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 ANSWER
 TO A
 Late TRACT,
 ENTITLED,
 [*An Essay on the East-India
 Trade.*]
St Francis Brewster.

LONDON:

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TO THE
Clothiers and Weavers
OF
ENGLAND.

Gentlemen,

THOUGH I love not Con-
troversies, nor have a strength
of Judgment to manage them,
yet I readily embraced the motion of
Answering a small Tract, Entituled,
An Essay on the *East-India Trade*,
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by the Author of the Essay upon Ways and Means; believing the Justness of the Cause would supply the Weakness of the Advocate. I must own the Author of that Essay hath set forth his Errors in Trade, as usually they come forth in Religion, with the Allurements of Sublimer Knowledge, and more advanc'd Practice in the Mysteries of Heaven, than are Taught by the Ancient Orthodox Discipline; so this Gentleman Argues for the Importation and Wear of East-India Manufactories to be the highest Improvement of our Trade and Navigation; the mistake whereof the following Sheets explode. I therefore only mention here that which perfects the Simile before-mentioned, That his Position is Erroneous and New; the East-India Trade having been Profitable to the Nation before the vast Importation of Indian Manufactories, and the contrary now
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the Nation is deluded by the Gaiety and Cheapness of them, as it is imposed upon when they are told, That they are a great Improvement to Trade, and below the exalted Genius of a Rich Nation, as we are, to take up with Home-bred Manufactories; all this I take to be a most pernicious Heresy in Trade, and submit my Arguments in the following Pages to prove it so, to the Consideration of better Heads.

I shall add no more here, but pray your leave to caution against a fault too general in our Nation, that is, To treat Men that differ with us in Judgment, as Enemies either to our Persons or Interest; this often makes some so that were not, but never brings over them that are.

I know some of the first Magni-
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tude, both in Quality and Judgment, of different Opinion in the East-India Trade, yet as entirely in the Interest of the Nation, as we that differ from them in this Point.

If I may presume to advise you, and that you gain your reasonable desire, use it as a Victory only over the Subjects of the Mogul, and not over your Brethren.

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AN
ANSWER
TO A
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[*An Essay on the East-India Trade.*]

I Think it as much a Right to acknowledge the Truths of the Author of these Essays, as it is to shew his Mistakes.

I must therefore first own, he hath with good Judgment expressed the great Advantage it is for Ministers of State to have a true Knowledge in the Trade of the Nation ; and it is too true that *Richlieu* left behind him such Schemes for Trade

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and Navigation, as hath, and 'tis yet to be fear'd, will advance the *French* Power more than their Arms.

It is as great a Truth, that the Strength of an Island, as well as its Treasure, depends more on Trade and Navigation, than that of a Continent; the consideration whereof hath often prevailed with me to believe this Nation might sooner bring *France* to its Ancient Bounds by our force in Trade and Navigation, than by our Arms; it will at least be granted, that the Latter is not to be supported without the Former.

But to come to the foundation of his Arguments for the matter in Controversy; he tells you in Page 8, That but a Fourth part of our Riches arise from the Vent of our own Commodities: This is so palpable a mistake as can proceed from nothing less than the want of the most common Rudiments of Trade; a fault too usual among Men of Letters and Theory in Merchantine Affairs. Reading without Practice never makes a Merchant; and though I will not say Merchants are the best Governors of Trade (each one having a particular Interest) yet, I think, I may affirm,
That

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That they are the best Explainers of it.

This Gentleman, perhaps, had the Notion of the *Dutch* Trade in his Head when he wrote this; their Riches chiefly arising from Carriage, and improving the product of other Nations; but ours is not so, we are not always our own Carriers; and, to our shame, not the Manufacturers of all our own Product.

But to make this mistake of our Riches arising out of the Air appear, for he tells us not from whence it comes, let us consider what brings our Treasure, if our Manufactories, Lead, Tinn, and Leather, doth not; (for our Corn, though he names that as considerable in our Exports, is of no signification) Carriage, as I said before, we make no Gain by; Exports of Foreign Imports are not much; and if they were, yet their original must arise from the purchase of our Native Product, and so doth even all we fetch from the *East-Indies*, but not by a direct means; if they were, the Complaints against that Trade would be the less; but they are purchased with the Money our Product brings from other Places, and the Returns from the *Indies* most consumed at Home.

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‘ He proceeds farther and tells you, That
 ‘ whoever looks strictly into our Affairs,
 ‘ that the Wealth *England* had once, did
 ‘ arise chiefly from two Articles, our Plan-
 ‘ tation, and our *East-India* Trade; I must
 confess, our Plantation-Trade is the best
 we have left; but neither that, much less
 the *East-India* Trade, are the foundation
 of the Riches this Nation once had: Be-
 fore either of them were known, this
 Nation was opulent in its Commerce, if
 compared with its Neighbours; and our
 Woollen Manufactories brought us, as
 well as themselves, to be courted by the
 then most Trading-People of *Europe*:
 Markets of which are to be seen in *Ant-*
werp, and other parts, that now have lost
 them; these our Woollen Manufactories
 brought us into that Noble Trade of
Muscovy and the *Sound*; which by the
 Effeminate Trade of the *East Indies* and
Levant, we have in a manner lost. I
 must likewise mind this Gentleman of
 the *Newfoundland* Fishing, which brought
 home more ready Money than all the rest;
 and to shew his mistake in the original of
 our Riches, I desire him to examine the
Custom-House Books, from the Year 1600
 to the Year 1648; though they were then
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but imperfectly kept; and he will see his
 mistake beyond the pretence of a Compu-
 tation. It is more than Twenty Years
 since I took that pains, and could name
 Particulars, but out of Respect to him I
 forbear.

