CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

BILL

FOR A

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Seasonable Reflections

On the late

CONVENTION,

CONCLUDED

The 3d of *May* last, between the Courts of *Vienna* and *Turin*, for Partitioning between them the Territories belonging to the Republic of *Genoa*; especially shewing the injurious Consequence to the *British* Trade, should *Savona* and *Final* be annexed, in Virtue of any future General Peace, to the Dominions of the House of *Savoy*.

IN A

LETTER

From an *English* MERCHANT residing at *Leghorn*, to his CORRESPONDENT at *London*.

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(Price One Shilling.)

Seasonable Reflections.

Venice, May 20, 1747.

SIR,

THE Letter you honoured me with of the 10th of last Month was transmitted to me by my House at *Leghorn*, to this City, where I have been for near a Month to solicit some Affairs I have depending at *Naples*, which I now have Hopes of terminating to my Satisfaction, by means of a powerful Interest procured for me here, at the Court of his *Sicilian* Majesty.

You will have been advised by my House, that your Bills have been duely honoured; and you may reckon, that your Orders shall be as punctually executed, and your Interest, on all Occasions, as assiduously and affectionately

looked after in my Abſence as if I had been perſonally at *Leghorn*. Such have been my Orders, and I dare aſſure you they will be carefully obſerved while I am away, which I think cannot be of long Duration.

But, as in this Vacation from Buſineſs, I cannot employ my Leiſure more agreeably to myſelf, than in amuſing you with what occurs in this great Mart of Politics. You will give me Leave to acquaint you with a Piece of News, of a pretty extraordinary Nature, lately propagated and believed here; and indulge me in the Repetition of ſuch Reflections as occured to me on maturely conſidering the ſame.

The Conqueſt of *Genoa*, and all its Territories, is reſolved upon, and a Convention for partitioning the ſame between the Courts of *Vienna* and *Turin* has been ſigned the 3d Inſtant at *Turin*. I may venture aſſuring you of the Certainty of this Intelligence, having had it from ſuch of this Government as are beſt informed; and I need not tell you, who

who are no Stranger to the refined Politics of this Republic, that no Secrets are impenetrable to the Stateſmen here. I think I ſhall ſoon be enabled to ſend you an exact Copy of the aforeſaid Conpact, being promiſed one by a Perſon of great Intelligence; but in the mean while you may reckon on the Reality of the following Abſtract from it.

By this Convention, the King of *Sardinia* obliges himſelf to furniſh a *Fifth* of the Troops and Artillery neceſſary for carrying the Project of reducing the Town of *Genoa* into Execution. In Conſideration of which, that Prince is to have, as his Proportion of the Conqueſt, *Savona*, and all the weſtern *Riviera* as far as *Vintimiglia*, the utmoſt Limits of the *Genoeſe* Territories on that Side. He is to have beſides, a *Fifth* of whatever ſhall be hereafter impoſed on the *Genoeſe*, by way of Contribution, or otherwiſe. And the Diſcuſſion of his Pretenſions to what had been raiſed upon them the laſt Year by the Marquis *Botta*, ſhall be poſtponed to another Time.

Time. The Town of *Genoa*, its Artillery, and all the Eaſtern *Riviera*, fall to the Share of the Empreſs Queen, who obliges herſelf to procure the Guaranty of *Great-Britain* to this Treaty of Partition.

It is not as yet poſſible to know with Certainty how the other *Italian* Powers will reliſh this Convention, tho' it may be preſumed, that the clear-ſighted jealous Stateſmen here will not ſee with Indifference the further Aggrandizement of the two contracting Powers in *Italy*, by the intire Subverſion of ſo antient a Republic as that of *Genoa*. As for the Succeſs of the Enterprize, it ſeems at leaſt to be dubious, from the ſmall Progreſs made hitherto by the Beſiegers, and from the conſtant Reinforcements of *French* and *Spaniſh* Troops, and Supplies of Proviſions, and other Neceſſaries, which daily arrive to the Beſieged, notwithſtanding the Vigilance of the Commanders of our Ships of War, who cannot poſſibly prevent, in ſo fine a Seaſon as the preſent, the Navigation of

of ſuch ſmall Craft as are made uſe of on this Occaſion. If we may believe common Fame, the Progreſs of the Beſiegers to this Time, has conſiſted ſolely in burning Palaces and Villages; in committing other Cruelties, and Devaſtations where-ever their Power has reached, which induces the *Genoeſe* to believe that the *Auſtrians* have already mediated a ſudden Retreat from before their Capital.

However that be, I make no doubt but our Court will attentively reflect on the Importance of the Guaranty expected from our Country, in Virtue of the aforeſaid partitioning Convention lately made at *Turin*. For tho' our Miniſtry ſhould be of Opinion, that it might be neceſſary, on one Hand, to diſable the *Genoeſe*, by new heavy Contributions, and to oblige them to a Rupture with their preſent Defenders, the *French* and *Spaniards*; yet, on the other, our Stateſmen cannot but ſee that no Event could more eſſentially affect the *Engliſh* Trade to the *Mediterranean* than

than the aforesaid projected Partition of the Territories of *Genoa*, even supposing our Allies should be able to maintain themselves in the Possession of them: And let me add, that the Maintenance of such Possession must depend solely on an utter Disability on the Part of the Prince of the House of *Bourbon*, whose Interest it must be eternally to impede the like Alteration in *Italy*.

For this Reason, it would seem that the Court of *Vienna* had no other View in agreeing to the aforesaid Convention, than the inducing that of *Turin* to aid towards humbling the *Genoese*, the compelling them to pay a large Contribution, and at the same time, the detaching them from the Interests of *France* and *Spain*. Conquests and Partitions could have had no Share in the Designs of the *Austrian* Ministry in this Instance, because they must have foreseen the Impracticability of preserving a Possession quietly, which must necessarily be the Means of fomenting

menting Jealousies, and keeping up a constant Flame in that Part of *Europe*.

