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THE
GOLDEN FLEECE:
Or the TRADE, Interest, and Well-Being of
GREAT BRITAIN
CONSIDERED.

R.L.

WITH
REMARKS on the present Decay of
our WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES, and the
Impending DANGERS that Threaten this KINGDOM,
by suffering (or conniving at) the Illegal Exportation of
BRITISH and IRISH WOOL, and Woollen Goods
thoroughly Manufactured in IRELAND, to Foreign Parts.

LIKEWISE
HEADS for a BILL, to put an Effectual
Stop to this Matchless EVIL, so injurious to both KING
and COUNTRY.

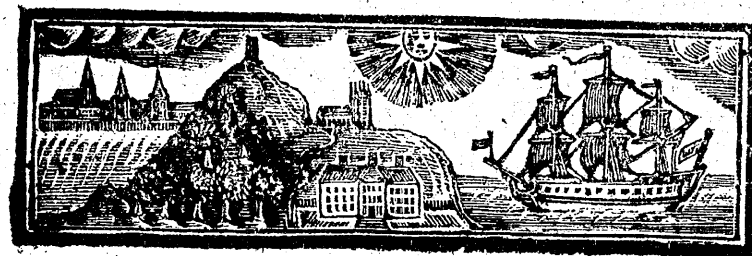
To which is added,
A Scheme, or Proposal, for taking away those
Burthensome Duties on *Leather, Soap, Candles, Painted Silks,*
and *Starch*, which raise Net, but 473,427 *l.* and yet cost the
Subject at least Three times as much; and to Replace the
like Sum, by a small Duty on WOOL; also to employ
the same Officers in the Service of their Country, to Register
the WOOL of *Great Britain and Ireland*; by which Altera-
tion, the following PROPOSAL will clearly demonstrate,
That no Rank or Condition of Men will pay One Shilling,
where they now pay Ten, by the aforesaid Duties on *Leather,*
Soap, Candles, &c. and at the same time, add many Millions
Sterling Yearly to the TRADE of the Nation.

Submitted to the Consideration of *Parliament,*
as also the Landlords, Tenants, Manufacturers, and Fair
Traders, for whose Ease and Benefit this is designed.
Salus Populi Suprema Lex.

The THIRD EDITION, with ADDITIONS.

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the Bookfellers of *London* and *Westminster*, 1737.

(v)



THE
P R E F A C E.

THE great Decay of our Wool-
len Manufactures, and the
universal Neglect of them,
is now too apparent to the
meanest Observer in the Na-
tion, and has for many Years
past been complained of by
those that are clearer Sighted: This Evil
threatens us with the most fatal Consequences,
and the longer we continue in the confused
Method we are now in, the more ruinous it
must prove in the End.

A NATION that is well situated, and
productive of the best Materials for the most
valuable Manufactures, that abounds with
Plenty, and many other delicate Temptations,
cannot be long secure or safe from Invasions,
without

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without a Proportion of Wealth and Power sufficient for their Defence, upon any Emergency; nor is that to be obtained, but by the Help of a well regulated and extended Commerce: As Britain is happy in such a Situation, and yields, in Point of Fertility, to no Kingdom whatever; in such Circumstances, there can be nothing wanting but a due Proportion of Conduct and right Management, to make us the Richest, and most Powerful People in Europe.

THE Wealth of the Indies would not bear any Proportion to the Riches of Great Britain, if we were not to neglect and give up so great a Proportion of our Staple Commodity, the Wool; for while we suffer the clandestine Exportation of it to Foreigners, we at the same time consent that they shall share with Us in the Profits of the Manufactures themselves, by which Means, neighbouring Nations will continue our prosperous Competitors, and must grow much Richer and more Formidable, while we are carelessly decreasing in our Strength and Power, in Proportion, as the Vent of our Woollen Manufactures are obstructed; consequently we shall every Year be less able to defeat the ambitious Designs of those that affect Glory by Conquest, whenever they shall think fit to attempt our Destruction.

THERE

The PREFACE. vii

THERE are many Gentlemen of Learning, who are possessed of large Estates in Land, that in their School or College Education, very rarely meet with any thing that relates to Manufactures, or Foreign Commerce; therefore can have no Idea of the Advantage of them, or that they are any ways necessary to the Well-being of the Nation: There are others more Knowing and Extensive in their Enquiries, who are sensible, that a Disease is lurking in the Body Politick, not only by the Discouragements and Decay of our Woollen Manufactures, but by an extravagant Excess of Foreign Importations; and if our Manufactures fail to Balance that Account, it will be very difficult, nay, I may venture to say, impossible to find out any thing that will.

THE Great Lord BURLEIGH, Sir FRANCIS WALSINGHAM, and others, have left behind them convincing Proofs of their great Abilities in Commerce, and how much they made those Affairs their Care and Study; well knowing it to be the only Foundation of a solid and durable Greatness; nor is it possible for any Minister to give Sound Advice to his Prince, either in Peace or War, who is not thoroughly Acquainted with the Trade, Riches and Power of his Country; nor can any Matter of State be more worthy the Eloquence of a Great Man in either House of PARLIAMENT, than a true Knowledge of our Manufactures and Foreign

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Foreign Commerce, on which the Grandeur and Prosperity of his Country so much depends: Should not that then, which is the common Concern of All, be the Principal Care of those that are entrusted as Guardians and Representatives of the People?

FROM whence it may be presumed, that a clear and just Representation of the present State of our Woollen Manufactures, will not be unacceptable, nor unseasonable, at the Opening of a Session of Parliament; and altho' our Woollen Manufactures are at this time under the greatest Discouragements and Disadvantages, the Recovery and Preservation of them are still in our Power, and the Remedies are not only easy and sure, but calculated for the Benefit and Advantage of all Ranks and Conditions of Men; as will be clearly demonstrated in the following Sheets.



The

(1)



The Golden FLEECE.

