreland*, *Durham* and *Northumberland*; they do not Manufacture any Quantity of Flax into Linen in either *Lincolnshire* or that Part of *Yorkshire* where it is raised; but they have *Water Carriage* in those Countries from the Seat of their Flax Farming.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* is a Stranger to the Circumstances of this Country; we have very little Advantage of *Water Carriage*, and Flax and Yarn are bulky, heavy, and Enhance the Price greatly by Carriage. His supposing the best Spinners could not be easiest instructed in the fine and most valuable Branch of Spinning, or that it is most difficult to be executed by them on Account of breaking through old Habits, proves still more how ignorant he is of the Process, and is an argument beneath a School-boy. If the want of Material was to be advanced as a bar to the Introduction of a Linen Manufacture, the * *Scotch* who import their Flax mostly for their various Linen

* The Scotch Estimates of their Linen Manufacture, and Deductions taken on a Medium of three Years, ending the 1st of January 1773, since which Time they are greatly increased, are as follow:

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Medium Value of Linens stamped for Sale the last three Years in Scotland, ending the 1st of January 1773				600,000	0	0
Deduct from this for Home Consumption	150,000	0	0			
Flax imported, 3,900 Tons, mostly Dutch, valued at 50s. per Cwt. first Cost	195,000	0	0			
Linen Yarn imported, 144,320 Pounds, valued at 12d. per lb.	7,216	0	0			
Lintseed, mostly from Holland, 8,430 Hhds. at 50s. per Hhd.	21,075	0	0			
Hemp to make the most of their Sail Cloths about 150,000 Yards exported and for Home Consumption, suppose	3,000	0	0			
Ashes for Bleaching their Linens and purging their Yarn	2,962	10	0			
Profit arising to Scotland on this View of their Exports and Imports, and proceeding from the Employment of their People				379,253	10	0
				220,746	10	0
				600,000	0	0

Manufactures,

Manufactures, and *Manchester*, which is entirely supplied with foreign Materials in every Line of their extensive Manufactures, would never have attempted the Linen, Cotton, Worsted, Silk, or various other Branches in which they have made so wonderful a Proficiency.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* next takes Notice of the Funds being limited; it is true they are, but they are ample and sufficient if managed with Oeconomy to answer the present Objects proposed. But his Attention to the Linen Funds, and Propriety in the Orders of your *Honourable Board* ought to have induced him to guard your Councils so as not to have added £200. yearly to his own Salary, which was settled by Act of Parliament at £500. and I believe the Public will think with me, it was an ample Compensation for any display of Knowledge or Merit that this *arrogant proud Stranger* has exhibited hitherto.

I hope, by this time, your *Honourable Board*, and the Public, will be convinced he has opposed this Scheme on no other Principle but *Ignorance, Envy*, or a *Bias* in Favour of some other Country, as he is unacquainted with the Subject, and fears lest the Board should consider him as an improper Officer to be placed as a Guardian over any Province or Branch of our Manufactures. Mr. *Greer*, for whose Department the Scheme was proposed, expresses no Fears or Jealousies; he admits the Necessity and Propriety, and presses for the immediate Execution thereof. Thus the same *Object* affects a Man of *Experience, Integrity and Knowledge*, so differently from the Feelings of a Man conscious of his own *Ignorance, Inability* and want of *Regard* for the *Prosperity* of this Country.

The Third Letter, to the Same.

HAVING answered the greater Part of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Objections to the Scheme for fine Spinning, if they may be said to deserve an Answer, I shall now follow him to the Paper I addressed to the Nobility and Gentry of *Munster*, as it opens a Field for Observation, in which your *Honourable Board*, and the Public, will best decide on our Pretensions to Favour or Credit.

I shall

I shall not enter into a Contest with Mr. *Arbuthnot* to shew when the Linen Fund was less by half than at present; but he must agree with me that no Part of it is out of your Power to dispose of at Discretion, or so unnecessary and I will say unmerited, an Addition of £200. yearly, and also an excellent House worth £100. more, with other Advantages, could not have been added to his Salary of £500. yearly, appointed by the Linen Act. I observe this *arrogant proud Stranger*, artfully endeavours to Screen himself from me, by calling all the Schemes he has offered the Schemes of your *Honourable Board*; but I trust to the impartiality of your Decisions between us, that you will not impute to Disrespect such Objections as I offer to his Absurdities, expensive, artful, and I will say wicked Schemes, and I hope if any Expressions fall from my Pen, that may be applied either Way, you will consider them as necessary to shew this *Pretender to Knowledge* in a full Point of View.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* saves me trouble in pointing out how the Fund is appropriated at present, the Propriety of which will partly be my Subject, and it is known to every Member of your *Honourable Board*, that every *Linen or Money Bill*, enables you to vary the Appropriation as you see necessary. The Expenditure for Buildings will, in all Probability, cease before two Years, when the first Demands on the Board, for any of the Schemes I have proposed, would at soonest commence, so far his Objections are removed; and according to the Scheme of Premiums I have submitted for *Munster*, the Sum I have proposed for that Province, continued through the Four Provinces in Premiums suitable to each of them, would not amount to so much as the Sum of £16,000. with the accompanying Expences, which your Inspector has prevailed on you to offer for Flax and Flax Seed alone; the Merits of which Scheme shall be considered in due Course.

The Appropriation of £1,000. a Province for Hemp, in my humble Opinion, will answer no Purpose, but to create false Claims and Perjuries. On looking into my Report in 1755, at *Limerick*, immediately after the Premiums for raising Irish Hemp, for Sail Cloth, to intitle the Exporters to an Irish Bounty, which expired about the Year 1753, I find my Opinion decidedly against a Pursuit of the Culture of Hemp in this Kingdom; my Report in your Office on the Hemp Farming fully proves it*; and the Board

* The raising of Hemp is in a great Measure dropt all over this Country, and from the best Information it appears to have been but a forced Scheme, and not natural to the Climate or Soil; and from the many native Advantages in Favour of the Linen Manufacture,

were, at that Time, so fully convinced of the Propriety of the Observations made to them, that they never offered a Premium on raising Hemp thence forward until this *Paragon of Wisdom* was introduced to your *Honourable Board*, and he seems to make a Merit of renewing all the exploded, foolish and expensive Schemes that were abolished by the Board in Consequence of the *Considerations* I published in 1754, my Report in 1755, and the *Inquiry* I published in 1757, which produced an Examination and Report in the House of Commons* in 1758, that your Inspector will do well to read and consider before his next Publication.

It is necessary to inform your *Honourable Board*, that the Examination of Mr. *Arbuthnot* at the Bar of the British House of Commons, was in Consequence of the united Applications of the English, Irish and Scotch interested in the Linen Manufacture, to obtain farther Advantages in Favour of our Home Manufactures, so as to put us on a footing to meet the *Germans, Russians and Dutch*, in all Markets at Home or Abroad; and one of our Demands was, to extend the Bounty in *Britain* to Irish and British Linens when printed, an Advantage which plain Linens, under 18d. per Yard, when exported, enjoyed, and the British and Irish Linens had enjoyed, whilst your Inspector was a Printer, down to 1753, when it expired.

The Demand was so reasonable that no one doubted its being complied with, or otherwise to retain the Drawback allowed on Foreign Linens, when exported printed, a Point we feared was not to be gained, but might en-

Manufacture, the not employing Lands and People in raising Hemp, should rather be considered as an Experiment determined to the Advantage of the Public than otherwise.

* Commons Journal, Vol. XV. Page 380. That *Robert Stephenson*, in 1754, published a Paper, addressed to the Board, wherein he endeavoured to shew the Impropriety of the Application of the Fund, in the Mode of encouraging the Growth of Flax Seed; in the Encouragement given to Foreign Flax, by importing and giving Premiums to Flax Shops for selling it.

That in the Year 1755 he was sent out by the Board to see whether, on his Examination, his Opinion would correspond with the Schemes he had given to the Board; that in Consequence of that Tour he made a Report to the Board, and in the Session of Parliament 1757, was examined before a Committee of the House of Commons, and laid some Schemes before them which were recommended by that House to the Board, particularly a Scheme for granting Premiums in Twenty-five Counties to the Buyers of coarse Linens, which in 1759 was recommended to the Linen Board by a respectable Number of Merchants; and that the same was adopted by the Board in 1760.

sure

sure to us the Bounty on British and Irish Linens when printed; but Mr. *Arbuthnot* took new and unexpected Ground to defeat our Application, and thereby raised such an Alarm among the Printers and Export Merchants that he succeeded, and *Ireland* was in Consequence deprived of the Bounty from that Time until after my going to *London*, in 1778, pursuant to the Commands of the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, as will appear in the 5th Letter. The Questions and his Answers, in 1774, before a Committee of the British Parliament, were as follow: *

‘ Mr. *Arbuthnot* was desired generally to State the Linen Printing Trade, and the Sort of Goods on which the Printing was done, first Home-made, secondly Foreign?—The Number of Hands employed in the Business?—The Materials of British Growth and Produce, which are employed and consumed in the said Business?—The Quantity of Linens printed?—The Excise and other Duties paid to Government?—The Value of the said Manufacture or Business to *Great Britain*, and to what Amount, in Duties and Labour, the Profit left here arises, after all Drawbacks, &c. are paid on Exportation?—What the Consumption and Markets are for which this Business is carried on, and to what Amount in each; 1st. Home Consumption and *Africa*; 2nd. British Colonies; 3d. Foreign Markets?—What Sort of Goods are in Demand in each, and with what Sort of Goods each must be primarily and principally supplied in order to continue and carry on the Trade at the said Markets?—Will he describe to the Committee the specific Difference of the Sorts, both Home-made and Foreign Linens, as they are more or less suited for Printing, and when printed for the Home or Foreign Markets; 1st. as to the Quantity so far as they are or are not suited for Printing; 2dly, as to the Price; 3dly, as to the Value when printed both at Home and Foreign Market?

‘ Was the Printing Trade carried on during the War?—What Goods were then chiefly printed in *England*?—What was the State of the Foreign Trade at that Period, and what Foreign Linens met our *British* Trade there?—What was the State of the Trade in the Years 1772 and 1773?—Was there any Decline or Slackness, and what were the principal Causes; 1st. Temporary; 2nd. Permanent.’

* See the House of Commons' Copy of this Examination in the Linen Office.

The

The following are Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Answers and Cross Examination.

‘ He had been engaged in the Trade, as a Printer, about Twenty Years, and had been engaged until within a few years on high-priced Work for the Dutch, viz. Calicoes to supply the Continent, and on German Linens to supply the *Jamaica* Trade:—The first of those Branches is almost totally Lost to this Country.—The Dutch now Manufacture the greatest Part of the Goods they used to have printed here; and the other Countries that used to be supplied by the *Dutch* are supplied by their own Printing Manufactures in *Germany*, *Switzerland* and *France*. There is at * *Augsburg* one particular Manufacture where they now execute the Work in a much superior Manner to any Thing he ever saw from any Part of the Globe.’

‘ The Printing on German Linens is likewise much declined in *England*, (he means that Part that supplied the *Jamaica* Trade, which Trade is now almost lost) nor will it ever recover the Shock it received by a Regulation that took Place about the Year 1765 †: The Swiss and Dutch took Advantage of that, and have retained a considerable Part of it; the Swiss supplied that Trade through *Genoa* to the French Islands, and the Dutch directly through *St. Eustatia*; and although there is still a Portion of that Trade supplied from hence, through another Channel, it consists only of some few Articles in which the Foreigners cannot yet excel; I am doubtful whether, from the Progress they have already made, if there should be any farther Cheque on the Exportation of Foreign Linens when printed, they would not be able to succeed in every Branch that is to supply that Trade. These two Branches I mention as almost Lost totally to this Country by its Fluctuations, of which he gives a long Detail §.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* then states, ‘ That the Gentlemen in this Trade have furnished him with faithful Extracts from their Books, of Twenty-four Printing Houses within Twenty Miles of *London*, signed by each Individual, and lays a Paper before the Committee, specifying the Number of running

* When Mr. *Arbuthnot* made this Assertion it is presumed he had forgot the Copper plate Printing, which was invented in *Ireland*.

† The Shock here alluded to, was an Order from the Lords of Trade, to Seize the Spanish Vessels that came up from the Continent to *Jamaica* to trade with them, and take off their Manufactures, and particularly their printed Linens.

§ Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Ignorance of Commerce deprived him of the Opportunity of knowing, that the periodical Fluctuations which seem to astonish him, were the common Effects of the Spanish Flota, whose usual Orders and Demands for printed Goods came round only every third Year.

D

‘ Yards,

‘ Yards, Amount of Printing, and the Excise of each different Article, in Demand at the different Markets; and likewise the Number of People employed in the Printing Manufacture, and an Account of the different Species of Drugs and Materials made Use of, specifying which are English and which Foreign,’ viz.

1770.	Running Yards.	Amount of Printing.	Excise.
Callicoos,	1,919,180	£. 77,293 0 2½	£. 47,979 10 0
German Linens	2,006,410	81,442 6 7	18,810 1 9
Cottons, British and Irish Linens	2,728,763	119,596 11 3	25,582 3 0
Total	6,654,353	£. 278,311 18 0½	£. 92,371 14 9
1771.			
Callicoos,	1,996,632	83,583 14 11½	49,915 16 0
German Linens,	2,399,829	83,275 5 9	22,498 7 9
Cottons, &c.	3,351,201	142,726 16 4½	31,417 10 0
Total	7,747,662	£. 309,585 17 1	£. 103,831 13 9
1772.			
Callicoos,	2,174,987	90,826 18 4	54,374 13 6
German Linens,	1,893,827	75,035 17 3½	17,754 12 6
Cottons, &c.	3,454,392	150,856 13 8¾	32,384 18 6
Total	7,523,206	£. 316,719 9 4¼	£. 104,514 4 6
1773.			
Callicoos,	1,956,147	80,140 6 6	48,903 13 6
German Linens,	1,691,088	59,859 18 0	15,853 19 0
Cottons, &c.	3,176,896	147,386 16 8	29,783 8 0
Total	6,824,131	£. 287,387 1 2½	£. 94,541 0 6

You are to View this Printing Trade, on German Linens ‘ as in a State of being Lost to Britain,’ as he Phrases it, and it is One of the few Points he States with any regard to Reality.

The

The Account here stated is a Copy of the Extracts delivered in by the Twenty-four Printing Houses residing within Twenty Miles of London, and he supposes those Houses to employ near Ten Thousand Men, Women and Children, exclusive of the Business done and Hands employed by Printers in Scotland, which he supposes one-fourth more; he then Enumerates the Drugs employed in the Printing Manufacture, distinguishing which are English or Foreign, viz. the English, or from their Settlements, are Allum, Sugar of Lead, Oil of Vitriol, Copperas, Weld, Stale Beer, Old Iron, Coals, Ashes, Lime, Copper, Gum, Woods and Indigo; the Foreign are, some Indigo and Ashes, Madder, Gauls,

He then States the average Amount of Printing, for the preceding four Years, and Excise paid in Twenty-four Houses within Twenty Miles of London.

‘ Average of Printing, per Annum	— —	£. 298,001 3 11
‘ Ditto of Excise on Cottons, Irish and British	} 29,791 19 10½	
‘ Linens for Home Consumption		
‘ Ditto on German Linens consumed at Home 1/7 Part,	} 2,675 12 2	
‘ and which Consumption is formed by guels		
‘ Total Return to this Country	— — —	330,468 15 11½
‘ He then supposes those of Scotland to be equal to 1/4	} 82,617 3 11½	
‘ more including Printing and Excise		
‘ Total Amount of Printing and Excise	— —	£. 413,085 19 11

To this is to be added, the Subsidy on printed Goods exported, which would encrease the Value of the Manufacture to the Country, but cannot be ascertained but from the Custom-House Books.

I have been the more particular in stating this great Branch of Trade, which Mr. Arbuthnot, in his Examination in 1774, describes as ‘ then almost Lost to Britain,’ as it is one of the greatest Pillars on which Ireland is, in future to erect her Temple of Commerce; and it will appear Mr. Arbuthnot has used every Means in Ireland, as well as in England, to divert us from the Manufacture of the proper Species of Linen, and to deprive us of the Printing Trade.

D 2

He

It is a melancholy Truth, presented to those Kingdoms, that *England* has Lost more than Half her *Export Trade* in *Foreign Linens*, within the last *Ten Years*, and *Ireland* has obtained no Share of it. In this great Business of the *Printing Branch*, which is here laid before you, the Amount stands as follows, and is evidently transferred to *Foreigners*:

The *Foreign Linens* exported, on a Medium of Five Years, ending at *Christmas* 1771 was 8,251,193 } £. 58,101 17 10 Yards, and the medium Duties drawn back thereon

See the Account in Mr. *Payne's* Evidence, in 1774, in the *British House of Commons* in *Linen Office*.

The Duties drawn Back on the Export of Foreign Linens in five Years, ending 1782, are as follow:

In the Year, ending at <i>Christmas</i> , 1778	—	£. 28,116	19	0
1779	—	27,706	16	3
1780	—	36,743	12	0
1781	—	23,475	18	11
1782	—	26,462	8	1
Total		£. 142,505	14	3
Medium Duties drawn Back		28,501	2	10
Annual Declension in this short Space of Time		29,600	15	0

See the original Returns from the *Custom-House*, signed by the proper Officer, in my Hands, ready to be laid before the Board.

I have no Doubt your *wife Inspector*, Mr. *Arbutnot*, will make the same reply to this, as he does to the *Transactions of Parliament* (pa. 7.) that he not knowing any thing of the Matter, we are not to interest ourselves in the Event, but 'leave the Trade, according to his Phrase (pa. 17.) and this great Object, in the commercial World, to Shape its Course into the Possession of Foreign Nations.

He next enters on a long Detail of what he, and his Relations, had done, that only tend to prove all his Assertions at that Day, respecting the American Demands, deserving no Credit whatever, by the Experience of our present Exports of printed Linens to that Country. He also speaks of his

his Correspondents abroad, although when called on to give an Opinion of the Trade, he preremptorily denies his being 'either an Exporter or Importer.'—How does Mr. *Arbutnot* reconcile those contradictory Assertions?

His next Position is, 'that the African Trade, which consists in Calicoes, has throve in Proportion to the Decay of the other Trades: The German Linens,' he says, 'are chiefly printed for the *Jamaica Trade*, (that is for the *Southern Market*) except some small Portion that is consumed here for the best Sort of printed Handkerchiefs. Formerly there were very considerable Quantities of German Linens printed and returned to *Germany*, but that Trade is now totally Lost; those Goods are now printed in *Germany*; the only Trade that remains is,' as he mentioned, 'to the *West Indies*; and he has the strongest Reasons to be convinced, that if there are Restraints laid on the Exportation of printed German Linens, we must inevitably lose the Remainder of what the Swiss and Dutch now enjoy a great Share of *, that Linen being the only Cloth that he ever printed, that was fit for that Purpose, or capable of receiving those Colours which are insisted on by the Trade of those Countries.'

* Here is a round Assertion against the Interest of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, the Truth of which must be investigated, as on that a principal Part of the Prosperity of *Ireland* must ultimately depend.

By the Report of the *Linen Committee* the preceding Year, in 1773, it appears from the Evidence of Mr. *Harris* of *London*, a considerable Merchant and Dealer in Foreign, British and Irish Linens, 'that *Irish Linens* is preferred for Printing Garments, *Scotch Linen* for Handkerchiefs, for *Home Consumption*, but for Exportation the Foreign are preferred, because of the Drawbacks, which is from 1d. 3/4 per Ell to 3d. per Yard.'—This Evidence is further confirmed by Mr. *Whithers* of *London*, a Merchant in the same Line of Trade with Mr. *Harris*, and adds, 'that the Drawbacks make the Foreign Linens more favourable for Exportation, though Home Linens are esteemed more fit for Printing, and he believes would be preferred in the Colonies if they could be sent there on equal Terms.'

Here is Evidence of Merchants of the first Character in *London*, joined to those of Messrs. *Summers*, *Kerr* and *Crump*, (See Letter 4.) to comfort the Irish Manufacturers, in direct Opposition to Mr. *Arbutnot*, who has insulted this distressed Country with such falacious and groundless Evidence; but hear him throughout, and the Evidence I shall confront him with, and then decide on the Propriety of his Appointment as *Inspector General* in *Ireland*.

L E T T E R

The Fourth Letter, to the Same.

MR. ARBUTHNOT next admits, ' he had seen printed Linens which ' he had been told was printed at *Glasgow*, on British Cloth, which ' were very good *, but he begs Leave to doubt the Truth of its being British ' Cloth, at least he is thoroughly convinced, as a Man can be (who did not ' see the Cloth manufactured) that they were not made of British Materials; ' that he is authorised to speak thus confidently from the various Experiments ' he has made on British and Foreign Flax, and which he had to produce: ' He ' further asserts, ' that these two Species, one British and the other Foreign, ' have gone through the same Operations to Bleach them, the Foreign has ' acquired the Degree of Whiteness that is requisite, the other has not, this ' is the Test given to the Linen previous to the Printing, to ascertain whether ' the Cloth that is delivered to them is fit for the Work it is ordered for † and ' says, ' he had made similar Experiments on three Species of Flax, after ' Bleaching, they are printed as we should have printed Linen, boiled in ' Madder, and cleared as is usual with the Linen, the Foreign Flax has ' proved the same as it did before, and the British as before, that is, the ' Foreign fit for the Business, and the other not; but when I say that the ' *German Linen* is the only Cloth that is suited to the *West India* or *Southern*

* This is one of his bold Assertions to deprive the British and Irish of the Bounty on their Linens when printed. You have the Amount of the great Quantity of Foreign Flax used by the Scotch in their Manufacture, on a Medium of three Years stated, (See Letter 2.) and mostly Dutch of the finest Quality. I View with astonishment this Extraordinary made-up Evidence, for the present Purpose, by the Printers and Foreign Merchants to defeat our Application by pretended Experiments, which Experience, Reason and every Person examined, in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, flatly contradict: And this is the *Inspector*, the *Man of Integrity* and *Abilities* you have placed over three Provinces, and who assumes, with dictatorial Consequence, the Liberty of prescribing what, and what only, shall be offered for *Ulster*, in which Province he has never been. At all Events, you have secured a good Evidence, as far as a *bold Assertion*, or stating as Matters of *Fact*, with the greatest *Effrontery*, whatever he thinks may serve his Purpose, without the least Foundation.

† Is there a Member of the Board, or a Man in *Ireland*, can be found credulous enough to read this seriously without holding the Author in due Contempt for such Assertions, and pretended Distinctions, that the Irish Linen should be preferable above all others in the Home Market, and not be fit for the *West India* or *Southern Market*. But this is the Evidence of your *Inspector*, the immaculate *Mr. Arbuthnot*!

' *Market*,

' *Market*, I do not mean to imply that British and Irish Linens are not ' equally Serviceable and Useful for other Markets, which Market is the ' Home Consumption; there the Irish Linens have the Preference over all ' others, and is calculated for that Work which is in most Esteem in this ' Country *, it being of a very hard Texture, and requiring those strong Co-

* The Board was, at this Time, greatly imposed upon, and led into an Error by the Recommendation of Doctor *Henry Betty*, as a fit Person to be their Agent to the British Parliament; and although he was recommended by a respectable Body of Linen Drapers, in the finest Branch of the Trade, about *Lisburn*, they were either totally Ignorant of the Subject, or not Friends to the Measure, and the latter is, with good Reason, presumed to be the Fact, as they afterwards petitioned against granting the Bounty on low-priced Linen, printed or plain, from *Ireland*, which shall be laid before you in Course; and in Consequence of sending Doctor *Betty*, who did not understand the distinguishing Qualities of Linen produced by the Loom, from the same Species of Yarn, for the various Purposes of Use (this Observation of your *Inspector*) that the *Irish Linen* being of a very hard Texture, was passed unnoticed and without Explanation, which will come properly under a future Part of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Evidence respecting Quadruple Silefias: And the monstrous Absurdities that are advanced in this Paragraph, by your *Inspector*, to the Disadvantage of *Britain*, in their Linen and Cotton Manufactures, as well as to *Ireland*, must raise the Reader's Indignation, as Common Sense, and the Experience of this Day, in our Exports to *America*, *Spain* and all the World bear Testimony against them.

The Scotch have even succeeded so far in the Manufacture of Lawns as to beat the Germans out of the finest Branch of the Handkerchief Trade, for *Britain* and the Western World, in both the Manufacture of the Lawns and Printing, Samples of which I have ready to Produce to the Board, to prove the falacious Assertions of your *Inspector*, who was only produced as a Tool, by the Foreigners, to deliver a made-up Story to the Committee, thereby to rob *Britain* and *Ireland* of their dearest and best Interests in Trade, and of an extensive Manufacture fit to find profitable Employment for their starving Inhabitants.

The Foreigners may love the Treason but they abhor the Traytor, or they would have made a Provision for this immaculate *Inspector*, and not left him totally deserted, until, by the most inauspicious Fate, he was quartered on this distressed and abused Country, whose best Interests he had opposed, not with Proofs but made-up, pretended Experiments, that are in no Respect reconcilable to Reason or Common Sense. This is the *Wise Inspector* you are loading with munificent Grants, and making him your bosom Friend, whilst he is only seeking, by his Schemes and Dissipation of your Fund, to sting you in the most vital Parts of your Manufacture, and when too late to contend with Foreigners, for a Possession of those Branches of Trade that the present Day offers to this Country, particularly in the Cambrick and Printing Line, which ought to be grasped at with Avidity. This Friend only to Foreigners will have probably secured a good Retreat, by making a Merit of having defeated your greatest Objects and most valuable Expectations.

