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REASONS
FOR
Improving the Fisheries,
AND
LINNEN Manufacture
OF
SCOTLAND.

Wherein are shewn,

The Advantages that must accrue to ENGLAND,
by the Increase of the SCOTS LINNEN
Manufacture.

That the FISHING in Deep Water, is equally
an Advantage to all the Subjects of GREAT
BRITAIN.

And that ENGLAND and SCOTLAND are
now so closely united in Point of Interest,
that severally, they must be directly affected in
Profit and Loss, by the Prosperity or Sufferings
of each other.

Unicne fortior.

*Humbly submitted to the Consideration of the
Right Honourable and Honourable the
Members of both Houses of Parliament.*

L O N D O N :

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REASONS
FOR
IMPROVING THE FISHERIES
AND
LINNEN MANUFACTURE
IN
SCOTLAND.

THE HAPPINESS OF A NATION IS
SAID TO CONSIST IN NUMBERS OF
PEOPLE, AND IN PLENTY OF NE-
CESSARIES TO SUBSIST THEM; AND
IN SUCH A JUST OECONOMY IN
THE MANAGEMENT OF ITS AFFAIRS,
THAT IT BE SUFFICIENTLY PROVIDED WITH MAGA-
ZINES OF PROPER STORES, TO SUPPORT AND DE-
FEND IT FROM FOREIGN INSULTS AND INVASIONS,
AND TO SECURE ITS PEACE FROM THE PERNICIOUS
CONSEQUENCES OF SEDITION, TUMULT, OR DIS-
ORDER AT HOME. EXPERIENCE HATH TAUGHT US,
THAT THE RICHEST SOIL IN THE UNIVERSE, IS NOT
OF ITSELF SUFFICIENT TO SUBSIST ITS INHABITANTS,
WHEN INCREASED TO ANY CONSIDERABLE NUM-
BER,



REASONS
FOR
Improving the Fisheries and Linnen
Manufacture of SCOTLAND.



THE HAPPINESS OF A NATION IS
said to consist in Numbers of
People, and in Plenty of Ne-
cessaries to subsist them; and
in such a just Oeconomy in
the Management of its Affairs,
that it be sufficiently provided with Maga-
zines of proper Stores, to support and de-
fend it from foreign Insults and Invasions,
and to secure its Peace from the pernicious
Consequences of Sedition, Tumult, or Dis-
order at home. Experience hath taught us,
that the richest Soil in the Universe, is not
of itself sufficient to subsist its Inhabitants,
when increased to any considerable Num-
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ber, without the Help of their own Labour and Industry: And that the Happiness or Power of a Nation was never measured by the Extent or Goodness of the Country it possess'd; but by its Numbers, Valour and Discipline, and in proportion to its Wisdom, Prudence, and Steadiness in the Management of its publick Affairs.

This is obvious from the present, as well as former State of human Affairs: For it may be observed almost at every Period of Time, That a well governed State, tho' small and inconsiderable in other Respects, hath nevertheless defended its Liberties, against the vigorous Attempts of powerful Kingdoms, and extensive Empires: And by its Valour, Wisdom and Constancy, hath acquired so great a Reputation, that its Friendship and Alliance hath been courted by powerful States, in other Respects superior to it.

Some judicious Writers affirm, *That all Mankind are naturally bad, and that Laws only make us good.* If this Observation is just, then Industry, and Regularity of Life and Manners, cannot be said to be peculiar to any one Nation or Society more than another; but the same Disposition to Idleness and Irregularity must be common to all: So that Industry, Diligence and Assiduity in Business, Regularity of Life and Manners,

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ners, Frugality and Oeconomy in the Management of one's private Affairs, strict Honesty and Probity in dealing with Strangers, and a just Regard for, and Submission to the Laws, must only be *the Effect of good Habits*, acquired by the impartial and steady Execution of good Laws and proper Rules of Life, justly adapted to the Circumstances of the Society; and that Idleness, Sloth and Irregularity, and their common Attendants, Poverty, Pride, Clamour, Disorder, Tumult, Contempt and Disobedience of the Laws, must be, only *the Effect of bad Habits*, indulged by the Negligence or irregular Partiality, of a weak, remiss, or corrupt Administration. So that the Happiness of a Nation may be said to depend solely upon good Laws, and upon the strict and impartial Execution of them. And every Nation may be observed to have been more or less happy or miserable, in proportion to the Capacity, Diligence, and Integrity; or to the Weakness, Negligence, or Corruption, of those who are intrusted with the Administration of its Affairs. As *Salust* says, That *Rome* owed its Greatness chiefly to the Virtue of a few Citizens: For the best Laws can neither apply nor execute themselves.