OUR Native Product and Merchandize consists chiefly in Wool, Butter, Hides, Tallow, Timber, Tin, Lead and Iron: And if we take an impartial Survey of them, we shall not find any that can be brought in Competition with that of our Wool, nor would they all put together, amount to any thing like an Equivalent to our Woollen Manufactures for Exportation, which is not only the most Valuable Commerce of this Kingdom, but of all others in the known World. Therefore the Design of the following Sheets, is to endeavour to give our present Representatives as just and as clear an Idea of the Value of British and Irish Wool, when Manufactured, as our Ancestors had when they made the several Laws to prevent the Illegal Exportation of British and Irish Wool to Foreigners; but to

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the

The Golden Fleece.

the great Mortification of every Briton that has the *Welfare* and *Happiness* of his Country at Heart, the several Laws now in Force, have hitherto proved ineffectual, either through some Defects in the Laws themselves, or the Manner of putting them in Execution, or rather the not executing them at all.

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

REX Collectoribus Custumæ in Portu magna Iermuib, Salutem, quia concessimus Dilecto & Fideli nostro Hugoni de Wriothesly, quod ipse Viginti & septem Saccos Lanae & dimid de Lanis suis propriis, de Portu predicto carriare, & Eas usque Antwerp ad Stapulam nostram ducere possit, solvendo ibidem Clerico nostro Willielmo de Northwell, Custodi Guardæ Robæ nostræ 40s. pro quolibet Sacco, pro Custumæ & Subsidio inde Nobis debitis, &c. Vobis mandamus, quod predicti

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predicti Hugoni dictos Viginti septem Saccos Lanae & dimid in Portu predicto carriare permittatis, &c.

By 37th *Edward III.* our Staple Wares of Wool, Woolfells, Leather, &c. were transferred to *Calais*, and the Staple continued there many Years; during that Reign, the Customs of *Calais* brought in 68000l. per Annum, from these two Staples, the one at *Antwerp*, the other at *Calais*, and by the Revenue raised from them, it may be inferred, that this Commodity was one of our chief and standing Funds in War, and other Times of Exigency, and likewise that the Countries where these Staples were thus fixed, were not provided with these Commodities of their own Growth, and consequently the present Manufactories in Foreign Countries, subsist chiefly upon the Advantage they receive from the illegal Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool.

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

*Walloon*s and *Flander*kins, in several Clothing Counties and Boroughs in *England*.

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

IT is indisputably true, and agreeable to the common Sense of all Trading Nations, that Commerce, Navigation, Opulency and Empire, are inseparable Concomitants; witness the surprising Power of the Republick of *Holland* in *Asia*: And it is likewise as true, that all Exportation of our *Unwrought* Wool, is injurious to both *King* and *Country*, manifestly destructive of the *Honour*, *Interest* and *Wealth* of the *whole Nation*; and, if permitted, connived at, or not absolutely restrained, will certainly, by natural Consequence, effect the Freehold of this Kingdom.

AND our Ancestors from the earliest Times wisely foresaw, how fatal and destructive the exporting unwrought Wool might prove to these Kingdoms, if our Neighbours, by our Help, should set up Woollen Manufactories, and by living more frugally than the *English*, and hav-

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ing Labour and Provisions cheaper, could supply not only themselves, but other more remote Nations, with Woollen Goods, at a lower Price, which without our Wool, must have been purchased of us, at our own Price; hereby many Thousands of Wool-Combers, Clothiers, Carders, Spinners, Dyers, and others, would, for want of Employment, become a grievous Burthen to their native Country, or be forced to leave it and go abroad, not only to seek for Labour, but to teach our Neighbours their Art, and how to bring their Manufactures to Perfection, to the irreparable Loss, Damage, and Destruction of their own Country, whose Riches and Power have at all Times principally arose from the Woollen Manufactures; and the Returns brought into the Nation from this Head, produced such Customs, as have been the great Support of the Crown and Civil Government.

THE great Decay of our *Woollen* Manufactures is very well known to our Manufacturers, to be owing to the illegal Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool, and *Woollen Goods* thoroughly Manufactured in *Ireland* to Foreign Parts; for which Reasons they petitioned the Parliament many Years successively, from most of the Cloathing Counties and Boroughs in the Kingdom, complaining that Foreigners, by the help of *our* Wool, have not only Cloathed themselves, for many Years past, with a much finer and better sort of *Woollen Goods*, than is possible for the Wool of their own Countries to make,

make,

make, but Rivalled Us in the *Turkey, Spanish, Portugal,* and other Foreign Markets; This being the apparent Cause of the gradual Decrease of our Woollen Manufactures, by lessening their Quantity for Exportation, which has been fully proved before several Committees of the *Honourable House of Commons.*

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

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

THE *French* in particular, are too sensible of the vast Importance our *Unwrought Wool* is to *them,* or why should they make use of so much Cunning to get it from us; or why do they take it at all, if they can work up their own without it? Certainly they would not, if they did not find themselves under an absolute Necessity to have it for carrying on their own Manufactures; the *French* are too great Politicians

Politicians to throw their Money away for Foreign Product, when they can save it by using their Own.

To this let us add, that *Flanders* has prohibited several Species of our Woollen Stuffs; that *Sweden* has laid an additional Duty on all Woollen Goods imported at *Gottenberg*; that *Prussia* has not only laid a Duty of 20 per Cent. on all our Woollen Manufactures imported at *Konigsberg,* but are enabled to contract with the Merchants of *Russia* to supply that Empire; and that *Denmark* has very lately prohibited every Branch of our Woollen Goods: But if a Stop were put to the clandestine Sale of our Wool, they would be obliged to purchase several Assortments of our Woollen Manufactures again, and their Duties and Prohibitions would then in course fall to the Ground.

CAN we then be so Unjust to Ourselves, as to suffer them to get our Wool from Us to supply *Their* Manufactories, to the Ruin of *Our Own*; whatever Price they pay for it, they indemnify themselves many Fold, not only by the Profits that arise from the Labour of their People, but it sets Thousands of their Industrious Poor to Work; while a proportionable Number of *Our Own* lie Idle, and Starve for want of Employment.

NOTHING is more reasonable, than that every Man, or every Body of Men, should receive Protection, and Encouragement from the Legislature, as they contribute to the real Welfare

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fare and Happiness of their COUNTRY. The Labour of the meaner Sort of People is of too great Value to a Trading Nation, to be neglected or despised, much more the Manufacturers, in the several Branches of the Woollen Trade. We cannot but be sensible, that their Maintenance and Labour is dearer than those of foreign Nations: Yet, notwithstanding that Disproportion, they have the same Right to subsist, and the same Wants to supply, which they can no way obtain, but by keeping our Wool at Home. These are the Causes of the loud and repeated Complaints of our Manufacturers, who by their Labour improve the happy Product of our Land, to six times the Value it had in Wool, consequently the National Wealth must be increased in Proportion to the Money Earned. And it must be observed, that very few of them have any Property, but what is daily produced by their Labour and Industry, therefore it will be necessary to descend into their several Dependencies, whereby it will be more easy to judge of the Reasonableness of their loud Complaints, for want of Employment.

