

25-18



Don *F O H N*

Further Display'd :

BEING

A SUPPLEMENT

TO

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

American Trade.

— *tacitus pasci si posset Corvus, haberet
Plus dapis & rixæ multo minus* —

• L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ROBERTS, at the *Oxford-Arms*
in *Warwick-Lane.*

M DCC XL.

(Price Six-pence.)

6



Don J O H N

Further Display'd.

HAPPENING to be the other day, soon after the Arrival of the *Jamaica* Fleet, in some Company that were pretty deeply interested in it; the Discourse naturally turn'd on the Affairs of that Island: And, amongst the rest, it was said, That Don *John Maltiempo* had printed there an ample Vindication of himself, from some Aspersions which were thrown on him by the Author of an anonymous Pamphlet, publish'd here about a Year ago, entitled *Considerations on the American Trade, &c.* I own,

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[4]

on hearing this, my Curiosity was excited to a pitch above what it commonly us'd to be; not through any diffidence of the Truth of the Facts inserted in that Pamphlet, because I was thoroughly satisfied in regard to that point: But I really was at a loss to conceive what Method he could have taken to make one single Individual entertain a better opinion of him afterwards than before this boasted Vindication. I knew Don *John* must be prevented by his Guilt, as well as his Incapacity, from saying any thing material for himself; and therefore concluded, he must have called in assistance; but from what Quarter he could obtain it, was still to me a Riddle; for, I believe no Man upon earth, has ever more effectually, as well as deservedly, attracted the Odium and Contempt of all sincere Lovers of, and even Pretenders to, Honour and Honesty. Bless me! thought I, has Corruption spread its poisonous Infection with such an epidemical Fury through all Parts, and into the remotest Corners of the *British* Dominions, that even the most abject and profligate Wretch, that can find an Asylum there, may be so readily supplied (provided he will go thorough-stitch with any dirty Job he is set about) with a Dawber, to throw a White-wash over his contaminated Conscience, and paint a *Judas* in the Habit of an *Ascetick*! But when I reflected, that there is no Disease so desperate, that some Quack or other

[5]

other will not undertake the Cure of: Or Cause so bad, that some Pettyfogger will not defend: Since neither have any Reputation to hazard, and both are sure to be Gainers, however they miscarry in their Attempts; I did suppose, that he had by the fashionable Means of something in hand, and Promises to be performed adequate to the Service expected, procur'd what he so much stood in need of.

BUT, lack a day! how was I deceived in my opinion, when I got a sight of that pretended Vindication. *Parturiunt Montes, nascitur ridiculus Mus!* Don *John* is identically the same Man, and like so to continue, in the opinion of the world, to the end of the chapter; and, before I have gone through with this Piece, if I do not give very good reasons why the Reader ought to be of my mind, I will be content to be set upon a level for Honesty, Veracity and Understanding with Don *John* himself: And I presume it will be no very easy matter, if possible, to fall much lower.

It may reasonably be expected, that when a man has play'd away his Credit with the World, by Prevarications, Male-practices, and variety of Scenes of Iniquity, in which he has been fairly detected and expos'd; he should be under a necessity of crying *peccavi*, and making some sort of acknowledgment to those who have suffered by him, were it only by throwing the blame upon Ignorance, want of Experience,

[6]

rience, Custom and human Frailty, or some, or all of these; if ever he has any intention of succeeding in an After-game of Reputation.

BUT whether it is that Don *John* has no such Views in expectancy, or that he has shook off Honour and Conscience, as two beggarly troublesome Companions, he has taken quite a contrary course; for well knowing his own Testimony would be of no validity, and not being able to find others of more significancy, he at last produces two or three Persons, who he is satisfied know nothing of the matter in question; and therefore can say as little to the purpose. Really and truly he had better have call'd to mind a homely Proverb, pretty common in his own Country, *The more he stirs in a T—, the worse it will st—k*: and I must beg my Readers will excuse me, for making use of it on this occasion, because I am dubious, whether or no the Motto in my Title Page, may not be beyond his pitch of Erudition.

IF he had produc'd a Certificate (provided it were genuine) under the hands of most of the eminent Merchants in the Town where he resides; testifying, that such things as are laid to his charge, in that Pamphlet, were never so much as surmiz'd among them there; or, that if they were, they had been fully refuted, and he had abundantly clear'd himself to their satisfaction; and that he is a Person of so fair and

[7]

and upright a Character, that they believed him incapable of being concern'd in any thing inconsistent with the Good of his Constituents, and Honour and Welfare of his Country; he then would have done something to the purpose, and establish'd his own Credit on the Ruin of his Accuser's. But, instead of this, what has he done? Why truly he has exhibited three Affidavits in the Weekly *Jamaica* Courant; two of which (tho' the Contents of them should be literally true) will equally serve to determine the Election of the next Pope, or the Fate of the Inhabitants of *Corfica*, as any way to clear him from one single Imputation that is suggested against him in the said Pamphlet; and the third can only serve to clear up a Misunderstanding in one single Circumstance of a complicated Piece of Villainy, which shall be spoke to in its proper place; but by no means frees him from the Suspicion the other Circumstances render him liable to, but rather fixes it more firmly upon him, by the evasive manner of his answering it.

THE Articles laid to his charge, and which we still insist on, and which indeed he ought to have answer'd, if he had made any Answer at all, are:

1st. THAT the Company's Agents and Servants abroad in general, and he in particular, has carried on a private illicit Trade, to the detriment of the Proprietors.

2^{dly}, THAT

[8]

2dly, THAT by his Squabbles with some of the inferior Officers of the Company, about some trifling Charges for Wharfage of Goods, carried out by them, he had made such Discoveries in their illicit Trade, as his Predecessors had had the prudence hitherto to conceal.

3dly, THAT he had a Part of the Profits of such Goods given him, for granting the Liberty of carrying them out.

4thly, THAT he had taken upon him to impose a certain Oath to all the Commanders of Ships, employ'd in the Company's Service in those Parts.

5thly, THAT he held a private Correspondence with G——no, the King of Spain's late Agent to the Company.