I pass over what he mentions from the
 8th to the 12th Page, in which there are
 very useful Observations. He then in
 Pag. 12, 13, and 14. gives his Opinion,
 ‘ That the Bill proposed to prohibit the
 ‘ wearing *East-Indian* and *Persian* wrought
 ‘ Silks, Bengalls, &c. will be absolutely
 ‘ destructive to the Trade, and very preju-
 ‘ dicial to the Kingdom; which two Points
 ‘ he will impartially handle.

He begins thus; ‘ As to the *East-India*
 ‘ Trade in general, if all *Europe* by com-
 ‘ mon Consent would agree to have no far-
 ‘ ther dealings to those Parts, this side of
 ‘ the World by such a Resolution would
 ‘ certainly save a great and continual Ex-
 ‘ pence of Treasure; for *Europe* draws
 ‘ from thence nothing of solid Use, Mate-
 ‘ rials to supply Luxury, and only perish-
 ‘ able Commodities, and sends thither Gold
 ‘ and Silver, which is there barter’d: And
 concludes, ‘ That of the Gold and Silver
 ‘ brought into *Europe* for Two hundred
 ‘ years

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' years past, an Hundred and fifty Millions
' of it is sunk in the *East-Indies*: From
' whence he concludes, That the *European*
' Nations in general had been Richer by a
' full Third, if that Trade had never been
' discover'd and undertaken.

' But since *Europe* has tasted of this
' Luxury this Hundred Years, and their
' Silks are pleasing every where, their Cal-
' licoes useful at home, and in our Planta-
' tions, and for the *Spaniards* in *America*, it
' can never be advisable for *England* to quit
' that Trade.

These are his Arguments for the *East-India* Trade in general; which is a collusive way of arguing; That because the Trade in general hath been a Profitable Trade, therefore this Bill against the Wear of some particular Commodities that are but of late crept in, will be destructive to the *East-India* Trade, which was a profitable Trade without them.

He fairly owns, That if *Europe* would by common consent lay aside the *East-India* Trade, it would certainly save a great and continual Expence of Treasure. This seems to me to be against him, and for the Bill; and tho' we cannot, nor does it concern us to govern *Europe* in this matter,

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matter, yet it does to keep our part of the Treasure that goes there; since he allows this Bill would prejudice that Trade, that is, prevent our sending out so much Treasure, which we think a Gain to keep at home, as he allows it would be in general to *Europe*. And indeed, it more immediately concerns this Nation, than all the rest of *Europe*, because all of them put together consume not One fourth of those Commodities this Bill prohibits, that we do; and that the *East-India* Company themselves allow, in a Print of their own last Sessions, which I then answer'd: The Words were these; ' That if they were
' denied the Consumption of those
' Silks, &c. mentioned in the Bill, they
' should not be able to manage the *East-India* Trade, for that Three Fourths of
' them were consumed in *England*. If they had said Nine tenths of the Silks, they had not been mistaken.

The other part of his Argument, That the use of these Luxuries for a hundred years, makes it not advisable for *England* to quit the Trade; seems a Reason for doing it the sooner, lest the continuance of time make the Mischief formidable; as it indeed appears almost now,
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by the Numbers concern'd in that Gain, which is got out of the Bowels of our Native Poor; for so it is when the Money of the Rich is laid out to feed *Indians* abroad, and enrich men of unbounded desires at home; for such is the unlimited Gain by the *East-India* Trade, now they have debauch'd the Nation with Cobwebs and Cockle-shells, in return for their Gold and Silver; in which, tho' the Luxurious and Effeminate are made *Indians*, in their taking Glass-Beads for Gold, yet we must not think the Lords and Commons can be so imposed upon; they will distinguish between the solid Manufactory of our Nation, and the Trinkets of the *Mogul*.

In Page 14 he tells us, 'The Burthen which this Commerce lays upon the Collective Body of *Europe*, does bear hard only upon those Countries which consume the *Indian* Commodities, without having any share in the Traffick.

To this I answer, It is equally so to us, when we consume more of them at home, than we send abroad of our Native Commodities to purchase them; and I must say farther, that we are greater Sufferers by employing our own Ships and Men to fetch this Poyson to us. I there-

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fore think he mistakes, in saying they only are Losers by the Consumption of *Indian* Commodities, that have no share in the Traffick; I think they suffer less who have little brought to them, than we who are at the Charge of fetching whole Cargoes; and so take off our Ships and Men from more profitable Employments.

He proceeds farther in Page 15. 'That the *Dutch* and *English*, which together are not a Tenth Part of *Europe*, enjoy this Traffick almost without any Rivalship; and if it be a Burthen, it lies not on the one, but on the other Nine parts.

Thus he endeavours to cover that part of the *East-India* Trade this Bill would relieve against, by advocating for the whole Trade, which is not now controverted.

He farther tells you, 'That the carrying out of the Gold and Silver of *Europe* to the *East-Indies*, is from the *French*, *Spaniards*, *Germans*, and *Northern* Crowns: But I doubt he cannot prove they send out Money to pay for the Commodities we consume of *India*, which this Bill is to prohibit the Wear of in *England*.

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He omits telling you, That the Importation of them is not prohibited so, but that we have free liberty of shipping them out to those Countries he would make us believe consume so much of them.

I believe he would be more ingenuous in this matter, if he understood the truth of this Trade, That *France* hath prohibited them all; the *Northern* Countries wear no *Persian* Silks; the *Germans* very little; and tho' *Holland* hath more than Ten times the Trade we have to the *East-Indies*, yet the whole *United Provinces* consume not so much of the Commodities this Bill reaches, as we do in one Parish in *London*. The *Dutch* are a more Frugal and Wise People; and the true reason why the *Dutch* have not taken up this Trade of *Indian* and *Persian* Silks, as they did other Commodities, was because they knew not where to sell them.