But as either Supposition may be made, tho' not equally well founded, or probable, I shall venture making a few Observations on the Injury to our *English* Commerce, which must naturally result from such a Partition as has been projected by the Convention lately concluded at *Turin*, should it ever take place: Yet let me premise, that these Observations are introductory only to such as I think it my Duty to make on the late Conquest and Detention of *Savona* and *Final* by his *Sadinian* Majesty. This may seem an Object of an inferior Consideration; but which, in my Opinion, is no less interesting and important, as relative to our *Trade*. Wherefore, I shall examine it the more minutely that I apprehend the Subject is not so generally understood and heeded to by our Countrymen as their commercial Interest seems to require.

Tho' it be possible, and barely so, that the Possession of *Genoa*, and its Eastern *Riviera*,

 by

by the Houſe of *Auſtria*, might not involve *England* hereafter in foreign Wars; tho' ſuch Increaſe of Territory and Power in that Houſe might not hereafter incline it to incroach upon ſome of its *Italian* Neighbours, whom it would be the Intereſt and Inclination of *Engliſhmen* to ſupport: I ſay, tho' nothing of all this were ever to happen, yet it is certain, firſt, that our Trade to *Genoa* would inevitably, and immediately dwindle to nothing, from the Inability of its Inhabitants to deal with us after they ſhould be ſtript of all their *Specie*, which muſt be the certain Conſequence of the Conqueſt by a Nation ſo greedy and neceſſitous as the *Auſtrians* are known to be. And, ſecondly, that a Commerce ſo loſt could never be retrieved in a Country ſubject to *Auſtrians*, who are known, experimentally, to drain all Countries under their Subjection. How can it be otherwiſe, conſidering how very little their Troops expend abroad, and what Treaſure they carry back with them to their own homes; and conſidering that by ruinous

ruinous and repeated heavy Impoſts and Taxes they get into their Hands all the coined Bullion of their *Italian* Subjects, which conſtantly finds its way to *Vienna?*

It is evident then, that a Country ſtript of its circulating Specie, muſt be impoveriſhed, and that a Diminution of the Conſumption of its Inhabitants, muſt be the neceſſary Conſequence of their Poverty. As their Indigence increaſes, their Conſumption decreaſes proportionably. And you know perfectly well, who had reſided ſo long in this Country, that this Truth has been experienced in *Italy* where-ever the *Auſtrians* have had Dominion ſince the Peace of *Utrecht*.

The Caſe was quite otherwiſe while the *Spaniards* bore Sway here. The *Italians* grew rich, and particularly while *Lewis* XIV. ſupported the Intereſt of his Grandchild, *Philip* V. from 1701 to 1706. In that ſhort Interval alone, the *French* brought above

Eight Millions Sterling into *Italy* in weighty *Louisdors*, which had caused such a Circulation as was infinitely useful to the trading Nation of *Europe*, and to ours more than any. But in less than a dozen Years after the Peace of *Utrecht*, there was neither the old *French* Gold Coin to be seen in *Italy*, nor any of those old *Spanish* Pistoles that had been mostly the current Cash of that Country for above two Centuries before. All was swept away to *Germany* by various Methods, from whence it never has, nor can return.

Thus did our Trade to *Italy* suffer, when it was reasonable to hope that it might have flourished in time of Peace: But naturally it must have decreased by the general Drain that was of the circulating Cash of that Country, as aforesaid, or by the Poverty of the People, occasioned by that Drain, which necessarily produced a Decrease of their Consumption of our Manufactures.

You

You cannot forget how the Scarcity of circulating Cash, brought thus upon the *Italians*, had slacken'd the Sale of our Manufactures, and rendered our Trade far less advantageous, and more difficult than usual. Bankruptcies became frequent; nor could we wonder at it, since it became impracticable for those we dealt with to sell for Money, as there was none, so as to answer their Credit; or if they did sell at time, it must have been to such, as for want of Money, were obliged to trust to the Poor and Indigent.

And thus it must ever happen where-ever *Austrians* hold the Reins of Government, for the Reasons assigned before. Taxes, however rigorously levied, and unproportionably laid, can never ruin a Country as long as the Sovereign distributes with one Hand what he receives with the other. But the Court of *Vienna* have never had Acquaintance with this so reasonable and salutary a Maxim, especially in regard to her *Italian* Dominions, from whence the

Austrians

Auſtrians have conſtantly drawn, without making any the leaſt Return of Treaſure.

How perceptibly leſs has our Trade to *Naples* and *Sicily* ſuffered ſince a *Spaniſh* Prince has wore the Crowns of the *Sicilies*. It may juſtly be ſaid, that ſince the Expulſion of the *Auſtrians*, our Commerce to thoſe Countries have increaſed above treble what it was before. And why, but becauſe the Prince not only lays out among his Subjects what he raiſes upon them, but they have an additional Wealth of Bullion conſtantly flowing in upon them from *Spain?*

But we are not to expect the like Increaſe of our Trade to *Genoa*, ſhould that Town come under the Dominion of the *Auſtrians*. We muſt, on the contrary, look for its Declenſion, or rather for its utter Deſtruction. Wherefore I ſhould hope, that no true *Engliſhman* would wiſh the *Genoeſe* brought ſo low as they are threaten'd to be reduced to: Nor can I doubt but that the true Intereſt of Old *England*

England, the Neceſſity of preſerving the Ballance of *Italy*, and the Equity and Juſtice of our Court, will ſo far weigh with our Miniſtry, as to adviſe againſt Acceding to, or Guarantying the Convention of *Turin*.

