

21-18



# MINUTES

OF THE

## EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE A

Committee of the House of Commons,

BEING

A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE,

TO WHOM IT WAS REFERRED

To consider of so much of HIS MAJESTY'S Most  
Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, on the  
25th Day of *January* 1785,

AS RELATES TO THE

Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between  
*Great Britain and Ireland.*

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Printed in the Year M.DCC.LXXXV.

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## MINUTES, &c.

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*Martis, 15<sup>o</sup> die Martii 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

**T**HE Committee being informed, That the Commissioners of the Customs; and also, that the Commissioners of the Excise attended, according to Order;

The Commissioners of the Customs were called in to the Bar—

And they were asked,

Whether they had seen and considered the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament, of the 12th of February 1785?

To which the said Commissioners answered,

That they had only seen them in the News-papers, or casually; but not considered them at all:—That they meant that they had not considered them officially, or deliberated upon them at all.

They were then asked,

Whether, in a general View, they considered the said Propositions as likely to affect the Mode of collecting the Revenue?

And then they were directed to withdraw.

*Resolved,* That the Commissioners of the Customs be again called in, and informed, that the Committee desire they will take  
into

into their Consideration, the following Question, and be ready to deliver their Answer thereto, and their Observations thereupon, as far as their Information will enable them to do so, when they shall be again ordered to attend this Committee.

The Question is this,

Whether they are of Opinion, that the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament, of the 12th of February last, are likely, if carried into Execution, to affect the Execution of the Laws of Customs, for the Protection of Trade, or the Revenue under their Management, and the Mode of collecting the same, and in what Manner; taking into their Consideration the Alteration which will or may be made by the said Resolutions in the Duties, Bounties, Drawbacks, and Prohibitions, which now affect the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom?

Then the Commissioners of the Customs were again called in, and acquainted with the said Resolution.

Whereupon they informed the Committee, That they would use their best Endeavours to obey the Commands of the Committee in the speediest and most effectual Manner; and for that Purpose they desired that the Resolution of the Committee might be sent to them, and that they might be allowed to return their Answer also in Writing;—that by these Means they would be less liable to Misconceptions and Mistakes, and would be enabled to deliberate upon these extensive and important Subjects at their own Office, where alone they had any Materials to direct and determine their Judgment;—that this Method was allowed and approved by the Committee appointed in the last Parliament to enquire into the illicit Practices used in defrauding the Revenue:—And they also desired to be furnished with an authentic Copy of the Irish Resolutions.

Whereupon the Chairman of the Committee informed them, that a Copy of the Resolution now read to them, and also a printed Copy of the Irish Resolutions, should be sent to them.

And then they were directed to withdraw.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of Excise be called in, and informed, that the Committee desire that they will take into their Consideration the following Question, and be ready to deliver their Answer thereto, and their Observations thereupon, as far as their Information will enable them to do so, when they shall be again ordered to attend this Committee.

The

The Question is this,

Whether they are of Opinion, that the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament, of the 12th of February last, are likely, if carried into Execution, to affect the Execution of the Laws of Excise, or the Revenue under their Management, and the Mode of collecting the same, and in what Manner; taking into their Consideration the Alteration which will or may be made by the said Resolutions in the Duties, Bounties, Drawbacks, and Prohibitions, which now affect the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom.

And the said Commissioners of Excise were called in, and acquainted therewith; and they were informed by the Chairman of the Committee, that a Copy of the said Resolution, and a printed Copy of the Irish Resolutions, should be also sent to them.

And then they were directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, and  
ask Leave to sit again.

B

Mercurii,

*Mercurii, 16° die Martii 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee was moved, That that Part of the Examination of Messieurs Walker and Richardson, which is in Page 39 \* of the printed Report of the Lords of the Committee of Council, appointed for the Consideration of all Matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations, upon the Two Questions referred to them by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 14th of January 1785, might be read;

And the same was read accordingly, and is as follows:

“ Q. You have said, That if England and Ireland were put upon equal Terms with respect to Duties and Bounties upon their Cotton Manufactures, they will naturally supply themselves with Cotton Goods for their internal Consumption; —do you mean that the Irish Manufacturer will supply the Irish Market, and the English Manufacturer the English Market?”

“ A. We apprehend the Irish Manufacturer will have the Advantage, and may in Time even supply the English Market.

“ Q. If the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland are made subject to a Duty of Ten and a Half per Cent. on Importation into Great Britain, do you apprehend the Irish Manufacturer will be able to supply the English Market, to the Detriment of the Cotton Trade of this Country?”

“ A. If the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of Ten and a Half per Cent. upon the Importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland into this Country, we apprehend it would be a sufficient Security to our Trade for the Home Consumption.”

\* The Page, in this Instance, and in others where this Report is mentioned, throughout these MINUTES, refers to the Report as printed by Order of the House of Commons.

And

And the Committee being informed, That Counsel attended on the Part of the Petition of the Callicoe Manufacturers and Printers, of the County Palatine of Lancaster, and Counties adjacent.

The Counsel (Mr. Garrow) was called in;

And the said Petition was read; Setting forth, That the Petitioners are exceedingly alarmed at the Resolutions brought before the House relating to the Commercial Regulations betwixt Great Britain and Ireland, which, if carried into Effect, they have no Doubt will, in their Consequences, be greatly injurious to the Commerce and Manufactures of this Country; and that the principal Part of the Expence in the various Articles of the Cotton and Callicoe Manufacture, together with the Printing, consists in the Price of Labour, which is greatly enhanced by the many heavy Taxes with which this Country is burthened; and the People of Ireland being, in a great Measure, free from Taxes, the Price of Labour is consequently very low; and that, to carry on the same Extent of Business in this Country as in Ireland, a much greater Capital will be required, on account of the Difference in the Price of Labour, and the very heavy Duties on the Bleaching and Printing Cotton Goods: From these Considerations the Petitioners have sufficient Reason to fear that this valuable Branch of Manufacture, which at present is computed to employ upwards of Five hundred thousand People, will be immediately very much injured, and the Consumption of this Country will in Time be wholly supplied by the Manufactures of Ireland; and that the Petitioners are apprehensive that no Duties laid on the Importation of Irish Manufactures will be a sufficient Security to the British Manufacturer, as it is well known that high Duties continually operate as an Inducement to smuggle: And therefore praying, That the House will take the same into Consideration, and prevent those Resolutions from passing into a Law; and that they may be heard, by themselves or Counsel, in Support of the Allegations contained in this Petition.

Then the said Counsel informed the Committee, That being called upon on a sudden to attend this Committee upon the present Occasion, and not being therefore fully instructed, he desired to be allowed to call his Witnesses first, and make his Observations on the Evidence after it was given;—which being permitted to be done, he called

Mr.



Mr. ROBERT PEELE.

Of what Business are you?  
A Callicoe Manufacturer and Printer.

What Number of Persons do you employ, distinguishing those employed in the Manufacture from those employed in the Printing?

In the Manufacture I employ Six thousand—in the Printing Eight hundred.

What is the Amount of Excise Duty paid by your House alone upon the Manufacture?

I pay £. 20,000 per Annum.

Whether there are any Duties paid on the Manufacture of Cotton Goods in Ireland?

There are none.

What is the Proportion of the Price of Labour to the Price of the Raw Material used in the Manufacture carried on by you?

In the common Articles of our Manufacture, of which there is the greatest Consumption, a little more than Half the Cost consists in Labour: In high priced Goods 7-8ths of the Cost consists in Labour.

What is the common Price of Labour paid to the Persons employed in your Manufactory?

8s. per Week per Man.

Do you know what is the common Price of Labour paid to the Working People employed in the Linen Manufacture in Ireland?

From the best Information I have been able to get, the Price is from 4s. to 5s. per Week.

As you have stated, that you pay to the Excise Duty to the Amount of £. 20,000 per Annum, is not a considerable Part of your Capital employed in the Advance of those Duties?

About £. 15 per Cent. of the Capital is employed for the Duties.

What is the Increase of Capital required by the English Manufacturer on account of Advance of Duties, and the Difference of Price of Labour in this Country and Ireland?

£. 20 per Cent. on the Goods manufactured.

Whether

Whether a Person who has been employed as a Weaver in the Cotton Manufactory can weave Linen with equal Facility? Equally as well.

Can the Linen Weaver with equal Facility weave Cotton? Yes, he can.

You have stated, that Labour in Ireland is considerably lower than in England, in what Proportion would that Difference affect the Goods when manufactured?

In common Articles the Difference would be £. 20 per Cent.; in fine Goods the Difference would be still greater.

If the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of £. 10 1/2 per Cent. imposed on the Importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland to this Country, do you apprehend that the Irish Manufacture will be able to supply the English Market, to the Detriment of the Cotton Trade of this Country?

I certainly think that the Irish Manufacturer would be able to send his Goods into England £. 12 or £. 13 per Cent. (after paying the £. 10 1/2 per Cent.) cheaper than the English Manufacturer, because of the increased Capital required by the English Manufacturer, as well as the advanced Price of Labour.

If the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament should be adopted by the Legislature of this Country, do you suppose that the Price of Labour in Ireland will increase, so as to remove the Inequality which you have stated to this Committee?

I cannot conceive that the Price of Labour in Ireland can be much increased, whilst the Taxes in that Country are so inconsiderable, unless the Trade to this Country should be so considerable as very much to injure the Manufactures of Great Britain.

If Ireland has hitherto possessed the Advantages you have stated, how has it happened that you have exported considerable Quantities of Printed Goods to that Kingdom?

We are superior to the Irish in Printing; and as they have not had an Opportunity of sending Cotton Goods into this Country, we printed our own Manufactures for that Trade;—but if the Printing should continue in this Country, we shall undoubtedly lose the manufacturing those Goods not only for the Consumption of that Country, but of Great Britain, and the Manufacture employs Nineteen Persons for One to the Printing.

C

If

[ 10 ]

If Irish Printed Goods should be permitted to be imported into this Country, subject to Duties, do you apprehend that the Payment of those Duties will be evaded, and the Goods imported clandestinely?

The heavy Duties paid upon our Manufactures, with the Addition of £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. on the Importation, would offer such an Advantage to the Smuggler, that it is to be feared very great Quantities would come into this Country, without paying any Duty, as it would be very difficult to tell whether a Piece of Irish Manufacture had paid the Duty or not, if the Trade was open.

Can you state to the Committee any other Objection drawn from the Detriment which in your Judgment would follow to the Manufacturers of this Country, as Reasons against the adopting the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament?

If the Irish are allowed to send their Goods to the English Market, they will not only injure us in our Home Trade, but we have great Reason to fear that they will draw so much Ready Money from this Country, as to enable them to give Credit to foreign Countries, and very materially injure that Trade.

Whether the Persons employed in your Manufacture, to the Amount of Six thousand Eight hundred, contribute largely to the Revenue of this Country by the Consumption of Articles charged with Excise Duty?

I should think they must be very serviceable to the Revenue in consuming those Articles which are charged with Excise Duties.

*Examined by Members of the Committee.*

You will inform the Committee whether 8s. is the Price paid to the principal Persons concerned in the Manufactory; and whether there are not others who receive much lower Wages?

I reckon 8s. to be the Average Price of Labour that we pay to Men in our Manufacture.

What is the Price paid to Women employed in the Manufactory?

About 5s. per Week.

What is the Average Price paid to Children employed in the Manufactory?

From 1s. 6d. to 4s. per Week.

In

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In carrying on the Manufacture, on an Average, what is the Number of Women and Children employed, compared with the Number of Men, on an Average?

I never made such an Estimate—it is impossible to tell with any Kind of Accuracy.

Is it One Half, or Two Thirds; can you say in general, though not accurately?

I should suppose the Number of Men not to be One Third.

Can you say in general what is the Number of Children, compared with the Women, employed in the Manufacture.

It is impossible to form any Kind of Judgment, in my Opinion.

Whether you do not pay the Manufacturers every Week; and whether from thence you cannot say what that Proportion is?

We are paying People every Day, when they bring in their Work.

Whether a considerable Part of the Work in this Manufacture, particularly in the First Stage of it, is not performed by Machines?

With the Assistance of Hand Labour.

You have given an Account of the Price of Labour in Ireland—do you mean *that* for the Price paid to Men only, or, on the Average, to Men, Women, and Children?

To Men only.

Whether, in the Linen Manufacture, the same Mills are made use of as in the Cotton Manufacture, in the First Stages of the Manufacture?

The same Machines are not made use of in the Linen Manufacture in the early Stages of it.

Are any other Machines of the same Sort made use of?

Not of the same Sort—there are Machines used in the Linen Manufacture.

Is the Labour in the Linen Manufacture abridged by the Machine, as it is in the Cotton Manufacture, in any, and what Proportion?

I believe it is not abridged in the same Manner.

Have not the Irish Manufacturers in Linen a great Advantage, by having the Linen Yarn cheaper than in Great Britain?

I should think they certainly had an Advantage.

Whether,

Whether, notwithstanding the Cheapness of Labour in Ireland, the Cheapness of the Raw Material, there not being the same Use of Machines, and that the Irish Linen is imported Duty-free, there does not exist a very great Linen Manufacture in this Country?

I do not believe there does exist a very great Linen Manufacture in England.

Whether the same Circumstances do not exist with respect to the Manufacture of Scotland; and whether there does not exist a very great Linen Manufacture in Scotland?

I believe there does exist a Manufacture of Linen in Scotland, but I cannot tell to what Extent.

Whether you do not know that the Linen Manufactures of Great Britain have, for many Years last past, been greatly increasing gradually?

I am not able to speak to that Point.

Do you know what is the Price of Labour in Scotland?

I have heard that the Price of Labour in Scotland is lower than in England, but I do not know in what Proportion.

Can you say what is the Difference of the Price of Labour between Ireland and Scotland?

I cannot say precisely—I believe it is lower in Ireland than in Scotland.

What is the Value per Cent. of Freight of Cotton Goods from Ireland to Great Britain, including Port Charges?

About £. 2 per Cent. I believe, on our Goods.

What do you rate per Cent. the Amount of the Duty laid last Year on Cotton Goods in England?

£. 15 per Cent.

State to the Committee on what Estimate you form that Calculation?

The old Duty on Printing is 3 *d.* per Yard, the new Duty on Bleaching 1 *d.* per Yard—the Average Price of the Goods when finished is about 2 *s.* 3 *d.* per Yard.

Whether the Duty of last Year is not drawn back on Exportation?

All Duties on our Goods are drawn back on Exportation.

If a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. ad Valorem, is added to the Inland or Excise Duty now paid on our Cotton Goods, on the Importation

tation of the like Goods into Great Britain from Ireland, together with the Price of Freight, do you think you have any Reason to apprehend a Competition between the Manufactures in our Market?

There still will remain an Advantage of £. 12 or £. 13 per Cent. in Favour of the Irish Manufacture.

State in what Manner.

By an Advantage of £. 20 per Cent. which he derives from the low Price of Labour on the common Articles, and an Advantage of £. 30 per Cent. on the fine Articles, which, added to the Advantage he derives by not employing more than Two Thirds of the Capital required by the English Manufacture to the same Quantity of Business, I reckon it to be at least from £. 12 to £. 13 per Cent.

Will not this Burthen upon the Capital affect in like Manner the Irish Manufacture, from the Time that the Duty is paid on Importation to the Time of Sale?

So far different, that the English Manufacturer is in Advance for Part of the Duties Nine Months before the Goods are ready for the Market, and the other Part of the Duties at least Six Months, and the Irish Manufacture is ready for the Market when imported into this Country.

Whether the Cotton Goods of this Country have not always been subject to a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. on the Importation into Ireland?

Ever since I can remember.

Has there not, during that Time, been a great Importation of our Cotton Goods into Ireland?  
Of Printed Cotton Goods.

Whether not of Fustians?

I am not in that Manufacture, and therefore can't speak to it.

Have not the Irish, during that Time, had full Liberty of manufacturing Cotton Goods for their own Consumption, or for Foreign Markets, if they chose it?

I believe they had for their own Consumption, but it is only of late Date that they have had an Opportunity of supplying Foreign Markets with them.

How has it happened, that if the Irish can manufacture so much cheaper than we can here, they have for so long a Period, at so great a Disadvantage of Duties and Freight, taken the Cotton

Goods of this Country, and have not manufactured them for themselves.

They have only taken our Printed Cottons for a Reason I have already assigned, that Printing is done better in this Country than in Ireland.

Will not the same Skill, if it exists, operate equally in Favour of the other Parts of the Manufacture?

I think not, because the Success in Printing depends in a great Measure on Taste and Ingenuity; but in the Manufacture of Cottons nothing is required but common Manual Labour.

Have we not a Superiority in our Cotton Manufactures over all foreign Countries?

The Superiority, if we have it, is of that Nature that it can be easily removed into a neighbouring Kingdom; and so much am I satisfied of it, that since the Irish Resolutions came before this House, I have wrote to a principal House in Ireland to have a Connection with it, for the Purpose of supplying the Consumption of this Country.

Do not you know that the French have tried to establish the Cotton Manufacture in France?

I have been informed that they not only have tried, but are increasing that Manufacture very fast.

Do not you know that the only Manufacture they have is supported by the King of France?

I am not acquainted with that Circumstance.

Is there not a very great Exportation of Cotton Goods from Great Britain to most Foreign Countries?

There is a considerable Export of Cotton Goods abroad.

Have you Reason to believe that the French Manufacturers in Cotton have ever rivalled us in Foreign Markets?

I believe they have not been carried on yet to that Extent to rival us abroad.

How long have they been established?—Do not you know an Englishman that went to establish them?

I do not know how long, nor the Englishman that went.

Can you inform the Committee with respect to the actual State of the Cotton Manufacture in Ireland?

With respect to that Part of the Cotton Manufacture in which I am concerned, I believe there is a considerable Quantity made,  
and

and from Persons conversant with it I am informed, the Price of the Goods is much lower in that Country than the same Kind of Goods sell for in England.

Do you know the Prices paid to the Labourers either at Prosperous or Balbriggan?

I do not know the Price paid at either Place.

Have you not been informed there are Men Spinners there, who are paid from 6 s. to 12 s. per Week?

I never heard that Circumstance mentioned.

Have you ever heard that there are Printers paid such high Wages as a Guinea per Week?

Yes; I believe they have paid that Price for Printers.

Do not you know that the Manufactures have been upheld by liberal Grants from the Irish Parliament?

I have repeatedly heard that they have been established by Bounties, and that the Bounties still continue on many Branches of the Manufacture.

Do not you know that these Manufactures would have fallen to the Ground, but for those Bounties, from the great Length of Credit which the English Merchants are able to give?

I am totally unacquainted with that Matter; but from the low Price of Labour in that Country I should suppose they did not stand in Need of many such Aids.

Do you personally, from your own Knowledge, know what the Price of Labour is in that Country?

I have long had Connections with the principal House in Ireland, and my Information I have gathered from them.

Is not the English Manufacturer of Cottons more skilful than the Irish?

I do not believe it depends much upon the Skill of the Weaver, but upon his Industry.

In Point of Fact, is not more Work done by an English than by an Irish Manufacturer in Cotton in a Day?

I cannot speak to that.

May not the Difference of Skill in a Manufacturer fully make up the Difference in Point of Wages?

I think not.—I observed before that there was very little of Skill in the Manufacture; and I am so convinced that the Manufacture may be as well done in Ireland, that I could get the same  
Quantity



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Quantity of Pieces made in that Country which I now get made in England, in the Course of Three Months, on the Terms I have before stated.

Do you believe that the Exportation of Cotton Goods to Ireland is diminished, since the Power given to the Irish of exporting their own Cotton Goods?

The Exportation of Printed Cotton Goods to Ireland has very much decreased of late, owing, I suppose, to the Non-importation Agreement.

Has it decreased since 1780, upon an Average of those Years?  
I believe it has increased from 1780 to 1782.

Is the Committee to understand then, that you are of Opinion that the Cotton Manufactures of Manchester have not suffered by the Liberty of Exportation granted to the Irish Trade?

I believe they have already suffered, but not in any great Degree.

Is not the Irish Capital employed in the Cotton Manufacture comparatively very small, compared with the English?

I believe there are but few People of Property contribute to carry on the Manufacture in Ireland, owing to an Aversion their People of Property have in general to being employed in Business.

Can England therefore lose her Cotton Manufactory but by the Loss of her Industry, or by the Imposition of injudicious Taxes?

I think she may lose her Manufactory by the English Manufacturer of Property employing his Capital in Ireland, as well as by injudicious Taxes.

Can you inform the Committee, whether Mr. Arkwright's Machines are used in the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland?

I believe at present they are used, but they are going to be used in a much greater Degree, as Mr. Arkwright has the exclusive Right to those Machines in England, which does not extend to Ireland.

What does Mr. Arkwright expect from the Manufacturer for the Liberty of using his Machine?

It depends on the Number of Spindles that he sells, and the Time that he has in his Patent.

How many Years longer has Mr. Arkwright's Patent to run?  
Five or Six Years.

What,

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What, on an Average, is a Manufacturer obliged to pay Mr. Arkwright for a Machine with Thirty Spindles?  
About £.60.

When you stated that the Manufacture in Ireland would trade with an Advantage of £. 13 or £. 14 per Cent. did you include the Money that he was to pay Mr. Arkwright?

Yes, that was included.

Should the Irish Resolutions be adopted by the Parliament here, would you carry on the Business to the same Extent you now do?

I certainly should, but not in England.

Where then?

In Ireland.

Do you apprehend that any other Persons concerned in the Cotton Trade would also remove to Ireland?

Upon the Advantages held out I should suppose a great Number would carry the Business to Ireland.

Would not that, in your Opinion, cause a great Diminution of the Revenue, by there being a less Consumption of Exciseable Commodities in Lancashire?

I should think in more Parts than Lancashire, owing to a decreased Population, and the Inability of poor People to consume Exciseable Commodities.

Do you mean that the Average Price of Labour you spoke of is taken from the Piece Work as well as the Day Work?

Yes—I meant that it is taken as well from the Piece Work as the Day Work.

Do you mean the same, from the Information you have received of the Price of Labour in Ireland?

Yes.

Do you then mean to say, that from the best Information you can get from Ireland, you can there have the same Quantity of Labour performed for 5s. as you now pay 8s. for in Lancashire?

Yes.

And in the same Proportion, by Women and Children?

Yes.

E

Can



Can you tell what Proportion of the Duties you pay to Government as a Printer, and what Proportion as a Manufacturer?

The last Year I paid as a Printer £.19,000, and as a Manufacturer £.1,000; but this Year, if I was to carry on Business to the same Extent, which is not likely, I should pay £.19,000 on the Printing, and £.6,000 on the Manufacture.

Whether the Skill of making Mr. Arkwright's Machine is now fully possessed by other People, as well as Mr. Arkwright?  
By every Joiner in the Country.

Do you know enough of Ireland to form any Opinion, whether the Introduction of those Machines there is likely to meet with Opposition from the Manufacturers or labouring People?

I should think the Manufacturers or labouring People, from what I know of Ireland, would have no Objection to the Machine working in that Country.

Do you know whether any of these Machines have been sent to France?

I have heard so, but I am not satisfied about it.

What are the different Stages in the Process of the Manufacture, from its Commencement to its Completion?  
Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, and Printing.

What is the Proportion of Expence of each of those?  
That would require some Time to answer.

Answer it generally, as near as you can.

Weaving would be nearly the same as the Spinning, exclusive of the Warp, which is made by Arkwright's Machine—the Expence of Bleaching is inconsiderable, and Printing entirely depends on the Nature of the Pattern.

In how many, and in which of those different Parts of the Manufacture, is Machinery employed?

In the Process of Spinning.

When you said that in the fine Goods 7-8ths of the Value arose from the Expence of Labour, whether those 7-8ths include the Annual Interest of Money expended in Machines, and the Annual Expence of keeping those Machines in Repair?

It includes the Annual Expence of keeping the Machines in Repair, but not the Interest of the Money employed.

What

What Proportion do you suppose the Sums expended in the Annual Repairs of the Machines bears to the Sums expended in Labour?

The Sums expended in Machines bear no Proportion at all, or a very small One, to the Sums expended in Labour.

What do you apprehend to have been the Expence of Labour, compared with the Total Value of the complete Articles before the Invention of those Machines, that have been invented within these last Twenty Years?

I believe there was no such Goods invented before the last Twenty Years.

Do you then mean to say, that the Cotton Manufactory did not exist in this Country till within the last Twenty Years?

We distinguish the Cotton Manufactory from the Muslin Manufactory.—What I said about the high-priced Goods are Muffins, which I believe were not made in this Country Twenty Years ago.

Is the Idea of going to establish the Business in Ireland, with a View to supply the English Market, or the Foreign Market, or both?

Both.

Do you know of any other Manufacturers that have it in Contemplation to carry the Business into Ireland, from an Idea of the present proposed Arrangements taking place?

I have heard many Persons in the Manufacture declare an Intention of carrying the Manufacture into that Country, provided these Resolutions are formed into a Law.

Do you conceive, that if these proposed Resolutions were carried into Effect, and the Duty proposed on the Import from Ireland stand a Part of it, will it not be a strong Encouragement to introduce the Irish Manufacture by Smuggling?

It will—I have declared that before.

Is Soap a considerable Article in this Manufacture?