' yours

lours which are in Demand in this Country, but would not admit of those pale Tints that are required for the *West India Trade*; so it has been with all the Scotch Cloth that has been ever sent to me to Print; the Manchester Cottons are likewise chiefly for the Home Consumption, some very few excepted, which are sent to *America*, but this is chiefly when Callicoes are too dear. In short, I do not know any Foreign Linen whatever that interferes at this Market, with either Cottons, Irish, or Scotch Linens, excepting a very few fine German Linens for the best Sort of Handkerchiefs, the general Course of ordinary Handkerchiefs being printed on Scotch Cloth, and the Quantity very Considerable.

Quef. Mr. *Arbuthnot* 'being asked in respect to Scotch Cloth sent to his House to Print which was fit for the Foreign Market?'

Anf. * He asserts, 'by the Preparation necessary for Printing, and by the Length tallying with the German Linens, there have been the strongest Reason to believe they were German Linens.'

Quef. 'How was the Trade to the *Southern Market* carried on during the War?'

* Here your Inspector finds a new Reason why Scotch Linens sent to him to Print must be foreign, *because the Lengths tally with the Foreign*; this is another Instance of his profound Ignorance in respect to Manufactures and Commerce; as in all Attempts to supplant the *German, French and Dutch* Manufactures, in *Foreign* Markets, it is not only necessary that the Manufacturer imitate the Quality of the Goods, the Bleacher the Colour, the Printer the Pattern required, but the Merchant must be careful to have the Goods made up to imitate the Foreign in their Lengths and Breaths. The Spaniards are so tenacious of adhering to Appearances, and also in Portugal, that the very Packages must be observed, see (in Linen Committee 1774 pa. 17) the Evidence of Sir *John Hott*, Bart. Consul General at *Lisbon*, who brought over to the Board and Merchants, not only Samples of all the French, Flemish and German Linens most in Demand in Portugal, but also the Packages which were also to be imitated, as a further Deception to obtain a Sale for our Linens there; those Samples and Packages being lodged in the Care of your late *Store-keeper, Henry Archibald*, who neither knew or regarded their Value to this Country, made Use of them in his Family; this was his Answer when asked what became of them, and this Evidence explains the Reason why the Scotch Linen, tallied in Length with the Foreign, which creates such Doubts in your Inspector whether they were not Foreign, and although made of Foreign Flax, by his magic Touch, he seems to decide that they were also Foreign Manufacture.

Anf. 'At

Anf. 'At the latter End of the War we had the greatest Stroke of Business, in that particular Trade, that he remembers, which he Attributes to our then possessing all the Markets in the World*. That Trade was carried on all on German Linens, at least all that I did; and others concerned in that Trade have declared to me the same.'

Quef. 'How did he get the German Linens in the Time of the War?'

Anf. 'Can't say—he don't Import them—he has them from the Drapers in Town.'

Quef. 'What Species of German Linens are chiefly imported to Print for the Export Trade?'

Anf. § 'What they call Quadruple Silefias and Long Lawns, the greatest Quantity are Quadruples; the Long Lawns are only for very fine

* Here is a farther Proof of the Printing Trade being all done on German Linen, if a farther Proof was necessary: And here follows a farther Confirmation of your Inspector's Ignorance of the Import Trade, not even knowing how the German Linens were procured during the War.

§ This is the Answer I waited to make Use of, to put your *Inspector General's* Designs, in his baneful Conduct to this Country, in a proper Light. He informs you, 'the German Linens chiefly imported to Print for the Export Trade, are what they call Quadruple Silefias, and the Long Lawns are only for very fine Work; and that the Value of the Printing far exceeds the Value of the Cloth, being from 5d. and 6d. to 4s. per Yard on an Average.'

Edward Payne, Esq. one of the first Characters among the Hambro' and German Merchants of *London*, in the Linen Trade, gives the following Evidence at the Bar of the House, to the Committee, which corresponds with your Inspector, 'that of the Silefias imported there are various Sorts, some sold Brown for Linings, some few used White, and some exported to Africa and the Colonies, but the greater Part printed here and then exported to the Colonies, and to the Ports of Europe; these Goods (the Silefias) supply a very valuable Manufacture of Printing: He farther adds, the Silefias he imports, are from 8d. to 10d. per Yard; and the greatest Part of the Silefias are printed and Re-exported.'

Mr. Payne being asked, 'why the Irish do not undersell the Foreign Linens of low Prices, when they pay high Duties, as well as they undersell the Dutch Hollands, and have almost beat them out of the Market; why not undersell the ten Articles of narrow Germany of which the Quadruple Silefias is a principal Article imported?'

Anf. 'For this good Reason, because they (the Irish) hardly make any of those Sorts.'

E

An

' fine Work, The Value of the Printing of those Linens is from 5d. and 6d. to 4s. per Yard on an Average. The Value of Printing far exceeds the Value of the Cloth.'

Quef.

An Account of the Foreign Linens imported under the Denomination of Narrow Germany, distinguishing the proportional Quantity of each Sort, and the Prime Cost, calculated on the Imports of Two and Twenty principal Houses in London for Five Years, 1768 to 1772 both Inclusive, from Mr. Payne's Evidence :

Denominations.	Proportion of Quantities.	Costs.	Remarks.
Brown Westphalia Linen,	94	d. 5 ¹ / ₂ p. Ell.	
Five-quarter Flaxen Linen	4	6 ¹ / ₂ 0	
Hamells — — —	2	3 ¹ / ₂ 0	
Padderbornes — —	3	4 ¹ / ₂ 0	
Poteranias — — —	8	5 ¹ / ₂ 0	
Three-quarter Dowlas	146	8 ⁴ / ₂ 0	} of these two Articles of Dowlas, $\frac{7}{8}$ of the whole is consumed by the labouring People of England
Seven-eighth Dowlas	23	10 ¹ / ₂ 0	
Three-quarter Garlix	7	7 ¹ / ₂ 0	} of this Article $\frac{3}{4}$ of the whole is exported, chiefly printed here.
Seven-eighth Garlix	4	8 ¹ / ₂ 0	
Silesia Linen — —	79	9 ¹ / ₂ 0	
	370		

Mr. Isaac Walker, a considerable Merchant and Dealer in Printed Linens being examined before the Committee, gave the following Evidence :

' He has been an Exporter of Foreign Linens printed, ever since 1749 ; exports them to Europe, Africa and America.'

Quef. ' Are not very large Quantities received by One Nation, which I desire you would name ?' [Spain.]

Ans. ' There are very large Quantities exported to that Country, and for its Colonies.—He Exports upwards of £50,000. per Annum in printed Foreign Linens.'

Quef. ' What is the Value of the Printing ?'

Ans. ' From 5d. to 3s. 6d. per Yard.'

Quef. ' What is that by the Piece ?'

Ans. ' On Long Lawns of 32 Yards about 14s. the lowest, and 4l. the highest.'

Quef. ' What is the Prime Cost of the Linen by the Piece ?'

Ans. ' The

Quef. ' Can he Distinguish between Foreign Linens and Home-made Linens.'

Ans. ' Only by the Preparations which it is necessary they should go through before the Printing.'

Quef.

Ans. ' The Average Price of Silesia Linens which I have printed for the last five Years, is 8d. per Yard, the Duty off ; the Average Price of Long Lawns, is 13d. per Yard, by the Piece 34s. 8d.—He Prints more of the fine Goods than any other House in London.'

Quef. ' Would the Foreign Market take off our Home-made Linens, when printed instead of the German ?'

Ans. ' The European Market I believe would not—our Colonies might take off a few.'

Quef. ' Has there been any Decline in the Exportation of printed Foreign Linens since June 1772.'

Ans. ' A very considerable one until May 1773, so great that it made the difference of upwards of 300,000 Yards in my Exportation of Foreign Linens printed.'

In the Committee on the Linen Manufacture, in 1774, in Ireland, the seventh Proposition I laid before the Committee (pa. 16.) was to make Linens suited to the Foreign Demands, in Imitation of the Foreign that are imported into Spain, Portugal and other Foreign Dominions for their Consumption ; and if your Inspector, Mr. Arbuthnot, will read that Report, he will find the Irish not in that Ignorant uninformed State he would wish you to believe they are.

I now Appeal to your Honourable Board, and to the Public, if Mr. Arbuthnot has, in any of his Schemes, in any of his frothy Reports, or this last Libel, given the least Glance at this great Branch of Manufacture and Commerce, which has been with so much Art and Industry concealed and retained from Ireland, by the Foreigners, for upwards of Eighty Years, he must either plead total Ignorance and Incapacity, or acknowledge himself, at this day, the greatest Enemy Ireland has ; in either Point of View I have no Doubt but you will decide as becomes the Friends of your Country.

I have wished for an Opportunity to bring this Examination at the Bar, in 1774, before the Public, on Account of the great Body of necessary Information it introduces to Ireland, and I am happy in the Opportunity of making it a Part of my Defence, as it will illustrate my Pretensions to Knowledge, whilst it covers Mr. Arbuthnot with Confusion and Shame.

The Quadruple Silesias here alluded to is about 35 Yards long, made of evenly spun Yarn, such as is used throughout Ireland to make from a Seven to a Twelve Hundred, at yard-wide for Shirting, but it is made on the same Principal of our middling Lawns, by which means the Yarn of an Eight put into a Six Hundred Reed or Thirty Beers, at yard-wide, and the Yarn of a Ten Hundred in an Eight Hundred Reed, and so in Proportion upwards and downwards, evenly wested, with Yarn rather finer than the Warp, and an equal Quantity of West to the Warp, and no more than 30

E 2.

Inches

Quel. ' Does he know, of his own Knowledge, that the Irish and British Cloth will not admit of the same Bleach with the Foreign ?'

Inches Grey or $28\frac{1}{2}$ to 29 Inches White, forms the Basis of this great Branch of Trade, and there is very little Yarn made in *Ireland* too hard twisted, or that is not soft enough in the spinning, for the Purpose. It is necessary to observe, what makes your *Inspector* deem the Irish Linen hard is, its being close set in the Warp, or high slayed, (as Weavers term it) and the Weft close struck up to make it Firm and Stout for Shirting; but the same Yarn has a very different Feel and Appearance when made on the Principal of a Lawn, or what is termed by the Foreign Merchants, a Quadruple Silesia: There is a lower priced Sort of Shock or Saxony Linen imported into *England*, and usually printed in Blues for the Spanish and Portugal Markets; an Account of the slaying the Quadruples and Shock Linen, and also the single Silesias for *Africa*, the *Britannias*, with many others, laid before the Board in 1774, are here again published along with the Samples imported by the Board, as recommended by Mr. *Arbutnot*, for public Information.

Had your Agent, Doctor *Betty*, understood the Principles of the Manufacture, he might have easily refuted Mr. *Arbutnot's* Assertions; or had your *Inspector*, Mr. *Arbutnot*, ever carried his pretended Experiments farther than making Yarn, he must have known the great Variety of Appearances the Loom gives the same Thread, from the *Window Blind* up to the *strongest Shirting*, and the Price of weaving is always regulated by the Number of Threads in the Reed, and the Quantity of Yarn, and Value of the Piece, lowered or raised in Proportion to the Thinness or Thickness and Breadth of the Piece.

It is necessary to State those Points to prove, that until we make thin Manufactures of equal Breadths with the Quadruple Silesias of *Germany*, we cannot meet them in any Market for Printing; and this is what Mr. *Payne*, in his Answer, alludes to, where he says, respecting the Irish, ' For this good Reason, because they (the Irish) hardly make any of those Sorts.'

Your *Inspector* allows he cannot distinguish between Foreign and Home Manufactures only by the Preparations it is necessary they should go through before Printing, and then he asserts boldly, That he knows, of his own Knowledge, that the Irish will not admit of the same Bleach that the Foreign Linen will. When this Evidence comes to be contrasted with that of Messrs. *Sommers*, *Kerr* and *Crump*, herein stated, and all the Bleachers and Drapers of *Ireland*, I shall be glad to hear some of the Opinions you collect as delivered by Men of Experience; his Examination is such a heap of Absurdities, void of Foundation, that to enter into a Refutation would be only renewing the Evidence respecting Bleaching.

His next Admission controverts all his former Assertions, as he allows he Prints large Quantities of Irish for Home Consumption, and the English Trade requires strong Colours; and if the same Linen was made on the Scale of the Quadruple Silesias, Mr. *Arbutnot* would find them soft and easy to Bleach or receive the Tint. It is a Pity Mr. *Arbutnot* had not carried his Experiments into the weaving Branch of the Manufacture, by which Means he would have saved me much Trouble, and himself from being exposed.

Ans.

Ans. * ' He knows, of his own Knowledge, that the Irish and British Cloth will not admit of the same Bleach that the Foreign Linen will.'

His Conscience, Truth and Common Sense began here to stare him in the Face, and he begged to explain away what he had just asserted, thus, ' I beg to explain a Circumstance in regard to this Business, it is not only the Bleaching, previous to the Printing, that ascertains whether the Cloth is fit or not for particular Work, but it must be able to be bleached to a perfect Degree of Whiteness, after they have gone through the Madder Copper, which Tinges that Part of the Cloth which ought to remain White, at the Time that it fixes the Colours; the Difficulty is to extract that Tint without lowering the Colours too much in the Bleach, and therefore it is that British and Irish Linens are not fit for the *West India Market*, because the Tints are required to be so pale that they would be utterly destroyed before the Ground becomes White.'

Quel. ' Supposing it was not for discharging the Colours, might not the British Linens be bleached as White as the Foreign ?'

Ans. ' Most certainly, yes, for he Prints very large Quantities of Irish Linens for the Home Consumption, but as he mentioned before, the English Trade demands strong Colours in preference to pale.'

* As he is fond of stating Points as *Matters of Fact*, which are at least doubtful, of which many Instances shall be laid before you, I shall here beg your Attention to a Comparison of Mr. *Arbutnot's* Evidence at the Bar of the British Commons, respecting the Flax of *Ireland*, contrasted with the Evidence of Messrs. *Samuel Sommers*, *Hugh Kerr* and *John Crump*, three of the most eminent and respectable Merchants of that Day, whose Names will stamp with the Character of Truth whatever they have advanced in this Country.

Mr. *Samuel Sommers*, (Commons' Journal, Vol. X. Pa. 710.) ' had been a Dealer fourteen Years—that he knows that Irish Flax makes better Yarn than Foreign Flax, that both the Yarn and Cloth are better in those Years wherein little Foreign Flax is imported.'

Mr. *Hugh Kerr*, (same Page) informed the Committee, ' that he had been a Dealer in the Linen Manufacture for thirty Years, and he agreed with what Mr. *Sommers* had declared, and that the Linens and Yarn are always better in those Years wherein there is little or no Importation of Foreign Flax.'

' Mr. *John Crump* (same Page) says, ' he had been a Dealer for twenty Years, both in the coarse and fine Linen, thinks the Manufacture under 18d. the best for the Kingdom; that he has observed that the Linens are much better and Bleach much even in such Years wherein Foreign Flax is not imported; whence he concludes that the Staple of Irish Flax is better than the Staple of any Foreign Flax imported.'

Quel.

Quæf. ' If strong Colours were laid on British Linens might not they become proper for Exportation ?'

Anf. * ' They will not admit of those particular Tints that have always been demanded of me, by those concerned in that Export Trade.'

Quæf. ' In what Branch of his Business has he now a great Prospect of Improvement ?'

Anf. ' There is a very great Demand at present for Callicoes for the African Trade, a great Part of that shipped off already; there has also been large Orders from the Continent for Callicoes, and the Trade for the Home Consumption in Cottons; Irish and British Linens is likewise very considerably increased since the End of last Year.'

Quæf. ' Has the encrease of Orders been the same with respect to the other Linens, besides those he has mentioned ?'

Anf. ' In German Linens likewise his Trade has encreased ever since the End of last Summer, and seems to continue to do so now, and he believes it is the Case with many others.'

Quæf. ' Had he any Acquaintance with the Export Trade when the Bounties existed on Printed Linens ?'

* In this Answer he is very unwilling to admit, that strong Colours will be proper for Exportation, although the Experience of this Day proves demonstrably that the Patterns and Colours used in *Britain* and *Ireland* are most acceptable to the Americans, and the same Blues we use suit the *Jamaica* or *Spanish Main Trade* best; and Blues to the Spanish Dominions, make at least nineteen Parts in twenty of their Consumption.

He then proceeds to State the Demands at that Time, and among others, for the German Linens printed; and here he disclaims all Knowledge of Commerce, Export or Import, being foreign to his Trade, although he has been speaking very freely all along of the Demands for Foreign Markets; but there will appear nothing extraordinary in his unfounded Assertions or fabulous Inventions advanced as Facts, and many Contradictions, any one of which, in my Time of writing Reports, would have drawn the Vengeance of the Board on me, but your *Inspector* seems to have been really adopted by Mistake, not to inform the ignorant, but to be informed, as he mentions in several Parts of his Reports, that he may not hereafter expose himself.

Anf. ' He

Anf. ' He can't say he has attended to that Circumstance—it is foreign to his Trade—he is not an Exporter or Importer.'

Quæf. ' Whether he ever tried any Experiment on the Printing and Bleaching Irish Flax as well as British ?'

Anf. * ' He never was in Possession of any Irish Flax in the State of Flax.'

Quæf. ' Have you made various Experiments on this Subject, or is this the single one you have mentioned ?'

Anf. † ' He has gone through every Sort of Experiment through every Stage from the Seed to the Yarn, and that on no inconsiderable Scale merely with a View to improve the Linen Manufacture, and this many Years ago; he has grown, watered and dressed it, and gone through every Stage up to the Yarn.'

Quæf. ' Has he ever tried any Experiment on the comparative Qualities of Irish or English Flax and that of Scotland ?'

Anf. ' No.'

* It is to be lamented that he never was in Possession of any Irish Flax, as we might have expected some profound Observations on it, whereby his Objections to adopting the French Mode of Spinning, in *Ireland*, might have been demonstrated and ascertained.

† He here States the various Experiments he has gone through, up to the Yarn, with a sort of Exultation, as if there was a Secret, or something more in it than every *Old Woman* in the Country of *Ireland* has as much Experience of as Mr. *Arbutnot*.

He then admits, that by the Experiments he has made, as good Flax may be grown in *Britain* as in any Part of the World, had they the proper method of cultivating, pulling and watering it; and there is no Secret in the Method but that an *Old Woman* is fittest to reply to.

He says the Texture of the Thread is material so as to be fitted to imbibe a sufficient Quantity of Colour, to produce a fine Tint; he admits he had seen Scotch Yarn of that Quality, but never Cloth made of such Yarn; such Absurdities, your *Honourable Board* will admit, are scarcely to be read with Patience; and his not knowing the Effects produced on Yarn in Weaving, between a thin and a thick Piece, is the only Apology for his asserting confidently such Absurdities.

He next States, that if the Texture of the Thread and the Flax were the same as the Foreign, it is capable of being woven into Cloth equally fit for Printing, he does not seem to know that the Flax, the Spinning, and the Weaving also differ very materially in every County, and often in every Parish; but this is Information to be acquired only by Experience, which Mr. *Arbutnot* has never sought for.

Quæf.

Quæf. ' Has he heard that the Flax which grows in the western Part of Scotland, about Glasgow, is finer than in any other Part of Great Britain?'

Anf. ' He does not know it, but is Confident from the Experiments he has made, that as good Flax may be grown in Britain as in any Part of the World, had they the proper Method of cultivating, pulling and watering it.'

Quæf. ' Is there any difference in the Texture of the Home and Foreign Thread, that makes it more or less fit for receiving the finer Tints?'

Anf. ' The Texture of the Thread is of infinite Consequence in Printing, if it is of a very hard Texture it will not so easily imbibe a sufficient Quantity of Colour to produce a fine Tint; he had seen Yarn which he had been told was produced from Scotland of as fine a Texture as any he ever saw, but he cannot say that he ever saw Cloth made of Scotch Yarn that had that Quality, and on that Account he ever refused accepting of Scotch Cloth to print in Handkerchiefs though frequently solicited to do it.'

Quæf. ' If the Scotch Manufacturers were to vary the Texture of their Thread would it not be a great Improvement of their Cloth for the Purpose of Printing?'

Anf. ' If the Scotch Manufacturers were to make their Thread of the same Texture with the Foreign, and of as good Materials, there is no Doubt but that it is capable of being wove into Cloth equally fit for Printing.'

Quæf. ' If the Texture alone was improved, I mean?'

Anf. * ' If the Yarn is made of the same Texture with the Foreign Yarn, but that the Flax is not so good, that would not alone be sufficient, as appears by the Experiments he has explained to the House on Flax; this is owing to the Quantity of Oil left in the Flax; in that Proportion a stronger Solution of Alcaline Salt is necessary to extract it from the Cloth, which is always prejudicial, and when to a great Degree, utterly ruinous.'

* He here again enters on one of his grand Disertations, on the Oil left in the Flax, and the Solusion of Alcaline Salts necessary to extract it, which, I presume, is part of his sublime Subjects among the Liberty Weavers or other People unacquainted with Bleaching, which shall be treated with that contempt it deserves: It is a pity *Air Balloons* were not the *Rage* sooner, that he might have introduced them into his Examination and Reports.

Quæf

Quæf. ' If the British or Irish Manufacturer could, by improving the Quality of the Flax and the Texture of the Thread, make a Cloth fit for the *Jamaica Market*, would it not be a great Acquisition to the Manufacturers of this Country?'

Anf. * ' If it could be done, it might be a particular Benefit to the Linen Manufacture, but he should greatly doubt whether in making the Experiment of Printing those Cloths at first we might not injure the Export Trade, he means provided we are obliged to print those Cloths, otherwise certainly it must Answer.'

End of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Evidence.

The Fifth Letter, to the Same.

I Have now laid before your *Honourable Board* the Examination of Mr. *Arbuthnot* at the Bar of the *British House of Commons*, with such others as relate to this great Object of Printing for the *Jamaica Trade* or *Southern Market*, as it is called; and altho' Mr. *Arbuthnot* plumed himself, in 1774, in having, by his Evidence, defeated our Application for the Bounty on *British* and *Irish* Linens when printed, which continued in that State for several Years, until I was sent to *London* in 1778, by Order of the *Earl of Buckinghamshire*, then Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, where meeting with some of the English and *Scotch* Agents, along with the other great Objects of my *Mission*, respecting

* His last Answer is very properly reserved to close this Examination of the most extraordinary Character that ever appeared at the Bar of a *House of Commons*, and his questioning whether we could make Experiments with our Linens printed in the *Jamaica Trade* without injuring it, is one of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* refined Points of *Delicacy* respecting the interests of *Ireland* and an *Export Trade*, in which he disclaims having any Knowledge.

I shall close these Observations by an Assurance, that I have no Doubts there now appears to every Reader, no more Hazard or Danger of injuring the Export of printed Linens to *Jamaica*, by Experiments in the Export of *Irish* Linens, than there would be in injuring the Linen or any other Manufacture or Trade of *Ireland*, by removing Mr. *Arbuthnot* from having any Superintendancy or Employment in this Kingdom.

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the Trade of *Ireland*, I proposed renewing our Application for the Bounty on our Linens when exported printed, and I founded our Claim on their own Evidence, which Mr. *Arbuthnot* offered on their Part, as they now saw he had proved *too much*, for his Evidence, if credited, goes to prove, that our Linens are of so hard a Texture, and the Flax of such a Quality, that they will not Bleach to a proper Colour, or take the softer Tints necessary for the Southern or Jamaica Markets; that the very Experiment with any of them would be an Injury if not the Total Loss of the Trade: This is Part of his bold Assertions respecting *Ireland*.

At a Meeting called together after my arrival in *London*, in 1778, of the Nobility and Gentry, in the Irish Interest, I stated this Part of his Evidence, and the Use that might be made of it, that the House of Commons were in Possession of it, and as our Expectations of any Advantages from the Bounty, when we neither had or made the Linens fit for Printing, or if made would receive the Dye or Tint, thus circumstanced Administration could apprehend no Danger of incurring great Expence in gratifying the Wishes of so great a Body of Petitioners for this Bounty, in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, which, it appeared by their own Evidence, could be attended with but a trifling if any Expence to Government. Earl *Nugent*, that watchful Friend to *Ireland*, saw the Force of my Arguments, and the Use I proposed to make of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* extraordinary, unfounded Assertions, and of Mr. *Payne's* just Observations, That we did not make the Sorts or Species of Linens for the Purpose of Printing to interfere with the Germans: I say Earl *Nugent* saw, in its full Force, the great Object to be pursued by *Ireland*, not only to obtain the Trade of Printing for the *Jamaica* or *Southern Market*, but also to get into the Manufacture of the several Species of Linens in Imitation of Quadruple Silefias, Shock or Saxony Linens, and others for Printing, the single Silefias for *Africa*, and the Britannias counterfeited for *Spain*, *Portugal* and the *West Indies*, all of which are made nearly on the same principle for Thickness, but varied in Colour, Lengths and Breaths. I apprised the British Agents of the Foundation I had laid for obtaining the Bounty, they applied to their Members on the same Ground, and the succeeding Session obtained the Bounty on our printed Linen without Opposition; but the Stigma still remains, and can only be effaced by Time and Experience, that our Linens when exported printed may injure or destroy the Trade: These are the last Words in the Evidence of your Inspector, the immaculate Mr. *Arbuthnot*.

