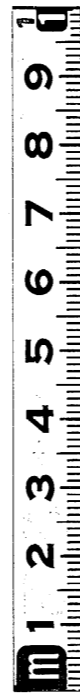


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# The Golden Fleece :

Or the Trade, Interest, and Well-Being of

## GREAT BRITAIN CONSIDERED.

WITH

## REMARKS

On the Rise, Progress, and present Decay of our

## WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.

ALSO

An ESTIMATE of this VALUABLE TRADE,  
fairly and clearly stated, and the great Proportion given up  
Yearly to FOREIGNERS.

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An ESTIMATE of this VALUABLE TRADE, fairly and clearly stated, and the great Proportion given up Yearly to FOREIGNERS,

By Suffering (or Conniving at) the illegal Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool, and Woollen Goods throughly Manufactured in *Ireland*, to Foreign Parts.

Likewise Heads for a BILL, to put an effectual Stop to this matchless Evil, so injurious to both KING and COUNTRY.

To which is added, a

### SCHEME, or PROPOSAL,

For taking away many burthensome DUTIES on some of the most Essential Necessaries in Life, *viz.* LEATHER, SOAP, CANDLES, PAINTED SILKS, and STARCH, by replacing the like Sum, in Lieu of the said Taxes, on a small Duty on Wool, and to replace those Officers, that at this Time are employed on LEATHER, SOAP, CANDLES, &c. to register the WOOL of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND; by which ALTERATION, our Woollen Manufactures may be afforded cheaper than at present, thro' every Hand they pass, 'till they arrive at Foreign Markets, and no Condition of Men will pay ONE Shilling, where they now pay TEN, on Account of the several TAXES beforementioned, and at the same Time, add many MILLIONS yearly to the Trade of the Nation.

SUBMITTED to the Consideration of PARLIAMENT, as also the Landlords, Tenants, Manufacturers, and fair Traders, for whose Ease and Benefit this is designed.

*Salus Populi Suprema Lex.*

0151

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## The Golden Fleece.



OUR native MERCHANDIZE consists chiefly in *Wool, Butter, Hides, Tallow, Timber, Tin, Lead, and Iron.* And if our worthy Ancestors, would not suffer the First and Best of these (the Wool) to be carried out in the Infancy of its Manufacture, how much stronger are the Reasons now for keeping it at Home, when we are thus improved in it, and by being Masters of the Seas, have it in our Power from a peculiar Growth of Wool (which all other Nations stand in need of) to be the only Sellers of it to Foreigners.

IN the Time of *Edward I*, the carrying Wool out of the Realm was strictly forbid; and by *Edward III*, the Exportation of Ship Timber; which shews the Regard our Ancestors had for Trade and Navigation. In the 11th of *Edward III*, the Exportation of Wool was made Felony, with this Clause added (*until it was otherwise provided by King and Council*) which Power so given, was soon after thought to be illegal, and gave Occasion for the granting Licences for Exportation, to all that would give Forty Shillings upon a Pack of Wool above due Custom (which was half a Mark for a Pack); the Copy of which Licence is as follows, from the Exchequer Records the 13th of *Edward III*.

*R E X* Collectoribus Custumæ in Portu magnæ Iermuth, Salutem, quia concessimus Dilecto & Fideli nostro Hugoni de Wriotbessy, quod ipse Viginti & septem Saccos Lanæ & dimid' de Lanis suis propriis, de Portu prædicto carriare, & Eas usque Antwerp ad Stapulam nostram ducere possit, solvendo ibidem Clerico nostro Willielmo de Northwell, Custodi Guardæ Robæ nostræ 40s. pro quolibet Sacco, pro Custuma & Subsidio inde Nobis debitis, &c. Vobis mandamus, quod prædict' Hugoni dictos Viginti septem Saccos Lanæ & dimid' in Portu prædicto carriare permittatis, &c.

By 37th *Edward III*, our Staple Wares of Wool, Woolfells, Leather, &c. were transferred to *Calais*, and the Staple continued there many Years; during that Reign, the Customs of *Calais* brought in 68000 *l. per Annum*, from these two Staples, the one at *Antwerp*, the other at *Calais*, and by

## The Golden Fleece.



OUR native MERCHANDIZE consists chiefly in *Wool, Butter, Hides, Tallow, Timber, Tin, Lead, and Iron.* And if our worthy Ancestors, would not suffer the First and Best of these (the *Wool*) to be carried out in the Infancy of its Manufacture, how much stronger are the Reasons now for keeping it at Home, when we are thus improved in it, and by being Masters of the Seas, have it in our Power from a peculiar Growth of *Wool* (which all other Nations stand in need of) to be the only Sellers of it to Foreigners.

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by

### The Golden Fleece.

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by the Revenues raised from them, it may be inferred, that this Commodity was one of our chief and standing Funds in War, and other Times of Exigency, and likewise that the Countries where these Staples were thus fixed, were not provided with these Commodities of their own Growth, and consequently the present Manufactories in Foreign Countries, subsist chiefly upon the Advantage they receive from the illegal Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool.

IT would be endless to recite the many Laws, made at different Times by our Ancestors, to prevent the unlawful Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool to Foreign Parts, but whoever considers, and reflects duly upon those Laws, the ancient Grants and Subsidies on Wool in former Times, may easily apprehend the great Increase of our National Wealth, and Power, that would naturally arise from that single Commodity, were it by a prudent Management carried to it's full Extent.

THE Rise of our Woollen Manufactures, took their Date from the Reign of the Renowned Queen ELIZABETH, whose shining Virtues are sufficiently conspicuous in our *English* Annals, her mild Government, and steady Attachment to the Trade, Interest, and Welfare, of her People, justly gained her the universal Love of her Subjects, and She will live in the Minds of all true *Englishmen* to the latest Posterity, to whose consummate Wisdom and Goodness, the present Grandeur and Prosperity of this Nation is chiefly owing, by settling the *Walloons* and *Flanderkins*, in several Clothing Counties, and Boroughs in *England*.

UPON the Improvement of our Woollen Manufactures, Fullers-Earth was found very useful, which occasioned several Laws to prevent the Exportation of that also, not only to Foreign Nations, but even to *Ireland*. Soon after our Woollen Manufactures came to Perfection, great Quantities were sent to *Turkey*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, and many other Foreign Nations, and *Great Britain* tasting the Sweets of this Trade, several Additional Laws were made, to prevent the Exportation of Wool, and Fullers-Earth.

THE Customs, Laws, Practices, and Exigencies, of former Ages, are standing Proofs of this Truth, that the Exportation of all Commodities

### The Golden Fleece.

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THEY wisely foresaw, how fatal and destructive the exporting unwrought Wool might prove to these Kingdoms, if our Neighbours, by our Help, should set up Woollen Manufactories, and by living more frugally than the *English*, and having Labour and Provisions cheaper, could supply not only themselves, but other more remote Nations, with Woollen Goods, at a lower Price, which without our Wool, must have been purchased of us, at our own Price; hereby many Thousands of Wool-Combers, Clothiers, Carders, Spinners, Dyers, and others, would, for want of Employment, become a grievous Burthen to their native Country, or be forced to leave it and go abroad, not only to seek for Labour, but to teach our Neighbours their Art, and how to bring their Manufactures to Perfection, to the irreparable Loss, Damage, and Destruction, of their own Country, whose Riches and Power have at all Times principally arose from the Woollen Manufactures; and the Returns brought into the Nation from this Head, produced such Customs, as have been the great Support of the Crown and Civil Government.

THE great Decay of our Woollen Manufactures, is, beyond Dispute, owing to the illegal Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool, and Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactur'd in *Ireland*, to foreign Parts.

FOREIGN Wool, for the most part, is so coarse and hairy, that it cannot make the several Assortments fit for Foreign Trade, without the Assistance of *British* or *Irish* Wool, viz. the several Sorts of middling Broad Cloths, Narrow Cloths, Druggets, Serges, Sagathies, Camblets, Callimancoes, Rateens, Ratinets, Shalloons, Durants, Long-Ells, Bollies, Poplins, Flannels, Stockings, Crapes, Caps and Stuffs, of all Kinds for Womens Apparel.

IT is proper to observe, the Wool of *Spain* is so exceeding fine and short, that it cannot be mixed with the coarse, harsh, Wool of foreign Growth; nor can they be manufactured together, without the Wool of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*.

THESE are Facts so well known to the Manufacturers, that they petitioned the Parliament, from all the Clothing Counties, and Boroughs, in *England*, Anno 1731, every Year since, complaining of the illegal Exportation before-mentioned.