I do not use much Soap in this Manufacture.

Do you clearly understand the Nature and Tendency of the Irish Resolutions, and the Commercial Regulations necessary to the carrying them into Execution in both Kingdoms?

They are far above my Comprehension to understand them—but in the Manner they have been explained to me, I believe they will be very prejudicial to the Cotton Manufactures of this Country.

Whether

Whether it is not a general Opinion, amongst the Manufacturers of this Country, that the Art and Industry of the English Manufacturer is more than a Counterbalance for the lower Price of Labour in Ireland?

I believe it is far from being a received Opinion of the Manufacturers of this Country, that the Art and Ingenuity of the Manufacturer in England would counterbalance the Advantages of the Irish Manufacturer; because many of the Manufactures that will be injured by these Resolutions neither depend on Art or Ingenuity, but Industry.

Question repeated, as to Industry—not Ingenuity?

I think the English Manufacturer cannot reckon any thing on the Industry of his Work People, if I may be allowed to judge from the Produce of Labour in the Irish Linen Manufacture.

In what Manner have the Irish Resolutions been explained to you?

That they are to be allowed to come into this Country free of all Duties, except such as are paid on the Exportation of the same English Manufacture to Ireland, and the internal Duties in Great Britain.

Was there no Provision mentioned of a certain Compensation for such Allowances?

None to depend upon.

Whether, at the present Rate of Labour, and with a brisk Trade, you have found that the Manufacturers employed by you have in general worked Six Days in a Week?

Those that have large Families work Six Days in a Week.

To what Places do the Manufactures go?

Great Part are consumed in Great Britain:—We send considerable Quantities to America and the West Indies.

Who pays you for the Articles you send to America and the West Indies?

The English Merchant, when they are for Exportation; unless, which is sometimes the Case, we execute an Order from those Countries.

Do you know how the Merchant is paid in Return for those Goods?

I believe in general by the Produce of the Countries to which the Goods are sold.

Is

Is that Produce to supply the Consumption of this Country?

Part of that Produce is to supply the Consumption of this Country, and another Part is to supply the Manufactures.

If the Merchant of Ireland is to supply this Country with the Produce of the Colonies, whether you will not send the Manufactures of Ireland, and not the Manufactures of this Country, to purchase that Produce?

I believe not only the Irish Merchant, but the English Merchant, would be glad to take the Manufactures of that Country, as they may have them on much lower Terms.

Are you not aware that the Merchants of this Country may now send the Manufactures of Ireland to the Colonies, in order to purchase the Produce of those Countries, and bring that Produce either to Ireland or this Country?

I am so little acquainted with the Business of a Merchant, that I am not able to speak to that Question.

You have stated that the Price of Labour of a Man at Manchester is 8 s. per Week, how long has he earned at that Rate?

Ever since I have been in Business.

Did he earn it Seven Years ago?

That was reckoned a very moderate Price Seven Years ago; and I believe he earned it.

Whether the Cotton Manufacturers of Ireland have hitherto been in so flourishing a Condition as to induce the Merchants of Great Britain to take Part of the Irish Manufactures in his Cargo to America?

I do not think that the Cotton Manufacture of Ireland has been so long established as to supply Foreign Countries.

Whether the Want of Capital has not been a greater Impediment to the Prosperity of the Cotton Manufacture in Ireland, than the Want of Industry or Skill in the People of Ireland, or any other Cause that has hitherto been assigned?

I always understood that it was rather owing to People quitting Trade in that Country, when they became possessed of a small Property.

Whether the Permission proposed to be given by the Resolutions now under Consideration, of importing Irish Manufactures into Great Britain, will not induce People of great Capital in Great Britain either to settle in Ireland, or form Connections,

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which may give the Advantages arising from cheapness of Labour and Habits of Industry, their full Effects?

I have not a Doubt but that will be the Case.—With respect to myself, I mean to employ a very considerable Capital in that Country; and others will undoubtedly do the same.

Whether the Employment of English Capitals in the Manufactures of Ireland will not tend so much to their Prosperity, as to enable them to supply the British Merchant with a considerable Part of the Cargo he may make up for America, and the West Indies, and Foreign States?

It certainly will.

Whether, under the Advantages you have already stated, the English Merchant will not prefer the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland to those of Great Britain?

It will certainly be his Interest to take the Irish Manufactures of Cotton.

In forming the Calculation of the Advantages attending the Irish Manufacture, and the Disadvantage attending similar Ones in Great Britain, did you take into your Consideration the Bounties granted from Time to Time by the Irish Parliament on their Manufactures.

I did not make any Allowance for Bounties granted on the Irish Manufacture.

Did you not consider the Bounties granted on the Irish Manufacture imported into Great Britain disadvantageous to the British Manufacture?

Undoubtedly any Bounties granted on the Manufactures of that Country will give a still greater Advantage to the Irish Manufacture than what I have before stated.

Do you consider Sums of Money granted to Manufacturers in Consequence of erecting Mills, or incurring other Expences, as operating in the Nature of Bounties?

I certainly consider that they will have that Effect.

Do you know that Bounties have been granted by the Irish Parliament on the Sale of the Manufactures in Ireland?

I have heard of it, but am not sufficiently acquainted to speak to it.

Do you consider, that if a Bounty of £.5 per Cent. on the Sale of a Manufacture is granted in Ireland, and that a Duty of £.5 per Cent. is charged on the Importation of the same Manufacture  
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into Great Britain, that such Import Duty completely balances the Bounty given on the Sale?

I do not see that any great Advantage would from thence arise to the Manufacture of Ireland.

Whether such Bounties on Sale, not drawn back, will not operate against the British Manufacturer in Foreign Markets?

They certainly will, unless England allows a similar Bounty on the same Manufactures.

Since the Difference of the Price of Labour is so great an Inducement as to engage you to remove to Ireland, why have you not formed Connections, and removed your Capital to Scotland, where Labour is cheaper than in England?

Because I understand, that though Labour is cheap in Scotland, yet it is a great deal more cheap in Ireland; besides, there are very heavy Duties on the Cotton Manufacture in Scotland, which would require an increased Capital, that the Irish Manufacture is not burthened with.

Whether you believe that the intended Regulations will enable the Cotton Manufacturer of Ireland to export his Goods to Foreign Countries, and to receive any different Returns from thence than what he can now do?

I do not know, with respect to the Foreign Trade, that the Irish Manufacturer will derive any additional Advantages from those Resolutions.

What Computations have you made of the Charges and Commission attending the Delivery of these Goods in England, on which you have stated so large a Profit to the Irish Manufacturer?

I computed that the Charges of Sale and Delivery of those Goods from Ireland, and sold in the London Market, would be very little more than the Sale and Delivery of the Lancashire Goods sold in the same Market.

Do you not apprehend that the Freight and Insurance, and longer Disburse of Money, must considerably increase that Charge?

I do not consider that the Irish Manufacturer does pay much more for his Carriage from Dublin to London, than the Country Manufacturer pays for Land Carriage to London; and that the Irish Manufacturer can get a Return in Money as soon as the Lancashire Manufacturer.

Whether

Whether the Act of 1780, for opening the Irish Trade, has had any Effect in any Manner detrimental to the English Cotton Manufacturer?

The Time is so short that the bad Effects of it are not yet so sensibly felt; but I can speak so far, with respect to my own Business, that I sold many Irish Linens printed for Exportation before the passing that Act, and I have now totally lost that Trade.

Was you, or the Cotton Manufacturers in general, apprised of the passing that Act in its Progress through this House?

I believe the whole Country were apprised of it.

Did they oppose it, by Petition or otherwise?

The Manufacturers of Cotton did not oppose it to my Knowledge.

Has the Cotton Trade upon the Whole increased or diminished since that Time, to your Knowledge?

I cannot speak to that.

Do you believe that the passing these Resolutions would be more detrimental to the Cotton Trade than the passing that Act?

Ten Times more detrimental, in my Opinion.

Do you believe that it would be for the Interest of the Irish Manufacturer of Cotton, in case these Resolutions were to pass, to send his Cottons to the English Market, under a considerable Duty, before he had beat the English Cottons out of every other Market in the World, where they might meet upon equal Terms?

I believe it would not only be his Interest, but the Irish Manufacturer will certainly send his Goods to the English Market, and raise a Capital upon those Goods, to enable him to beat the English Manufacturer at Foreign Markets.

Whether you believe that it is more for the Advantage of any Merchant, of any Country, to send his Goods to Market where there will be a heavy Duty on them, than to send them to an equally good Market, where there is a much less Duty, or none at all, charged on the said Goods?

With respect to the Duties charged on the Irish Manufactures imported into Great Britain, I apprehend the Englishman will have to pay for it; and it will be natural for them to send their Goods to a Market where they can draw for a great Part of the Amount immediately, rather than give a long Credit at a distant Market.

Are

Are you sure that the Resolutions have been properly explained to you?

I cannot answer for that—Mr. Pitt explained them to me.

Whether, in your Comparative View of the Advantages and Disadvantages to arise to the Two Kingdoms, on which you have grounded your Reason to remove your Capital from hence to Ireland, you have taken into your Calculation the Disuse and Aversion to Labour in the Irish common People, compared with the steady and habitual Industry of the English Manufacturer?

I never considered, and I do not recollect that I stated to the Committee, that the common People of Ireland are averse to Labour—I stated that the Manufacturer retires from Business with a small Fortune; and I attributed to that, that but few People of large Property carried on the Cotton Business in that Country.

Have you turned your Enquiry to that Object, whether the common People in Ireland are or are not averse to Labour?

The only Judgment I have formed on that Subject has arisen from the Produce of Labour in the Irish Linen Trade; and as I have found that they are manufactured much lower than we can manufacture them in England, I have been led to believe that the poor working People in the North of Ireland are as industrious as the poor working People in Lancashire.

Have you never heard that, excepting the Linen Manufacture, almost every other Irish Manufactory is chiefly carried on either by Englishmen or Scotchmen?

This is the First Time I ever heard any Thing of the Kind.

Have you ever been in Ireland?

I never was.

Have you, by Agents in Ireland, or other People, made any Enquiries there?

I answered before, that the Information I got was from principal Tradesmen in Ireland, but I was never there.

Whether, if the Irish were to export the same Quantity of Manufactures to Foreign Countries, it would not have the same Tendency to increase the Price of Labour in Ireland as if that Quantity was exported to this Country?

With respect to the Increase of the Price of Labour, I always considered it to arise from the Increase of the Prices of the Necessaries of Life more than from any other Circumstance:—When the People of that Country are so little burthened with

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Taxes



Taxes on the Necessaries of Life, I cannot suppose that an Increase of Trade would bring Labour to the same Price that is paid in this Country.

Question repeated.

I do not deny but that it might have the same Effect on the Price of Labour; but I can never suppose that it can occasion Labour to be as high in that Country as in this, unless the Labour of this Country should be very much reduced indeed, owing to the Loss of her Trade to Ireland.

Whether a Capital will not be increased fastest by selling in that Market where there will be the greatest Profit?

No;—I think a Capital will be soonest acquired where the Manufacturer gets a speedy Return for his Manufacture, and not to employ his Capital in a Foreign Trade, with which he must give a very long Credit.

Do you not imagine, that a Difference of £. 10 per Cent. in Profit may more than compensate for some Delay in the Return?

I think a Difference of £. 10 per Cent. will not be an Object sufficient to make the Manufacturer sell his Goods to a distant Market, with which he will be obliged to give a Credit of at least Eighteen Months, though the Profit should be £. 30 per Cent.—if he can send his Goods to the English Market, and draw for the Money immediately, though the Profit should not be more than £. 7 or £. 8 per Cent.

Whether, in this Country, all the Cotton Manufactures are paid for in Ready Money?

I am not paid for my Manufactures in Ready Money; but if I may judge from the Transactions I have had with Ireland, they will draw for their Goods before they arrive in the English Market.

Whether you imagine it will be a Temptation to Persons in this Country to take Goods from Ireland, instead of from the Home Manufacture, when he must pay for them in Ready Money in the one Case, as soon as the Goods arrive, or before, and when he may have a Credit in the other?

The Irish Manufacturer having an Advantage over the English Manufacturer of £. 12 or £. 13 per Cent. as I have before stated, he will be enabled to offer his Goods on such Terms to the English Dealer, for Money, as will induce him to take them, in Preference to Goods charged by the English Manufacturer at a Credit Price, with a Consideration upon those Goods for that Credit.

Whether

Whether you are not of Opinion, that in many Cases an advantageous Trade may be carried on, where the Return is made not in Money or by Bills, but in Commodities from the Country to which the Exportation has been made?

I believe there may.

In Printed Goods what is the Proportion of the Expence of Printing to the Expence of Manufacturing?

If it is meant to know what is the Proportion of the Labour in the Printing to the Labour in the Manufacture, it may be only about One Tenth Part of the Expence, because that Trade requiring Ingenuity and Taste, the People are generally paid higher Wages.

What is the Proportion of the Expence of the Materials employed in Printing, to the Expence of Labour in Printing?

I never calculated the Difference of Expence, because the Expence of Printing depends so much on the Kind of Pattern that is put upon it, that it is impossible to form any Estimate.

Can you tell nearly what Proportion the whole Expence of Printing, on an Average, bears to the whole Expence of Manufacturing?

I cannot possibly tell; the Reason is, that in my Business I may pay Three Times as much as my Neighbour:—If I confine my Business to a higher priced Work, the Materials are of a superior Quality, and the Expence of Labour more considerable.

What is the Proportion in the higher Branches, and the lower Branches of your Business, or of any Business with which you are acquainted?

Some of the higher Courses of Work exceed in Value the Price of the plain Manufacture: Some of the lower Courses of Work are not equal to the Price of the other Manufacture.

Whether you know, or have calculated, what probable Difference there would be in the Expence of Printing in Ireland, and the Expence of Printing in England?

I believe the Expence of Printing in Ireland approaches nearer to the Expence of Printing in England, than the Expence of the Irish Manufacture does to that of the English Manufacture.

Do you mean, that upon the Whole the Expence of Printing in Ireland, as far as you know, is lower than the Price of Printing in England?

I believe the Expence of Printing in Ireland is rather lower than



than the Expence of Printing in England, on Account of the superior Taste and Execution in England:—The Work done is preferable in this Country.

Whether you think our Manufacturers could carry on any Competition with the Irish, in their own Market, under a Disadvantage of near £. 40 per Cent?

If you will take into Consideration the Quality of the Article sent into that Country, and if it is not superior in any Respect to their own Manufacture, I should think such a Trade could not exist.

Whether, if your Calculation be just, that the Irish would have an Advantage of £. 13 per Cent. on similar Articles in this Country, after paying £. 10½ per Cent. Duty, and £. 2 per Cent. which you calculate as the Charge of Freight from Ireland; it does not follow, that the Goods which we send to the Irish Market, and which paid a Duty on Importation there of £. 10½ per Cent. and £. 2 per Cent. in like Manner for Freight, must have sold in the Irish Market under a Disadvantage of £. 38 per Cent.

When I stated the Expence of bringing Goods over here at £. 2 per Cent. I did not mean to say that there was an Advantage, besides that, of £. 13 per Cent.; but I stated, that the Expence of bringing the Goods from the Country to London was equal to the Expence of bringing Goods from Ireland to England.—It is impossible for a plain Manufacture, which has neither Taste nor Ingenuity to recommend it, under such unfavourable Circumstances, to exist. But with respect to the Printing Business, the Value consists in the Taste of the Pattern, and Execution of the Work; and with that Advantage upon them, the higher Classes of Women in Ireland would wear English Goods, though at an Advance of £. 38 per Cent. above their own Manufacture of Prints.

Whether, considering, as you have stated, that the Price of Printing in Ireland is also upon the Whole somewhat cheaper than the Price of Printing in England, you do not imagine that that Circumstance, together with an Advantage of £. 38 or £. 34 per Cent. would have been a sufficient Encouragement to Ingenuity and Taste in the Printing Business in Ireland?

I think the Printing Business, being a Fancy Trade, has an ideal Value put upon it, and that the Wearer estimates it more for the Place it comes from, added to the Taste of the Pattern, than from any other Consideration. My Reason for saying so is, that

that there are a great many Goods smuggled into this Country from Flanders and other Parts of Europe, that have not apparently more Merit than our own Manufactures, and yet they are sold £. 100 per Cent. higher than English Prints.

Whether you really entertain such serious Apprehensions of the passing these Resolutions, as to be determined to remove those Manufactures, or the Capital with which you carry them on, immediately to Ireland, on that Event, without waiting at all to experience the Effect of them?

I mean to remove Part of my Manufacture, and employ Part of my Capital immediately, and afterwards I mean to remove a greater Proportion, if it proves, as I have good Assurance that it will, an advantageous Change.

Then, at the Request of the Witnesses, the Minutes of this Evidence were read over to him.

And then the Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

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*Veneris, 18<sup>o</sup> die Martii 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee proceeded further in the Hearing of Evidence in Support of the Petition of the Callicoe Manufacturers and Printers, of the County Palatine of Lancaſter, and Counties adjacent.

The Couñfel was called in.

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH called in, and examined.

What is your Buſineſs?  
A Callicoe Manufacturer and Printer.

What Number of Perſons do you employ, diſtinguiſhing thoſe employed in the Manufacture from thoſe in the Printing?  
We employ in the Callicoe Manufacture many Thouſands, but I cannot accurately ſtate the Number, but in Printing we employ generally from about Seven hundred to One thouſand.

What is the Amount of Excife Duty paid by your Houſe per Annum on the Manufacture?  
The laſt Year it was about £. 20,000; this Year, if we continue to do the ſame Buſineſs, in conſequence of the additional Tax impoſed the laſt Seſſion, it will amount to between £. 26,000 and £. 27,000.

Whether there are any Duties paid on the Manufacture, or the Printing of Cotton Goods, in Ireland?  
There are, I believe, none.

What is the Proportion of the Price of Labour to the Price of the Raw Material in the Manufacture?  
In the Goods moſt commonly made the Proportion of the Price of Labour to the Raw Material exceeds One Half; in the higher Sort of Goods it will be as much as Seven Eighths, and in intermediate Qualities in Proportion.

What

What is the common Price of Labour paid by you in your Manufacture?  
The common Price of Labour is about 8 s. per Week.

Do you know what is the common Price of Labour paid to the working People in the Linen Manufacture in Ireland?  
From the beſt Information I have been able to obtain on that Subject, it is about 4 s. per Week, but I take it to be between 4 s. and 5 s. per Week.

Is not a conſiderable Part of your Capital employed in the Advance of the Excife Duties.  
There certainly is about £. 15 per Cent.

What is the Increate of Capital required by the Engliſh Manufacturer on account of the Advance of Duties, and the Difference of the Price of Labour in this Country and Ireland?  
It will be from £. 30 to £. 40 per Cent.

Whether a Cotton Weaver can be employed in weaving Linens, and can do it with equal Facility?  
I am certain he can, becauſe the Linen Weavers in this Country make the beſt Callicoe Weavers.

In what Proportion will the Difference of Price of Labour in England and Ireland affect the Goods when manufactured?  
On the common Sorts it will be about £. 20 per Cent. and on the finer Sorts it will be more.

If the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland are made ſubject to a Duty of £. 10 1/2 per Cent. on Importation into Great Britain, do you apprehend the Irifh Manufacture will be able to ſupply the Engliſh Market, to the Detriment of the Cotton Trade of this Country?  
I have no Doubt of it.

If the Reſolutions of the Irifh Parliament ſhould be adopted by the Legiſlature of Great Britain, do you ſuppoſe that the Price of Labour in Ireland will increaſe ſo as to remove the Inequality you complain of?

As I have no Apprehenſion that the Reſolutions, if adopted, can poſſibly on the Whole increaſe the Conſumption of both Kingdoms, and the Price of Labour in Ireland ſhould advance, I apprehend it would be in Conſequence of the Transfer of the Manufactures of this Kingdom to that; but although the Price of Labour may increaſe in Ireland, yet, until they have the ſame internal Taxes as are paid in this Country, I think the Price of Labour cannot increaſe to be equal with that of this Country.

Do

Do you apprehend that a Transfer of the Manufactures from this Country to Ireland will be One of the Consequences of adopting these Resolutions?

I have no Doubt of it, so far as relates to our own Trade—the Cotton Manufacture.

Under the Circumstances you have stated, do you expect to carry on your Trade to the same large Extent you do at present? Not in this Kingdom.

What Place would you chuse to carry it on in with more Advantage? Ireland.

Do you believe that other Persons concerned in your Manufactures would likewise be induced to transfer it from this Country to Ireland?

I think they would find it necessary.

If a Duty should be imposed on the Importation of Irish Printed Goods, do you apprehend that the Payment of it would be evaded, and that the Goods would be clandestinely introduced into this Country?

I think there is no Doubt of it, because the Duties would be, on the Importation of Irish Printed Goods, from £. 25 to £. 35 per Cent.

If Ireland has hitherto possessed the Advantages you have stated, how has it happened that large Quantities of Printed Goods have been exported from Great Britain to Ireland?

I can only account for the Exportation of large Quantities of Printed Goods into Ireland, from the Superiority in the Execution and Taste, that this Country has hitherto maintained in the Printing Branch—the Goods exported to Ireland by our own House, and, as I am informed, by other Houses in the Trade, have principally been the higher priced Goods—The Common People in Ireland, who wear Printed Goods, have been supplied by Linens printed in Ireland.

Whether Persons employed in your Manufacture, and in those of your Neighbours, to the Amount of many Thousands, as you have stated, contribute to the Revenue of this Country by a large Consumption of Exciseable Commodities?

Most assuredly they do, in Candles, Leather, Ale, Soap, and other Commodities.

Whether,

Whether, after all the Consideration you have given the Subject of these Resolutions, assisted by all the Explanation which you have had the Honour to receive, you have been able to discover any Advantage offered to the British Manufacturer, in his Commercial Intercourse with Ireland, which you do not at this Moment enjoy?

As far as relates to our own Manufacture, I discover none that we did not enjoy before the Non-importation Agreement in Ireland.

*Examined by Members of the Committee.*

Whether the Price of 8 s. per Week for Labour is for Men only, or for Men, Women, and Children?

For Men only; and the Average Price of Labour, which I before stated for Ireland, is also the Price of Men's Labour; and the Price of Women's and Children's Labour in both Countries I understand to be in Proportion to the Men's.

What is the Average Price of Women's Labour in this Country, and of Children's also.

The Price of Women's Labour I understand to be about 4 s. or from 4 s. to 5 s. per Week—The Price of Children's Labour about 2 s. 6 d.

In your Manufacture, what is the Proportion of Women to Men employed in it?

The Proportion of Women is rather less than Men, and of Children also.

Do you know whether, in the Linen Manufacture in Ireland, there is the same Proportion of Women and Children employed?

I am not fully competent to answer that Question.

Is there not a great Part of the Labour in the Cotton Manufactures performed by Machines?

There is a great Part; but it is that which relates only to the Spinning of the Cotton Warp.

In the Value of the Labour in each particular Manufacture, what is the Proportion of that which is done by the Machine?

It is but small—but the precise Proportion I cannot state.

Has not the Invention of Machines, and particularly of Mr. Arkwright's, been esteemed of great Advantage to the Manufacturer

facturer who uses them, so as to give a greater Profit on his Manufacture?

There has been a considerable Advantage derived from the Invention of Machines—One is, that the Manufacture has been carried to a much more considerable Extent than it would otherwise have been carried to—but in Point of Profit the Manufactory at large, though they may have derived some, yet not a very great Advantage.

Has not the Expence of manufacturing Cottons been diminished considerably by the Invention of Machines?

The Expence of spinning the Warp may have been diminished, but not considerably.—I mean that it has not been diminished considerably with respect to the Manufacture at large.

Has it not been diminished with respect to those who employed those Machines?

Certainly it has.

Has the Price of Labour in any other Respect, within these last Twenty Years, been increased?

I am not competent to speak to the Price of Labour for Twenty Years, but within my Memory there has been little Variation, I believe.

Whether Machines are used to the same Extent in the Linen Manufacture as they are in the Cotton Manufacture?

I believe not.

Whether the Price of Cotton, the Raw Material, is the same in Great Britain and Ireland?

I do not know the Price of Cotton in Ireland, but I have Reason to think there is no great Difference, if any.

Is the Raw Material of the Linen Manufacture cheaper in Ireland than in England?

I am not acquainted with the Price of the Raw Material of the Linen Manufacture, either in Ireland or England.

Are not great Quantities of Flax and Linen Yarn imported from Ireland into England—even brought to Manchester?

I believe there are great Quantities of Linen Yarn imported from Ireland into England, but in the Manufacture in which I am concerned it is not used.

Do not you know that there is a very great and increasing Linen Manufactory in this Island?

With respect to a Linen Manufacture in England, as far as I know,

know, it is but very small;—with respect to Scotland there are considerable Quantities of Linen Manufactures, principally I believe for the Purpose of printing Handkerchiefs.

Do not you know that there is a great and increasing Manufacture of Table Linen in this Kingdom?

I know that there is a Manufacture of Table Linen in this Kingdom, but I know not to what Extent, nor whether increasing or otherwise.

