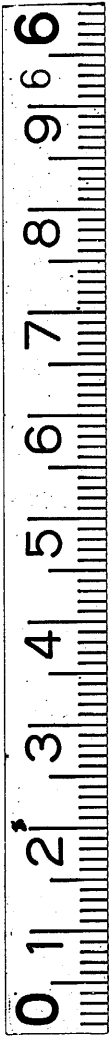


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A *M*
LETTER
TO THE
MERCHANTS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN;
Or a proper
REPLY
TO THE
LONDON JOURNAL,
Of Dec. 12, 1730.

By PEREGRINE ENGLISH.

To which is prefix'd,
The scurrilous Letter in the said Journal, and also
the Letter to Mr. *Fog*, which he pretends to
answer.

L O N D O N:
Printed for T. WARNER at the Black-Boy in Patern.

P R E F A C E.

IT would, in my humble Opinion, be a very great Injustice to believe any Gentleman in the Ministry capable of patronizing, or even countenancing, such wretched Scriblers as are daily thrusting in their Services, and pestering the Town with their Nonsense; such Vermin will always be swarming about a Court; but how can the Ministers help it? As I therefore harbour no Thoughts of Sir Robert Walpole, nor of any of his Collegues, derogatory to the Character they bear with the Publick, I am so far from the least Apprehension of incurring their Displeasure, for the Manner in which I have handled Mr. Osborne's Correspondent, and defended my Country from his insolent and malicious Attacks, that I rather flatter myself to receive their Approbation and Thanks for publishing this Piece; and also to meet with that Protection which I have demanded, and which they cannot but be sensible is absolutely necessary, for making me as useful to Britain, as they know I can be, if honestly dealt by.

In the Letter which I lately addressed to Sir Robert in Publick, I gave an Account how
This

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This to the Merchants of Great Britain had been disposed of, for a Time; and now think it necessary, in Justice to that great Minister, to add, that when I deliver'd it up the 27th of January, I articed to have it returned to me upon certain Conditions; and accordingly received it back the second Day of this Month, so that it was but ninety five Days out of my Hands. As I presume that I am now entirely at Liberty to do so, I publish it, just as it was when I parted with it, some few Castrations excepted; which Piece of Discretion in me, I hope, will not prove displeasing to Sir Robert: But, previous to the Perusal of it, I must desire Britons to give a serious Attention to my Letter to Mr. Fog, and also to the Answer which the London Journal very officiously presented the Ministry with: In that Journal they will see Mr. Osborne's Friend with the Axe in both Hands driving at the very Root of our Trade, and not only of our Trade, but even of our very Constitution itself, since the one cannot possibly subsist, except the other thrives and flourishes.

My impartial Readers will also please to consider how dangerous an Enterprize I have ventured upon, and what Precautions were necessary at my first setting out. I appear'd to Mr. Fog under the Name of Peregrine English, that I might feel the Pulse of my Countrymen, as it were incog, before I would venture to prescribe for them: I laid the Scene in Amsterdam, as the proper Place of Action; and as I writ and signed the following Piece, se-
veral

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veral Weeks before I thought of a Submission to Sir Robert, and dated it from Holland, as I had done my Letter to Mr. Fog, I let it continue so, and only desire the Reader to take this Memorandum along with him as he goes on. If this Attempt to rescue our Trade out of the Hands of the Dutch, has the good Fortune to be approved by my Country, it shall be immediately followed by a Second Letter addressed to the same Gentlemen, deliver'd up and returned to me when this was; I have also a Third Letter ready upon the same Subject, which I hope will not be looked upon to have been any thing forestalled by what preceded it: And now I promise Mr. Osborne's Friends that they shall always find me ready to convince them, that nothing ever can frighten or byass me from the Resolution I have taken, either to get Justice done to our Merchants and Manufacturers, or to expose Those in their true Colours that hinder it, whether by a palpable and wilful Neglect of Duty, or by underhand Obstacles and Difficulties which they think may pass for current Coin upon the People of Great Britain. Tho' I might very well dispense with myself from continuing a Tryal of Skill with anonymous Authors, who have the Courage to give abusive Language, and keep themselves concealed at the same Time; yet I shall not stand upon Ceremony, where the Interest of Britons is at Stake: I can make my Countrymen a much greater Offering than that, and, upon all Occasions, sacrifice my private Resentments, and forgive the greatest Injuries, if their Ser-
vice

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Wise and Welfare requires me to do so: He that cannot do the same, has a God to answer to, and to that just and impartial God I leave him.