UPON

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

Persons	l.	s.	d.
1 Man to sort and dry it	00	08	00
Dying and Cleaning, &c.	01	10	00
4 Men } to scible it	02	08	00
2 Boys }			
30 Women and Girls to card and spin it	06	00	00
4 Boys to spool and wind Quills	00	10	00
4 Women to burle it	00	12	00
4 } to scour, full, row, shear, rack, and press it	03	04	00
1 }			
8 Men to weave it	04	16	00
58 In a Week, will earn	19	08	00

ONE Pack of the long Combing Wool of *Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Kent, &c.* made into fine Stuffs, Serges, Sagathies, Camblets, Long-Ells, &c. for the *Spanish* and *Portugal* Trades, will give full Employment, for One Week, to 158 Persons: viz.

6 Combers, at 12 s. per Week	03	12	00
Dying, Cleaning, &c.	01	10	00
20 Spinners, at 2 s. 3 d. per Week	13	10	00
10 Throwers and Doublers, at 8 s. per Week	04	00	00
22 Weavers, at 10 s. per Week	11	00	00
158 In a Week, will earn	33	12	00

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

9 Combers, at 10 s. per Week	04	10	00
Dying, Cleaning, &c.	01	10	00
76 Spinners	13	00	00
8 Doublers and Throwers	02	08	00
56 Stocking-Weavers, at 12 s. per Week	33	12	00
150 In a Week, will earn	55	00	00

tot. 366 In a Week, will earn, on 3 Packs of Wool

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

l.
1800000

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

117353

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

5400000

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

352059

BESIDES

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

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

EXAMPLE.

SUPPOSE 150000 Packs of Wool (being but half the Quantity generally thought to be shipt to Foreigners, from the several Coasts of Great Britain and Ireland) should be yearly exported unwrought, these added to 300000 Packs of foreign Wool, produce a Manufacture of 450000 Packs; if then the 150000 Packs were kept at Home, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, and other Foreign Countries would want from Great Britain, the Manufacture of 450000 Packs, in the room of the like Quantity furnished by neighbouring Nations, who, in this Case, could have none of these manufactured Goods to send to Foreign

Markets; therefore as the Demand for Goods in Foreign Parts would continue to be the same, (the Question being not what is the Quantity demanded, or consumed, which is certain, but who shall furnish that Quantity) as much less as Foreigners are enabled to work up (by the Assistance of *British* or *Irish* Wool,) so much more must be manufactured by *Great Britain*; and consequently the first Year a Law were made, to put an effectual stop to the unlawful Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool, the Quantity of Woollen Goods for Foreign Trade would be by so much lessened, as is at this time worked up in *France*, and other Foreign Parts, which would naturally increase the Demand, more than double it is at present from *Great Britain*, and by keeping our Wool at Home, they could only be supplied from hence; for without the Material (the *Wool*,) it will be impossible for them to have the Manufacture, and, by the same Rule, our Woollen Goods must increase in their Value, in Proportion to their Demand.

EXAMPLE.

IF no more than 5000 Ton of Sugar, Tobacco, Wines, or any other Commodity, could be imported, and the Demand or Consumption required 10000 Ton, then the Demand would be for twice the Quantity, and it must therefore follow, that the 5000 Ton will sell at a higher Price, than if the Demand were equal to the Consumption; therefore nothing can be more certain,

certain, than that our Wool and Woollen Goods would increase in their Price, in Proportion to their Demand, and our Merchants would be courted for them more than ever, when they may be certain of a quick Sale, and sure Consumption; *for where the Wool is, there must be the Manufacturers, and there the Demand for the several Assortments proper for each Country.*

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

IT is therefore very much to be wished, that the Landed Gentlemen of *Great Britain*, would coolly and deliberately consider how much the flourishing Condition of our Woollen Manufactures would add to the real Value of their Estates, and then they would be more careful than to lend a helping Hand to prohibit the Importation of *Irish* Wool, Worsted, or Yarn; for if *Ireland* is over-stock'd with a Commodity, which we will not allow them to bring to *Great Britain*, we put them under a Necessity to look out

out elsewhere for a Market, the Consequences of which we have experienced too long and too much to our Cost; for by taking their Wool, Worsted, and Yarn, we should then engross the whole Woollen Trade to ourselves, without a Possibility of being rivalled, and have it in our Power (as the *Hollanders* do by their Spices) to fix our own Price. We should too, employ many Thousands in every Branch of the Woollen Trade, more than at present, and enrich the Nation in the export of their Labour; for by what Means soever Trade is improv'd or decay'd by the same Means the Value of Land will infallibly rise or fall.

THE numerous and burthensome Taxes on most of the essential Necessaries of Life, make the Working up of our Manufactures more expensive by 25, or 30 per Cent. than in any Kingdom or Commonwealth in *Europe*; this Consideration alone should be sufficient to convince any reasonable Man, that if other Countries produced the same Wool, and British Labour but 5 per Cent. dearer than that of Foreign Countries, it would be next to an Impossibility, for our Merchants to find a Vent for British Labour in Foreign Markets.

THUS it is, when a dear and a cheap working Country undertake each the same Manufacture, the Labour of the one is so clogged, that it amounts to a Prohibition, when compared with the other, and is the only Reason, why Foreign Nations that import Raw Silk from
Turkey,

Turky, Italy, or elsewhere, can undersell us so shamefully in those Manufactures, notwithstanding the Price of Raw Silk is the same to each Nation. Thus it is that Neighbouring Nations, thro' our Neglect, weaken Us in the most sensible Part, which must end in a National Poverty, and that Poverty will most certainly be found to be the Effect of wrong Measures in our Trade: Surely then, it is our Duty and Interest, as well as the most acceptable Service we can render to our King and Country, earnestly to call upon our Representatives to put the most speedy Stop to this over-spreading Evil.