If it should appear that there is a great and increasing Linen Manufacture in this Country, notwithstanding the low Price of Labour in Ireland—the Cheapness of the Raw Material in Ireland compared with that in England—the less Use of Machinery in the Article of Linen than of Cotton—and that Linen is allowed to be imported from Ireland Duty-free;—Whether all those Circumstances together would not diminish your Apprehensions with respect to the Cotton Manufacture?

I know not from what Circumstance the Manufacture of Table Linen in this Country has an Advantage over Ireland; but with respect to the Manufacture of plain Linens, of which the Part consumed is by very far the most considerable, neither England nor Scotland can bring them to this Market on Terms equal with Ireland.

Will you take upon yourself to say, that of the common Linens used in this Country, the Quantity of that made here is not greater than that brought from Ireland?

I know not how far the Term *Common* is meant to apply: If by *Common* is meant the Average, I believe the Quantity of Linens imported from Ireland is considerably greater than that made in Great Britain.

Will you take on yourself to say, that the Quantity of Linen of all Sorts made in Great Britain is less than that which is imported from Ireland?

I will not take upon myself positively to say it is, but I have always understood that the Quantity of Linen imported from Ireland has exceeded the Quantity made in Great Britain. I beg to say, that what I know of the Linen Trade is particularly confined to that Part of it which immediately relates to our own Trade of Printing. We have frequently purchased very large Quantities of Irish Linens, more particularly at the Time when Cotton was at the highest Price; and I have frequently looked at Quantities of British Linens, but could never purchase them so cheap as I could those from Ireland.

Is



Is there not a considerable Exportation of Corn, Potatoes, and Beer, from Lancashire into Ireland?

I am not competent to speak to that Question, as I reside in London.

If there is such an Importation into Ireland from this Country, whether the low Price of Labour there is not rather to be imputed to the Manner in which the Irish live, than to any other Cause?

I imagine that the low Price of Labour in Ireland may in Part be owing to the low Manner in which they live, but principally to the low Price of Provisions in general, and to their Exemption from the Taxes with which the labouring People of this Country are burthened.

If the Irish import Provisions from this Country, must not the Price of those imported Provisions be dearer there, than here?

If Provisions were universally imported into Ireland from this Country, there is no Doubt but that those Provisions must be dearer there, than here; and whatever Part may be imported from this Country must be dearer in that Country than this.

Are not the principal Manufactures in Ireland carried on in those Parts of Ireland nearest to Great Britain?

I am not fully competent to answer that Question: I understand that the Manufactures in Ireland spread over the North of Ireland.

If the Manufacturers of this Country were to remove to Ireland, will they not expect to live there as well as they do here?

I cannot answer for their Expectations.

Have there not been Attempts to establish the Cotton Manufactures in Foreign Countries, where Labour is cheaper than in Great Britain?

I understand there has, and that they have succeeded, and that they are now succeeding.

Have the Cotton Manufacturers of Great Britain found that any Foreign Manufactures in Cotton have materially rivalled them in Foreign Countries?

I cannot speak positively to any Part of the Cotton Manufacture but that in which I am concerned:—With respect to Printed Callicoes they are rivalled, and are now almost beat out of every Market, by the Introduction into this Country, and Re-exportation, of India Goods.

Have

Have our Manufactures been rivalled by any Cotton Manufactures established in any European Countries, in the Foreign Market?

They are not only rivalled, but excluded in many Parts of Europe—I speak now with respect to Printed Goods.

Has the Exportation generally of the Cotton Manufacture increased or decreased of late Years?

I have formerly stated to the Committee that I am not fully competent to speak with respect to the Cotton Trade in general, but only to that Part in which I am concerned.

Whether the Manufacture of Printed Goods in general has not lately increased in this Country?

It has certainly increased, but I beg to state the Occasion:—In the last Year, in which it principally increased, there was a very great Scarcity both of India Whites, and Printed Goods, and in Consequence of that Scarcity the Orders that were received in this Country from America for East India Printed Goods were executed with British Printed Goods. It is also to be added, that there were also very considerable Quantities of British Printed Goods exported on Speculation, which have overstocked, according to the best Advices, the American Market very considerably.

Whether the Trade in Printed Goods has not gradually increased for many Years past?

I believe there has been a gradual Increase of the Consumption of Printed Goods in this Country, till within the last Two or Three Years, since which, if there has been any Increase, it has been inconsiderable.

Whether the Irish have ever manufactured any great Quantity of Cotton Goods?

I believe not, as far as relates to that Part of the Manufacture in which I am engaged.

Whether there has not been a large Exportation of those Goods from Great Britain to Ireland?

There has been a considerable Export of those Goods to Ireland.

Whether those Goods were not burthened with a Duty of £. 10 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> per Cent. on the Importation into Ireland?

They were.

Whether they were not also charged with a Freight of £. 2 or £. 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> per Cent. and Port Charges?

They were; Freight and Charges from £. 2 to £. 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> per Cent.

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If



If we have sent therefore so great a Quantity of Printed Goods under these Burthens from Great Britain to Ireland, assign your Reasons why you apprehend that the Irish will send those Goods to us loaded with the same Burthens, and with a Duty equal to the Excise and Inland Duty paid on those Goods?

I beg on this Question to divide the Manufacture from the Printing.—Callicoe Goods manufactured in the plain State have been prohibited from being imported into this Country—the middling and the lower Sort of People in Ireland, having approved of the Fashion, the Execution, and the Taste of our Printed Callicoes, have encouraged the Importation of them into that Country, under the Disadvantages of Freight and internal Duty.—If the Resolutions before the House pass into a Law, I do not apprehend the immediate Transfer of the Printing Trade from this Country to that, but I have strong Reason to apprehend, that Irish Cotton Goods being manufactured at a less Expence in that Kingdom than in this, they would be imported into this Country, not only with a View to have them printed here and re-exported to Ireland, but for the Supply of the Consumption of this Country in that Article.

Are there not many Parts of Great Britain, in which Labour is much cheaper than in the Neighbourhood of Manchester?

I am not certain of that.

If there are Parts where Labour is much cheaper, is it not as probable that the Manufacturers of Manchester would remove there on that Account, as to Ireland?

If there are Parts of this Country in which Labour is as cheap as in Ireland, and the People in those Parts are used to the weaving of Goods, it would be as probable.

Is it probable that the Irish Linen Weaver will quit his Loom to which he has been used, and with respect to which his Goods have a free Importation into this Country, and apply himself to weave Cotton Goods, in order to import them into this Country, under the Burthen before mentioned?

If the Linen Weaver in Ireland can, by turning his Hand to the Manufacture of Callicoes or Cottons, gain 6d. a Week more than he at present does, there is not a Doubt but he would.

Can you assign any Reason to induce the Committee to believe, that the Linen Weaver will, by that Change of Occupation, gain 6d. a Week more?

Certainly: If the Irish, as I have stated, can at present manufacture Cotton Goods £. 20 per Cent. lower, or even £. 10 per Cent. the

the Employer can afford to pay the Weaver 6d. a Week more, if necessary, and yet sufficiently under-work the Manufacturer of this Country, to export his Goods from that Country to this.—I beg to have it understood, that I do not state that an Advance of 6d. a Week is necessary.

Do you apprehend by the intended Regulations, that the Manufacturer of Ireland will be able to undersell the English Manufacturer in Great Britain, or in Foreign Countries?

My Evidence all along has gone, that the Manufacturer of Ireland will undersell the Manufacturer of Great Britain in this Country.

State the Difference of Terms in which the Manufacturers of the Two Countries will meet in the English Market?

I believe One of the earliest Answers I gave goes to that Question.

Question repeated.

The Manufacturer in Ireland, in the most general Articles of our Manufacture, will have an Advantage of £. 20 per Cent. on the Goods when manufactured, before the Importation into Great Britain. There is, I understand, to be a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. consequently the Manufacturer of Ireland, or rather the Importer of the Manufactures of Ireland, will derive an Advantage in this Market over the British Manufacturer, of £. 9½ per Cent.

Will not the Freight from Ireland to England be £. 2 per Cent. which you have stated to be the Freight from England to Ireland; and will there not be other Charges as Insurance and Commission, besides a longer Disburse of Money, and further Difficulties in obtaining Payment?

I stated that the Expences of Freight and other Charges would amount from £. 2 to £. 2½ per Cent. and to this £. 10½ per Cent. I readily admit it, ought to be added; but there are Disadvantages on the Part of the English Manufacturer and Printer, much more than sufficient to counterbalance the £. 2½ per Cent. The Disadvantages to which I refer are, in the First Place, the Increase of Capital to provide for the Duties payable, and the Increase of Capital on Account of the Price of Labour. Those Two Disadvantages are, in my Opinion, very much more than sufficient to counterbalance the £. 2½ per Cent.; but there is a further Disadvantage, which is, that if Ireland can with her Manufactures supply this Country cheaper than the English Manufacturer, she must inevitably draw the Ready Money Trade of this Country. The English Manufacturer will then only have left him that Part of the Trade in which

which long Credit is required, consequently his Capacity for continuing his Manufactory to the same Extent he now does, if there were no other Reasons against it, would be considerably diminished.

Whether the Disadvantages you have now stated are not reckoned as a Part of the £. 20 per Cent. which you stated to be the Preference of the Irish Manufacturer over the English—and upon what priced Goods you have made the Computation now given in?

They were not included in the £. 20 per Cent. I before stated; and if you refer to that Part of my Examination, you will see they were not.—The Computation that I have made is upon Goods which stand the Manufacturer in 28s. a Piece, or 1s. a Yard; and the Articles of our Manufacture go from 1s. a Yard to 4s. a Yard.

Are you prepared to shew that the Allegation in the Petition, "That the Irish are in a great Measure free from Taxes," is well grounded?

I cannot be prepared to shew what the Taxes of Ireland are, but it is notorious that the People of Ireland are taxed in a much less Degree than the People of this Country.

Do you mean that they are lower taxed, in Proportion to the Ability to pay?

I am not competent to speak of their Ability to pay.

Have you never heard of the Hearth Money being paid by the Manufacturers in Ireland?

I have heard there is a Tax called by that Name.

Have you not also heard that Beer, Spirits, Leather, and Tobacco, are excised in that Kingdom?

I have heard there are various Taxes of Excise in that Country, but cannot state particularly what they are.—The Occasion of my mentioning the Difference between the Taxes in this Country and in Ireland was to shew the Committee in what Manner I account for the very great Difference in point of Labour.

Do you know the Prices paid to Manufacturers in the Cotton Works near Dublin?

I do not.

Have

Have you not heard that the lowest Price paid to Spinners there is 6s. a Week.

I have not—but I understand that very great Encouragements have in various Ways been given to that Manufacture, for the Purpose of introducing and establishing it in that Kingdom.

Have you not heard that if those public Grants were withdrawn, the Manufacture would fall to the Ground?

I have not—but I beg to have it observed, that the Manufacture of Cotton Goods near Dublin, as I understand, has been turned generally to what is, by Way of Distinction, called The Manchester *Fustian* Trade; and that it does not apply to the Manufacture of Callicoets.

Does not Ireland import a large Part of the Cotton it uses from this Country?

Ireland may, probably, frequently import Quantities of Cotton from this Country, owing to the Fluctuations in Price, which are very considerable. When Ireland can import from this Country Cotton at a lower Price than she can import from the West Indies, she will certainly take it from this Country; and also England may, under the contrary, but similar Circumstances, import it from Ireland.

When Ireland imports Cotton from hence, is not a second Freight, Commission, and other Charges, to be added to the original Price of the Material?

Certainly it is;—but I beg to add, that in the Importation of Cotton from England into Ireland the Manufacturer or the Importer considers those Charges; and unless, with those Charges, he can import the Cotton from England at a lower Price than from the West Indies, he will not do it.

If Ireland imports Cotton directly from the West Indies, is the Freight as high as to England from the West Indies?

I do not understand that it is; but I cannot speak decidedly upon that Subject.

Do you know of any other Advantage enjoyed by Ireland in the Cotton Manufactory, except the low Price of Labour?

There are Advantages by Bounties, but I do not apprehend that those would apply generally to the Manufacture.—The Articles of our Manufacture are divisible but into Two Parts, the one is the Raw Material, the other the Manual Labour.

L

Do

Do you not think that as Ireland became a manufacturing Country the Price of Labour would naturally rise?

I do think it would; but, as I have stated before, I apprehend the Increase of the Price of Labour in Ireland would be in Consequence of the Transfer, and the Decline of the Manufactures of this Country.

Do you think that Manufactures always follow cheap Labour?  
I will not state that in all Cases they follow cheap Labour, but I believe our Manufactures would follow cheap Labour.

Did you ever know, or hear, that Raw Cotton was imported into this Country through Ireland?

I never did; but if there is a great Consumption of Cotton, and consequently great Encouragement to the Importation of that Article into Ireland, it is far from improbable that this Country might import Cotton from Ireland.

Do you know whether in Ireland the Master Manufacturer does not sometimes pay his Workmen by the Piece?

I understand he does.

Do you know how much per Week the Manufacturer, when paid by the Piece, earns on Cloth of that Sort which is made in what is called a Nine hundred Reed?

I do not know what he may gain per Week in the Manufactory of that Sort of Cloth made in the Nine hundred Reed; but, from the best Information I have been able to obtain, the Weaver, in manufacturing those Goods that are about of a similar Fineness and Quality to the most general Articles of our Manufacture, gains or earns about 4s. per Week.

Of what Nature is that Information, and upon what Evidence do you ground your Opinion that the Price of Labour in Ireland is 4s. per Week?

From Conversation with Persons of that Kingdom, who have had Opportunities of knowing that Manufactory.

Do you imagine that the Quantity of Cloth made in Ireland, and imported into Great Britain, for the Consumption of this Country, of a Value not exceeding Fourteen Pence per Yard, exceeds the Quantity of Cloth of a similar Price made in this Kingdom for Home Consumption?—This Question is with regard to Linens.

With respect to Linens, though I am not competent to speak precisely on the Subject, I apprehend the Importation of Goods costing

costing the Irish Manufacturer Fourteen Pence and under, exceeds the Quantity manufactured for similar Purposes in this Kingdom.

Is it not a considerable Advantage to the Irish Manufacturer, Mr. Arkwright's Patent not extending to that Country?

If Mr. Arkwright enjoys an exclusive Right to the Spinning of Cotton in his Mode in this Country, there cannot be a Doubt but that the Advantages Ireland would derive from the Formation and Use of those Machines would be very considerable.

Can you inform the Committee if any Agreement has been made with Mr. Arkwright, since that Verdict was given in his Favour, by any of the Manufacturers; and what Sum has been offered for the Liberty of working with his Machine?

I know nothing positively on the Subject; but I have heard that there have been such Agreements made, at the Rate of 5s. per Spindle per Annum.—This is merely from Report.

Do you not know, that a great Quantity of Provisions are imported from Ireland into Lancashire, for the Use of the Manufacturers of that County?

I have understood that there are.

Do you know that the Exportation of Provisions from Ireland is the next Trade, in Point of Consequence, to the Exportation of Linen?

I have always understood that it is; and lately I have been particularly informed, by a very large Contractor for Irish Provisions, that it is.

Is it not your Opinion, that the flourishing State of the Linen Manufacture in Ireland arises chiefly from the Liberty which they have of importing it Duty-free into this Country?

The flourishing State of the Linen Trade in Ireland is certainly very much occasioned by the free Importation of it into this Country; and the Preference it has in this Market is, I apprehend, to be accounted for in the Manner in which I have before stated it, from the low Price of Labour.

Is it not your Opinion that the Duty on Houses, Windows, and Lands, and the Parish Rates in this Country, do greatly exceed what is levied on the Manufacturer in Ireland, under the Name of Hearth Money?

I apprehend the Duty on Land, and the Parish Rates, do considerably exceed that Hearth Money, as I have understood it; but I do not know that the Duty on Houses and Windows in this Case applies, because the Cottages in which the Manufacturers reside are, I believe, exempt from both.

Do

Do you think the Manufacturers pay either Land Tax or Parish Rates, any more than they do the Duty on Houses and Windows?

The first-mentioned Rates they will frequently be exempted from—The Tax on Land I rather think will frequently apply.

What is the whole Expence per Cent. of bringing Goods from Ireland to the London Market?

I am not certain, not being concerned in the Importation of Irish Goods into the London Market; but the Average of the Expences attending the Importation of Irish Goods into Great Britain will not, I believe, exceed £. 2½ per Cent.

What is the Expence of bringing Goods from Manchester to London by Land Carriage?

The Expence of Land Carriage on our Articles is about £. 1½ per Cent.

When you stated, that you employed many Thousand People in the Manufacture, and from Seven hundred to One thousand in the Printing Business, did you mean to say that they worked for you alone?

The Weavers employed in the Manufacture many of them frequently work for more than One House, those in the Printing are constantly employed by One House.

Can you inform the Committee of the Average Price which West India Cotton bore in the British Market for the Year 1784?

I cannot precisely speak of the Average Price, there was a considerable Fluctuation in the Price.

Do you know the Average Price it bore in the Irish Market for the same Year?

No.

When you stated the Expence of bringing Irish Goods to the British Market, did you mean to include in that the Inland Carriage from the Place of Manufacture to the Place of Exportation?

I did not.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

The Counsel informed the Committee that he had no more Witnesses to call.

And he was heard.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

*Mercurii*

*Mercurii, 6° die Aprilis 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, That the Commissioners of the Customs attended at the Door;

They were called in, and presented

The Report \* of the Commissioners for managing, and causing to be levied and collected, His Majesty's Customs, in return to an Order of this Committee.

And then they were directed to withdraw.

And the Title of the said Report was read.

To report a Progress, &c.

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\* This Report being already printed, is not here inserted.

M

*Jovis,*



*Jovis, 7<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, That the Commissioners of Excise attended at the Door;

They were called in, and presented The Report \* of the Commissioners of Excise, in pursuance of the Order of this Committee.

And then they were directed to withdraw.

And the Title of the said Report was read.

The Committee being informed, that Counsel attended on the Part of the Petition of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and others, resident in the Town and Neighbourhood of Manchester.

The Counsel (Mr. Erskine) was called in.

Then the said Petition was read, Setting forth, That the Petitioners presume, with all Humility, to express how much they are alarmed at the Propositions which have been lately moved in the House, respecting the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, which as they conceive will, if passed into a Law, most essentially injure the Commerce and Manufactures of this Kingdom: And therefore praying, That they may be heard in Support of their Petition at the Bar of the House.

The Committee was moved, That the Petition of the Callicoe Manufacturers and Printers of the County Palatine of Lancafter, and Counties adjacent, might be read.

And the same being read accordingly;

The Counsel was heard in Support of the Petition now under Consideration.

\* This Report being already printed, is not here inserted.

Mr.

Mr. THOMAS WALKER called in, and examined.

Was you examined before a Committee of Privy Council?  
Yes.

On what Day was you first examined?  
The 31<sup>st</sup> Day of January last.

Had you Notice given you on what Subject you was to be examined?  
I had not.

On what Occasion was you in London?

I was delegated by the Town of Manchester to deliver a Memorial to the Treasury, soliciting for a Repeal of the Act passed in the last Session, imposing a Duty on bleached and dyed Cotton Stuffs.

Had you or your Employers any Knowledge of the Irish Propositions?

I had not; nor did I ever hear that any One in the Town of Manchester had.

It appears by the Report of the Committee of Privy Council (Page 37) that you was asked:—

“Have the Irish Manufacturers any Advantage over the British in the Price of Labour?”

And that you was also asked,

“Do not you conceive that the Art and Ingenuity of the British Manufacturer will secure to him an Advantage in these Branches of Trade?”

To which you gave certain Answers.—You was then asked:—

“If the Irish and British Manufacturers in the Cotton Trade were put upon the same Footing with respect to Taxes and Bounties, as well internally as upon Export from One Country to the other, should you have any Reason to apprehend a Competition in the British or Irish Market?”—

What Answer did you then give to this last Question?

That I conceived I had answered it by the Answers I had given to the Two preceding Questions.

Whether the same Question was repeated to you after you had said, that you conceived you had answered it by the Two preceding Answers?

It was.

Do



Do you recollect the Answer exactly which you gave to the Question, when put again?

I do not remember exactly, but I am very much mistaken if the Word *these* made any Part of it.

Who examined you?  
Mr. Jenkinson.

Do you recollect to have had any Conversation with Mr. Jenkinson as to what you meant by *all Respects*, as contradistinguished from *all THESE Respects*?

I do.—When I was examined some Days afterwards, I told Mr. Jenkinson that by the Words *all Respects* I meant that Ireland and England should be on equal Terms.—He asked me, if I supposed that Great Britain could lay a Tax on Irish Windows, Soap, and various other Articles, which he enumerated; or, that I supposed that the Duties could be taken off the same Articles in England—to which I answered, that I had no such Expectation, but that till that was done, or the Countries were by some Means put upon the same Footing, the Irish and English Manufactures would not be on the same Footing.

Was it not understood between Mr. Jenkinson and you, at the Time of your last Examination, that (when you said, that if the Cotton Trade was protected by £. 10½ per Cent. it would be a sufficient Security) you took into your Consideration likewise an Equality between the Countries in all other Respects?

I understood it in that Light, and I have no Doubt but Mr. Jenkinson understood it in the same Light.

At what Time did that Conversation of the taxed State of England, and the untaxed State of Ireland, take place—was it on the Day of your last Examination?

It was on Saturday the 5th of February.

Has the Fustian Trade to Ireland increased or decreased of late?

It has decreased very considerably.

To what do you attribute that Decrease?

To the great Perfection to which they have brought the Fustian Manufactures.

In what Parts of Ireland is the Fustian Trade carried on to the greatest Extent?

At Prosperous, about Eighteen Miles from Dublin, where I am told,

told, in the Manufacture of Captain Brooke alone, there are at this Time at least Five thousand People employed.

Do you know any other Parts of Ireland where this Manufacture is carried on?

I am told that it is carried on at Belfast, Newry, and Balbriggen.

How long has the Fustian Manufacture been established in Ireland?

They have manufactured Fustians in small Quantities for some Time. I cannot say the particular Time, but not in any Degree to the Extent they now carry them on, till within these last Two or Three Years.

Do you know of any Offers made to any Manufacturers or principal Workmen to leave this Country and settle in Ireland?

I do—I know several principal Manufacturers who have lately had very advantageous Offers made them to leave this Country and go to Ireland; and I have a Letter in my Hand, which, if I am permitted to read, will point out very strongly the Advantages that Country enjoys over this:—It is signed Thomas D. Brooke, dated Prosperous, 9th December 1783, and directed to Mr. R. Worthington, Garret, near Manchester, and is to the following Effect:

Prosperous, near Naas, Ireland,  
9 December 1783.

Sir,

You may perhaps think it extraordinary to be troubled with a Letter from a Stranger; but as a Brother Manufacturer I have heard of you, and as it is not impossible but that you may have heard of my Brother, Captain Brooke, I hope you will excuse the Liberty I take.

The Purport of my Letter is to throw out for your Consideration a Proposal for a Connection in the Printing Line; and to enable you to judge how far such a Connection might be eligible, I shall just state a few Circumstances.

1st. Excepting on Coarse Linens, there is very little Printing done in this Kingdom, our Home Consumption being chiefly supplied from your Side; and the Goods pay a Duty of £. 10 per Cent. and will probably have a heavier Duty laid on before this Session of Parliament is over.

2dly. We have no Printers here with any Capitals worth naming, and therefore the Business is very badly conducted.

N

3dly.

3dly. Our Factory is the only One in the Kingdom in which any considerable Quantity of good Cottons or Callicoes are made, excepting One or Two others.

4thly. There is no Excise Duty here.

5thly. There is the same Freedom of Export that you enjoy in England, Linens much cheaper, and high Bounties on low-priced Printed Goods.

Now from these Premises I think the following Conclusion may be drawn, viz. That a complete and well-conducted Printing Establishment here would turn out most advantageously.—And to prove that greater Advantages would be derived from attempting it in Connection with us, than from any Strangers attempting it singly, I shall mention the following Circumstances.

1st. A ready Market is established for the Sale of all we manufacture; and the public Tide is in our Favor.

2dly. We are acquainted with the Customs of the Country, and the People in it.

3dly. Our Capital, and the Number of our Looms, enables us to extend in whatever Department of the Manufacture turns to best Account.

4thly. Our Situation is convenient, only Eighteen Miles from Dublin; we have the Benefit of Water Carriage by the Canal; the Land on which our Factory is erected, and all the Buildings, belong to my Brother, so that there can be no Combinations; and we might form what Regulations we pleased, provided they were not unjust.

5thly. The Water is uncommonly good for bleaching and dying; and Firing is plenty.

6thly. Almost all the expensive Work is done, the Green complete, Coppers, Presses, Stoves, Callendars, &c. &c. &c. all in working Order, so that we might start into the most extensive Work even this Spring.