As I look upon my Life to belong to my Country, I shall never decline any Defye relating to the Dispute in Hand, from what Quarter soever it comes; and if this proves to be the last Time of my Appearing in Publick, Britons may assure themselves that my Hands are tyed; that I am either debarr'd the Liberty of the Press; or that some other less justifiable Methods are taken to hinder me from telling any more necessary Truths: This may possibly happen; for tho' I can never believe that Sir Robert will be either so impolitick, or so ungenerous, or so unjust to me, after I have declared myself to be no longer his Enemy, and desired to have a good Understanding with him, for Reasons of the utmost Importance to Britain; yet there are other People, in whose Honour and Generosity I am not obliged to have the same Confidence.

Paris, 24th May,
1732.

Charles Forman.

To

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To the Author of FOG's Journal.

Amsterdam, the 7th of November, 1730.

S I R;

HERE are a good Number of *British* Subjects of us in this opulent and happy City, who are very much obliged to you, not only for the weekly Entertainment your Journal affords us, but for the Service your Endeavours may be of to your Country in general. The Care of our Trade is so material and so national a Point, that every honest thinking *Briton* cannot but have it seriously at Heart; and we hope your Journal of the 26th of *September* last will not fail to move the Compassion of our Legislature in Behalf of those unfortunate Shopkeepers and Traders at Home, whose truly deplorable Condition your ingenious and publick-spirited Correspondent so pathetically sets forth. Their Case, tho' unfortunate enough, is not, however, altogether desperate, because the Means for their Relief are obvious and easy, and cannot escape the Notice and Penetration of so many worthy Members and honest Patriots as now sit in our House of Commons; but whether what I am now going to acquaint you with admits of Redress, or, at least, will meet with any, Time, and the Views of those Gentlemen at the Helm, can only inform us.

Tho' private Considerations, and the Circumstances of our Affairs, oblige several of us to reside abroad, we are still *Englishmen*; tho' we have changed the Air, we have not forgot our Duty, or lost our Affection to our Country; and it is with no small Mortification that we see the *British* Trade so changed here from what it was before the Treaty of *Hanover*.

Before that never to be forgotten Treaty, it was frequent to see between three or four hundred *British* Ships here at a Time, and among them a good Number of noble stout Fregats, that did us Honour, and commanded Respect for the Nation to which they belonged. Those Fregats were always freighted for the *Mediterranean* and *Levant* by the *Dutch* Merchants, who not only thought their Goods safer in *English* Bottoms, under the single Protection of a Pass, than on board any of their own fifty Gun Ships, but also found it much cheaper to freight our Ships than to fit out their own for a fighting as well as a trading Voyage; which was their Case before the PEACE that was made for them with the ALGERINES, about the Time the States General acceded to the Treaty of *Hanover*.

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By this Means, many of our Sailors lived comfortably when any Stagnation in other Branches of our Trade left no Employment for them at Home; the Captains of those Fregats made handsome Fortunes under the *Dutch*, to spend at their Leisure in *England*, for we don't find that any of them ever purchased Houses or Lands, or settled in *Holland*; and several of our own Shipwrights and Tradesmen got plentiful Bread, who, I fear, are now but slenderly enough employ'd. But this is not all.