THE Manufacturers are the first that feel the Effects of a decaying Trade, and being not only an useful, but necessary People to the State, seem therefore intitled to all reasonable Protection and Encouragement:

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THE Customs, Laws, Practices, and Exigencies, of former Ages, are standing Proofs of this Truth, that the Exportation of all Commodities prejudicial to our Home Manufactures, have been constantly forbid by the Legislature, and our Ancestors, from the earliest Times, were always so sensible of the many ill Consequences, that attended the illegal Exportation of Wool, from the several Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, that the Laws beforementioned, were by them purposely made to keep our Wool at Home.

a grievous Burthen to their native Country, or be forced to go abroad, not only to seek for Labour, but to teach our Art, and how to bring their Manufactures to Perfection, to the irreparable Loss, Damage, and Destruction, of their own Country, whose Riches and Power have at all Times principally arose from the Woollen Manufactures; and the Returns brought into the Nation from this Head, produced such Customs, as have been the great Support of the Crown and Civil Government.

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Besides,

The Golden Fleece.

Besides, they greatly consume the Produce of the Land, and thereby support the Farmer, and enrich the Gentleman.

THE politic Maxims of France, and other slavish Countries, are to keep their People poor, to make them humble. This bitter Potion will never down with Englishmen, that are used to Liberty and Plenty, but in the End will have quite contrary Effects. But if the industrious Labourers are encouraged, and protected in their several Callings, and enjoy unmolested the Fruits of their Labour, it would then be impossible to delude or debauch their Minds, so as to make them unhappy, under a Government where they may live more comfortably than in any other Nation of the known World, and can no way change with any Probability for a better.

NOTHING is more reasonable, than that every Man, or every Body of Men, should receive Protection, and Encouragement from the Legislature, as they contribute to the real Welfare and Happiness of their Country. The Labour of the meaner Sort of People is of too great Value to a trading Nation, to be neglected or despised, much more the Manufacturers, in the several Branches of the Woollen Trade. We cannot but be sensible, that their Maintenance and Labour is dearer than those of foreign Nations: Yet, notwithstanding that Disproportion, they have the same Right to subsist, and the same Wants to supply, which they can no way obtain, but by keeping our Wool at Home. These are the Causes of the loud and repeated Complaints of our Manufacturers, who by their Labour improve the happy Product of our Land, to six times the Value it had in Wool, consequently the National Wealth must be increased in Proportion to the Money earned. And it must be observed, that very few of them have any Property, but what is daily produced by their Labour and Industry, therefore it will be necessary to descend into their several Dependencies, whereby it will be more easy to judge of the Reasonableness of their loud Complaints, for want of Employment.

UPON a moderate Computation, one Pack of Wool, made into Broad Cloth, will give full Employment, for one Week, to 58 Persons: viz.

1 Man

The Golden Fleece.

Persons.		l.	s.	d.
1	Man to sort and dry it.	—	—	00 08 00
	Dying, Cleansing, &c.	—	—	01 10 00
4	Men } to scible it.	—	—	02 08 00
2	Boys }			
30	Women and Girls to card and spin it.	—	—	06 00 00
4	Boys to spool and wind Quills.	—	—	00 10 00
4	Women to burle it.	—	—	00 12 00
4	Men } to scour, full, row, shear, rack, and press it.			03 04 00
1	Boy }			
8	Men to weave it.	—	—	04 16 00
<hr/>				
58	in a Week will earn			19 08 00
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ONE Pack of the long Combing Wool, of *Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Kent, &c.* made into fine Stuffs, Serges, Sagathies, Camblets, Long-Ells, &c. for the *Spanish* and *Portugal* Trades, will give full Employment for one Week, to 158 Persons: viz.

6	Combers, at 12s. per Week.	—	—	03 12 00
	Dying, Cleansing, &c.	—	—	01 10 00
120	Spinners, at 2s. 3d. per Week.	—	—	13 10 00
10	Throwers and Doublers, at 8s. per Week.	—	—	04 00 00
22	Weavers, at 10s. per Week.	—	—	11 00 00
<hr/>				
158	in a Week will earn			33 12 00
<hr/>				

ONE Pack of Wool made into Stockings, for the *Spanish, Portugal,* or any other Trade, will give full Employment for one Week, to 150 Persons: viz.

9	Combers, at 10s. per Week.	—	—	04 10 00
	Dying, Cleansing, &c.	—	—	01 10 00
76	Spinners.	—	—	13 00 00
8	Doublers and Throwers.	—	—	02 08 00
56	Stocking-Weavers, at 12s. per Week.	—	—	33 12 00
<hr/>				
150	in a Week will earn			55 00 00
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Tot. 366 in a Week, will earn on three Packs of Wool, 108 00 00



Besides, they greatly consume the Produce of the Land, support the Farmer, and enrich the Gentleman.

THE politic Maxims of *France*, and other slavish Countries, are to keep their People poor, to make them humble. This bitter Potion will never down with *Englishmen*, that are used to Liberty and Plenty, but in the End will have quite contrary Effects. But if the industrious Labourers are encouraged, and protected in their several Callings, and enjoy unmolested the Fruits of their Labour, it would then be impossible to delude or debauch their Minds, so as to make them unhappy, under a Government where they may live more comfortably than in any other Nation of the known World, and can no way change with any Probability for a better.

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The Golden Fleece.

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4	Women to burle it.	—	00 12 00
4	Men } to scour, full, row, shear, rack, and press it.	—	03 04 00
1	Boy }	—	—
8	Men to weave it.	—	04 16 00
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ONE Pack of Wool made into Stockings, for the *Spanish*, *Portugal*, or any other Trade, will give full Employment for one Week, to 150 Persons: viz.

9	Combers, at 10 s. per Week.	—	04 10 00
	Dying, Cleansing, &c.	—	01 10 00
76	Spinners.	—	13 00 00
8	Doublers and Throwers.	—	02 08 00
56	Stocking-Weavers, at 12 s. per Week.	—	33 12 00
<hr/> 150 in a Week will earn			<hr/> 55 00 00
Tot. 366 in a Week, will earn on three Packs of Wool,			108 00 00

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The Golden Fleece.

By the aforesaid Computation, it must follow, that as often as 50000 Packs of Wool, are clandestinely carried to *France, Flanders, Holland, Sweden, or Prussia*, so often will *Great Britain* lose —————

AND so often, will the Number of Persons yearly deprived of Employment, be —————

BESIDES it is a receiv'd Opinion, that 300000 Packs of Wool are shipt yearly to foreign Nations, from the several Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, thro' Neglect and Connivance. But if we suppose it were but half that Quantity, it must follow by the said Computation, that *Great Britain* will lose yearly—

AND also, the Number of Manufacturers yearly deprived of Employment, will be —————

Besides the Diminution of the Merchants Profits, and the Hurt done to our Navigation, and altho' the Quantity may be more or less, yet it will bear the same Proportion, touching Profit or Loss to the Nation.

LET us consider another great Damage done to this Nation, by suffering this illegal Exportation. As for Instance, one Pack of *British* or *Irish* Wool, will work up two, besides itself, of the coarse harsh Wool of foreign Growth, which otherwise would be useless, and lie on their hands, in respect to their Trade with *Turkey, Spain, Portugal*, and other foreign Parts. It may perhaps seem a Paradox to some People till rightly understood, that the more unwrought Wool we suffer to be exported, the more we shall be overstocked with it at Home.

E X A M P L E.

SUPPOSE 150000 Packs of Wool (being but half the Quantity generally thought to be shipt to Foreigners, from the several Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*) should be yearly exported unwrought, these added to 300000 Packs of foreign Wool, produce a Manufacture of 450000 Packs, if then the 150000 Packs were kept at Home, *Turkey, Spain, Portugal*, and other Foreign Countries, would want from *Great Britain*, the Manu-

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The Golden Fleece.

neighbouring Nations, who, in this Case, could have none of these manufactured Goods to send to Foreign Markets, therefore as the Demand for Goods in Foreign Parts, would continue to be the same (the Question being not what is the Quantity demanded, or consumed, which is certain, but who shall furnish that Quantity) as much less as Foreigners are enabled to work up (by the Assistance of *British* or *Irish* Wool) so much more must be manufactured by *Great Britain*, and consequently the first Year a Law were made, to put an effectual stop to the unlawful Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool, the Quantity of Woollen Goods for Foreign Trade, would be so much lessened, as is at this time worked up in *France*, and other Foreign Parts, which would naturally increase the Demand, more than double it is at present from *Great Britain*, and by keeping our Wool at Home, they could only be supplied from hence; and, by the same Rule, our Woollen Goods must increase in their Value, in Proportion to their Demand.