We had a good Statute to prevent their Importation of any Commodities, but of their own Fabrick.

He goes on to Pag. 15, and 16, with the Computation of the *East-India* Exports to be Four hundred thousand Pounds, one Eighth part to be of our Nation's Product; supposes to consume at home

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home to the value of Two hundred thousand Pounds; then saith, If the Company exports to other Nations (which, by the way, sheweth he hath the hand of *Joab* in this matter, advocates for, and hath the *East-India* Company in these Arguments) the remainder of the other Two hundred thousand Pounds, *England* must certainly be a great Gainer by this Traffick; for no one vers'd in Merchandizing will deny, but that the Returns from *India* of Two hundred thousand Pounds, when exported to other Countries, must increase the first Sum at least Fourfold, and produce Eight hundred thousand Pounds.

So that the Account of *England* with the *Indies* and *European* Nations, may be thus balanced:

The Returns exported yields	l.
per Ann. —————	800,000
The Returns consum'd at home,	
are to the Nation, —————	200,000
	Total — 1,000,000
Deduct for the Prime Cost of	
Bullion, or Manufactories ex-	
ported, —————	400,000
England's Neat Gain by this	
Traffick, —————	600,000
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From this Computation is to be observ'd, That if it were right, the *East-India* Company would not have been so low in Stock as they were before the War: But that which hath relation to the Prohibition in the Bill, is what I would keep unto; tho' this Gentleman in all his Discourse runs upon the Trade in general, there being something to argue upon, but in truth nothing for the Wear of *East-India* Commodities: But to return to this last Computation of what is consumed at home; by the best Calculations I have met with of the *East-India* Sales, not one fourth have been for many years past exported. But if what this Gentleman affirms (for so he doth with some assurance) be Matter of Fact, and that the Consumption be so small as Two hundred thousand Pounds of Eight hundred thousand Pounds, how comes the Trade to depend so much upon the Wear of the *Persian* Silks, Bengalls, &c. which by his Computation cannot amount to more than One hundred thousand Pounds *per Ann* for that the Coffee, Tea, China, Drugs, Salt-petre, and other Trinkets, cannot amount to less than an Hundred thousand Pounds, and he allows but

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Two hundred thousand Pounds to the whole.

Thus far I cannot see so much as a Pretence for this Bill's destroying the *East-India* Trade.

In *Page 17.* he tells you, 'By the Inspection he hath made into the general State and Condition of this Kingdom, the *East-India* Trade did annually add to the Gross Stock of *England* Six hundred thousand Pounds *per Ann* and bounds his Time from 1656 to the year 1688. If this be so, then it is apparent that the *East India* Trade wants not this Consumption of *East-India* Silks, so much struggled for; there being no considerable use of them for many years of his Computation.

I would, if it might consist with answering the Subject he undertakes, pass over his Computations and Conclusions in Trade, because I never saw a Collection so generally mistaken; and, that he may not take offence, say he hath not been well used, if he took his measures from men conversant in the Practick of Trade; but if he consulted only with men of Speculation, who gather from Papers, he might well run into such Mistakes as he sets

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down;

down; That from the year 1656 to 1688, the Nation every year increas'd at least Two Millions *per Ann*; he should have cast up what that amounts unto in the whole, which is Sixty four Millions; something he must allow we had before; I wonder what is become of his Sixty four Millions, I cannot think the Nation hath lost so much this War, and yet I believe we are not much better in our Capital, than we were in the year 1656. I wish we were so well.

He goes on farther, and gives the grounds of his assurance in this matter, by Particulars in Page 18. thus;

From our Manufactories, and Home Product sent to the Plantations, and from the Returns exported to Foreign Parts, —————	}	l. 900,000
From our Woollen Manufacto- ries, Lead, Tin, Leather, and our own Native Product sent to France, Spain, Ita- ly, Germany, &c.	}	500,000
From the Neat Profit accruing by the East-India Trade, —	}	600,000
Total —————		2000,000
		By

By these Particulars one may think he consulted neither with Men of Speculation nor Conversation in Trade; if he had, sure they would have told him; That for some Years of his Computation; that is, from 1656 to 1660, our Plantation Trade was not one half it hath risen to since; nor did in the highest of their Trade ever add Four hundred thousand Pounds clear Gain to the Nation, beside the Consumption at home; for that he allows.

He huddles up in his second Article the Woollen Manufactory, Lead, Tin, Leather, and our Native Product, and makes it but Five hundred thousand Pounds; which tho' it might be made appear to be a large Computation, yet certainly the solid Riches and Stock of the Nation is raised more by this Article of 500000 *l.* than by his other two which he makes 1500000 *l.*

His last Article of 600000 *l.* gained by the *East India* Trade, he amplifies with a Certainty, and calls it the Neat Profit accruing by the *East-India* Trade. The other two Articles before-mentioned, as he words them, there is room to get off; but on this of the *East-India* Trade he pitches

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itches his Banner, resolving to stand by it; and I think it makes for the Bill to have it so, and therefore I have no reason to contest it; all I say, is, If the Nation find but half it, I persuade my self they would think it a good Trade without those Silks; and therefore no need to starve our own Weavers to support it.