In the Placart published by the States General in the Year 1652, for the Security of the *Mediterranean* Trade, it was ordained, that no Ship should go into that Sea under 120 Casts Burthen at least, 24 Guns, of five Pound Ball each, and fifty Men; that they should not sail under two in Company, to be in a Condition to defend themselves from the Rovers of *Barbary*; that they should not return but in Company, after having waited for one another; that those returning from *Venice* should be obliged to touch at *Zant*, and stay there till they were three or four in Company at least, sufficiently armed and prepared for an Engagement, in case they should be attacked; and from *Zant* they were obliged to put in again at *Leghorn*, where they were to wait until they should encrease to still a greater Number, and then return together to *Holland*. These Orders made their Voyages very tedious; as a great Part of their Profits were eaten up by the Seamen's Wages and Provisions; and, as daily Experience convinced them that their Ships were too weak, many of them, notwithstanding all these Precautions, falling into the Hands of the *Algerines*, they were obliged to build them larger and stronger, and mount them with forty or fifty Guns, which even then did not secure them from the *Moors*, and nothing was more frequent here than to see poor Women begging Money from Door to Door, to redeem their Husbands and Sons out of Slavery; but at present the Case is quite altered; every Cobler is now a Trader to the *Levant*, and the *Dutch* rival, if not out-do us, in a Trade, since the Peace with the *Algerines*, which the Clogs and Difficulties they were under before left them no Manner of Hopes of ever equalling us in, even tho' they fell at last upon the Method of freighting our Ships. Whether it was the Interest of *Britain* to let her Ships and Seamen to be employed that Way, I will not presume to determine; but I am pretty sure, that the *Dutch* Trade to the *Levant* was not then near so prejudicial to her as it is in the Manner in which they now carry it on.

Instead of our beautiful tall Ships, which once made such a Figure here, we hardly see any thing now but a few Colliers, and a Parcel of *Scots* and *Irish* Barques, that, it may be said, come rather upon a smuggling than a trading Account. The Cargoes those Barques bring over are of very little Advantage

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to *Britain*, and some of them, I believe, very detrimental to her; but what they carry back may perhaps require her Attention. It is said to be a common Custom for several of the *Scots* Barques to clear out from hence for *Norway*, tho' I believe they never go there; the Meaning of which I think is plain enough, and we guess what Merchandize they have on board; if Velvets, Brocades, rich Silks, fine Laces, &c. are not so proper for a *Scotch* as an *English* Market, there are Conveniences and Opportunities enough of running them upon us, to the Destruction of our own fair Traders and Manufacturers, and I believe this Method has not a little contributed to the Misfortunes of several of them. This Practice, if duly look'd into, will make a considerable Hole in the Balance of 1,300,000 Pounds, which the Author of *The Importance of the Ostend Company* considered roundly asserts we draw every Year by our Trade with *Holland*; but this Assertion I shall examine apart, upon a more proper Occasion.

The *Irish* Barques are still more pernicious to us than the *Scotch*: Mr. *Janiçon*, the ingenious Author of *The Present State of the Republick of the United Provinces*, published last Year, says, that the *Dutch* drive a much greater Trade with *Ireland* than *Scotland*, where they send all Sorts of fine and coarse *Hollands*, printed Linnens, wrought Silks, fine Laces of all Sorts, Spiceries, Drugs, dying Stuffs, *Delft* Ware, Lintseed, Flax, and several other Sorts of Goods. They take from *Ireland* Frizes, Rateens, coarse Bayes, Hides and Tallow, coarse Stockings and Sailors Caps, very few of which are ever worn in *Holland*; so that the Balance of Trade must certainly be against the *Irish*, if they have not some other Way to save themselves. Four Years ago the *Dutch* laid an exorbitant Duty of 16 G. 15 Stivers upon every three hundred Weight of *Irish* Butter, which almost amounts to a Prohibition; and two or three Years before they actually prohibited the Importation of *Irish* Beef; these two Articles used to be very considerable ones in the Trade of *Ireland*. If the *Dutch* have done this to oblige the *Irish* to bring over greater Quantities of their Wool to pay for the rich Goods they purchase here, and which I am sure their other Cargoes never can do, they have certainly acted like Men of Sense and good Patriots, for the Wool of *Holland* is good for little, neither is there any great Quantity of it; and, without a Supply of Wool from other Parts, their flourishing Manufactures at *Leyden* and other Places would fall to Ruin in a very little Time. That this has been the View of the *Dutch*, I am fully persuaded; for tho' they have Occasion for infinitely greater Quantities of Beef and Butter for their Shipping than their own Country produces, and tho' no Nation in *Europe* can furnish them with either Sort so cheap or in such Abundance as *Ireland*, yet they chuse rather to take live Cattle from *Denmark*