The Avidity with which the *Americans* seek for and prefer our Linens to the Foreign when printed illustrate his invidious Assertions, with still stronger intentional Marks of Ruin to this Country; and when our Weavers are

are led into the Manufacture of such Species of Linens as are suited to the Printing Trade for the *Southern* Demands, which our Yarn is extremely fit for, then, and not till then, you will open a Mine of Treasure for the Employment of our People, that I take upon me to assert may be almost instantaneously possessed, not less than a Million Sterling yearly in Value; I again assert our Yarn is extremely fit for it, and when you look at a Trade where Prints of 5d. and 6d. up to 4s. per Yard are laid on Linen not more in Value than 8d. to 10d. per Yard, and at a Time when the Trade was considered as Lost to *Britain*; where the Workmanship and Printing alone, in *England*, amounts to upwards of £300,000, yearly, and it is believed is double that Sum at this Day, paid for the Labour of the People; your Honourable Board will not, I trust, continue to adopt the Councils of an ignorant Adventurer, the declared Enemy to your Country in all his Evidence and Schemes that are offered to the Public.

I have examined your Inspector's Reports with Attention, to see had he proposed any Scheme for the Introduction of this great Object of Trade to *Jamaica* or the *Southern Market*, but he is totally Silent on the Subject; I also examined all his Samples that he mentions (Pa. 22.) in this Libel, thirty in Number, and I have observed with Astonishment that there is not one among them adapted to the Printing Trade, except the finest Long Lawn, an Article not in Demand in a Foreign Market when printed; I have given the Particulars of his Samples for the Information of Manufacturers, with their Qualities and Uses described as annexed:

His Omission of the Samples of Quadruple Silefias, Shock or Saxony Linen, Britannias and single Silefias, in the Train of Samples, are evident Marks of his designedly endeavouring to keep this Country out of the Printing Trade for the *Southern Market*, and also out of any Correspondence with *Africa*, *Spain* and *Portugal*, with their extensive Dominions and Consumption, here are incontrovertable Proofs. He may, with Safety, plead Ignorance respecting all manufactures except those for Printing, those Goods he must have handled, and although (like the Slave that Works in the Diamond Mine who can form no idea of the Lustre to be given to the rough Pebble) he could form no Judgment on what Principle the same Yarn made the Window Blind, the Quadruple Silefia, Britannia, or Piece of thick Shirting; he ought, had he the Interest of this Country in View, to have imported a Sample of each Species of those low-priced Goods for Printing which are peculiarly adapted to the Spinning of *Ireland*, to give us an Opportunity of trying the Abilities of our Manufacturers, Bleachers and Printers to imitate them.

This deep rooted Scheme of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* leaving out those most essential Samples for Irish Information, corresponds with his Evidence in *England*, also with his Message to *Manchester*, by Mr. *Andrews**, and with the Scope of all his frothy Reports, and his *Libel*, to divert us from the Linen Manufacture, to make us only Flax Farmers and Spinners for *Britain*, to export our Inhabitants to make Room for Sheep to supply the worsted Spinning of *Britain*, to open our Ports for all *British* or *Foreign* Manufactures, and to the export of our most valuable Materials that ought to be retained by regulating Duties for the Employment of our starving People; this apparently is the System proposed by this Paragon of Information and Knowledge that you have imported to instruct the poor distressed Irish.

In his *Libel* (Pa. 10.) in a Rapsody of unfounded Stuff, not deserving the Name of Language, he calls me to View his Account of the prosperous State of *Munster*, which must raise every Reader's Indignation against the Author, who dares repeat to your Honourable Board, or this insulted Country, so doubly interested in the Subject, such flagrant unfounded Accounts of Manufactures; Mr. *M'Cormick* authorises me to deny the Truth of his Assertions for *Limerick*, Mr. *John Moore* for *Carrick, Blarney* and *Waterford* are greatly fallen off in Manufacture within my own Knowledge of those Places, and *Bandon* in place of 250 Looms on Camblets, I have known to employ above 2000 in that Manufacture; it must be obvious that the Trade is nearly Lost to *Ireland*, and the Worsted exported yearly to *Britain*. *Bandon* has now the Appearance of a deserted Village, compared with its Aspect in 1755, when I first visited that Industrious People; I knew in that early Day that *Munster* was covered with Worsted Spinners, but I am for blending Looms with the Spinners to secure Employment for the Men, and a constant Sale for the Worsted; I lament the Account given by Mr. *Arbuthnot* of the Worsted, amounting to £150,000. yearly, exported from *Cork*. I hope soon to see the carrying away our Material Confiscation of Ship and Cargo as it is by Law in *Britain*. I know the Stuffs and Serges are no considerable Branch of Manufacture at *Clonmell* or *Waterford*, and I know the Thread and Tape Manufactures were misplaced in their attempt to establish them at *Waterford*, so distant from *Ulster*, the Seat of fine Spinning, from whence they were obliged to draw their Yarn; and this is a farther Confirmation of the Absurdity of your Inspector's proposal to establish fine Spinning in the South to supply *Cambric* Manufactures in *Ulster*. I am sorry to say *Douglas Factory*, for Sail Cloth, is far declined from that respectable State in which I knew it: as for Chequers they are not made in Perfection in any Part of *Ireland* for Exportation, and I shall mention that Subject in a future Letter. I know of no such Deno-

* See Mr. Andrews's Evidence (Page 67.) in Committee on Protecting Duties.
mination

mination of Manufacture as *Bandles*, enumerated in this Rapsody by your Inspector, and the *Ozenbrigg* Manufacture, formerly considerable, is nearly Lost to the Kingdom; and his made-up Story of Mr. Alderman *Alcock's* Check Manufacture (Pa. 14.) is all a Fiction.

I am sorry Mr. *Arbuthnot* should have introduced the Village of *New-Market*, in the County of *Clare*, into this Rapsody, which he has, in his long Report, (in a Number of Pages beginning at 30) endeavoured to persuade your Honourable Board, is the most wonderful thriving Place in the Kingdom, in all the different Branches of the Manufacture, and of Weaving every Species of Goods, such as Plain Cotton, Plain Linen, mixed Cotton and Linen, Cotton and Silk, Linen and Worsted, Carpets, and other Species of Woollen and worsted Goods; had he kept to his Number of Jenies, Carding Engines and Robeing Machines, I should have classed *New-Market* among the Number of other fabulous Stories advanced by him, of Manufactures that only exist in his Ideas, like the ravings of a *Bedlamite*. A Gentleman of the first Consequence in that County, who viewed this ideal Factory of Mr. Inspector *Arbuthnot's*, at *New-Market*, a few Days after Mr. *Arbuthnot* was there, told me the whole Story, which takes up so many Pages to amuse the Reader, was void of Foundation; I had viewed the Place a few Months before, and I then saw about twenty Looms, and some idle Weavers walking about, and not as much Stuff of any Sort, either Linen or Cotton Yarn, in the Place as would make one Piece of Linen or Cotton twenty Yards long; Mr. *Chaddick* had gone off early in the Morning to *Limerick*, I did suppose he was ashamed to meet me on the Premises: I am the more particular on this Occasion to give your Honourable Board an Opportunity of considering what Credit is to be given to Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Reports in the several Places he has mentioned, and to intreat Gentlemen to examine into the Truth of the several Representations of this immaculate Guide, that has been so much depended on by your Honourable Board.

This wonderful Genius, for as such I must view him, not satisfied with insulting this Country by a Representation of Factories that only exist in Idea, states the Number of Looms, Carding Engines, Jenies, Robeing Machines, with all the Train of Implements made Use of in the Linen, Cotton, Woollen, Worsted, Silk or other Manufactures in the three Provinces that he could hear or dream of, and he states them all as fully employed, and from the Information of the Gentleman down to the Journeyman Weaver, he makes Calculations as if Looms or Machines wrought of themselves; for Instance, in his long Report (Pa. 82.) he proceeds thus, "In the Course of my Enquiry into the State of the Dublin Manufactures I was informed by a Journeyman Weaver, that there are 300 Looms now at Work on Camblets, Stuffs, &c."

' &c. and that at the lowest Valuation, one Loom will produce Weekly thirty Shillings worth of Work, or per Annum £87. thus the whole £23,400,' and from this Mode of Calculation, he forms a lump Estimate of the Value of a Collection of heterogeneous Articles in (Pa. 83.) in that frothy Report to the Amount of £1,188,949 19s. 7d. made yearly.

This is one of his bold Strokes to induce your Honourable Board, and the Public, to believe that your People do not want Employment, and also to divert you from the Linen Manufacture, which is the Burthen of his Story in his long fulsome Report, and his present Libel, (Pages 11, 28 and 29.) they seem to be also intended to satisfy you of his Expertness and Knowledge in finding out a Mine of Treasure that the ignorant Irish had no Knowledge of before; but I trust such a Lullaby or Bubble will appear in its true Light to your Honourable Board, and induce you to treat with just Indignation the Author who could offer such a Heap of unfounded Rubbish to your Consideration: He has been hitherto principally screened from Examination by the voluminous Absurdities he has compiled together; and throughout the whole of his Reports he has kept up Macklin's Character in Sir Archy M'Sarcasm, to Bow and Bow and Lard your Honourable Board with fulsome Compliments.

But I presume, not finding that Stile agreeable to the Nobility and Gentry of Ireland, he had a mind, in this Specimen, to try how the Inveective and Satirical might please.

I hope, however, by unvarnished Truth, supported by Reason and Evidence, I shall be able to render all his Schemes against this Country abortive, drive him from every hold he possesses, and, like his compeer fabulous Tour Writers Twiss and Young, leave him not a Friend to bewail his Exit.

An Account of Samples delivered to the Board, in 1774, by Sir John Hort, Bart. and Mr. Stephenson, with their Qualities, Value and Uses described, and afterwards destroyed by your Store-keeper Mr. Archdall;

Cassrillo or Lellyla Twelve Yards and a Half long, Twenty-five Inches wide, used for Shirting in Spain, contains Five Hundred at Yard-wide in the Warp and Four Hundred in the West, is to be made up on a Spindle and tack'd with a Needle and Thread in each Corner.

It

It will take near four Pounds of two-work'd Yarn at 9d. and weighs five Ounces to the Yard

—	—	—	0 3 0
Weaving at 1d.	—	—	0 1 0½
No Bleaching is required			0 4 0½

The West is coarser than the Warp.

N. B. The Piece costs five Shillings Eng. including all Charges.

Shock or Saxony Linen Thirty-five Yards long and Thirty Inches wide, half white, used for Printing for the Use of Spain, Portugal, &c. must be wove very even, of Yarn not hard twisted, so as to receive the Tint in Printing the better, it contains at Yard-wide 800 in the Warp and 700 in the West.

It will take 28 Dozen of 3 Dozen Yarn at 5d per Doz.	—	—	0 11 8
Weaving as Kenting at 1½d. per Yard	—	—	0 4 4½
Bleaching and taken up without Starch or Blue at ½	—	—	0 1 5½
			0 17 6

N. B. The Piece cost 1l. 7s. in London. including 4s. 6d. Duty, &c. and may be manufactured to Advantage in the Counties of Cavan, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Leitrim, &c. and when cut into Lengths of Seven Yards will answer for Silefias, if taken up with Starch and Blue, for the African Market.

Britannia of Germany, Seven Yards and Quarter long, Twenty-eight Inches and half wide, well bleached, and in its Fabrick nearly resembling Lawn, contains Ten and a Half Hundred in Warp and the same in West.

The Piece will take 7 Hanks 6 Cutts of Yarn at 6d. per Doz. or Hank	—	—	0 3 9
Purging ditto at ¼ per Dozen	—	—	0 0 2
Weaving at 2½d. per Yard	—	—	0 1 6
Bleaching at 1d. per Yard	—	—	0 0 7¼
			0 6 0¼

N. B. It cost in England Thirteen Pence per Yard, 7s. 10d. English.

The same Denomination as the above, but is Thirty Inches wide, containing Thirteen Hundred Warp and Twelve Hundred of West, will take Ten Dozen of Five Dozen Yarn at 7d. per Dozen.

—	—	—	0 5 10
Purging at ¼	—	—	0 0 2
Weaving at 4d.	—	—	0 2 5
Bleaching at 1½d.	—	—	0 0 10¾
			0 9 3¾

N. B. This Piece cost in London 1s. 6d. per Yard 10s. 10½d. English.

A real

A real *French* narrow *Britannia* Seven Yards and Quarter long, Twenty-six Inches wide, has a yellow Cast from the Bleach, will take Seven Dozen and a Quarter of Four Dozen Yarn at 6d.

Weaving at 3d.	—	—	—	0	3	7½
Bleaching and finishing at 1d.	—	—	—	0	1	9¾
				0	0	7¼

N. B. Cost in *Spain* 10s. 10d. the Piece.

The Yarn may be had in Perfection as in *Shock* or *Saxony* described
Real *French*, broad *Britannia* Seven Yards and Quarter long, Thirty-five Inches and Half wide, contains 1200 to the Warp and the same in Weft, has a yellow Cast from the Bleach, will take Eleven Dozen of Yarn, about Four and Half Dozen to the Pound at 7d. per Dozen

Purging ditto at ¼	—	—	—	0	6	5
Weaving at 4d	—	—	—	0	2	5
Bleaching at ¼d.	—	—	—	0	0	10¾

N. B. Cost of this in *Spain* 18s. 6d.

Russia Raven's duck, Thirty-seven Yards long, Twenty-eight Inches wide, contains Warp Seven Hundred one Beer, Weft Five Hundred Four will take of Pound Yarn Nineteen Pounds when purg'd, worth 13d.

Weaving at 1½d.	—	—	—	1	0	7
Bleaching a midling White at ½	—	—	—	0	4	7¼
				0	1	6¾

N. B. The Yarn may be had in Perfection in all the Counties in *Munster* and *Leinster*, and in Parts of *Roscommon*, *Galway*, *Mayo* and *Leitrim*.

Russia Drilling or *Drab*, Twenty-two Yards long, Twenty-eight Inches wide, contains Warp Eight Hundred and Half, Weft Seven Hundred one Beer, will take Fifteen Pound of Yarn at 13d.

Weaving at 2½d. per Yard	—	—	—	0	16	3
				0	4	7

N. B. The Yarn of *Munster* is fittest; it may be made of the Yarn of *Wicklow*, *Carlow*, *Kilkenny*, *Longford*, and many other Counties.

Single *Silestas* Seven Yards long, Twenty-nine Inches wide, contains Warp Twenty-seven to Thirty Beers, Weft something less, will take Six Dozen Three Cuts of Three-Dozen Yarn at 5¼d.

Weaving at 1½d. may be woven for 1¼d.	—	—	—	0	0	10¾
Bleaching at 1d.	—	—	—	0	0	7

In all the foregoing Calculations, the Prices and Hundreds are estimated as if Yard wide, and Deductions made from thence according to the real Breadths.

N. B. When those Estimates were made Yarn was cheaper by at least 20 per Cent. than at this Day.

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An Account of SAMPLES imported by Mr. JOHN ARBUTHNOT for the Board, in 1784. The Hundreds contained in the Warps and Wefts of each Piece, and the Description and Uses to which they are applied by Mr. STEPHENSON; the Warps are counted as if Yard-wide, and Deductions are to be made or added according to the Inches each Piece contains in Breadth.

Pieces.	Denominations.	Length.	Prices. l. s. d.	Warp.	Weft.	Colour.	Inches Broad	Observations.
1	Narrow Hambro' Rough	26½ Ells.	1 7 6	7	6	ord. Col. from the Loom	24½	These Dowlas are in General used for Labouring People's Shirts, Shifts, Sheets, &c. in England, and generally strong made. Used in Lining, also much worn in the Weft Indies. in Cloaths For Women's Wear and Children, used also in Handkerchiefs, &c.
1	Broad ditto Dowlas	26 ditto	1 9 0	7	6	midling ditto and clean	26	
1	Loom Dowlas	26 ditto	1 16 0	9	7½	best Drogheda Colour	26	
1	Ditto	52 ditto	4 0 0	8	8	ditto middling	26	
1	Silk'd ditto	26 ditto	1 15 0	9	9	ditto	20	
1	Silk'd ditto	52 ditto	4 8 0	9	10	Blea Colour and even	29½	
1	Brown Quadruple Silestia or rather Blea	35 Yards	2 6 0	10	10	Spinning	30	
1	White Silestia	35 ditto	2 12 0	10	9	good Colour	30	
1	Hambro' whitened Lawn	32 ditto	4 12 0	16	15	good Colour	28½	
1	Holland whitened Lawn	32 ditto	4 10 0	16	17	ordinary Colour	29	
1	Ell Ruffia Pocketing	30 Ells.	1 13 0	6	6	good Stuff well coloured	22½	The Ruffia Linens are in great Estimation for Carters and Footmen's Frocks, Pockets, small Sails, Sailors' Use, Sheetings and various Purposes; the Drilling supply the Pieces of Woollens in many Articles in Summer for Mens' Wear. Well imitated in the County of Cork. Those coarse Manufactures generally used by the Poor in all Countries, and the Demand of vast extent. Used mostly in Packing.
1	Ditto Raven's duck	30 ditto	2 5 6	6	5	very well Coloured	28½	
1	Common ditto	30 ditto	2 6 0	6	5	ditto	32	
1	Hempen ditto	8 ditto	0 4 4	6	4	half Bleached	17	
1	Broad Flaxen ditto	18½ ditto	0 16 8	7	6½	Bleach'd a plain White	19	
1	Ruffia Sheetting fm. Bran	30 ditto	3 2 0	8	7	well Coloured and Stout	36¾	
1	White ditto	30 ditto	3 11 0	6	5	ditto very good	42	
1	Common Ruffia Sheetting	34½ ditto	6 10 0	9	6	half Bleached	43	
1	Ruffia Drab small Bear	28½ ditto	1 10 0	9	6	good Colour in Yarn	28	
1	Ditto ditto	17½ Ells.	1 14 0	0	0	Colour fill better	29	
1	½ Ell Ruffia Huckaback	17½ ditto	1 2 2	7	6	Cream Colour	18	
1	Ruffia Diaper	10 ditto	1 0 8	0	0	Bleach'd a plain White	24	
1	Padderborne	15 ditto	0 16 0	6	4½	partly Bleach'd	28	
1	Half Bleach'd ditto	81 ditto	4 17 10	6	5	thin and Slesfy	27	
1	Flaxen Sprig	30 ditto	5 16 3	5	4	well Bleach'd in the Yarn	23	
1	White Pomerania	110 ditto	5 10 0	4	3	poor Colour	27	
1	Ticklingburg best Hemp	28 ditto	1 8 0	4	3	plain even Colour	26	
1	Hempen Sprig	35½ ditto	1 7 4	4	3½	bad Spinning	38	
1	Brown Helian	35½ ditto	1 7 4	4	3½	Brown hard Spinning	33	

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* Archire is a Ruffian Measure not quite a Yard, † Ell is a Yard and Quarter.

Extract from the Examination of Edward Payne, Esq. at the Bar of the British House of Commons, in 1774.

Being asked, 'What was the remaining Quantity of Foreign Linens for the Consumption of England, and how much is the Amount of the Duties remaining, after the Drawback is deducted, on the Foreign Linen re-exported.'

Ans. 'On a Medium of the five Years, 1768 to 1772 inclusive, there were

'Imported	26,245,371 Yards	Duties paid thereon	£. 219,189 14 3	} per Annum.
'Re-exported	8,560,594	Duty drawn back	61,398 16 2	
'Remains for Home Consumption	17,684,777 Yards Remains to Revenue		157,797 18 1	

The Particulars of the Linens retained for Home Consumption are as follow :

7,159,540	Yards of narrow Germany Linen.
2,022,060	of Hessian Canvas.
2,357,673	of Spruce Canvas.
280,888	of Silesia Lawn, Hambro' whited.
480,790	of Silesia Lawn, Holland whited.
4,975,623	of Russia Linen, various Sorts.
46,388	of Cambric in his Majesty's Custody for Exportation.
125,924	of Damask and Diaper Napkining.
25,436	of Damask Tabling.
15,611	of Diaper Tabling.
52,496	of Hinderlands.
78,612	of Hollands Linen.
159	of Ozenbriggs.
33,101	of Hollands Duck, or Sail Cloth.
19,820	of Foreign Sails.
17,674,121	left for the Consumption of England.
10,656	not accounted for, supposed by Error.

Mr. Payne States farther, 'that in regard to the 7,159,540 Yards of narrow Germany Linen above stated, by the most exact Inquiry he had been able

'able to make amongst the principal Dealers for Home Consumption, after making the Deductions of Foreign Export, he had good Grounds to believe the above Species and Quantity are consumed in England; but what he was certain of was the London Traders, to which this refers as follows:

100,000	Pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ Dowlas	3,100,000	Yards.
9,000	of $\frac{7}{8}$ Ditto	558,000	
	Brown Westphalia	800,000	
5,000	of Brown Silesias	175,000	
2,500	of White Ditto	87,500	
20,000	of Padderborne and $\frac{3}{4}$ Linen	200,000	
	Pomerania Linen	20,000	
3,000	of $\frac{7}{8}$ Garlix	72,000	
1,000	of $\frac{3}{4}$ Ditto	31,000	
2,500	of Silesia printed	87,500	
		5,131,000	
	To which add the Quantity sold from the Out-Ports for Home Consumption	2,028,540	
	Total accounted for	7,159,540	

The Importation of Russia Linen into England, the Year ending at Christmas 1782, for the Information of Irish Manufacturers, with the Duties paid thereon :

Russia Diaper	above 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ under 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ Inches	70,802 Yards,	Duty paid l.	579 15 10
Ditto	narrow under $\frac{1}{2}$ Ell	143,789 ditto,	ditto	735 18 4
Russia Broad Linen	above 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ under 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ Inches	1,762,192 ditto,	ditto	14,430 7 11
Ditto	ditto 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ ditto 36 ditto	265,118 ditto,	ditto	3,256 10 10
Ditto	ditto 36 ditto 45 ditto	818,040 ditto,	ditto	19,046 13 11
Ditto	ditto 45	970 ditto,	ditto	30 10 6
Russia Drilling or Drab		446,032 ditto,	ditto	6,732 12 3
Duck or Sail Cloth		7,106 ditto,	ditto	98 14 10
Russia Narrow like to Irish Bandle Cloth, the Spinning very soft		831,279 ditto,	ditto	4,538 2 2
Sails made up		32,171 ditto,	ditto	397 3 3
		Total 4,377,499 ditto,	ditto	1,49,846 9 10

Silesia Lawns imported for the Consumption of England in the Year, ending Christmas 1782, are as follow :

Holland whited Silesia Lawns	36,330 Pieces 32 Yards each	Duty	1,6829 11 2
Hambro' whited Ditto	37,310 ditto ditto	ditto	5,728 12 9
	73,640 ditto medium Value at 5l. 10s.		
	the Piece		1,368,200 0 0
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I have stated, from the Evidence of 1774 and the latest Returns I am in Possession of, the wonderful Advantages presented to *Ireland*, in the Linen Manufacture, at this Day, for the Consumption of *England* alone; View the Load of Duties the Foreign Manufactures are subject to, and see, in its true Light, the Impolicy of deserting such an Object in *Munster*, *Leinster*, and Part of *Connaught*, as Mr. *Arbuthnot* recommends to grasp at Cotton and Woollen in Preference thereto, I would almost say to verify the adage of the Dog in the Fable, *to quit the Substance and grasp at the Shadow.*

I again state to your *Honourable Board*, that I am a Judge of the Quality of the Flax raised in each County in *Ireland*, and I know the Abilities of the Spinners; I say with certainty, that it is possible with the Flax and Spinners of *Munster*, particularly, most Parts of *Leinster*, and some Part of *Connaught*, to equal the Russians in every Branch of their growing Manufacture, which is already so extensive; and through the same Line of the Country some of the most extensive Branches of Germany may be at once introduced; the Bundle Cloth, so well known among the Natives, when doubled in the Loom is an exact Imitation of the Dowlas of Germany in Colour and Breadth, and the coarser Sort is an exact Counterfeit of the Russia Raven Duck in Colour and Breadth. I had the Russian Drilling or Drab imitated to Perfection in the County of *Kerry*, and at *Ashboy* and *Navan* in *Meath*. The Hambro' and Holland whited Lawns, for the Consumption of *England*, of which I have stated the latest Imports and Duties paid, are well imitated at present in *Ulster*, and may be made to Perfection when the Flanders Method of Spinning is established in that Province; the Quadruple Silefias for Printing, and also Grey or Blea coloured for Linings and general Wear in the *West Indies*, may be established to great Advantage in the Western Counties of *Ulster*, and in *Sligo*, *Mayo*, and *Leitrim*.