WHILE *Great Britain* is so loaded with Debt, and oppressed with Taxes, no Manufactures can possibly flourish, except that of our Wool; and had not Providence been more careful of us than we deserve, in bestowing a peculiar Growth of Wool, (of which all other Nations stand in need) it would probably be out of the Power of Human Understanding, to remedy the ruined Condition our Trade is in, which can no way be recovered, but by keeping our Wool at Home; therefore we ought to be particularly watchful of that inestimable Commodity, our Wool, which is the Flower and Hopes of the Nation, and to encourage every Discovery that may be of Advantage to it. Foreigners purchase none but our longest and best Combing Wool, not any of the meaner or coarser Sort, the Exportation of it being contrary to Law, the Hazard run is valued, tho' easily evaded

evaded by giving Bond, and many Artifices of false Packing; even Perjury, in promoting this destructive Exportation, is looked upon by some, with a favourable Eye, and the Profits arising thereby, is sunk among those Pyrates, which have been, and ought to be accounted Felons, who wallow in Wealth and Plenty, at the Expence and Ruin of their Native Country, and that in Defiance of the Laws of God and Man.

IT must be observed, that there are several valuable Branches of Commerce that are influenced by our Woollen Manufactures, particularly the Returns from Turkey and Italy, of Raw-Silk, Cotton, Wool, &c. so as to employ great Numbers of our Poor, in making Garments, Stockings, Ribbands, &c.

# ONE hundred Weight of Silk fit for Garments, will give full Employment, for one Week, to — — — — —	} 245 } 198 } 150 } Persons
ONE hundred Weight of Silk made into Stockings, will give full Employment, for one Week, to — — — — —	
ONE hundred Weight of Silk made into Ribbands, will give full Employment, for one Week, to — — — — —	

THEIR

THEIR Employments are as follows, viz. Throwers, Dyers, Winders, Quillers, Weavers, Stocking - Frame - Knitters, Sizers, Seamers, Trimmers, &c. It is not very material to say what each Person may earn in their respective Callings; but thus much may be said in general, that they find a comfortable Maintenance by this Means, and so enrich the Nation, in the Export of their Labour.

IT is to be feared, our Returns from Turkey, Italy, and other Parts, are greatly diminished of late Years, since France, Holland, and other Countries, have found Means not only to get our Wool, but to entice English Artists over (to instruct them in mixing their Wool, &c.) from the several Clothing Counties, and Boroughs in England and Ireland, to whom they give all Encouragement and Protection, and by these Means they not only cloath themselves, but are able to rival us in the Turkey, Spanish, Portugal, and other Trades. Were an effectual Stop put to this Evil, we should not only destroy their Clothing-Trade, but deprive them of that Commerce with Turkey, and other Foreign Parts, this Manufacture first gave Birth to, and so oblige our Subjects to return Home, to the Service of their Country, when Trade and Navigation will again revive and flourish.

THE Body Politick is, like the Body Natural, apt to decay at the extreme Parts first; an universal Face of Poverty will appear, spreading itself over all the Land, where a decaying Trade

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is, which hath already begun in some of our Clothing Counties and Boroughs, particularly in *Worcester* and *Colchester*, where it is said the Poor's Rates, are from Six to Eight and Ten Shillings in the Pound, nor can any thing more demonstrate this fatal Truth, than a Scarcity of Money in Trade, the Lands being left on the Owner's Hands, and the Tenants being greatly in Arrear. *These are unhappy Symptoms, to a Country whose Riches and Power intirely depend on Trade*; it is to be hoped therefore, our Representatives will consider, that while this unlawful Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Wool is suffered, the Land, and all other Taxes must be continued; because whatever is lost to the Nation, by the Clandestine Trader, the Deficiency must be made good by the Landed Man, Husbandman, and Fair Trader; and *when our Trade, Interest, and Happiness are so immediately concerned, and so apparently in Danger, every Door ought to be shut, that may open a Passage to deprive us of those Valuable Blessings.*

GREAT BRITAIN, by its Product and Manufactures, is capable of a more extended Trade, than any Kingdom or Commonwealth in the known World, and better able to maintain it, as long as we continue Masters of the Seas; but how long we shall continue so, will entirely depend on the Skill and Policy of our Ministers, supported by the vigorous Resolutions of a *British* Parliament, to guard and se-

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cure the *Staple Commodity* of this Nation, with which our choicest Manufactures are made, and the Advancement of our Foreign Commerce; for it is an undeniable Truth, that the Power of every Kingdom, and the Riches of every People, depend on the Exportation of their Product and Manufactures to a greater Value than is consumed of the Product and Manufactures of Foreign Nations imported; and it is equally the same with Kingdoms, as it is with private Families, neither can be happy nor easy, that spend more than their Income will allow them; therefore as our Woollen Manufactures sell or exchange for much more in Value in the several Markets abroad, than all our other Exportations put together, they must be allowed to be our chief Support, if not our sole Dependance; *and the least Participation of this Valuable Commodity, must not only make our Profits the less, but enrich those Neighbouring Nations, that may one Day be most desirous of our Ruin.*

LET us therefore examine our Trade with *France*, and we shall find our Importations, and the greatest Part of our Exportations (the Wool,) to be destructive of the very Being of this Kingdom, and by no Means worthy of the Name of *Trade*, our Merchants may grow rich, and be well pleased with their luxurious Importations, while there is any Specie or Bullion left in the Nation, and the Customs must increase in Proportion, as our Importations in-

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crease,

crease, and the Appearance of a flourishing Commerce may seem to be carried on, when in Reality they are the strongest Tokens of our approaching Poverty and Ruin, by insensibly taking from us more and more of the National Wealth, that as yet remains among us; as too much Importation is the Ruin of Trade, so Exportation is the very Life of it. There are many Commodities very advantageous to the Importer, that at the same time bring Poverty and Ruin to this Nation; by these Means they continue to get from us, by their Cunning, and the Villany and Connivance of many among Ourselves, what would never be in their Power to do by Force; *Have they any Specie or Bullion, but what is produced by Trade, more than Great Britain?* Whence comes it then, that a Nation reduced to the utmost Misery by the last War, invaded almost to the Gates of *Paris*, should now Menace, "That the Ardour of their Troops shall light up the Honour of *France*, in its brightest Lustre?" (*per * Manifesto.*)

TRADE is not only necessary to the Well-Being of a State, but is also a Game at which all Nations must play, that aim at *Wealth* and *Power*; therefore it is absolutely necessary, for those that are intrusted with the greatest Share of the Administration, to be compleat Masters of the whole Game, that we may be able to counterplot the Designs and Combinations