For how deeply ſoever our Trade might be wounded by *Genoa*'s falling to the Lot of the Empreſs Queen, the Wound would be much deeper ſhould that Part of the Convention come to be executed, which ſtipulates that the Weſtern Part of the Dominions of the Republic ſhall be aſſigned to the King of *Sardinia*. And I am even perſuaded, that independent of the Execution or Succeſs of that Convention, and of ſuch Conjunctures or Circumſtances as may induce, or oblige the Court of *Vienna* to make a further Ceſſion of her Conqueſts to his *Sardinian* Majeſty, who is ſtrongly ſuſpected of having a View to the Monarchy of *Italy*: I am perſuaded, I ſay, that independent of any ſuch Conſideration, the Addition of *Savona* and *Final* to that

that Prince's Dominions, would ſoon have the ſame ill Effects, which might be apprehended from the Conqueſt or Partition, which gave Riſe to the late Convention between the two Courts.

But to wave any further Diſcuſſion of that Convention, which probably is not of ſo eaſy Execution as might have been imagined, I ſhall confine my Obſervations to the ſingle Point of the Poſſibility of having the Poſſeſſion of *Savona* and *Final* ſecured to the Houſe of *Savoy* by a general Treaty of Peace. And tho' I cannot ſuppoſe, from the known Sagacity of our Stateſmen, that they ſtand in need of any new Lights on this Subject, yet cannot I gain on myſelf to be ſilent, while my Apprehenſions are ſo ſtrong, that ſome unguarded Step may be taken that might hereafter affect the Commerce of our Country, which has been occaſionally, but too much neglected ſince you and I have been in Trade. And I the rather addreſs my Reflections to you,

you, who are perfectly ſkill'd in the *Italian* Trade, that you may impart them to ſome of your Acquaintance in the Miniſtry, ſhould you think them as ſolid, and well founded, as I flatter myſelf they are.

I take it for granted, that the Court of *Turin*, whenever there ſhall be a general Peace treated of, will put every Engine in Motion, every Art in Practice that can tend to the ſecuring, by the Treaty, the Poſſeſſion of *Savona* and *Final* to his *Sardinian* Majeſty. I ſhall, therefore, confine my Obſervations, firſt, to this Conſideration, and next, to examining the Probability of the Court of *Turin*'s ſucceeding in theſe her extenſive Views.

The Poſſeſſion of the Town of *Savona*, which neceſſarily includes likewiſe Poſſeſſion of the Bay of *Vado*, being of ſo great Conſequence to the King of *Sardinia*, there is no doubting that his Miniſters will uſe their

utmoſt Endeavours that he ſhould keep it. But ſhould they ſucceed, 'tis as little to be doubted, that the Trade of *Genoa* would thereby be intirely ruined. Nor is it leſs to be queſtioned but that our Trade thither muſt neceſſarily ceaſe in a very little Time, without Hopes of being compenſated by any we might hereafter have with *Savona*, *Vado*, or *Final*.

In order to be convinced of the Truth of theſe two Propoſitions, one need only conſider the Nature of our preſent Trade to *Genoa*, the Impoſſibility of continuing it, ſhould the Republic be cruſhed, and what we might hope for or dread, ſhould the Trade of *Genoa* be transfer'd to *Savona*, as it infallibly would, ſhould this Town remain in the Poſſeſſion of the Houſe of *Savoy*.

Need you, Sir, who are ſo well acquainted with the Trade of this Part of the World, be told that ours to *Genoa* conſiſts of various Branches equally

equally lucrative and advantageous? You know that this Mart takes off no ſmall Share of all the Products of our Iſland, both natural and artificial. Here we vend tann'd Leather, Led, Tin, dry'd Fiſh, Pilchard, Herrings, Salmon, Corn, Hard-ware, Toys, Hats, and all, or moſt, of the other Articles of our favourite and ſtaple Manufacture, the *Woollen*. This Manufacture, as it is the Source of our Wealth, ſo ought it to be the principal Object of our Attention; and it is for this Reaſon chiefly that I dread the Poſſeſſion of *Savona* and *Vado* in the Houſe of *Savoy*, apprehending that, in that Caſe, it muſt neceſſarily ſuffer, as I ſhall immediately endeavour to ſhew you.

Judge you of the Conſumption of ſuch a Multitude, as 150,000 Souls, which we compute to have been the Number of the Inhabitants of the Town of *Genoa*. What was not thus conſumed of our Imports thither, was diſtributed to the Territories of the Re-

 public,

public, *East* and *West*, to *Lombardy*, to *Corsica* and *Sardinia*. Now, except a few *Velvets*, and some Blocks of *Marble*, what Returns had we from *Genoa* but *Bills of Exchange*, which put the Balance of Trade considerably on our Side ? You, Sir, who resided at *Genoa*, and still trade thither, are sensible of the Truth of this Assertion ; nor are you less sensible, that that Trade is most advantageous where the Returns are made in Bullion, or Bills of Exchange.

Another Branch of Trade, no less, if not more lucrative, which we carried on with the *Genoese*, was the *Freight* of our Shipping to and from *Genoa* to *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Holland*, *Hamburgh*, *Sicily* ; and, in a Word, to where-ever the Commerce of the *Genoese* reach'd. Did that industrious People stand in need of Corn, Rice, Wine, Oil, or any other of the Products of the *Levant*, of *Sicily*, the Coast of *Naples*, *Barbary*, or of the *Adriatic* Coast ; or want to transport these Commodities to *Spain*, or the North of the Streights

Streights of *Gibraltar*, as they constantly did ; Did that mercantile People, I say, want to send abroad, or bring home, or trade, betwixt different foreign Nations, it was always on *English* Bottoms. By this Means an infinite Tonnage was employed, a new Nursery was established for Seamen, and a very great Treasure was annually returned to our Mother Country, which was still the more advantagious to her, that the Shipping thus usefully employed abroad, were mostly, if not wholly, victualled at home, or from home.