Rome, from very small Beginnings, by its strict Discipline and Probity of Manners, not only got the better of all its Neighbours,

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but by degrees extended its Conquests over the most considerable Part of the then known World. But when the Manners of the *Roman* People, were by the Indulgence and pernicious Examples of their Superiors corrupted; their Order and Discipline declined, and Faction prevailed in the State. This afforded an Opportunity to the Governors and Lieutenants of the Provinces of This extensive and unweildy Empire, to debauch the Soldiery by Largeesses and licentious Riot, indulged at the Expence of the oppressed Inhabitants: And those very Arms, which were intended for the Security of the State, and Liberties of the People, were turned against the Publick, to impose a Yoke of Servitude upon those who had appointed them. For by these Practices the Army became more the Vassals or Clients of their Officers, than the Soldiers of the State; and their Generals, by the Hopes of Spoil and Booty, often led them against their Country to enslave it; and for the Sake of the present Profit, to sacrifice themselves and Fellow-Subjects to the Ambition of a crafty Officer. This extraordinary Change of Manners made way for Luxury, Effeminacy and Disorder in the *Roman* Armies, which soon became universal; and was no sooner from Experience discovered to their rude and untractable Neighbours on the *North*, than those hardy Nations

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Nations invaded them with their whole *Posse*, and like a mighty Flood that bears down the weak and ill-guarded Fences that stand in its Way, over-run their whole Empire.

This rude and barbarous People, who were absolute Strangers to Literature, and the Arts of Peace, continued to secure themselves in their new Possessions, by the very same Means by which they were acquired, *i. e.* by managing their Wars by Militia, and, as Occasion required, by the *Posse* of the whole Country. The People were so much bred up, and accustomed to the Use and Exercise of Arms, that they could not possibly employ themselves in any other Business to purpose; and by this manner of Life they could not be increased to a greater Number than the Product of the ill cultivated Countries they severally possessed was able to maintain.

The Knowledge of Arts and Sciences, of Trade and Manufacture, and several other Branches of Business, which have been since introduced into, and brought to very great Perfection in several Countries of *Europe*, was utterly neglected: But after the old *Greek* and *Roman* Manner of managing of War by regular Force was introduced, when Military Skill and Discipline, and Knowledge in the Art of War, gave a Few the Advantage

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Advantage over Numbers; then were the People left at liberty to apply themselves to Labour and Industry, and to cultivate the Arts of Peace even in Time of War. And altho' the keeping up of a Standing Army of regular Forces, even in Times of Peace, is, by the universal Practice of all the Powers of *Europe*, become indispensably necessary; yet this Island, by its happy Situation, is secured by a much smaller Army, than some other Countries (of less Extent, and who are much inferior to us in Wealth and Power) are obliged constantly to maintain.

About the Time when this Practice was introduced into *Europe*, *England* had the good Fortune to be under a just and wise Administration, which made the Happiness of the Nation the chief End of its Government; then was the Woollen Manufacture, and many other beneficial Branches of Business introduced: These, by the publick Care and Encouragement, were at first carried on to Perfection, and have been ever since carefully cherished by the Publick; not only by the steady and impartial Execution of proper Laws and Regulations for ascertaining the Goodness and Reputation of the Commodities, at a Foreign Market; but also by the Help of such other proper Encouragements, as the Circumstances of the Business from Time to Time required.

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The Original or Primary Stock for Foreign Trade in every Country is its Product; and when its Product is manufactured, this Stock is so much increased, as the manufactured Goods exceed in Value the Materials of which they are made.

The Poor in every Country, when idle, are a Burthen upon the Wealthy; but when they are employed in Manufacture, they not only subsist themselves by their own Labour, but are also the chief Mean of adding to the Wealth of the richer Sort who employ them; and the Numbers thus employ'd will always increase, in proportion to the Business that affords them Subsistence.