7thly. We have some excellent Hands in the Machinery Way, with all necessary Tools and Work Shops.—We work Charles Taylor's Patent Machine to full Yard Wides in Perfection, infomuch as to execute narrower and neater Bengals than was ever done in any Printing Ground (to my Belief) in Europe; and we have besides some other extraordinary Machines, calculated for Expedition.—We have for some Time printed our Cottons, Calicoes, and Ververets; and although we can execute as good Work as any in the Kingdom, and although my Brother has lately got a Parliamentary Grant of Twenty-five thousand Pounds, yet he wishes

wishes for a Connection in the Printing Department, and for the following Reasons:—When we began the Manufacture, we were obliged to do every thing, or nothing; and accordingly we now spin, weave, cut, dye, dress, finish, bleach, and print; to superintend and manage which is too extensive for Mr. Ogden and myself, who have the chief Guidance of every Thing; and besides, the Length of Time Goods lie on Hands, from the Raw Cotton till they are printed, fold, and paid for, demands a very powerful Capital.—Having been thus explicit, I shall just mention, that I would not wish to form a Connection with a Person who would not throw in at least £. 5,000, more if he pleased, and we should equal him, or not, as might be agreed.—We should leave the general Conduct of the Business entirely to the Partner, whom I would suppose to be Master of it.—I forgot to mention, that this is a cheaper Country than your's, and that Labour is cheaper accordingly; and I also omitted to mention, that there is a late Act of Parliament made here, which guards against the dangerous Consequences which frequently used to attend Partnerships.—Respecting my Brother's Character and my own, I shall leave that to the World.

I am, Sir,  
Your very humble Servant,  
Thomas D. Brooke.

P. S. The Printing Business has been greatly kept down here, by the Printers following English Patterns; so that the Novelty, and good Prices attending that Novelty, was all over before the Drapers could get their Goods from the Printers.—If One of your Sons were fixed here, and a proper Correspondence preserved, I will venture to say we should skim the Cream of the Irish Market.

Whether, if the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament should pass into a Law, do you think there would be Danger of the Manufacturers transferring their Capitals to Ireland?

I am confident that the Manufacturers of this Country would transfer their Capitals to Ireland; and from the Letter I have just read, it appears to me, that is all the Irish want.

Whether

Whether the prohibitory Duty upon Cotton, which exists at present, is not One of the Reasons why the Irish Cotton Manufacturer wants a Capital?

I am greatly of Opinion that it is the chief Reason.

Whether, if the Cotton Manufacturers of Ireland had the English Market open to them at the £. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. they could not undersell the Manufacturers at Manchester?

In the Fustian Trade, in which I am concerned, in many Articles I have no Doubt but that they could at this Time do it; and I have every Reason to believe, that in a short Time they would undersell us in the other Fustian Articles:—In the Check Trade, from the Irish having the Raw Material from £. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  to £. 10 per Cent. or more cheaper, besides the Advantage of Labour, Exemption from Taxation, &c. the same Argument holds good with respect to the Small Ware Trade; and I have been told, by the First Manufacturer in Manchester in the Silk Way, that if the Irish Resolutions pass into a Law, it will be impossible for him to carry on his Trade in this Country.

Whether the Irish Resolutions will affect the Export Trade of this Manufacture?

I am of Opinion, that the Ninth Resolution may very materially affect the Export Trade to Russia and Germany.

In what Manner would it affect that Trade?

By securing to Ireland the eternal Right of importing into England her Linens Duty-free, and by precluding this Country at any Time from lowering the Duties upon those of Russia and Germany.

As the Linen Yarn comes dearer to the English Manufacturer than to the Irish, you will account for the Difference of the Price.

I have the Copies of Two Invoices here \*—By One of which it appears, that the Expences are Seven and a Half per Cent.; and by the other Thirteen—The Reason why One so much exceeds the other is, that the latter is a coarser Kind of Yarn, of which the low-priced Checks are manufactured, and on which the Duties fall the heaviest.

\* Copies of these Invoices are inserted at the End of this Day's Examination, marked (A) and (B).

*Examined*

*Examined by Members of the Committee.*

The Committee was moved, That the Minutes of a certain Part of the Evidence given by this Witness, on Monday the 21st of March last, before a Committee of the Whole House, to whom it was referred to consider of the Petition of the Gentlemen, Clergy, Land Owners, Merchants, Manufacturers, Dyers, Bleachers, and others interested in the Fustian Trade in the Towns of Manchester, Salford, Bolton, Leigh, Warrington, Rochdale, Oldham, Ashton, Bury, Chorley, Stockport, Macclesfield, and Chapel en le Frith, and in the Boroughs of Wigan and Newton, and of the respective Neighbourhoods of those Towns and Boroughs, in the Counties of Lancaster, Chester, and Derby, respecting his Examination before a Committee of Privy Council, might be read to the Witness;

And the same was read accordingly, and is as follows:—

Do you think that if the British and Irish Manufactures in the Cotton Trade were put on the same Footing with respect to Taxes and Bounties upon the Manufacture, without being put precisely on the same Footing in respect to all relative Circumstances, that all Dread of Competition of the Irish Manufacture to the British would be removed? I do not, nor ever did.

Did you ever consent to its being stated to be your Opinion, that such Dread would be removed? No.

The Committee was also moved, That the Minutes of a certain other Part of the same Evidence might be read;

And the same was read accordingly, and is as follows:

Whether every Question put to you by the Committee of Privy Council, after it was stated was not distinctly read to you and Mr. Richardson? Certainly.

Inform the Committee whether every Answer that was given by you and Mr. Richardson was not read over to you after it was taken down by the Clerk of the Council?

It was; but I do now recollect a Circumstance, and which I did not till this Day recollect, which I mentioned, and which I do not see in the printed Report, neither was it in the written one, which was—When I stated to the Committee of the Council the Increase of the Fustian Manufacture

nufacture in Ireland, I mentioned a Circumstance that I had from the best Authority, of a Gentleman from America, who I think, as my Memory serves me, Eighteen Months ago came to purchase Manufactures where he could meet with them on the best Terms, having the Advantage of Ready Money; he bought but few Fustians in Manchester, assigning for a Reason, that he had been in Ireland, where he thought he could meet with them on better Terms, but that he would take a few from Manchester, which he did, and the Remainder he purchased from Ireland in his Return to America, with which he was so much better satisfied, that, as I am informed, he wrote his Manchester Correspondent he should want no more Goods from Manchester.

You will inform the Committee, whether you was not permitted to correct your Evidence, if there was any Omission or Mistake; and whether you did not go with the Clerk of the Privy Council into the Room for that Purpose?

I certainly did.

Whether you was not permitted to have, and had a Copy of your own Evidence before the Committee of Council?

I had.

Whether you did not send in to the Committee of Council Corrections of your own Evidence?

I did.

Whether the following Question was not put to you or Mr. Richardson; and whether you did not give the following Answer, viz.

“ Q. If the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland are made subject to a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. on Importation into Great Britain, do you apprehend the Irish Manufacturer will be able to supply the English Market, to the Detriment of the Cotton Trade of this Country?

“ A. If the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. upon the Importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland into this Country, we apprehend it would be a sufficient Security to our Trade for the Home Consumption.”

Certainly; but it had a Reference to the former Part of my Evidence.

The Witness then read that Evidence from the printed Report, as follows.

“ Q. Have

“ Q. Have the Irish Manufacturers any Advantage over the British in the Price of Labour?

“ Manufacturers

“ A. We conceive that Labour is much cheaper there than here, but in what Proportion we cannot say. The Irish must have a great Advantage in the Cheapness of Provisions, besides being exempt from Land Tax, and Excise on Soap, Candles, Leather, and many other Articles, while we are burthened therewith, and in Stamp Duties upon Bills, Receipts, &c. &c. We know they have many of our Machines already, and we have no Doubt they will soon have them all.

“ Q. Do not you conceive that the Art and Ingenuity of the British Manufacturer will secure to him an Advantage in these Branches of Trade?

“ Manufacturers

“ A. Undamped, unchecked, and untaxed, we have not a Doubt but he will be equal, if not superior, to any other Manufacturer in the World.

“ Q. If the Irish and British Manufacturers in the Cotton Trade were put upon the same Footing with respect to Taxes and Bounties, as well internally as upon Export from One Country to the other, should you have any Reason to apprehend a Competition in the British or Irish Market?

“ A. If we were put in all these Respects upon equal Terms, we should not apprehend a Competition at either Market.

“ The Committee think it proper in this Place to inform Your Majesty, that the above Witnesses sent the next Day, and desired to correct their former Answer.

“ Manufacturers

“ A. If we can, in all Respects, be put upon equal Terms, England and Ireland will naturally supply themselves with Cotton Goods for their internal Consumption, and in Foreign Markets we shall meet upon equal Terms; except in America and the West Indies, where Ireland will certainly have an Advantage in Freight and Insurance, exclusive of the very great Saving she will enjoy in the Victualling of her Ships.”

Then the Witness proceeded.

My Idea was, that if we were in all Respects upon equal Terms, £. 10½ per Cent. would be a protecting Duty to this Country.

Did



[ 56 ]

Did you ever apply to the Council to correct or explain that last Answer in the Manner now stated, or in any other Manner whatsoever?

I did not.

Was not Mr. Thomas Stanley, a Member of this House, present at the Examination before the Committee of Privy Council?

He was.

Did you not take it for granted, before you quitted the Committee of Privy Council, that it was perfectly understood by the Members of that Committee, that this Expression "*in all Respects*" had a Reference to the former Answer?

Undoubtedly.

Do you recollect the Chairman of the Committee of Privy Council desiring to have the Words "*in all THESE Respects*" instead of the Words "*in all Respects*?"

Perfectly well.

Were the Words taken as you desired to have them taken? I do not recollect the Word *these* being Part of my Answer.

[The Question and Answer again shewn him.]

Is not that taken in all Respects as you desired it to be taken? I do not recollect that the Word *these*, in the First Answer, in Page 38, stood Part of my Evidence.

Was not you afterwards allowed to correct it; and does it not stand in the Answer, as corrected, "*in all Respects*?"

Certainly.

Was Mr. Thomas Stanley present when you was examined the Second Time?

He was.

Whether, when you gave your Answer, alluded to in Page 40, you apprehended, after what previously passed, that it could be construed to mean that £. 10½ per Cent. Duty would be a sufficient Protection to the English Cotton Manufacturer, England and Ireland not being put on an Equality in the Points you had before alluded to?

I certainly did not apprehend that it could be construed into an Idea that £. 10½ per Cent. would protect the Home Consumption of this Country.

Is

[ 57 ]

Is the Committee to understand, that if this House had proceeded on an Opinion, that in your Judgment the £. 10½ per Cent. would have been a sufficient Protection, without any other Measure being taken to render the Situation of the Countries equal, they would have proceeded under a Mistake of your real Opinion?

Certainly under a very great Mistake.

Have not you and Mr. Richardson been frequently in Town since you last attended the Committee of Privy Council?

We have been into Lancashire since that Time, where we staid a Fort-night, and have been in London since the 13th Instant.

Was not you in Town for some Days immediately after you attended the Committee of Privy Council?

We were.

Did you ever apply to explain or correct your last Answer?

I did not.

Had you ever the least Idea that that Answer could be made use of in Support of the Propositions passed in the Irish Parliament, and now under the Consideration of a Committee of the House of Commons?

I certainly had not.

When you was before the Committee of Privy Council, was the Object of your Examination in any Degree explained to you?

Not till I had been there some Time; for I conceived that we were sent for upon the same Occasion on which I have now the Honour to stand at this Bar.

Was it not explained to you before you corrected your Evidence, and before you gave your last Answer?

I cannot pretend to say whether it was not suggested to me after I had been examined for some Time by Mr. Stanley, that the Purport of the Examination was not for the Purpose of the Repeal of the Fustian Tax, which I thought it was, but concerning the Irish Business; upon which I remarked, that that was a Subject of that Magnitude, that I neither considered myself, nor any other Manufacturer, competent to give Evidence or an Opinion on a Question of such Magnitude: Upon which it was remarked, and I think by Mr. Jenkinson, that if we would attend that Evening at the Office of the Clerk of the Privy Council, we should have a fair Copy of our Evidence to peruse and correct:—I did not wish my Opinion to be relied on without having a Copy at Home; which, whether it was sent to me at my Request, or Mr. Jenkinson's Offer, I cannot say.

P

Did

Did you attend the Committee of Privy Council on an Intimation that Questions relating to the Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland were in Agitation?

I did not.

How happened you to attend the Committee of Privy Council?

In consequence of a Note shewed to me by Mr. Stanley, on Sunday 30th January, which he had received from Mr. Rose, requesting that he would desire the Manufacturers to attend at the Privy Council the next Day at 11 o'Clock. We were Four; Two Manufacturers and Two Printers—Mr. Stanley accompanied us; and, presuming it was on our Business, we went to the Treasury, and were then directed to go to the Council; but not One of the Party had the least Idea that it was on the Irish Business.

Are you sure that you did not voluntarily, of your own Accord, attend on the Subject of what was going on between England and Ireland?

I am very confident that I did not, nor Mr. Richardson neither.—We sent, on the 16th of February, some Information to Mr. Jenkinson, which we had received from Manchester, and which is inserted in the Report—We were only there on the 31st January and 5th February, —we were sent for both Times.

You having specified certain Exemptions from Taxes and Duties which the Irish enjoy, and which gave them an Advantage in this Manufacture above Great Britain—whether you do not think that the restrictive Terms of being put on equal Terms in *all THESE Respects*, was not a closer Answer, and more just Conclusion, upon which the Committee of Privy Council was to form their Judgment, than the more general Terms of *all Respects*?

When we were examined the Second Time before the Committee of Privy Council, and objected to the Word *these*, which Mr. Jenkinson strenuously contended for, we as strenuously contended for the Word *all*, which we then conceived, and do now conceive, applies more strongly to the Interests of this Country than the Word *these*.

The Committee was also moved, That the Minutes of the last Question and Answer of the same Evidence might be read;

And the same was read accordingly, and is as follows:

Do you mean, by the Declaration, "that a Member of the Privy Council "strenuously insisted on the Use of the Word *these*," that any Member of the Privy Council had endeavoured to suggest to you Expressions different

different from your own Meaning and Intent; or, whether it was intended only to prevent your correcting any Expression you had before made use of?

When we came to the Committee of Council, on Saturday the 5th of February, Mr. Jenkinson mentioned the Distinction between *all* and *these*;—upon our giving our Ideas of what we meant by the Word *all*, Mr. Jenkinson replied, you do not suppose it possible for Great Britain to impose the same Taxes upon Ireland under which she herself labours; which we readily admitted that she could not, but remarked that unless Great Britain had some Equivalent, the English could not be upon equal Terms with the Irish Manufacturer.

Then the Witness was asked, Was that the Evidence you gave before a Committee of this House?

It was.

Was not Mr. Fawkener the Clerk of the Privy Council, whom you attended on the Night of the 31st of January last?

He was.

How long was you with Mr. Fawkener at that Time?

Whilst I read over the Evidence;—how long that took I cannot say.

Were not many Corrections made in your and Mr. Richardson's Evidence at that Time, at your Desire?

There were some, but I do not think there were many.

Had not you and Mr. Fawkener, at that Time, some Discourse on the Words *these Respects*?

Not that I recollect.

Did not you expressly consent, at that Time, that the Word *these* should stand Part of your Evidence?

That I am very confident I did not; nor do I recollect its having been mentioned.

Are you sure that the Word *these* was not in the Copy of the Evidence which was then read to you?

To that Question I must give the same Answer that I have often done, that I do not remember its ever being Part of my Evidence.

Do you know that any Number of Manufacturers in the Cotton Trade have yet gone from this Country to Ireland?

I know some that have; and though without Property, and not of

of the highest Reputation, they have rendered essential Service to Ireland, and done much Injury to England.—The Mr. Ogden alluded to in the Letter which I received from Mr. Brooke, was in 1773 a Servant of mine, at either Six or Eight Shillings a Week, but I am confident not more than Eight; and that Man has been a very principal Means of bringing the Fustian Manufactory to the Perfection it is now of in Ireland, though he has been there but a few Years, I believe not above Three or Four.

Do you know any of Property or Reputation that have gone from this Country to Ireland?

I do not; but I know several that will go, if the Irish Resolutions pass into a Law.

Do you know what are the Prices that Mr. Brooke pays to his Manufacturers, in the several Branches?

I do not.

Do you know whether, on the Whole, they are greater or less than are paid at Manchester?

I should presume less.

Do you know whether the Prices of Labour of Carpenters, Bricklayers, or other Mechanics, are less in Ireland than in Great Britain?

I do not.

Is not Linen Yarn a more important Article in the Manufacture of Linen, than it is in the Manufacture of any Cotton Goods whatsoever?

Undoubtedly.

Do you know whether Great Britain has or has not a considerable increasing Linen Manufacture?

I do not know enough of the Linen Manufacture of this Country, to answer that Question with any Certainty.

What do you understand by the Capital of a Manufacturer, whether Money only, or do you add to it Buildings and Credit?

Money, and all the Property he is possessed of after all his Debts are paid.

In carrying on his Trade, do not you consider his Buildings and Credit as Part of his Capital?

I consider his Buildings as Part of his Property, and his Credit as a very great Advantage to him.

Do

Do not many Manufacturers trade to a much greater Extent than their Property after their Debts are paid?

I have no Doubt but they do.

Is it in the Power of a Manufacturer to remove his Buildings to another Country, without great Loss, or without affecting his Credit?

There must be some Loss in the Sale of his Buildings certainly;—as to his Credit, if he is a Man of Property I do not conceive how that can be affected by his Removal elsewhere.

Does not his Credit depend on the Knowledge which his Friends and Neighbours have of him, and on other local Circumstances?

In some Degree it may.

Is there any Part of the Evidence, which is entered as having been given before another Committee of this House, on which you desire to make any Remark, for the particular Information of this Committee?

I was going to remark, that it is stated in the printed Report of the Council, “That Mr. Richardson and I sent the Day after we had been first examined, and desired to correct the former Answers,” which I must take upon me to say is a Mistake which I wish to have corrected, as we never sent at all.

Did not you send at that Time a corrected Answer to the last Question that was put to you on the First Day you was examined before the Committee?

We sent a corrected Answer, it is very true—we returned our Evidence, that was the Fact: But it is stated in the Report, that we sent for it; which we did not.

Whether it was not your and Mr. Richardson's Desire, that the Evidence should stand corrected in the Manner in which you so returned it?

It was, as a Note of ours to Mr. Fawkener will, if it is referred to, explain:—Therefore Mr. Richardson and I were very much surprized to see in the printed Report Two Answers published to the same Question; particularly as the One was an incorrect One, and all our other Answers were published in the corrected State only.

Whether it was not your Wish, that the Evidence, as corrected by you, should be as fair and complete as you could make it?

It certainly was.

Q

Whether

Whether you think any of the Circumstances stated by you, in Answer to the Examination by the Counsel at the Bar, as being omitted in the printed Report of the Council, are material towards understanding your Evidence?

I should think that my Evidence, having References to the former Answers, very sufficiently explained itself, at least I understand it in that Light.—I wish to say, that when I mentioned the £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. I meant to refer to the Expression of “unchecked, undamped,”—&c. &c. understanding it in that Light, it stands right. If others understand it in that Light, I have no other Explanation to give.

Is the Committee to understand you, that the Evidence, as stated in the Report of the Council, appeared to you, and still continues to appear to you, to contain all that is material towards understanding your Opinion on the Subject of the Questions put to you?

It is impossible for me to say what Light other People may understand my Evidence in; but I myself am perfectly convinced that £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. cannot be, under all Circumstances, a protecting Duty to the Cotton Manufacture of this Country, unless Ireland and England are upon equal Terms in all other Respects.

Do you imagine that will be collected to be your Opinion, from the following Words of your Answer at the Privy Council—“If the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. upon the Importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland into this Country, we apprehend it would be a sufficient Security to our Trade for the Home Consumption?”

If that Answer was read alone, it would by no Means convey my Meaning.

If you had thought there had been any Circumstances omitted in your Evidence, which rendered it not sufficiently clear or intelligible, would not you have thought it your Duty to supply such Omission; and had not you an Opportunity of doing so when the Evidence was sent to you to be corrected?

Had I conceived that any other Construction could have been possibly put upon it but the One I myself meant, I most certainly should have desired to have corrected it; but I must beg Leave to state, that this Part of my Evidence was never sent to me to correct, nor did I ever see it after I quitted the Council Chamber with Mr. Stanley.

Whether

Whether it ever occurred to you, that the Answer alluded to could be construed to refer to a Part of what had preceded, and not to the Whole?

I had no Idea but what it referred to the Whole of my Evidence.

Do you recollect whether you did not state the Advantages against the English Manufacture to be above double the £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent.?

I do not recollect that I did—but if I had, in some Articles of the Fustian Trade, I should not have asserted more than what I can now prove.

Is the Committee then to understand you, that when in your Answer you said, “the Protection of £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  would be sufficient,” it was on a Supposition of the Two Countries being likewise on equal Footings in all Respects, with regard to internal Taxes, as well upon other Articles of Consumption as the Cotton Manufacture, and with regard to the Price of Labour, and every Thing else attending the Expence of the Manufacture?

It was.

Is the Committee to understand, that other Answers of yours, containing your Opinion of what might or what might not be apprehended from the Competition of Ireland, were also to be understood with a Reference to the antecedent Part of your Examination?

The Witness says he does not understand the Question.

Question repeated.

Then, the Question being objected to,  
The Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

Called in again.

Question repeated.

The Witness asks, whether that Question refers to any particular Answer; and if it does, he desires the Answer to be read.

It does not mean to refer to any particular Answer, but to ask in general, whether, as far as you recollect, you did, through the Course of your Examination, in the Answers you gave, keep in your own Mind a Reference as well to the preceding Examination as to the particular Question?

This is, I presume, speaking of the last Examination before the Council—In the last Examination I certainly alluded to the Evidence I gave at my former Examination.

In



In both the Answers you gave at the last Examination, had you the same Reference to the Answers you had given at your former Examination?

In the last Answer I certainly had that Reference; but I must beg Leave to observe, that I had not the most distant Idea that this Examination of mine was to be printed, or that it was to be explained by any Man but Mr. Jenkinson, who I considered as a Gentleman who would have given my Examination that Interpretation that it was fairly entitled to, from knowing a Number of Circumstances which do not appear in the printed Report.

Question repeated.

The former Answer, if I recollect it, refers to Duties and Bounties only in the Cotton Manufacture.

Is the Committee then to understand, that the former Answer does not refer, in all Respects, to that Equality which the latter Answer is supposed to do?

I must beg Leave here to observe, that I had no Opportunity of correcting either of those Answers; nor does it appear to me a Matter of the least Consequence to the Public, whether I had either corrected them, or given them—if the Committee will only take into Consideration what could be the possible Use that could be made of them; for it surely cannot be supposed, that the Opinion of a Fustian Manufacturer is by any Means necessary to justify a Matter of such great Importance as the Establishment of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland—for, if it has any Meaning, it must be Justification for its Object, and not Information, when my Evidence was taken only Forty-eight Hours before Mr. Orde moved the Propositions in the Irish House of Commons.

When you speak of the Opinion of a Fustian Manufacturer, do you mean Opinion on the general Question, or with respect to your own Trade?

To the general Question.

During the whole Period of the Examination before the Privy Council, had you any Knowledge whatever, or any Information or Conjecture, respecting the Eleven Propositions of the Irish Parliament, relative to which you are now giving your Evidence?

Not the most distant Idea.

Now that you have seen those Propositions, and have considered them, do you, on the fullest Deliberation, think, that £. 10 ½

per

per Cent. will be a sufficient Protection to the Manufactures of this Country?

I do not.

In the Conversation with Mr. Fawkener, for the Purpose of correcting your Evidence, was Mr. Richardson present?

He was.

Was the Evidence read to you and Mr. Richardson, or did you read it yourselves?

I cannot speak positively to that.

You have stated that you believe great Capitals will remove from this Country to Ireland, if the Propositions pass into a Law—do you believe that skilful Workmen will go with the Capitals?

I have no Doubt but that they will.

Though the Wages of inferior Workmen may in general be low in Ireland, is it not extremely probable that high Wages would be given to Persons peculiarly skilful, to induce them to remove, and to take Charge of the increasing Manufactures?

No Doubt but there would.

In speaking of the Removal of Capitals, is it not probable that Parts of Capitals would be removed from particular Houses in Trade?

I am well authorized in saying that there would be.

May not a Part of a Manufacturer's Capital be removed, without exposing him to the Expence of suffering Losses by his Buildings, and the other Losses you before mentioned?

Certainly.

In the Fifth Proposition, you will have observed, that when a Duty is laid in this Country on the Manufacture, or the Materials of the Manufacture, that Duty is to be countervailed by a similar Duty upon the Importation of the similar Manufactures into this Country;—will then the Duty of One Penny per Yard, to be paid on the Importation of Irish manufactured Cotton into this Country, as the countervailing Duty of the One Penny per Yard imposed by the Act of the last Session, be a Compensation for the Manufacture of this Kingdom, so as in that Respect to place the English and Irish Manufacturer on an equal Footing?

By no Means, for the Irish Manufacturer will only be charged with One Penny per Yard in the English Port, whilst the English Manufacturer, independant of paying the same Sum in the First Stages of his Manufacture, will, by the Excise Laws, have

R

been

been subjected to various Restrictions, Embarrassments, Impediments, Risks, and Expences, which the Irish Manufacturer will have been totally exempt from, and which will operate as a Bounty to the Irish Manufacture in the same Degree that it oppresses the English Manufacture.

How long has Mr. Brookes's Manufacture been established in Ireland?

I do not know.

Is it carried on to any considerable Extent?