The principal Springs of our Trade with the *Genoese*, may be deem'd, first, the vast Number of the Inhabitants of their Capital, and its Territories ; secondly, their Industry, which puts them on various Manufactures proper and necessary for the Consumption of other Nations, which partly furnishes Employment for our Shipping ; thirdly, the Credit, Character, Correspondence and Wealth, in coined Bullion, of their Traders, who encourage Trade, and are cherished by all who traffick

traffick with them, as they are willing and able to make ſuch Advances as Foreigners may have Occaſion for, at a very moderate Diſcount. And this Facility in Trade, which you know to be ſo neceſſary, has been frequently and beneficially experienced by our Fellow-Subjects of *Britain* and *Ireland*.

You will admit then, Sir, that theſe ſeveral Springs which fed our Commerce with the *Genoeſe*, muſt neceſſarily dry up, ſhould their preſent Trade be removed to another Town. Should *Savona* become the Mart, *Genoa* ceaſes to be one. To prove this Propoſition, one need few Examples. That of *Antwerp* in the North, and of *Piſa* in this Part of the World, are ſufficient; tho' one would think there were no need of Inſtances where Reaſon ſo evidently pointed out the Truth of the Aſſertion. It is eaſily perceiveable that ſuch a ſterile Country as the *Genoeſe* inhabit, which produces nothing, or very little, muſt neceſſarily ſubſiſt by Commerce, there being no other way left for its Inhabitants

Inhabitants to come at, not only the Superfluities, but even the Neceſſaries of Life. Take then their Commerce from a People ſo ſituated, and you reduce them to the Neceſſity of ſeeking the Conveniences of Life where they are more eaſily and ſafely acquired.

In Proportion to the Increaſe of the Trade of *Savona*, that of *Genoa* muſt neceſſarily decreaſe; and in Proportion to ſuch a Decay of Commerce, the Inhabitants will remove. It would argue a Weakneſs, or rather a Stupidity, not to foreſee ſuch a Decay of the Trade of *Genoa*, when that of *Savona* ſhall be cheriſhed and encouraged by a powerful Prince, whoſe Intereſt and Ambition muſt prompt him to favour ſuch a darling Rival at the Expence of a neighbouring City which had always been an Eye-ſore to his Family.

Such, without doubt, would be the Fate of *Genoa*, ſhould the Poſſeſſion of *Savona* and *Vado* be ſecured to the Houſe of *Savoy*. The Facility of eſtabliſhing a flouriſhing Trade at *Savona*

Savona at the Expence of *Genoa*, would ſoon reduce this latter to the wretched Condition of thoſe Towns mentioned before, which appear now only as the Skeletons of what they were. As the Wants of the *Genoeſe* would neceſſarily become proportioned to the Decay of their Trade, they would naturally follow their Commerce to ſeek for the Conveniences of Life.

Thus, by degrees, would the Manufacturers of *Genoa*, who now partly occaſion the Conſumption and chiefly contribute to its Opulence, remove and eſtabliſh themſelves at *Savona*, and in *Piedmont*. And by a very natural Conſequence of the Removal of the Mauufacturers and Artizans, the Adventurers would follow. In ſuch a Deſertion of the Induſtrious and moſt uſeful Part of the Inhabitants, 'tis eaſily perceived that *Genoa* muſt ſoon be reduced to the Shadow only of what it is at preſent.

Hence then it follows, that the Imports of our Products to *Genoa* would diminiſh greatly,

greatly, if not totally ceaſe, ſhould its Trade be transfer'd to *Savona*, it being true, that the Conſumption would diminiſh in Proportion to the Deſertion of its Inhabitants who would not fail taking their Wealth along with them to their new Place of Reſidence. By the ſame Reaſon we ſhould be deprived of the Benefit ariſing from the Affreightment of our Shipping; it being certain, that as Commerce ceaſed at *Genoa*, ſo muſt our Navigation, of Neceſſity. Thus, at once, ſhall we looſe all the lucrative Branches of our gainful Trade with a People, that had always given us the Preference in commercial Matters, ſhould the Court of *Turin* ſucceed in its preſent Views.

But it may be urged, and probably will, by ſuch as don't examine theſe Matters with great Circumſpection, that we ſhall have the ſame Facility and Advantages of Trade at *Savona* hereafter, ſhould it become the Mart, as we have enjoyed heretofore at *Genoa*. Our Products, it will be ſaid, may be conſumed at *Savona* and *Vado*, as well as at *Genoa*; and

 what

what ſhall hinder, but that our Shipping may be employed in the former Ports, as well as they were in the latter? In ſhort, we may be told, that we cannot fail of meeting the ſame Welcome, the ſame Facility in all Reſpects, at *Savona* as we experienced at *Genoa*.

Such may be the Language of the Inattentive to the Nature of Commerce and Induſtry; but I am ſure, Sir, you will ſee Things in quite another Light; you will readily diſtinguiſh between a ſettled commercial Intercourſe with an opulent People, verſed in Trade, and that with a new Colony moſtly taken up with forming Plans of Schemes and Regulations. Our Trade to *Genoa* has been as early as our Knowledge of Commerce. It is a Branch that has been ſtated and ſettled, and found to be lucrative and beneficial. But it will require Ages to bring our Trade to *Savona* to the ſame Conſiſtency. Should a wiſe trading Nation, ſuch as ours, try ſuch Experiments, eſpecially when their general Trade is on the Decline?

But ſuppoſing the Trade of *Savona* and *Vado* fixt and eſtabliſhed, could we flatter ourſelves that the Conſumption of our Products and

and Manufactures would be as conſiderable there as at *Genoa* heretofore? We might ſtill ſupply ſome Articles, ſuch as Tin and Lead; but there is more than a Probability that we ſhould ſupply much leſs of the ſtaple Commodity of our Country; we ſhould certainly vend leſs of our Draperies, and very likely of our *woollen* Manufactures in general.