These Manufactures, after the Inhabitants are served, are carried into Foreign Parts; and in return, we not only bring in those Commodities which are really wanted, or which are at least by the boundless Appetites of human Nature, said to be so, but likewise the neglected Product of other Countries, is imported, as a further Subject of Manufacture amongst us. So that the Industrious profit even of the Idleness of the Slothful. If then, the Power or Happiness of a Nation depends upon its Wealth and Numbers, it is obvious from Experience, that both those are increased by Industry, and that Industry, is only the Effect of good Laws rigorously executed.

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The People of *England* enjoy many Privileges and Immunities, more than any People of the Universe, and have likewise their Properties so absolutely secured by the Laws of the Land from irregular Encroachment, that every one is left at full Freedom, to prosecute any Branch of Trade or Business that best suits his Genius and Circumstances; and is the rather encouraged to carry it on to the utmost Extent, that he is so well assured of the Enjoyment of the Fruits of his Labour. *England*, under the Favour of so many Advantages, has arrived to a very high Pitch of Greatness, which may be easily traced to the real Source from whence it flowed; The Excellency of its Laws and Constitution.

We the Inhabitants of the *Northern* Parts of the Island, had likewise two very valuable Branches of Business introduced amongst us, *viz.* Fishery, and the Manufacturing of Linnen Cloth: These are so well adapted to our Situation and Circumstances, that had they been carried on by the Help of proper Care and Encouragement, we could scarce have failed to have succeeded in both.

Our Country is full of Friths or large Inlets of the Sea, running up a great Way into the Land: And of Promontories running out a great Way into the Sea. The deep

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deep Water is pretty near the Shore on all our Coasts; and in deep Water, Fish of the best Quality of all Kinds, are always found. Our Vicinity to the Sea, from all Parts of the Country, gives us likewise great Advantage in Navigation, and Carriage by Water: For the most Inland Part in the Country is but 33 Miles distant from the Sea. The Land upon the Coast, especially on the East-Side, is for the most part pretty flat and level. The Inland Country is high, consisting of Ridges of Hills, divided from one another, by Straths, Dales, or large Vallies; and where the Hills are highest, they are only separated by Glens, or strait Bottoms between them. The Hills are pretty good for Pasture of Black Cattle, and Sheep that bear coarse Wool. The low Grounds are fit for Tillage, and produce Grain of all Sorts in sufficient Quantities, not only to serve the Inhabitants, but likewise for Export; and we find from Experience, that our Low Grounds in most Places, are very proper for the Growth of Flax and Hemp, altho' the last hath been hitherto but little encouraged amongst us.

Both these Branches of Trade, depend chiefly on Labour: The Building of Vessels, Equipping them with proper Tackle for fishing in deep Water; and the Out-rigging of them with Provisions and proper Stores

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for Curing of Fish, are, except the Materials, all a Subject of Manufacture; and the Materials might all be (as most of them now are) produced in our own Country; and Linnen Cloth, except the first Cost of the Seed, and the Use of the Ground upon which it is sown, is entirely Manufacture.

Fishing in deep Water cannot be attempted, unless Vessels of proper Size, sufficiently equipped and provided, are fitted out to carry it on: And one of these cannot be put to Sea for less than £. 1000. So that this Trade cannot be undertaken without a considerable Stock of Money: But the Linnen Manufacture is carried on, in such small Parcels, dispersed through the whole Country, and some Parts of it require so little Skill, that the poorest Inhabitants have Access to do something in it.

These two valuable Branches of Business, were introduced amongst us very early, when neither of them were much known in *Europe*: But we had the Misfortune by the Accession of our King *James VI.* to the Crown of *England*, to have our Affairs left in a great Measure to the Management of a Privy Council; whose Determinations in some Cases had so glaring an Appearance of Partiality and Caprice, that a disinterested Person could scarce have been induced to regard them, as the Opinion of Gen-