I have hitherto as tenderly handled this Gentleman's Notorious Errors, as was possible to do with answering them; and this I did, because I believed them Errors in Judgment, or mistaken Conclusions of what he gathered from other men, as it is usual in matters of Trade, where men write by Eccho, having no more than the Return of their own Words, where they make Enquiries. I take it to be the first part of true Information on any Subject, to ask pertinent Questions; which no man can do in Commerce, who hath nothing of the Practick; this Consideration obliged me in favour of the Author to cover as much as I could his Mistakes hitherto; but now I must beg his Pardon, to be more plain in Reply to what he mentions in Page 18, to Page 24; because he broaches in them such Doctrines, that if they should gain Credit, would not only

starve

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starve Weavers, but Seamen; and to purchase the Luxuries of *India*, leave this Kingdom open to the *French*; whom I think all honest men will allow we have more reason to fear, than the *Dutch* he so much dreads.

His Words are these:

Whatever Countrey can be in the full and undisputed Possession of it (meaning the East-India Trade) will give Law to all the Comercial World.

Should we quit the hold we have in India, and abandon the Traffick, our Neighbours the Dutch will undoubtedly engross the whole. And if to their Naval Strength in Europe be added, such a Foreign Wealth and Strength England must hereafter be contented to trade by their Protection, and under their Banner. In Page 21. he tells us, *Persons without doors either bribed by the Dutch, or to flatter that Interest, profess themselves open Enemies to the Traffick in general.* And to confirm these frightful Omens of his own Brain, he binds up all with a Prediction, in these words; *I hope your Lordships will hereafter remember this Prediction of mine, That England will thereby lose Half its Foreign Trade.* In this he shews himself a more merciful Prophet, than he was be-

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fore a true Calculator; where he saith, *England* would be obliged to Trade by the Protection of the *Dutch*, and under their Banners; but now he allows we may have Half our Trade left us. But I shall answer each of these Conclusions apart.

First, *That whoever hath the full Possession of the East-India Trade, will give Laws to all the Commercial World.*

First, It seems impossible for any one Nation to engross the Trade of that vast Empire of the *Great Mogul*. The *Portuguese, Dutch, French, English, Danes, &c.* and now the *Scotch*, are concerned in that Trade; and it is not reasonable to believe the *Mogul* will admit any one of them to engross the whole, to the excluding the rest: But granting an Impossibility, how will it affect the whole Trade of the World? great part of which are Strangers to the use of any *East-India* Commodity; and those few that consume a little Spice, and perchance some few Calicoes, are not cloathed with *Persian* Silks, nor are their Houses adorned with *China* Cups, or *Japan* Cabinets.

I re-

I remember a Gentleman that pleased himself to Write much of Trade, and though no Master thereof, came nearer the sense of it than our Author, (was very angry with the Act of Navigation, and gave for one Argument against it, That Whales have no Ships) and therefore no having Oil from *Greenland*. I may with as great Truth, and more to the purpose, tell the Author, Whales consume no *Indian* Commodities; nor are the Fish of *Newfoundland* catch'd with Tea or Coffee; yet it is demonstrable it was that, and other Fishing, was the original and foundation of the Riches and Navigation of these Kingdoms; and our neglect of them, the decay of both to us, and Inriching and Growth of the Navigation of our Neighbours.

Nor do I find that the *East-India* Trade gave us an equivalent in either, but the contrary, carried out our Bullion, abated our Seamen; I might enumerate our other Trades, as our Foreign Plantations that are not supported by *India* Commodities; but to avoid prolixity, I affirm, There is not one Trade we drive in the World, but we might, and did manage formerly, without any of the *East India* Com-

Commodities; and *Spain* excepted, to most other parts where we send any, it is Trifles.

Upon the whole, our Author resolves, That whoever hath the Trade of the *East-Indies*, will command the Trade of the whole World. Which hath as great weight in it, as if he should tell us, That whoever ingross'd the *Canary* Birds in the Island of *Teneriff*, would command the whole Traffick of their Wines.

He mistakes the World, or would have our Legislators do so, when he says the Curiosities and Gaiety of *Indian* Luxury will govern them.

And now let us enquire into the Integrity of our Author's Arguing in this Point of the Trade in general to the *East-Indies*: The pretence of his Essays is to give Reasons against the Bill for Prohibiting *Persian* Silks, &c. which after he hath by his several Computes brought down to an Hundred thousand Pounds per Ann. that is so much consumed at Home,

He goes on to prove, That by the rest of the *Indian* Trade, there is Six hundred thousand Pounds, Neat Profit to the Nation: And here he comes and tells us the dreadful

dreadful Consequence of losing the whole Trade, without the least pretence that the Prohibition of this Bill will bring it on us, for that would Confute his former Assertions.

What he then designs by his Predictions, he must give us leave to guess; I am loath to do it with Reflection, therefore shall do it with as soft words as possible, it must be either to amuse the Nation with the danger of losing so Great and Beneficial a Trade as the Passing this Bill will bring upon them; or it must be to breed Jealousies among the People of the Government; if it be the first, by a false representation to throw dirt upon the Bill, under pretence of the Loss of the whole Trade of the *East-Indies*, it is disingenuous to make such false Inferences, accumulating Mischiefs, that will attend the Nation by the Loss of a Trade; which allowing his own Arguments, is affected but One sixth part in the Gross of their Importation, and that cannot be Fifty thousand Pounds abatement of their Profit; but to be more fair than this Gentleman is, he knows, or they that employ him, that the Consumption of *East-India* Silks, *Bengalls*, &c. is of more consideration

tion to them, than their whole Trade beside; and the Reason is this, which is a secret perhaps to many of their Friends, who otherwise might not be so;

If the *East-India* Company could carry their point in having a Toleration of the wear of *East-India* Manufactories, they would have that Trade entirely in their own hands, they would have no Rivals in the *Indies*, because the *Dutch*, or other Nations, could not Import them into *England*, we having already the Act of Navigation to Prohibit them; and there is no other Nation in the World so supplied with Money, and faulty in their Conduct, as to purchase their Destruction in the wearing Foreign Manufactories to the Abatement of their own.