The Authorities to Support what I here state are all in your Possession, by viewing my Reports, and the Examination at the Bar of the *British House of Commons*, in 1774, and by applying 3 or 4,000l. in Premiums, in each Province, properly digested and pointed to such Manufactures as their Flax and Spinning is applicable to, there will be no Danger of an immediate Impression being made in every individual County, and in doing this I would by no means relinquish the Pursuit of either the Woollen or Cotton Branches; but the Linen is the inexhaustible Source that you must ever look to as a permanent Support to the Kingdom. Yet, after all that I have urged and stated, your attempts will be Vain and Fruitless to obtain a solid Footing in any one Branch of those coarse Manufactures unless a protecting or regulating Duty is obtained on Linen Yarn. View the Estimates made by me

me for your *Honourable Board*, in 1774, when the Yarn was only 5½d. to 6d. the Dozen or Hank, and the same Yarn at this Day is raised on the Weavers in this Kingdom to 8d. and 8½d the Hank or Dozen, by the Demands of *Britain* for their Cotton, Hosiery, Thread and Fancy Goods. The Restraint on the Export of Yarn from *France* and * *Russia* gives a Certainty to the Manufacturers of regulating the Prices of their Manufactures free from Fluctuation, and ensures them a constant Sale for their Linens throughout the World; it is not the Disparity of Expence in Living that enables the French and Germans to underfell us in all Foreign Markets, the Common Irish, I maintain it, live as low as they do; it is the want of a proper Restraint being laid on the Export of our Yarn, and a want of Attention to the different Counties, to lead them by Premiums into Manufactures suited to their Yarn and Spinning.

The Sixth Letter, to the Same.

YOUR Inspector (Pa. 11.) in his slanderous Piece, advises the *Nobility and Gentry* of the South *not to press for a Share in the Linen Manufacture*, but to pursue the *Woollen and Cotton*, the latter is totally new, the Material foreign, and to make Establishments in it attended with great Expence and Hazard, and it evidently does not reach the Natives of the Country, who are my first Object in every Scheme, and the extent of the Linen Trade is beyond all others put together, that can be introduced into this *Kingdom*, with Advantage and Certainty.

Your Inspector States, from the Information of Mr. *Lane* of *Cork* (Pa. 46, and also Pa. 40 in his long Report), which is a just Statement, the miserable Earnings of the Spinners at 9d. per Week on Worsted for the English Market, which has too long continued to be their principal Dependance, my Object is to give them double Wages by employing them partly in the

* By a Letter I received from Lord *Macartney*, dated 22d September, 1774, in Answer to mine, requesting to know if the Russians allowed their Linen Yarn to be exported: He expresses himself thus: "On looking over the Exports from *Russia*, for Forty Years past, I don't find Yarn of any Kind among their Articles of Export."

Linen Manufacture, where they will Earn 18d. per Week in Spinning with the same Ease they now get 9d. on Worsted; this will be admitted on Examination of their Industry and Abilities compared with the Spinners in *Ulster*, and this would secure a better Provision by dividing and enlarging their Employment, which the *British* Manufacturers must ultimately pay for, according to Mr. *Arbutnot's* Acknowledgment, in Linen as well as in Worsted Yarn.

In respect to the Scheme for County Premiums to Buyers of Linens which Mr. *Arbutnot* reprobates so violently, (in Pa. 11 and 23 of his Libel) it was considered and digested in a Committee of the House of Commons, in 1757, viz. to give three Premiums, a 50l. 30l. and 20l. in each County, and recommended to the Consideration of the Linen Board (see Vol. X. Pa. 743. 3d Resolution) and afterwards recommended to your Honourable Board by a general Memorial from the Linen Merchants of *Dublin*, and adopted by the Board in 1760, (it was not adopted on light Grounds) the Effects of which County Premiums (although only 30l. was ordered for each County in Place of 100l. which was the Sum proposed by me, (see Vol. X. Commons Journal, Pages 705, 6, 7 8.) produced an Addition of upwards of £200,000. yearly to the Linen Exports of *Ireland*, (see Commons Journal, Vol. XV. Pa. 380. *) the Examinations of *Thomas Read*, Esq. and Mr. *Joseph Fletcher*, in the most solemn Manner, respecting the Increase at *Sligo*, in *Clare*, and in *Galway*; see also Mr. *Arbutnot's* frothy Report (Pa. 20.) of his Information from *Nicholas O'Reily* respecting *Sligo Market*; my Proofs are not of *Journeymen* or mean Persons, accompanied with unfounded Assertions or the grossest Absur-

* Commons Journal, Vol. XV. Page 380.

* *Robert Stephenson*, in 1772, says, 'he had raised the Manufactures of *Sligo* to £27,000 Value yearly.'

Thomas Read, Esq. examined in a solemn Manner as to the said Quantity, said, 'the Quantity about ten or twelve Years before did not exceed twenty Packs, Value £60 each, and at present the Quantity is very Considerable.'

Thomas Read and *Joseph Fletcher* both declared in the most solemn Manner, 'that they never knew of any Linen sent up from *Clare*, or Linens called *Loughbreas* (a County of *Galway* Manufacture) until after Mr. *Stephenson* had been sent by the Board to distribute Premiums to Buyers.'

'Resolved, that it appears to this Committee that Mr. *Robert Stephenson* has been of general Use to the Linen Manufacture, in the Provinces of *Leinster*, *Munster* and *Connaught*; and that the Information given by him to the Linen Board, in his Reports, and annexed Representation, and to this Committee, has been of Service to the Public.'

duties stated as *Facts*. In the Committee of the House of Commons, in 1774, I proposed establishing *Yarn Warehouses* to supply *Warps* and *Wests* ready for the Loom, also to extend Spinning as now proposed in the *Munster* Scheme (see Appendix) which I had done long before in my Report for 1763, in the County of *Limerick*, and to make every Labourer a Weaver as is the Practice in *Germany*; I will appeal to such Testimony as will carry Conviction, where ever these Letters are read, and where one County such as *Sligo* produced £27,000. Increase, *Galway* £40,000. at that Day, and *Castlebar*, *Newport* and *Westport* £15,000; it will be admitted that out of 25 Counties, then under my Inspection, it will not appear an exaggerated Account to say I added upwards of £200,000. yearly on the whole.

* Mr. *Arbutnot* next introduces the Business of my Dismissal, as if caused in Consequence of some wonderful Neglect in me (see Pa. 11, in his Libel.)

* Sir,

Dublin Castle, 25th April, 1778.

It being thought necessary that some Person who is well acquainted with the State of the Linen Manufacture and Commerce of this Country, should go immediately to *England*, to explain any Difficulties which may arise there: I am directed by my Lord Lieutenant to desire you will immediately come to Town, as it will be desirable and necessary that you should be in *London* by the 2d of *May*,

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

Richard Heron.

To *Robert Stephenson*, Esq.

Linen Board. At a Meeting of the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture on Tuesday, *May* the 5th, 1778.

Robert Stephenson having this Day, by Letter, acquainted the Board, that his Attendance on the *British* Parliament, now sitting, is of great Importance to this Kingdom; the Board are so far from being of his Opinion, that from the Information they have received of his Conduct when last sent there, they are convinced his presuming to meddle in the Matters now depending in the *British* Parliament, relative to this Kingdom, will be highly improper.

Signed by Order of the Board,

Bro. Newsburgh.

My dear Sir,

I have just now received a Letter from Mr. *Stephenson*, reminding me of a Promise, that I would do Justice to his late Conduct here, in a fair Representation to you of his Zeal, Assiduity and Abilities in the Discharge of his late Commission from the *Linen Board*; I can say, with Truth, that he has great Merit in all those Particulars, and did every thing in his Power to procure a better Illue for that important Business than was then attainable from various Causes.

Your faithful and most obedient Servant,

Great Georges-street, January 22d, 1774.

Craggs Clare.

and thereby calls upon me to justify myself to your Honourable Board, by

Dear Sir,

London, 1st February, 1774.

I have this Morning attended, at the *St. Alban's Tavern*, a Meeting about the Linen Manufacture, at which attended the Dukes of *Queensbury*, *Argyle* and *Buccleugh*, the Lords *Cathcart*, *Fife*, *Lord Frederick Campbell*, *Sir Lawrence Dundas*, the *Lord Advocate*, &c. &c. with the Scotch Agents; *Lord Clare*, *General Conway* and myself on the Part of *Ireland* and NO AGENTS; for *England*, *Sir Thomas Clavering* and *Mr. Turner of Yorkshire*.

In short, your not sending *Stephenson* has been very remiss, not only as he knows more, but he having been here last Winter ought to have come now, and *Ireland* received some side Thrusts not easily parried.

I understand an Agent is expected, and I hope he will come directly, or the Linen Board may have somewhat to answer for.

It was resolved to have a Deputation to wait on Lord *North*, relative to the Propositions of last Winter, it appeared that the Trade is worse it was then in general.

I am your affectionate,
Dartrey.

Sir,

Dublin, Merion-Street, August 12th, 1784.

I am just returned from the North, where I have been setting between three and four Thousand Acres. The Populousness of that Country, owing to the Linen Manufacture enabled me to set the Lands to much better Advantage than I can set Lands of the same Quality in *Munster*, I may reasonably say 25 per Cent better, though I have set my Lands lower, I believe, than any in the Neighbourhood; this brings to my Mind the Plan now in Agitation for extending the Linen Manufacture in *Munster*; if the Linen Board adopts it, I have no doubt of its Success, under your Inspection, for I with Pleasure recollect your Assiduity and unremitting Attention to the Business of the Linen Manufacture, when the Application was made to the *British Parliament* in 1773, for its Encouragement, being a Member at that Time, and one of the two Gentlemen appointed by the general Meeting to attend Lord *North*, I had a more particular Opportunity of looking into the Business, and can bear Testimony to your close Attention to it.

I am, Sir, your most humble Servant
Henry Cavendish.

To *Robert Stephenson*, Esq.

Sir,

Luttrells-Town, 7th September, 1784.

Having left all my Papers in *England* relative to Transactions in the *British Parliament*, during my long Service there; it is not in my Power to write from hence in Respect to the Part you took when the State of the Linen Trade was agitated there with the Precision I could wish; you will therefore, I hope be satisfied with this Declaration, in general Terms, that your Conduct appeared to me, on every such Occasion, to be Zealous, Useful and highly Meritorious in regard to *Ireland*.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant
Carbampton.

To *Robert Stephenson*, Esq.

N. B. The Originals to be seen in my Hands.

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shewing that it was by *Mistake* or *Misrepresentation* that I was dismissed, and by the same Means, I believe, it will appear, in these Letters, that your *Inspector* *Mr. Arbuthnot*, was adopted. I Appeal to the Orders of the Board for my Dismissal, which could not have been the Case had I been fairly represented; as it is notorious, the Letters of *Earl Nugent* and *Lord Dartrey* were then in the Office, concealed by Messrs. *Newburgh* and *Archdall*, until found by the present Secretary and delivered to me. I am pleased *Mr. Arbuthnot* has, unintentionally, given me this Opportunity of contrasting my Conduct and Character respecting a *Public Examination*, and the Interests of this Country, with his own, as your Honourable Board and the *Public* will thereby best Judge which is most deserving of the Confidence of *Irishmen*; and it is to be hoped he will collect and publish such Certificates as he merits, that the *Public* may see what Kingdom shall Benefit by his Service—sure I am it is not *Ireland* *.

I was sent for, by Express, into the Country, by the *Earl of Buckinghamshire's* (the then *Lord Lieutenant*) Commands, for the noblest Purposes, with the best Intentions and well-grounded hopes of serving this Country, I acquainted your Honourable Board thereof by Letter; I was dismissed, and the Reason assigned in the *Public Papers* as set forth here. I appeal to the Certificates of the *Noblemen* and *Gentlemen* who attended the Committee respecting our *Irish*

* The Object of my Mission to attend the *British Parliament*, in 1778, was no less than the Emancipation of the Trade of *Ireland*. A Multitude of Persons attended from all Parts of *England* and *Scotland* to oppose the Measure in every Point, and their Evidence, previous to my Arrival, had been applied entirely to a Prevention of any farther Liberty of our Commerce with the Colonies, by allowing the Import of Sugars or other Products reserved to *Britain*; I observed, that several Sessions might be spent before their Evidence could be all heard, I proposed a Meeting of the *Irish Interest*, summoned them, and at that Meeting I proposed deserting the Mode of applying farther for an Extension of Imports, but to try how far our Exports to the Colonies, or elsewhere, might be enlarged that Session; at the same Meeting I stated *Mr. Arbuthnot's* Evidence in 1774, respecting our Linens; my Advice was adopted in both Cases, the Evidence respecting our Imports was discontinued that very Day, and a Compromise entered into directly respecting the Export of our Manufactures, &c. to the Colonies, which passed into a Law that Session, greatly to the Advantage of *Ireland*, with Notice from *Earl Nugent* and others, that we should apply for farther Concessions the ensuing Session; and in 1780, one of the first Characters that this or any other Country can boast of, for Integrity, Information and Abilities, attended on the Part of *Ireland*, and the successful Issue of his Negotiation, by enlarging the Field of Manufacture and Commerce for this Country, proves how necessary it is to appoint able and upright Agents to attend the *British Parliament* and Councils every Session.

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Interests

Interests when I was your *Agent* on the Part of *Ireland* to the *British Parliament*; and I will here again repeat, that had I been your Representative in Place of Mr. *Betty*, in 1774, Mr. *Arbuthnot's* flimsy, futile, unfounded Story of his pretended Experiments on Flax and Irish Linen not taking the Dye or Tint, should have been investigated fully, and the Proofs in the Journals of the House of Commons (Vol. X. Pa. 705 to 710) laid before them, which alone would have been sufficient to have rendered justly odious Mr. *Arbuthnot's* absurd Pretensions to *experimental Knowledge*; but Mr. *Betty*, being bred a *Country Apothecary*, had not the Advantage of such Books of Information and Experience to qualify him to conduct the Chain of Evidence necessary to support the Cause of *Ireland* respecting Manufactures, Mr. *Arbuthnot's Tale* passed him off as a Man of great Information: But he is now before a Court that I doubt not will Judge him according to his Merit.

It seems to have been Mr. *Arbuthnot's* fuddled Maxim to endeavour, in every point of View, to conceal the Distresses of this Country from your *Honourable Board*, and to magnify our Business by the most ridiculous Information that ever was laid before you, by which Means it is Death to him to see an Account of your declining Manufactures published, which he endeavours to refute by one of his Statements of Records (in Pa. 12.) as he now calls it; but let him go to the proper Officer, and find out how he came to make the Exports, ending 25th *March*, 1782, 25,044,725 Yards, when the Trade all know it did not amount to 15,000,000 Yards, they complained of it to the Linen Committee as a Misrepresentation for some sinister Purpose; and if your Inspector will subtract from those Exports the Linsens returned unfold, and also for Damages, to the several *Ports* of the *Kingdom*, he will find the Deficiency of 11,000,000 Yards, properly supported, add to this, we import from *Britain* upwards of 1,000,000 Yards of *British Linen* Manufactures of various Sorts yearly, which are a farther Deduction from our supposed Profits on our Linen Exports.

Your *Inspector*, by way of exaggerating Expectations to feed this Country with false Opinions of our present State, tells you, that £560,000 worth of Linen was shipped the last July Market from the Hall of *Dublin* (see Pa. 13.) exclusive of what was packed in Callenders and private Warehouses, whereas the return of the Chamberlain, which he must take his Account from, includes two Markets out of the three great annual Markets, commencing the 14th of *January* last, and ending the 14th of *July*, which is two-thirds of the Year's Trade, and the third Market being very small: It must be obvious, that your Inspector is resolved to mislead you in his Information in every respect, or he could not offer so many unfounded weak Affertions,

sertions, that are plain to every Person who will give himself the Trouble of either Reading or Enquiry*. I have added the third Market to compleat the Trade of the Year.

It is to be hoped the Trade will find Occasion for all the Halls that are now Building at *Belfast*, *Newry* and *Cork*, as well as in *Dublin*; but I have no doubt that it will appear to your *Honourable Board*, that it is not by the Schemes of Mr. *Arbuthnot* that the Trade can be extended, so as to require more Room. He confesses, through his *Reports*, that the Cotton and Spinning of Worsted and Linen Yarn for the Manufactures of *Britain* are his great Objects, if he may be said to have formed any System in his Thoughts.

I am for deserting totally the Manufacture and raising of Hemp by Premiums, it was my Opinion in 1755, and is so now †: Flax is peculiarly fitted for our Soil and Climate, and all the Sail Cloth of *England* is made of Flax. By the 9th of *Geo. II.* Chap. 37. the first four Numbers of Sail Cloth must

* To the Right Honourable and Honourable the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture.
An Account of the Number of Packs and Boxes of Linen sent out of the Linen Hall, for Export, from the 14th of *January* to the 14th of *July*, 1784:

<i>William Boulger.</i>				
2,064	Export Packs	at	£.150 per Pack	£309,600
1,677	ditto Boxes	at	150 per Box	251,550
Total 3,741		at	150	561,150

The Account is Exclusive of all Goods packed at the Calenders and Merchants' Warehouses.

I have compared the Vouchers with the above Account, and the Valuation is from the best Information.

Robert King.
An Account of the Number of Packs and Boxes of Linen sent out of the Linen Hall, for Export, from the 14th of *July* (being the Date of the last Account delivered to Mr. *Robert King*) to the 21st of *October*, 1784.

<i>William Boulger.</i>				
1,139	Export Packs	at	£.150 per Pack	£170,850
672	ditto Boxes	at	150 per Box	100,800
Total 1,811		at	150	271,650

This Account is Exclusive of all Goods shipped from the Merchants' Warehouses and Callenders.

I have compared the Vouchers with this Account, and the Valuation is from the best Information.

Robert King.
† See my Reports at Limerick in the Linen Office.

have the Warp double Threads made of long Flax, and the Lengths, Breadths and Weight of each Number and Bolt are ascertained by the Act.

The House of Commons after a solemn Enquiry, found the medium Value of Flax imported in the seven Years preceding 1758 to amount to £138,444 17s. 6d. yearly; and in Commons Journal Vol X. Pa. 743, see a Bounty proposed by me, at that early Day, on our Linens exported to all Foreign Countries.

It is then resolved, that the Linen Yarn of *Ireland* is proved to be the best in the World.

The third Resolution is, to recommend County Premiums to Buyers.

And the 5th, 'Resolved that it appears to this Committee, that the Staple of Irish Flax is preferable in its Kind to any Flax imported; and that every County in the Kingdom has Land proper for raising Flax.'

This Resolution contradicts all Mr. Arbuthnot's Evidence and Reports.

6th. 'Resolved, that the raising and manufacturing it be attended to throughout the Kingdom.'

9th. (Pa. 744.) 'Resolved, that the Fund be divided equally between the four Provinces, and the County of *Clare* considered as Part of *Connaught*, exclusive of the £2,000 granted by Parliament to *Leinster*, *Munster* and *Connaught*.'

This clashes strangely with Mr. Arbuthnot's Opinion in his Libel.

It is impossible that Mr. *Arbuthnot* could have seen the Evidence and Resolutions in the Reports of the *House of Commons* (Vol. X. Pa. 705 to 744) and (Vol. XV. Pa. 373 to 404) the Examinations of Committees also in 1773; in 1780 and 1781, and advance so many Absurdities still further to expose himself; but he seems determined on controverting all the Evidence and all the Experience of several Ages, to prove our Flax bad, our Merchants and Manufacturers fraudulent and inattentive to their own Interests, our People ignorant in every Branch of the Manufacture, and that it is the Interest of the other Provinces to desert the *Linen Manufacture* and leave it entirely to *Ulster*; although he allows, and must confess, the best of the poor Spinners can earn only 9d. per Week in Spinning *Worsted* in *Munster*.

Flax

Flax Farming was so much attended to by your *Honourable Board*, in Consequence of the Recommendation of the *House of Commons*, in 1758, that there has been nearly a full supply of Flax for our Linen Manufacture for the last twenty Years, and to raise Flax to Export is a chimerical Scheme in *Ireland*, as the Quality is too fine and too valuable to be purchased by *Britain*, or any Market on the *Continent* where their Lands or Labour are lower; it is therefore, in my Opinion, Time to drop your Flax Premiums, and push forward your Linen Manufactures so as to accompany your Flax Farming, until an evident Want of Flax begins to appear in any of the Linen Counties. The superior Quality of your Flax will enable the Country to spin to any Degree of Fineness, when the Spinners are taught the *Flemish Method*: And it is evident, that the Quantity of Flax raised has declined with the Linens in the last twelve Years, as there is no Stock of Irish Flax on Hands, nor has the Price been lowered at any Time.

Mr. *Arbuthnot's* supposing I want to bring a Manufacture without a Material is of a Piece with all his puerile reasoning; I want the Manufacture hence forward to accompany the raising of the Flax, as the only Means to encourage Flax Farming.

Your Inspector, in his next Quotation, has excelled, if possible, all that went before; here he has turned out a wonderful Judge of Trade, forgets all his Evidence at the Bar of the *British Parliament*, and if we had not his own Confession as Proof against him, we should be apt to give Credit to some of his Assertions respecting Commerce.

He begins (Pa. 14.) by adding *Spain* to an *African* outfit, and wilfully puts *Irish* before *Iron* to give him an Opportunity of saying something on the Subject, but any Animadversions of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* respecting a Foreign Trade (after his Confessions to the *British Parliament* where they knew him best) must shew he does not want a dip in the *Shannon* to give him Assurance; and his Knowledge of Commerce and foreign Demands are more on the Level of the Check Weavers and Journeymen, whose Evidence he has endeavoured to make of Consequence and cultivated so intimate a Correspondence with; but he must not presume to give an Opinion respecting foreign Demands among Merchants. The Line pursued by those wise commercial Leaders of *Britain*, in all Branches of Trade and Manufacture, ought to guide this Country in all commercial Laws; we are too Insignificant as yet in Manufactures to pretend to set an Example. I have given

Mr.

Mr. John Brown's Answer*, in his Letter to me, on Dying, to shew that Mr. Arbuthnot is as Ignorant of the Check Trade, as he is of every other Branch of Commerce.

Mr.

* Sir,

Having seen Remarks made on the Information I gave you respecting Dying, as practised at Manchester, by Mr. John Arbuthnot, Inspector to the Linen Board, where he considers me as a Runnagate from Manchester, and speaks of the Opinion I gave, as well as of me, in the most disrespectful Terms, (in Pa. 15, of his Report) I beg you may communicate my Sentiments to the Right Honourable Linen Board, with your own, to shew them that Mr. Arbuthnot does not mean that Ireland should enjoy the Advantages that Britain does either in Dying or Printing, or he would not think of excluding the Dyers or Printers, occasionally as Demands may require, from making Use of the cheapest Dye Stuffs or Woods, as they, in those Branches of Manufacture, vary in their Colour and Demands for Foreign Trade more than in any Line of Manufacture, I believe, in the World.

When I gave you the Prices and Practice of Manchester in Dying or Printing, I could not suppose it would give Offence to any Man in Ireland, to be informed of the Mode of conducting these great Branches of Manufacture, that have led the People of Manchester so successfully through the World, where they now are almost unrivalled, and I do assure the Honourable Board, that it was a very incautious Step to make a Law to deprive us of the Use of Logwood in dying Blues, or of any Stuff whatever, as the Demands for Africa and the West Indies, and on the Continent of Europe, vary often, and are different in the different Parts of those extensive and various Dominions, and I will assure Mr. Arbuthnot that if he understood the Business of either a Dyer or Printer, he would lay no Restraints on their Practice or Experiments with whatever Woods or Stuffs they chuse to Use, as we are daily making Improvements in those Branches, and I will tell him that we can make fast Colours with Materials now that was unknown to him when he practised those Branches of Dying and Printing: and I shall be glad to have an Opportunity of an Examination before the Honourable Board of Mr. Arbuthnot and my Pretensions to Knowledge in the Profession of a Dyer and Printer.

If Ireland is to meet the English and Scotch, or other Foreign Nations, on the Coast of Africa, America, the West Indies, or elsewhere, are they to be excluded the Use of those Dye Woods or other Stuffs that have obtained the Manufactures of Britain such Reputation for Beauty and Cheapness in all the Foreign Markets, or must they Mark their Irish Goods with the odious Titles of False or Fraudulent*, because they are Dyed or Printed in Ireland. I will be so free to tell the Honourable Board, that their In-

* I have procured some Samples of the Printing of Augsburgh in Germany to compare their fine Work with the Irish Printing, and also to shew there is neither False, Fast or Fraudulent stamped on them as proposed by Mr. Arbuthnot; I also have procured some Samples of the real German Britannias for the Spanish and Portugal Markets, for the Satisfaction of your Honourable Board, and for the Information of Irish Merchants and Spectator.

Mr. Arbuthnot bestows very liberally his Epithets of Runnagate from Manchester on a very ingenious, deserving, and industrious Tradesman, who was bred

spectator either is Ignorant or means to deprive Ireland of those Advantages in Trade she may possess in Common with Great Britain.

I Dye for seventeen out of the twenty-eight of those Check Manufacturers that Mr. Arbuthnot has procured to Sign his Advertisement, and some of the remainder are not in the Check Trade; and they will allow I do their Business as well and cheaper than any other in this City; and it is from my Knowledge of the Use of Dye Woods and Stuffs I am enabled so to do. I again give you the Prices of Dying at Manchester, to shew how much cheaper there than here, and also the Purposes some of the cheap Colours are applied to; and please to assure the Honourable Board that I am not a Runnagate, but have always been so industrious to pay my Debts, which I hope this pretended Judge of Dying and Printing has also done; and if the Honourable Board will be pleased to bring Mr. Arbuthnot Face to Face with me before them, I shall satisfy them, that instead of being a Runnagate I shall prove their Inspector totally Ignorant of my Trade.

Those were and are my Sentiments, and those Objects cannot be dispensed with, if this Country wish to get forward in Trade as they do in Great Britain.

I am, Sir, your most humble Servant,

No. 32, Cole-Alley, Meath-street.