6thly, and lastly, THAT it was very much suspected, that by Informations from him to G——no of the Names of several of the principal Spanish Traders, those unfortunate Gentlemen were sent home to *Old Spain* in Irons, and afterwards banish'd to *Ceuta* in *Barbary*, and their Effects seized on and confiscated.

THESE are, I think, the principal Articles that seem to affect him throughout that Pamphlet; or if there should be two or three more (for I won't stand with him for Peccadillos) I'll be content to throw them into the lump, and if he gets clear of these, pronounce him innocent in spite of all the rest: *Et erit mihi magnus Apollo.*

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[9]

BUT now let us see his Defence; and that the Publick may be robb'd of no part of it, we will begin with his Introduction.

"THE following Affidavits inserted in this Paper, are occasion'd by a scandalous and false Paragraph in a malicious Pamphlet, intituled, *Observations on the American Trade*. And to let the World know the true Cause of those unfortunate Traders, being seized and carried Prisoners from *Porto Prince* to the *Havanna*, and in what Manner Capt. *Lee* has prevaricated."

THIS Introduction seems, by the Accuracy of the Style, and the Tenderness with which he has touch'd the main Affair these Affidavits are meant to answer, to be of Don *John's* own inditing; or else, after mentioning these unfortunate Gentlemen being seized and carried Prisoners to the *Havanna*, why should it not have been added, *and sent to Old Spain in Irons, and afterwards banish'd to Ceuta in Barbary*? Sure he was not touch'd with a little Remorse; or if he was, it could be but momentary; for, otherwise, such a Weakness would be apt to create a kind of a Flaw in his Character. But pray observe how nicely he distinguishes between the natural and the efficient Cause: *And to let the World, says he, know the true Cause—*; just as if he had said, To let the World know what it's impossible but it must know already; for no body

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is ignorant that Private Trade was the natural Cause of their being seiz'd, as is before mention'd ; but if he had told us by whose Information those particular Gentlemen, out of so many Private Traders, were pitch'd upon to be made Examples of, and how the very Words they had us'd aboard his Ship came to be literally retorted on them at their Hearing in *Old Spain*, he had done something to the purpose ; for all the rest is no more than to tell us, that when the Sun shines 'tis broad Day-light.

BUT why after all must it be a malicious Pamphlet ? Does Don *John* measure every thing by his own Standard, and therefore imagines that Truth can't be told, nor Roguery detected, without Malice is the incentive ? That it contains Truths unanswerable, is certain ; and I believe Don *John's* Masters are of the same opinion ; or else, why have they not answer'd it ? They were fairly invited to it ; and I can assign no other Reason for their Taciturnity, than the trite Axiom of *least said, soonest amended* : However, as they have not hitherto vouchsafed to take notice of it, and, as the Part that more particularly affects them, cannot well be further touch'd on without laying open the Trade in such a manner as to give our common Enemies too great an insight into it, and not only create new Matter for Strife and Chicanry on their Parts, but may put them upon Methods of obstructing it for the

[11]

the future ; I shall suspend any further Animadversions thereon for the present, and confine myself to the Conduct of Don *John*, who being wiser than his Superiors (in his own deprav'd Imagination only) enters the Lists, and declares himself a Combatant against a *scandalous* and *false Paragraph* in this malicious Pamphlet. Tho', by the way, this is very indeterminate which he means ; for I doubt there are more Paragraphs than one he would be very glad to make the World believe were false, as firmly as they already think them scandalous on his part. However, as he does not pretend to oppose more than one Paragraph, of consequence he tacitly confesses all the rest to be true ; for which I ought to thank him as well for myself as in behalf of my Readers, because it may save both them and me some Trouble ; tho' he must pardon me that I can't help taking notice of an unlucky impertinent Query that comes into my Head at this Instant : Whether a Villain at the Bar, that has half a dozen Indictments against him, and happens, for want of sufficient Evidence, to get clear of one, and is found guilty of all the rest, the World would think him ever the honestest Man ? Tho' I must own this is not altogether parallel to Don *John's* Case, because he acquits himself of ne'er a one.

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[12]

AND now let the Affidavits speak for themselves. First then comes the Deposition of WILLIAM COWLEY.

Jamaica ff. WILLIAM COWLEY, of the Parish of *Kingston*, in the said Island, *Merchant*, maketh Oath, That he, this Deponent, was at the *Havanna* when the President, or late Governor, Don *Juan Francisco Guernes*, and *Horcasitas*, arriv'd there, which was some time in the Month of *March*, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-four; and this Deponent saith, That some Months after (but the exact Time he cannot recollect) the Governor sent up to *Porto Prince* a Lieutenant-Colonel and some Troops; soon after which, several of the principal Inhabitants and Traders there were sent Prisoners to the *Havanna*; and this Deponent saith, That he was particularly intimate with, and a near Neighbour to some of the nearest Relations and Friends of several of the said Prisoners, with whom this Deponent had frequent Discourses concerning that Affair; and further saith, That he, this Deponent, had a very strict Friendship with an Officer of the Troops, who had the Charge of conducting some of the said Prisoners from *Porto Prince* to the *Havanna*, who resided there long after; from whom this

[13]

this Deponent frequently had very particular Relations, as well of all those Transactions, as of the said Prisoners Behaviour, and their several Discourses whilst under his Charge; and of their several Suggestions and Apprehensions of the Reasons or Means of their being apprehended and imprison'd: From all which several Discourses, this Deponent never heard it in the least intimated, that their Seizure and Imprisonment so much as suspected to have been occasioned by any Informations or Hints from the *English*; but on the contrary, that they did indeed suspect it to be in a great measure occasioned by some of their own People (among whom there had been, and then was, most violent Feuds and Desentions). And this Deponent further saith, That he entirely well remembers, that after the above-mentioned Affair, and during this Deponent's Stay at the *Havanna*, which was 'till the Month of *August*, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-seven, in divers Discourses and Conversations with some of the most intimate Friends of the former Governor of the *Havanna*, this Deponent hath very often heard them say, that the said Governor had been many Years representing to the Court of *Spain* the Necessity there was of sending Troops to *Porto Prince*, and chastising several of its Inhabitants, as the only Means possible

[14]

‘ possible to suppress or restrain the illicit
 ‘ Trade carried on there; at the same time
 ‘ regretting, or in a manner lamenting, that
 ‘ another Governor should reap the Credit and
 ‘ Applause of the Execution of that which the
 ‘ former Governor had projected, and long been
 ‘ soliciting for Orders or Permission to execute: And further this Deponent saith not.’