But if the *East-India* Company (for it is their Interest this Gentleman Advocates) have liberty to furnish us with *Indian* Manufactories, they will enlarge it to more than what is now complained of; there is the same room for them, as there was at first to carry over Patterns to the *Indians* to direct them in the making Silks fit for our wear; nor is it reasonable to believe they will be Limited only to Silks: Why should they not carry our Wool

Wool to the *East-Indies*, (they have stowage enough in their Ships, a Fifth part of their Hold takes in all their outward-bound Cargo) and plead the necessity of it, as they do about *Rumney-Marsh*, that their Countrey is waste since the Act pass'd last Sessions is so hard upon them; an Act which deserves to be writ in Letters of Gold, since it hath done that which no Law could ever reach unto before: But I digress, and therefore must return to the *East-India* Trade.

If what I have here said in this last Paragraph be *tanti*, there needs no more to shew the Necessity of making a speedy Law to prohibit the Avaricious Practices of those men that would Sacrifice their own Countrey for their private Gain; beat out the most prosperous Manufactory in the World; destroy and root out Thousands, I may say Millions, of the most Sober, Religious, and well-disposed people in the Nation, who have in long Descent preserved to their Posterity the first acceptable Sacrifice, that of the Fleece, which Divinity it self seems to bless them with from *Abel*.

I now come to the latter; That if it be not to throw a false Gloss on the Bill,
it

it must be to breed jealousies among the People against the Government; I hope it is not so designed; but if it be not, what does he mean by so often telling us the *Dutch* will Govern us? He is indeed careful of not bringing himself under the Lash of the House of Commons, when he expresses himself thus; *That some persons without Doors, either bribed by the Dutch, or to flatter that Interest, profess themselves open Enemies to the Traffick in general.* But though he be careful to defend himself against the Parliament; yet he seems short in his Politicks to fly upon all without doors, some of whom have been within, and may be again; and however, all *English* men that are for this Bill, &c are Arraigned by him, either to be bribed by the *Dutch*, or flatterers of that Interest; I affect not trampling on Men whose unhappy Principles render them obnoxious to the Law, and all honest Men; and therefore I will not say what might justly be returned on this Reflection; but I must own my self a Friend to the Interest of the *Dutch*, because they are under the Government of our King; Allies; and more, our Brethren in the Protestant Religion; and yet more, the
the

the happy Assistants of our King in the greatest Deliverance this Nation ever had from Popery and Slavery. But after all this, I affirm for my self, and believe it for all who are for this Bill, That we neither receive Bribes, nor flatter the *Dutch* Interest in this matter; the Author, I believe, is also free from Bribes, though he may receive Wages, both from the *Jacobites* and *East-India-Company*. I now come to his Remarks on Trade page 25. which are so absurd and contradictory to the former part of this Tract, that, I think, only to repeat one and the other, would be the most merciful way to reprove him; but that would swell these Sheets beyond the Bounds I design them; I shall therefore here only repeat a few Lines of his in Page 10; they are these; *In a Trading Nation the Bent of all the Laws should tend to the Incouragement of Commerce, and all measures should be there taken with a due regard to its Interest and Advantage.*

Now in Page 25 he speaks thus:

Trade is in its nature free, finds its own channel, and best directs its own course; and all Laws to give it Rules and Directions, and to Limit and Circumscribe it, may serve
serve

serve the particular Ends of Private Men, but are seldom Advantagious to the Publick.

I should not take notice of this Gentleman's piecing in several things in his Discourse taken out of an Essay of Trade, Entituled, Part the First of Five, but that he here mixes and divides it to the defacing it, whereas it was of use, when whole and duly plac'd.

In Page 26 he tells us his wonder at the Act for Burying in Woollen; and considering the time it was made in, so do I, for it was directly against the *French* Interest, as well as this Gentleman's sense.

The Burying in Woollen saved the Exports of more than Five hundred thousand Pounds *Sterling, per Ann.* and most of that to *France*; for the common People he would have Buried in old Sheets, generally preserved their Wedding Sheet, and Shifts, or purchased Finer; And is it not then better Conduct in a Nation to employ their own Hands to Work, than Purchase it with their Money from Foreigners?

He snaps at Notions in Trade, as Fish do at false Baits; it is true whatever is consumed at Home of our own Manufactories, adds nothing to the Riches of a Nation;

Nation, but if consuming at home Twenty Shillings, saves the Expence of Forty Shillings from abroad, then it is a Profit to the Nation, and that is the case in this matter. What Spirit guides this Gentleman, I cannot tell, but he is very angry with our own Manufactories, and would not have them used either by our Living or our Dead; I know not how he brings this in against the Bill, and therefore should have pass'd it by, but that I do not know but that he may issue forth new Problems to prove it the Interest of the Nation to Bury in *Persian* Silks, and Bengalls.

I now come to Page 30, to Page 33, where he saith, *Suppose 200000 l. per Ann. of the prime Sum sent to India, is returned in Commodities for our Consumption; and suppose half this Sum to be returned in such Goods as are worn here in the room of Woollen Manufactories.*

From One hundred thousand	l.
Pounds prime Cost to India,	
there may reasonably be expected Goods that Sell for	40,000
So that by sending to India	100,000
We Gain for our own Consumption,	300,000
	This

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This must be clear Profit to the Kingdom, because that Sum would be otherwise consumed in our own Product, which Product we are by this means enabled to Export.

This, *prima facie*, looks like true Arguing; but upon search it appears fallacious, for these Two Reasons:

First, If he means this Hundred thousand Pounds to be sent in Money, then it is certainly so much Loss to the Nation, being Consumed at home; and I hope our Author will allow whatever is Consumed at home, though it were of our own Product, is no Gain to the Nation.