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tlemen of Integrity, who had any tolerable Share of Knowledge of the Laws and real Interests of their Country: But by the Union we are happily freed from the arbitrary Proceedings of that absolute Court: And by our Claim of Right, we were likewise delivered from that inhuman Practice of putting People to the Torture, sometimes upon very slight Suspicions, when the Person accused, or his Friends, had the Misfortune to be obnoxious to our Ministers. Our great Men who had been in former Ages the Guardians and Protectors of Publick Liberty, and who then were, or ought to have been, the Patriots of their Country, to take Care of its Welfare, followed the Court in great Numbers. Those who succeeded in their Prince's Favour had the only Power and Means to serve their Country: But, it seems, their private Views and Projects got the better of their Care for the Publick; for the real Interest of the Country was very much neglected. Thus were these two valuable Subjects of Manufacture; the only Means for increasing our Wealth and Numbers, the sole Fund for employing and subsisting the Poor, and our only Stock for Foreign Trade, treated like a poor destitute Orphan, that is deprived of the provident Care and Protection of its Parents, and is turned out to

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the wide World to shift for it self, before it is capable to earn its Bread.

Both these beneficial Trades were nevertheless carried on with some Hopes of Success, until the Beginning of the Civil War, in the Reign of King *Charles I.* Then was the Country so much divided by Faction, and Matters carried to so great an Extremity, that the People were forced from their Business to take Arms. The Fishing of Herrings and Cod, by Bushes in deep Water, has been since the Battel of *Kilsyth*, in *Anno 1645.* entirely laid aside, and the Linnen Manufacture very much neglected; while other Nations under the Favour of Publick Encouragement, prosecuted both with the utmost Diligence and Assiduity; wisely taking Occasion from our Disorders, to cut us out of the Trade.

After the Restoration some Attempts were made to set both a foot again, especially the Fishing: But these Designs, by the Negligence of our own Ministers, to say no worse of them, proved abortive. Several Laws and Regulations for the better manufacturing of our Linnen, were likewise enacted by Publick Authority. These, imperfect and defective as they are, would have been of great Use, had they been rigorously executed; but for want of proper Persons to
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oversee the Execution of them, they had little or no Effect.

The Spirit of Faction that ran so high in the preceding Reign, and during the Usurpation, left behind it Seeds of Rancor and Division, dispersed amongst all Ranks of People; whereby that Harmony and Concord, and that Spirit of Benevolence, which tends so much to secure the publick Peace, and to promote and advance the common Interest of the People, was entirely destroyed; and those who had the only Means to correct and cure those Evils, rather increased them, by endeavouring to secure themselves in the Administration of publick Affairs, by Acts of Severity, and putting of Hardships upon those who differed with them in point of Interest or Opinion: And as those who are out of Play (if hardly and unjustly treated) are always favoured by the Multitude, and by all indifferent Persons, they rarely fail to improve those Advantages, to thwart and disappoint the Court Measures, and to discredit the Ministry with their Master, by lessening their Authority and Respect amongst, and Influence upon the People; hoping from a Change of Ministers to get into the Management themselves; while the Multitude expect from such a Change, not only to be freed from the Insolence of the indiscreet
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Creatures of an absolute Minister; but likewise to see the real Interest of the Country carefully look'd after, when the Management of publick Affairs, falls (in their Opinion) into better Hands.

A Country thus divided by Faction, cannot possibly prosper in its publick Concerns and real Interest; nor can the Spirit of Faction and Division be ever rooted out, so long, as each Party in its Turn proceeds with the same Indiscretion, to secure itself by the Ruin of its Adversaries; and instead of endearing themselves to the People, by the Prosecution of such Measures, as really tend to advance the publick Good and Happiness of the People, they foment Divisions and Discontents, by preferring the private Views and particular Interests of their Partisans and Followers to the publick Good. But as we have already had several signal Instances of the good Intentions of the present Administration, to promote and advance the real Interests of the united Kingdom, we have Reason to believe, that hereafter, we shall be ever removed from the Fears of being again reduced to such a melancholy Situation of our publick Affairs; the pernicious Effects whereof sit now heavy upon us: for formerly, whatever interfered not with Party was overlook'd as trivial.

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The private Manufacturers being thus left to themselves, many Frauds and Abuses in the making of our Linnen were committed, and the Buyer complained in vain. For altho' a few Gentlemen of publick Spirit, foreseeing the hurtful Consequences of those pernicious Practices, did now and then endeavour to enforce the Execution of the Laws we had; yet for want of a general Measure, these partial Resolutions served to little purpose: The Quality of this Commodity soon became so uncertain and precarious, that no Dealer could safely buy it, without inspecting every Piece: And the Demand for our Linnen of consequence failed gradually, until the Trade was reduced to the low and languishing State, in which it now is.