E X A M P L E.

IF no more than 5000 Ton of Sugar, Tobacco, Wines, or any other Commodity, could be imported, and the Demand or Consumption required 10000 Ton, then the Demand would be for twice the Quantity, and it must therefore follow, that the 5000 Ton will sell at a higher Price, than if the Demand were equal to the Consumption; therefore nothing can be more certain, than that our Wool, and Woollen Goods would increase in their Price, in Proportion to their Demand, and our Merchants would be courted for them more than ever, when they may be certain of a quick Sale, and sure Consumption, for where the Wool is, there must be the Manufacturers, and there the Demand for the several Assortments proper for each Country.

IT is to be feared that some Gentlemen of no mean Rank, whose Estates border on the Sea Coast, are too much influenc'd by a near, but a false, Prospect of Gain, and therefore not so much to be wonder'd at when they endeavour to amuse and mislead others, that are making their utmost Efforts to recover and improve our most valuable Trade; the Effects of these Measures we have by long Experience felt, though we have willingly deceiv'd our selves by imputing the great Decay of our Manufactures to various Accidents, rather than to the true Causes.

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LET us consider another great Damage done to this Nation, by suffering this illegal Exportation. As for Instance, one Pack of *British* or *Irish* Wool, will work up two, besides itself, of the coarse harsh Wool of foreign Growth, which otherwise would be useless, and lie on their hands, in respect to their Trade with *Turkey*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other foreign Parts. It may perhaps seem a Paradox to some People till rightly understood, that the more unwrought Wool we suffer to be exported, the more we shall be overstocked with it at Home.

E X A M P L E.

SUPPOSE 150000 Packs of Wool (being but half the Quantity generally thought to be shipt to Foreigners, from the several Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*) should be yearly exported unwrought, these added to 300000 Packs of foreign Wool, produce a Manufacture of 450000 Packs, if then the 150000 Packs were kept at Home, *Turkey*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other Foreign Countries, would want from *Great Britain*, the Manufacture of 450000 Packs, in the room of the like Quantity furnished by neighbouring

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Quantity demanded, or consumed, which is certain, but who (Quantity) as much less as Foreigners are enabled to work (Quantity of *British* or *Irish* Wool) so much more must be manufactured by *Great Britain*, and consequently the first Year a Law were made, to put an effectual stop to the unlawful Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool, the Quantity of Woollen Goods for Foreign Trade, would be so much lessened, as is at this time worked up in *France*, and other Foreign Parts, which would naturally increase the Demand, more than double it is at present from *Great Britain*, and by keeping our Wool at Home, they could only be supplied from hence; and, by the same Rule, our Woollen Goods must increase in their Value, in Proportion to their Demand.

E X A M P L E.

IF no more than 5000 Ton of Sugar, Tobacco, Wines, or any other Commodity, could be imported, and the Demand or Consumption required 10000 Ton, then the Demand would be for twice the Quantity, and it must therefore follow, that the 5000 Ton will sell at a higher Price, than if the Demand were equal to the Consumption; therefore nothing can be more certain, than that our Wool, and Woollen Goods would increase in their Price, in Proportion to their Demand, and our Merchants would be courted for them more than ever, when they may be certain of a quick Sale, and sure Consumption, for where the Wool is, there must be the Manufacturers, and there the Demand for the several Assortments proper for each Country.

IT is to be feared that some Gentlemen of no mean Rank, whose Estates border on the Sea Coast, are too much influenc'd by a near, but a false, Prospect of Gain, and therefore not so much to be wonder'd at when they endeavour to amuse and mislead others, that are making their utmost Efforts to recover and improve our most valuable Trade; the Effects of these Measures we have by long Experience felt, though we have willingly deceiv'd our selves by imputing the great Decay of our Manufactures to various Accidents, rather than to the true Causes.

IF the Landed Gentlemen of *Great Britain*, were coolly to consider, how much it is their Interest to restrain the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* from being sold to Foreigners, they could never be prevail'd upon, to lend a helping hand to prohibit the Importation of *Irish* Wool, Worsted, or Yarn; for if *Ireland* is overstock'd with a Commodity, which we will not allow them to bring to *Great Britain*, we put them under a Necessity to look

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### The Golden Fleece.

out elfewhere for a Market, the Confequences of which we have experienced too long and too much to our Coft, for by taking their Wool, Worfted, and Yarn, we fhould then engrofs the whole Woollen Trade to our felves, without a Poffibility of being rivalled; and have it in our Power, (as the *Hollanders* do by their Spices) to fix our own Price. We fhould too employ many Thoufands in every Branch of the Woollen Trade, more than at prefent, and enrich the Nation in the Export of their Labour; for by what Means foever Trade is improv'd or decay'd, by the fame Means the Value of Land will infallibly rife or fall.

THE numerous and burthenfome Taxes on moft of the effential Necessaries of Life, make the Working up of our Manufactures more expenfive by 25, or 30 *per Cent.* than in any Kingdom or Common-Wealth in *Europe*; this Confideration alone, fhould be fufficient to convince any reasonable Man, that if other Countries had the fame Wool, and *British* Labour but 5 *per Cent.* dearer than that of Foreign Countries, it would be next to an Impossibility, for our Merchants to find a Vent for *British* Labour in Foreign Markets.

THUS it is when a dear and a cheap working Country, undertake each the fame Manufacture, the Labour of the one is fo clogged, that it amounts to a Prohibition when compared with the other, and is the only Reason, why Foreign Nations that import Raw Silk from *Turkey, Italy,* or elfewhere, can underfel us fo fhamefully in thofe Manufactures, notwithstanding the Price of Raw Silk is the fame to each Nation. Thus it is, that *Neighbouring Nations thro' our Neglect, Avarice, and Knavery, weaken Us in the moft fenfible Part, which muft end in a National Poverty, and that Poverty will moft certainly be found to be the Effect of wrong Measures in our Trade:* furely then, it is our Duty and Intereft, as well as the moft acceptable Service we can render to our King and Country, earnestly to call upon our Representatives, to put the moft speedy Stop to this overfpreading Evil.

WHILE *Great Britain* is fo loaded with Debt, and oppreffed with Taxes, no Manufactures can poffibly flourish except that of our Wool, and had not Providence been more careful of us than we deferve, in beftowing a peculiar Growth of Wool (of which all other Nations ftand in need) it would probably be out of the Power of human Underftanding, to remedy the ruined Condition our Trade is in, which can no way be recovered, but by keeping our Wool at Home, therefore we ought to be particularly watchful of that inestimable Commodity, our Wool, which is the Flower and Hopes of the Nation, and to encourage every Discovery that may be of Advantage to it. Foreigners purchafe none but our longeft and beft Combing Wool, not any of the meaner and coarfer Sort, the Exportation of it being contrary to Law, the Hazard run is valued, tho' eafily evaded by giving Bond, and

### The Golden Fleece.

many Artifices of falfe Packing; even Perjury, in promoting this destructive Commerce, is looked upon by fome, with a favourable Eye, and the Profits arifing thereby, is funk among thofe Pyrates, which have been and ought to be accounted *Felons, who wallow in Wealth and Plenty, at the Expence and Ruin of their Native Country, and that in Defiance of the Laws of God and Man.*

GREAT BRITAIN by it's Product and Manufacture is capable of a more extended Trade than any Kingdom or Common-Wealth in the known World, and as yet, better able to maintain it by being Masters of the Seas, tho' after a Peace of upwards of twenty Years it is reduced to fo low a State as not to be able to enter into the moft juft and neceffary War in any Proportion to our Neighbours, having not been able to leffen any Part of the heavy Debts of the Nation, or ease the Subject from any of the numerous and burthenfome Taxes.

THAT there may be nothing wanting, to give fuch as are truly inclined to the Service of their Country, a clear Idea of our Sufferings in this Valuable Trade, it will be neceffary to take Notice of fome other Branches of Foreign Trade, that are influenced by our Woollen Manufactures, particularly the Returns from *Turkey, and Italy,* of Raw Silk, Cotton, Wool, &c. fo as to employ great Numbers of our Poor, in making Garments, Stockings, Ribbands, &c.