* See the *French* King's Declaration against the Emperor.

tions form'd against us by our crafty Neighbours; that we may no longer continue to be the incorrigible Dupes and Bubbles of Foreign Nations; *if Wealth and Power depend on Trade, whatever Proportion of Power we have lost since the last War, will be found to be the Effect of wrong Measures in our Trade; for the Balance of Power can no other Way be maintained or continued, but by the Balance of Trade.*

NOTHING then can be more dangerous to *Great Britain*, than to suffer *France*, in particular, to Bubble us out of our darling Commerce, especially when they are the only People that can give us any material Disturbance; what Dangers have we not to apprehend from so Powertul a Rival, that is daily increasing her Riches, either by our Neglect, or her superior Skill in Trade: The *French* are enabled by their Wealth, (the happy Consequence of their Trade) whenever they please, to keep themselves in a Posture of War, and to maintain great Armies and Fleets in Times of Peace; which must naturally oblige us to a proportionable Expence, that we may be always upon our Guard, till our Treasures are so much exhausted, as to render our Armies, Fleets and Councils in a manner useless.

THUS by the Overbalance of Commerce, it is very easy to conceive, that a Nation may be drained so much of its Wealth, as to be conquered without Fighting or the common Chance

Chance of War; wherefore Policy and right Reason call upon us to restrain our Wool from being sold to Foreigners; and all Arguments to the contrary must proceed from Weakness or Wickedness, and will never fail to expose *those* that offer them.

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

CONSIDER well, Gentlemen, as Representatives and Guardians of a Free People, the present Circumstances of *Great Britain*, in respect to its Coin and Bullion, and compare them with the Property that Foreigners have in our Funds, and you will find the Surplus is all we have any Right to, to carry on our
Com-

Commerce, negotiate the Landed Rents and Taxes, and to circulate the National Credit; that our Liberties and Properties is valuable by Commerce only, and are absolutely insecure and unsafe without it.

CONSIDER what Contempts and Insults we are liable to from Foreign Powers, and how unprepared for Resentment, without wounding our Credit, or ruining the Landed Interest.

THESE, with many other Considerations, will, it is to be hoped, excite the *present Parliament* to a strict Enquiry into the *true State of our Commerce*, and be a Means to influence them to use their utmost Skill and Policy in the Well-governing it; which is much more requisite and necessary for the Preservation of the Nation, than all other Matters of State whatever; when we may hope to have it in our Power to turn our Thoughts upon the easiest and speediest Method for Discharging the National Debt, lest our Foreign Creditors should draw their Money from us at a Time when we are in no Condition to answer their Demands; but if even these our unhappy Circumstances were out of the Question, it is contrary to the common Maxims of every Trading Nation, tacitly to give up their Commerce to enrich their Neighbours, and slavishly to impoverish their own People, who are the only Support of the Nation, and who will stoutly defend it against all Invaders, if they are protected and encouraged in their several Dealings; but if
they

they are neglected till they become Poor and Miserable, and their Complaints meet with no Redress, it will be indifferent to them who is their Lord and Master; nay they will desire a Change, in hopes to better their Condition; the Consequences are too numerous, and so visible to every Eye, as to make any farther Hints unnecessary, as well as improper.

BUT were due Measures taken to put a Stop to the illegal Sale of our Wool, how happy would our Condition be in the flourishing State of our Woollen Manufactures, that would then diffuse Prosperity to all Degrees of People through every Branch of them at Home, and it is our own Fault that they do not give us a much greater Weight and Influence *among Foreign Powers*, than was ever known in *Britain* before; we should have no complaining in our Streets, the Landlords, Farmers, Manufacturers, and all Degrees of People would live in Ease and Plenty, and the Peace and Welfare of his MAJESTY'S Dominions be better secured against all Dangers from Foreign Powers, than by the most triumphant Success in War.

OUR Ancestors, with great Wisdom and Design seated the Judges on Wool Packs in the House of Lords, that they might always remember themselves to be Guardians of the Blessing Providence hath so peculiarly bestowed on this Land, and that they might on all Occasions, use their best Endeavours to put the several
Laws,

Laws, relating to this Staple Commodity, in faithful Execution, and to add others from time to time, as should be necessary and effectual, to restrain our Wool from being sold to Foreigners.

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

IT is therefore high Time for us to be convinced of our past Errors, and unite in pursuing the true Interest of our Country; it is our own Fault if we are any longer amused by those who injudiciously imagine the Wealth and Power of *Britain* to be so considerable at this Time, as to make the Recovery of our Woollen Manufactures unnecessary; Mistakes and Mismanagements in our Domestick Affairs, are mere Trifles, when compared with the daily Diminution of our Wealth and Power; from such Causes our inevitable Ruin must be the Effect, and the longer we neglect to improve and extend our Foreign Commerce, the more easy and sure we are to be subdued and enslaved at last.

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

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

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

THEREFORE, the better to effect the Recovery and Preservation of our Trade, it might not be improper for the Parliament of *Great Britain*, or the Lords Commissioners for Trade, to address his Majesty, that he would be graciously pleased, to order proper Instructions to be given to the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, to recommend the securing of the Wool, Worsted and Yarn, produced in that Kingdom, from
being

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

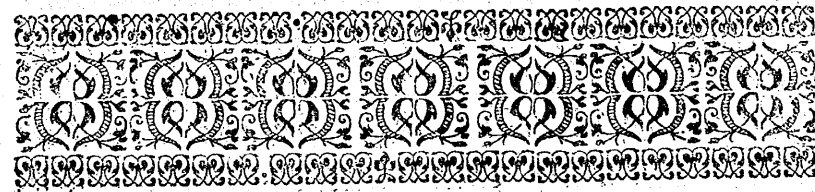
AND that a better Harmony may subsist between *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, suppose, in lieu of their Wool, some Encouragement should be given to *Ireland* in the Fisheries of *Greenland*, *Newfoundland*, or *Herring* Fisheries; who, from their convenient Situation, with the Cheapness of their Provisions,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