WILLIAM COWLEY.

Sworn to before me this
 19th Day of May, 1740.
 SAMUEL DICKER.

Next comes the Deposition of Doctor
 ALEXANDER WRIGHT.

Jamaica ff. ‘ ALEXANDER WRIGHT, of
 ‘ the Parish of Kingston, in
 ‘ the said Island of Jamaica, and of the University of Edinburgh, Doctor of Physick,
 ‘ maketh Oath, That he this Deponent was
 ‘ at the Havanna when the present, or late
 ‘ Governor, Don Juan Francisco Guerres
 ‘ Y Horcacistas arrived from Spain, in the
 ‘ Month of March, in the Year of our Lord
 ‘ One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-
 ‘ four, having brought Orders from his Catholic Majesty (which were the Consequence
 ‘ of repeated Representations from his Predecessors) to annex to the Jurisdiction of the
 ‘ Havanna the Towns of Puerto del Principe,
 ‘ Santo Espiritu, and Trinidad; which Towns
 ‘ formerly

[15]

‘ formerly appertain’d to the Government of
 ‘ Santo Jago De Cuba; and this Deponent
 ‘ saith, The Reason that was then publickly
 ‘ assigned for the dismembring these Towns
 ‘ from the Government of Santo Jago de
 ‘ Cuba, was in order to suppress the illicit
 ‘ Trade that was carried on by the Inhabitants
 ‘ of the said Towns; which never was in the
 ‘ Power of the Governors of Santo Jago to
 ‘ effectuate, the Garrison of that City being
 ‘ limited to a small Number of Soldiers; and
 ‘ this Deponent saith, In consequence of these
 ‘ new Dispositions from Spain, Don Juan de
 ‘ Chevaria, a Lieutenant-Colonel, was sent a
 ‘ few Months afterwards to Puerto del Principe,
 ‘ with Orders from the Governor of the
 ‘ Havanna, to use all possible means to suppress the illicit Trade of that Place; and for
 ‘ the better executing the said Orders, there
 ‘ were two Hundred Foot Soldiers, and a
 ‘ Troop of Dragoons, sent under his Command; and this Deponent saith, That, soon
 ‘ after, Eleven of the principal Inhabitants and
 ‘ Traders of that Town were brought Prisoners to the Havanna, and kept in strict Custody
 ‘ until there was an Opportunity of Ships going for Spain; when about Seven of the
 ‘ Principals of them were sent off; some of
 ‘ which, as this Deponent afterwards heard,
 ‘ were sent to Oran, and others to Cutæ:
 ‘ That, during the Time the said Prisoners
 were

[16]

‘ were kept in the *Havanna*, and until this
 ‘ Deponent’s leaving that City, which was in
 ‘ the Month of *September*, in the Year of our
 ‘ Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and
 ‘ Thirty-seven, this Deponent never heard it
 ‘ so much as once surmised, that the Impri-
 ‘ sonment of the said Inhabitants of *Puerto*
 ‘ *del Principe* was in the least owing to any
 ‘ Information given by any *British* Subject;
 ‘ and saith, What inclines him, this Deponent,
 ‘ verily to believe that all Insinuations of that
 ‘ kind are entirely groundless, is, because he,
 ‘ this Deponent, was intimately acquainted
 ‘ with a Gentleman of *Puerto del Principe*,
 ‘ who acted at the *Havanna* for those Prison-
 ‘ ers to solicit their Discharge, who informed
 ‘ this Deponent, That the Severities exercised
 ‘ upon the Inhabitants of *Puerto del Principe*,
 ‘ it was his Opinion, were entirely owing to
 ‘ the Divisions and Animosities which of late
 ‘ Years had arose amongst them; dividing the
 ‘ principal Inhabitants of that Town in two
 ‘ Parties, each of which had informed against
 ‘ one another, in relation to their having, in
 ‘ the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and
 ‘ Twenty-nine, or thereabouts, rose in Arms
 ‘ against their then Governor of *Santo Jago de*
 ‘ *Cuba*, named Don *Juan de Loia*, and in the
 ‘ Night-time surrounded the Houses in which
 ‘ the said Governor and one Hundred Soldiers
 ‘ were lodg’d, making him and them Prisoners
 ‘ (who

[17]

‘ (who had come with the said Soldiers to sup-
 ‘ press the Private Trade carried on at that Pla-
 ‘ ces). And, lastly, This Deponent most assured-
 ‘ ly believes, that those are the Reasons of the
 ‘ said Inhabitants of *Puerto del Principe* hav-
 ‘ ing been apprehended and imprison’d, as
 ‘ aforesaid: And further saith not.

ALEXANDER WRIGHT.

Sworn to before me this
 19th Day of May, 1740.

SAMUEL DICKER.

I MUST here make some few Observations
 on these cook’d-up Performances, and then
 leave it to the Reader to judge of what Service
 they are to the Matter in question. I shall not
 take the Advantage I might, of some Particu-
 lars in the latter of these Affidavits, wherein
 the Deponent’s Zeal for the Cause, has carried
 him a little beyond the Bounds of Probability:
 Such as his taking upon himself to swear,
 That the new Governor had brought Orders
 with him from his Catholick Majesty, which
 were the Consequence of repeated Represen-
 tations from his Predecessor, to such and such
 an Effect: Whereas it is not likely that he
 should ever have seen either the Orders or Re-
 presentations. And again, this Deponent saith,
 in Consequence of these new Dispositions from
Spain, Don *Juan de Chevaria*, a Lieutenant-
 Colonel

[18]