ONE hundred Weight of Silk fit for Garments, will } give full Employment for one Week, to — — — — — }	245	} Persons.
ONE hundred Weight of Silk made into Stockings, } will give full Employment for one Week, to — — — — — }	198	
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THEIR Employments are as follows, *viz.* Throwers, Dyers, Winders, Quillers, Weavers, Stocking-Frame-Knitters, Sizers, Seammers, Trimmers, &c. It is not very material, to fay what each Perfon may earn in their refpective Callings, but thus much may be faid in general, that they find a comfortable Maintenance by this Means, and fo enrich the Nation, in the Export of their Labour.

IT is to be feared the Number of Bales yearly imported from *Turkey, Italy, and other Parts,* are greatly diminished of late Years, fince *France, Holland,* and other Countries, have found means not only to get our Wool, but to entice *English* Artists over (to instruct them in mixing their Wool, &c.) from the feveral Clothing Counties, and Boroughs, in *England* and *Ireland,*

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### The Golden Fleece.

*Ireland*, to whom they give all Encouragement and Protection, and by these Means they not only cloath themselves, but are enabled to rival us in the *Turkey, Spanish, Portugal,* and other Trades. Were an effectual Stop put to this Evil, we should not only destroy their Clothing Trade, but deprive them of that Commerce with *Turkey,* and other Foreign Parts, this Manufacture first gave Birth to, and so oblige our Subjects to return Home, to the Service and Improvement of their Country, *whereby Trade and Navigation will again revive and flourish.*

THE Body Politick is, like the Body Natural, apt to decay at the extreme Parts first; an universal Face of Poverty will appear, spreading itself over all the Land where a decaying Trade is, which hath already begun in some of our Clothing Counties and Boroughs, particularly in *Worcester* and *Colchester*; where the Poors Rates, are from Six to Eight and Ten Shillings in the Pound, nor can any thing more demonstrate this fatal Truth, than a scarcity of Money in Trade, the Lands being left on the Owners Hands, and the Tenants being greatly in Arrear. These are unhappy Symptoms, to a Country whose Riches and Power intirely depend on Trade, it is to be hoped therefore, our Representatives will consider, that while this unlawful Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool is suffered, the Land, and all other Taxes must be continued, because whatever is lost to the Nation, by the clandestine Trader, the Deficiency must be made good by the Landed Man, Husbandman, and fair Trader, and *when our Trade, Interest, and Happiness are so immediately concerned, and so apparently in Danger, every Door ought to be shut, that may open a Passage to deprive us of those valuable Blessings.*

LET us examine our Trade with *France*, and we shall find our Importations, and the greatest Part of our Exportations (the Wool) to be destructive of the very Being of *Great Britain*; and by no means worthy of the name of Trade, for when a Nation importeth more of the Produce and Labour of other Countries, than it exporteth of it's own, the Over-balance must be maintained by Specie or Bullion. As too much Importation is the Ruin of Trade, so Exportation is the very Life of it. There are many Commodities very advantageous to the Importer, that at the same time bring Poverty and Ruin to a Nation. By these Means they continue to get from us by their

### The Golden Fleece.

TRADE is not only necessary to the Well-Being of a State, but is also a Game at which all Nations must play, that aim at Wealth and Power; therefore it is absolutely necessary, for those that are intrusted with the greatest Share of the Administration, to be compleat Masters of the whole Game, that we may be able to counterplot the Designs and Combinations form'd against us by our crafty Neighbours, that we may no longer continue to be the incorrigible Dupes and Bubbles of Foreign Nations, if Wealth and Power depend on Trade, whatever Proportion of Power we have lost since the last War, will be found to be the Effect of wrong Measures in our Trade, *for the Balance of Power can no other way be maintained or continued, but by the Balance of Trade.*

IT is indisputably true, and agreeable to the common Sense of all Trading Nations, that Commerce, Navigation, Opulency, and Empire, are inseparable Concomitants; witness the surprizing Power of *Holland* in *Asia*; and it is likewise as true, that all Exportation of our unwrought Wool, is injurious to both King and Country, manifestly destructive of the Honour, Interest, and Wealth, of the whole Nation, and, if permitted, connived at, or not absolutely restrained, will certainly, by natural Consequence, affect the Freehold of this Kingdom; and the least Participation of this valuable Commodity, must not only make our Profits the less, *but enrich those neighbouring Nations, that may, one Day, be most desirous of our Ruin.*

BUT were due Measures taken, to put a Stop to the clandestine Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool, how happy would our Condition be in the flourishing State of our Woollen Manufactures? We should then have no complaining in our Streets, the Landlords, Farmers, Manufacturers, and all Degrees of People, would live in Plenty, *and the Peace and Welfare of the Nation be better secured against all Danger from Foreign Powers, than by the most Triumphant Success in War.*

THE encouraging and improving of TRADE, ought to be the principal Care of a State, without which no Nation can be truly Rich or Powerful, there is nothing more necessary, to be understood by the Legislature of *Great Britain*, nor more worthy their Attention than Trade, a Knowledge of the utmost Importance to the Well-Being of the Nation, therefore the Representatives of a Trading People, who are from time to time, to frame Laws, in relation to COMMERCE, ought to understand well the Trade of their Country, that they may be clear in their Opinions, whenever the Welfare and Happiness of their Country is at Stake, so as not to be byassed by the artful Insinuations of particular Traders, and self-interested People, *whose private Views and Contrivances, often lead our well-meaning Representatives into very fatal Errors.*

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TRADE

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### The Golden Fleece.

OUR Ancestors, with great Wisdom and Design, seated the Judges on Wool-Packs in the House of Lords, that they might always remember themselves to be Guardians of the Blessing Providence hath so peculiarly bestowed on this Land, and that they might on all occasions, use their best Endeavours to put the several Laws, relating to this Staple Commodity, in faithful Execution, and to add others from time to time, as should be necessary and effectual, to restrain our Wool from being sold to Foreigners.

OTHERWISE, by suffering this fatal Exportation, the great Produce of Labour and Industry, more valuable than the whole Lands of the Nation, will be lost, Domestic and Foreign Trade will stagnate, Navigation will be greatly injured, our People impoverish'd and decreas'd, and the State, by degrees, inevitably, tho' insensibly, destroy'd.

*Tho' Jason's Fleece was fam'd of old,*

*The British Wool is growing Gold.*

*No Mines can more of Wealth supply,*

*It keeps the Peasant from the Cold,*

*And takes for Kings the Tyrian Dye.*

DRYDEN'S Opera of King Arthur, Act the 5th.

IT is to be noted, that every Pack of Wool, manufactured in *Ireland* over and above their Home Consumption, is almost the same Loss to *Great Britain*, as if manufactured in Foreign Countries, and contrary to the many Laws in Force.

THE Specie of *Ireland* are chiefly Moidores, Dubloons, and Pieces of Eight, which evinces, that great Quantities of Woollen Goods, thoroughly manufactured in *Ireland*, are clandestinely carried to *Portugal*, and other Foreign Parts. This Truth was proved, before the Committee of the House of Commons, Anno 1731, of which Mr Baron *Scroop* was Chairman.

BUT as the People of *Ireland*, are Descendants of transplanted *English*, their Affinity to us in Blood, Religion, and Government, lays us under the strongest Obligations, to treat them with the utmost Justice, Favour, and Friendship, consistent with the Trade, Interest, and Welfare, of *Great Britain*, which at this time, seemeth fallen to the lowest Ebb.

### The Golden Fleece.

ciously pleased, to order proper Instructions to be given to the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, to recommend the securing of the Wool, Worsted, and Yarn, produced in that Kingdom, from being sent to *France*, or any other Foreign Nation; and, in Return, to allow the Importation of *Irish* Wool, Worsted, and Yarn, into *Great Britain* free of all Duty, this would be cultivating a friendly Understanding with *Ireland*, by making it their Interest as well as our own, by reason they would receive ready Money from us, instead of those perishable Commodities of Wine and Brandies from *France*. This, by some, may be thought to hurt the Poor of our own Country, who do not consider we shall have occasion for many thousand Hands in every Branch of our Manufactures, and a much greater Quantity of Wool, more than at present, when we come to engross the whole Woollen Trade to our selves.

AND that a better Harmony may subsist between *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, suppose, in lieu of their Wool, some Encouragement should be given to *Ireland* in the Fisheries of *Greenland*, *Newfoundland*, or Herring Fisheries; who, from their convenient Situation, with the Cheapness of their Provisions, might be enabled to carry them on with greater Advantage, than the *French*, *Dutch*, *Hamburgers* or *Danes*, and thereby turn their Thoughts to such a Beneficial Commerce, which (with their Linnen Manufactures) might give Employment to their Poor, without interfering with or prejudicing the Trade of *Great Britain*.