W H A T E V E R seeming Difficulties may attend Matters of this Consequence, under the Consideration of Parliament, wherein so many imaginary Interests are interwove, it must be allowed, and expected, that Things of so nice and intricate a Nature, cannot be carried into Execution without Debates and Difficulties; and notwithstanding the many fatal Consequences waiting on the Decay of Trade, were never so fairly and clearly set forth, yet may it not be feared there will be Missionaries from *France*, and Emisfaries at Home, still to promote and carry on this pernicious Traffick in the dark, will they not always find and start Objections, and watch all Opportunities that Bribery, Artifice, or Cunning, can suggest or invent, to inflame the Minds of injudicious and unthinking People, and thereby endeavour to mislead them, whenever they shall be thus laudably employed, fired by the Love and Affection of their bleeding Country, searching the Wounds that are continually drawing out the vital Blood of the Nation: Therefore the most effectual Method to prevent and defeat all such Artifices and Cunning, is for our REPRESENTATIVES to attain a competent Knowledge of the true State and Condition of this Valuable Manufacture, *and then seriously to reflect, how much we do, and may*

may suffer, by impoverishing Ourselves, and enriching our Neighbours; who, when they have swallowed up our Trade, may be apt to think they may demand our Liberties. But to permit Either to be taken from Us, whilst we can preserve Them, cannot be thought on by any true Briton, without Shame and Abhorrance.



HEADS



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



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

It

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

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

AND that there be three, or five Commissioners sent from *Great Britain* to *Ireland*, to register the Wool of that Kingdom, with a proportionable Number of inferior Officers, the Expence to be paid by *England*, that will be benefited by its Manufacture; the Raw Wool, Bay-Yarn and Worsted, when bought and brought from *Ireland*, to be taxed in *England* at
Dis-

Discretion of Parliament, to bring it on an Average in Point of Price with *British Wool*, &c. and the Money arising thereby, to be applied towards the Expence of Management.

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

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

AND

AND that instead of three Men of War and eight Sloops, stationed on the Coast of *Ireland*, as in *Anno 1732*, to prevent the illegal Exportation of Wool and Woollen Goods, thoroughly manufactured in *Ireland* to Foreign Parts, there be twenty-four Register Ships, or Sloops, of different Burthen, to bring the Raw Wool and Yarn from *Ireland*, and carry it Coast-ways in *England*, and that no other Ship, Vessel, Long-boat or Float, of what Kind soever, do presume to take on Board any Raw Wool, Worsted, Yarn, &c. the Growth of *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, under the Penalties hereafter mentioned; each Register Ship, or Sloop, to be commanded by a Captain, and their Compliment of Men to be not less than fifteen, nor exceed twenty-five.

And as an Encouragement to the Officers of the said Register Ships, or Sloops, it is proposed, that the Time of their being employed in that Service, shall be deemed the same, for a Rank or Qualification in the Navy, as if they had served during that Time, on Board his Majesty's Ships of War.

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

IF the aforesaid Register Ships, or Sloops should, by Stress of Weather, or contrary Winds, be driven on Foreign Coasts, they are not to break Bulk, and if there be no Possibility

F

of

of saving the Vessel, nor no *British* Ships, at hand to save the Wool, the Captain and his Men are to be required to destroy the Ship and Wool, (provided it shall consist with the Safety of their Lives) that the Wool may not fall into the Hands of our Rivals, on any Pre- tence whatsoever, under the Forfeiture of the Captain's Commission, and a Penalty of ——— one Half to the King, the other to the Informer, the Recovery made easy, and at the KING'S EXPENCE.

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

ALSO that no Ship, Vessel, or Long-Boat, or Float upon the Water, of any Kind, or of what Nation soever, do presume to take on board any Raw Wool belonging to any of his Majesty's

Majesty's Dominions, or Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactured in *Ireland*, except the Register Ships, or Sloops, or their Boats save as aforesaid, on pain of forfeiting such Ship, Vessel, Long-Boat, or Cargo, with a Penalty on the Owners of the Ship, &c. or the Commanders.

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

ALSO, that the illegal Exportation of Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactured in *Ireland*, may effectually be prevented, it is proposed, that the Commissioners appointed to Register the Wool, or the Chief Officer of any Port under them, may have Orders to deliver *gratis*, on demand, to all *British* Merchants, a particular Licence, or Pass, with the Number of Bales, and several Pieces and Sorts of Goods contained in each Bale, to distinguish the Merchants of *England*, from those of *Ireland*, that carry on this clandestine Trade, to the great Prejudice of the Landlords, Merchants, Tenants, and Manufacturers of *Great Britain*, and contrary to the many Laws in Force.

ALSO, that the Commanders of his Majesty's

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

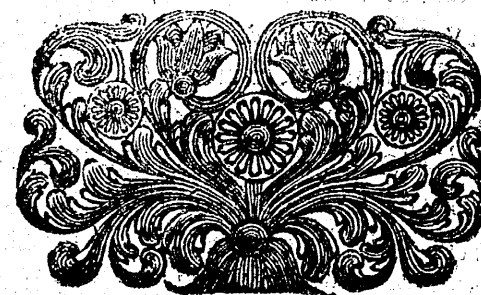
AND if any Merchant-Man, or Mariner on Board of any other Vessel, shall know of such clandestine Practice as aforesaid, and will give Information of such Offender, or Offenders, either in *England, Ireland,* or any other his Majesty's Dominions, such Person shall be intitled to one half of the Penalties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

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

AND whereas, some minute and unforeseen Difficulties, may arise unprovided for, it may be Ordered, that the Commissioners appointed by this Act, to register and secure the Wool of *Great Britain and Ireland,* may have a Power

to

to make such additional Regulations, as may tend to the Security of the Wool, the Ease and Convenience of the Manufacturers, and all other Persons concerned, and that a Report of such additional Regulations (if any) made by the Commissioners, *be laid before the Parliament, the ensuing Session, for their Approbation.*



O B J E C .

OBJECTIONS.