You might remember, in your Time, how arduouſly the *Piedmonteſe* Miniſtry wrought, in order to wean their People from the uſe of foreign Manufactures; and I can aſſure you, that they have refined upon their Schemes ſince your Days. As ſoon as they ſaw any Manufacture brought to any tolerable Perfection, the Importation was prohibited; and even while it was growing, they were ſure to clog the foreign Species with new Impoſts.

Thus, in every Shape, has the Court of *Turin* endeavoured to beat out Foreigners from availing themſelves of the Neceſſities of the *Piedmonteſe*, by eſtabliſhing Manufactures of all kinds, and particularly *Woollen*. The *French* have, for many Years, ſufficiently experienced the Effects of the growing Induſtry of

of the *Piedmonteſe* Miniſtry, in the Prohibition of moſt of their Manufactures of Silk, Gold and Silver, and even of Wool.

It is true, that we have not hitherto experienced this Spirit of Oeconomy but in one Species of our woollen Goods, *viz.* our *Kerſeys*; but I apprehend it is becauſe the *Piedmonteſe* had not as yet been able to bring any other of thoſe Articles to Perfection that interfere with ours. As ſoon as they had wrought up a ſort of woollen Goods that could anſwer the uſe of *Kerſey*, they loaded foreign *Kerſey* with ſuch heavy Duties as amounted to a Prohibition. And if we may judge, as we ought, of the future Conduct of the Court of *Turin* by the paſt and preſent, we may be ſure that all our Manufactures will be too highly loaded, or wholly prohibited, gradually, as their own thrive and grow up.

The *Piedmonteſe* are, by Nature, parcimonious and induſtrious; wherefore when they are cheriſhed and encouraged by their Prince, and can have *Wool*, and all other Ingredients uſed in the woollen Manufacture cheap and at the firſt Hand, by means of contiguous Ports, there is no doubt but they will extend their

their Views, and endeavour, in their Turn, to ſupply others as they themſelves had been ſupplied heretofore. And what Ports can be more convenient than thoſe of *Vado* and *Savona*, which are the neareſt of any to *Turin*, and preciſely in the Center of his *Sardinian* Majeſty's Dominions?

This Circumſtance ſingly, more than all others, gave an Edge to the Deſire of the Houſe of *Savoy* to get Poſſeſſion of theſe Ports. For as *Piedmont* can no otherwiſe be ſupplied from the Sea, but by the Ports of *Villa Franca*, *Oneglia*, *Final*, or *Savona*, and that the length and badneſs of the Road from the three firſt of thoſe Places, renders the Communication dear and hazardous, 'tis not to be wondered that a Sea-port ſo contiguous as *Savona* is for ſupplying *Piedmont* from the Sea at a very ſmall Expence of Land-carriage, ſhould be the conſtant Object of the Attention of the Court of *Turin*. *Savona*, in the Poſſeſſion of the King of *Sardinia*, might anſwer all his Purpoſes and Views to Trade: But in the Hands of the *Genoeſe* it could not anſwer even the natural Ends which its Situation might have furniſhed of ſupplying *Piedmont* on eaſy Terms. For, ſo jealous were the *Genoeſe*

Genoese of the Trade of their Capital, that they loaded all Imports into the other Ports of their Dominions with excessive Duties. Such was their Policy, and such was the Reason that *Piedmont* could not be supply'd from *Savona*, tho' at its Threshold.

But should the King of *Sardinia* keep Possession of *Savona*, there is scarce a Doubt that it would become a *Free-port*; by which Means all the Ingredients used in all kind of Manufactures, particularly the *Woollen*, might be furnish'd the *Piedmontese* clear of Duty, or any other Charge but that of Land-carriage, which, by the Vicinity of *Savona*, and the Goodness of the Road thence to *Piedmont*, would be very trifling. In such Case, what should prevent the Establishment of *Woollen* Manufactures all over *Piedmont*, where there are already some set up, cherish'd and thriving, notwithstanding all the Difficulties that stand in the Way. Nothing is difficult to an industrious People when properly encouraged by wise Governors; but should *Savona* remain with his *Sardinian* Majesty, all the Disabilities which the *Piedmontese* laboured under hitherto will cease: And as there is no doubt that they will be highly encouraged by

by their Prince, and his Ministry, there is all the Reason imaginable to believe that they would be soon enabled to supply, not only themselves, but their Neighbours, with all or most Articles of the *Woollen* Manufacture.

It might be some Time, probably, before these new Manufactures could arrive to the Perfection of ours. But what then? the Cheapness of them will gain them the Preference with Foreigners, whom you, Sir, know experimentally, to love dealing with those that sell cheapest. Besides, such heavy Duties will be laid on all foreign Manufactures all over the Extent of his *Sardinian* Majesty's Dominions, as are already on our *Kerseys*, as mentioned before, that there cannot possibly be any Vent for ours. Perhaps, likewise, there may be a total Prohibition; for there are no Encouragements to the native Manufacturers, which such wise Patriot Statesmen as those of the Court of *Turin* are not capable of.

The Court will have no Occasion to fear that we shall make any commercial Reprisals, in Case such Encouragements were given to the growing *Woollen* Manufactures of *Piedmont*. The only Article we receive from *Piedmont*

Piedmont is *Raw Silk*, which is ſo abſolutely neceſſary for the Employment of our own Silk Looms at home, moſt of which muſt ſtand ſtill without this Species of Silk, that we muſt have it, tho' it ſhould come ever ſo dear to us. Need I, Sir, tell you, who have ſo many Years dealt in the *Piedmonteſe* Raw Silk, that we can't do without it; and that therefore the Court of *Turin* may at any Time reſtrain our Trade without any Dread of our making Repriſals.