WHATEVER Difficulties may attend Matters of this Consequence, under the Consideration of Parliament, wherein so many Interests are interwove, it must be allowed, and expected, that Things of so nice and intricate a Nature, cannot be transacted without Debates and Difficulties, and notwithstanding the many fatal Consequences waiting on the Decay of Trade were never so fairly and clearly set forth, yet may it not be feared there will be Missionaries from *France*, and Emisaries at Home, still to promote and carry on this pernicious Traffick in the dark, will they not always find and start Objections, and watch all Opportunities that Bribery, Artifice, or Cunning, can suggest or invent, to inflame the Minds of injudicious and unthinking People, and thereby endeavour to mislead them, whenever they shall be thus laudably employed, fired by the Love and Affection of their bleeding Contry, searching the Wounds that are continually drawing out the vital Blood of the Nation; therefore the most effectual Method to prevent and defeat all such Artifices and Cunning, is for our Representatives to attain a competent Knowledge of the true State and Condition of this valuable Manufacture, and then seriously to reflect, how much we do, and may, suffer, by impoverishing our selves, and enriching our Neighbours, who, when they have swallowed up our Trade, may be apt to think they may demand a



Wool-Packs in the House of Lords. 0 175  
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THEREFORE, the better to effect the Recovery and Preservation of our  
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fired by the Love and Affection of their bleeding Contry, searching the  
Wounds that are continually drawing out the vital Blood of the Nation;  
therefore the most effectual Method to prevent and defeat all such Artifices and  
Cunning, is for our Representatives to attain a competent Knowledge of the  
true State and Condition of this valuable Manufacture, and then seriously to  
reflect, how much we do, and may, suffer, by impoverishing our selves, and en-  
riching our Neighbours, who, when they have swallowed up our Trade, may be apt  
to think they may demand our Liberties. But to permit either to be taken from us,  
whilst we can preserve them, cannot be thought on by any true Briton without  
Shame and Abhorrence.



*Heads for a BILL, to prevent the illegal Exportation of British and Irish Wool, and Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactured in Ireland, to Foreign Parts.*



THE Necessity we are reduced to, calls for the most speedy and effectual Remedies to prevent this pernicious Exportation for the future, which can no Way be obtained without the utmost Care and Vigilance of the most able and diligent Officers. The running of *British* and *Irish* Wool has by former Laws been made Felony, but Experience hath often convinced us, that the more penal compulsory Laws are, the less effectual they are: It is better and easier to prevent a Damage being done to a Nation, than to punish the Offenders after Crimes are committed, therefore it is presumed, the following Method will put them beyond a Possibility of offending, without being discovered.

IT is therefore proposed, that there be both in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, either a separate and distinct Commission for registering the Wool, by and with such Officers as shall be necessary for such Purpose, or to replace the same Officers to register the Wool, that at this Time are employed on Leather, Soap, Candles, Painted Silks, and Starch, and to replace the like Sums, by a small Duty on Wool, under the Care and Inspection of the Commissioners, that now manage the several Duties on Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. By which Alteration, no Condition of Men will pay one Shilling, in the small Duty proposed on Wool, where they now pay Ten on several other Duties; which will be a great Ease to Trade (by adding many Millions yearly to it); nor will this Method meet with the many Objections that a separate and distinct Commission is liable to, from the Numbers of new Officers it might employ.

IT is also proposed, that the Commissioners of Excise be authorized to replace the same Number of Officers, to register the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, that at this Time are employed on Leather, Soap, Candles, Painted Silks, and Starch.

AND that there be three, or five, Commissioners sent from *Great Britain* to *Ireland*, to register the Wool of that Kingdom, with a proportionable Number of inferior Officers, the Expence to be paid by *England*, that will be benefited by it's Manufacture; the Raw Wool, Bay Yarn, and Worsted, when bought, and brought from *Ireland*, to be taxed in *England* at Discretion of Parliament, to bring it on an Average in Point of Price with *British* Wool, &c. and the Money arising thereby, to be applied towards the Expence of Management.

THAT the replaced Officers, be appointed to examine into the Number of Fleeces belonging to every Farmer, or Grower of Wool, and at Shearing-time, to take an exact Account of the Quantity of Wool shorn, charged to each Farmer's or Grower's Account, and not to be moved without a Licence, or Warrant. And that there be one, two, or more Supervisors to each County, according to the Largeness of it, and the Quantity of Wool grown in it, strictly to check the Returns of subordinate Officers, with a proper Penalty and Punishment, on any Officer that shall make a false Return, either by Transportation, Imprisonment, Fine, or Loss of Place.

IT is to be observed by the aforesaid Method, the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, will be checked thro' every Hand it passes, till it comes to the Manufacturer, no Owl or Smuggler will venture to purchase it, by reason he will have no Opportunity to send it abroad in the dark, as formerly, the Wool will be checked that they purchase, and charged to their Accounts, which they must be answerable for under proper Penalties, therefore they will not dare to part with it without a proper Licence, or Warrant, by reason of incurring the Penalties and Punishments aforesaid.

AND that instead of three Men of War and eight Sloops, stationed on the Coast of *Ireland*, as in *Anno* 1732, to prevent the illegal Exportation of Wool, and Woollen Goods, thoroughly manufactur'd in *Ireland*, to Foreign Parts, there be twenty four Register Ships, or Sloops, of different Burthen, to bring the Raw Wool and Yarn from *Ireland*, and carry it Coast Ways in *England*, and that no other Ship, Vessel, Long-Boat, or Float of



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IT is therefore proposed, that there be both in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, either a separate and distinct Commission for registering the Wool, by and with such Officers as shall be necessary for such Purpose, or to replace the same Officers to register the Wool, that at this Time are employed on Leather, Soap, Candles, Painted Silks, and Starch, and to replace the like Sums, by a small Duty on Wool, under the Care and Inspection of the Commissioners, that now manage the several Duties on Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. By which Alteration, no Condition of Men will pay one Shilling, in the small Duty proposed on Wool, where they now pay Ten on several other Duties; which will be a great Ease to Trade (by adding many Millions yearly to it); nor will this Method meet with the many Objections that a separate and distinct Commission is liable to, from the Numbers of new Officers it might employ.

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AND

for Officers, the Expence to be paid by *England*, that will be for its Manufacture; the Raw Wool, Bay Yarn, and Worsted, and brought from *Ireland*, to be taxed in *England* at Discretion of Parliament, to bring it on an Average in Point of Price with *British* Wool, &c. and the Money arising thereby, to be applied towards the Expence of Management.

THAT the replaced Officers, be appointed to examine into the Number of Fleeces belonging to every Farmer, or Grower of Wool, and at Shearing-time, to take an exact Account of the Quantity of Wool shorn, charged to each Farmer's or Grower's Account, and not to be moved without a Licence, or Warrant. And that there be one, two, or more Supervisors to each County, according to the Largeness of it, and the Quantity of Wool grown in it, strictly to check the Returns of subordinate Officers, with a proper Penalty and Punishment, on any Officer that shall make a false Return, either by Transportation, Imprisonment, Fine, or Loss of Place.

IT is to be observed by the aforesaid Method, the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, will be checked thro' every Hand it passes, till it comes to the Manufacturer, no Owl or Smuggler will venture to purchase it, by reason he will have no Opportunity to send it abroad in the dark, as formerly, the Wool will be checked that they purchase, and charged to their Accounts, which they must be answerable for under proper Penalties, therefore they will not dare to part with it without a proper Licence, or Warrant, by reason of incurring the Penalties and Punishments aforesaid.

AND that instead of three Men of War and eight Sloops, stationed on the Coast of *Ireland*, as in *Anno* 1732, to prevent the illegal Exportation of Wool, and Woollen Goods, thoroughly manufactur'd in *Ireland*, to Foreign Parts, there be twenty four Register Ships, or Sloops, of different Burthen, to bring the Raw Wool and Yarn from *Ireland*, and carry it Coast Ways in *England*, and that no other Ship, Vessel, Long-Boat, or Float of what Kind soever, do presume to take on board any raw Wool, Worsted, Yarn, &c. the Growth of *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, under the Penalties hereafter mentioned, each Register Ship, or Sloop, to be commanded by a Captain, and their Complement of Men to be not less than fifteen, nor to exceed twenty-five. And as an Encouragement to the Officers of the said Register Ships, or Sloops, it is proposed that the Time of their being employed in that Service, shall be deemed the same, for a Rank or Qualification in the Navy, as if they had served during that Time, on Board his Majesty's Ships of War.