John Brown.

N. B. Among the Bleachers or Crosters at Manchester I have always found the Bleachers preferred the Irish Linen Yarn as the easiest whitened.

In Manchester the Prices of Dying Linen and Cotton Yarn Blue are as follows, and also for other Purposes:

	Linen Yarn per pound.	Cotton Yn. per pound.
Linen Check $\frac{3}{4}$ wide, ordinary Sort of Goods, Linen Yarn	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
Ditto $\frac{7}{8}$ ditto	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
Yard-wide Linen Check Linen Yarn	3 d.	
$\frac{3}{4}$ Cottons, coarse Sort, Linen Warp	3 d.	8d.
$\frac{7}{8}$ Ditto ditto	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	9d.
Supperfine $\frac{7}{8}$ Cotton ditto	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4 d.	10d.
Yard-wide ditto ditto	4 d. to 5 d.	11d to 12d.
Superfine Ell-wide Checks	5d. 6d. to 8d.	12d to 13d.
Bed Ticking according to Quality from	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6 p.	
Striped Ticking for Carriages or Packing, red blue or yellow	2 d.	
Striped Hooping, red, yellow or purple	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
Pink ditto	9d. to 2s.	
Striped Cotton Hollands, Cotton Twist for the Warp		10d. to 11d.
Striped Linen Hollands Linen Yarn	5d. to 6d.	

All the above Blues rouzed after being dyed, which is also paid for 1d. the Pound for Linen Yarn and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for Cotton.

N. B. The rouzing done to add to the Blue and preserve the White in the Checks, and is no saving in Dying.

The

bred a Dyer and Printer, is a great acquisition to *Ireland*, has the Esteem of whoever knows him, and also of his Countrymen, so far as to correspond and visit them Annually to obtain Information respecting his Trade; this does not look like a *Kunnegate*; Mr. *Arbuthnot* is of all Men, in this Country, the last who should use such Epithers (*even if true*) to any Man: It must be a great discouragement to Men of Character and Knowledge to come and settle among us, and Mr. *Arbuthnot* ought not so soon forget his own Condition, from whence he has just emerged, and it is a great Doubt whether the *arrogant proud Stranger* dares now for many Reasons revisit his *native Abode*. It is an old Adage, 'A Man that Stands in a Glass House ought not to throw Stones.'

The St. Jago Cloths for West India Trade, striped, must be a heavy fadden'd Blue to give a lustre to the Colour.

In the African Trade Goods must be faddened with Logwood and with Astringents.

In Printing black Grounds it is necessary to use some Logwood, not as a Saving but to raise and beautify the Colour.

In Bed Ticks the beautiful Colour is obtained and preserved by rouzing with Logwood and keeps them clean and bright.

In the common coarse Ticks of all Sorts, also for Threads and Tapes, where a high Price cannot be afforded Logwood must be used.

Romall Handkerchiefs Yard-wide, mostly blue Grounds, and various Borders, are all fadden'd with Logwood and other things.

Madder Reds at Manchester are done on Linens	1s. 6d.	2s.
Brazil Peachwood or Braziletto common Reds	2d.	4d.
Purple Cotton for Tiley Handkerchiefs and Morees for		3d. to 4d.

Bafts cannot be dyed properly without using Logwood and Astringents to fadden the Colour.

All Cotton Bafts, and also with Linen Warps Yard-wide, some $\frac{3}{4}$ wide, are dyed in the Piece a fadden'd Blue, cannot be made that Colour without Logwood and Astringents to rouze and fadden the Colour, so as to fit it for a Foreign demand, and make it clear and free of Specks to imitate the real India Goods.

The Bafts are made in long Pieces, but cut at the Calenders as ordered, into short Pieces of a Fathom or more; some of them are black Blues and some purple Blues.

Brazil and Madder may be wrought together on a red Callico Ground, is practised at Manchester and does wash; the Prices paid as yet for Dying in Ireland are generally much higher than at *Manchester*.

The

The Seventh Letter, to the Same.

I SHALL lay down one Proposition that will be acceded to as necessary in all Schemes proposed by your *Honourable Board*, that you are not to exceed the Extent of your Funds, and ought to be at all times prepared to pay Claims that are adjudged.

This being admitted, as a necessary Line of Conduct, when you have the undigested and unlimited Schemes that Mr. *Arbuthnot* has published as the Acts of your *Honourable Board* laid before you, in a collected View, you will see that the only Chance that remains to avoid incurring a great Debt, the ensuing Year, is, the Inconsistency and crude undigested Manner in which they are offered to the Public, so as they can't be readily obtained, or even understood; and many of them have been proposed to the Board since I laid my Scheme and Address before you and the Province of *Munster*.

* My first Scheme is, to encourage Flax Farmers on a large Scale, not exceeding £.80 in five Premiums for each County, by which Means the Powers of Farmers would be tried, without engaging the Board for a larger Sum, as it must be admitted the small Quantities usually sown by the little Farmers or Poor, will be continued, and the Adjudication and Enquiry would be easy and certain, without incurring any greater Expence than is proposed of £80 per County, for the most deserving among considerable Flax Farmers.

Your *Inspector's* Scheme is to pay among them £16,000 yearly, with an Inspector to attend each County at £40 yearly, and Five per Cent. on all the Flax he Views, so as to bring as many Claims as possible on the Fund, by this Means a Part of the County of *Cork*, where they have never looked for Premiums on their little Parcels, including *Cloghnakilty*, *Skibereen* and *Dunmanway*, in which your Inspector never was, and also all the Cottiers and others in *Ulster* and *Connaught*, will become Candidates and Affidavit-Men without adding a Pound to our Stock of Flax, according to Mr. *Arbuthnot's* Plan of the hardest Swearing getting most Money.

The Return Mr. *Donovan* has made (see Libel, Pa. 26) is from the Part of *Cork* that I speak of; and it appears in my Report for 1755, in the Linen

* See *Munster* Premiums in Appendix No. VI.

Office, and also in the Inquiry (Pa. 182) ' that there was a considerable Quantity of Flax brought to *Cork Market* annually from about *Cloghnakilty*, *Skibereen* and *Dunmanway*; it is half hackled and sold about 6d. per Pound; the Quantity this Year (in 1755) is computed at Twenty Tons, which must have been the Produce of at least 200 Acres, which in that Part of the County they had to spare annually, without being induced thereto by any Premiums, this could not have escaped your *Inspector's* Notice, if he did not designedly conceal what I represented in my Report for 1755.

Thomas Mullins, Esq. Foreman of the last Spring Grand Jury of *Kerry*, informed me, that this Scheme of your Inspector, for Premiums on raising Flax, was such an inlet and Encouragement to Perjury, that it had given him the Trouble of attending several Days endeavouring to investigate the Truth, and he found it impossible but that the *Frauds* and *Perjuries* would be multiplied and the Meritorious excluded. This is the Scene of Perjury which your Inspector speaks of as a Business of great Merit (in Pa. 9.) of his *Libel*, where there are Claims for 1150 Acres in *Kerry*; and the *Frauds* and *Perjuries* of *Mayo* are still more alarming. This Scheme is calculated to dissipate your Funds by giving to every Cottager, joining with his Neighbours, a Premium for sowing his little annual *Quantum* of Flax Seed which he did without any other Encouragement than his own private Interest; and Premiums, it is humbly presumed, are and ought to be given only to extend or improve our Manufactures or Commerce.

The next Scheme I proposed was £100, in Premiums, to the Twelve greatest Undertakers or Flax Boors who should buy the Flax on the Foot and prepare it for the Hackle or the Spinner, in each County of *Munster* yearly, the Value of the Flax sold to determine the Merits of the Claimants: This Scheme of Premiums was proposed by me to the Board, and also in the Linen Committee, soon after I had viewed *Scotland* in 1773, as I found it a successful Scheme there, and I see no reason to alter it for *Mr. Arbuthnot's* Scheme of ten per Cent. paid to the Purchasers of green Flax, which would be unlimited and subject to Frauds: To suppose Gentlemen, or Men of Fortune, would undertake the Part of Boors or Flax-dressers in *Ireland*, as he proposes, is of a Piece with his other Absurdities; there is no Water almost to be met with in *Ireland* that is not fit for watering Flax, and green Flax is of such a bulky heavy Quality as will not admit being carried to any distant Part without Damage, and too much Expence. It is not to be expected that such as have Oil Mills will turn Flax dressers. It is unnecessary to repeat what I have said in my first Letter, respecting Irish Flax-dressers compared with the Foreign; I will only say, this Business is properly

properly suited to Flax-dressers to become undertakers or Flax Boors: I now speak of a Branch of the Trade that I understand, and in which *Mr. Arbuthnot* appears as Ignorant as he is of *Spinning fine Yarn* in the *French Mode*.

The third Scheme which I proposed of £100, in like Manner as the last, for making Spinners, as it is practised in giving out Worsted to spin, was proposed in my Report for 1765, and founded on the successful Practice, then pursued by some Ladies and others, to introduce the Manufacture in *Munster*, it would also encourage Flax Farming, and is so connected with the Scheme of Undertakers or Flax Boors, that I wonder *Mr. Arbuthnot* was hardy enough to oppose it: His reasoning on it is of a Piece with his other *Assertions*.

The fourth Scheme I have proposed to the amount of £50 in each County, is to the four Persons who shall sell the greatest Value of Yarn warped, with proper Wefts assorted thereto, for plain Linens, Checks, Ozenbrigs, or Drabs; and the fifth is £50 more, in four Premiums, to the Persons who shall whiten or purge the greatest Number of Statute Dozens of Yarn: These two Schemes are considered by your Inspector under one Head; and in the Scheme he proposes in lieu of those two Classes of Premiums he betrays his Ignorance of what a *Warp* or *Chain* is, as it is meant in my Scheme to form a regular Manufacture in those Branches enumerated by me, by ascertaining the Lengths, Breadths and Quality, as is the Practice in *Lancashire* and *Scotland*, this can be done in the Order published for such as Claim those Premiums; to have their Warps of such Number of Beers and Lengths, and the Wefts may be suited to the sets so as effectually to imitate the slaying of the Foreign Linens, as I have set them out on the Scale practised abroad, as appears by the Patterns (P. 39 to 41): I know I am speaking in an *unknown Language* to your Inspector, but I apply to the Understanding and Experience of *Manufacturers*. He states *Flaxen Yarn*, at *twelve Cutts to the Pound*, as if any such Yarn could be afforded of Flax in *Ireland*; and he makes out a supposed Scheme for Calculation of Premiums from two to five per Cent. which would induce a Belief, that he had been consulting difficult Questions of Calculation with some *Country School-master*: There are so few Knots to be found in a Hank of Yarn, that I wonder how he could so far acknowledge his *profound Ignorance* as to mention the Weavers' Knot, and more especially as I dare assert he cannot distinguish between the *Weavers*, the *Sailors*, or the *common Knot* before your *Honourable Board*. If you give me leave to write down ten Questions for Calculation, such as must arise on his absurd Schemes, and lock him up from getting Meat or Drink until he solves them with Precision, to decide what Sums they are intitled to for Premiums, at two, three,

four or five per Cent. I will answer for it you'll hear no more of this *Genius of an Inspector*.

My Object is to establish a regular Manufacture fit for Exportation in every Branch, plain, strip'd, check'd, or dyed; and your Inspector not knowing that it is only to be done by ascertaining the Warp, or even what the Warp is from the Weft, leaves them indiscriminately blended together. It is not possible to extend the Manufacture in the Hands of poor People until a regular Market is established of *Flax Farmers* and *Flax-dressers*, with the Spinners, Weavers, Reed-makers and Buyers of Linen, as is now in Practice in *Ulster*, other Means must be pursued in *Munster*, and those Counties where the Manufacture is in an *infant State*.

It is proverbially said by the *Dutch*, when a man fails, *that he kept bad Accounts*; and how Mr. *Arbuthnot*, who kept such *bad Accounts* himself, could be tempted to offer such difficult Questions for Calculation, arising on every Warp or Weft taken out or bought by *illiterate Weavers*, is more than I can *fathom*. It may however be here applied, that a *Fool* may offer a Question that will require the *wisest Man* to resolve.

Your *Inspector* next lumps together the three following Schemes, three Premiums to such who shall make the greatest Number of Yards of *Ozenbriggs* or *Drabs*, according to Samples, £20: Also to the three Persons who shall make the greatest Number of Yards of *Britannias* or *Silefias* for the African or Spanish Trade, £20: And also to the greatest Manufacturers in Number of Yards of *Linens* or *Checks* for Sale in each County, seven Premiums amounting to £55 yearly; which fully proves this Man's extreme Ignorance of every Species of Manufacture, or he could never put together three Branches of the Linen so opposite in Colour, Quality, and in every Point of View.

And as Substitutes for those three Classes of Premiums, your *Inspector* proposes two per Cent. on all the Yarn manufactured in the Kingdom, provided the Yarn is *Flaxen Yarn*, Head or Long and Long, knotted with the *Weavers Knot*, and that it be examined by the *County Inspector*, and marked across the twelve Cuts of each Hank with a red or blue Stain of Vermillion or Indigo, mixed with Size, and it must be further proved by the *Oath* (that is the *Touchstone*) of the Manufacturer, that it was not sold to any other Person or exported.

I own

I own my *profound Ignorance* in not comprehending how the Scheme bears any Resemblance to the Three he proposes it as a substitute for, nor do I know what Purpose the Examination of the County Inspector, and his marking every Hank and Cut (were it possible) could Answer, where it is to be immediately bleach'd out again, or what Purpose two per Cent. can Answer, given in this Line, without any Scheme in View, either of Quantity, Quality, Length or Breadth. Here your *Inspector* also proposes three Premiums to be paid in each Market in the Kingdom, viz. 10s.—7s. 6d. and 5s. without ascertaining either Length or Breadth, so that three Yards of Bandle Cloth might get one of these Premiums; which are to be adjudged by a Jury of three of the Buyers in each Market, subject to the controul of the Inspectors, without appointing in any respect how or where they are to be paid.

If any of your *Honourable Board* can seriously read this Paragraph and not perceive your Inspector strongly tinged with the Marks of Insanity or Idiocy, I shall forfeit my Pretensions to any Degree of Knowledge; I think the first Part answers itself by being impracticable, and the latter requires only to be lightly noticed: He also tells you, that although *Ozenbriggs* and *Britannias* are not mentioned in your Advertisement, they are equally attended to as the other coarse Articles of Manufacture, by the Bounties you offer for the Yarn of which they are made; and here he mentions the Samples, among the whole of which there is neither a *Britannia* or a *Silefia* or *Shock Linen*, such as are used for Printing or for export to *Spain*, *Portugal*, or *Africa*; and I have already so fully demonstrated his *Ignorance in Manufacture*, that I shall only make one observation on the Market Cloth he mentions (in Pa. 22) and Bandles (in Pa. 11). I am a Stranger to those Manufactures he has found out among Linens; there is a Measure called the Bandle in the South, and Market Cloth in *Connaught*, which is small bits of Woollen Cloth, but in all my Searches in Writing the Representation (see Commons Journal, Vol. XV. Pa. 396) beginning in 1542 to the present Time, and for which I received the most honourable Testimony of Approbation in the Resolution of the House of Commons (Pa. 402.) Resolved, That it appears that Mr. *Robert Stephenson* has been of general Use to the Linen Manufacture in the Provinces of *Leinster*, *Munster* and *Connaught*; and that the Information given by him to the Linen Board, in his Reports and the annexed Representation and to this Committee, has been of Service to the Public: I say I never heard of such Manufactures until found out by this *wonderful Inspector* you have adopted.

The 9th Class of Premiums I proposed, was to the seven greatest Buyers of Linens in each County, amounting to £55, for Linens not less than twenty-six Inches wide.

This

This Scheme having been recommended to the Board by the House of Commons, in 1758, and by the Trading Interest, in 1779, and it appearing from the Reports I published, beginning in 1760 to the last general Report, I made by Order of the *House of Commons* and your *Honourable Board*, in 1771, that the Linen Exports of *Ireland* had increased in that Period more than double, viz. from 12,048,881 Yards, ending 25th *March* 1761, when those County Premiums commenced to 25,376,808 Yards, ending 25th *March*, 1771, in ten Years (see *Commons Journal*, Vol. XV. Page 383.) whilst these Premiums were tolerably well paid, which amazing increase was in great Measure to be ascribed to my Exertions among the People in the twenty-five Counties then under my Inspection, and the Subscriptions and Spirit I raised in each County. How your *Inspector* can have the Effrontery to say it introduced Frauds where he has not pointed out one, and where it rendered so great an Advantage to the Public, or that the Scheme was reprobated by any Gentleman he conversed with, where there is such Testimony in favour of the Scheme, and the Manner it was conducted is only exposing himself, and placing my Exertions in a more favourable Point of View; see the Cause of Defect, in *Commons Journal*, Vol. XV. Pa. 403, fully Explained; where the Blame was justly placed at that Day, viz. 'Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Claimants for Premiums have been greatly discouraged by Delays in Payment arising from a pretended Deficiency in the Funds.'

Your *Inspector's* Objection to my 10th Scheme of £30 for the greatest Value of Stockings made by two Persons, seems to be only because I aim at increasing the Value of the Stocking Manufacture; and he had no Occasion to introduce *Blarney* in this Place, particularly as all his Reports and Objections must appear to any Reader who dispassionately considers them, as a Heap of Rubbish, and what is called *Blarney*, a Phrase well understood in *Ireland*.

Mr. *Arbuthnot's* last Objection is to the *Flax Mill* in each County, where so small a Sum as £22 15s. is offered; it is for the Machinery I propose it, and not for the Building, as the Machinery is not excluded by any Act, and I had a Share in obtaining the Law your *Inspector* alludes to, which was passed in Consequence of a Resolution of the House of Commons, in 1772, (*Commons Journal*, Vol. XV. Pa. 403.) viz. 'Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee that no Grants ought to be made by the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, for Building Manufacturers Houses, or for repairing of Bleach Yards or Flax Mills.'

Your

Your *Inspector*, so tenacious of preserving the Fund, when offered to be applied to the most laudable Purposes for extending the Manufacture, will be found the greatest Prodigal and Squanderer of it that ever appeared in *Ireland*, when I collect his Distribution thereof into one View.

It must no Doubt have been exceedingly grating to a Man of Mr. *Arbuthnot's* assumed Consequence, to find so many Schemes on the Books of the Board, and in my Reports in the Linen Office, which have rendered his Advice less important than he might otherwise wished to have made it. He says truly, for once, (Pa. 9.) that 'I can't know what Schemes he has submitted to your Consideration, or what Conversation he has had with your Board, or what Part of your Proceedings he had the good Fortune to have suggested.' But it is as true from the Tenor and Scope of his Evidence in 1774, and no one Scheme being proposed, or Samples imported, to introduce any Species of Linen fit for Printing, to interfere with Foreigners in the *Jamaica* or *Southern Market*, the *Spanish* or *American*. I can speak decidedly that it appears Mr. *Arbuthnot* receives your Pay, and Works for the *Germans*. I won't allow him to plead Ignorance in the *Printing Trade*, but in every other Part of the Manufacture he appears as uninformed as he is in Commerce.

In Page 26 of his *Libel*, with what pompous Ignorance does not this circuitous *African Trader* set out, and admits the Trade will be a great Acquisition to the Kingdom when we are prepared to adopt it. Had he attended the Examination at the Bar of the British Parliament in 1774, after his own Examination was closed, he would have been informed by the Evidence, that a *West India* Plantation is of no Use without a proper Complement of Slaves to Work and Manufacture the Plantation; and he would have known that so great is the Demand for Slaves, that they are sold in Preference to every other Species of Merchandize to the Planters, and command the Choice of their Crop in Sugar, Cotton, &c. to pay for them, and they always take Bills or Specie, which is procured by the *Spanish Trade*, as one Cargo of Slaves will load three Ships of the same Burthen with Sugar, Rum, Cotton and Coffee; and there are many free Ports in the *West Indies* where they vend their Slaves to the *Spaniards, Dutch, Danes, French* and *Americans*; if Mr. *Arbuthnot* had recollected himself he certainly would have pleaded Ignorance on this occasion as he did in his Examination at the Bar of the House of Commons in England, as in this Line what he says is totally Fabulous; and after all, as if conscious he was Guilty of Misrepresentation, he tells you, the Object of your Trust is the *Linen Manufacture*, and not well assorted Cargoes of other Goods. He next asks, why not give Premiums to all the

the other Ports round the Kingdom, including *Waterford*, which shews his Ignorance even of the Map of the Country, although the Scheme he had referred to him is addressed only to the Nobility and Gentry of *Munster*. But none are so blind as they that won't see; and was it not to illustrate this great Object to your Honourable Board, I should leave your Inspector enveloped in Ignorance as I at first found him; certain as I am he is now too old, was he disposed thereto, to be Taught any thing to the Advantage of *Ireland*.

The Eighth Letter, to the Same.

IT seems Extraordinary that your Inspector, Mr. Arbuthnot, the self-sufficient Paragon of Pomposity, will not agree with me even where I have taken up his Hobby Horse, the Cotton Manufacture. I offer a small Premium to shew its Insignificance, compared with the Linen Manufacture, to *Ireland*, and also to prove that wealthy Men, who are generally engaged in this Branch, will contend more for the Honour than the Profit got by the Premiums; and strange as it may appear to a Mercenary like your Inspector, I have seen the Buyers of £40,000 Value of Linens appear Claimants in the King's County, for three small Premiums of £15, £10, and £5, to County Buyers; and I have no doubt but the principal Manufacturers of *Munster* would be as emulous of the Credit and Honour of employing their poor Inhabitants as those of *Leinster*.

On your Inspector General's additional Premiums, I have given my Opinion fully against those of Hemp already; having viewed the Hemp Farming in *Lincolnshire* and *Yorkshire*, I am persuaded our Lands are not rich enough without high dressing with Dung to bring good Crops, and as I have observed that in *England* they make almost all their Sail Cloth of Foreign Flax, I can't venture to give my Judgment in Opposition to those wise and experienced People.

The Bounty on the Exportation of our Sail Cloth was necessary, and a protecting Duty at the same Time on *British* Sail Cloth imported into *Ireland* is absolutely necessary, or it will be impossible to establish a Sail Cloth Manufacture in *Ireland*. I speak with Confidence on this Subject, as it appears

appears in the Evidence laid before Mr. Gardner's Committee on Protecting Duties, in the last Session of Parliament (Report Pa. 47) that £105 Value of Sail Cloth shipped at *Liverpool* for a House in *Dublin*, drew a Bounty of £13 8s. 4d. in *England*; this is a Premium of about 12 per Cent. against an Irish Manufacturer, and until a Duty is laid here to Counterballance it, *Ireland* must relinquish all thoughts of extending the Sail Cloth Manufacture even for her own Consumption. Your Inspector General's Ignorance appears still farther in not stating this to your Honourable Board.

The Premiums of £60 each to the three Persons who establish and carry on long shed Spinning for one Year, at least five Miles from *Dublin*, could only have been sketched out or proposed to your Honourable Board, by a Person who knew nothing of the Matter, as the Operation is and must be connected with a Sail Cloth Manufacture, as Yarn of that kind is for Warps of Sail Cloth. To be at the Expence of such a House for the Purpose, without making a House of three Floors, viz. the Ground Floor for Looms, the Middle for a starching Room, to dress their Warps on Rollers, and the Third for long shed Spinning, and that on long Flax, as the British Act expressly enacts, 9 Geo. II. Ch. 37. the first four Numbers shall have their Warps made thereof, whereas your Scheme is proposed intirely for Hemp. I own I am astonished to read such daring insults offered to your Honourable Board, and this Country, as appears through all your Inspectors Schemes and Observations. A Man just emerged from another Line of Business, who never saw any of those great Branches of Manufacture carried on, and, if he did, would not understand what they were doing, speaks and writes as freely as if he was addressing himself to a People totally Ignorant, and has had the Address to prevail on your Honourable Board even to publish to the World such Inconsistencies.

The Sail Cloth Manufacture is a great Object, and if they withdraw their Bounty in Britain on Sail Cloth exported to *Ireland*, or we obtain a Protecting Duty on *British* Sail Cloth imported equal to it. I can shew you how to make it a Trade worth £200,000 yearly to *Ireland*, but to do this Flax and Hemp must be exempted from Duty on Importation.

The Whim or Bauble offering £30, £20, and £10, for the twenty Pieces of finest Hempen Linen produced by each of three Claimants; if any Persons try the Experiment, will only be for the Sake of Novelty, as I am certain Flaxen Linen for Shirts is far preferable in every respect, and my Information is confirmed in this by the Experience of *England*, preferring Flaxen Sheeting to the Russia, which is stronger and cheaper; but they have

observed that there is a Coldness appears in the Hempen Sheeting, compared with Flaxen, which gives a Preference to the Manufacture made of Flax; and I have been informed the Sail Cloth made of Flax wears more evenly and kind, than the Hempen, and lasts longer, it is certainly preferred or the *English* would not have made a Law in favour of long Flax, or use Flax almost intirely in the Manufacture, where Hemp is generally one-half Cheaper. These I should think are cogent Reasons why, for the present at least, the Culture of Hemp should not be insisted on or attended to, and they were my Reasons for leaving them out of my Scheme for *Munster*. But as I am not so presumptuous as to decide of my self on such great National Objects, I referred the final Decision on all Parts of the Scheme now offered, to the Consideration of the *Nobility* and *Gentry* of the Province.