Nor are we leſs to dread the Decreaſe of our *Navigation* in the *Mediterranean*, ſhould *Savona* and *Vado* remain in the Houſe of *Savoy*. The Reaſon is evident. For what is it that gives us at preſent the Preference to other Nations in thoſe Seas, but the Security of our Flag? As we are at Peace with all the Powers on the Coaſt of *Barbary*, and with the *Turk*, the *Italians* prefer our Bottoms to all others. But what ſhall prevent hereafter the Court of *Turin* from following the late Example of that of *Naples*, and cultivate a good Underſtanding with all thoſe pyratical Powers? And when this is done, as it certainly may, by Preſents, and by Force, which his *Sardinian* Majeſty will not want when he draws

draws away the Trade of *Genoa* to *Savona*, may we not reaſonably ſuppoſe that his Colours will have the Advantage of ours in thoſe Seas, where his Ships can navigate cheaper than ours, and conſequently proportion *Freights* to their Expence.

Let it not be urged, that the Want of Seamen on the *Italian* Coaſt, will always ſecure us the Carriage of thoſe Seas, even ſhould the *Sardinian* Colours be reſpected by all the Profeſſors of *Mahometiſm*. It is well known, that Trade begets Seamen; and you, Sir, are thoroughly ſenſible that the Coaſt of *Genoa* alone is capable of furniſhing Sailors enough to carry on all the Trade of the *Mediterranean*. And what was it but the Inactivity of the *Genoeſe* Government, and the little Figure that People made for ſome Ages paſt, till of late, that prevented their being upon good Terms with the practical Powers in thoſe Parts? But you will agree with me, that if there had been ſuch Safety in the *Genoeſe* Flag as in ours, it would have been prefered to ours. And you know, likewiſe, that that People wanted neither Seamen nor Shipping, nor the Means of ſupporting them; ſo that we are obliged more to the Indolence and

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little Foresight of the *Genoese* than our superior maritime Force, that we have hitherto enjoyed the almost sole Benefit of being Carriers to the *Italians*.

But are we to expect the like Inactivity and Insagacity on the Part of the Court of *Turin*? Surely, Sir, our *Englishmen* are too well acquainted with the Wisdom and Policy of his *Sardinian* Majesty, and his Ministry, to doubt that all the Advantages accruing from the Possession of such Ports as *Savona* and *Vado*, won't be laid hold on and improved to the utmost.

Perhaps I may be told, that my Apprehensions are too refined and distant, should I suggest that the King of *Sardinia* might become hereafter a maritime Power, should he possess *Vado* and *Savona*. But, pray, Sir, what shall hinder his having a naval Force, and a considerable one too, if he draws the Trade of *Genoa* to *Savona*, establishes Manufactures throughout all his Dominions, and commands all the Sea-faring Men from *Provence* to *Genoa*?

But it may be objected, that tho' that Prince had Wealth, Manufactures, Trade and Seamen;

men; yet still he would want Shipping and Materials for Building. Idle Reasoning! Money will always procure Ships; the *Dutch* and the Northern Nations will always exchange Shipping and Timber for Bullion: Even we ourselves would supply his *Sardinian* Majesty, if properly apply'd to. But where is there a want of Timber on the Mountains contiguous to *Savona*, from whence the *Genoese* have always been supply'd; and that People have had, at times, Fleets of Gallies and Men of War?

The Truth is this, there is no want of Wood, fit for all sorts of Uses, in the Neighbourhood of *Savona*; and it is no less true, that there are even now above 20,000 Sea-faring Men to be found on the extended Coast from *Nice* to *Genoa*. There is no doubting that the Number of Seamen on that Coast will encrease as the Trade of *Savona* flourishes. And 'tis as little to be doubted that the Trade of *Genoa* will be transfer'd to that new-rising Mart; so that we may suppose, that in time all the Seamen of the Eastern Coast of *Genoa* will follow the Trade of their Capital, and be at the Service of him who can give them the best Wages. And should even most of the

Seamen of *Italy*, hereafter, be at the Service of the Houſe of *Savoy*, I ſhould not in the leaſt wonder at it, any more than I ſhould that his *Sardinian* Majeſty and his Miniſtry will make the boldeſt Puſhes, and ſtrongeſt Efforts, at this time, for ſecuring the Poſſeſſion of *Ports*, by Treaty, which are likely to help his Succeſſors to be more powerful at Sea, than all the *Italian* Powers put together.

His *Sardinian* Majeſty is a Prince of uncommon Foreſight and Penetration; his Notions are refined, and his Views very extenſive. His Family have had their Eyes on *Savona*, of along time, as knowing that without it they could never hope to be able to give the Law in *Italy*, or be conſidered among the conſiderable Powers of *Europe*. We ſaw how like, what he really is, a wiſe Man, he laid hold of the firſt Opportunity which Fortune threw in his Way to poſſeſs himſelf of that *Port* whence all the future Opulence and Power of his Houſe were to iſſue. But indeed it were to be wiſhed that the Prince had been leſs intent at that critical Juncture, on the Completion of his particular Scheme. For it is generally believed here, that if the Troops and Artillery employed in the Siege of *Savona* had

had been added to the Force under Count *Brown* in *Provence*, the Common Cauſe had not ſuffered as it did, by the Miſcarriage of that glorious Deſign of kindling a Flame in the Bowels of *France*.