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N. B.

## The Golden Fleece.

N. B. THESE Register Ships will be the same as a Sea Ware-house, for safe keeping and safe landing Raw Wool, Worsted, and Bay Yarn, from *Ireland*, or carrying it Coast Ways for the Convenience of the Manufacturers.

IF the abovesaid Register Ships, or Sloops, should, by Strefs of Weather, or contrary Winds, be driven on Foreign Coasts, they are not to break Bulk, and if there be no Possibility of saving the Vessel, nor no *British* Ships at Hand to save the Wool, the Captain and his Men are to be required to destroy the Ship and Wool, (provided it shall consist with the Safety of their Lives) that the Wool may not fall into the Hands of our Rivals on any Pretence whatsoever, under the Forfeiture of the Captain's Commission, and a Penalty of ——— one Half to the King, the other to the Informer, the Recovery made easy, and at the *King's Expence*.

AND that there be appointed Staple Towns in *Ireland*, to receive the Wool, Worsted, or Bay Yarn, grown in that Kingdom, for the Convenience of the Register Ships, to carry it to *Great Britain*, with a Duplicate of the Quantity of Wool, Worsted, or Yarn, sent by each Register Ship, to the chief Officer or Officers of the Port where it is to be landed, and to whom consigned; and likewise an Account transmitted by the first Post, to the Commissioners appointed to register the Wool of *Great Britain*, of the Freight of every Register Ship, or Sloop, as soon as it departs from any Port in *Ireland*, with the Quantity of Wool, Worsted, and Yarn, with the Number of Parcels, and Weight, the Name of the Captain, and Vessel, Day of the Month, and Year.

ALSO that no Ship, Vessel, or Long-Boat or Float, upon the Water, of any Kind, or of what Nation soever, do presume to take on Board any Raw Wool belonging to any of his Majesty's Dominions, or Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactur'd in *Ireland*, except the Register Ships, or Sloops, or their Boats, save as aforesaid, on pain of forfeiting such Ship, Vessel, Long-Boat, or Cargo, with a Penalty on the Owners of the Ship, &c. or the Commanders.

ALSO, that the same Quantity of Wool be carried to the Manufacturers of *Guernsey*, *Jersey*, *Alderney*, and *Sark*, as hath been appointed by former Acts, with this Difference, that it shall be carried on Board Register Ships, under the Care and Inspection of proper Officers, in like manner as in *England*, and under the same Restrictions and Penalties.

ALSO, that the illegal Exportation of Woollen Goods throughly manufactured in *Ireland*, may effectually be prevented, it is proposed that the Commissioners, appointed to register the Wool, or the Chief Officer of any Port under them, may have Orders to deliver *gratis*, on demand, to all *British* Merchants,

## The Golden Fleece.

Merchants, a particular Licence, or Pass, with the Number of Bales, and several Pieces and Sorts of Goods contained in each Bale, to distinguish the Merchants of *England*, from those of *Ireland*, that carry on this clandestine Trade, to the great Prejudice of the Landlords, Merchants, Tenants, and Manufacturers of *Great Britain*, and contrary to the many Laws in Force.

ALSO, that the Commanders of his Majesty's Ships of War, may have a Power to examine the Licences, or Passes, of all such Merchants Ships trading in Woollen Goods (the Subjects of *Great Britain*) either at Sea, or in Foreign Ports, and that any Ship without the proper Licence, or Pass, aforesaid, shall be deemed a Prize, and be divided among the Captors, as an Enemy's Ship in time of War.

AND if any Merchant-Man, or Mariner on Board of any other Vessel, shall know of such clandestine Practice as aforesaid, and will give Information of such Offender, or Offenders, either in *England*, *Ireland*, or any other his Majesty's Dominions, such Person shall be intitled to one half of the Penalties and Forfeitures inflicted, the other half to the King, the Recovery made easy, and at the *King's Expence*.

THE Wool being thus secured by Land and Sea, the more Ports there are open to receive the Register Ships from *Ireland*, or Coast Ways from *England*, the more convenient for the Manufacturers; otherwise those that are nighest the Sea-Ports that are open, will be able to go to Market cheaper than those who are more remote, by the extraordinary Expence they will be at for Land Carriage.

AND whereas, some minute and unforeseen Difficulties, may arise unprovided for, it may be ordered, that the Commissioners appointed by this Act, to register and secure the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, may have a Power to make such additional Regulations, as may tend to the Security of the Wool, the Ease and Convenience of the Manufacturers, and all other Persons concerned, and that a Report of such additional Regulations (if any) made by the Commissioners, be laid before the Parliament, the ensuing Session, for their Approbation.

IF the aboveſaid Register Ships, or Sloops, ſhould, ther, or contrary Winds, be driven on Foreign Coaſts break Bulk, and if there be no Poſſibility of ſaving the Veſſel, nor no *British* Ships at Hand to ſave the Wool, the Captain and his Men are to be required to deſtroy the Ship and Wool, (provided it ſhall conſiſt with the Safety of their Lives) that the Wool may not fall into the Hands of our Rivals on any Pretence whatſoever, under the Forfeiture of the Captain's Commiſſion, and a Penalty of ——— one Half to the King, the other to the Informer, the Recovery made eaſy, and at the *King's Expence*.

AND that there be appointed Staple Towns in *Ireland*, to receive the Wool, Worſted, or Bay Yarn, grown in that Kingdom, for the Convenience of the Register Ships, to carry it to *Great Britain*, with a Duplicate of the Quantity of Wool, Worſted, or Yarn, ſent by each Register Ship, to the chief Officer or Officers of the Port where it is to be landed, and to whom conſigned; and likewise an Account tranſmitted by the firſt Poſt, to the Commiſſioners appointed to regiſter the Wool of *Great Britain*, of the Freight of every Register Ship, or Sloop, as ſoon as it departs from any Port in *Ireland*, with the Quantity of Wool, Worſted, and Yarn, with the Number of Parcels, and Weight, the Name of the Captain, and Veſſel, Day of the Month, and Year.

ALSO that no Ship, Veſſel, or Long-Boat or Float, upon the Water, of any Kind, or of what Nation ſoever, do preſume to take on Board any Raw Wool belonging to any of his Majesty's Dominions, or Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactur'd in *Ireland*, except the Register Ships, or Sloops, or their Boats, ſave as aforeſaid, on pain of forfeiting ſuch Ship, Veſſel, Long-Boat, or Cargo, with a Penalty on the Owners of the Ship, &c. or the Commanders.

ALSO, that the ſame Quantity of Wool be carried to the Manufacturers of *Guernſey*, *Jerſey*, *Alderney*, and *Sark*, as hath been appointed by former Acts, with this Difference, that it ſhall be carried on Board Register Ships, under the Care and Inſpection of proper Officers, in like manner as in *England*, and under the ſame Reſtrictions and Penalties.

ALSO, that the illegal Exportation of Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactured in *Ireland*, may effectually be prevented, it is propoſed that the Commiſſioners, appointed to regiſter the Wool, or the Chief Officer of any Port under them, may have Orders to deliver *gratis*, on demand, to all *British*

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AND if any Merchant-Man, or Mariner on Board of any other Veſſel, ſhall know of ſuch clandestine Practice as aforeſaid, and will give Information of ſuch Offender, or Offenders, either in *England*, *Ireland*, or any other his Majesty's Dominions, ſuch Perſon ſhall be intitled to one half of the Penalties and Forfeitures inflicted, the other half to the King, the Recovery made eaſy, and at the *King's Expence*.

THE Wool being thus ſecured by Land and Sea, the more Ports there are open to receive the Register Ships from *Ireland*, or Coaſt Ways from *England*, the more convenient for the Manufacturers; otherwiſe thoſe that are neigheſt the Sea-Ports that are open, will be able to go to Market cheaper than thoſe who are more remote, by the extraordinary Expence they will be at for Land Carriage.

AND whereas, ſome minute and unforeſeen Difficulties, may ariſe unprovided for, it may be ordered, that the Commiſſioners appointed by this Act, to regiſter and ſecure the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, may have a Power to make ſuch additional Regulations, as may tend to the Security of the Wool, the Eaſe and Convenience of the Manufacturers, and all other Perſons concerned, and that a Report of ſuch additional Regulations (if any) made by the Commiſſioners, be laid before the Parliament, the enſuing Seſſion, for their Approbation.