And then what is Consumed at the Expence of our Money, is so much Loss.

But I suppose this Computation of the Author's, is upon Money, and that is so much loss to the Nation, however great the Returns are.

But I will, to help the Argument, suppose that we have those Commodities the Bill Prohibits, in return of our Woollen Manufactories, which in the former part of his Argument he most untruly asserts; but I say, suppose it were so, yet the mischief were the same to the Nation; I will go farther, and suppose his Ally the *Mogul* would send us over
Gratis

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Gratis as much yearly as would Cloath the Nation, even that would be our Ruin; to explain this I must look back to Page 27, where he expresseth himself thus:

I have reason to think that the People receiving Alms in this Kingdom, are Twelve hundred thousand; and if it be so, and I doubt it is the truest Computation in his Essay, How many more should we have if this Nation were Cloathed in the Mogul's Livery? I dare not contest with the Author in Politicks, (that being his Province, as Trade is mine) but methinks he is astray in his Mysteries of State, to Argue, That the Cheap Cloathing of our Nation by East-India and Persian Fabrick, would be an Advance to their Wealth and Power. I always thought that the Bodies of Men were the Treasure and Strength of a Nation, and that it was Wisdom to Increase and Employ them, and the contrary if the Gentry and Men of Fortunes should reject the Labour of their own People, because they can be Cheaper and Finer Cloathed from other Countries.

This is something like the Fable of the Hands Mutinying against the Belly; but
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here it is revers'd, the Belly Mutinies with the Hands: If our Gentry refuse to be Cloathed by their own Hands, I would gladly know how the Author intends to provide for the Landed Men of this Nation when he hath destroyed all their Tenants, for it is the Artisans and Manufacturers of the Kingdom that consume the greatest part of the natural Product of the Land; but for this he hath a quick Remedy, *the less we spend at home, the more we send abroad*: He has, I must confess, put me long since past wondring at his Notions in Trade, or I should blush at the weakness of this Argument; Did he ever hear of a Market for more of our Cloth and Stuffs than we had to supply them? The Author wants a good Memory, which if he had, he would remember, that in another part of this Tract he tells us, *That the great Vent we had for our Manufactories Two Years ago, was occasioned by the badness of our Coin, and height of Guineas*; and it was so; which is demonstration that our People can Manufacture double the Quantity of their usual stint, for so they did the time our Author mentions; which shews, that if we were fully supplied with work, it might

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might lessen the Twelve hundred thousand now on Alms.

The Author hath yet a Reserve left; which is, Let these Clothiers and Weavers turn Fishers, and catch Herrings: His Resentments are against that Fish, because the *Dutch* make so great a Gain of it; but in this he also is mistaken in his Spirit of Traffick; we could not make that Advantage of Herrings they do, unless we could prevail with them to *Eat*, as he would with us to *Wear*, a Foreign Product, and send their own People to look out for some new Employment.

We should also want the Rivers and Passages into *Germany, Flanders, &c.* to transport our Herrings to.

I was expecting to hear him assign us the Fishing of *Newfoundland* for the Weavers; but recollecting my self, I remember the *French* have raised their Navigation and Strength at Sea out of that fishing, and he will not disturb them.

Fishing, I own, is a Jewel we seem not to understand. Such Guides in Trade, and Statesmen as this Author, I have often heard say, Discourses of Trade, and employing the Poor, would disturb the King's Business. The truth on't is,

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we shall soon be quiet, if the *Mogul* cloath us, and the *French* catch our Fish for us.

I do not see any thing we have left to set us up again in Trade, but our Manufactory at home, and Plantations abroad; the improving the first enlarges the latter.

I have been the longer on this Head, That the Cheapness of the *Indian* Fabrick is no Argument of Force for our Consumption of them at home; because on the Strength of that Point lies all that hath the appearance of weight in the Argument for Defence of the *Indian* Manufactory consumed in *England*.

I submit to better Judgments what I have here said against them; and whether it be not the Interest of our Nation to find out Work for their own People, though they should make no other use of it, than the *Dutch* do of their Spice, burn it when they have more than they can sell. But it would be improvidence to burn our own, to make room for *Indian* Manufactories; as we must do, since it is apparent we cannot sell them abroad, and our People must starve, if they do not work; and so they would indeed, if the Author's Advice were embrac'd, to make them undertake this New Employment.

It

It would be an admirable Advance and Improvement of our Nation, to take off our hands from a Manufactory that none but our selves can take from us; God and Nature having assign'd it to us separate from the whole World, and put so many Thousand Men, Women, and Children, for all such are employ'd in the Woollen Manufactory, to catch Herrings, that so a few men might grow Great by the *East-India* Trade, the best of whom never added so much to their Countrey, as one Weaver doth by his Loom.

I am now at his Second Head, the Silk and Linnen Manufactory: He begins a distinct Chapter of it in Page 34, but saith nothing of it until Page 38. His Words are these:

Silk is a Manufactory of Foreign Extract; it employs indeed the Poor, but is not compos'd from a Material of our own Growth. Whatever Encouragement it meets with, it cannot thrive with us. He runs on with his Rhetorical Observations, and debates what the Nation should do in this matter; and tells us in Page 39. The Stock and Industry laid out on the Silk Manufactories, would be more usefully

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employ'd in such as are made from Materials of our own Growth.

The Author now seems more an Object of Pity, than an Adversary to answer; his Zeal for the *East-India* Company hath carried him beyond his Learning in the Schools, and below his Prophetick Spirit in Trade: I shall only remark, That here he advises to take off the Silk-Weavers from their Trade, which to use his own Words, *They fell into without a force, as Trade is most prosperous when it does:* But here he tells us, They must be taken off their Trade, and put upon some other, more profitable to the Nation.