By the Treaty of Union, we are admitted to a Communication of Trade with *England*, by which, *England* and the Plantations became open to us. But the great and good Ends proposed by this Treaty, were by the unlucky Situation we had been in, from the Union of the Crowns to that Period, in a great measure disappointed. Hitherto, it has been of no better Consequence, than if a private Dealer was admitted to the Freedom of Trade in a Corporation, without a Stock to carry it on; whereby, instead of an useful Member of the

the Society, able to bear his Share of the publick Expence, he must become a dead Weight and a Burthen upon it.

Our Expence at *London*, and our Demands from thence of *English* Manufactured Goods, and of foreign Commodities, which pay Duty at that Port, are very much increased since the Union: While our chief Fund to answer this Expence, *i. e.* our Linnen Cloth, is very much diminished; Numbers of our People are, on every Occasion, going abroad to seek their Bread in foreign Parts for want of Business at Home; and unless some Care is taken to retrieve our Affairs by proper Laws and suitable Encouragements, our Circumstances must daily grow worse: Our Wealth and Numbers must soon be so much impaired, that our Country shall in a great measure be depopulated, and the few that remain in it become desperate or dispirited*:

* *The People, when oppress'd with Poverty and Want, and are idle and uneasy in their Affairs, are ready upon every the slightest Ground of Complaint to murmur and mutiny; and upon the first plausible Appearance of Success, to risk a wretched Life in hopes of a better Condition: But when they are employed, and get a comfortable Living by their own Labour and Industry, they are not so ready to listen to the loud Whispers and artful Insinuations of bold and designing Faction. The Sweets of Peace secure their Obedience; for they will never (by the uncertain Hopes of a better State) be determined to exchange their Ease and Quiet, for Toil, Hazard, and probable Destruction.*

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Whereby this extensive Part of the Island, instead of being able to defend it self, and to contribute its Share of the publick Expence for Support of the Whole, must become an useless Burthen, fit for no other Purpose, than to serve as an open Back-door for the Enemies of our happy Constitution to enter by.

This will appear obvious to any one, who considers the present State of our Trade, and decaying Condition.

We are served from the *Baltick*, and Countries adjoining, with Timber, Iron, Flax, Flax-Seed, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, Cordage, and several other bulky Commodities. We have to answer this Trade, Salt, a few coarse Woolen Goods, Grain when there is a Demand for it in *Norway*, a few dried Cod and Ling, and Salt Herrings, which are caught upon our Coasts in shallow Water in the Spawning Season. When this Fishing is successful, we use to export to those Countries a greater Quantity of Herrings than is sufficient to answer all our Demands from thence; and to send Part of our Returns directly to the Port of *London*: But for these last five Years successively, this Fishing has totally failed; whereby the Balance of Trade from the *Baltick*, is not only against us, but many of our

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Traders who dealt in that Business, have been undone, by having their Provision of Salt and Cask lying so long a dead Stock upon their Hands; and the Inhabitants of those Countries, where the Herrings used to be caught, are reduced to the utmost Poverty and Distress.

From *Holland* we are served with fine Linnen, Cambricks, Bone-Lace, Velvets, fine dress'd Flax and Tow, and Flax Seed, Brass Pans, a few Dye-Stuffs, Pot and Weed Ashes, and several other Commodities, which are the Product and Manufacture of those Provinces: To which we must add, the Expence of our Students at *Leyden*, *Utrecht*, and *Groningen*. We export to answer those Demands, a kind of coarse Serges, called Fingrams, coarse Woollen Hose, Lead and Potter's Oar, great Coal, and some Tobacco, which are not equal in Value to the Goods we bring in from *Holland*: For we find by the Course of our Exchange, that the Balance is always on their Side; and if our Remittances were not often made by the way of *London*, our Exchange to *Holland* would be much higher.

We are served from the Bay, with Wines and foreign Salt, and that pernicious Article of Brandy, which is mostly imported in

in the smuggling Way, to the great Loss of the Revenue, Hurt of the Country, and very often to the Prejudice of the Dealers, many of whom have been ruin'd by it. We have to answer those Demands, Salt Salmon, Lead, and smithy Coal; and when there is a Demand for Grain in *France*, now and then a little Wheat: But this Trade is, for the most part, carried on by Bills of *Exchange* drawn or remitted by the Way of *London*.