I presume it is.

Do you know, or believe, that the Cotton Goods are there manufactured cheaper than at Manchester or its Neighbourhood?

If a Judgment may be formed from the Decrease of the Fustian Trade from Great Britain to Ireland within the last Four Years, and of the Increase of the Irish Export Trade, during the same Period, it is very reasonable to infer that the Goods are made considerably cheaper there than in England.

Have you any other Means of forming a Judgment that the Goods are manufactured cheaper there than in England?

They are sold cheaper.

Is that within your own Knowledge?

It is from such Information that I cannot doubt; and if the Committee will give me Leave, I will read an Extract of a Letter from a Manufacturer in the Town of Manchester, which will establish it beyond all Doubt.—It is from Mr. Thomas Smith, dated Manchester, March 30th, 1785, as follows:

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Thomas Smith, of Manchester, to Mr. Thomas Walker; dated from Manchester, 30th of March 1785.

THE Number of Hands employed in the Small Ware Manufacture, I presume, may be Three thousand, who must soon be compelled to emigrate, if these Propositions take place.—For my own Part, I cannot hesitate a Moment to declare my firm Intentions of going to Ireland, whenever they are confirmed.

About Thirty Years ago, this Kingdom imported from Holland all the Tapes they consumed, commonly called Holland or Dutch Tapes—but a Mr. Cornelius Vanlandford, a Native of Holland, emigrated to this Country, and established that Manufactory here; and ever since we have been capable

capable of supplying our own Markets with those Articles, and to export considerable Quantities to America. If such Consequences could arise from One Man emigrating, how much more is to be dreaded from a considerable Number!

So far relates to the Small Ware Business.—With respect to the Irish Manufactures of low priced Fustians, they have made such a Progress in those Articles, that I have it from undoubted Authority, they are now selling Half Ell White Jean, or Lining Fustian, from 16s. to 17s. per Piece, of Twenty Yards long, equal in Quality of those selling here at 21s.—the same Proportion in Pillow Fustians, and low priced Linen Back Corderoys.—I have this Day with me a Merchant from America, who has purchased all his low priced Cotton Goods from Ireland, and only purchased from me a few of the higher priced Kind. These are Facts I am ready to substantiate any Way you chuse: And you are at full Liberty to make use of my Name, in Proof of these Assertions, at the Bar of the House of Commons.

Your's, &c.

Tho' Smith.

N. B. The Small Ware Manufacture consists of Garters, Bindings, &c. &c.

Then the Counsel and Witnesses were directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

The

The following are the INVOICES before referred to in Fol. 52.

( A. )

8 Truffs Derry Yarn, N<sup>o</sup> 52 to 67 Bds. per Trufs.

454 Bds. or 2,270 Spangles, at 2 s. 2½ d.	—	—	£. 253	—	2½
Exchange, £. 7 per Cent.	—	—	16	11	1
Real Invoice and Laft W SR had	—	—	—	—	—
Irish Yarn is cheaper than any other.	—	—	—	—	—
Prime Cost Sterling	—	—	£. 236	9	1½

Charges, viz. Infurance, at 2½ s. per Cent.	—	—	£. 2	9	8
At Londonderry.					

Bundling and packing, at 2 s. 6 d.	—	—	£. 1	—	—
Loss in the Wrappers and Ropes	—	—	—	10	8
Hay, Twine, Cart <sup>g</sup> and Porterage, 8 d.	—	—	—	5	4
Duty 265 Hds. 10 lb. at 1 s.	—	—	13	5	5
Quayage, Patt <sup>g</sup> , and Landw <sup>g</sup> Fees	—	—	1	7	½
Part Entry	—	—	—	6	3
Commiffion £. 2 per Cent.	—	—	5	9	6

	—	—	22	4	2½
Ex <sup>g</sup> £. 7 per Cent.	—	—	1	9	1½
	<hr/>				
	20 15 4				

Charges at Liverpool.

Entry and Part Certif <sup>g</sup> 2 s. 2 d.; Town's	—	—	£.	6	2
Duty 4 s.	—	—	—	6	8
Landwaiters 2 s. Cartage 2 s. Porterage 2 s. 8 d.	—	—	—	8	—
Commiffion	—	—	4	16	—
Freight on 8 Truffs, 12 s.	—	—	—	—	—
	<hr/>				
	5 16 10				

Charges on Canal between Liverpool and Manchester.

Freight on 8 Truffs, at 2 s. 3 d.	—	—	—	18	—
Cartage at 5 d.	—	—	—	3	4
	<hr/>				
	1 1 4				

£. 30 2 11

As near £. 13 per Cent. as possible.

Trufs

( B. )

Trufs 90 Bundles.

5	—	—	—	—	—
450 Spa <sup>g</sup> , at 2 s. 3 d.	—	—	£. 50	12	6
At Londonderry.	—	—	3	6	3
Exchange £. 7 per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—
Sterling	—	—	£. 47	6	3

Charges, viz<sup>t</sup>.

Infurance	—	—	—	—	9 10
-----------	---	---	---	---	------

Charges at Derry.

Bundling and Packing	—	—	£.	s.	d.
Loss in Wrappers and Ropes	—	—	—	2	6
Hay, Twine, Cart <sup>g</sup> , and Port <sup>g</sup>	—	—	—	2	—
Duty and Fees	—	—	—	—	8
	<hr/>				
	1 19 —				

Ex<sup>g</sup> £. 7 per Cent.

—	—	—	2	4	2
—	—	—	—	2	11
<hr/>					
—	—	—	2	1	3

2 1 3

At Liverpool.

Entry and Part Certificate, 2 s. 2 d.; Town's	—	—	—	—	—
Duty 6 d.	—	—	—	—	—
Landwaiters 3 d. Cart <sup>g</sup> 3 d. Porterage 4 d.	—	—	—	—	2 8
Commiffion	—	—	—	—	10
Freight	—	—	—	—	1
	<hr/>				
	— 12 —				

On Canal between Liverpool and Manchester.

Freight	—	—	—	—	—
Cartage	—	—	—	—	—
	<hr/>				
	— 2 3				
	<hr/>				
	— 5				

£. 7½ per Cent.

Sterling	—	—	£. 3	10	3
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S

Luna,

[ 70 ]

*Luna, 11<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee proceeded to the further Hearing of Evidence in Support of the Petition of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and others resident in the Town and Neighbourhood of Manchester.

The Counsel was called in.

Mr. THOMAS RICHARDSON called in, and examined.

Was you examined before the Committee of Privy Council?  
I was.

Was you previously acquainted with the Object of the Examination?  
No.

Upon what Occasion was you in Town when you was examined?

I was deputed by the Town of Manchester and the Neighbourhood, with Mr. Walker, to present a Memorial to the Treasury, praying for a Repeal of the Act of last Session imposing a Duty on bleached and dyed Cottons.

Had you then any Knowledge of the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament being intended to be proposed to that Parliament?

No, not to my Recollection.

Was you prepared to speak on the Consequences of such Resolutions to the Manufactures of Manchester?

Certainly not.

Was you present when the Question—"Have the Irish Manufactures any Advantage over the British in the Price of Labour," was asked of Mr. Walker before the Committee of Privy Council?

I was.

Did

[ 71 ]

Did he give the Answer which is stated in the printed Report?

He did.

Do you recollect the Question that follows that Answer being asked Mr. Walker, viz. "Do not you conceive that the Art and Ingenuity of the British Manufacturer will secure to him an Advantage in these Branches of Trade?"

I do.

Do you remember the very Words of the Answer, that they were as stated in the printed Report?

Perfectly well.

You will inform the Committee, when the next Question was put to Mr. Walker, what Answer he gave to it; and does his Answer appear on the Face of the Report?

I do not see his First Answer on the Face of the Report: His First Answer, as near as I can recollect, was this—"I conceive I have answered that Question already by my Answer to the Two preceding Questions."

Was the Question, so stated by Mr. Walker to have been answered before, put again by the Examiner?

It was.

What Answer did Mr. Walker give to it when so put again?—The Question was this: "If the Irish and British Manufacturers in the Cotton Trade were put on the same Footing with respect to Taxes and Bounties, as well internally as upon Export from One Country to the other, should you have any Reason to apprehend a Competition in the British or Irish Market?"

The Answer, as it is stated in the printed Report, is—"If we were put in *all these Respects*"—I do not recollect that Mr. Walker said, "*all these Respects*," but believe that he said, in "*all Respects*."

It is said in the Report, that "The Committee think it proper in this Place to inform Your Majesty, that the above Witnesses sent the next Day, and desired to correct their former Answer in the following Manner;"—did you send the next Day, and desire to correct your Answer?

We did not—the Evidence was sent to us by Mr. Fawkener, as I suppose for Correction.

Was you present on the Re-examination on this amended Answer?

I was.

Mr.



Mr. Walker there said, "That if the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. upon the Importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland into this Country, we apprehend it would be a sufficient Security to our Trade for the Home Consumption;"—was it then understood to mean that the £.10½ per Cent would be a Protection, if Ireland and England were in all Respects on an equal Footing, as he had before said?

Certainly it was.

How do you know it was so understood by the Examiner?

When we were sent for a Second Time to the Council, Mr. Jenkinson pointed out this Answer: "If we can in *all Respects* be put upon equal Terms," &c.—Now, says he, we mean in *all THESE Respects*.—To which we replied, We mean in *all Respects* upon equal Terms.—After we had contended some little Time, Mr. Jenkinson said, You do not imagine we can tax Irish Windows, Soap, or other Articles, which he enumerated, nor take off those of this Country.—To which Mr. Walker replied, I have no such Expectation; but unless Great Britain could have a full Equivalent, we cannot be on equal Terms.

Did you suppose that this Examination of your's was afterwards to be printed as Evidence in Support of the Irish Resolutions, or that it was for the private Information of the Examiner?

I did not suppose it was to be printed; nor did I know for what Purpose we were examined, till the Examination was nearly completed, and then only from something which Mr. Stanley suggested.

Did you ever mean to admit that £.10½ per Cent. was a protecting Duty in the present State of England and Ireland, with respect to Taxes and Labour?

I did not, nor did I imagine any one else did.

Have you not full Reason to believe, that the direct contrary of the Construction which has since been put on your Answer, namely, that £.10½ per Cent. is a sufficient protecting Duty in the present State of England and Ireland, was known at the Time to be the true Construction by the Examiner?

I did not think at that Time, situated as England and Ireland now are, that £.10½ per Cent. could be a protecting Duty; and when Mr. Jenkinson put the Question, I imagined he understood it so too.

*Examined*

*Examined by Members of the Committee.*

Whether every Question put to you by the Committee of Privy Council, after it was stated, was not distinctly read to you and Mr. Walker?

They were.

Whether every Answer given by Mr. Walker and you was not read over to you, after it was taken down by the Clerk of the Council?

I believe they were.

Whether you was not permitted to correct the Evidence, if there was any Omission or Mistake, and whether you did not attend the Clerk of the Privy Council on the Evening of the 31st January, for that Purpose?

We did attend that Evening, and made some few Corrections; but in the Course of the Examination either Mr. Jenkinson offered, or Mr. Walker requested, but I think Mr. Jenkinson offered, that we should have the Examination sent to our Lodgings; there we corrected it, and I must own I was very much astonished to see it published with every Answer as we corrected it, except the One with the Word *these* in it.

Whether you and Mr. Walker had not a Conversation in the Clerk's Room, on the Evening 31st January, concerning the Word *these*?

Not to my Knowledge.

Whether you and Mr. Walker did not there expressly consent that the Word *these* should stand Part of the Evidence, and that you would leave it so?

That I am certain we did not; and what strikes me more is, that when the Evidence came the next Day to be corrected, the Word *these* struck us forcibly.

You acknowledge then, that the Word *these* was in the corrected Copy sent you by Mr. Fawkener?

It was then in, but I do not recollect it was Part of the Answer given.

Was there in the Copy that you afterwards returned, any other Alteration or Correction than the Second Answer, as it stands in the Report, to the last Question, at the First Examination?

Yes, several.

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Did

Did you continue in Town any Time after the Second Examination?

We did some little Time.

Did you ever apply to make any Alteration or Addition to the Answer you gave to those Questions?

No, I never saw the Questions nor Answers after we left the Room.

Were not the Questions and Answers read to you at the Committee of the Privy Council after they were taken down?

I think they were.

Was not, at some Period of the First Day's Examination, the general Purport for which the Committee of Privy Council sat, explained to you and the other Witnesses who attended?

I had been there some Time before I had the least Idea of what we were sent for, nor did I perfectly understand what was the Purpose when I came away.

When Mr. Walker began to state the Amount of the Taxes laid last Year, was it not said to you all in the Committee of Privy Council, that the Committee were not fitting on the Taxes of last Year, but considering of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland?

I do not recollect any such Thing.

The former Question and Answer, at this Mark  $\frac{2}{3}$ , Fol. 73, were read to the Witnesses.

What were the Alterations to which you allude in that Answer?

The Whole stands now as we corrected it.

Is it now your Opinion, that £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. besides a Duty to countervail the Duty laid on the British Manufacture, would (all Circumstances considered) be a sufficient Protection to the British Manufacturer?

It is not, nor was it then.

By whom was it first suggested to you, that the Committee of Privy Council was fitting on Propositions respecting the Commerce between Great Britain and Ireland?

Mr. Stanley first suggested it to me, that these Questions could not relate to the Tax, but that he imagined it was some Irish Business.

Have

Have you read the printed Report of the Committee of Privy Council?

I have, as far as relates to ourselves.

Have you read the Introduction—the Preamble to it?

I have.

Is it there stated, that the Committee sat on the Irish Resolutions?

I cannot recollect.

Was you apprised, that the Committee sat on the Two specific Questions on which the Committee are stated to have been appointed?

No, I was not.

Was you apprised, that they sat on the First of those Questions?

I was not.

Was you, at no Time of your Examination, apprised of those Questions on which the Committee sat?

After our First Examination, I was told that those Questions related to a Commercial Intercourse with Ireland—I mean the Questions to which we had given our Answers before.

Had you been apprised to what Purport the Questions related, should you have given any other Answers than you have done?

I conceive I should not.

Had you been apprised of the Eleven Propositions respecting which you are now examined, and that it was the ultimate Object of the Committee of Privy Council to ascertain the Expediency or Inexpediency of those Propositions, would you not have thought it right to inform the Committee of your Opinion respecting them?

Certainly, in the best Manner I could.

Have you not already so done, to the best of your Judgment?

To this Committee of the House of Commons I have.

Did you mean to keep back any Thing from the Committee of Privy Council?

No—Mr. Walker gave the Answers there, and I am sure he gave them to the best of his Knowledge.

Did you not assent to the Answers given by Mr. Walker, and were not the Answers understood to be your joint Answers?

I certainly did.

Have

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Have you now considered the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament?

In the best Manner I can.

Are you aware that under those Resolutions the Cotton Manufacture of Ireland would be importable into this Country, subject to a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. besides the Addition of a Duty equal to any internal Duty on the Manufacture here?

I think they would.

Do you apprehend that the Cotton Manufacture of this Country would be affected, in Consequence of those Resolutions, in any other Respect than from the Irish Cotton being imported on those Terms?

I do, from the Preference given to the Irish Linens over those of Germany and Russia, which might shut us out from that Trade.

Has there been any considerable Export of Cottons to Germany or Russia?

In the Fustian Trade, in which I am engaged, there has.

Is there any other Respect in which you apprehend the Cotton Manufacture will be affected by these Resolutions?

In this Country I think it would—for I think the People would go to Ireland.

Is there still any other Respect in which you think the Cotton Manufacture would be affected by these Resolutions?

I cannot speak to that.

When the last Answer respecting the £. 10½ per Cent. was given, mentioned in the Report on the Second Day of your Examination, had not Mr. Walker and you previous Knowledge that the Subject of the Examination related to an Arrangement of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland?

I do not recollect we then knew it.

Are you of Opinion that 1*d.* per Yard on the Importation of Cotton Goods would be a sufficient countervailing Duty to balance the Inland Duty of 1*d.* per Yard laid on by the Act of last Session?

By no Means.

Have you lately heard of any Cotton Wool sent from Lancashire into Ireland to be spun into Yarn, and afterwards brought back, and used in the Manufacture of Manchester?

I have—I was told so by a Gentleman a Day or Two ago, who has bought several Packs of Cotton Yarn spun in Ireland.

Was

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Was that Yarn, so spun, intended to be manufactured in Manchester?

I cannot say what Use he intended it for—I supposed so.

If that Yarn was intended to be woven in Manchester, is it not a Proof that the Labour of Weaving is cheaper at Manchester than in Ireland?

No—for it might be worked into Twenty Articles not made in Ireland—but it proves the Lowness of Spinning in Ireland, if the Cotton sent from England, subjected to Two Freights, could afterwards be sold cheaper in Lancashire than the Yarn spun there.

Then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

Then the Counsel requested that Mr. Thomas Stanley (a Member of this House) would be pleased to be examined on this Subject.

And the said Member consenting thereto, he was examined in his Place accordingly.

Mr. THOMAS STANLEY, (a Member, in his Place.)

Was you present at the Committee of Privy Council when Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson were examined by the Board?

I was.

Do you recollect the Two Questions, viz.

“Have the Irish Manufactures any Advantage over the  
“British in the Price of Labour?”—

And,

“Do not you conceive that the Art and Ingenuity of the  
“British Manufacturer will secure to him an Advantage  
“in these Branches of Trade?”—

being asked of Mr. Walker, and the Answers given to them?

Yes.

Do you recollect the next Question being asked; and whether the Answer he gave appears on the Face of the Report?

The Answer which Mr. Walker gave was, That he conceived he had answered that Question in his Two former Answers.

Do you recollect the Question being again put to Mr. Walker, and what his Answer was?

His Answer was, That if we were put in *all Respects*, or, in *all THESE Respects*, but, as far as I can charge my Memory, it was in *all Respects*, upon equal Terms, they should not apprehend a Competition at either Market.

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Mr.

Mr. Walker having first referred his Examiner to his Two former Answers to the former Questions, in which he had enumerated the Difference as to Labour, Provisions, and Taxes, between England and Ireland, had you the least Doubt of Mr. Walker's Meaning, conveyed by his Answer given to that Question?

I had no Doubt whatever.

On the subsequent Examination, on the amended Answer, on the 5th February, was you present?

I was.

Do you recollect any Conversation that passed between the Examiner and Mr. Walker, explanatory of the Meaning of Mr. Walker, on that Occasion?

I do.

Will you please to state it?

The Examiner said, "You do not expect we can tax Windows in Ireland, nor Soap, nor Candles, &c." (enumerating several Articles) "or that we can take off those Duties in England."—To which Mr. Walker replied, "Till you can do that, or give us an Equivalent, you cannot put the Manufacturers of the Two Countries in all Respects on an equal Footing."

You having been present at all the Intercourse between the Examiners and Mr. Walker, do you believe it possible, that if the Examiner had attended to the Examination, he could reasonably suppose that Mr. Walker meant to admit £. 10 1/2 per Cent. to be a protecting Duty, notwithstanding those various Differences between England and Ireland, which he had repeatedly enumerated in the Hearing of the Examiner?

I did not think that £. 10 1/2 per Cent. was, in the Opinion of Mr. Walker, an Equivalent; and after what passed between Mr. Walker and the Examiner, I did not think that the Examiner could be of Opinion that £. 10 1/2 per Cent. would be an Equivalent.

The Evidence being closed on the Petition now under Consideration,

The Counsel was heard to observe thereon.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

*Mercurii,*

*Mercurii, 13<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, that Mr. Richardson desired to correct Part of his Evidence, as taken when he was examined before this Committee;

Mr. RICHARDSON was called in;

And the following Question and Answer, in his Examination on Monday the 11th of April, was read to the Witness, as follows:

\* "When the last Answer respecting the £. 10 1/2 per Cent. was given, mentioned in the Report on the Second Day of your Examination, had not Mr. Walker and you previous Knowledge that the Subject of the Examination related to an Arrangement of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland?"

"I do not recollect we then knew it."

Explain what you mean, when you wish the Answer to that Question to be corrected?

I understood it to be an Answer to the last Question of the First Examination; for in putting the Question to and fro I certainly knew, and the former Part of my Evidence says, at the Second Examination, that there was to be a Commercial Regulation with Ireland.—This was first suggested to me by Mr. Stanley, and on the Evening of the 31st January, when we went to Mr. Fawkener's Chambers to read over the Evidence, I recollect Mr. Walker asking Mr. Fawkener (if it was a Question that Mr. Fawkener could answer with Propriety) whether our Examination did not allude to some Commercial Treaty with Ireland; to which Mr. Fawkener replied, he did not think he was at Liberty to speak on the Subject, but gave it as his Opi-

\* See Fol. 76.

nion,



nion, that it was;—and the next Day, when our Evidence was sent to us to be corrected, I then saw, at the Top of the Evidence, that it related to the Trade with Ireland.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

[The Committee being informed that William Fawkener, Esquire, one of the Clerks of the Privy Council, attended (according to Order) he was called in, and examined.]

WILLIAM FAWKENER, Esquire.

Did you attend a Committee of Privy Council on the 31st January last?

I did.

Were all the Questions that were put that Day to the Witnesses first written down and approved by the Members of the Committee?

They were.

Were all the Answers that were given that Day written down, and read to the Witnesses, after they were so taken?

They were.

[Mr. Fawkener looks at the printed Report of the Privy Council, on the First Day Mr. Walker was examined—and says he has read the last Question and Answer.]

Inform the Committee whether the Answer given to the last Question was the Answer given by the Witnesses, and read to them before they left the Room?

It was.

Did you not take it down as such yourself?

I did, and read it to the Gentlemen who were examined.

Did any Thing pass in Conversation on this Subject?—if there did, inform the Committee.

There did pass some Conversation on the Subject.—The first Answer was “*in all Respects,*” which they were told was much too general, and in Fact no Answer at all.—That the Question related to Taxes internal, as well upon Importation and to Bounties, and that an Answer to that Question was wished in the Affirmative or Negative.

Did they then give the Answer as it is now stated in the Report?

They did.—I mean that what I have related was the Substance of

of the Conversation which passed—I do not mean to give every Word.

Can you recollect whether the Witnesses that were then present were told, at any Time during the Examination, that they were examined on the Subject of a Commercial Intercourse with Ireland?

They were told so, to the best of my Recollection, in the Course of their Examination.—Upon their getting, in the Course of their Examination, on the Subject of the Tax of the last Year, they were told, that that was not a Point referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade, but that they were under Examination relating to some proposed Commercial Arrangements with Ireland.

Did you see these Witnesses on the Night of the 31st January, by Order of the Committee?

I did.

Was not the Whole of the Evidence then read to them, and were not many Alterations made in it?

The Whole of the Evidence was read, and many Alterations made.

Was there any Conversation at that Time concerning Ireland; and to the best of your Recollection what was it?

The Whole of the Conversation, which lasted a considerable Time, turned upon Ireland; and it seemed to me to be fully understood, that that had been the Object of the Examination in the Morning.

Had you any Conversation at *that* Time upon the Words “*all Respects,*” and “*all these Respects?*”

We had.—The Conversation that had passed in the Morning was repeated and enlarged upon rather; and this Conversation passed not only between Mr. Walker, Mr. Richardson, and myself, but between Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Philips and Mr. Kershaw, who were likewise present, as they all Four came together to my Chambers in the Evening.

Did they *then* consent that the Word *these* should stand Part of the Evidence?

I really think that they admitted *in Terms* that it should;—but I am quite sure they acquiesced in it.

Have you in your Possession the Copy of the Evidence which you so read to them?

I have.

Look at it, and see whether the Word *these* does not stand in that Copy.

The Witness looks at the Paper, and says,

This is the Paper we had before us in the Evening, and the Word *these* stands in the Answer.

Look over the Paper, and inform the Committee, whether there are not many Corrections which you made at their Desire.

There are several Corrections taken from their Mouths on the Night of the 31st.

Did not you deliver to the Committee that Evidence as settled with them?

I rather think, but I am not quite sure, that their amended Answer had been received before the Committee met again.

Did not you, by the Directions of the Committee, send an additional Question in Writing to these Witnesses?

I did.

Did they not return an Answer to the Question with a Note? They did.

Have you that Note in your Possession?

I have it in my Hand.

Are you sure it is the same you received from Messrs. Walker and Richardson?

I am as sure as I can be of a Thing of that Nature—it came to me at the Office.

Read it.

The Witness reads it as follows:

“ Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson return their Compliments to Mr. Fawcener, and send him their Answer to the Question transmitted by him to them from the Lords of the Committee of Council. They likewise return him the Copy of their Examination, which they have revised and corrected; conceiving it to be their Duty, upon a Matter of such great Importance to the real Interests of this Country, as the Adjustment of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, to answer all Questions proposed

“ proposed to them with every Degree of Accuracy in their Power.

“ Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson will be much obliged to Mr. Fawcener to return them the said Copy so soon as it is done with.”

“ Bate’s Hotel,  
“ 2d Feb’ 1785.”

“ Question proposed to Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, by Mr. Fawcener, by Direction of the Right honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council.

“ Q. Whether the Exportation of Cotton Goods, printed or otherwise, to other Countries except Ireland, has increased of late, or diminished?