Colonel; was sent a few Months afterwards to *Puerto del Principe* with Orders so and so. But sure no body will believe that the Governor either shewed or communicated the Contents of his Orders to this Deponent; and therefore what he so roundly asserts can be no more than bare Report, and that perhaps he had from several Hands distant: However, as the Supposition is natural enough, we will, with the Reader's Leave, allow it to be as he was inform'd and imagin'd. The Substance then of what both these Deponents affirm, is no more than this: That having lived at the *Havanna* for three Years and above, they knew but very little, and that by *Hear-say* only, of what passed two Hundred Leagues off at *Puerto del Principe*. A very notable Discovery truly! As if it admitted of any difficulty to find two Persons in *London*, and that too of undoubted Reputation and Credit, the one a Merchant, and the other a Physician, who are both entirely Strangers to what is said and transacted amongst the Smugglers and Owlers on the Coast of *Ireland* or the *Orkneys*. Well! But they say further, That they were very intimate with, and a near Neighbour to some of the nearest Relations and Friends of several of the said Prisoners, and frequently had very particular Relations of all those Transactions. Of what Transactions? Why, it is or could be nothing more than, That such People were seized

[19]

seized and sent Prisoners to the *Havanna*, and from thence to *Old Spain*, and afterwards banish'd to *Centa* in *Barbary* on account of illicit Trade, which the Governor, by virtue of the Orders he had brought with him from the King of *Spain*, was determin'd to restrain and suppress by all Means possible. And pray, who doubts a Tittle of all this, or did not know it before? Not one Person, I dare say, that has read the *Considerations on the American Trade*. But can these Deponents take upon them to say, that those unfortunate Gentlemen, or even the Governor himself, at that time knew who were their Accusers, or who it was that had given Information of such and such particular Persons amongst them? and much less any inferior Officer who had the conducting of them. 'Tis plain by these Depositions themselves, that by the several Suggestions and Apprehensions of the Reasons or Means of their being seized, those unfortunate Persons were ignorant of who had done 'em that ill Office. Nor is it at all to be wonder'd at, that amongst the variety of Reasons, their surpriz'd and bewilder'd Imaginations presented to them, it might never enter into their Heads that they were betray'd by the very Person who ought to have been their Friend, and whose particular as well as national Interest seem'd to bind him in the strongest manner to have been their Protector, and not their E-

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[20]

nemy: An Action so unnatural, and contrary to the Laws of Faith, Hospitality, and the Honour of the *British* Nation, that 'till they were confronted in *Old Spain* by their own private Discourse, that had pass'd on board the Ship when they were trading with Don *John*, it is not probable they should hit on the immediate Instrument of their Misfortunes. Then how should the nearest Relation or Friend of theirs be able to make any conjecture near the Mark? Every body that knows any thing of the *Spanish* Government, cannot be to learn, that the usual Method of dealing with such as have the Misfortune to fall under the King's Displeasure, is to seize 'em without any Warning, keep 'em close confin'd for many Months, sometimes Years, before they are acquainted with the Particulars or the Proofs of the Crimes laid to their charge; and even then it is but seldom they can guess, unless by Circumstances, to whom they are indebted for their Sufferings. And this Caution and Secrecy is in reality more necessary amongst those People than in almost any other Nation whatsoever; otherwise it would be impossible for them to get Informations of any kind; for as a Man who has once publicly deserved the Character of an Informer amongst them, is look'd upon by the generality of the People as one abandon'd to all sense of Honour and Honesty, and as great a Pest to civil, as an excommunicated Person is

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[21]

to religious, Society; such a one would have but an ill time of it, as well as a short one, amongst 'em, should his Services be repeated, and not kept inviolably secret.

BUT what if we should still go a little further, and, for the sake of the Argument which Don *John* may imagine would be in his favour, suppose what is not very likely? That is to say, that these unfortunate Traders and their Friends had by some means or other found out the secret Spring of their Imprisonment and Troubles, before the Formers were sent from the *Havanna* to *Old Spain*; and were fully convinced their *English* Friend was at the bottom of it? Why then, say these Deponents, we should certainly have heard something of that kind, because of our strict Friendship and Intimacy with several of them. But soft and fair. I can assure my Readers by Experience, the *Spaniards* are no such easy Instruments to be play'd on, nor Blabs of their Tongue, especially where their own or their Friends Lives and Fortunes lie at stake, according to a common Proverb amongst 'em, *No diga la lengua, por do pague la Cabeza*. They might, and it's most probable they would, in such a Case, continue a shew of Freindship and Intimacy, to prevent Suspicion; But it's hardly to be imagin'd they would confide a Secret, that might be a Prejudice to their Friends, to two Persons (however distinguishable for their Honour and Probity) who

who were not only Fellow-Subjects, but actually in the same Service and Interest with the Party who they had reason to think had already betray'd them. I declare, I say not this to diminish in the least from the Characters of these two Gentlemen, who are both Strangers to me: Nor would I be thought to insinuate that the Company's Service is so very infectious, that it's altogether impossible to be entertain'd long in it without becoming a Don *John*; nevertheless (supposing I should believe without difficulty that they have deposed the Truth according to the best of their Knowledge) the Objection is natural, and must have its weight.

We have seen then of what force these two Affidavits are, towards clearing our Champion from the Suspicion charg'd on him in the said Pamphlet; which is specifically no more, than to leave him just in the same dirty Spot they found Him. Let us now try his last piece of Armour, and see how long that will defend him from the Strength of his Adversary: And tho' it is the only one of the three that has really any thing in it's Composition, that seems to be able to do him service, I am afraid his Security will be but of a very short Duration.

The Deposition of DALLEY POPE.

Jamaica ss. **D**ALLEY POPE, of *Kingston*
in the Island aforesaid,
Gent. maketh Oath, That he, this Deponent,
having

having seen a Pamphlet lately sent from *England* to this Island, Intitl'd *Observations on the American Trade*, in Pag. No. 27 of the said Pamphlet, the following Words are inserted, viz. The First is, "That Captain *Lee*, who was Commander of the Ship, observed that *M——r* committed to Writing what Information he had collected from the Trading *Spaniards* that came aboard, and afterwards wrote a Letter from those Minutes he had taken of two Sheets of Post Paper, which Captain *Lee* declared was address'd to *G—no*." And this Deponent saith, That he this Deponent did apply to the said Captain *Lee*, and enquired of him, if ever he declared in the manner in the said Pamphlet expressed? To which, the said Captain *Lee* replied to this Deponent, He never had; and at the same time declared he had inform'd several Persons so, who had also asked him the same Question: And further added, That he was ready to make an Affidavit to that effect: And this Deponent saith, he drew an Affidavit for that purpose; but afterwards the said Captain *Lee* refused to swear, giving no other Reason to this Deponent, but that he did not care to swear. And this Deponent further saith, That he shewed to the said Captain *Lee* Mr. *M——r*'s Original Copy-Book of Letters while upon the Coast, and offered him the
Perusal

‘ Perusal of them for his further Satisfaction.
 ‘ And further saith not.