We have so very little Trade to *Portugal*, *South of Spain*, and other Coasting Countries in the *Mediterranean*, that we export salt Salmon and dried Cod, which are caught upon our Coasts in small Boats, in sufficient Quantities, to answer all our Demands from those Parts.

The People of *Glasgow*, by their Vicinity and easy Access by Water to *Ireland*, and Ports upon the *West Side of England*, carry on some Trade to the Plantations. Our only Fund for Export to those Parts, is our Linnen Cloth, Bengals and Checks, and a Kind of low-pric'd narrow woollen Goods, called *Musselburgh* Stuffs; which are commonly sold in the Country by Retail at 4d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Yard. But they are indebted to our Neighbours of *England* and *Ireland*, not only for their Provisions, and the

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the greatest Part of their Cargo's outward, but also for a great Part of their Freights: Most of their Plantation Trade being carried on to this very Day upon *English* Bottoms. Their Returns consist chiefly in Tobacco's and Sugars; of the first we have enough, not only for the Consumption of the Country, but likewise for Export: But we import not Sugars in sufficient Quantities for the Service of the Country; for we bring most of our fine Loaf Sugar from *London*.

This is the present State of our Trade to foreign Parts; which is so very inconsiderable, that it is scarce worth mentioning: But from *England* our Demands are very high.

We are served from the Port of *London* with Broad Cloths of all Kinds and Prices, from 7s. per Yard up to the best Superfines; of which last Kind we use very considerable Quantities ever since the Union. We are served from *Leeds*, *Wakefield*, and that Neighbourhood, with all Kinds of low-pric'd Cloths, both Medleys and Colour'd. From *Manchester* we are served with Fustians, White and Colour'd, Packthread Fustians, Cotton Ribs, Thicksets, Cotton Checks, and all Kinds of Cotton, and Thread and Cotton Goods. From *London* we

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we are served with all the Manufacture of *Norwich*; such as Camblets, Broad and Narrow; Calimancoes, Strip'd and Plain of all Breadths; Burying Crape, Colour'd Crape, Camblatines, and all Sorts of Narrow Woollen Stuffs, *Norwich* Crape, Silk and Worsted Camblets, Corded Druggets, *Spanish* Poplins, and all Sorts of Silk and Worsted Stuffs. We are likewise served from *London* with Druggets, Kerseys, Bays, Sagathies, Duroys, Baragons, and all Sorts of Narrow Woollen Goods, with Hair Stuffs, and Hair Shags, and Worsted Shags, with Silk Stuffs of all Kinds and Prices, Thread-Sattins, Dunjars; and all Kinds of Stuffs, that are manufactured at *Canterbury* or *Spittlefields*; with Men and Womens Silk Hose, and fine Woollen Hose, Hats, Women's Shoes, and Leather of several Sorts; with Mirrors, fine Escritoirs, Cupboards, Tables, considerable Quantities of Glass Bottles, Drinking-Glasses, and other Glasses of all Sorts; with Hops, Liquorish, and Saffron; with Gold and Silver Twist, Arras, plain, figur'd, open, scollop'd, and Bone-lace; Gold and Silver Buttons, Hair Twist, and Sewing Silk; Metal Buttons, and all Sorts of Haberdasher's Ware; with all Sorts of Toy Ware; with Knives, Forks, and all Sorts of Cutlery Ware;

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Ware; with Workmen's Tools of all Sorts; Files, and all Ironmongers Wares: For unless it be for Horse-shoes, Plough and Cart Irons, coarse Grates, Locks, Bands, a few Kinds of Nails, and such like coarse Work, there is no Iron manufactured amongst us. We are likewise served from *London*, with all *East-India*, *Turky*, *Guinea*, *West-India*, and other foreign Goods, which pay Duty at the Port of *London*.

We have to add to the Demands for these Commodities, another heavy Article against us in the Balance of Trade, viz. the great Demands upon us for Cash to support our Expence at *London*. Most of our Gentlemen and People of Quality, who have the best Estates in our Country, live for the most part at *London*; and their Rents, and the Rents of the forfeited Estates possess'd by the *York-Buildings* Company, and above of the Interest of the Equivalent Stock, must be regularly remitted to *London*; and in so far as our publick Taxes exceed the Payments made out of our Civil List to Persons who live amongst us, and the Subsistence of the few regular Forces, that are quarter'd in the Country, the Remainder must be likewise remitted, and stand as an Article in the Balance of our Trade with *London* against us.