OBJECTIONS,

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OBJECTIONS.

IT may be objected, that some Gentlemen, who keep small Farms in their Hands, will be dissatisfied that proper Officers should take an Account of their Wool at Shearing-time, but it must be considered that by the Land Register, the Wool will be checked from the Sheep's Back till it is manufactured; Shearing-time is but once a Year, and in six Weeks time all the Sheep of Great Britain and Ireland are shorn, a little Time will therefore be sufficient to weigh it, until it is sold or moved, and becomes the Property of another, when there will require only a Licence, Cocket, or Warrant, from the chief Officer of the County or District so appointed, down to the Manufacturers, who instead of complaining, or being dissatisfied with such Officers, will infallibly treat them as Friends to themselves and their Country, for guarding and promoting the best Branch of their Trade, well knowing many thousand People for want of Employment therein, must starve or continue a Burthen upon the several Parishes where they dwell, consequently when they rightly consider, they will esteem that Officer most, who is most careful and diligent, that all Attempts of our designing Neighbours may be rendered ineffectual, who are daily supplanting us in this valuable Trade.

LIKEWISE it may be objected, that the 24 Register Ships proposed, will hinder the Sloops of some few, to be freighted with Wool from Ireland to Great Britain, or Coast Ways; but if a proper Enquiry were made, very few Vessels will be found to bring Raw Wool from Ireland, or Coast Ways, when they know of so many better Markets to vend it in; but, on the contrary, are always ready to assist in running it.

THE Vessels that carry on this destructive Traffic in the dark, have but few Hands on Board, which are very well paid, or equally concern'd in the Profits of the Freight; it was a common Practice during the last War, for them to correspond with the French, and to agree for a Quan-

The Golden Fleece.

An ESTIMATE of the Expence of Manning and Victualling 24 Register Ships of different Burthen, to bring Raw Wool, Worsted, Bay Yarn, &c. from Ireland and Coast Ways.

Table with 2 columns: Description of ship and crew, and Annual Charge in pounds. Includes rows for 'The Yearly Expence of a Register Ship including Officers, &c. consisting of 25 Men at 4 l. per Mensm', 'Ditto of 20', 'Ditto of 15', and a total for 24 Register Ships of 23920.

An ESTIMATE of the Expence of the three Men of War, and eight arm'd Sloops, employed at this time on the Coast of Ireland, for preventing the illegal Exportation of Wool, and Woollen Goods throughly manufactured, to Foreign Parts.

Table with 2 columns: Description of ship and crew, and Annual Charge in pounds. Includes rows for 'The Yearly Expence of a Sixth Rate Man of War, consisting of 130 Men at 4 l. per Mensm.', 'Two Ditto', 'One arm'd Sloop consisting of 80 Men at 4 l. per Mensm.', 'Seven Ditto', and a total for all ships of 53560.

Charge of 24 Register Ships 23920

N. B. The Expence of the three Men of War, and eight Sloops station'd on the Coast of Ireland, Anno 1732, exceeds the Expence of the 24 Register Ships proposed (which will be so much Annually saved to the Nation)

It may be objected, that some Gentlemen, in their Hands, will be dissatisfied that proper Officers of their Wool at Shearing-time, but it must be confessed, that if the Wool is not registered in the Register, the Wool will be checked from the Sheep's back till it is manufactured; Shearing-time is but once a Year, and in six Weeks time all the Sheep of Great Britain and Ireland are shorn, a little Time will therefore be sufficient to weigh it, until it is fold or moved, and becomes the Property of another, when there will require only a Licence, Cocket, or Warrant, from the chief Officer of the County or District so appointed, down to the Manufacturers, who instead of complaining, or being dissatisfied with such Officers, will infallibly treat them as Friends to themselves and their Country, for guarding and promoting the best Branch of their Trade, well knowing many thousand People for want of Employment therein, must starve or continue a Burthen upon the several Parishes where they dwell, consequently when they rightly consider, they will esteem that Officer most, who is most careful and diligent, that all Attempts of our designing Neighbours may be rendered ineffectual, who are daily supplanting us in this valuable Trade.

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THE Vessels that carry on this destructive Traffic in the dark, have but few Hands on Board, which are very well paid, or equally concern'd in the Profits of the Freight; it was a common Practice during the last War, for Owlers and others to correspond with the French, and to agree for a Quantity of Wool to be shipt (with the Form and Ceremony of giving Bond) the Day and Hour they intend to put to Sea, as the Wind and Weather will permit, when a French Ship of Force has been appointed take them as Prize, whereby it had the Appearance of a manifest Loss to the Owners, both of Ship and Cargo, so that there seemed no Room left to make any further Enquiry after the Wool, for which Bond had been given. Others excused themselves by saying, they were driven on Foreign Coasts by contrary Winds, and Strefs of Weather. These and many more Contrivances will never fail if not sufficiently provided against by Parliament, which it is presumed can no Ways be prevented, but by Register Ships, which may be depended on, for safe keeping and safe landing Raw Wool, Worsted, or Bay Yarn, brought from Ireland, or carried Coast Ways.

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An ESTIMATE of the Expence of the three Men of War, and eight arm'd Sloops, employed at this time on the Coast of Ireland, for preventing the illegal Exportation of Wool, and Woollen Goods througely manufactured, to Foreign Parts.

	l.
The Yearly Expence of a Sixth Rate Man of War, consisting of 130 Men at 4l. per Mensm. — — — — —	} 6760
Two Ditto — — — — —	} 13520
One arm'd Sloop consisting of 80 Men at 4 l. per Mensm. — — — — —	} 4160
Seven Ditto — — — — —	} 29120
	33280
	-----
Total Charge Annually — — — — —	53560
	-----
Charge of 24 Register Ships — — — — —	23920
	-----
N. B. The Expence of the three Men of War and eight Sloops station'd on the Coast of Ireland, Anno 1732, exceeds the Expence of the 24 Register Ships proposed (which will be so much Annually saved to the Na- tion)	} 29640
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	By — — — — —

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The Golden Fleece.

The Gross and Net Produce of the DUTIES on HIDES, CANDLES, SOAP, PAINTED SILK, and STARCH, with the additional Duties, for 5 Years Communibus Annis.

	l.	l.	Net Prod.	Gross Prod.
On Hides				194428
Charges of Management	15472			
Exports	13743			
Taxes	709			
Over Charges	8			
		29932		
On Hides			164496	
On Candles				143859
Charges of Management	13495			
Exports	1570			
Taxes	824			
		15889		
On Candles			127970	
On Soap, &c.				219882
Exports	19354			
Charges of Management	9490			
Drawback on Home Consumption	9554			
Taxes	438			
Over Charges	85			
		38921		
On Soap, &c.			180961	
Total Charge of Management, Expenses, Drawbacks, &c.		84742		
Total Net Produce			473427	
Gross Produce at one Penny per Pound, amounts to				558169

THE Books of the Tallow-Chandlers will shew, that before the Duty of one Penny per Pound Weight, was laid on Candles, they were sold for Three-pence, to Three-pence half Penny per Pound, but since that Duty has taken Place, the same sort of Candles are risen from Five-pence half-penny, to seven Pence per Pound, and the Price of Leather, Soap, &c. in the same Proportion.

BY the Rise of the aforefaid Commodities, since the Duty commenced, the Price is risen almost three times the aforementioned Sum. the Price

The Golden Fleece.

having been advanced Three-pence per Pound, when the Duty was but one Penny.

LET us then suppose, that the Subject pays only Two-pence per Pound Weight, instead of one Penny, it must therefore follow, that twice the afore-said Sum must be paid by the Consumers, amounting to 1116338.

ADD to this, the clandestine Practices of the Fell-Mongers, Soap-Boilers, Tallow-Chandlers, and others, thro' the Neglect or Connivance of Officers, by which Means the whole Duty may have been greatly underpaid.

THEREFORE it is manifest, these Taxes are most burthensome and grievous, because they raise but 473427 l. and cost the Subject more than three times the Neat Produce.

THE Reason assigned by the Dealers in Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. for the exorbitant Rise on these Commodities, are on Account of the extraordinary Trouble and Attendance they are at, in regard the Officers have a Power to inspect them at all Hours, and the Money they advance on the several Duties, they deem the same to all intents and purposes, as Money employed in Trade.