To save trouble of confuting so irrational a Proposition, I shall repeat his Opinion in Page 25. by which we shall see how distracted this Gentleman is in his Notions of Trade: His Words are these:

Trade is in its own Nature free, finds its own Channel, and best directs its own Course; and all Laws to give it Rules and Directions, and to limit and circumscribe it, may serve the particular Ends of Private Men, but are seldom advantageous to the Publick.

But to do the Author right, these last Lines were design'd to serve the *East-India*

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dia Company; he would not have them disturbed in the Trade of *East-India* and *Persian Silks, &c.* And tho' this Maxim was then undoubtedly true, yet it is not so when it reaches the Silk-Weavers.

He goes on with Arguments of the same piece, to Page 46. which in favour of the Author I do not repeat; and shall only say, That I did not think it possible so many Contradictions and unpracticable Notions could be crowded into so few sheets, garnish'd up with fine Words; and that often goes further with men not vers'd in the Nature of Trade, than plain Practical Truths.

He comes now to his Third and Last Head, the Effect such a Prohibition as the Bill designs, will have on the *East-India* Trade in general; and he begins thus in Page 46, and ends with his Essay in 16 Pages, which are most part fill'd with Repetitions and Observations of his own, which have little in them worth a Reply; the whole terminates in this, *That this Prohibition of the Wear of East-India and Persian Silks, &c. will abate one half of the East-India Trade.* The shortest way to answer this, is as I have done before, bring one part of his Book to answer

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swer the other. In Page 16. he asserts in these words; *So the Account of England with the Indies and European Nations, may be thus balanc'd :*

<i>The Returns exported yield per An.</i>	800,000	
<i>The Returns consumed at home,</i>	} 200,000	
<i>are to the Nation,</i>		
<i>Total</i>	1,000,000	

<i>Deduct for the Prime Cost,</i>	400,000	
<i>England's Neat Profit by the</i>	} 600,000	
<i>Traffick,</i>		

Let us now see what he saith in Pag. 53. his words are as follow, *According to the best and most impartial Accounts I can receive, the Bill in agitation must lose England half the Trade to India in general, all the Traffick to the Coast and Bay of Bengall, and all the Business to Surat, and particularly as to to the Coast and Bay.*

In Page 54. are these words;

I take our Home Consumption, which is half of the Return of the Prime Cost sent to India, to be the main foundation upon which the Trade stands.

Can there be any thing more contradictory, than in Page 16. to state the Account

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count Two hundred thousand Pounds consumed at Home, and clear Gain to the Nation, besides Six hundred thousand on the Exports; and here to say that the Bill will be the loss of half the Trade in general, all the Trade to the Coast and Bay of Bengall, all the Business to Surat. His former Computations made it a good Trade without the Consumption at home, but now he tells us the Prohibition will render the whole Trade unprofitable.

I shall now in few words sum up my Sense of the Bill, and the Arguments given by the Author against it. By all that he brings against the Bill, I cannot see that it affects the *East-India* Trade, more than in a Sixth part at present.

On the Weavers side, for I take them to be the Parties for the Bill, it affects them and the Nation in the real loss of four times as much as the *East-India* Company would lose if the Prohibition were confirmed; for it is to be noted, that a Hundred thousand pounds in the *East-India* Capital, takes Four hundred thousand pounds in the Expence of the Nation, and that hinders so much in the Employment of our own Manufactories.

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The Question is then, Whether is most to be considered, A Million of People at Home, or those few in the *East-India* Trade?

But the Author will tell us by this Prohibition, we shall hinder our Foreign Trade, for that other Nations will carry away that when they can supply them with *East-India* Commodities, and we cannot. This Delusion is easily discovered, though it may be the Author is a Stranger to it.

Granting then, though it is not so, that the *Dutch* and other Nations will sell to the *Spaniards*, *Portuguese*, &c. Callicoes, *Persian* Silks, &c. they must have Wines and other Commodities in Return; and what will they do with them? Bring them to *England* they cannot, we have a good defence against that, the Act of Navigation, which makes all Goods Counterband that are not Imported into *England*, in *English* Ships, or the Ships of the Countrey where they are produced. Will the *Dutch* then, or others, consume the Wines of *Spain*, &c. and leave us none? that would not be our Loss.

But

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But our Author goes farther, and tells us, That we shall bring these *East-India* Goods from other Nations at 50 *l. per Cent.* a dearer Rate; this is Answered before. The Act of Navigation prohibits their Importation, unless the *Mogul* sends them with his own Ships and Men. Before I go off this Head; Give me leave to shew how the Author uses the Nation in his Remarks on the *East-India* Trade. I mention this, because I have met with men of value, who have been deluded by his false Recitals and Computations, which they would not have been, had they taken the trouble of comparing one part of his Notes with the other, which was necessary for me in Answering him to do. I must therefore look back again to *Page 16.* where he makes all the Exports both of Bullion and Manufactories sent Yearly to the *East-Indies* to amount unto Four hundred thousand Pounds, the Profit of which, beside the Consumption at home, to be Neat to the Nation 600,000 Pounds; what he ascribes to the Nation (and here he shews more Cunning than in all the rest of his Book, and keeps it for his last stroke in *Page 52.*) he must mean, and so in another

ther place explains it, to be the Profit of the Company, and the Merchant that Buys them here for Exportation; this he jumbles together, that so he may apply this Six hundred thousand Pounds by turns as it will support his Arguments: When he would have us believe the Trade of great importance to the Nation, then it is Six hundred thousand Pounds Profit to them, but when it is needful to shew how much it is the Interest of the Nation to encourage the Company in Building great Ships, then it is the Companies, and enabled them to make War with the *Mogul*, Build Forts, &c. thus it is like my Lord Mayor's standing Pye, one day it is a Goose Pye, the next day changing the Head, and putting on a Turkey's Head, it is a Turkey Pye.