Your Inspector has recommended a Premium of ten per Cent. on the Value, to be given to Printers and Dyers for one Year, commencing the 1st of *June* last, on all Madder, Gum, Indigo, Allum, Sugar of Lead, Fustick and Shumack, used and consumed by them, without assigning any Reason for it. Had the Pretensions of Claimants been restrained to cheapning the Work or improving it, there might have been an Excuse for this lavish Expenditure of your Fund, but no requisite is necessary only that they shall swear (for that, with *Mr. Arbuthnot*, is the Proof to obtain every thing) that they used and consumed those Articles in their Manufacture.

This was no light Resolutions of your *Honourable Board* to undertake so great an Expence, without any Reason assigned, any Improvement or Acquisition proposed, or any Limitation to the Demands that may be in Consequence incurred by the *Board*.

View the Printing Manufacture in *Britain* in a lost State, as *Mr. Arbuthnot* represents it (Letter 3d) where upwards of £400,000 yearly is paid, for Materials and Labour in this Branch only, and at a reasonable Computation we may suppose those Materials he has brought you into this new and unnecessary Encouragement of, will amount to £50,000 in this Country for the present Year, which will bring a Demand of £5,000 on your Fund, exclusive of Claims from the Dyers, without proposing thereby the Extension or Improvement of the Manufacture in any respect whatever.

If I have over-rated this unfought and unlooked-for Premium, I shall be glad to have my Error pointed out, and shall freely confess it; but until then I must again repeat, that this is another of the glaring Instances of the improper Use, your *Projector* has made of the Confidence your *Honourable Board* have reposed in him.

I shall

I shall now collect into one View the Engagements your *projecting Inspector* has drawn you into, for the present year, and you will thereby Judge if I exaggerate or mis-state any Part whereby the impropriety will appear of giving Premiums at so much per Cent. in place of limited Sums, which has been the uniform Custom of this Country, introduced in *Charles the Second's* Reign, for County *Webbs*, see Journals, also *Sir William Temple's* Account of those Premiums, which Custom was continued by your Board, and recommended by *Mr. Prior*, *Sir Richard Cox*, and all the wise Men of this Country, that I ever heard of, until you have changed the Plan on this *Projector* (*Mr. Arbuthnot's*) Recommendation. You may see in your Books the amazing Effect £2,000 given yearly in Premiums, produced in making *Ozenbriggs*, from 1745 to 1750. Now View your Engagements, and an Estimate of them for this Year, 1784, as follows:

You stand engaged for Flax and Flax Seed Premiums} agreed on 10th <i>February</i> last	£ 16,000 0 0
To County Inspectors for viewing that Flax a farther Sum	800 0 0
To the County Treasurers at 2½ per Cent. on £16,000 is	400 0 0
Hemp you stand engaged for raising £1,000 to each Province	4,000 0 0
Making Linen of Hemp three Premiums £30. £20 & £10	60 0 0
A Bounty on Sail Cloth sold to the <i>Busses</i> before the 1st of <i>January</i> next 6½d. every three Ells may be estimated at	500 0 0
A Variety of Schemes depending for procuring Ashes and Kelp in greater Quantities and Perfection, ordered 12th <i>February</i> 1784	6,349 13 9
The Ashes Refinery under <i>Mr. Clarke</i> I estimate this Year at	3,000 0 0
The Demand that may accrue for making Lintseed Oil at 6d. per Gallon, and 5s. 6d. per Hhd. as resolved on 10th <i>February</i> last, I estimate to require	1,000 0 0
To ten per Cent. offered to Flax Boors or Undertakers of Buying and Watering Flax, I estimate for this Year only	500 0 0
To Dyers and Printers on £50,000 Value of Madder, Gum Indigo, Allum, Sugar of Lead, Fustick and Shumack used by them, 10 per Ct. by Order of 11th <i>May</i> , 1784	5,000 0 0
To Premiums, if claimed, of 22s. 6d. in each Market through the Kingdom, as it appears by <i>Mr. Greer's</i> Enumeration of Linen Markets at present in <i>Ulster</i> , that they would amount to £2,202 4s. suppose for the whole Kingdom as many more claimed	4,404 8 0
To long shed Spinning if claimed	180 0 0

Carried over 42,194 1 9
To

	Brought over	£ 42,194	1	9
To two, three, four, and five per Cent. on Yarn according to the Schemes published and ordered 11th May, 1784, for one Year, ending 1st of June 1785, which enables Weavers, by selling to each other, to Claim for most Part of the low priced Yarn that is Manufactured in Ireland, which I estimate for Home Consumption and Exportation to £500,000, and I will suppose they Claim for only £100,000 at five per Cent, this present Year, which will certainly be done if the Weavers of Ulster perceive the open given to them, as no Quantity is ascertained by the Scheme, and all must be Flaxen Yarn, though a Pound of Flax is more valuable than a Hank of Yarn of a Pound Weight		5,000	0	0
To Mr. Arbuthnot's Salary and House,		800	0	0
Contingent Charges, as may appear on Examination for Ditto on his House and elsewhere				
To twenty-eight County Inspectors according to Act of last Sessions at £40 each		1,120	0	0
To Mr. Greer for Ulster Salary, &c.		400	0	0
To extraordinary Expences for Inspector's, Treasurers, &c.		500	0	0
To Utensils to be distributed to the several Counties according to Act of Parliament		3,000	0	0
To five per Cent. on Sale of Cotton and Fancy Goods you stand engaged for suppose only		2,000	0	0
To Seals to be cut for this Year, suppose as for last, mostly for Ulster		500	0	0
To purchase Reels for Connaught, Leinster and Munster as by Act of last Sessions entrusted to Mr. Arbuthnot's distribution		2,000	0	0
To Artificer's and Tradesmen, supposed the same as expended last Year		6,462	0	0
Law Expences, supposed as last Year		493	4	8
Printing and Stationary supposed the same as last Year		496	2	1
Rents and Taxes		213	19	5
Contingences, supposed the same as last Year		1,122	8	10
		£66,301	16	9
To farther Engagements for Cotton Machinery				
To the Officers and Clerks attending the Linnen Office, Halls, &c. &c.				

If your Honourable Board are not rendered Bankrupts by these Schemes, (a great Part of which you have been led into by Mr. Arbuthnot since I addressed the Scheme to Munster) I shall consider your Funds as inexhaustible: There are other Demands that can't be enumerated, which I omit stating.

In this enormous Sum, for which you stand engaged, there is not a Shilling proposed for Encouragement of Spinning, Weaving, Manufacturing, Buying, Bleaching, or Exporting Linens of any Sort, or for improving the Species or enlarging the Quantity; and I again say, the only Protection your Honourable Board have against enormous Demands, and being involved in Debt, is the undigested Manner in which those Schemes are thrown before the Public by your Inspector General, in his single Sheets, and generally without any Signature to authenticate or give them Credibility.

I humbly submit this as a sufficient Reason offered to the Nobility and Gentry of Munster to withdraw themselves from a nominal Participation of such Profusion of the Public Money, without meaning, or hopes of Success, whereby their Province is neglected, and their distressed Inhabitants flying to other Countries in quest of Employment, that might be fully provided at Home.

I once more, with all due respect and deference, call on your Honourable Board to View this Statement, see the tendency, and let your Inspector General's unfounded Representations be examined throughout the three Provinces, and Truth will convince you, if farther Conviction be necessary, that this Man was placed among you by a foreign Interest that could intend no Advantage to this Country.

The Ninth Letter to the Same.

THE Singularity of your Inspector's Arguments in (pa. 28) of his Libel, against looking for an Export, until the home Demand is fully supplied, is undeserving an Answer, and the Effect produced by the Bounty on Corn, after a Famine in England, evinces the Absurdity of it. Sicily (formerly the Granary of Rome) often Experiences all the Miseries of Want; by being

being deprived of a Free Export for her Corn, and you require an Export to encourage a Manufacture of any Sort to supply the Home Consumption.

But your *Wise Inspector* thinks a *Bounty may distract both attention and Capital from the Home Supply, see (pa. 28 of his Libel.)*

He next proposes to Point all the Encouragement to the Home Market, and the Quality of the Goods as the most Essential. I believe it will be allowed that the Buyers will take Care of the Quality for the Home Market if the Goods can be procured. He next proceeds to Shew that *permanency in System gives Encouragement*, and recommends continuing your present System of Flax Premiums, Yarn Warehouses and making Ashes, and not to put any of the Fund under Restriction as to Provinces; notwithstanding the Experience of the last four Years shew that the Scheme of Flax Premiums offered to Munster, will not invite many of the People to raise Flax.

I shall refer your *Honourable Board* to the last Letter, to see how your Fund is likely to be swallowed up by this *Projector's Schemes*. Altho' I know that *Munster* does not yet Possess one Tenth part of the Cotton Manufactures that *Leinster* or *Ulster* do, I shall by no means recommend to *Munster* relinquishing the Cotton, on attaching herself more to the Linen: I am for *Munster* straining every Nerve to Employ her People in the Linen, Woollen, and Cotton, and to take up every Branch of Manufacture that her *Rich Materials* (now mostly exported) lead to; and by doing so I am certain I shall excite no *Jealousies or Discontents*, except in such little uninformed Minds as your *Inspector's*, who apparently fears his Employment may be in Danger, when his Conduct and Schemes are set in Competition with those I have and shall offer.

Mr. Arbuthnot next states what he calls a Fact, as the actual Distribution of the Fund last Year, Ending 25th March 1784, which shall be placed with others of his pretended Facts, and he concludes that if my Proposal be adopted *Munster* must be excluded from every Encouragement offered for the other Provinces. But Certainly *Mr. Arbuthnot* will not advise your *Honourable Board* to refuse a distributive Share of the Fund to *Munster*, as the Scheme proposed in the present Address to *Munster*, which has given your *Inspector* so much Uneasiness and trouble to Object to, is only for £.4546 10s. which leaves a very considerable Share of your Fund undisposed of for other purposes.

The Observation I made under the Candidates for Flax Premiums is verified at the last Spring Assizes, as in the Six Counties of *Munster*, there were only 20 Claimants for Flax Premiums last Year, and the whole Flax claimed is only 62A. 2R. 16P. so that without going into the Province, I can tell better what they are doing than this *Wonderful Inspector*, who says he was among them, but the Truth appears that he is so totally Ignorant of

he

the different Operations of the Manufacture, that it is impossible for him to collect Knowledge, and he is too late in Life to handle a Strick of Flax, or take the Shuttle in his Hand, to qualify him to speak or write on those subjects he has so unwitely introduced. The Progress of this Manufacture has been my Study many Years, so long that in 1754 I wrote the first Treatise on it, which was favourably received by the *Linen Board*, I was afterwards prevailed on by them to desert my Business as a Merchant, to view the Country the Year following, when I made a Report that was printed, the Manuscript Copy of which is in the *Linen Office* and is referred to in these Letters. I afterwards engaged to carry into Execution the Scheme I had proposed of Public Markets, and if your *Inspector* will read my Reports in the *Linen Office*, and the good Opinion entertained of me by the House of Commons, * in their Resolution, Vol. 14, pa. 714 he will find I have no Occasion to retract any Arguments I there advanced, and I will assert, that had I stated half the unfounded Stuff that is contained in any one of *Mr. Arbuthnot's* Reports, or even one of his *pretended Facts*, which I shall now lay before you, I should have been deservedly dismissed with Infamy.

In (pa. 70 long Report) he says, *having collected all the Facts, he pledges himself that he will not mislead the Board*; and he gives a *general Review*, as he calls it, of all the different Species of Goods manufactured in *Leinster, Munster* and *Connaught*, to the Amount of £. 1,188,949 19s. 7d. in (pa. 83.) This is one of your *Inspector (Mr. Arbuthnot's)* statement of Facts and on

* *Commons Journal* Vol. 14, pa. 714.

Saturday, 18th May 1771.

“Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that an Inspector or Inspectors should be now appointed, to go, during the ensuing Summer, to the several Parts of this Kingdom, and to view and examine, particularly, how the several Sums and Salaries, granted by the *Linen Board*, from the 2d of March, 1758, to the 25th of March 1771, for the Promotion or Encouragement of the *Linen Manufacture*, have been expended; and what Benefit has accrued to the Public, and to the said Manufacture, from the Work done by the several Persons to whom such Sums have been so granted, in Order that each Inspector or Inspectors may be prepared to give an exact Account of the same to the House, in the next Sessions of Parliament

† “Resolved, That it is to the Opinion of this Committee that *Mr. Robert Stephenson* is a proper Person to be employed as an Inspector upon this Occasion.”

‡ *The Report I made in consequence of the above Resolution, is a descriptive View of each County in Ireland; which I propose publishing at a future Day, with an account of such Manufactures as are best Suited to them respectively.*

reading

reading his long Report, from (pa. 70 to pa. 83) it will appear he is not intitled to any Degree of Credit for his *amazing* Piece of Information given with a View to mislead your *Honourable Board* and the *Public*.

In long Report (Pa. 80) Mr. *Arbuthnot* states as a Fact taken from the Custom-House Books, the export of Yarn in the Year, from 25 of *March* 1782 to the 17th of *March* 1783, as follows; and the true Return is here contrasted with it, signed by the proper Officer, to shew the wicked Purpose for which this false Return was made by your Inspector.

Mr. ARBUTHNOT'S Return, made with an Intention to conceal the real Quantity and rate it greatly above the intrinsic Value, ending 17th March, 1783:

An Account of the Quantity and Value of Linen Yarn exported from the Kingdom of Ireland for the Year, ending 25th of March 1783, distinguishing the Ports from whence exported:

	Cwt. Qrs lb.			Ports.	Linen Yarn.			Value.	
	Cwt.	Qrs	lb.		Cwt.	Qrs	lb.	l.	s.
From Dublin	10,154	2	10	Ballyraine	384	0	8	2,304	8
Ditto to Scotland	1,261	2	5	Belfast	500	2	25	3,004	5
Drogheda	4,848	1	15	Coleraine	878	1	5	5,209	15
Sligo	277	1	25	Donaghadee	31	2	20	191	10
Killibegs	161	0	15	Drogheda	4,848	1	15	29,090	5
				Dublin	11,416	0	5	68,496	15
				Killibegs	161	0	15	966	15
				Londonderry	17,273	2	15	103,641	15
				Newry	9	3	5	58	15
				Sligo	277	1	25	1,664	15
				Strangford	31	1	25	188	15
				Total	35,812	3	23	214,877	13

Estimated by him at }
8l. 10s. per Hhd. } 1,141,976 11 3
Amount

JOHN WETHERALL,
Ex. Assitant.

Mr. *Arbuthnot* proceeds thus: *This I state as a Matter of Fact, though it falls far Short of the Calculation I received from Gentlemen very conversant in the Trade, who formed their Ideas from the Quantity of Yarn spun in the Counties of Sligo, Mayo, &c.*

Mr. *Arbuthnot* had two great Objects in View by this false Statement, the first was to lessen the Quantity of Linen Yarn exported more than half, where the Duty is paid, and the trading Interest are certain a very large Quantity goes from the Out-Ports without paying Duty; and Mr. *Arbuthnot*'s Valuation of the Yarn exported at £8 10s. per Hundred, in Place of £6, the Valuation by the

the proper Officer, is to answer the same *virtuous Purposes* in favour of his Friends abroad. If Credit was to be given to his Statement, the Quantity of Yarn exported could not be considered an Object of such great Importance as to interfere with our Linen Manufacture, as it evidently does at present, and if we were paid £8 10s. per Hundred for our Yarn, it could not admit of being improved Cent. per Cent. by Weaving, Bleaching, &c. in *Ireland*, unless where printed, and in that Case it appears Yarn may receive a ten-fold Improvement. Thus Mr. *Arbuthnot* endeavours, by this false Statement to preserve the Exportation of our Linen Yarn for rival Manufacturers in *Britain*, and to secure to them and the Germans all the Markets in the World for their Linens, &c. by keeping our Linen Yarn constantly up to such a rack Price that will prevent our Manufacturers and Weavers from being employed in any low priced Branches of the Manufacture for Exportation.

His last Statement of what he calls a Fact, (in Pa. 30 of his *Libel*.) is contrasted with the Return of your Secretary of the Disbursements in the last Year:

Mr. <i>Arbuthnot</i> states as a Fact that for the Year, ending 25th of <i>March</i> , 1784,	Leinster actually received £	9,919	12	1½
	Ulster	7,279	7	¾
	Munster	7,074	17	¾
	Connaught	5,263	19	5
		£29,537	16	¼

The Particulars of those Disbursements as made by your Secretary are as follow,

		Payments made by the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture for one Year, ending Lady-Day, 1784:		
		£.	s.	d.
Officers and Servants	—	2,835	1	3
Law Expences	—	493	4	8½
Printer and Stationer	—	496	2	1
Tradesmen and Artificers	—	6,462	0	0
Rents and Taxes	—	213	19	5
Incidents	—	1,122	8	10½
Refinery for Ashes	—	1,842	3	9½
		13,465	0	1½
Utensils	—	4,532	15	5
	—	1,710	18	7
	—	2,062	9	4
	—	306	15	0
		8,612	18	4
		Carried over	£22,077	18 5½
		Brought		

		Brought over	£22,077	18	5½
Flax Seed Premiums	{	Leinster	688	7	0
		Ulster	522	18	6
		Munster	105	6	2
		Connaught	920	9	8½
			2,237	1	4½
Premiums on Ashes	{	Leinster	689	14	2
		Ulster	516	10	1
		Munster	288	4	0
		Connaught	670	9	8
			2,164	17	11
Bounty to a Bleach Green in Munster, an old Grant			500	0	0
Bleachers Sallery in Ulster, an old Grant			15	0	0
5 per Cent. on Home Sale of Cottons	{	Leinster	634	7	3
		Munster	152	12	9
		Ulster	651	11	9½
			1,438	11	9½
Printed Linens exported		Leinster	8	3	3
Cutting new Seals, mostly		Ulster	496	3	4
Apprentice Fees to Cotton Manufacture		Munster	600	0	0
			£29,537	16	1¼

Upon what Principle Mr. *Arbutnot* has stated the Charge of £7,074 17 3¼ paid to *Munster*, I leave to the Reader. When your *Honourable Board* examines how great a Part of the Utensils were granted for Cotton Machinery, I have no doubt of your acceding to my Position, that the Linen Manufacture has been deserted, and the Addition of County Inspectors by the Linen Bill of last Sessions, will enhance the Sum paid to Officers and Servants greatly; when the Claims for the different unlimited Schemes that Mr. *Arbutnot* has advertised in Addition to those depending for last Year, come in Course of Payment, it can admit of no doubt that you will be greatly indebted to the Public.

I shall make a few Comments on the Disbursements of last Year: It is plain that Officers and Servants, Buildings, Ashes, Flax and Flax Seed, and the Cotton Manufacture, have swept away the Fund, and left little or nothing for the Encouragement of the Linen Manufacture.

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The Memorial of the *Nobility and Gentry of Munster* is supported in stronger Language by this Return of your Secretary, than any thing I could offer on the Occasion, it seems to lead to a general Reform in the Distribution of your Fund, as the Linen Markets of *Dublin* are decreasing very much, and the coarse Manufactures of those three Provinces, *Leinster, Munster and Connaught*, which formerly made a considerable Part of our Exports, are likely to be totally lost by the inordinate Demands for our coarse Yarn. My wishes are, in these Letters, to prove to your *Honourable Board* how much the Prosperity of *Ireland* depends on the Wisdom of your Councils at this Day, as it appears from the Experience of the last thirty Years, that the Linen Trade has been encreased or diminished in Proportion to your Applications of the Fund, and the concurrent Exertions of the *Nobility and Gentry* in Support and Approbation of your Schemes.

I have nearly answered the various objections of this *Pretender to experimental Knowledge*, but I have some farther observations to make on his Advice, previous to his coming into this Country, and since his arrival, that mark his predetermined Line of Conduct; in (pa 13) his long Report, he advises Importing *Scoops* from *England* at 5s. English, whereas the best in the World are made through all *Ulster* at 2s. 6d. English. In (pa. 10) your *Inspector* gives a Detail of *Mr. Holmes of Gurreduff's (King's County) Mode of Bleaching*, whose Colours are only a Preparation for the Sour in Bleach Yards where high Colours are made; and in his Note tells you, *it is the exact practice of the Foreigners, and that the Bleaching of this Country has of late Years fallen into disrepute.* It is a pity he did not explain himself, by saying which of the Foreign Nations follow the Practice of *Mr. Holmes*, and it seems certain his Advice to *Mr. Clarke* was the Cause of all our Damages, in Consequence of adopting the Lime Bleaching.

It is somewhat Extraordinary, to find this *arrogant proud Stranger*, for justly he may be so called, come into this Country, (where we are remarkable for carrying the Art of Bleaching to a higher Degree of Perfection, than the World ever produced before) and tho' uninformed in every Branch of the Manufacture, who never even saw one of our Bleach Yards, where Colours are made to perfection, yet writes as freely and makes Comparisons between our Practice and the Foreigners, whose Practice, I take upon me to assert, (from what has fallen from his Pen) he is totally unacquainted with; such are his *assertions*, pretended *Facts*, and Display of *Ignorance*; that he seems to delight most in writing on those things he knows least of: As

any of the Bleachers of *Ulster* who read his description of Mr. *Holmes's* Process in Bleaching his coarse Sheetings and Dowlas, will tell you truly, what this *Inspector* calls Bleaching is only a Preparation for the Sours, Rubbing, &c. to give them that beautiful Hue and Bloom they have arrived at in *Ulster*, that even surpasses the whitest Display of Nature. This pretended Judge of Bleaching tells us, as a piece of great Merit, that Mr. *Holmes* neither uses Rubbing Boards, Beetling Engines or Sours, and any Judge of the Practice may thereby decide on his Knowledge of the Process in Bleaching. Mr. *Clarke*, in his Evidence, in the Right Honourable Mr. *Foster's* Committee and Report, on the Linen Trade, in December 1781, (pa. 7) states as Part of his Evidence, the Conversation he had with Mr. John Arbuthnot of England, who he represents as a great Master of all Matters respecting the Linen Business, Printing, and Bleaching, and from this Information of Mr. Arbuthnot's, and some few Experiments made by Mr. *Clarke*, he says, that all the oily Particles are more thoroughly taken out by Lime Bleaching than by Ashes, and the Linen Bleached with Lime is therefore in a better State to absorb the Dyes for Printing; Mr. *Clarke* proceeds, in his Evidence, and States a Calculation in the same Report (pa. 39), and shews the saving, that may be made to this Country by Bleaching with Lime, of no less than £. 81,386 5s. in time of War, and £. 54,257 10s. in time of Peace. Thus we find your Inspector, Mr. Arbuthnot, was exerting his best endeavours, at that early Period, to bring our Bleaching into Disgrace in the *British* and all foreign Markets, to the utter Ruin and Destruction of our Trade, and the pursuit of this Advice, was for some Years, productive of general Mischief and Discredit to the Linen Manufacture of *Ireland*.

We need not be surpris'd to see Mr. Arbuthnot discri and reprobate all our Machinery, such as *Washing Mills*, *Rubbing Boards*, and *Beetling Engines* with *Sours* or strong *Lays*, thereby to bring us on a par with

* Mr. Arbuthnot, by reading *Louis Crommelin's* Essay, in 1705, and my Observations on that Essay, in the Inquiry published in 1757, will find the Board were fully informed of all the *French* and *Flemish* Modes of Working, and various Experiments made with all Sorts of Flax Seed, Flax and Spinning; also in Weaving and Bleaching with and without the Modern Machinery; and to enter into a Refutation, at this Day, of the Assertions and Folly of an uninformed Man, would be only engaging the Time of the Reader to instruct him.

Louis Crommelin gives the Demensions of the Cambrick, Linen and Sail Cloth Looms, also the Flax-dressers Tools used in *Holland*, *Flanders* and *France*, all of which have been greatly improved in *Britain* and *Ireland*: it appears the Irish Breake and Clove were then in use here, and they are cheaper and preferable to the *Dutch* fining Engine for Flax.

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those *Foreigners* who have no falls for Mills, whereby we save Labour, and bring this Country more on an Equality with their cheap living, and low price of *Lands* and *Labour*.

Had Mr. Arbuthnot, in any Place, given a Detail of his Tour on the Continent of Europe, and compared the Value of Lands, the Expence of Provisions, Labour, and Cloathing, the Value of a Cabin, and the Implements Used, such as Wheels, Reels, Looms, Hackles, &c. with those in Use here, and the present Expences of the Irish, such as he has seen through those parts of the three Provinces of *Leinster*, *Munster* and *Connaught*, with the Prices given to the Workmen in the several Parts of the Manufacture, he might have given us an opportunity of Judging how far the Linen Manufacture is or is not an Object worth pursuing, set in Competition with the Cotton and Woollen Manufacture. But your Inspector is not a Man of Observation, Experience, or Knowledge in any of those Departments, or it would have been impossible for him to pass from *Athlone* to *Sligo*, through the County of *Roscommon*, remarkable for producing the best Flax, coarse Yarn, and Spinners to make Sheetings and Dowlas, in the World; as he tells you in (pa. 13 long Report), that he passed through that charming County without seeing anything which related to Manufactures. He seems to be such a Traveller as runs no Hazard of being taken up for a Spy, notwithstanding the Suspicions he has raised among our *Jealous Weavers* in the Liberty of *Dublin*.