BUT were these Duties to be taken off, which affect the Poor industrious Manufacturers and Artificers in too great Proportion, and consequently Trade in general, the Woollen and Silken Manufactures might be afforded much cheaper than at present, thro' every Hand they pass, till they arrive at Foreign Markets; so that the Savings on the several Duties in the Price of Labour, and the Profits made on the Woollen and Silken Goods, will far exceed the Outgoings in the small Duty proposed on Wool.

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On Hides	—	—	—	—
Charges of Management	—	—	—	—
Exports	—	—	—	—
Taxes	—	—	—	—
Over Charges	—	—	—	—
		29932	164496	
On Hides	—	—	—	—
On Candles	—	—	—	—
Charges of Management	—	—	—	—
Exports	—	—	—	—
Taxes	—	—	—	—
		15889	127970	143859
On Candles	—	—	—	—
On Soap, &c.	—	—	—	—
Exports	—	—	—	—
Charges of Management	—	—	—	—
Drawback on Home Consumption	—	—	—	—
Taxes	—	—	—	—
Over Charges	—	—	—	—
		38921	180961	219882
On Soap, &c.	—	—	—	—
Total Charge of Management, Expenses, Drawbacks, &c.	—	84742	—	—
Total Net Produce	—	—	473427	—
Gross Produce at one Penny per Pound, amounts to	—	—	—	558169

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THEREFORE it is manifest, these Taxes are most burthensome and grievous, because they raise but 473427 l. and cost the Subject more than three times the Neat Produce.

THE Reason assigned by the Dealers in Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. for the exorbitant Rise on these Commodities, are on Account of the extraordinary Trouble and Attendance they are at, in regard the Officers have a Power to inspect them at all Hours, and the Money they advance on the several Duties, they deem the same to all intents and purposes, as Money employed in Trade.

BUT were these Duties to be taken off, which affect the Poor industrious Manufacturers and Artificers in too great Proportion, and consequently Trade in general, the Woollen and Silken Manufactures might be afforded much cheaper than at present, thro' every Hand they pass, till they arrive at Foreign Markets; so that the Savings on the several Duties in the Price of Labour, and the Profits made on the Woollen and Silken Goods, will far exceed the Outgoings in the small Duty proposed on Wool.

THE

The Golden Fleece.

THE Sums wanted, sufficient to replace the like Sums raised on Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. amount to

	Packs.	l.
Charges of 24 Register Ships	— —	23920
In all	— —	497347

HAVING shewn the Sum wanted, it will be necessary to make a moderate Computation of the Quantity of Wool yearly grown in Great Britain and Ireland, that as much may be raised upon the whole, by a small Duty on Wool, as will answer the End proposed.

It is computed by knowing and experienced People in the Woollen Manufactures, that the yearly Growth Of Great Britain is 500000  
Of Ireland is 300000

N. B. Each Pack contains 240 lb. Weight.

In all — — — — — 800000  
Allow for Home Consumption in Ireland — — — 100000

Then there will remain to be wrought up in Great Britain 700000

Suppose the Quantity to be wrought up in Great Britain 600000

This at a Medium of one Penny per Pound Weight will produce 600000

Which will be sufficient, to replace the like Sum raised on Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. and defray the Expence of Management on the general Registry of British and Irish Wool, and 24 Register Ships, with a large Surplus.

THE next and last thing that remains to be done, is to propose a small Duty on the Wool of Great Britain, and that brought from Ireland to be wrought up in Great Britain. It must be observed, that the Wool of some Counties, differs greatly from that of others in Value, according to the different Pasture Sheep are fed on; therefore to obviate all Objections that may be raised, it is both reasonable and necessary, to proportion the Duty accordingly, viz.

THAT a Duty of one Half-penny per Pound Weight, be laid on all Wool grown in Great Britain, of the meaner and coarser sort, by the Tod or

The Golden Fleece.

ALSO, that a Duty of one Penny per Pound Weight, be laid on the second Sort, by the Tod or Pack, ad Valorem.

AND one Penny Half-penny per Pound Weight, on the finest and best Sort, at or above — Price, by the Tod or Pack.

WHETHER the Growers, first Purchasers, or others, should pay this, may deserve the Consideration of Parliament; the Duty whenever fixed, will more than answer the End proposed.

OBJECTIONS.

IT may be objected, that this Calculation being founded on Supposition, is not absolutely to be depended upon. Answer. If it should happen to be a little more or less, it is not very material; but when the Quantity of Wool is certainly known, there may as much be raised, as will, from the whole, answer the Intention of this Purpose. And all that reasonable Subjects can desire, whenever Money is levied upon them, is, that such Sums may be raised, as are least burthensome to Trade, and in the most easy and equal Manner.

IT may likewise be objected, that the small Duty proposed on Wool, will raise the Price of Woollen Goods 2 1/2 per Cent., and it cannot be more, as you may see by turning back to Page 7. where the working up of three Packs of Wool (on a Medium) are carefully set down.

IN Answer to this Objection, it may be observed in the same Page, that six Parts in seven, of the Value of our Woollen Goods, on an Average is Labour. Let any Man consider, whether the Savings on the several Duties in the Price of Labour on the three Sacks of Wool, which must be paid by the 366 Manufacturers and their Families, on Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. (which affect the poorer and most industrious Manufacturers and Artificers, in too great a Proportion, and consequently Trade in general) will not exceed the Outgoings in the small Duty proposed on Wool. These Taxes are to be considered not only in the Woollen, but in the Silken, and all other Manufactures, they touch, which will be found to be a great Advantage.

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It is computed by knowing and experienced People in the Woollen Manufactures, that the yearly Growth Of *Great Britain* is — — — — — 500000  
Of *Ireland* is — — — — — 300000

N. B. Each Pack contains 240 lb. Weight.

In all — — — — — 800000  
Allow for Home Consumption in *Ireland* — — — — — 100000

Then there will remain to be wrought up in *Great Britain* 700000

Suppose the Quantity to be wrought up in *Great Britain* 600000

This at a Medium of one Penny per Pound Weight will produce — — — — — 600000

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THE poorer and most industrious People, are not clothed above once in two Years, suppose that Cloathing to cost five Pounds, the small Duty on Wool cannot exceed three Shillings, what a Relief then would that be not only to them, but to all Conditions of Men, when compared with that they

G A I N now

now pay, on the several Taxes beforemention'd? *Besides it will be better, and more equally proportioned to the Abilities of the Consumers.*

A N O T H E R popular Objection may possibly be raised, by the Enemies to fair Trade, who watch all Opportunities, that Artifice, or Cunning, can invent, and may be apt to take, with Men that consider this Matter superficially, in this manner, Will you Tax our Wool, to the ruin of our Trade? No, is it not the same thing to the Foreign or Domestick Purchaser, if the Woollen Goods keep their Price, whether a small Duty be laid on Wool, or laid on the several Necessaries that enhance the Price of Labour? The latter is infinitely more burthensome to Trade, from the Trouble and Attendance of the Officers, that have a Power to inspect them at all Hours of the Night. Can the Landlords, Tenants, or Growers of Wool, be dissatisfied that a small Duty be laid on Wool, when the Duties are taken off the Hides, Tallow, and Starch, *are they not equally produced from Land? If it should be said that it would be adding to, or extending, the Excise Laws, the very contrary will appear upon due Examination.*

T H E Farmers or Growers Houses, Barns, or Warehouses, need not be entered or searched at unseasonable Hours, like those of the Fell-Mongers, Soap-Boilers, Tallow-Chandlers, and others, by reason, the Farmers, Wool-Staplers, and others, will only be answerable for the Wool shorn, or otherways charged to their Account, under such Penalties, as the Parliament shall think most proper.

T H E Completion of this Great Work, would not only be fatal to neighbouring and distant Powers, but would make us a richer and more formidable People, than we should be from an Acquisition of Mines, equal to those of Peru and Mexico; and will entail immortal Honour on that Parliament, which happens to be the Glorious Instrument of Improving, Guarding, and Securing this peculiar National Blessing, from Exportation till manufactured.

H A V I N G now finished what I proposed to say upon this Valuable Manufacture, and the happy Consequences that would attend the Subject, in the Change proposed, *whenever* our Representatives shall think it necessary for the Good of their Country, to carry these Proposals into Execution, it will then be a proper Season to offer a Supplemental Scheme, equally worthy the Attention of a British Parliament, as being in all Respects justly calculated to promote the further Honour, Interest, and Well-Being of this Nation.

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**F I N I S.**

## The Golden Fleece.

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