DALLEY POPE.

Sworn to before me this

23d Day of May, 1746.

JAMES WOODCOCK.

As to Captain *Lee*, who makes the principal Figure in this Affidavit; I have so much respect to his Character and Probity, that whatever he asserts, I shall as readily rely on, as if he had made twenty Affidavits to corroborate it: And therefore, if he can recollect himself so far as to be certain, that he never declared himself in the manner expressed in the said Pamphlet, *nor to that effect*, it is sufficient for me to give it up, and acknowledge my self mistaken in that particular; which, whether owing to Misapprehension or Inadvertency, I can’t determine; but assuredly not to Design: However, with the Reader’s Patience, we will see how far this Concession will be of Service to Don *John*.

It must be observed then, That the whole force of the foregoing Affidavit turns only upon one single Circumstance; *viz.* Whether or not Captain *Lee* declared that the Letter which was wrote on board the Ship by *M——r* was addressed to *G——no*. Captain *Lee* says he did not declare so. Very well. But that there was

was a Letter wrote in the Manner mentioned in the Pamphlet, is certain; that the same Letter, as I have been since inform’d, was enclosed or made into a Pacquet, and that Pacquet directed to Sir *R——d H——k——s* then *S——b G——r* of the *S—S—* Company, is as certain; both which, Captain *Lee* as well as others I may have occasion to mention hereafter, can, and I doubt not will, testify, if requisite. That Don *John* had a private Correspondence with *G——no*, he himself does not pretend to deny; or if he had the hardiness to do it, he can be confronted by living Witnesses, who have heard him acknowledge it; and therefore, ’till he can get rid of these untoward Circumstances, the single one, of Captain *Lee*’s Declaration, will make very little, or, indeed, nothing to his purpose. As to the Offer made of shewing Captain *Lee M——r*’s original Copy-Book of Letters while upon the Coast, it may be very justly deem’d a Work of Supererrogation, and indeed a meer Joke. For tho’ Don *John* has never, that I have heard of, shin’d in the Character of a Conjuror, he cannot but have natural Instinct sufficient to keep such dangerous things out of the way, as might hereafter put him a little—— I was going to say out of countenance; but, I beg pardon, for as that would have been something out of character, I shall rather choose to say, they might have burnt his fingers.

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THUS,

THUS, I have gone through his whole Defence (such a one as it is) to all the Charges prefer'd against him in that dreadful Pamphlet; and, it would really be but unreasonable in me or the Publick to expect a better than the Cause will bear, or than he is capable of producing. The poor Man has done his best, and got to his *Ne plus ultra*: But notwithstanding, as he has so good a Talent at unriddling Mysteries, I don't care if I cut him out a little more Work before I part with him. The only Danger is, that by his aukward manner of vindicating himself, his Masters may happen to have no great occasion to thank him for his past Service; for, when he is put a little upon his Mettal, he is not very retentive; and it's the general opinion, that if he continues much longer where he is, he may be brought to make such Discoveries, as they will not be oblig'd to him for; whatever useful light they may give the Publick for the present, or whatever Detriment they may be of to the Trade in future.

THEN what if, after all, we should assign another Reason to confirm our suspicion (and that not an improbable one) which might induce Don *John* to act with more alacrity in the Service of his *Spanish* Master, and to throw all Considerations behind his back, even Avarice itself, the most predominant of all the Passions he has hitherto discover'd; and that is Revenge, than which, with many People of

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adust complexions, Life it self is not sweeter.

And here I expect the Reader will be at a loss to imagine what Provocation Don *John* can have received from these unfortunate Traders, to inspire him with such an antichristian Spirit. Therefore, not to keep him longer in suspense, I shall present him with the following Letter from one of the principal Traders at *Puerto del Principe*, faithfully, and as near as possible, literally translated out of the *Spanish* Language; which will let him into no small part of Don *John's* Character, as a Merchant, at the same time that it shews my Surmise not to be without grounds. The Stile of it is plain, honest and simple, and carries such an Air of Truth and Sincerity throughout the whole, that it can hardly fail of procuring the Assent of the Reader as he proceeds.

Captain JAMES PARRIS,

Sir, and my Friend,

I Received your Favours by Don *John*, who you recommend, and in discharge of my Duty, made him a tender of my Service to assist him in what I might be capable, for his obtaining a good Dispatch; and as we all thought we were trading with a Man equally sincere with the others with whom we have been accustomed to trade, where our Word without any other Circumstance was sufficient

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to

to comply with our Engagements, in few hours we began to find out his strange Manner of trading; and we are persuaded this Gentleman imagin'd (or to express myself clearer) had form'd an Idea that we were Negroes, and has wanted to treat us as such. And that you may be satisfied of this truth, we shall relate to you what hath pass'd between us, tho' it be troublesome to you, the Narration being long; which is as followeth.