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

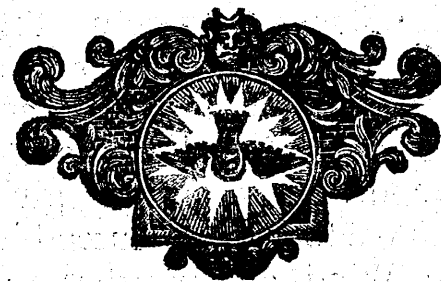
LIKE

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

THE Vessels that carry on this destructive Traffick in the dark, have but few Hands on Board, which are very well paid, or equally concerned in the Profits of the Freight; it was a common Practice during the last War, for Owlars and others to correspond with the *French*, and to agree for a Quantity of Wool to be shipt (with the Form and Ceremony of giving Bond) the Day and Hour they intend to put to Sea, as the Wind and Weather will permit, when a *French* Ship of Force has been appointed to take them as Prize, whereby it had the Appearance of a manifest Loss to the Owners, both of Ship and Cargo, so that there seemed no Room left to make any further Enquiry after the Wool, for which Bond had been given. Others excused themselves by saying, They were driven on Foreign Coasts by Contrary Winds and

40 OBJECTIONS.

and Strefs of Weather. These and many more Contrivances will never fail, if not sufficiently provided against by PARLIAMENT; which it is presumed can no Ways be prevented, but by Register Ships, which may be depended on, for the safe keeping and safe Landing Raw Wool, Worsted, or Bay Tarn brought from Ireland, or carried Coast-Ways



An

Register Sloops, not half 41

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

The Yearly Expence of	Men, at	l.
a Register Ship, including Officers, &c.	} 4l. per Men -	} 1300
consisting of — 25		
Ditto — of — 20	Men —	1040
Ditto — of — 15	Men —	780

6 Register Ships of 25	} Men each, amount to — —	} l.	
8 Ditto — — — of 20			} 7800
10 Ditto — — — of 15			
24 Regist. Ships -- Tot. Charge Annually		23920	

G

An

42 the present Expence.

An ESTIMATE of the Expence of the Three Men of War, and Eight armed Sloops, employ'd at this Time on the Coast of Ireland, for preventing the illegal Exportation of Wool, and Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactured to Foreign Parts.

The Yearly Expence of a Sixth Rate Man of War, consisting of 130 Men, at 4l. per Menssem ———— 6760
 Two Ditto ———— 13520 l.
 ———— 20280

One armed Sloop, consisting of 80 Men, at 4l. per Menssem ———— 4160
 Seven Ditto ———— 29120
 ———— 33280

Total Charge Annually ———— 53560
 Charge of 24 Register Ships ———— 23920

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

By ———— 29640
 The

(43)

The Gross and Net Produce of the Duties on # Hides, Candles, Soap, Painted Silk and Starch, with the Additional Duties for Five Years, Communibus Annis.

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

THE Books of the Soap-Boilers and Tallow-Chandlers will shew, that before the Duty of One Penny *per* Pound Weight was laid on Soap and Candles, Soap was sold at Two Pence Half-penny *per* Pound Weight, which is now risen to Five Pence *per* Pound; an Advance in the Price to the Consumer, of *Cent. per Cent.* on Account of the Duty.

CANDLES that were sold for Three Pence *per* Pound Weight, before any Duty was laid on them, are now risen to Five Pence or Six Pence *per* Pound; an Advance, on a Medium, between Fourscore and a Hundred *per Cent.* (notwithstanding Tallow was never known to be cheaper than of late Years :) The Prices of Leather and Starch have been advanced on the same Account, and in the same Proportion.

By the Rise of the aforesaid Commodities, since the Duty commenced, the Subject has paid near three times the Net Produce before mentioned, the Price having been advanced Three Pence *per* Pound; whereas the Duty is no more than One Penny.

LET us then suppose, that the Subject pays only Two Pence *per* Pound Weight, instead of One Penny; it must follow, that twice the Gross Produce must be paid by the Consumers, amounting to — — — — — £ 1,116,338

ADD

ADD to this, the clandestine Practices of the Fell-Mongers, Soap-Boilers, Tallow-Chandlers, and others, through the Neglect or Conivance of Officers, by which Means the whole Duty may have been greatly under-paid.

THEREFORE it is manifest, these Taxes are most Burthensom, by reason they raise Net, but — — — — — — — — — — £ 473,427 And cost the Subject more than — — — — — three times as much.

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

BUT were these Duties to be taken off, which affect the poor industrious Manufacturers and Artificers, in too great Proportion, and consequently Trade in general, the Woollen and Silken Manufactures might be afforded much cheaper than at present, to every Hand they pass through; besides, these Taxes must be considered in the Profits of the several Dealers, Factors and Merchants, till they arrive at Foreign Markets: They travel with the Commodity, till they light at last upon the Consumer.

THE

Reasons for the

	Packs.	l.
THE Sums wanted, sufficient to replace the like Sums raised on Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. amount to		473427
Charges of 24 Register Ships		23920
In all		497347
Deduct the Expence of Three Men of War, and Eight armed Sloops stationed on the Coast of Ireland, to prevent the Running of Wool and Woollen Goods thoroughly manufactured in Ireland to Foreign Parts, which will be saved to the Nation, amounting Yearly to		53560
		443787
HAVING shewn the Sum wanted, it will be necessary to make a moderate Computation of the Quantity of Wool yearly grown in Great Britain and Ireland, that as much may be raised upon the Whole, by a small Duty on Wool, as will answer the End proposed.		
It is computed, by knowing and experienced People in the Woollen Manufactures, that the Yearly Growth		
Of Great Britain, is	500000	
Of Ireland, is	300000	
N. B. Each Pack contains 240 lb. Weight.		
In all	800000	
Allow for Home Consumption in Ireland	100000	
Then there will remain, to be wrought up in Great Britain	700000	
Suppose the Quantity to be wrought up in Great Britain	600000	
This at a Medium of One Penny per Pound Weight, will produce		600000

WHICH

Change proposed.

WHICH will be sufficient to replace the like Sum raised on Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. and defray the Expence of Management, on the General Register of British and Irish Wool, and Twenty-four Register Ships, with a large Surplus.

THE next and last Thing that remains to be done, is to propose a small Duty *ad Valorem*, on the British Wool, and that brought from Ireland, sufficient to replace the same Sum that is now raised on Leather, Soap, Candles, &c.

IT must be observed, that the Wool of some Countries differs greatly from that of others in Value, according to the different Pasture Sheep are fed on: Therefore to obviate all Objections that may be raised, it is both reasonable and necessary to proportion the Duty accordingly, *viz.*

IT is proposed, that a Duty of one Half-penny *per* Pound Weight, be laid on all Wool grown in Great Britain, of the meaner or coarser Sort, by the Fleece, Tod, or Pack, not exceeding Price.