But to return to that Object, of which an *Engliſhman* ſhould never loſe Sight, let it be conſidered how our Trade may be affected in more Branches than one, ſhould the Schemes of the Court of *Turin* ripen to Maturity. Why may we not apprehend that, in time, the *Woollen* Manufactures of *Piedmont* may, by the Means of *Savona*, and by being tenderly nurſed up by the Court, be brought to ſuch Increaſe and Perfection, as to enable his *Sardinian* Majeſty's Subjects to ſupply the lazy *Spaniards* and *Portugueſe*, who, like all other Foreigners, as has been ſaid elſewhere, regard much more the Cheapneſs than Goodneſs of a Commodity. Thus ſhould we, by elbowing up a preſent Ally, who has not always been ſuch, perhaps loſe not only the Benefit of the Conſumption of our *Woollen* Manufactures in *Piedmont* and *Lombardy*, and in the reſt of *Italy*, but likewiſe in *Spain* and *Portugal*.

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As diſtant as theſe Conſiderations may ſeem to ſome, I can't but think they are worthy the Attention of a wiſe Nation, who, in Prudence, ought to guard againſt the remoteſt Danger, and the moſt diſtant Deſigns on their Power and Commerce. Jealouſy, on theſe Occaſions, far from being a Vice, becomes a Virtue. But in the preſent Caſe, who can ſay the Danger is remote? Is it not obvious, that, by uncommon Encouragements, a *Woollen* Manufacture is already brought to ſuch Perfection in *Piedmont*, in ſpight of all natural Difficulties, as has ruin'd our *Kerſey* Trade to all his *Sardinian* Majeſty's Dominions? If then under ſo great, almoſt inſuperable Diſabilities, the *Piedmonteſe* have already beat us out of one Branch of the *Wollen* Trade; what may not they be able to do, by means of the Ports of *Savona* and *Vado*, Free-ports, where, as has been already obſerved, all the Trade and Wealth, Art and Induſtry of *Genoa* are like to center?

But ſuppoſe, for a Moment, we ſhould wave our Apprehenſions in regard to our *Woollen* Manufactures and our *Navigation*, which, in my humble Opinion, are far from being

being vague or chimerical, can we hope for the ſame ſolid commercial Advantages, under a regal deſpotic Government, which we had hitherto enjoy'd at *Genoa?* The Maxims of a Commonwealth are ſtated and permanent; whereas thoſe of a Monarchy are far more various and fluctuating. We are ſure that the Government of *Genoa* would never dream of innovating; but have we equal Reaſon to believe that the Houſe of *Savoy* would not, even though we had the Security of a Treaty to lean to, that Cobweb which moſt Princes break through without bluſhing.

With Princes the Law of *Conveniency* is that which generally is beſt obſerved, and moſt practiſed; and this ſame *Conveniency* never fails of ſtretching and enlarging in proportion to their Power. The Word *Conveniency* has a very extenſive Meaning in the Opinion of Courts and Miniſters, as you may have obſerved on a late Occaſion in *Ruſſia*, when the Miniſters have thought proper to be of a very different Opinion with our *Engliſh* Merchants ſettled in that Empire, in regard to their Trade to *Perſia:* And yet it was thought by thoſe Adventurers, and upon no ſlight Grounds neither, that this Trade had

had been thoroughly ſtated and ſettled. But Miniſters will always riſe in their Demands and extend their Views as their Prince extends his Power and Influence. Therefore whatever *Regulations* of Trade may be agreed to in the Infancy of the Commerce of *Savona*, we may be ſure they will be alter'd, and not to our Advantage, whenever 'tis the *Conveniency*, that is, the *Intereſt* of the Houſe of *Savoy*.

'Tis true, we have no reaſon to ſuſpect the Candour of his preſent *Sardinian* Majeſty. 'Tis probable he may obſerve his Commercial as he has his Political Treaties. But let our Suppoſitions of that wiſe Prince be as favourable as poſſible, we know he muſt die, but know not what may be the Views, Ambition, Humour, or Honour of his Succeſſors. But one thing we are ſure of, that it being the Buſineſs and Intereſt of all Princes to promote the Trade, Induſtry and Welfare of thoſe whom Providence had put under their Care, his preſent *Sardinian* Majeſty will carefully ſtudy and arduouſly purſue (*always to be underſtood by lawful Means*) the true Intereſt of his Subjects. We may be allowed, from his Conduct in Life hitherto, to make this

this Suppoſition in favour of that Prince; a Suppoſition, which though it does him Honour, ought however to put us upon our Guard.

But ſhould it happen at any time hereafter, that we ſhould have cauſe for Complaint; that our Commercial Compacts with any of the Princes of the Houſe of *Savoy* ſhould be infringed on their Side; ſuppoſe, I ſay, new Impoſts, new Difficulties ſhould be impoſed upon us in our Trade to *Savona*; how ſhall we apply a Remedy, if Expoſtulation prove fruitleſs, as it uſually does on theſe Occaſions? The Manufactures of *Piedmont* and *Lombardy* and the Commerce of *Savona*, will have ſo inrich'd that Royal Houſe, they will be grown ſo opulent and powerful in Men, Money and Shipping that I ſhould not at all wonder if they ſhould make little of our Threats and Menaces. May we not then be obliged to exert our Naval Power at a great Diſtance and vaſt Expence; and perhaps not with deſired Succeſs?

For let it be conſider'd how vaſtly the Power of that ancient Houſe would be increaſed, by the Wealth which muſt neceſſa-

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rily flow in upon all their Dominions, ſhould the Trade of *Genoa* be removed to *Savona*, as it naturally would. *Genoa* might enjoy the empty Honour of a free City or State; but all its Wealth and Subjects would infallibly take the Route of its *Rival*. Nor can I ſee, in ſuch Caſe, what ſhould obſtruct the Houſe of *Savoy* in their Views on *Genoa* itſelf, if they thought it would add either to their Power or Grandeur. Feeble muſt be the Efforts of the Inhabitants of that venerable *Capital*, who have lately acquired ſo great a Share of Glory, in Defence of their Liberties, ſhould the Poſſeſſion of *Savona* in the Houſe of *Savoy* occaſion, as it muſt, a total Deſtruction of their Trade.