DON *John* arriv'd at this Port of *Santa Maria*, where some of us had attended upwards of thirty Days, waiting only for his Ship, in regard to the Letters we had received from our Friends Captain *Benjamin Lee* and Mr. *Henriques*, acquainting us the said Ship came under their direction: Their Friendship being sincere, and we ever willing to oblige them for their good Behaviour and just and fair way of Trade, engaging us to serve them; the Chiefs of us kept our Monies, and would not employ it in fine choice Negroes, which we might have had at 100 *India* Dollars each from the Captain of —, or from *Mendes*, who also offer'd them to Don *Jacinto Manuel* at 95 *India* Dollars each: And tho' this Gentleman was satisfied of the truth of this, he insisted we should pay him for his Negroes at 120 Dollars in Money, and 135 Dollars in the Produce of the Country; and at last we con-

cluded

cluded and agreed to pay in Money 100 Dollars for each, and 117 Dollars, 4 Ryals Plate in Produce; and we came into this agreement in regard to Captain *Lee* and *Henriques*; for had not these Gentlemen came in company with Don *John*, 'tis most certain he would not have loaded his Vessel at this Port, but would have return'd back as he came: For I am not able to express to you the Changes and Novelties he is constantly forming; for after we had agreed on our Trade in the manner abovementioned, and part of our Hides being on board; and we having the major part of his Cargoe on shore, he retracted (after having received our Monies) saying, That he would not let us have the Negroes for 100 Dollars; but that we must pay him for those we had received 117 Dollars, 4 Ryals Plate. Upon this Injustice we had more Disputes than I can relate to you, without being able to convince him, or make him sensible of his Error, 'till after a great deal of wrangling, he was reduc'd to Reason: And as we were acquainted with his unsteadiness, we again came to an agreement in writing, agreeable to the former one, and which was signed by both Parties, *viz.* Negroes for Money 100 Dollars, Young Lads 75 Dollars, Boys 65 Dollars, Hides at 2 Dollars, Tobacco at 6 Dollars the Quintal. Negroes for Hides 117½ Dollars, young Lads 81 Dol-

lars,

[30]

' lars, 6 Rials Plate, Boys 71 Dollars, 1 Ryal
 ' Plate each. Three Days after this he fell
 ' off from the Tobacco; and in order to have
 ' no further Disputes, we acquiesced, and let
 ' him have it at 5 Dollars; and though he had
 ' given it under his Hand that we should have
 ' his Goods at the current and customary Price
 ' in exchange for the Goods he was to load his
 ' Ship with, after we had carried his Goods
 ' ashore, when we came to settle Accounts,
 ' he pretended that the Negroes we had bought
 ' for Money, we should take on Account of
 ' Produce at the rate of 117½ Dollars, and
 ' that all the Money we had paid on Account
 ' of the said Negroes, should be placed to the
 ' Account of dry Goods we had bought, regard-
 ' less of the great Prejudice that would attend
 ' us by it: For we never obliged ourselves to
 ' give him his Loading for Negroes, especially
 ' in Negroes of an inferior quality and sick,
 ' as those that remained were, else he ought
 ' to have explained himself so at the Time of
 ' making the Contract; for then we would
 ' not have sold him our Hides, not being wil-
 ' ling to receive for them what was of no
 ' service to us; and, lastly, he attempted to
 ' violate the Contract, by insisting on paying
 ' but 14 Ryals *per* Hide: This was done when
 ' we came to settle the Accounts, notwith-
 ' standing he had signed the aforesaid Contract;
 ' and this Proposition he made to me and the
 ' chief

[31]

' chief Traders, which occasioned my sending
 ' the same Day for the Captain of the Ship,
 ' the Mate, and the Packer, who were Wit-
 ' nesses to the Disputes we formerly had on this
 ' Affair: And this being an Act of such down-
 ' right Violence, I ask'd him by his Interpreter
 ' (who is a notable Tool) to let me know if
 ' he was a Pirate or Friend? for by his many
 ' Shiftings in his Trade, he seemed no Friend:
 ' Upon which he was somewhat quieter.
 ' Now his Ship not being yet fully loaded,
 ' he has committed the Foolery of publishing
 ' he wants no more Hides or Tobacco. This
 ' Declaration, and his Manner of acting with us,
 ' has frightened many poor People, who have
 ' return'd back to the Town with their To-
 ' bacco and Hides, who say they will not let
 ' him have them; for if he has acted with us in
 ' such a Manner, they can expect no other
 ' than that he should rob their Poverty. In
 ' short, my Friend, such a Man I have not
 ' known in all my Life; and I deem him a
 ' Fool for pretending to cheat Men like me;
 ' for I entered into this Trade before my Beard
 ' began to grow, and now it is grey. 'Tis
 ' about eight Days since he told me he wanted
 ' no more Tobacco; and though I knew bet-
 ' ter than he the Quantity he yet wanted, I
 ' would not press his taking it: And that he
 ' might afterwards be sensible of the want of
 ' it, I made it be loaded in a Canoe, and re-
 ' turned,

[32]

turned it back; for which Reason I am satisfied this Gentleman does great Prejudice to the Owners of the Ship; for I fear, that upon this Account the Ship will not get her full Loading in this Port, having displeased us all with the Breaches of his Word; and 'tis certain, that if Captain *Lee* and *Henriques* had not come, we had left off trading, and made him quit this Port, being all apprehensive of a severe Fit of Sickneſs, occaſioned by the Vexation given us with his Behaviour. Now not being able to compleat his Loading here, he has reſolved to leave this Port, and go to *Bayamo*, not conſidering the great Prejudice and encreaſe of Charge that will attend his Reſolution. Sure none but the Devil could form ſuch Deſigns: for though he may alledge he does it to ſell the Remainder of his Negroes, he ought to conſider they are very ordinary, and that the Charges and Expence that will attend it by this Project of his, will amount to more than the Value of the Negroes: Whereas if he would have put them at a reaſonable and regular Price, there would not have been wanting ſome Merchant in this Port who would purchaſe them; and this we told him.