“ A. With respect to the Exportation of Printed Cottons and Calicoes, we conceive it may be accurately known, by referring to the Custom House Books; as they are not only entitled to a Drawback of the Duty, but, we are likewise informed, to a Bounty of 2 d. per Square Yard upon Exportation.

“ The Exportation of Fustians, previous to the Year 1763, was not very considerable; since that Time to the First of October last, it has, upon the Whole, kept increasing, though not without Fluctuations, notwithstanding that, we are greatly underfold, and have almost wholly lost some Articles for which we not long ago had a considerable Demand; but that Art, Ingenuity, and Invention which has hitherto so eminently distinguished our Manufacturers and Workmen had, till that Period, supplied the Deficiency.”

Inform the Committee whether you attended the Committee of Privy Council on the 5th of February.

I did.

Look at the printed Report of the Evidence then taken.

[The Witness reads it.]

Is the Evidence there correctly taken?

It was read to the Gentlemen examined, and is, I am persuaded, correctly taken.

Did the Witnesses, in the Course of the Two Days Examination, give any other Answers to any Question put to them, than what are stated in the printed Report?

None that I understood were to be taken down as Answers.—

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In the Course of the Examination a great deal of Conversation passed, but every Question that was asked was admitted to be understood before an Answer was expected to it; and every Answer was settled and agreed to, and read to the Gentlemen examined before they were dismissed.

Did they ever complain to you that any Thing was omitted? Never, that I recollect.

Have you not Reason to know that Messieurs Walker and Richardson were some Time in Town after the last Examination?

I met them I think about Ten Days or a Fortnight after.

Did they *then*, when you met them, or at any other Time, desire to make any Alterations in the Evidence taken on the last Day?

They did not—It certainly would have been my Duty to communicate it to the Committee of Council if they had.

Had not you Permission from the Committee to send to any of the Witnesses Copies of their Examination if they applied for it?

I had.

Look at the Question in Page 37 in the printed Report, beginning, "If the Irish &c." and say, whether you recollect that Mr. Walker, when this Question was first put to him, did not reply, That he conceived that Question already answered by his Two preceding Answers to the Two former Questions?

I perfectly recollect Mr. Walker did not make an immediate Reply to that Question, but I really do not recollect that he answered it in that Manner.—I must here generally observe, that when I saw the Gentlemen examined were getting into Conversation with the Lords of the Council, I did not so exactly attend to what passed as when the Answer was agreed upon, and ready to be taken down.

Whether the Whole of Messieurs Walker and Richardson's Examination was intended to be sent, or was sent for their Perusal, as well as that of the 31st of January?

Only that of the 31st of January was sent—if it had been applied for, the rest would have been sent.—I was authorized to do it without troubling the Committee upon it.

Is the Committee then to understand, that the Two Questions on the 5th of February were not sent?

They certainly were not.

Can

Can you inform the Committee whether the *printed* Report is taken from the Copy sent to Mr. Richardson and Mr. Walker, and which they amended, or from the Copy taken at the Privy Council?

From the amended Copy.—The Answers to the last Question the First Day are both marked in the printed Report.

Whether the Conversation which passed between you and Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson the Evening of the 31st of January, and their Revision of the Evidence, was in Consequence of their Application?

I can hardly give an Answer to that Question.—They were told that they were at Liberty to revise and correct their Evidence, and I asked them whether it would be convenient to them to come to me in the Evening for that Purpose.

Had they the same Information, or the same Proposal made to them by you, after the Evidence which they gave on the 5th of February?

Not that I recollect, I rather think not.

Had you any Conversation on the Subject with Mr. Richardson and Mr. Walker, subsequent to the Examination on the 5th of February, relating to the Business at any Time after.

I had a Conversation about a Fortnight after with Messieurs Walker and Richardson on the Irish Business in the Park, but none on that Day, as they went out of the Room, other Business coming on.

Did it appear to you, that if the Intimation alluded to, which was made to Messieurs Walker and Richardson on the 31st of January, and the Proposal made by you had not been made, that the Evidence of the 31st of January would have remained without Explanation, in the same Manner as that of the 5th of February does?

It is impossible to answer that Question.

Have you any Reason to think they would have applied to revise the Evidence on that Day?

I had no more Reason to think so on One Day than another.

When you met them in the Park, was their Conversation on the Subject of the Evidence which had been given by them?

I think not; but on the Irish Business in general.

Whether the Two Answers of the 31st of January, both the incorrect, and the corrected One, were both published?

I obeyed the Directions that I received from the Lords of the

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Committee

Committee of Privy Council.—I understood it to be because it was the great Point to which the Examination was directed.

Whether, in the Second Day's Examination, you recollect Mr. Walker enumerated several Advantages which Ireland would have over this Country, by Taxes on Windows, Excise on Soap, Candles, and other Articles, and Stamps on Bills and Receipts?

Mr. Walker mentioned that frequently, and Mr. Richardson also; and I suppose on that Day, as well as on the First.

Do you recollect the Member of the Council who examined them, saying, "You do not expect we can tax Windows in Ireland, or lay Duties on their Soap, Candles, &c. or that we can take off those Duties in England," by way of Conversation?

I recollect, in general, that it was said that it could not be expected that Labour and Provisions could be made as dear there as here, or as cheap here as there: This passed in Conversation, but I do not recollect the particular Terms in which it passed.

Whether you had any Conversation with Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson on the 31st of January, on the Subject of the Commercial Treaty with Ireland, previous to their Examination?

No, I had not.

Were Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson informed, by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council, of the Purport of their intended Examination?

I do not recollect they were, previous to their Examination;—indeed I rather think not.

Whether at any Time, during either of their Examinations, the Two Questions referred to the Committee of Council, by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 14th of January, were ever read to them?

They never were read to them.

Whether Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson made any Application to you to be examined by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council?

They never did.

Did you receive any Directions from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council, to order the Attendance of Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, previous to the First Examination?

Certainly none.

Can

Can you inform the Committee how Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson came first before the Lords Committee of Privy Council?

I understood by the Desire of Mr. Rose.

Did Mr. Walker or Mr. Richardson, on their coming to the Privy Council, acquaint you that they came in Consequence of such Order?

As well as I recollect, a Message came from the Treasury to say that the Gentlemen from Manchester were attending there, and to desire that I would send for them when the Lords of the Privy Council were ready.

Did you receive any Directions from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council, to write circular Letters, or otherwise to give Notice to the manufacturing and trading Towns of Great Britain, of the Object of their Lordships Enquiry?

I never received any such Directions, nor ever wrote any such Letters.

Does it appear that at any Period of the Examination of Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, that they had received any Intimation from the Lords Committee of Privy Council, or had any Knowledge of the Resolutions proposed a few Days afterwards in the Irish Parliament respecting a Commercial Arrangement with Great Britain?

Of the specific Resolutions certainly not.

Does it appear that they had any Intimation from the Committee of Privy Council, or Knowledge of the general Purport and Spirit of those Resolutions?

They certainly appeared to me, in the Evening of the 31st of January, fully to understand that some Commercial Adjustment with Ireland was then in Agitation, and that a Part of that Adjustment was to be the Admission of Irish Manufactures into this Country.

When you met Mr. Richardson in the Park a few Days after his Examination, and when the Irish Resolutions were known, whether Mr. Richardson did not say to you, that Labour being so much cheaper in Ireland than in England, and the Value of their Articles consisting Three-fourths in Labour, it was probable, with all the other Advantages of Ireland, that Ireland would immediately supplant us in our own Market?

I really do not recollect that Mr. Richardson used those Words—it is very probable he might, because we argued the whole Matter

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ter as well as we were able to argue it, and probably that was said in the Course of that Argument by Mr. Richardson.

Did you ever understand, between the 5th of February and the Examination of Mr. Walker or Mr. Richardson, before a Committee of this House, that Mr. Walker or Mr. Richardson were dissatisfied with any Part of their Answer stated in the Report of the Lords Committee of Privy Council ?

I never heard that they were dissatisfied with any Part of their Answers. I did hear, from Report, that they had held a Language which did not seem to me perfectly to agree with the Answers they had given as stated in that Report ; but I took it for granted they had changed their Opinion.

How long after the Examination had you the Conversation with Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, in the Park ?

Ten Days or a Fortnight ;—but I cannot exactly say.

Whether it did not appear to you, from that Conversation of Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, that they then thought that the Irish Propositions would be very dangerous to the Manufactures of Great Britain ?

I really think that from their Conversation much Apprehension of Danger did not seem to exist in their Minds.—I remember perfectly, that the last Thing which passed was my asking them, whether they did not, on the Whole, think that the Manufacturers of this Country had more to apprehend from Non-importation Agreements, from protecting Duties, and from the high Bounties, and the great Encouragement which the Irish would certainly give their own Manufactures in case the Propositions were rejected, than from the proposed Adjustment.—I really do not recollect Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson's precise Answer, but their Opinion did not appear to me to be decidedly against it ; at least, that is the Impression which the Conversation left on my Mind. That Conversation I have frequently mentioned, long before I had any Idea of being called to this Bar.

Is the Committee to understand, whether, in that Conversation, One of the Parties argued in Favour of the Propositions, and the other against them ?

Most assuredly.

Whether Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson did not argue against the Irish Propositions ?

They certainly did.

Whether

Whether it appeared to you, from any Part of that Conversation, that Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson conceived that the Opinion which they then delivered was inconsistent with the Evidence they had before given to the Committee of Privy Council ?

The Evidence they had given made no Part of the Conversation at all—we talked in general on the Subject.

Is it your Opinion, that Persons may not argue against the Irish Propositions, without much Apprehension in their Minds of Danger from the Consequences of them ?

I take it for granted they may.

Whether a Man may not argue for the Irish Propositions, without being thoroughly convinced that they may be very beneficial to this Kingdom ?

My Opinion is, that there is nothing that a Man may not argue for or against.

Do you recollect, in your Conversation with Mr. Richardson and Mr. Walker in the Park, whether Mr. Richardson did not argue to you, if Ireland continued unreasonable in her Demands, it would be very easy to bring her to Reason, by following her Example, to enter into Non-Importation Agreements, and prevent the Importation of Irish Goods into this Country ?

Yes—My Answer was, we should then be at declared War, which was hardly to be wished ; to which Mr. Richardson assented.

Whether, from the several Conversations you had with Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, you are or are not of Opinion, that their Objection to the Irish Propositions arose, in a great Measure, from their Dislike to the Tax on Fustians ?

And the Question being objected to ;

The Witness was directed to withdraw.

And the Question was amended as follows :

Whether it did or did not appear to you, from the Conversation you had with Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, that their Objection to the Irish Propositions proceeded chiefly from the Operation of the Tax on Fustians ?

Then the Witness was called in, and the Question, as amended, was put to him.

They seemed to think the Repeal of the Tax on Fustians a very essential Object, and had it much at Heart ; but their Objections were on general Grounds.

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Did

Did Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson ever, by any Means, or at any Time, admit that a Repeal of the late Tax on Fustians would take away their Objections to the Irish Resolutions?

The Tax on Fustians was never mentioned in our Conversation as coupled with the Irish Resolutions.

Then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

*Veneris,*

*Veneris, 15<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, that Counsel attended on the Part of the Petition of the Manufacturers and Dealers in British Manufactures of the City of London, and other Cities and Towns of Great Britain, whose Names are thereunder written;

The Counsel (Mr. Piggott) was called in;

And the said Petition was read; Setting forth, That the Petitioners have been informed, that certain Resolutions of the House of Commons of Ireland, relating to the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and that Kingdom, have been lately presented to the House; and that, as the Petitioners are given to understand, that no Alteration will be made in any of those Resolutions, they apprehend that if the said Resolutions are carried into a Law, they will prove highly injurious and prejudicial to the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom, and to the Petitioners in particular: And therefore praying, That they may be heard at the Bar of the House, by themselves and their Counsel, against the said Resolutions passing into a Law.

The Counsel desired of the Committee that he might be permitted to call his Witnesses first, and to observe upon the Evidence afterwards, if he should find it necessary; and, he proposed, in the First Place, to call Witnesses as to the Article of the Manufacture of Paper.

The Counsel being then called upon by the Committee, to state the several Manufactures upon which he meant to offer Evidence to the Committee in Support of this Petition; and also to state the Order in which he intended to produce the Evidence on those several Manufactures;

He

He informed the Committee, That he was not sufficiently instructed to answer either of those Questions in the full Extent, but that he could mention some of the Manufactures on which he meant to offer such Evidence; viz.—The Manufactures of Paper—of Leather—of Soap—and of Candles; and that he will first begin with that of Paper—then proceed to Leather—afterwards to Soap—and then to Candles; and that, as soon as he is further instructed, he will immediately inform the Committee.

The Counsel was then asked, Which of the Persons who had signed this Petition was interested in the Manufacture of Paper?

To which he answered, Mr. Marsh, who is One of the Petitioners.

The Counsel then called

Mr. WILLIAM GROSVENOR, Stationer in Cornhill, London.

Will the Irish Propositions, if carried into a Law, in any, and what Degree, affect the Paper Trade?

They will affect it very materially. The Duties now laid on—

[The Witness appearing to read from a Paper]

The Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

*Resolved*, That the said Witness, in giving his Evidence to the Committee, is not to refer to any Memorandums, but such as have been made by himself, or under his Direction, of Matters within his own Knowledge.

Then the Counsel and Witness were called in, and the Witness was acquainted therewith.

Then the Question being repeated;

The Witness informed the Committee, that he will give his Evidence without consulting any Minutes.

They will affect it very materially, because the Duties that are laid upon Paper in this Country the Irish are not subject to;—they therefore can greatly undersell us. They pay no Excise Duties upon Paper.

Will

Will the Irish be able to supply the English Market, if these Propositions pass, at a lower Price than the English manufactured Paper costs?

They certainly will.

Why?

The Price of Labour, Provisions, and House Rent, are considerably cheaper there.

Are these all the Reasons?

£. 25 per Cent. Duties upon the Paper; though there is a Drawback allowed, yet the Drawback is not so much as £. 25 per Cent.

Will these Propositions affect the Trade in Printed Books?

Yes; the Irish can print cheaper than we can—They buy the Paper with the Duty taken off—They also bind them with Leather and Vellum, which pays a very high Duty here, and none in Ireland; this gives them a Superiority in the Market: At present they are prohibited being imported here.

Will the Introduction of Irish Paper, worked into Account Books, and Printed Books, into England, have any Effect, and what, on our Manufactory?

It will have this Effect: If exported from Ireland to America, and other Parts when bound, as we have no Drawback upon Paper when manufactured, they will gain all this Advantage—The Custom House here will not allow the Drawback upon imported Paper when bound—the same when printed upon—The Quantity of course of Paper manufactured here must be considerably lessened—The Demand will not be increased.

Do you know any other Reason, why the Irish could afford Paper Books of Accounts, and Printed Books, on lower Terms than the English?

Several—One is, that the high Duty on Vellum and Leather makes our Books come higher to the Foreign Market.

What Reason have you to think that the Irish can make or procure Paper lower than the English?

From the local Situation and Advantages—Price of Labour—They can export Paper in small Quantities, having recovered the Drawbacks from here, or having made it themselves; whereas, if we export it in small Quantities, the Trouble and Expence of the Drawback amounts to as much as what we receive, the Duties are so high—We often ship Paper to the Quantity of Thirty

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or Forty Reams, without attempting to get the Drawback, because of course it would go so much dearer to the Foreign Market We receive about 27s. and often pay 26s. 6d. out of it.

If a Duty equal to the whole Excise should be laid upon Paper, Account Books, and Printed Books, will it sufficiently protect your Trade?

I do not think it will, because the Duty is paid immediately before the Goods come to Market; of course the Paper Maker, employing a larger Capital, charges a higher Price on the Goods —The Drawback is not received till Six Months after, so the Drawback does not amount to so much as the Duty originally paid.

Will these Regulations affect the Export Trade?  
They will.

How?  
Because they can export from Ireland cheaper than we can from England.

Is it your Opinion, that the Irish will undersell us in other Markets?  
Yes, I believe they will.

Do not the Irish now export Paper Books of Account, and Printed Books, to America and the West Indies?  
They do.

Will they be able to export those at a lower Rate than the English?  
Most certainly, for the Reasons before given.

Do you know of any other ill Effects that these Resolutions will have on the Home Consumption?

They will occasion those Books that are bought in London to be imported from Ireland, as it will be worth our while to send Paper there to be printed and bound.

Are any English fine Rags exported to Ireland?  
Yes.

Are there any Orders for Rags now in Town from Ireland?  
If they have not given the Orders, they have wrote over to know the Price, and whether they can be supplied with large Quantities.

Can

Can they be supplied from other Countries?

They can be supplied with coarse Rags from Hamburgh and Ostend; fine Rags being prohibited to be exported from Holland, and other Parts, they will naturally apply here for them—and there is no Prohibition laid on here, though there is upon Wool. There is also a severe Penalty in Holland, on Persons exporting Rags.—Instead of our exporting Rags, we are obliged to import above One-third of what we manufacture here; and notwithstanding that, the Mills were in 1782 obliged to lie still above a Month for Want of Rags; and since that the Paper Makers have all come to a Resolution to leave off the Over-works for a whole Year, in order to reduce the Price; and they have been obliged to continue that for 1783, 1784, and 1785.

What is meant by Over-work?

The Demand was so great, that they worked Nine Days to the Week; and the Rags being so high, they lost Money by the Business—several were ruined. The Irish can afford to give a higher Price for Rags than the English now do, on Account of the Labour, and other Advantages they have.

Do you know, of your own Knowledge, what the Irish Paper Makers pay the Men for the Work?

I have enquired, and found it was about 8s. a Week; I was informed by a Person who traded there; except to the Foreman, whom they had from hence.

What did they pay him?

I cannot tell; but they made it worth his while to go over.

Have they then not paid him more than he got here, in order to make it worth his while?

I think it was worth his while, though they paid the same Wages, as Provisions are cheaper.

What do the Paper Makers here pay the common Workmen per Week, for Six Days in the Week?

From 10s. to 12s. per Week, in Kent, the principal County for Paper.

Must not the Irish pay much more for the Rags than the English do, if they import them from this Country?

I imagine not; 1s. per Hundred would give the Turn of the Scale to any Rag Merchant.

Do you know the Expence of Freight, Insurance, and Commission from England to Ireland?

Not exactly; I know that the Freight and Insurance are very low.  
Might



Might not the Expence of Freight, Insurance, and Commission, be charged on all Rags which go from hence to Ireland?

The Expence of Freight certainly must. In Summer Time they do not insure, which is the Time they want the Rags; and as to Commission, they can buy them of the Rag Merchants themselves, without paying any Commission.

Have you not said, that great Quantities of Paper are exported from hence to Ireland, for the Purpose of Printing; and that there are now great Commissions for it?

No, I do not recollect I did.

Have not you said, that it will be worth our while to export Paper to Ireland, for the Purpose of Printing?

I think it will, when the Prohibition of importing Books is taken off, when printed.

If it is worth our while to export Paper to Ireland, might it not be, because Paper is cheaper in England than in Ireland; or that they do not make a sufficient Quantity for their Use?

At present the Irish do not make a sufficient Quantity for their Use. All the Paper we print here pays a high Duty, which is taken off on being exported to Ireland; and if printed and bound there, we can export cheaper from Ireland to America than from London.

Do you understand that all Books from Ireland are prohibited to be imported here; or whether it is confined to such Books as where there is a Copy Right?

I understand that all Books are prohibited to be imported here.

When you talk of Books being prohibited from being imported here, do not you mean, that they are under Duties high enough to operate in general as a Prohibition?

I meant that, but I meant more than that—that they were prohibited by Act of Parliament.

Do you know what the Duty is on Books bound and unbound from Ireland?

About £. 10 per Cent.

Do you know that the Duty on Books bound is 19s. 3d. per Cwt. and on Books unbound 8s. 9d. per Cwt. except as to Books first composed and printed here?

The Question being objected to;

The Counsel and Witnesses were directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

The Witnesses was asked, When you speak of Books being in general

general prohibited, do you speak of Books first composed and printed here and re-printed in Ireland?

I mean that they are prohibited—All English Books printed here, and re-printed in Ireland, cannot be re-imported into England.

Do you mean that they are always prohibited, or only for a certain Time specified in an Act of Parliament?

I cannot speak to that.

Whether, supposing the Duties on unbound Books imported into Great Britain from Ireland, being at present 8s. 9d. per Cwt. the Trade will suffer by the Duty being reduced to 2s. 1d. per Cwt.?

Certainly it will.

Do you mean by that, that a larger Quantity will be imported from Ireland into Great Britain than at present?

Yes—and of course will hurt the Manufactures of Paper Makers and Printers, and if bound, of Book Binders and Leather Dressers, which Trades employ a great Number of Hands.

Do you know any Means by which the Importation of Irish printed Books and Irish Paper into this Kingdom can be increased, without a proportional Decrease of the same Articles of British Produce and Manufacture.

I do not see how it is possible—the more imported, the less must be made here.

Do you know whether the Introduction of Irish Paper is prevented by positive Prohibition, or by prohibitory Duties?

It pays the same Duty as from Holland, which is not a prohibitory Duty.

Is it so far an operating Duty as to prevent the Importation in any considerable Quantity?

It has not been tried yet—there has been no considerable Quantity as yet to import from Ireland.

Do you know that, under One of the Irish Propositions, upon Importation of Goods of the Irish Manufacture, a Duty is to be paid to countervail the Duty paid here to the Excise upon Paper?

Yes, I observe so.

Will the Payment of that Duty on the landing of that Paper in Great Britain, being the same Sum as is originally paid by the

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Manufacturer

Manufacturer here, be equivalent in its Effect to the Duty paid here in Advance some Months before?

Not quite, I think.

At what Period of the Manufacture is the Excise Duty paid here?

As soon as finished.

Is then the Manufacturer in England, who is obliged to advance the Duties imposed on finishing the Paper, upon the same Terms with the Irish Merchant, who does not pay till he comes into the British Market?

Certainly not—the Irish has greatly the Advantage; for the English Paper producing a Duty of £. 75,000 per Annum, there must be a Profit on that Capital so advanced, and the Irish export to England, without any Duty, all that they make themselves, and they have given a Bounty for its Encouragement.

Considering the Advantage you last mentioned, together with the other Advantages you before mentioned, will 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. per Ream upon Irish Printing Paper imported be a protecting Duty to the Manufacturer of Printing Paper in this Kingdom?

I do not think it will.

Considering the several Advantages, will £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. ad valorem on Irish Writing Paper imported into this Kingdom be a protecting Duty to that Manufacture?

No, it will not; there is more than that Difference.

Have you any thing to state respecting Stained Paper?

The Stained has the Drawback on the Staining of 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. per Yard; but no Drawback when shipped on the Paper, though it pays 3 s. 5 d. per Ream Duty—so that the Irish can greatly undersell us in that Article.

Do you mean in Foreign Markets?

In Foreign Markets, and this Market—They smuggle it in at present at Liverpool and other Places.

Are you aware that the Irish have at present the same Advantages of the Foreign Market which they will have if the Irish Propositions pass into a Law?

They certainly have not.

In what Respect will they have any Advantage in the Foreign Market?

If they make the Elephant Paper themselves, they will save 3 s. 5 d. per Ream Duty.

Cannot

Cannot they do that now?

If our English Rags are not prohibited to be exported they cannot at present.

Are the English Rags prohibited now?

They are not; but they ought to be, as Wool is.

Are you aware, that the Irish will have no new Advantage in the Foreign Market, if these Resolutions pass into a Law?

I think they will; as I before stated, they will save the 3 s. 5 d. Duty.

Whether, at the last Regulation of the Duties on Paper, the Duties on Foreign Paper were not considerably increased?

They were increased, not very considerably.

Whether you think, upon the Whole, that the Consumption of Foreign Paper in Great Britain has increased or diminished since the late Duties?

I believe much about the same—I do not think it has increased.

Do you not think that any Diminution upon the Duty on Foreign Paper would be the Cause of a great additional Consumption of Foreign Paper in Great Britain?

It would cause more to be imported.

Do not you understand, that at present the Duties on Irish Paper are the same in general as those on Foreign Paper?

I believe they are.

Whether the present Excise Duties on Paper are not laid variously on the different Sorts of Paper, according to the Size of the Paper, and Denomination?

It is so.

Whether you know if the Irish Paper Manufacturers manufacture their Paper on the same Sizes, and according to the same Denomination, as the British Paper is manufactured?

All that I have seen were so; they have their Moulds from England, and go under the same Denomination.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

Mr.

[ 100 ]

Mr. THOMAS BOWLES was called for, in order that he might speak to the Article of Paper.

And the Witness not appearing,  
The Counsel was directed to withdraw.

The Counsel was again called in, and informed, That the Committee expected that the Witnesses should attend, that they might be ready to come in when called for; and that the Evidence on each Head of Manufacture should be pursued till it was finished.

The Counsel informed the Committee, That he should next proceed to the Head of the Leather Trade.

Mr. WILLIAM WITHERS, Sadler in Fenchurch Street, called in, and examined.

Do you apprehend that the Irish Propositions, if passed into a Law, would have any Effect on your Trade?

I do apprehend that they will be very injurious to my Trade.

For what Reasons?

I understand the Irish are exempt from the Excise Duties, and they do not labour under the heavy Burthen of Taxes we do in this Country. I believe Labour to be much cheaper, and the Expence of Living much less, which I conceive to be a natural Consequence of their paying less Taxes than we do.