It seems pretty Clear, that he was the sole or principal Cause of all the Damages created in this Country by *Lime Bleaching*, in Consequence of the Advice he gave to Mr. John Clarke, which Mr. Clarke, by his Attention and pursuit of, and the great prospect of Gain to Individuals, was but too successful in promoting in *Ulster*, by the Influence his reasoning had on your Honourable Board, and the Bleachers there. I have been the more particular on this Subject, as it throws some farther lights on Mr. Arbuthnot's History about the Oil and Earthy Particles in *British* and *Irish* Flax and Linen, that he amused the *British Parliament* with when at their Bar.

Mr. Arbuthnot, in (Pa. 22 of his *Libel*), speaks of my not proposing the planting Colonies or Settlements as necessary Objects in the Country: I never had such an Idea, they generally are deserted on the Death of the Proprietor, of which many Instances may be given. I am for employing the Weavers, Spinners, &c. in their remotest Recesses in the Vallies or Mountains, where they find the Conveniences of Fire and Water cheapest, by making Markets and finding Buyers for their Linens when made a proper Breadth, as I did successfully in *Clare*, at *Loughrea*, in the Counties of *Mayo*, *Galway*, and in various

various other Places, where Linens, fit for Expottation, was unknown to the poor Cottagers before I went among them. The Scheme of making Settlements, and gathering all Tradesmen into Towns, and leaving the Country totally to Farmers, is one of the many Absurdities of *Young*, the compeer *Tour-Writer* of *Mr. Arbuthnot*, whom I first had the honour to meet in Company in *London* with this *Genius* of an *Inspector General*, who since that Time, in 1778, pretends to have become such an *Adept* in the Knowledge of all *Trades, Manufactures and Commerce*.

Your *Inspector General* has not been an idle Spectator, whilst a Rage for Addressing has prevailed. He was so fortunate as to procure one to himself, at a Meeting in the *King's County*, to Compliment him on their great Expectations from a Man of his distinguished *Character* being sent among them; that they hoped, from his Mode of reasoning, and by Means of his *Nostrums*, he would convert the Flax of their County into a finer Quality, get them all new *Reels and Wheels*, and make their *Looms*, as he had done the *Jennies* and other Cotton Machinery, move without putting the People to the Trouble of attending, so as to be able to enlarge his next Estimates of the wonderful improved and prosperous Situation of *Ireland*.

Thus successful, on his own Account, he had a desire to try and obtain unlooked-for Compliments for some of your *Honourable Board*, which, at that Time, seemed to be his peculiar Object and study to procure. For that Purpose, through his *Journeyman Linen Weaver*, who gave him such wonderful Information about the Trade of *Dublin* (in long Report, Pa. 82) he invited to his House, entertained at Times about a Hundred of those poor *industrious Weavers*, and when he had, as he imagined, fully prepared a Number to carry his Point, he gave a grand Entertainment to them in *Marrow-bone-lane*, in the *Liberty*, where, after quaffing off plentiful Bowls of *smoking Whisky*, he resolved to put his Scheme in Execution, by obtaining their Signature or Mark (for most of them could not write) to a *pocket Address*, which he had prepared to reprobate all *Protecting Duties*, and extol such and such *Gentlemen only* as opposed them in whatever Shape they appeared. Those poor but *spirited Weavers*, in the *Linen and Cotton Branches*, had not dipped so deep in the *Bowl*, but that they retained some Share of Understanding; they saw he wanted to make them believe their Interests clashed with all other Manufactures in *Ireland*, and that they ought to attend to their *private Interests* regardless of the *Public*: They spurned at his *Address*, and left him to pay for the *Whiskey and Entertainment*, which was treating him with more Lenity than his insidious Attempt against the Manufactures and Commerce of this Country merited.

James

James Kelly, Mat. Flanagan and Robert Graham, three of the *Linen Weavers*, in a truly spirited style, published the whole Transaction the 26th of *April* last, which your *Inspector, Mr. Arbuthnot*, never dared to contradict.

His next Scheme was to shut us out of the cheaper and most extensive Branches of Printing and Dying, by preventing the Use of the cheaper Dyes being used, such as *Logwood, Brazil-tto* and many other Sorts of Dye Stuffs used for dying Packing, coarse Tickens, &c. and for this Purpose he calls to his Aid Certificates and Petitions (see *Libel Pa. 15*) from Men whose Information, respecting the Demands of Foreign Commerce, are as confined as his own. It must be allowed, if we propose Meeting other Nations with Chequers and Prints, we must bring our Goods as low in Price, and of equal Lengths and Breadths to suit the Markets.

* I shall quit your *Inspector* for a Moment to lay before you some Proofs in Support of a Protecting Duty on Linen Yarn exported and other Matters,

* *Mr. George Holmes* in *Mr. Foster's Linen Committee* (page 5. Report in *December 1781*,) says, 'There are two Sorts of Calendars; a Cylinder, and a Common Box one; he knows but of four in *Dublin* that do Business in Linen, *Mr. Fuller's, Mr. M'Donnell's, Mr. Kilsay's* and his own; he says they never have full Business the Year round; that Two would be sufficient now, and Three would have done all the Business of either the preceding Years; he says the Orders from *England* have raised the Price of Yarn used in Sheeting and Dowlas, and this raises those Linens so as to render them too dear;—Those Orders raised the Yarn 15 per Cent in the preceding Month of *January 1781*, that being the Time of Year when the *Manchester Peoples Demand* comes.—

Mr. Hamil, (page 9 same Committee) Proposed, 'That a Duty should be laid on Yarn when it rises to such a Price as to endanger a Scarcity, in the Nature of the Corn Premium.'

(Page 17) Same Report, '*Robert Stephenson* represented to them that some Discouragement ought to be thrown in the way of the Exportation of Yarn.'

'That *Russia* never Exports any Yarn, it is Death there to take any Yarn out of the Country.—' And at same time recommended, that as Yarn advances in Price, the Duty on its Export should advance.'

'Recommended the Encouragement of Spinning Houses as is the practice in *Scotland*; and said there were 26 in *Glasgow* in 1773.'

'Also recommended Yarn Ware Houses, such as are in *Manchester*, where every Weaver can get the Yarn for any Species of Linen or Cheque, ready Sorted and Warped.'

Men inexperienced in Trade and Manufactures, must have a wonderful good Opinion of their own Abilities, who oppose their Sentiments to those plain and Demonstrative.

Matters, as I wish to bring some *Gentlemen* to see this Business in its true Light, and to persuade them to take an active Share in obtaining a Regulating

strative Arguments; the Evidence of last Sessions on Protecting Duties are full of the same Arguments. See those of Mr. *Hamil*, Mr. *Ogle*, Mr. *Blackhall*, Mr. *Fitzpatrick*, Mr. *Carlton* and others, on Yarn and Sail Cloth.

Robert *Stephenson's* Propositions to assist the Linen Trade of *Ireland*, (in the House of Commons Report 11th of February, 1774,) are in the words following: 'Linen Yarn being a Material that generally improves to at least double the Value in all Branches of the Manufacture, when woven into Linen and exported, finished, to Britain or elsewhere, he apprehends it is necessary that a Restraint be so far laid on the Export thereof, as fully to supply the Home Manufacture at all Times on reasonable Terms; the want of this Restraint in his Opinion, enables the Foreigners to take the lead in the Linen Markets of *Great Britain* and in all Foreign Dominions, when the Demands for this Material exceeds the Price that the Weavers, Drapers and Merchants of *Ireland* can afford from their Demands for Linen, and gives a partial and improper Advantage to the Flax Farmers and Spinners over the other three Denominations of Men, greatly to the Disadvantage of this Kingdom. And when a Line shall be drawn with respect to the Export of Yarn, the Point to fix a Restraint at, will materially depend on the probability of lowering the Price of Flax, as a sufficient Allowance must always be made to the Flax Farmer and Spinner to encourage them to go on, the coarser the Manufacture, the greater Share the Material makes in the Value, and the high Price of *Irish* Flax leaves the Foreigners in full Possession of the coarser or lower Branches in demand through most of *Europe*.'

'To encourage all Labourers or Tradesmen whatever to be taught the Knowledge of Weaving, as he is informed is the Case in *Germany*, by which Means Weaving may be greatly lowered in Price, and this may be done at a moderate Expence by different Methods.'

'To prohibit the wear of Mullins, Callicoes and all *India* Manufactures in *Ireland*, and this would encourage and improve the Lawn and assist the fine Linen Manufacture.'

'To subject Kelp of the Produce of *Ireland* when it exceeds forty Shillings per Ton at Market for Exportation to six-pence per Hundred Duty.'

'He is of Opinion it is absolutely necessary in the present Circumstances of this Kingdom to look for other Markets for the Linen Manufacture, with this View to give an Interest in acquiring a thorough Knowledge of the demands of *Spain*, *Portugal* and all Foreign Countries, a Bounty of one-half-penny per Yard or more granted in *Ireland* on all Linens, Checks and Cottons, Brown or White, printed, painted, stained or dyed, and exported immediately to those different Foreign Countries would operate powerfully.'

'The Linen Manufactures hitherto introduced into *Ireland* are generally suited to the British Consumption and Markets only, and when the Supply of *Spain*, *Portugal* and other Foreign Dominions are in Contemplation, Linens may be made suited to their

ing Duty. I do not despair of it, when I review the Difficulties I encountered in obtaining the Bounty on our Linens exported from *Ireland* immediately to *Foreign Countries*. I had stated the Necessity of this Bounty in my Evidence to the Committee of Parliament, in 1758, and every succeeding Session I solicited them and your *Honourable Board* to apply for it. There was always Objections made—the want of a Fund to pay the Bounty—the disobliging of *England*—the Interests of the *Factors* and *Merchants* of *Dublin*, and some of the *Drapers* in the *fine Trade* in *Ulster**, in their Opinions clashed with it; the § *Factors*, *Shipping Drapers*, and *Export Merchants* of *England*, were unanimously against it: notwithstanding all those Difficulties, by the spirited Exertions of a *Right Honourable Gentleman*, who was long of an opposite Opinion, this Bounty was obtained in 1780, which is now so universally approved; and I will be bold to assert, that great as it appears at this Day, it is not of one-tenth Part that Magnitude and Consequence to *Ireland* that a regulating Duty on Linen Yarn exported would produce; a regulating Duty is the only Means by which the Linen Trade can be secured to *Ireland*; and I do hope to see all the Opponents to this great national Business fully convinced of the Necessity of the Measure, which will redound more to the Advantage of this Country, than all the *Acts* lately obtained in favour of the Linen Manufacture. I once more intreat your *Honourable Board* to avoid those baneful and poisonous Councils of your *Inspector General*.

I shall close this Letter with a Comparison between your *Inspector* and a Mr. *Omar*, who must be in the Remembrance of many of your *Honourable Board*. He was brought into this Country as an *Engineer* to superintend *Canals*, and for other great Objects, that the poor *Irish* would not be allowed to judge of.

Mr. *Omar*, after projecting many Years, and dissipating the Fund of the *Navigation Board*, avoided bringing any one *Canal* to be of Use, pleading in Excuse, similar to Mr. *Arbutnot*, that they were

'their different demands, in Imitation of the Foreign in respect to Thinness or Substance, Lengths and Breadths, and with proper Attention and Encouragement this Country may then share considerably in the Foreign Trade.'

'In Order still further to promote a Correspondence with *Spain*, and a greater Vent and Sale for *Irish* Linens, their Demands being deemed the most extensive and profitable in *Europe*; a Currency given to their Milled Money (in *Ireland*) at its intrinsic Value, both their Gold and Silver might be highly beneficial to this Trade and the Kingdom.'

* See Appendix No. 3.

§ See Appendix No. 7.

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not yet prepared for such a national Benefit being enjoyed in any Part of the Country where those Canals were carrying on. Various Complaints were brought before the House of Commons against Projector Omar; and notwithstanding they all appeared well-founded, Omar had, by some means, besides their great Attachment to him as a Foreigner, secured such a Number of Friends, at the Navigation Board, that his removal was doubtful, until the late Mr. Harwood, in a Strain of Irony peculiar to himself, after making Omar confess the Thousands he had squandered on uselefs Schemes and Projects; the Thousands he had received for his Attendance, exclusive of Perquisites, proposed to double his Salary provided he'd quit the Kingdom, and never let the poor deluded Irish see his Face more. Then, and not till then, did Omar's faithful Friends forsake him, when they saw his farther Continuance might endanger the Total loss of their Fund. Omar was immediately dismissed, and retired to Bath, where, with the Plunder of this Country, he added greatly to the Extent and Beauty of that City. Some of our Canals were made Useful soon after, and there is no doubt of all Schemes that are founded on a rational Basis succeeding. The numerous Examples of Canals, Collieries, Glass-houses, Sugar-houses, Cotton and various Factories, being destroyed, or their Purposes defeated, in this Country, by the Machinations, Perfidy, or Combinations of our Rivals or Enemies, in seducing some, and recommending others for those base Purposes, must be obvious at this Day to the Nobility and Gentry of Ireland.

I have no Doubt but your Honourable Board, on reading those Letters, will consider and decide with Propriety respecting the Interests of Ireland; it has been my Duty to state from the best Authorities I could collect in so narrow a Compass, and lay before you such Reasons as my Experience furnish, those Objects that appear to me most interesting for your Honourable Board to pursue, in Preference of such as are recommended by Mr. Arbuthnot, which are only calculated to divert you out of the Linen Manufacture, and thereby give Room to the Germans, Russians, Dutch, Swifs, French, &c. to supply the Printing, Cambrick and Fancy Goods, with various other Branches, that seem to be thrown into our Hands, at this Day, by Great Britain.

I am,

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

with the greatest Deference and Respect,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

ROBERT STEPHENSON.

A P P E N D I X, No. I.

A FAVOURABLE Opportunity presents at this Day to Ireland: a Certainty of possessing some of the finer and most valuable Branches of the Linen Manufacture, such as Cambricks, Lawns, Leno's, Handkerchiefs plain and printed, Kentings, with all the Variety of Cotton Ornaments, or mixed Goods.

The Cambrick Manufacture might be made up to many Hundred Thousand Pounds Value, to supply the British, Irish, West-India, and American Demands.

The other Branches here enumerated, offer to this Country an inexhaustible Fund of Wealth and Employment for the People.

It will seem paradoxical to assert, that Ireland imports yearly from Scotland upwards of 150,000*l.* Value of those various Manufactures which she could make in greater Perfection, and on lower Terms, if the Abilities of the People and Circumstances of the Country are attended to.

It is presumed, that by applying a Part of the Linen Funds, to lead the Inhabitants into these Manufactures, they might be more profitably employed, and Migrations thereby greatly lessened.

The British Parliament observing our Inattention to the great Opportunities held out to Ireland, for many Years without Effect, have resolved in the last Session, on a Revision of the Linen Acts in Britain, respecting Bounties on the Exportation of Linen; and also, in respect to the Restraints on the Import of French Cambricks. And it is but too obvious, that by making such Concessions to France, they may obtain Advantages in some other Line of Trade, and thereby for ever exclude Ireland from an Opportunity of gaining any Footing in the Cambrick, Lawn, and other fine Branches of the light Manufactures.

These Consideration induced me humbly to submit the following Scheme of Premiums to the Board, in order to shew, we are not totally inattentive to our present Advantages, and experimentally to give a fair Trial to the Quality of Irish Flax, and the Abilities of our Northern Spinners.

It is humbly presumed, a sufficient Quantity of Irish Flax, may be procured every Year to spin to the highest Degrees of Fineness, without drawing it beyond the Staple; and our Spinners require only to be instructed how to make a proper Use of it.

The SCHEME proposed for CONSIDERATION.

To give in each of the nine Counties of Ulster, to the three Persons who should get the greatest Value of Linen Yarn spun the long Way, from the Root End of the Flax, according to the French Method, not less than ten statutable Dozen to the Pound, three Premiums, viz. 15*l.* 10*l.* 5*l.* } 30 0 0

To the three Persons in each County, for the greatest Value they should have spun for them, not less than fifteen Dozen to the Pound statutable, three Premiums, viz. 15*l.* 10*l.* 5*l.* } 30 0 0

To the three Persons in each County, for the greatest Value spun, not less than twenty Dozen statutable to the Pound, on the like Conditions, three Premiums, viz. 15*l.* 10*l.* 5*l.* } 30 0 0

To the three Persons in each County, for the greatest Value spun, not less than twenty-five Dozen statutable to the Pound, on the like Conditions, three Premiums, viz. 15*l.* 10*l.* 5*l.* } 30 0 0

For one County £. 120 0 0

Suppose the whole claimed in the nine Counties. for one Year 1080*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

All Yarn spun beyond the Staple to be excluded from Competition. No one Person to be entitled to receive more than one Premium, in order to encrease the Number of Candidates. The Premiums to be decided and paid in the same Manner as is proposed in the Scheme for *Munster*, and the Proofs of the Value to be ascertained by the Certificates of the Buyers verified upon Oath, if at any Time thought Necessary. The Inspection and Instruction of the Spinners to be ascertained under the Direction of the County Inspectors, superintended by the Inspector General of the Province of *Ulster*.

All of which is most respectfully submitted to the Consideration of the Board, by their Faithful Humble Servant,
12th June, 1784.

ROBERT STEPHENSON.

A P P E N D I X, No. II.

To the Right Honourable and Honourable the Trustees of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures.

YOUR Inspector-General for *Ulster*, having, pursuant to the Order of Board, 15th June 1784, considered the Scheme for procuring a sufficient Quantity of fine Yarn for the Cambrick and other Manufactures in the Province, is of Opinion, that it would tend to the Advantage of the Country to encourage the Manufacture of Cambricks, Lawns, and Fancy Goods, the former of which has through many Difficulties been encreasing for some Years, but still labours under that great Disadvantage, *Want of good fine Yarn*, and is thereby prevented from being extended in such Manner as it otherwise might be.

Your Inspector-General apprehends that the Scale of Premiums may receive Improvement, by being submitted to the opinion of the principal Manufacturers and Buyers of such Goods in the Province, as it might be deemed sufficient to begin the first Class with Yarn of twelve Hanks in the Pound; also to vary the different Sums in the sundry Classes, according to the different Finesses of the Yarn; and more especially to guard against improper Claims, by fixing a certain Quantity of Yarn, under which the Premium should not be paid.

These Premiums, your Inspector-General must also remark, can only have present Effect in the Counties of *Antrim*, *Armagh* and *Down*; but they certainly will tend to incite the Spinners throughout the Province to greater Exertion.

If the Board approves the Scheme so far as to appropriate a Sum of Money for the Purpose, it should be immediately adopted, in order to give timely Notice to the Growers of Flax, &c. for the Preparation of the Material: In which Case, your Inspector-General submits to your Consideration, that the Premiums should be for one Year, commencing 1st September 1784, and be determined and paid at or before Summer Assizes 1785, pursuant to such Rules and Regulations, as may be offered to, and confirmed by the Board, on the first Tuesday in September next.

Your Inspector-General, having also perused the printed Observations, signed *Robert Stephenson*; and the Memorial of the Nobility and Gentry of *Munster*, (referred by Order of Board 22d June, 1784,) begs Leave to inform the Honourable Board, that he does not hold himself competent to deliver an Opinion relative to a Province, of which he has not any Knowledge; but that the Scheme of County Premiums appears to him well calculated for the Introduction and Encouragement of the Linen Manufacture, and that the proposed Plan for adjudging and paying the Premiums might, under proper Regulations, tend to Encouragement.

All which is very respectfully submitted,

By JOHN GREER.

A P P E N D I X, No. III.

To the Right Honourable and Honourable the KNIGHTS, CITIZENS, and BURGESSES, in Parliament assembled,
The PETITION of the Linen Drapers, Manufacturers, and others concerned in the Welfare of the Linen Manufacture in and near LISBURN.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners have seen in the public Papers, Addresses to Parliament from different Places, setting forth the great Decline of the Linen Manufacture; and praying that a Bounty of three Half-pence per Yard may be paid in Ireland, upon a certain Species of Linen, when exported from this Kingdom.

THAT your Petitioners do consider the Subject-Matter of these Addresses to be of the most serious and important Nature; and such, as if complied with by Parliament, may be attended with Consequences very prejudicial to the Interest of this Nation in general, and its Linen Manufacture in particular.

THAT your Petitioners do consider the present Decline of the Linen Manufacture of Ireland, as resulting, merely, from the general Distresses and Calamities of the Times; and have no Doubt, that when our publick Affairs take a more favourable Turn, it will recover its former flourishing State, by the internal Vigour of its own Constitution.

THAT your Petitioners would wish to be extremely cautious in tampering with it, or trying Experiments upon it, without the utmost Necessity; and until the Alterations proposed have undergone such a general and deliberate Discussion, as the Importance of the Subject does most certainly require.

Your Petitioners therefore do earnestly pray, * “ That not any decisive Resolutions may at present be entered into; but that the farther Determination of this Matter may be postponed until after the great Linen Market at Dublin in June next; when a proper Opportunity will be had to give the Subject-Matter of these Petitions, a more mature Consideration, by the United Bodies of British and Irish Merchants, who will most certainly be assembled together upon that Occasion.”

And your Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray, &c.

Done by a Committee of Linen Merchants, met at Lisburn, the 22d of February, 1780.

HENRY BETTY in the Chair.

And signed by their Order,

By JAMES HOGG, Secretary.

* These are the Petitioners alluded to in (pa. 23), who recommended Mr. Henry Betty, their Chairman, as a fit Person to attend the British Parliament, in 1774; and the Reader may Judge from the Complexion of this Petition, how improperly the most essential interests of Ireland were confided to their Recommendation. If the Prayer of this Petition had been granted, the Session would have been over before the Meeting at the June Market; and it was the Interest of the British Merchants to oppose the Measure, thereby to have a Monopoly of the Sale of Irish Linens continued to them.

APPENDIX, No. IV.

Value of Linens sent to Market by each County in Ireland, in 1770, as stated in the Report made by Robert Stephenson, in 1771, on a general Inspection, by Order of the House of Commons and the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture.

G ALWAY	£40,000	—	—
Roscommon	20,000	—	—
Mayo	10,000	—	—
Sligo	27,000	—	—
Leitrim	5,000	—	—
Monaghan	60,000	—	—
Cavan	50,000	—	—
Fermanagh	15,000	—	—
Donegal	80,000	—	—
Derry	260,000	—	—
Antrim	400,000	—	—
Down	400,000	—	—
Armagh	280,000	—	—
Tyrone	100,000	—	—
Lowth including Drogheda	100,000	—	—
Meath	40,000	—	—
Westmeath	40,000	—	—
Longford	20,000	—	—
King's County	60,000	—	—
Queen's County	300	—	—
Kilkenny and Waterford	6,000	—	—
Carlow	500	—	—
Wexford	300	—	—
Wicklow	200	—	—
Kildare	20,000	—	—
Dublin City and County	100,000	—	—
Clare	1,000	—	—
Limerick	1,000	—	—
Tipperary	100	—	—
Cork	100,000	—	—
Kerry	400	—	—

£.2,146,800 — Total Value sold in Market.
 Subtract from the above 1,691,787 4 — which appears to have been exported before 25th March, 1771.
 This Remainder 455,012 16 — was necessary for home Consumption.
 Also the further Quantity, 378,320 10 8 was necessary for home Consumption, and never exposed to Sale in Market.
 Value.

Total Value - £.833,333 6 8 necessary to supply the home Consumption, estimating the Inhabitants at Two Millions and a Half, and their Consumption at Six Shillings and Eight Pence for each Person, which is presumed to be the best Calculation that can be made for the Kingdom.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX V.

An Abstract of Linens exported for One Year, ending the 25th of March, 1771, distinguishing the Ports from whence and to what Countries they were exported:

	1771.	Total.
	Yards.	
To Great Britain from	Belfast	7,649,284
	Coleraine	1,920
	Cork	235,605
	Donaughadee	850
	Drogheda	525,179
	Dublin	10,240,344
	Dundalk	8,701
	Londonderry	40,724
	Newry	3,494,564
	Sligo	300
Strangford	63,043	
	Waterford	5,615
	<hr/>	22,266,129
To East Country from	Belfast	235
	Cork	408
	Donaughadee	1,000
	Dublin	17,728
	Limerick	1,572
Newry	7,330	
	<hr/>	28,273
To Holland and Flanders from	Cork	1,248
	Dublin	1,340
	<hr/>	2,588
To Spain and Portugal from	Cork	1,782
	Drogheda	2,390
	Dublin	12,006
	Newry	31,500
	<hr/>	47,678
To the Plantations from	Belfast	117,720
	Coleraine	24,080
	Cork	17,615
	Dublin	2,546,993
	Galway	1,250
	Londonderry	215,595
	Newry	87,218
Strangford	4,325	
Waterford	17,344	
	<hr/>	3,032,140
		25,376,808

APPENDIX

A P P E N D I X, No. VI.

To the Nobility and Gentry of *Munster* the following Observations are humbly submitted.

ALTHO' the Linen Fund is double what it was formerly, yet the Linen Manufacture is almost totally deserted in this better part of the Kingdom, the fittest for the various Purposes of carrying on the coarse Branches of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures, by their Advantages in Climate, Soil, and cheapness of Provision and Labour.

The Inspector-General appointed for the three Provinces in the South, pleads inability and want of Time to visit the Country, and although two Years in Office, he has seen very little of this extensive Province, and has proposed no Scheme to introduce the Manufacture, except in raising the Materials of Flax, Hemp and Ashes, which can operate to little advantage in *Munster*, and most Parts of *Leinster*, unless supported by Manufactures to work up the Materials when raised.