The *Genoeſe* have roſe and ſubſiſted by Commerce; nor have they any other means of Subſiſtence, as their Country is both ſmall and exceſſively barren. Therefore, take their Trade from them and they are undone. Thus, by a natural Tranſition, may all their Power, Trade, Wealth and People, Seamen and all center in the Houſe of *Savoy*, who may not always be in Alliance with *England*, but who, on the contrary, may be in a Confederacy with her Enemies. His Majeſty of *Sardinia*

dinia is now in our Alliance, for which we have paid no inconſiderable Sums ſince the War. But, Sir, you have ſeen, not long ago, that great Prince at the Head of *French* and *Spaniſh* Troops in oppoſition to the *Common Cauſe* and the *Intereſt* of our Country. I don't ſay this to derogate from the heroic Virtue of that gallant Prince, but to put us in mind of our *true Intereſt*, abſtracted from momentary and fortuitous Conſiderations.

Suppoſe, and I hope 'tis not as yet criminal in an *Engliſhman* to make probable and reaſonable Suppoſitions, the Houſe of *Savoy* grown powerful by means of *Savona*; ſuppoſe a naval Power ſprung up by their being Maſters of all the Coaſt from *Antibes* to *Lucca*; ſuppoſe that this naval Force join'd to that of the different Branches of the Houſe of *Bourbon*, what Figure ſhould we be able to make in thoſe Seas?

We are not ſure that ſome future Prince of the Houſe of *Savoy* won't be obliged to dance to the *Bourbon* Pipe, however well inclined he may be to the Cauſe of Liberty in general, and to *England* in particular. But if nothing of this Nature ſhould happen, it

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is well known that the Politics of Princes vary with their Intereſt; therefore ſhould it be the Study of Stateſmen to guard againſt Danger be it never ſo diſtant.

But, as I ſaid before, the Danger of a vaſt Increaſe of Power in the Houſe of *Savoy* by means of *Savona*, ſhould the Poſſeſſion of it be ſecured by Treaty, does not at all ſeem to me to be either diſtant or foreign to the Conſiderations of our Stateſmen at this preſent critical Juncture. 'Tis obvious that the Riſe of *Savona* muſt neceſſarily occaſion the Fall of *Genoa*. And however irritated ſome Courts may be of late againſt that antient Mart, ſure I am, it is not the Intereſt of *England* to have it reduced to a low Ebb. Innovations in Trade are dangerous. The Benefits of our Commerce with the *Genoeſe* are ſtated and certain; but when that Trade is gone elſewhere we are not ſure to enjoy the like Advantages. On the contrary, there is a moral Certainty that we ſhall be conſiderable Looſers by the Tranſition.

Beſides another Conſideration ſhould not a little weigh with *Engliſhmen* on this Occaſion. We may now, as heretofore and always hereafter,

after, depend to be welcome and ſafe in all the Ports and Harbours in the *Genoeſe* Dominions. But are we ſure that it would be always the ſame ſhould that extended Coaſt be ſubject to the Houſe of *Savoy*, who may hereafter have other Intereſts, Objects and Views, than his *Sardinian* Majeſty has, or ſeems to have at preſent? And ſhould any Chance deprive us of the Port of *Leghorn*, by its falling into the Hands of an Enemy, what muſt be the Condition of our Fleets or Trade, ſhould we be ſhut out at the ſame time out of the *Genoeſe* Ports?

In my Opinion there is no Means ſo likely to promote our Trade to the *Mediterranean* as by preſerving an Equality among the *Italian* Powers, and more eſpecially by ſupporting the Republic of *Genoa* in its Rights and Poſſeſſions, which, thrown into the *Sardinian* Scale, would render it too ponderous and dangerous to our Commerce and Safety. It were to be wiſhed, that all *Italy* had been parcell'd out into Republics, as their Form of Government is beſt adapted to Trade and Tranquility. But ſince that cannot be, we ſhould at leaſt contribute as far as we can to the Preſervation of thoſe few that remain.

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As much as it is our Buſineſs to take Care that the Republic of *Genoa* remain free and intire, it is no leſs that of his *Sardinian* Majeſty to deck himſelf out with its Spoils. But ought his Majeſty to expect, or ought we, if he did, to puſh our Complaiſance for him ſo far as to wave the Advantage of our own Commerce to favour and promote the Trade of his Subjects? I don't think the *Piedmonteſe* themſelves can ſuppoſe we can ſo far loſe Sight of our Intereſt, commercial and political, as to ſupport the Efforts of the Court of *Turin*, at the next general Treaty, for maintaining the Poſſeſſion of *Savona* and *Final*. I ſhall therefore conclude that we ſhall not poſtpone the deſirable Work of Peace out of any Inclination we may have to indulge a Court, I ſhall always be glad we ſerved on every Occaſion, and in every Inſtance, that did not claſh mediately or immediately with the Trade and Welfare of *England*. And as I take the Poſſeſſion of *Savona* by that Court, and the Depreſſion of the Republic of *Genoa*, to be inconſiſtent with the true and genuine Intereſt of my Country, I hope our Stateſmen will not in thoſe Inſtances, render the Influence of the *Britiſh* Crown ſubſervient to the Views of

of any Ally that might be more ambitious and tenacious than is agreeable to the *Britiſh* Syſtem of Policy.

As for your Part, Sir, I have taken the Liberty to lay my Reflections before you, as you are a Judge of the Subject, that if you ſhould find them of that Weight and Significancy, which I flatter myſelf they deſerve, you will communicate them to our Superiors for their Information, while yet there is time for fending off the mortal Wound intended to our Trade. But however you may diſlike the Stile, Manner and Order of theſe Obſervations, I am ſure you are generous and candid enough to approve of the Intention which was herein ſolely directed by an inviolable Attachment to the Intereſt of *England*.

I am, &c.

FINIS.

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