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To answer all those heavy Demands, we have but two Articles, our Black Cattle, and Linnen Cloth: The first is mere Product, and can never be much extended beyond what it is at present; but the other, by the Help of suitable Encouragements, and proper Laws, may be so much improved, that in time we may be able to serve *England* with such Quantities of Linnen Cloth, as may enable us to satisfy all the Demands, *England* may at any time have upon us.

By the Treaty of Union, and divers subsequent Acts of Parliament, certain Funds are provided for encouraging our Fisheries, and other Manufactures; but for want of a due Method of Application, these have not hitherto taken Effect: But His Majesty, out of His great Goodness and tender Concern for the Welfare of all his People, has been graciously pleas'd, by his Sign'd Manual, address'd to the Convention of Royal Boroughs, to honour them with his Commands, to prepare a Plan or Scheme, for applying and distributing of those Funds, to be laid before him, in order to the devising of such a Scheme, or Method of Application of the Funds, to the several Purposes for which they were intended, as may best answer His Majesty's most gracious Intentions.

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The Members of the Royal Boroughs have accordingly, to the utmost of their Skill and Knowledge, prepared a Proposal, which they have in the most humble manner presumed to lay before His Majesty; who has been pleased to receive the same graciously, and we have all the Reason in the World to hope for his Protection.

Upon comparing the Funds, with the several Purposes proposed to be encouraged, they appear to be (by much) too narrow, for attaining all the good Ends proposed. Nevertheless, if it appear upon Trial, that the Good of the United Kingdom, is promoted by the Application of the Funds already provided, Means may be found, to provide such farther Encouragements from time to time, as the Circumstances of the Trade require.

For, if under the Favour of publick Care and Encouragement, our Manufactures do prosper, and our Affairs are retrieved from their present low Situation, such Success must be attended with very advantageous Consequences, as well to *England* as to us: For we are so closely united to *England* in Point of Interest, as well as in many other Respects, that *England* must reap an immediate Profit from our Gain, and must be

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be directly hurt in its Interest, by our Loss.

If the Encouragement proposed to be given, to promote the Fishery in deep Water, is sufficient to convince the Nation, that this Trade may be carried on to Advantage; all the Inhabitants on the *East* Side of the Island, from the *Forelands* in *Kent* to the *Ska of Unst* in *Zetland*; and from the *North Coast* of *Cornwall*, to the most *Northerly* Point of the *Lews*, on the *West* Side, have almost an equal Access to it. The Fish to be caught and cured, will be so much Wealth added to the Nation, and will serve as a farther Branch of Export, for the *Baltick* and *Spanish* Trades. It will be a good Nursery for Seamen; and as our Bottoms will be increased by this Trade, as well as our Sailors, our Freights must of consequence become easier; and when the Publick has Occasion for Sailors to Man the Royal Navy, this Trade will enable us to furnish a considerable Number of bred Seamen.

Since the Union, we have followed too much the Example of our wealthy Neighbours of *England*, in increasing our Expence, both in Apparel and Way of living; while our chief Fund for defraying

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ing that Charge, our Linnen Manufacture, has been decaying; infomuch, that we are already reduced to this Strait, To be obliged to lessen our Demands for *Eng-lish* Goods, for want of Money and Credit; our Payments are become so bad, and much more backward than formerly. This is too well known to many Dealers in *London*, who have likewise had some Losses by bad Debts and Bankruptcy; a thing formerly very rare and uncommon amongst us. But should our Linnen Manufacture, under the Favour of proper Care and Encouragement, succeed, we might hope to be soon able to serve *England*, with Quantities of Linnen Cloth, sufficient to answer all the Demands they have upon us: And in so far, as *Britain* is served with its own Manufactures, so much Money must be saved, in the Balance of its Trade. If our People find Business at home, their Numbers will soon increase, and our Demands for *Eng-lish* manufactured Goods must of consequence be increased, in proportion to the Increase of our Wealth and Numbers. The Duties of Excise, and other Branches of the Revenue amongst us, must likewise be increased, in proportion to our Numbers, and Ability to subsist our selves by our Labour. Our Consumption of fo-

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reign Goods, which pay Duty at the Port of *London*, must likewise be greater, and that Branch of the Revenue must be augmented in proportion; and when the Exigencies of the Publick, require an Addition of regular Forces, we will be able to furnish a much greater Number of Recruits for the Land Service.