I must keep you longer on this part of his Essays than I intended, because I think there will need no more to disprove all this Gentleman hath said in defence of the Company against the Bill.

I have before given you his Computations of the original Stock and Profit; I shall now shew his closing-Article in these words, Page 52, *That they have not one Tear with another divided 20 l. per Cent.*
which

which considering the length and hazard of their Voyage, is not a Profit to be envied. He is in the right if it were so, nor were the Trade worth struggling for, if the Profit were so small.

But we will do that which I fear the Author hath forgot, cast up his Computation here, and compare it with his in Page 16, where he makes the Capital sent out to be Four hundred thousand Pounds, and the Profit by what is Shipped out to be Six hundred thousand Pounds; this makes the Profit to be 150 l. per Cent. and yet he tells us here, That their Profit is, *communibus annis* but 20 l. per Cent. This is a great Error in Arithmetick; I will therefore pass it by as such, and take him in his more considerate stating the Account; and then it will stand thus; The Gain arising out of the *East-India* Trade being Six hundred thousand Pounds, brought to that Sum by the Profit of 20 per Cent. must have a Capital sent out, amounting unto Three Millions *Sterling*. This being so, as it must, if the Author would have us believe his Computation, it must follow, that we send out Two Millions nine hundred thousand Pounds *Sterling* in Bullion Yearly; for in his largest

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largest Computation he speaks but of One hundred thousand Pounds exported in the Commodities of the Kingdom. I don't think either of his Computations are true; but I believe this of Three Millions is nearest the mark.

The difference in these Computations of Four hundred thousand Pounds Capital, and Three Millions, was to have passed under the Goose-pye. *20 per Cent.* might have pass'd well enough, if this unlucky Rule of Three had not put the Question, What Capital must there be to make a Profit of Six hundred thousand Pounds, at the Rate of *20 per Cent.*? and the Answer is, Three Millions.

But the Author hath yet a Shift left, it is now a Turkey-pye, the Goose-head being taken off, and this Six hundred thousand Pounds Profit was meant to be to the Nation, as well as the Company.

This will appear a pretty fair Explanation in reading, as indeed the whole Essay may to men of the Author's own understanding in Trade; but let us take it with this Interpretation, that it is the Nation's Gain, and the Company's both; the Company's he has determined to *20 per Cent.* so then their Proportion for the
Capital

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Capital of Four hundred thousand Pounds is but Eighty thousand; then there remains Five hundred and twenty thousand Pounds to the Nation, as he calls it: But to explain this farther, the Nation are most part *Jews*, and Factors that buy for men abroad; and such I never thought a National Fund: But allowing these Exports to be by Merchants of our own, let us see what their Profit is: He tells us they ship out Six hundred thousand Pounds value yearly; so then the Merchants at home gain almost *Cent. per Cent.* as Five hundred and twenty thousand Pounds is to Six hundred thousand Pounds: If this be so, the *East-India* Company deserve their Statues in Gold, not only for being good and Publick spirited men, but Fathers to their Countrey; and we ought to pray them to be more kind to themselves, and take at least half the Profit.

I think it needless to explain this matter, it is so notorious: I shall only say, Such Advocates and Computers are in my opinion the most fatal Enemies to the Company.

Having in this Discourse occasion to answer this Author's Maxims, perhaps I
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may be thought an Enemy to the Trade and Company ; which I think my self obliged to deny ; for I believe it a Noble Trade, and the Interest of the Nation to preserve it ; but so as it may not prejudice our Manufactories , and by that means drive out that we most want, the Bodies of Men, which when all is done, is the Treasure of a Nation.

The Use I make of these Explanations, is to shew that our Author writes at Rovers. I should not be thus plain, but that I think there is a necessity to expose a man that, in my opinion, labours the destruction of the Nation with gilded Baits, which he hopes may pass, because men of the greatest weight have neither Leisure nor Opinion, That it is worth their time to examine narrowly the spurious Notions of such Officious Pens.

I shall take my leave of the Author, with this Remark, leaving an hundred more that might be made on his Essays ; which is, That it seems strange in him who pretends to be so great a Rabbi and Master of Commerce, and gives general Notions of most Trades, to leave out the Turkey-Company ; it must be, that they tread on the heels of his Masters, the East-

East-India Company ; and could tell him, that the Cloath they so much boast their Exportation of, abates only so much of what they should send out, and bring Returns for in Raw Silks, Grograin, Yarn, Cotton Wool, &c. that we here manufacture and send abroad ; instead of which the East-India Trade brings us home China Cups, Fans, Cabinets, &c. These things are so apparent, that I cannot think the Author only faulty in his Judgment, but we are under the misfortune of having some men among us, that take all opportunities of alienating the Affections of the People from the Government ; and nothing could be more effectual than this of forcing Thousands of harmless and industrious People to beg their Bread, or fly to other Countries to earn it. We have too fresh in our memories, That in the year 1665. one Tillham carried out of the Kingdom Three thousand Persons to the Prince Palatine of the Rhine, of the same Profession this Author would destroy.

But I think we live under a Government that will bring us more, not destroy the People we already have. And I am humbly of opinion, that 'tis not the way to invite new, by starving them we have.
I shall

I shall say no more, but that as I believe
this Bill to be the best Antidote that ever
was given this Nation, against a Poyson
which would certainly destroy it, so I
think those Worthy Patriots that promo-
ted it, worthy of Eternal Honour.

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