Do you purchase Tanned Hides in your Trade?

A considerable Quantity.

Do you apprehend that Ireland will, in consequence of the Propositions, have any Advantage over your Trade?

Very materially.—Raw Hides are at present imported into Great Britain from Ireland, paying no Duty, or a very small One; and I conceive that the Irish will find it for their Interest to manufacture those Hides into Leather, and that the Hides so manufactured will be brought into this Country, and not only brought in in that State, but be made into Wrought Leather, such as Shoes, Saddles, Harness, &c.

What Leather can now be imported from Ireland?

I speak now from Officers of the Customs, whom I have conversed with, and am informed, that Wrought Leather is totally prohibited

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hibited by one Act of Parliament, and by another there is an Exemption for Ireland, but under a Duty that I conceive to be virtually a Prohibition—by the Report from the Commissioners of the Customs, I see £. 77 per Cent.; but these Officers of the Customs told me, that there was no Instance of Wrought Leather being imported from Ireland, but in very small Quantities, and that only for private Use.

Are you apprised what Duty will take place on Leather imported from Ireland, in Consequence of the Irish Propositions?

I cannot say I know exactly—I have been informed £. 10 per Cent. or £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

If Leather is allowed to be imported from Ireland on the Payment of a Duty of £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. will that prevent Ireland from having an Advantage in the Market?

It will not prevent Ireland from having an Advantage in this Market.

Is not Wrought Leather One of the natural Manufactures of Ireland?

Wrought Leather is manufactured in Ireland.

Do you know any Article of the British Manufacture that will be more immediately endangered by these Propositions than that of Leather?

That is too extensive a Question for me to answer—I know they will injure my own Trade.

Is there any Duty imposed on the Exportation of Bark from England to Ireland?

Bark, I believe, may be exported to any Part of the World Duty-free.

Will the Expence of exporting Bark from England to Ireland be so great as to countervail the Advantage which Ireland has over England, with respect to the Exemption from Excise Duties, and other Taxes?

Certainly not.

Will not the Payment of the Excise Duties on the Importation of the Article from any other Country give the Importer an Advantage over the Person who pays the Excise Duty at Home in an earlier Stage of the Manufacture?

It certainly will.—The Excise Duty is paid upon the Hide before it is cut—before it can be made into Shoes, Saddles, &c. there is a considerable Waste, and the Interest of the Money is a Consideration.

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Have

Have you made any Calculation, or can you give the Committee an Idea, what those Circumstances will amount to—It is meant, between the Excise Duty in the Stage of the Manufacture you have described, and in that which will correspond with the Condition of Wrought Leather when imported from any other Country?

I have made no such Calculation.

Independent, then, of the Price of Labour, or the State of the Taxes in either Country, do you think that a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. added to a countervailing Duty, equal to the internal Excise Duties payable on the Importation of Wrought Leather, would be sufficient Protection to the Home Manufacturer?

I have made no Calculation—I conceive that £. 10½ per Cent. Duty, together with a Duty equivalent to the Excise Duty paid here, paid on the Importation of Wrought Leather from Ireland, would be barely an Equivalent.

*Examined by Members of the Committee.*

Whether Bark is not a necessary Article in Tanning of Leather?

Undoubtedly.

Have the Irish any Quantity of Bark?

I believe no great Quantity—I know they import Bark from this Country.

Do you not know that they import great Quantities from this Country, almost the Whole they use?

I believe they import a great deal.

Do you think that the Irish can import Bark from hence, and tan their Hides with it, and send such in the State of Leather to this Country, so as to afford the same at a less Price than we can tan it here?

I am certain they can—I have no Doubt of it.

Do you know the Price of Leather in Ireland?

I cannot say I know it exactly—I know they abound in Raw Hides, and have every Material but the Bark, and the Bark they can have from this Country, with the Expence of Freight only, which I believe to be small.

What is the Expence of Freight, Commission, and Insurance of any heavy Material from Great Britain to Ireland—How have you made that Calculation?

I do

I do not know what it is—I believe, in Time of Peace, very moderate, but I cannot say what particularly.

If it is £. 5 per Cent. must not that be added to the Price of the Leather?

Undoubtedly.

Upon what Grounds do you say that the Irish, all Circumstances considered, can manufacture Leather cheaper than we can in Great Britain?

I form that Opinion from their abounding in Raw Hides, having a much greater Quantity than there is in this Country—The Price of every necessary Article of Life I conceive to be much cheaper there; consequently, I am led to believe that Labour is much cheaper there—I have before said, that we pay an Excise, which I apprehend they do not; that we labour under heavy Taxes, which bear no Proportion to the Irish Taxes.

Are not Raw Hides allowed to be imported into this Country Duty-free?

They are; Duty-free, or under very small Duties.

Is not the Charge on Freight on Raw Hides nearly the same as on Tanned Hides.

I suppose it is.

Can you say what is the Price of Labour to Persons employed in the Tanning Business in Ireland?

I cannot.

Can you say that the Price of Labour in all mechanic Trades in Ireland is not as great as in Great Britain?

I believe the contrary.

Have you any Reason to believe it, except those Allegations you have before stated?

No other.

You have said that £. 10½ per Cent. Duty, added to an Equivalent for the Excise Duties, would be a bare Equivalent for the Leather Manufactures of this Country;—if there is added to that what you have stated to be the Charge of the Freight of Bark to Ireland, will not that altogether be a sufficient Equivalent?

I have said that I have made no Calculation, and I am led to believe not.

Is not Allum a necessary Ingredient in bringing some Sorts of Leather to Perfection?

In some Sorts it is.

Do



Do not the Irish import their Allum from this Country?  
I do not know.

Is not Oil a necessary Ingredient in bringing to Perfection some Sorts of Leather?

Oil is used in currying Leather.

Is Oil cheaper in Ireland than in Great Britain, do you know?  
I do not know.

Is not Salt also an Ingredient in bringing some Sorts of Leather to Perfection?

I believe Salt is used in making some Sorts of Leather, but I believe in no great Quantities.

Do not the Irish import from Great Britain, as well as from other Countries, great Quantities of Salt?

I believe they do.

Do you think that the Irish Manufacturers in Leather, such as Sadlers and Shoemakers, are arrived at the Perfection which is possessed by Persons in the same Trades in Great Britain?

I believe they have not arrived at that Perfection—but there is no natural Impediment; they may arrive at the same Perfection, and in a short Space of Time:—But in some Articles they have nearly as good Artists as there are in Great Britain.

Do you know the Difference of the Price of Bark in Ireland and England?

No.

Can you say that the Price of Bark in Ireland is not double the Price in England?

I can say I have every Reason to believe it is not.

Can you tell what the Proportion in the Tanning of Leather of the Charge of the Bark is to the Price of the Raw Hide?

I cannot tell.

Can you tell what Proportion the Price of the Oil, Salt, and Allum bear to the Price of the Raw Hide?

I cannot; nor do I conceive that any One can answer that, but a Tanner—I am not sufficiently conversant with the Manufacture of Leather in that State.

Do you know whether the Expence of Freight, and of Land and Water Carriage of Bark, operates also in England, in many Instances, in the Leather Manufacture?

I am pretty certain it does.

Can

Can you say what is the Excise Duty paid on Leather here, on the general Articles?

I understand it to be  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  per Pound.

Can you form any Estimate of the Value of Dressed Leather per Pound, after having paid the Duty, and previous to applying it to different Manufactures, taking the Average on a general Estimate?

I cannot answer it.

Will not the grazing and victualling Trade of Ireland give to her Manufactures great Advantages towards establishing the Leather Trade, supposing her to have the British Market open, and to have acquired Capitals?

It will undoubtedly give her very great Advantages.

The Trade in manufactured Leather being at present protected by a Duty of  $\text{£}.77$  per Cent. supposing the Reduction of that Duty to  $\text{£}.10\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. to have the Effect of opening the British Market to the Irish Manufacture of Leather, are you of Opinion that the increased Importation of Irish manufactured Leather into this Kingdom, will occasion a proportional Diminution of the British Manufacture?

It undoubtedly will.

Must not the Charge of Freight from Great Britain to Ireland be always added to the Cost of the Bark carried from Great Britain to Ireland?

It must undoubtedly; but the other Advantages which Ireland has over Great Britain, and which I have before enumerated, are equivalent, and considerably more.

You have said that, the Raw Materials and Labour being cheaper in Ireland than in England,  $\text{£}.10\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. exclusive of the Excise Duties, will be barely an Equivalent;—are you of Opinion, that there is Reason to apprehend, that under such a System the Irish Manufacturer would gradually supplant the British Manufacturer, in any considerable Proportion of his Trade, within the British Market?

I conceive the British Manufacturer has not much to apprehend.

By  $\text{£}.10\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. being considered by you as barely an Equivalent when added to the Excise Duty, do you include in your Calculation all the several Advantages you have stated from the grazing and victualling Trade of Ireland; the Exemption

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from the principal Taxes paid in Great Britain; the Difference you suppose to be in the Price of Labour; and the Payment of the countervailing English Excise Duty, which is not to take place, as in England, in the early Stage of the Manufacture, but on the Importation of the Article into the Market?

I said before, when I answered the Question, that I had made no Calculation, that I had not sufficiently weighed it, and that I spoke as my Mind suggested to me at the Moment: I appeal to the Candour of the Committee, and believe that every One that heard me did not understand me in that Manner—and that I was led to believe so at the Moment.

Are you then able to give any more particular Answer to the last Question, than you have given?

[ Last Question and Answer read. ]

It is now placed in a much stronger Light; and if I had Time to consider, I am doubtful whether I should have given the same Answer to that Question—I cannot speak decidedly.

Upon Payment of what you understood to be the countervailing Duty, do you not mean that  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  per lb. on manufactured Leather is to be paid on the Importation thereof into Great Britain, exclusive of the Duties which are laid on particular Articles?

And the Question being objected to;  
The Counsel and Witnesses were directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;  
The Witnesses says, That he deals entirely in Saddles.

Can you say, generally speaking, what Proportion the Leather which pays a Duty bears in Weight to the Leather which is worked up into a Saddle; and how much it is diminished in the Course of completing that Manufacture?

There is a very considerable Loss, by the Cutting, &c. but I cannot say how much.

Supposing, then, all other Circumstances equalized, would not the Irish Sadler, in paying his countervailing Duty upon the manufactured Article, have a Gain proportionable to the Duty upon the Weight, which is lost in the British Manufacture?

Undoubtedly the proportionable Loss on the Waste would be a considerable Gain to the Irish Manufacturer.—There would be a material Difference on paying the Duty on the Hide before it is manufactured, to that of paying it on the Articles made up of Saddles or Shoes.—The Advantage must be considerable to the  
Manufacturer,

Manufacturer, if it is paid afterwards, than what it would be if it was paid in the First Instance.

Do you know whether there are other Manufactures in Leather in which the Waste is equal to, or greater than the Waste in the Saddle Manufacture?

There are many others, in which the Waste is very considerable—whether it is more or less I cannot say.

Would not the same Advantage operate proportionably to each of those?

Certainly.

Do you know whether Ireland has yet attained any Degree of Perfection in the Manufacture either of Saddles, Gloves, or Shoes.

They have arrived at a great Perfection in some Articles, nearly equal to us, if not quite.

Would not manufactured Leather be imported nearly as cheap, or cheaper, than the Raw Hides, as to the Expence of Freight from Ireland?

I do not know what the Freight is.

Do not you know, or have you never heard, that the Tanning of Leather in Ireland is equal in Quality to what is tanned in Great Britain?

I believe not at present—I have Reason to suppose that it will;—when the Demand is great, they will pay great Attention to the Manufacture.

Can you tell the Committee what is the superadded Value to  $\pounds$ . 100 worth of Raw Hides imported from Ireland, when manufactured into Saddles, and exposed to Sale in the Shop?

I cannot answer that Question.

What Proportion of the Excise paid on the Manufacture do you draw back on Exportation?

We draw back the Whole; but the Expences at the Custom House are so great, with the additional Stamp Duties recently imposed, that I believe there is not more than One Third of Wrought Leather entered for a Drawback. The Quantity exported must be so considerable in One Entry, that few Merchants ship so large an Article that the Drawback should be an Object.

Supposing the whole Expence at the Custom House to be abolished, would the Drawback received be then equal to the Whole of the Excise Duty paid?

I conceive it would.

You

You having stated that there was considerable Waste in the manufacturing of an Article on which you have paid the Duty, would the Drawback, exclusive of all the Expences, compensate for the Duty so paid?

I did not advert to the Waste at the Time I spoke before—I before said, I understood the Expence to be  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  per lb.; I did not speak positively. The Drawback is  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  per lb.; If we draw back the same, the Waste will be a Loss to the Manufacturer.

Suppose the Irish Manufacturer to pay the same Duty of  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  per lb. will he not have the Advantage over the English Manufacturer of all that he has paid the Duty for that is wasted?

If the Duty is paid on Wrought Leather, he will not only derive an Advantage from paying it in that State, owing to the Waste, but the Interest of his Money. There must be a greater Advantage to the Manufacturer in paying the Duty on the Sale of his Manufacture than on the Hides.

Whether in your Trade the Waste is very considerable?  
It is.

Whether, in speaking of the countervailing Duty to be paid by the Irish Importers of manufactured Leather, you understood the Duty intended to be  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  per lb. Weight?

I apprehend it must be considerably more, or it is not an Equivalent, owing to the Waste before mentioned; and One Circumstance that I have not mentioned strikes me more strongly—the Duty is paid on the Hide before it is curried.—The Diminution of the Hide to a proper Consistency of Leather must be a greater Loss and Waste than in any other Part of the Manufacture. I am informed the Excise Laws were, some Time since, not carried into Execution in Scotland in the same Manner as they were in England. In Scotland the Tanner cut the Offal, and paid the Duty on the Prime Part of the Skin so diminished—the English Manufacturer paying it on the whole Hide in the Rough. Hides were then brought from Scotland in a Quantity so as to affect the Dealer in that Article here very considerably, but it is now otherwise.—I mean to say, that, owing to that Circumstance, the English Manufacturer was underfold by the Scotch.

Do you apprehend that the Reason that the English Manufacturer is not now underfold by the Scotch is, that the Excise Laws are put into Execution in Scotland in the same Manner as in England?

Yes.

Whether

Whether, under all Circumstances, if the Duties were equal between Great Britain and Ireland, the Irish would not be able to undersell you in the Articles in which you trade?

If the Duties were equal, the Price of Labour, I conceive, is not.

Question repeated.

I do not think we should have much to fear—I conceive the Irish at present work much cheaper, but when the Manufactures flourish, and the Expences are equally great, which I apprehend would not be a great while first, that the English Manufacturer would not have much to apprehend, if the Duties were the same—undoubtedly at present it would be otherwise.

Whether, if the Duties on Importation and Exportation between Great Britain and Ireland were exactly equal, the Irish do not manufacture at so much easier a Rate, that they would not be able to undersell you in those Articles in which you deal?

They would, most undoubtedly.

Whether your principal Trade does not consist in exporting Saddles, and other Horse Furniture, and Harness, to North America and the West Indies?

That is my principal Trade, I have little other.

Whether your Father before you did not carry on the Trade?

Yes, and I succeeded to him in the same Line, and it has existed near Fifty Years.

Whether the Irish have yet exported to North America or the West Indies Saddles or Horse Furniture which have borne any Competition with the British?

They certainly have not exported any Quantity that has arrived to any Competition with the British—but an Infant Manufacture must have some Time before it can arrive at any great Perfection or Extent—The Irish are under One Disadvantage—I believe the Merchant in Ireland is poor; it must be some Time before he can acquire by his Trade a sufficient Capital to vie with the English Manufacturer.

Whether the Saddlery of Ireland is equally good with that of England, when compared in its Price?

I have before said, that the Manufacture of Leather is not arrived at the Perfection it is in this Country, consequently the Articles made of that Leather cannot be equal in Quality—but, the Price considered, I very much doubt whether in the American

E e Market

Market we should have a Preference.—The Articles of that Kind exported to America are in general of an ordinary Quality.

Whether, to your Knowledge, Saddlery is not exported from Great Britain to Ireland?

I do not know that it is, unless in very small Quantities, for the private Use of Individuals.

When the Leather Manufactory of Ireland is sufficiently advanced for the Manufacturer there to export, whether you are not of Opinion that the Irish will be more likely to meet you in a Foreign Market than in the Home Market, paying a Duty here of  $\text{£} .10 \frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. and meeting there on an Equality?

There are Advantages to the Irish, which perhaps may not be equivalent, but which are considerable, and which would lead him to give a Preference to the British Market.—It is usual in almost every Factorage Business for the Factor to advance Money to the Manufacturer.—The Irish Manufacturer would find a Factor or Warehouse Man here, who would receive his Goods, and advance Money upon them, though they were not sold—the sending them to a Foreign Market is uncertain—they might lie in the British Factor's House under that Loan till he had an Opportunity to sell them, and I have no Doubt but that this would weigh very much with the Irish Manufacturer.

What Kind of Oil is used in the Preparation of Leather?

I do not understand the Manufacture of Leather—I believe it is Train Oil, but do not know.

Whether you can exactly ascertain what has been paid in Duties in the Manufacture of any given Quantity of Goods in the Trade—in One Saddle for Example?

The Duty is paid on the Raw Hide—it passes through the Hands of the Tanner and the Currier before it comes to our Hands, and I cannot ascertain the Duty on any particular Species of Goods.

Do you think it would be possible to lay such a Duty on the Importation of an Irish Saddle, as would exactly countervail the Duties which have been paid on an English Saddle of the same Quality, through the different Stages of its Manufacture?

I think it possible to lay such a Duty, but very difficult to ascertain what that Duty should be.

In order to ascertain it, do you think that the Duty upon the Leather actually in the Saddle should be taken into Consideration,

or

or the Duties on all the Leather which has been used in the making of it?

On all the Leather which has been used in the making of it.—I have before said it is paid by Weight on the Hide.—It is so much charged in the manufacturing, drying, and cutting to waste, that to lay a Duty on the Leather in the Saddle would not be an Equivalent.

Is the Waste of Leather equal in different Saddles, of different Sizes, Shapes, and Qualities?

Certainly not, there is a very great Difference.

By what Means then do you imagine the Duties can be laid on these Articles imported from Ireland, so as exactly to countervail the Inland Duties payable in this Country?

I have before said I conceive it possible, but difficult.—It is practicable to ascertain the particular Sort of Saddles and Sizes; but I should suppose a Duty might be laid that would be equivalent, but it would be very difficult.

Whether the Waste in all Saddles of equal Sizes, though of different Shapes and Qualities, is equal?

Not of different Shapes and Qualities.

Is the Committee to understand, that in order to render this Duty equal, there must be separate Classes and Descriptions of Saddles, of all the different Shapes, Sizes, and Qualities of which any Saddles are made in Great Britain?

I should think it would be necessary.

Whether you consider that a greater Capital is necessary for carrying on the Business for the British Market or the Foreign Market?

A much greater Capital is necessary for the Foreign Market.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr.



Mr. THOMAS BELL, Warehouse Man, in Cateaton Street, London, called in, and examined.

And informs the Committee, That he keeps a Warehouse, and is a Factor of Goods for the Merchant.

The Counsel informs the Committee, that he calls this Witness to speak to the Article of Leather; and that he is a large Exporter of Shoes.

Are you an Exporter of Shoes?  
I sell Shoes to the Merchant, who exports them.

Where do you purchase or procure the Shoes you sell?  
They are chiefly consigned from Scotland—I have a great many also from Staffordshire.

Is the Business of Shoemaking carried on to any great Extent in Scotland?  
It is now carried on to a very great Extent in Scotland.

Is it for Home Consumption, or chiefly for Exportation?  
I have said that I deal only in Exportation, and therefore it is for Exportation I have the Goods.

What Number of People do you apprehend to be employed in Scotland in this Manufacture?

I cannot pretend to speak as to the Number of People employed in Scotland in this Manufacture exactly.—It is a Manufacture which was hardly known in Scotland Twenty Years ago, in the Way that I now deal in it; I mean for Exportation, through the Medium of the London Market.—Some Persons thought there would be a great Advantage in manufacturing Shoes in Scotland, where the Wages were much cheaper, if they with these Goods could supply the London Merchant—for this Purpose they came up to London themselves about the Time I mentioned, and learnt the Manufacture here on the London Principle.—They returned to Scotland, carrying with them a few intelligent Persons in the Business, and they commenced the Manufacture in different Towns there—First in Dundee; there are employed there fully Eight hundred or One thousand People in this Manufacture now.—Perth also employs an equal Number.—Montrose, and all the Towns from thence to Aberdeen, have a great Number of these Manufacturers.—In the West Country there are also great Numbers.—At Glasgow, and thereabouts, a very great Number.

ber.—I therefore conclude there cannot be so few as Twenty or Thirty thousand always employed in that Manufacture in Scotland.

From whence was this Manufacture carried into Scotland?  
I think I have answered that in my last Answer.

What was the principal Cause of its Removal into Scotland?  
The Occasion was a View of Interest.

What were the Advantages the Scotch had in carrying on this Manufacture?

They were able, from the Cheapness of Provisions in that Country, and the consequent low Price of Labour, to manufacture the Article sufficiently cheap to bear all the Expences of Carriage up to London, and to undersell the London, or even the English Manufacturer.

Is this Business increasing, or on the Decline in Scotland?  
I rather think it is upon the Decline.

To what do you attribute that Decline?

There are various Causes, no Doubt.—In the First Place, there are but few Orders now in London for this Manufacture; and besides that, a considerable Alteration has taken place in it, owing to an Act of last Session, I believe, which separated the Tanner from the Shoemaker, and this has naturally given a different Turn to the Manufacture.

Have you read or considered the Irish Propositions?

I have read them a few Days ago, which I believe is the Reason of my being here this Day; for I understand that Ireland will be upon a much preferable Footing even to Scotland, and that the Success of this Manufacture in Scotland may be expected at least to be equalled by the Irish. Under this Apprehension, I have asked several People about it, but I have had no Information to make my Mind easy on the Subject.

Do you then apprehend that the Irish Propositions will hasten the Decline of this Manufacture in Scotland?

Without Doubt I apprehend it will do so.

Do you apprehend that Shoes are at present prohibited to be imported from Ireland into England?

I understand that Shoes may be imported from Ireland into England, but under such a Duty as affords no room to apprehend any Thing from the Importation of them.

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What is that Duty?  
I believe £. 77 per Cent. ad valorem.

If that Duty was repealed, do you apprehend any Danger to the Trade?

Certain Destruction.

Are you of Opinion that a Duty of £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. added to the Duty to countervail the internal Duty, would secure the Manufactures of this Country against the Consequences of a Competition with Ireland?

Perhaps if that Duty could be laid exactly, to be paid as upon the Tanned Hide here, with an Addition of £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. it might for a while protect our Manufactures from being materially injured.

Is the Committee to understand by that Answer, that it is your Opinion, that £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. with the countervailing Duty, would be no Security for any Length of Time to the Manufactures of this Country?

I should apprehend, that when the Manufacture arrives at a Degree of Perfection, they might be able to manufacture Shoes in Ireland, and sell them in London, though they paid £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. because I conceive that they will derive Advantage greater than that from the Cheapness of Labour, which is always known to become cheaper by the Number of Hands employed in it.

Do you understand what is meant in the Irish Resolution by the countervailing Duty?

I suppose it means a Duty to balance the Duty of Excise—but to calculate that seems to me impossible, and thence arises my Alarm.

In what will the Difficulty of that Calculation consist?

The Excise is, I understand, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.* per lb.—the Hide, which pays that Duty, contains a Variety of Qualities all subject to the same 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.*—Suppose the Average Price of the Hide to be 10 *d.*—1  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.* upon that is £. 15 per Cent.; but if One Third of that is cut into Offal, valued at 5 *d.* the 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.* will then be £. 30 per Cent. on that which is Offal.—When the Hide is cut up into Stuff for Shoes a very great Proportion still goes to Waste, Total Waste, that is.—Whence I infer, that it would be very difficult to state any countervailing Duty when it is made up, if at all possible.

Whether, if that Excise Duty on Shoes could be ascertained, it would not be necessary to add to it a certain Consideration for the

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the Interest of Money, and other Disadvantages, sustained by the English Manufacturer, on account of the more early Stage in which he pays the Excise Duty?

Certainly, in all Cases when so large a Proportion of the Prime Cost goes to the Excise, it is a great Advantage, if it could be avoided, to pay that when the Article is fully made up; and that is, I think, a very great Advantage, and would be found of very material Consequence to our Manufacture.

Is the Difference of paying the Duty in that early Stage, or when the Article is made up, capable of being calculated?

I know of no Injury so great to a Manufacturer as the Payment of Duties in the First Stage of his Business; because, if he could employ his Capital in purchasing the Raw Material, his Business would consequently be carried on with a Degree of Vigour proportioned to the Sum laid out in the Excise.

Is the Committee to understand, that it is your Opinion, then, that the Interest of the Money only would not be that Compensation?

No, certainly not, it would not be a sufficient Compensation—When I say that, I speak of Shoemakers, who are not rich Men, and cannot afford to lie out of their Money for the Sake of the Interest.