We have not the least Reason to doubt of the wished-for Success, in our Linnen Trade, from the Methods proposed; since we have the Example of our Neighbours of *Ireland* to set before us, as a Pattern proper for our Imitation. These Gentlemen, from a sincere Love of their Country, and a generous Principle to advance the publick Good, have since the late happy Revolution, introduced the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures; and by such Methods as are now proposed for us; *i. e.* the impartial Application and Distribution of suitable Encouragements, and the steady and rigorous Execution of proper Laws and Regulations, have brought that Trade to a very great Degree of Perfection: Neither have we the least Reason to suspect any Obstruction from them, as their Rivals in the Trade; since it is so well known, that there is Field enough for us both; and that the

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Consumption of Linnen Cloth, in *England* and the Plantations, very much exceeds the greatest Quantities, both of us can ever hope to furnish them with, although our Manufactures, were carried on to the utmost Extent we can propose.

The Enmity that subsisted betwixt *England* and *Scotland*, whilst the Nations remained in a State of Independency on each other, hath still left behind it groundless Fears and Jealousies, which very much obstruct the Interest of the United Kingdom, and have hitherto disappointed several of the great and good Ends, proposed by the Union; especially amongst us, who have thrown ourselves entirely upon the Faith of a *British* Parliament: Our longing Eyes are now fixed upon the Parliament for Relief; the whole Country seems to be in a kind of Suspence, waiting the Event of His Majesty's most Gracious Resolutions. And if the Success and Prosperity of our Trade and Manufactures, and the Retrieving of our Affairs, from their present low Situation, should be owing to the Act of a *British* Parliament: Then those groundless Fears and Jealousies must vanish, that Spirit of Faction and Discontent, which by the Indiscretion of
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former Ministers, has so long divided the Country, and obstructed its real Interest, must cease; and that Flame of Sedition, which still excites a few disobliged Malecontents, to foment these Jealousies, must be extinguish'd, for want of proper Fuel; and we shall become as much United in Point of Opinion, Loyalty, and Affection, as we are already bound by Duty and Interest, which are the strongest Ties that support Civil Society.

When we find from Experience, that all the Subjects of the United Kingdom are equally the Objects of the Care of the same Administration: That we all, without Distinction, equally feel the happy Influences of the Care and Protection, of the same excellent Constitution, to which *England* owes its Greatness, to which we owe our Lives and Preservation, to which we owe those excellent Laws, whereby the many valuable Privileges, Liberties, and Properties of the Subjects of *Great Britain*, are so absolutely secured; Then shall the Subjects, from a Sense of their Happiness, and of their Duty to that Administration, to which they owe it, cheerfully concur in every Measure for its Support; and, as often as Occasion requires, readily sacrifice their Lives,
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Quiet, and Interest, in Defence of that Government; and those excellent Laws, to which, by the Favour of Providence they owe them: And as the Administration, will, no doubt, by an equal Care, promote and advance the Interest, of every Part of the United Kingdom, which by reciprocal Ties, severally depend upon one another, and must be mutually affected in Profit and Loss, by the Prosperity or Poverty, of each other, we may justly hope, that *Great Britain and Ireland*, may arrive at a much higher Pitch of Greatness, and be able to make a much greater Figure in the World, than they have hitherto done.

From this short State of our Affairs, it is obvious, that instead of being of Use to *England*, as we are now situated, we must soon become a Burthen upon it, and must daily become more so, as our Affairs grow worse: But, if proper Care is taken to retrieve our Affairs, we have Reason to expect, that we shall soon become, a very great Addition of Power, and an Advantage to *England*, both in regard to its Trade, and Publick Concerns.

All which, and the several Methods proposed, to promote our Trade and Manufactures, are most humbly submitted

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ted to the Consideration of the Members of both Houses of Parliament; who, under the happy Influence of His Majesty's auspicious Government, are look'd on as the Common Fathers of their Country, and Guardians of its Liberties.

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