Hides	
Bull	72
Cow	90
Heifers	51

Laſt Night I went to ballance my Account, and find they have wronged me of the Articles ſet in the Margin. The Confidence which

[33]

which we uſually reſoſe in our Friends, has occaſioned my Loſs; for not thinking that any thing of a Gentleman or Chriſtian would cheat his fellow Creature, I neglected keeping the Receipts of the Hides as I delivered them; and when I was ſettling the Account, I found the Miſtake of the above-mentioned Parcel againſt me, and cannot convince this Gentleman, that he may pay me. The only Satisfaction he gives me is, that his Mates have not ſet it down. You, *Sir*, and all the Iſland of *Jamaica* well know my juſt Manner of Trade; and that I would not loſe my Credit for all the Intereſt in the World. This premixed, I deſire the Favour of your acquainting Mr. *Hayman*, Owner of the Ship, of my Behaviour, and alſo of the aforeſaid Parcels, that he may give Orders for paying me the Amount of the ſaid Parcels; aſſuring you that Don *John* by his ridiculous Behaviour occaſioned the Miſtake, it being the firſt Canoe Load that was meaſured to go on board, he himſelf going aſhore for that Purpoſe; and by his Directions the ſaid Canoe went on board; and with her he went; and at the ſame time the Mates remain'd meaſuring of three other Canoe-loads of mine, which went on board the ſame Day, and theſe brought their Receipts, as appeared; but that which went with us brought none, but only the *Memorandum* that Gentle-

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[34]

' man made, which appears not now, nei-
 ' ther will he pass it, by that I made of said Parcel;
 ' so that I remain without them, and on you de-
 ' pend my Hopes for receiving their Value: For
 ' I believe on your acquainting Mr. *Hayman*
 ' of my Behaviour, he will make no hesita-
 ' tion in ordering me Payment; and I desire
 ' he will send us no more such Gentlemen
 ' to this Coast, for it will certainly ruin
 ' the Trade: For this Gentleman has dealt
 ' with us as a Pirate, and not a Friend; for
 ' every Instant he would do forcible Acts; and
 ' I can assure you, that by his Chicanry he
 ' has damaged the Cargoe at least Five or Six *per*
 ' *Cent.* and had it not been in regard to Cap-
 ' tain *Lee* and *Henriques*, you may believe
 ' that we had left off dealing at first, and left
 ' him to himself, which would have been a still
 ' greater Loss to the Owners, all occasioned
 ' by the irregular Method of this Gentleman;
 ' for no White Man ought to trade with him.
 ' In short, my Friend, to relate to you all
 ' we have endured with this Gentleman in
 ' Writing, would require all the Paper that this
 ' Island and that of *Jamaica* affords; and I
 ' know not if it would be sufficient; and there-
 ' fore not to trouble you further, I desire you'll
 ' enquire of Captain *Lee* and all his Officers,
 ' who can give you Information, for he even
 ' wanted to cheat him. On his asking him
 ' before me for a Note, whereby he should ob-
 ' lige

[35]

' lige himself to pay the Charges of his Sloop
 ' during the Time she assisted to the loading
 ' his Ship; he would not agree to it at first;
 ' and after his consenting to do it, delay'd
 ' signing the Note for many Days, 'till one Day
 ' Captain *Lee* insisted strenuously on his doing
 ' it before me, and then he was obliged to give
 ' him said Note; but to this Time he has not
 ' given Captain *Lee* the Money for Goods he
 ' deliver'd us by his Order and Consent, in
 ' part of Payment for our Hides; not con-
 ' sidering, that without those Goods he could
 ' not have loaded his Ship; for we should not
 ' have given him our Hides unless we had some
 ' Goods for them
 ' He enquir'd of me last Night, if in case
 ' he came with Money to purchase Hides, he
 ' might get them for 12 Ryals Plate? I told
 ' him no; that he might be assured, if he only
 ' brought Money, the Chiefs of us would not
 ' let him have our Hides for less than 20 Ry-
 ' als Plate; the Reason of our selling them at
 ' 2 Dollars now, being occasion'd by the Ad-
 ' vantage we expect by the Goods we take for
 ' them; for one Ryal in Specie is but a Ryal;
 ' and if that is not employ'd, gives no Advan-
 ' tage; and I told him, as 'tis certain that
 ' great Charges attend our Hides, and if any
 ' sell them for less, 'tis only some poor Body
 ' who wants Bread, but not Persons to whom
 ' E 2. ' God

[36]

God has been pleas'd to grant Bread, as he has to me.

I EXPRESS'D myself in this manner to the Gentleman, purposely that he might be sensible we ought to be treated in a different Manner. Pardon this Mortification. I am also inform'd, he design'd to carry me and Don — Prisoners to *Jamaica*, on pretext that we were the occasion of his not getting his Loading here, which is false; for we have all along advis'd him to finish loading her in this Port, which he refuses, and he only feign'd this Pretext as an Excuse to the Owners of the Ship. To conclude; My Friend, God deliver us from such a Man, and keep you many Years! *Santa Maria*, 24 Nov. 1732.

Your assured Friend and Servant.

I THINK there needs no Comment on the foregoing Letter; the Subject is plain and open, and speaks for itself: Therefore I shall only observe, for the setting the Transaction in a clearer Light, That the Ship *Don John* went in on this trading Voyage to the Coast, was called the Dutchess of *Portland*, and commanded by Captain . . . *Bird*; who has declared to several Gentlemen of undoubted Reputation here in *England*, that he can depose to the Truth of all the Facts mentioned in the

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[37]

Considerations on the American Trade, relating to *Don John*, and a great deal more; and that he was ready to make an Affidavit to that Effect whenever it should be requisite; from which I dare say he is a Man of too much Honour to recede. And Captain *Benjamin Lee*, being a Person well acquainted with the Coast, and with the principal Traders, accompanied them in another Vessel for their Assistance and Protection. The only Questions that will arise from it, or at least that I shall put at present, are, Whether the Instructions he had been furnish'd with from G——no, his Friend and Correspondent, might not induce *Don John* to treat those People in the insulting and shuffling manner expressed in the Letter? And whether their just Resentment of such Treatment, together with their exposing him for it to their Friends in *Jamaica*, might not be a Spur to his Activity; since it thereby furnished him with so effectual, tho' diabolical, a manner of being revenged on them, for not being so complaisant as to be ill used by him?

I SHALL now give him a little Breath, and leave him to digest what's here prepared for him: The Fare is coarse, but wholesome. Nor do I leave him to this Diet for want of greater Variety to grace the Banquet; for I can assure him, I have many Delicacies yet behind, and my Provision, like a Snow-ball, gathers as it goes; but I don't care to cloy him at once, for that

[38]

that might occasion a Plethora, which would in all likelihood terminate in a Suffocation. I therefore shall keep a Reserve against he next obliges the Publick with a fresh Sett of Affidavits, as pertinently introduced as those he has already exhibited; and only now, by way of Grace-Cup, conclude with the Form of the Oath mentioned as the fourth Article charged on him in the *Considerations* on the American *Trade*, which take as follows:

‘ I A.—B.—Master of called
 ‘ the arrived from
 ‘ maketh Oath on the Holy Evangelists, That
 ‘ no Money was brought by me, or by my
 ‘ Knowledge, in my said Vessel, consigned to
 ‘ any Person or Persons whatsoever, except
 ‘ what was delivered J—n M—w—r,
 ‘ and E—d M—n—g, Esqrs. So
 ‘ help me God.’
 Sworn before me this A. B.