In the Province of *Ulster* there is a general Inspector at £.400 yearly, and also to every County an under Inspector at £.40 yearly, or upwards; for the other three Provinces, Mr. *Arbutnot*, at £.700 yearly, and a House in *Dublin*, with some under Inspectors in *Connaught*, and the North End of *Leinster*, at considerable Salaries and travelling Expences. If we except what is proposed by the present Linen Bill.

The Manufacture in the South is almost totally lost, the lower Class of People unable to pay Rents, by the want of Employment for their Families; Migrations become alarming at *Cork*, *Waterford* and all the Ports on those Coasts, as well as in *Leinster* and *Ulster*, a Circumstance not much known before the present Time; and as the Provision Trade is likely to be transferred too, or shared by other Countries, if the South is stripped of its scanty number of starving Inhabitants, Estates will become of much less Value. This alarming Picture is sensibly felt already.

It is humbly presumed the utmost Exertions are now necessary to restore and extend the Linen Manufacture, and introduce the Woollen, Leather and Printing Branches, for Exportation, and to endeavour to get a share in the *African* Trade, which the South is peculiarly fitted for, and by every effort to promote Industry, and Population, and prevent Migrations, which doubly injure this Kingdom, by assisting rival Manufactures with our Inhabitants.

It is not unworthy the Observation of the landed Interest, to review the promising State of the Linen Manufacture in those three Provinces, whilst under the Inspection of Mr. *Stephenson*, although he was only enabled to offer so small a Sum as £.30, in Premiums for each County; had there been equal Attention shewn to the many Schemes laid before the Board by him, and the Premiums paid with punctuality as at present, it is humbly presumed, that the Kingdom, particularly the South, would have been enriched 2 or £300,000 yearly, in place of the present Declension in the Linen trade of not less than £.700,000 yearly. See the Exports of Linen fallen since, 25th *March*, 1771, 11,000,000 Yards yearly, viz. from 25,000,000 Yards to 14,000,000, also see his different Schemes printed by the Direction of a Committee of the House of Commons, in 1773, for extending the various Branches of the Manufacture.

To

To restore the South to its former prosperous State in the Manufacture is worthy the Attention of every Person interested therein, and the present Schemes of raising Flax, Hemp or Material for Ashes, make no impression in any one of their Counties, nor ever will until Manufactures are encouraged to accompany the Flax or Hemp Farmers. This must be verified in the Observations of every Gentleman in *Munster*.

As a new Linen Bill is now pending to make some necessary Amendments, would it not be proper to enable the Board to appoint an Inspector General, for each Province, or at least one to attend to *Munster*, and to extend the Powers of the Board, as we now have a Free Trade, so as to encourage a Trade to *Africa*, *Spain*, &c. and the Manufactures depending thereon; by this Means the most valuable Branches of the Manufactures for *Africa*, and the *Spanish* Dominions, with all the Train of Articles for Printing, may be introduced, by small Premiums, pointed to the different Counties, particularly, which it is presumed would find full Employment for the South.

REASONS why the Manufactures of *Britain* afford a better price for Linen Yarn, than the plain Linen Manufactures of *Ireland* admit of, consequently require a restraint being laid thereon, to keep the price within moderate Bounds at all Times, and enable the plain Linen Manufactures of *Ireland*, to meet the *Russian*, *German* and *French* Linens, in Foreign Markets.

It is with good Reason believed 450,000l. Value of <i>Irish</i> Linen Yarn, is yearly exported to <i>Great Britain</i> !	} 150,000l.
of this Quantity their Check Manufacture consumes about	
Their Hosiery in brown and white and also mixed Stockings, about the same Quantity,	} 150,000l.
Warps for Cottons of all sorts and Furniture, and also in other plain and dyed Branches,	

1st. In the Check Manufacture a Pound of Yarn, value 10d. or two Hanks, will make 3 Yards fit for Exportation, on which 1½d. Bounty is paid, and the value of the Check 10d. per Yard, therefore the Bounty granted in 1770, advanced *Irish* Yarn, 15 per Cent. in this Branch where the improvement of the Material is three-fold, it enables the Check Manufacturers of *Britain*, who are in Possession of the Trade, to give higher prices for *Irish* Yarn than can be afforded for plain Linens in *Ireland*, which improve only double from the Spinner until Exported.—See this Case fully stated, in the Representation to the Board in 1771; by *Robert Stephenson*, No. 9, and in Commons Journal Report, for 1773.

2d. In the Hosiery, Yarn improves in the Manufacture, at least four-fold on the Medium, and *Britain* being unrivalled in this Branch, can and do on all Occasions advance at pleasure our Yarn, where a Hank value 7d. will nearly make a pair of Stockings worth 2s. 6d. to 3s.—25 to 50, per Cent. on the first Cost of the Yarn, is not a Matter of much Consequence, or to be seen in the finished Stockings.

3d. In all Cotton or Furniture Branches, where the Warp is generally Linen Yarn, whether for Printing or Mens Wear, or for Furniture, or mixed with Cotton, Silk, Worsted or Hair, the Linen Yarn bears so small a proportion to the value of the finished Manufacture, as in a piece of Printed Cotton of 3s. to 5s. or 6s. per Yard, and also in Cords, Fustians, Furniture, &c. the first Cost of Linen Yarn used as a Bed or Warp, is not generally more than from 3d. to 5d. per Yard, whereby an advance to them on our Yarn, of 50 or even 100 per Cent. is of no Consequence, and it may

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be

be with justice asserted, that whenever Linnen Yarn exceeds 6s. the Hank or Dozen, in Ireland, it brings the Irish Linens too dear to meet the French and Germans in all Foreign Markets, and this uncertainty in the price of Linnen Yarn, for the low Branches of the Manufacture, under 18s. per Yard, is the Principal or only Cause of all the Complaints from the Manufacturers of Ireland, to the Parliaments of either Kingdom; and if not speedily checked by a regulating Duty, to restrain it to a moderate Price, will eventually, and that in a few Years, totally destroy the Linnen Manufacture of Ireland.

N. B. It is apprehended if we lose the Coarse Manufacture, the Fine will soon follow; the Dutch furnish a striking Example of this to all Europe.

THE African Trade leads to a Possession of the West India Trade, Munster is peculiarly adapted to take a lead in this great Branch of Commerce from all Europe, by means of their deep and capacious Ports, Situation, cheap Provisions and great convenience to procure Hands to navigate their Ships.

Their Productions for an African Cargo, are the most inviting of any Country in the World.

The outfit and Estimates for Africa are nearly as follow:-

The first Expence is a Ship and Apparel double Mann'd, and well Armed, suppose her Burthen 350 Tons, } 3000l.
 Provisions for the Voyage round to Africa, the West Indies and Home, }
 Complement of Men with a Doctor, 35 to 40, the Voyage 9 Months to } 1000l.
 one Year in all, and Provisions for the Slaves on the Coast, and in the }
 middle Passage to the West Indies, }

The Cargo is made up of the following Articles, more or less.

- 1st. SILSIA LINENS white, may be made in Munster, a thin Species of Goods.
- 2d. CORN SPIRITS made in Munster.
- 3d. TALLOW is a principal Article in Munster, and also Cow and Bullock Horns.
- 4th. GUNPOWDER may be made there as cheap as in England.
- 5th. * PRINTED LINENS and some Cottons, large Patterns and Batts, may be made and dyed there also.
- 6th. ARMS of low Price may be made in Ireland where Coals are cheap.
- 7th. TOBACCO can be afforded as cheap from Ireland as England.
- 8th. IRON in Bars or otherwise, can be afforded as well as from England.
- 9th. INDIA GOODS can be equally supplied from Ireland as England, the Laws being regulated for that Purpose.
- 10th. MANUFACTURES of Cotton, Check, &c. made at Manchester, can be equally made and supplied from Munster.
- 11th. DUTCH TOYS, Beads, &c. they can be had in Ireland, on equal Terms as from England.

The Cargo of such a Ship, may amount to 3 or 4000l. and the Ship will carry 5 to 600 Slaves, to the West Indies, and probably make 20,000l. Sales, besides the Gold Dust, Elephants Teeth, &c. in return.

Liverpool

* Care must be taken to keep our dying and printing on equal Terms with Britain, in cheapness and freedom of Export.

Liverpool takes the lead in this Trade in England, Bristol is the next, London the third, Lancaster the fourth. The contiguity of Liverpool to Manchester, for their Manufactures, and to Ireland for Provisions and Men, are their leading Interests, and the Cargo is in great part Irish Production.

Liverpool sent about 137 Sail of Shipping to the Coast of Africa, the Year before the American War commenced, from 150 to 700 Tons, they were so much interrupted during the War, as to be reduced to 30 or 40 Sail of strong Ships, yearly; on the commencement of Peace, they sent 93 Sail, mostly very large to the Coast last Year, and had wonderful Success in general.

THEY are this present Year, exerting themselves more than ever, having upwards of 70 already in Preparation, and failed for the Coast, many of them very large, some of them go for 1000 Slaves, besides all the Train of Dyewoods, Drugs, Gums, &c. &c. that is produced on that vast Continent.

AN ACCOUNT, shewing that the present Mode of granting Premiums do not invite the Province of Munster, to become Candidates for raising Flax and saving the Seed, as intended by the Board. *

COUNTIES	1780,	1781,	1782,	
CORK,	No Claimant,	No Claimant,	2 Claimants,	10l.
KERRY,	3 Claimants, 103l.	3 Claimants, 76l.	4 Claimants, not adjudged by the Grand Jury.	
LIMERICK,	No Claimant,	No Claimant,	1 Claimant,	8l.
CLARE,	No Claimant,	No Claimant,	5 Claimants,	25l.
WATERFORD,	No Claimant,	No Claimant,	No Claimant.	
TIPPERARY,	{ 1 Claimant and } { Acre, 10l. 8s. }	No Claimant,	2 Claimants,	10l.

† The Premiums for 1783, are to be adjudged at the present Spring Assizes, and there are very few Claimants, as in the preceding Years, and 16,000l. being held out as Premiums for this present Year, 1784, in the same line, which it is obvious can produce little effect in Munster, the Province is by this means kept in a State of inactivity, being deprived of their share of the Funds, five years successively, in which Time, by having Premiums judiciously pointed, they might have gained on a moderate Computation, from 50 to 100,000l. yearly.

Persevering in Schemes inapplicable to the Circumstances of those Counties, and thereby depriving them of their share of the Linnen Fund, is not doing Justice to their Abilities, as by the Order of the Board the Money is transferred to the Counties northward that do claim; and it is humbly presumed, Schemes may be offered, so as to lead Munster into the Linnen, Woollen, and other Branches of Manufacture and Trade, and employ them as profitably as Ulster, if the Fund is in part divided.

N 2 A SCHEME

* An Acreable Premium has been also granted and paid in Part to those few Claimants by the County Treasurers.

† These Claims were adjudged Spring Assizes, 1784, and are as inconsiderable as the former.

A SCHEME of Premiums proposed by ROBERT STEPHENSON, Esq; for restoring and introducing the Linen and other Manufactures into the six Counties of Munster, by dividing and applying a Portion of the Linen Fund in the following Line.*

- 1st. To the greatest Flax Farmers in each County, one Premium of 30l. one 20l. one 15l. one 10l. and one 5l. provided the Seed is all preserved for sowing or the Oil Mills, for one County. } 80
2d. To the 12 greatest Undertakers, or Flax Boors, in each County, who should buy the Flax on the Foot, pull, water and dress it, to supply the Market with it ready for the Hackell, or finished for the Spinners, viz 2 Premiums of 15l. four of 10l. six of 5l. the value of the Flax when sold to determine their Merits. } 100
3d. To the 12 Persons employing the greatest number of Spinners in each County, on Irish Flax, spun for Sale, or Manufactured for Sale, on the same easy Plan that Worsted Spinners are now employed. The Value of the Yarn made to determine their Merits, according to the Premiums as before. } 100
4th. To the 4 Persons who shall sell the greatest value of Yarn warped, with proper Wefts assorted thereto, in each County, for plain Linens, Checks, Ozenbrigs, or Drabbs, viz. 20l. 15l. 10l. and 5l. } 50
5th. To the 4 Persons in each County, who whiten or purge the greatest Number of Statute Dozens of Yarn, fit for the Loom, one 20l. one 15l. one 10l. and one 5l. yearly, for Sale. } 50
6th To the Persons who shall make the greatest Number of Yards of Ozenbrigs or Drabbs, in each County, according to Samples to be lodged as Specimens, one of 10l. two of 5l. } 20
7th. To the Persons who shall make the greatest Number of Yards of Silefias or Britannias in each County, one 10l. two 5l. according to Patterns to be lodged for the African or Spanish Trade. } 20
8th. To the greatest Manufacturers of Linens or Cheques, for Sale in the County in Number of Yards not less than 26 Inches wide, one Premium of 15l. two of 10l. four of 5l. each, is for one County. } 55
9th. To the Buyers of the greatest Number of Yards of Linens, in each County, not less than 26 Inches wide, one Premium of 15l. two of 10l. four of 5l. each, is for one County. } 55
10th. To the two Persons in each County, who shall make the greatest Value of Stockings, of any Material whatever, for Sale, in Frames of their own Property, one Premium of 20l. and one 10l. } 30
11th. To the Person who shall erect the best Flax Mill in each County, on the simplest Construction. } 22 15

Amount of Premiums for one County, £. 582 15

Suppose

* By the Precedents and Abstracts of the Board, now published, Page 2. it appears that each Province have an equal right to its full share of the Linen Fund, in the Distribution of all grants whatever.---And in Page 134, it appears they exercised that Right properly, in the Distribution of 2000l. granted by Parliament every Sessions, to the Provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, without the interference of Ulster, which if adhered to, with the whole Fund at present, would be attended with the most beneficial Effects to the Kingdom.

Suppose the whole claimed for the six Counties of Munster, the Amount would be yearly, } £. 3496 10

PROVINCIAL PREMIUMS.

- 12th. To the first three Companies of Merchants residing in Ireland, who should fit out the first three Ships or Vessels, not less than 200 Tons each, for the Coast of Africa, and the West-Indies, from any of the Ports of Munster, with proper assorted Cargoes, for the Slave Trade; to the first 500l. to the second 300l. to the third 200l. } 1000
13th. To the Persons who shall export the greatest Value of Cotton Manufacture, or Cotton and Linen mixed, two Premiums, one of 30l. and one 20l. yearly. } 50

£. 4546 10

Such of these Premiums to be lessened or dropped as may be thought proper on Consideration, when the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the Province meet to decide on the Measure.

The Inspector General, with an Assistant under him, at 40l. yearly, to be paid out of the General Fund of the Board, and to be obliged to make two General Tours, through each County yearly, to instruct the Inhabitants and collect the Claims, and at the Summer Assizes in each Year, to determine the Claims of all Candidates, in the presence of a Trustee, or two or more Magistrates, and grant to each successful Claimant, a Certificate signed by the Inspector General, directed to the Secretary of the Linen Board, and witnessed by one Magistrate, which would be immediately as Current as any Bank Bill.

N. B. A Magazine of Samples to be lodged in Cork, Waterford and Limerick under proper Care, and direction of the Inspector General, for Publick Inspection and Information; and if these Premiums were now published to take place next Season, they could bring no demand on the Board, before August, 1786.

All which is with great Deference and Respect, submitted to the Consideration of the Nobility and Gentry of Munster.

By their Most humble Servant, ROBERT STEPHENSON.

APPENDIX, No. VII.

Reasons against granting a Bounty on Linen exported from Ireland to all Parts, Great Britain excepted, as stated to the British Council by the Irish Factors, and exporting Merchants and Drapers of London; with the Answers to their Reasons and Arguments, also Stated to the British Council in 1780, by Robert Stephenson, Esq.

REASON, BECAUSE such an Act might give Offence to the People of England, and induce them to solicit for a Reduction of Duty on Foreign Linens, to the immediate Prejudice, and perhaps in Time to the Exclusion of the Irish.

In Support of the first Reason.—The People of England will solicit a Reduction of the Duty on Foreign Linens, and Government will without Doubt, propose a Remission of the Duties charged by Foreigners on Woollen Goods, Manchester Goods, Norwich Goods, Birmingham

ingham Goods, Sheffield Goods, &c. which have been imposed by foreign States from Time to Time, in some Proportion, as England dutied their Linens.

ANSWER, I. The Trade and Interests of Ireland being inseparable from the Prosperity of England, will for ever secure to Ireland a Preference in their Manufactures over Foreigners, and lowering the Duties on Foreign Linens imported into England, will operate equally against the various Linen, Cotton, and also many Branches of the Woollen Manufacture of Great Britain, as well as the Linen Manufacture of Ireland; and to suppose that opening new Markets for the Consumption of Irish Linens would give offence to the People of England, who have recently contributed so liberally to extend their Trade, is chimerical to an Extreme.

REASON, II. *Because that England is the greatest and best Market for Linen in the World, and by the Opulency of the Importers from Ireland, the Drapers there of very small Capitals are enabled to make large Returns.*

In Support of the second Reason.—*At least 7-8ths of all the Irish Linens imported into England are consumed in it, the other 1-8th is exported; and if Ireland was to gain the Whole of this Trade (export) she would be risking seven to one on a mere Idea of possessing that 1-8th, supposing she even had Money for carrying it on.*

Note. *It is the lowest Priced 1-8th which is exported, and that is not 1-12th in value of the whole Import.*

ANSWER, II. It is not denied that England is the best and most extensive Market for Irish Linens, but it is believed One-fifth or more of the Irish Linens imported into Great Britain are re-exported, and the Expectations of Ireland in giving a Bounty equal to that in Great Britain, is to enable Merchants to make up assorted Cargoes for Africa, the West-Indies, &c. thereby encouraging them to send out all other Branches of Irish Manufacture and Produce, which never can be the Case if Britain, by Means of a Bounty, possess an exclusive Right to export the Linens of Ireland; and it is certain that to some Parts of the Coast of Africa, Linens (the single Silefia, which can be made equal to any from Germany, in Ireland) make one full Third the Value of the Cargo; and to all Parts of the Coast of Africa, Linens printed or plain, make a considerable Part of the Outfits, and by Means of exporting Linens by a Bounty from Ireland, the Probability is, that every thousand Pounds Value exported will be a Means of carrying with it four or five thousand Pounds Value of other Irish Manufactures, and deprived of the Linen Branch on equal Terms with Great Britain, must, in its Consequence, defeat every Advantage expected to be derived to Ireland by a Free Trade, Linen being the great Staple Ireland sets out on to carry her new Manufactures to Market.

REASON, III. *Because thereby Irish Linens may be rendered much dearer in England than heretofore, which will encourage the People of England and Scotland to extend their Manufactures to the entire Subversion of the Irish, as many of them at present interfere, and in some Articles have the Preference.*

In Support of the third Reason.—*Great Britain at present Manufactures more Linens than are exported from Ireland, and in a few Years, with very little Encouragement, could add thereto the Quantity of Irish consumed in Britain.*

ANSWER, III. The price of Irish Linens in the coarser Branches are always regulated by the Prices of Foreign Linens at the English Market and the Demand from Manchester for Irish Yarn: and opening new Markets for Irish Linens cannot possibly render the Sale more precarious, and a further Demand or higher Price will always operate as a Premium to extend and encourage the Manufacture in

in Ireland. By adverting to the Progress of the Linen Manufactures in Europe, it will be found that the Germans and Russians have benefited fully as much as the Irish within this Century, by the Extension of the Trade of England.* (See Lord Sommers's Report on Linen Manufacture in 1703) compare the Value of Foreign Linens imported into England in the preceding two Years, with their present Imports, and it is to be observed, that the Dutch and Flemish Linens for Shirting, amounting then to about 200,000l. value yearly, have been nearly excluded by the Scotch and Irish from the English Markets, and yet the Value of Foreign Linens imported has increased near two Millions yearly within this Century. It is now the Interest and I hope the Wish of every Irishman to promote the Trade of England in Linen as well as every other Manufacture, having by their Liberality, an interest in every Concern that can contribute to their Prosperity.

REASON, IV. *Because Ireland may by such a Procedure lose a solid, substantial, and permanent Market, to gain some that are distant, uncertain, and without Specie, and many of them open to Importation from every Country.*

In Support of the fourth Reason.—*It is well known that the Linen Trade of Ireland was in the beginning entirely carried on and supported with the English Money, and at present it would not be near half so extensive as it is without the Aid of English Property: The People of Ireland having immediately the estimated Amount of their Linens as soon as the English Importer is in Possession of them. The Foreigners send great Part of their Linens to England on this Account, and tho' one Subsidy is retained on the Part exported to our Colonies; yet they find a great Advantage in having a Market that supplies them with immediate Money.*

ANSWER, IV. The Markets of Spain and Portugal are not so distant, comparing their Credits as England; the Credits on Linens in England being seven Months, in Spain and Portugal ready Money to four Months Credit, and the Returns from either in Specie if ordered, or Wines, Fruit, Salt, or other Merchandize, that must be otherwise purchased with Money from Ireland. Spain and Portugal have hitherto been supplied with French, German, and other foreign Linens, plain and printed, and if any Impression can be made by introducing Irish Linens, plain or printed, it will so far contribute to the commercial Interest of Great-Britain and Ireland. To effect this it must be at first supported by a Bounty; when matured into an established Trade the necessity will then cease. It is admitted, that the Irish Linen Trade is assisted by English Capitals and Credits; but it must also be admitted, that the Linen Trade of Germany and Russia have shared fully as much in their Liberality and Credits in extending their Linen Manufactures.

REASON, V. *Because Returns from foreign Markets are very uncertain and generally in Produce, on which long Credits must be given in Ireland, and if that Market could even take off the whole at proper Prices.*

In Support of the fifth Reason.—*If Ireland was in Possession of the whole of the Export of her Linen now sent from Britain, that Market (Ireland) could not consume the Produce that must of necessity be made her in Return, the people being too poor to purchase Necessaries, much less Luxuries, the Consequence would be an Export to other foreign Markets of*

* The yearly Value of Linens imported from Germany, the East Country and Holland in two Years, ending in Christmas, 1702, was only 700,935l. 2s. 10^d. and if their Foreign Linens are estimated by the Evidence at the Bar of the Commons in 1774, those paying Duty are upwards of 2,000,000l. value yearly, and the contraband Imports, in Cambricks, Damask, Diaper, Dowlas, Lawns, &c. &c. at least 500,000l. in Value more.

that Produce, and the very circuitous Remittances she must receive in Course, would ill accord with the Linen Trade which only can be supported with ready Money.

ANSWER, V. The present Poverty of Ireland is the natural Consequence of a confined Trade. Returns in Produce from Spain, Portugal, the West Indies, &c. will suit the Irish Merchant equally with Specie, as any Part that may be spared from the Consumption of Ireland, will find a Market from thence as well as from England, and such redundant Import will assist in supplying Outfits and Cargoes to the Northern Countries, in Aid of their Provision Trade, and the Profits in all Trades are regulated by the Credits, Risk, &c. attendant thereon.

REASON, VI. *Because the people of Ireland at present have it not in their Power to send out full and well assorted Cargoes, such as are found necessary and sent from England, viz. India Goods, Foreign Linen, Manchester Goods, Sheffield Goods, Norwich Goods, Stores of all Sorts, &c.*

In Support of the sixth Reason.—*It is a Variety of Articles that creates and supports a foreign Demand, such Articles as Ireland has not got; on the contrary, she imports from England for her own Consumption, even Woollen and Haberdashery Goods of all Sorts with many other Articles besides these mentioned in the Reason.*

N. B. *If unhappily for Ireland, such an Act should pass, great care should be taken to prevent the Running in of Linen entered outwards for the County, that a fraudulent Trader may not have it in his Power to circumvent the honest Merchant, and frustrate at least the good Intentions of the Irish Parliament. It's worthy of remark, that when the Irish Parliament granted a Bounty on the Exportation of Sail Cloth, that the English Parliament laid a Duty on it here equal to the Bounty paid in Ireland, and though this Remark does not directly apply to the present Case yet it is in some Respects similar, and the like Cause may produce the same Effects on the Linens, as it had on the Article of Sail Cloth, which was the Loss of that Trade to Ireland.*

ANSWER, VI. If Ireland is to wait until on a Par with England in sending out well-assorted Cargoes of her own Produce and Manufactures, she may not in a Century reap much Advantage from a Free Trade; it is the mutual Interest of Britain and Ireland, that she immediately possess herself, as far as possible, of the Advantages of it, and wherever she is deficient in Manufactures, Stores of any Sorts, or India Goods, &c. to take them from England, and in every Respect favour the Trade of England in Preference to all the world, and by Industry, Perseverance, and cheap Living, there is a great Probability that she may not only become a better Customer to England for her Manufactures, and by her Aid become her best Assitant in recovering the Levant Trade, and in taking the most profitable Share of the Fisheries, the African and West India Trades, from the French, Dutch, and all rival Nations.

The Liberality of Sentiment and good Disposition now subsisting between Great-Britain and Ireland towards each other, ought to be fan'd and cherish'd like a tender Plant, and all private Interests and narrow-principled Insinuations tending to raise Jealousies or sow Sedition between the two Countries crush'd in the Bud, let us be unanimous in supporting each other, and employ our Thoughts and Pens for that Purpose only, by which Means, we shall most assuredly secure to the British Dominions, Prosperity, and the principal Trade of the World, and bid Defiance to all Rivalship.