Are not undressed Hides now imported into Great Britain from Ireland?

Raw Hides I understand are, and Calf Skins in a most amazing Quantity—I heard a principal Tanner say, Fifty thousand Dozen last Year.

If the Irish Propositions pass, are you of Opinion that the Irish will then continue to send Raw Hides, as now, to the English Market?

They will be very much to blame to do it—their Interest points out to them a different Conduct.

In what State of the Manufacture will the Irish then send their Leather to England?

The same Motive that would induce them to manufacture the Raw Hides into Leather, would also induce them to carry the Manufacture through all its Branches—their Interest.

Is it your Opinion that the Irish Propositions will tend to the Establishment of the Manufacture of Shoes in Ireland, and to the Supply of the British Market?

It will tend certainly to the establishing the Manufacture in Ireland, and I am afraid the other would be the Consequence.

Can

Can you state what Advantage the Irish would enjoy over the English in carrying on this Manufacture?

If they possess Advantages equal to Scotland, which I apprehend they do, the Success of their Manufacture might naturally be supposed to be equal; and I have mentioned a Circumstance to shew that Scotland now employs a great Number of Men in this Business, which Twenty Years ago employed none in it.

What is the Difference between the Price of the Raw Hides in Ireland and England?

I do not know, but if they were as dear in Ireland as here they would not be sent here to sell.

Is there not a great Loss or Waste of Leather from the Period of its paying the Excise till it is fit to be manufactured into Shoes and other Articles?

Very great.

Will the Leather imported from Ireland into England be liable to the same Losses from the Time of its paying the countervailing Duty?

I should not think that the Irish would send it here before they had reduced it as low as they possibly could in Point of Weight, which may be done, without injuring the Leather, between the Time of its being tanned and made up into Shoes; and it was this Advantage which the Scotch had of shaving the Hide before it paid the Excise, which occasioned the Alteration that took Place last Year in Scotland; and this serves to shew that it may be done, and therefore that it will be done.

Can you state any other Inconvenience which you apprehend will follow if these Resolutions should pass?

I know of no other Inconvenience but that it will supplant our Manufactures.

Is it your Opinion that these Resolutions, if passed, will operate in any Degree as an Encouragement to Emigration?

I think the Irish will be able to offer considerable Advantages to Artizans to go over there, and I believe a Journeyman Shoemaker might be induced to go.

*Examined*

*Examined by Members of the Committee.*

How will the lowering of Duties on the Importation into Great Britain cause certain Destruction to the British Exportation Trade?

By enabling the Person who imports upon low Duties here to undersell those who pay a high Excise.

What additional Advantage the Irish Propositions, if adopted, will give to Ireland, in the Exportation Trade, of which they are not now in Possession?

I understand that the Irish may now export freely to any Country where they please, except Great Britain; and therefore the Thing wanted by them is sufficient Capital, and intelligent Artizans:—The Way to obtain both which seems to be opened to them by these Propositions, and my Reason for saying so is, it is not always convenient to a Manufacturer to export the Goods he makes, though he may have the Privilege of doing so, because his Returns are very uncertain;—but in London it only requires to bring the Goods to Market, and Purchasers even for Ready Money will be found; but at all Times the Manufacturer can fix the Period of his Payment—thus he acquires a Capital: And as to the other Part, which is skilful Artizans, the Intercourse between the Two Countries gives an easy Opportunity of acquiring them.

Whether the Advantages already possessed by the Irish in the Export Trade are not sufficient to induce Persons rather to apply their Capital, and endeavour to procure intelligent Artizans for carrying on their Business in Ireland, rather than in Scotland?

I should certainly think so. I speak of this particular Manufacture.

Do you think that any Duty upon the Importation of manufactured Leather from Ireland would be a countervailing Duty, unless it were sufficient to balance not only the  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  per Pound Weight Excise Duty upon Leather, but also the whole Loss of the British Manufacture arising from Waste, and from the Advance of Money?

I do not think that any Duty can be said to countervail, where the Balance is against us; for if all these Things co-operate to enable the Irish to work so much under us, we must have an equal Allowance some how, to put us on equal Terms.

G g

Whether

Whether the Waste in different Branches of manufacturing Leather is not very different?

I should suppose so, but I am not conversant in this.

Do you attribute the Success in Scotland, in this Manufacture, to the comparative Cheapness of Labour there?

I can attribute it to no other Cause.

Is Labour considerably cheaper in Ireland than in England?

I do not know what the Price of Labour is in Ireland, of my own Knowledge; I take it from Mr. Orde's Speech in the House of Commons in Ireland, which makes me believe that it is much cheaper there.

From what did you take Mr. Orde's Speech?

I bought a Pamphlet which contains it.—I do not answer for its Authenticity.

Has the Manufacture declined in England, in the same Proportion it has improved in Scotland, in the last Twenty Years?

I do not know.

Whether it is your Opinion, that every Thing that checks the Importation of a Raw Material is of itself an Injury to Manufacture?

That is my Opinion.

Do you not believe, that under the new Arrangement Ireland will rather work up her own Raw Materials, than send them to England?

I think so; and I said so before.

Do you think it consistent with the Welfare of a Trading Country, to encourage the Importation of a Manufacture, and to discourage that of Raw Materials?

I should imagine nothing could be worse Policy than that.

And then the Counsel and Witnesses were directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

*Jovis,*

*Jovis, 21<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis 1785.*

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee proceeded further on the Petition of the Manufacturers and Dealers in British Manufactures of the City of London, and other Cities and Towns of Great Britain.

The Counsel was called in, and informed the Committee, that he desired to proceed, in the next Place, to the Article of Cut Glafs.

Mr. JOHN BLADES, a Cut Glafs Manufacturer, and a Dealer in Plain Glafs, on Ludgate Hill, London, was called in, and examined.

Do you apprehend any Danger to the Cut Glafs Manufactory, if the Irish Propositions pass into a Law?

Yes;—from the Advantage the Irish Cut Glafs Manufacturer will have from his procuring his Plain Glafs at a much cheaper Rate than it can be manufactured in England.

At what do you estimate the Advantage which Ireland will have over Great Britain in this Article of Manufacture?

About £. 50 per Cent.

How does that Difference arise?

I conceive it to arise from a Duty imposed on Glafs in 1777, which advanced it £. 25 per Cent.—there was a Duty prior to that, in 1746, and Three £. 5 per Cents. on both those Duties;—the Irish not being subject to those Duties makes the Difference.

Do you know when the First Duty was imposed in England?

In 1746, I believe.

What was that Duty?

1 d. per lb.

About



About how much per Cent. was that?  
I do not know the Price at that Time.

What is the Whole that the Cut Glafs Manufacture pays?  
It is very difficult to ascertain.

About what do you estimate it?  
I cannot fay.

At what Stage of the Manufacture are all the different Duties paid?

In the earlieft Stage of the Manufacture—while in the Pot in a liquid State.

Are there any other Difadvantages which will affect this Trade?

The Difadvantage which feems likely to affect it moft is the Advantage the Irish will have in fending it into this Country, which Advantage arifes from our paying the Duty in an early Stage of the Manufacture, and they paying the nominal Duty on Importation, provided the Irish Propofitions pafs into a Law.

Is Cut Glafs prohibited to be imported now from Ireland?

There is a Duty on it, which amounts to a Prohibition.

Do you apprehend any Danger to your Bufinefs by taking off that prohibitory Duty?

The Danger I apprehend is the Emigration of Artifts in that Line of Bufinefs to Ireland.

Is it your Opinion, that it will be eafy to ascertain the countervailing Duty, if Cut Glafs fhould be imported from Ireland?  
I think it will be very difficult.

As the Excife Duty is paid in the early Stage of the Manufacture, is there not a great Lofs in the cutting of Glafs?  
There is a very confiderable Lofs.

May that Lofs be eafily calculated?  
It is various, from One Twentieth to One Half.

Are the Glafs Cutters ever deterred from making Experiments for the Improvement of the Trade, in Confequence of the Payment of the Duty in an early Stage, and the fubfequent uncertain Lofs that arifes from the Cutting?

We are very much deterred.

If

If the Irish pay no internal Excife Duty under the fame Circumftances, do they labour under the fame Difadvantage?

By no Means.

Are there any Glafs Manufactories eftablifhed now in Ireland?

Some very lately—Manufacturers have gone from this Country.—A Mr. Hill, a great Manufacturer from Stourbridge, is lately gone to Waterford, and has taken the beft Set of Workmen he could get in the County of Worcefter with him.

How many Glafs Manufacturers do you know have gone to Ireland—do you know any others befides Mr. Hill?

I have heard of others—but do not know them.

Have you underftood that any others have gone?

I have.

Do you know how many Glafs Manufactories are eftablifhed in Ireland?

There are Nine—Six of them are Flint Glafs Manufactories—One is a Houfe for making Broad Glafs, and the Two others for making Bottles.

Is the Duty drawn back on the Exportation of Cut Glafs?

The nominal Duty is drawn back; but there is a great Wafte, and the Duty is drawn back only on what is actually fhipped; and there is alfo great Expence in the Shipping.

When the nominal Duty is drawn back on the Exportation of Cut Glafs, what is the Lofs arifing from the Wafte, and the Expences incurred by what is neceffary to be done in order to obtain the Drawback?

That I cannot exactly fpeak to.

Do you apprehend that the Irish Propofitions will occafion the Emigration of Manufacturers in your Trade to Ireland?

I think they will emigrate—where the Glafs Makers have the Advantage, there the Glafs Cutters will follow.

Do you know about what is the Amount of the Duty actually paid to Government on your Manufacture?

I cannot fpeak to that.

Do you know the whole Amount of the Duty paid on the Glafs Manufacture?

I believe about £. 80,000 per Annum.

H h

Do

Do you apprehend the Glafs Manufacture is flourishing in Ireland?

I understand it does.

Are you of Opinion that a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. together with the nominal Excise Duty, if that could be ascertained, would be a Protection to the English Manufacturer against the Danger of a Competition with Ireland?

I do not think that would be sufficient.

*Examined by Members of the Committee.*

When you talked of the nominal Duty on Importation from Ireland, did you mean a Duty adequate to the Glafs Duties paid here?

I meant that the Payment of that Duty would not be adequate.

What do you conceive to be a Duty adequate to countervail the Duty paid here in the early Stage of the Manufacture, considering the Advance made by the English Manufacturer, and the contingent Losses for Breakage, and other Failures in the Progress of bringing the different Articles of Cut Glafs to Perfection for the Market?

I cannot say exactly, but it would be something very considerable.

Will it not vary very much, as to every different Species of the Cut Glafs?

It will vary in the Manner I have before described, from One Twentieth to One Half.

Is there any Rule by which the particular Proportion can be affixed and ascertained, with respect to the different Species?

I do not know of any Rule, the Articles are so various.

Is not the Variation also affected both by the continual Change of Fashion, and by the Difference of Skill in the different Manufactures?

Certainly it is.

If you were shewn particular Articles of high-wrought and high-finished Cut Glafs, could you and others in the Business ascertain with any Precision, from the View and Examination of such Articles,

Articles, the Weight of Glafs which may have been cut away, or otherwise wasted, in order to bring them to that Perfection?

We could very nearly ascertain it.

Must not the ascertaining it depend in a great Measure on the Examination of each Article; and do you know, or believe, whether it can be done by any general Rule applicable to the several Classes of the Manufacture?

Yes, I think it may be done, by classing them according to the Risk of the Work there is upon them.

Will you name some Articles in which the Risk is particularly great?

Ornamental Articles of Lustres and Girandoles are the most hazardous.

In the cutting of Lustres and Girandoles, will not the Risk vary much, according to the Degree of finishing, which is expected to be given?

It will vary very much.

How then is the general Rule of a countervailing Duty to be applied to a Class of Articles which vary so much in their Risk and Waste?

I do not see how it can be done.

Is it not probable that the Manufacture of Cut Glafs may be carried to a greater Perfection when the Experiments can be made free from the Duties now paid here, on that which must be melted again before it comes to Market?

There is great Probability of it, that being the greatest Objection—when I have applied to a Manufacturer to make any Improvements, he has generally objected, saying, that he is subject to the Duty, whether he succeeds or not.

Is it not sometimes of great Consequence in preparing particular Articles, both for the Home and Foreign Market, to give a peculiar Tint and Clearness to the Manufacture, which can be only obtained by repeated Experiments?

It is of great Consequence, and can only be done by repeated Experiments.

Can you say whether there is a great Export of Cut Glafs to Foreign Countries?

There is.

To

To what Countries principally?  
France and Russia, and to the East Indies principally—to all Countries in fact.

Has not this Export increased of late Years considerably?  
I do not know.

Are not the Articles exported in general of great Value?  
Many are, others not—some of small Value;—those to the East Indies are generally not of great Value.

Is not great Skill required in cutting the very fine Articles of Cut Glafs, such as Girandoles and Lustres?  
In the best Kinds great Skill is required.

Do you imagine that that Skill may be exported to Ireland?  
It is already exported, not only to Ireland but to France.

Do you believe that the Export of Glafs, the Manufacture of this Country, would be diminished, if the Irish Glafs was allowed to be imported here, and exported again to Russia, France, and the East Indies?

If they pay only the nominal Duty, I have no Doubt but it would, and they could supply this Market, and it would be exported from this Country, as it could be manufactured much cheaper there than it could be here.

Can you estimate what is the Difference between the real and nominal Duty on Glafs?

The Manufacturers of Plain Glafs can ascertain that—I cannot.

You think then it can be ascertained?  
I think it can.

Whether the Difference between the real and nominal Duty on Glafs is the same on every Article of that Manufacture?  
I cannot speak to that.

Whether the Risk in some Articles of the Manufacture of Glafs is not much greater than in others?  
It is much greater.

Whether the Duty paid by the Manufacturer is not greater or less, according to the Quantity broken in the different Articles?  
The Duty is charged in the First Stage of the Manufacture, and the Loss is greater.

The

The Expence, then, of the Manufacture is greater, in Proportion to the Loss?

The more hazardous the Ware, the greater the Loss.

Whether the Duty upon the Importation of manufactured Glafs from Ireland would be a countervailing Duty, unless it balanced the Loss and Expence of the British Manufacturer, as well as the nominal Duty which he pays?

It cannot be equal, unless it balances the Loss as well as the Duty?

Do you think that any Person but a Manufacturer of Glafs is capable of forming a sure Judgment of the proportionate Risk of the different Glafs Manufactures?

I think no other Person is capable of it.

Is not Sand a principal Article in the Manufacture of Glafs?  
Sand is a principal Article.

From whence are the Irish supplied with their Sand?  
I believe they have some from the Isle of Wight, but I am not certain.

Do not you know that they have it all from some Part of England?

I do not know.—I am not a Glafs Maker, only a Manufacturer of Cut Glafs.

If the Duty on the Importation of the Glafs Manufacture from Ireland was justly calculated, so as to be a fair Equivalent to the internal Duty on the Glafs Manufacture in this Country, do you understand that the Glafs Manufacture could be then imported from Ireland, so as to undersell our Glafs Manufacture?

I should suppose not, so as the Duty was laid to counterbalance the Loss and the Risk.

Do you know what is the Difference between the real and the nominal Duty on the Glafs Manufacture?

I do not know—the Glafs Makers can inform the Committee.

If, in Addition to the countervailing Duty justly calculated, there was also to be a Duty of £. 10 ½ per Cent. upon all Glafs Ware imported from Ireland, do you not apprehend that would be a sufficient Protection for the Glafs Manufacture of this Country?

I am of Opinion that would not be sufficient.

I i

Assign

Assign the Reason why you think it will not be a sufficient Protection.

I think it will not be sufficient, on Account of the Allowance that is made to the Maker being less than it should be:—They charge us, as Cut Glass Manufacturers, so much higher than they would do to One in our Line in Ireland—we paying them for the Plain Glass after they have paid the Duty, it comes so much higher to us; which makes our Loss so much greater in Breakage in cutting the Glass.

What Branch of the Glass Manufacture are you engaged in? and where do you carry on the Business?  
In the Cut Glass Manufacture on Ludgate Hill.

Have you signed any Petition that has been presented to the House of Commons on the Subject of the Irish Propositions?  
I have.

Is that the Petition now under Consideration, or any other?  
The Petition now under Consideration.

When you speak of the countervailing Duty being adequate to the Risk and Loss, do you not also mean to include the Advance of the Duty by the British Manufacturer in the early Stage, compared with that of the Irish Importer on the Landing of his Goods?

I do.

Supposing such Duty to have been settled, and properly rated as to every Branch of the Cut Glass Manufacture, would not the Irish Manufacturer still remain in Possession of an Advantage over the British Manufacturer, from the Circumstance of being able to try different Experiments without any Risk whatever?

The Irish would certainly have that Advantage, which is a very material One.

Whether, in the Nature of the Trade, the Glass on which you work is not to you what the Raw Material is to any other Manufacturer?

Yes, exactly the same.

Whether you have at present the relative Price of Glass in the Two Kingdoms?

No.

Whether the Irish Glass Manufacturers are, to your Information and Belief, increasing in their Number and Business?  
I am informed they are.

Whether,

Whether, under the present Duties, any Quantity of Cut Glass is brought from Ireland to this Country, for Home Consumption or Exportation?

I believe none—the Duty is so very high.

Would not an Introduction of that Manufacture from Ireland occasion a proportional Decrease in the Exportation of the Manufacture of this Country, and in the Home Market?

Certainly.

What is the highest Proportion, in respect of the whole Value of any One Article, that is set upon it in Consequence of the Risk and Loss?

I cannot speak exactly to that Question.

Whether the Glass cut for Lustres in Ireland is in equal Repute, either in the British or Foreign Markets, with those manufactured in London?

I do not know—there have been some sent to Foreign Markets, but I do not know in what Repute—none is sent here.

Has not the Diamond Cut Glass for Lustres been of late exported to France in greater Quantities than at any Time before?  
I do not know.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr. SAMUEL PARKER, a Cut Glass Manufacturer in Fleet Street, London, was called in, and examined.

Do you apprehend any Danger from the Irish Propositions?  
Yes.

What?

From the very great Advantage the Irish Cut Glass Manufacturers will have in purchasing Plain Glass, the Raw Material, at a less Price than the Manufacturers in England can do.

To what Amount do you estimate the Advantage which Ireland will have over Great Britain in that Article?

I apprehend above £. 50 per Cent.

How does that arise?

The Duty that was laid on the Manufacture in 1777 increased the Price to us £. 25 per Cent.;—in Consequence of which, I apprehend, the Duty, in the Year 1746, increased it the same—which makes out the £. 50 per Cent.

What



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What Stage of the Manufacture is the Duty paid in?  
It is collected whilst the Materials are in the Pot.

Are there any Expences attending the obtaining the Drawback of the Duty on the Manufactures exported; and what are those Expences?

About £. 8 per Cent. Expence on the Drawback obtained, exclusive of the Time lost in giving Bond, &c.

Is there any Waste in the Cutting?  
Very considerable.

What do you estimate the Waste at?  
It is impossible to ascertain it.

Can you give any Idea of it?

It is sometimes the Case, that the Glafs on which we work is reduced sometimes One Half, sometimes One Quarter, and sometimes One Twentieth.

Do you know how the countervailing Duty on Glafs imported can be ascertained?

I do not.

Do you apprehend any Danger to the English Manufacturer from the Repeal of the prohibitory Duty which now prevents Irish Glafs from being imported?

I do.

Will the Propositions encourage Emigration in any Degree?  
I conceive that they will.

Is the Glafs Manufactory in Ireland now flourishing?  
I understand it is now increafing.

Are the Glafs Cutters ever deterred from making Experiments in Consequence of the early Stage at which the Duty is paid, and the subsequent Loss on the cutting the Glafs?

I have applied to Manufacturers to make Experiments, and have been answered, that the Loss of the Duty, if they did not succeed, would be too great to risk for the Benefit accruing therefrom.

Whether the Irish Manufacturer is subject to that Disadvantage?

I believe not.

Do you know of any Manufacturers having lately quitted this Country to establish themselves in Ireland?

I have heard of some going.

Did

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Did they take many Manufacturers with them?

I understand they took their complete Work; that is, a Number of Hands sufficient to carry on all the Manufactures.

Were any of those who went to establish themselves in Ireland eminent Manufacturers?

Yes.

Do you know what the Annual Duty arising from Glafs amounts to?

No.

Is it your Opinion that a Duty of £. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. with the nominal countervailing Duty, if that could be ascertained, would be sufficient to secure the English Manufacturer against any Competition?

I conceive not.

Do you know of any other Inconvenience than those which you have already stated, that will result to the Manufacturer from those Propositions?

The comparative small Wages that Workmen have in Ireland to England, I conceive would be a Motive with the Irish Manufacturer to establish his Manufactory there.

Have you any other Information relating to the Drawback, to give to the Committee?

No.

*Examined by Members of the Committee.*

Do you chiefly deal in Cut Glafs?

Chiefly.—We are concerned in both; but chiefly in Cut Glafs.

Is there a large Export of Cut Glafs to Foreign Countries?

Yes.

To what Country in particular?

We export to France, to Russia, and to the East Indies; those are the Three principal—some to Spain and Portugal.

Has that Export increased or diminished of late?

I rather think, from my own Knowledge and Judgment, that it has diminished, and will diminish.

K k

Is

Is not the Export greater than when you first began Business?  
I conceive not.

To what do you impute the great Trade this Country has acquired in Cut Glafs?

To its superior Excellence.

Is the Cut Glafs Manufacture of this Country established in any other Place than London and its Neighbourhood?

Not to my Knowledge.

Do you conceive that it could be established in any other Part to Advantage, but the Capital?

In some Instances it could.

Do you conceive that it could be carried on as a Trade for Exportation, but in a Place where there is a great general Export?

I do not know that.

Did you ever hear that it ever was established but where there was a great general Export?

No.

Can you say what the Difference is between the nominal Duty on Glafs, and the real one, allowing for the Breakage, &c.?

The Duty is not collected from me, but from the Glafs Manufacturer.

Do you imagine, that in granting a Compensation for the Duty here on Glafs some Average might not be taken, that would be a sufficient Compensation for the different Sorts of Cut Glafs?

I do not know that there could.

Could not they be arranged in different Classes, so as to equalize the Duty?

I do not think they could.

Whether the Orders on your House from Paris have not been increasing to the present Period?

It is next with us to a total Extinction.

Have any Manufacturers in the Cut Glafs Branch left this Country to go to Ireland?

There is a Person who I understand is procuring Workmen in the Cut Glafs Business to go to Ireland—he was here some Time ago.

Do

Do you conceive that any Workman in that Manufacture will go to Ireland to work for less Wages than he works for here?

I conceive at first they might go for the same Wages, it being offered them as a Bounty, which might soon be reduced, when they had taught some of their own People, from the great Difference of the Price of Labour.

Is the Skill in that Business easily to be learnt?

In many Branches it is not difficult.

Do you know any Reason which renders it impossible, or very improbable, that the Cut Glafs Manufacture should be established in Ireland?

I do not.

Whether the Waste in different Branches of the Glafs Manufacture is not very different?

Very different.

Whether the countervailing Duty on Importation of similar Articles of the Glafs Manufacture from Ireland, must not likewise be different, in order to be proportioned to each respective Article?

Very much.

Whether, as you have said that you understand that the Irish Glafs Manufacturer has an Advantage of £. 50 per Cent. over the British Manufacturer, it will not be necessary, in order to protect the British Glafs Manufacturer, that the Duty to be imposed on the Irish Manufacture must not, including the Expences of Importation, amount at least on an Average to £. 50 per Cent.?

I conceive so.

Whether any Person, in your Opinion, except a Manufacturer of Glafs, will be able to judge of the Waste and Risk, Loss and Expence, which has accrued in the manufacturing the several Articles in the Glafs Manufacture?

I conceive it is impossible.

Are there any additional Duties lately imposed on the Manufacture in Russia or Germany?

Germany we send none to—in Russia I do not know that there have.

If the Irish Propositions should be carried into a Law, do you imagine it would be any Disadvantage to the Manufacture?

I do.

In

In what Instance could the Cut Glafs Manufacture be carried on in other Places than London and its Neighbourhood ?

I cannot answer the particular Parts which could be so carried on.

Do you know any Part of the Manufacture that could be so carried on ? and what is it ?

I think if the Whole of the Manufacture was to be removed into any other Part of the Country, and not separated, the Whole might be carried on any where, not depending on any local Situation.

Did you mean, by saying that, that it could be carried on only in some Instances out of London—that it could be carried on in the Whole out of London, and not in some Instances ?

I meant, that there were some Parts that did not require the immediate Inspection of the Principal.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

The Counsel informed the Committee, That he will call no further Witnesses in Support of this Petition, and that his Evidence was closed.—And he stated to the Committee his Reasons for declining to be heard in Support of the Petition.

Then he was directed to withdraw.

Then the several Petitions on which Counsel were directed to be heard, were called over in the Order in which they were presented to the House ; but no Counsel or Agent attended, except the Agent for the Petition of the Glafs Manufacturers of London, Bristol, Newcastle, and Glasgow ; who, being called in, informed the Committee, That he was not now prepared, because he understood that the Petitions were to be heard in the Order in which they stood ; but that he would be ready by Monday.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

*L. W. C.*