ALSO that a Duty of one Penny *per* Pound Weight be laid on the second or middling Sort, at or above Price, by the Fleece, Tod, or Pack.

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

OR

48 *Reasons for the*

OR in the Manner following, which bears the same Proportion :

	l.	s.	d.
SUPPOSE a Pack of Wool sells for Three Pounds, the Duty to be—	00	10	00
A better sort should sell for Six Pounds, the Duty to be — — —	01	00	00
A finer and better sort, that sells for Nine Pounds, the Duty to be—	01	10	00
A superfine sort, that sells for Twelve Pounds, the Duty to be—	02	00	00

And so on in that Proportion, be the Wool worth more or less, let the Duty be the sixth Part of what it sells for, on the Oath of the Buyer and Seller, or their Agents; Stewards or Servants, either in publick Markets or private Contracts; and a Penalty on any one that shall take a false Oath, of *Transportation, Fine, or Imprisonment.*

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

THE small Duty proposed on Wool, being a sixth Part of the Value of Wool, will at first surprize the Reader; but he will soon recover himself, when it is demonstrated to him, that tho' it be the sixth Part of the Value of Wool, it will raise the Price of Woollen Goods very little more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ per Cent. (if the Duties on
Leather,

Change proposed. 49

Leather, Soap, Candles, &c. continue); and it cannot be more, as may be seen by turning back to Page the 46th, where the working up of three Packs of Wool, on a Medium, is carefully set down: But to save the Reader that Trouble, it may not be improper to explain it in this Place by an Example of one Pound of Wool, which will hold good to the largest Quantity *Great Britain and Ireland* can produce.

EXAMPLE. d.

Say a Pound of Wool, on a Medium,	}	06
be worth — — — — —		
Manufacturing it into Goods, six times	}	36
the Value — — — — —		
Duty One Penny — — — — —		01
		— — —
		43
		— — —

THE Duty is to a Demonstration no more than the Sixth Part of the Value of the Wool, and but a three and fortieth Part of the Value of it, when manufactured in General, which is very little more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ per Cent. where as the other Duties, in Lieu of which it is proposed, are at an Average above 90 per Cent. as the Price of Goods has been raised by them.

FROM whence it is easy to conceive, that each Duty on *Leather, Soap, Candles* and *Starch*, lies infinitely heavier on all Ranks of
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People, than the trifling Duty proposed on Wool would do.

To make this more plainly appear, let us suppose a Man in Trade, or otherwise, that has the smallest of Families, and can afford to lay out Five pounds once a Year in Cloathing, the small Duty on that Cloathing cannot exceed 2s. 6d; let us suppose this Man and his very small Family to lay out Fifty Shillings a Year in *Candles, Soap, and Starch* (exclusive of *Leather*;) which is as little as a Man in such Circumstances can lay out; this Man will find that he pays very near half the Fifty Shillings, by Reason of the Duty; which is ten times as much as he would pay by laying out double that Sum in Woollen Goods; so that in general no Man of any Condition would pay above One Shilling where he now pays Ten, on Account of the several Taxes; besides, it will be more equally proportioned to the Abilities of the Consumer.

HERE it will be proper to observe that Six parts in Seven of the Value of our Woollen Manufactures on an Average, is Labour; and as the several Duties before-mentioned, on *Soap, Candles, &c.* have raised the Price of those Commodities near *Cent. per Cent.* we may by this Observation easily judge, whether the Savings on the said several Duties in the Price of Labour would not by far exceed the Outgoings in the small Duty proposed on Wool.

If so, the Woollen Goods of all sorts may be afforded cheaper than they now are; but let us suppose our Woollen Manufactures to keep the Price they now are sold for, the same Sum of Money will be insensibly raised on Wool, in Lieu of the like Sum that is Yearly raised on *Leather, Soap, Candles, &c.* without the least Burthen to the Subject, or Foreign Purchaser, by advancing the Price of our Woollen Manufactures: The same Officers, will be sufficient to register the Wool *Great Britain and Ireland*, and by their Care and Vigilance, we may assuredly engross the whole Woollen Trade to Ourselves; from whence it must follow that many Millions will be Yearly added to the Commerce of *Great Britain.*



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OBJECTIONS.

IT may be objected, That the Calculation of the Quantity of Wool produced by *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, being founded on Supposition, is not absolutely to be depended upon.

ANSWER.

LET us suppose that Calculation to be too high by one 4th, the remaining three 4ths will answer the End proposed; and as we recover our Woollen Trade, the Calculations will soon run higher, both with regard to the Produce of Wool, the Consumption of our Woollen Goods, and the Price of Labour; therefore worthy the Attention of every *Briton*, that has the Welfare and Happiness of his Country at Heart: If it should happen to be a little more or less, it is not very Material; But when the Quantity of Wool is certainly known, they may as much be raised, as will, from the Whole, answer the Intention of this Purpose, and all that reasonable Subjects can desire, whenever Money is levied upon them, is, that such Sums may be raised, as are least burthenome to Trade, and in the most easy and equal Manner.

ANOTHER

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

THE *Farmers or Growers Houses, Barns, or Warehouses need not be entered or searched at unseasonable Hours, like those of the Fell-Mongers, Soap-Boilers, Tallow-Chandlers, and others, by reason the Farmers, Wool-Staplers, and others, will only be answerable for the Wool shorn, or otherways charged to their Account,*

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Account, under such Penalties as the Parliament shall think most proper.

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

CONCLUSION.

As I concluded the *First Edition* of this Piece with a Paragraph, in which mention is made of a Supplemental Scheme I had to Offer, when this Proposal should be carried into Execution; by that *Scheme* I meant the Payment of our Publick Debts, in which we shall always meet with insurmountable Difficulties, as long as our Wool is suffered to be carried Abroad to supply the Manufactories of Foreign Nations; but as soon as this Proposal takes Place, I can then make it Appear, to the Meanest capacity even without the help of Pen and Ink, that the *whole National Debt* may be intirely Discharged in Eight Years, with a
very

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very agreable Circumstance that will attend it, *viz.* That no Man of any Rank or Condition whatsoever, shall pay above Half of what he pays at present: Which, with Submission, I conceive to be an Article worthy the Attention of a *British* PARLIAMENT; and every *Briton*, that has the Honour, Interest and Happiness of his COUNTRY at Heart.

FINIS.