P O S T-

P O S T S C R I P T.

SINCE the foregoing Sheets were prepared for the Press, I have been unexpectedly furnished, by the Arrival of his Majesty's Ship the *Greenwich*, with the *Jamaica* Courant of the 25th of *June*, 1740, wherein are inserted the two following Affidavits, together with some Remarks of Captain *Lee*'s on Don *John*'s Conduct; which coming to Hand so opportunely, I was willing to oblige the Publick with them, especially as they so strongly corroborate my former Suggestions; and, indeed, are sufficient of themselves to prove the Charge. And if after this Don *John* can be thought a proper Person to fill any Post except that of a common Executioner, those that employ him must be content to share in the Infamy and Reproach that will inevitably attend such a complicated Scene of Treachery and Villany as he has been the base Instrument of.

Jamaica

Jamaica ff. ' **B**ENJAMIN LEE, of the Pa-
 ' rish of *Kingston*, in the
 ' Island aforesaid, *Gentleman*, maketh Oath;
 ' That having carefully perused a Pamphlet,
 ' intituled, *Considerations on the American*
 ' *Trade*; he, this Deponent, saith, That the
 ' several Facts therein related, concerning the
 ' Transactions of the C—s A—s, and
 ' in particular of *J. M—r*, on the Coast
 ' of *Cuba*, are true, to the best of this Depo-
 ' nent's Knowledge, Remembrance, and Belief,
 ' with this Difference only, That this Depo-
 ' nent, tho' on Board, was not (as is asserted
 ' in Page 27) Commander of the Ship; and
 ' that the Letter in the said Page mention'd was
 ' not directed to G—o, but was directed to
 ' S—r R—d H—pk—s; which, how-
 ' ever, this Deponent look'd upon, and verily
 ' believes, was *tant amount*, and had such an
 ' Effect as to draw upon the unfortunate *Spa-*
 ' *niards* those Calamities which they after-
 ' wards suffered; *viz.* Their being apprehend-
 ' ed and sent into *Old Spain*, their Effects sei-
 ' zed and confiscated, and they themselves ba-
 ' nish'd to *Ceuta* in *Barbary*. The Truth of
 ' which hath since often been confirmed to
 ' this Deponent by several of the principal
 ' Merchants of the Town of *Puerto del Prin-*
 ' *cipe*; who all of them in general at that
 ' Place attribute those Sufferings to the trea-
 ' cherous

' cherous Behaviour of the said *J— M—r*,
 ' as in the said Pamphlet is express'd.

BENJ. LEE.

Sworn the 10th Day of
 June, 1740, before me,
 SAMUEL SPENCER.

Jamaica ff. ' **C**HRISTOPHER EBZERY,
 ' of the Parish of *Kingston*,
 ' in the Island aforesaid, Mariner, being duly
 ' sworn, maketh Oath, and saith, That he
 ' hath made several trading Voyages to the
 ' *South Cays*, on the Coast of *Cuba*, since
 ' the latter End of the Year One Thousand
 ' Seven Hundred and Thirty-two, and hath
 ' had frequent Discourses with several of the
 ' principal Merchants of the Town of *Puerto*
 ' *del Principe*, who always inform'd this De-
 ' ponent, that these unfortunate *Spaniards*,
 ' who were sent Prisoners from thence to *Old*
 ' *Spain*, and afterwards banish'd to *Ceuta* in
 ' *Barbary*, was occasion'd through the Infor-
 ' mation sent home by *J— M—r*, and on
 ' no other Account; and further saith not.

CHRISTOPHER EBZERY.

Sworn before me this 23d Day
 of June, 1740.

SAMUEL SPENCER.

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It must be observed, that although the Depositions inserted in the *Courant* of the 28th of *May* last, may be, and without doubt are strictly true, as far as the Knowledge or Judgment of those Deponents could extend; yet upon Examination, it will appear to be but a faint Vindication of the Innocency of Mr. *M—r*, against the heavy Crime in the said Pamphlet laid to his Charge: For it cannot be supposed that any of those unfortunate People, taken at *Puerto del Principe*, and carried Prisoners to the *Havanna*, or any of their Relations or Friends, would confess at such a Time to Mr. *Cowley*, or Doctor *Wright*, who were both of them in the Company's Employ, the Nature and Circumstance of the Offences they were accused of, least such Confession should be afterwards introduced as Evidence against them, and be a Means to convict them of their Guilt, and render them liable to the Punishment, which was by their Laws afterwards inflicted on them. Nor is it reasonable to be believed, whatever Feuds and Dissentions there were among themselves, they would have undertaken to have informed against each other. Seeing the Consequence thereof must have occasioned the infallible Ruin of both Parties: Besides, How comes it about that these very People, who had Dealings with *M—r*, should be the Persons pitch'd on to be made Examples of, and not some others, among the many
In-

Inhabitants on the Island of *Cuba*, concerned in the same illicit Trade.

THE Publisher of the aforesaid Pamphlet, in Page 28, seems to be apprehensive of some such Vindication as has been offered; and 'twere to be wish'd, for Christianity's sake, he (i. e. *J—M—r*) had it in his power to make a better Defence to the Publick, against so horrid, so inhuman, and abominable Proceeding, as he at present is accus'd of.

BENJ. LEE.

F I N I S.



1831
The first of the year was a
very dry one, and the
crops were much injured
by the drought. The
winter was also very
cold, and the snow lay
on the ground for several
weeks. The spring was
very wet, and the crops
were much injured by
the water. The summer
was very hot, and the
crops were much injured
by the drought. The
autumn was very dry,
and the crops were much
injured by the drought.

1832

F I M I S