and *Futland*, and Butter from *France*, upon which they have laid but 10*d.* a hundred Duty. Nothing, then, but their Wool could keep the *Irish* from being ruined by their Trade with *Holland*, or else smuggling into *England*, as they return Home, the Goods they buy here, in Prejudice of our own Manufacturers and *East India* Company.

It is a Custom with Masters of Ships, in signing the Bills of Loading they take in in *Spain*, to call Pieces of Eight, White Lemmons; and I have been assured, that it is as usual with the Merchants here to write to their Correspondents in *Ireland* for Butter, when they mean Wool; this Wool, I have been also told, is ingeniously screw'd down into Casks, and shipped off for Butter, by the Connivance, no Doubt, of the Custom-house Officers; and I once made a Voyage, about fifteen Years ago, from that Kingdom, in a Ship that was mostly loaden with that Merchandize, but near the Hatches it was covered with some Barrels of Butter and Raw Hides, for a Blind, in case of being asked any Questions by the Way, which however, she had the good Luck to avoid.

Rotterdam drives also a strong Trade with *Ireland*, which has sent there above 150 Vessels and Ships in a Year, and, I suppose, loaden with the same Sort of Merchandize, for, it seems to me to be morally impossible for the *Dutch*, without the Help of *British* and *Irish* Wool, notwithstanding the Supplies they get from *Lubeck* and some Places in *Germany*, to furnish the twentieth Part of the Woolen Manufactures they send to almost all Parts of the World. If it be objected to this, that the *Dutch* take a great deal of the Cloaths from us with which they trade to foreign Markets; we ought to consider what Cloaths they take, and whether it would not be more for our Interest to prohibit the Exportation of them to *Holland*. The *Dutch* will not take any of our Cloaths dy'd in one Colour, as Blacks, Scarlets, Blues, &c. tho' the Woolen Manufactures are one of the most considerable Articles of their Trade in the *Mediterranean* and *Levant*, where they send Greens, Purples, Violets, Crimsons, Scarlets, &c. which they now transport thither in vast Quantities, without Dread of the *Algerines*, or the Expence of freighting *English* Vessels, as before; and, tho' their Trade to *Smyrna* and *Constantinople* is very considerable in this Article, yet Mr. *Janigon* says, it would be much more so in the latter Place, if the *English* did not send too much of their own Manufactures there; this I suppose he looks upon to be an unpardonable Crime in us, which the *Dutch* ought to take Notice of. What *English* Cloaths the *Hollanders* send to the *Mediterranean* come over white from *England*, and the more that come so the worse it is for our own Dyers, so that, what between the Wool-Runners and Dyers of *Leyden*, Thousands of our own Tradesmen at home are reduced to a Morsel of Bread.

If the *Dutch* could be kept from our Wool, they would be obliged to take our Manufactures in the Colours we would please to give them, or, which would be still better for us, we would send them ourselves to the same Markets, where the *Dutch* now carry them, so much to their own Profit, and our Loss.

The Placarts published by the States-General for the Preservation of the Herring-Fishery, expressly forbid, under severe Penalties, all Pilots, Coopers, and those employ'd in preparing and barrelling up Herrings, all Makers of Nets and other Things necessary in the Herring-Fishery, to go and exercise those Functions in foreign Countries, or to send any Materials there; as also all Shipwrights and Merchants, to sell any Buss to Strangers; by which Expression they principally mean the *English*. Whether these Placarts favour of Insult, at the same Time that they take those very Herrings in our Seas, and upon our own Coasts, I will not take upon me to judge; but I think, we ought not to disdain to follow their Example, in falling upon Measures to make the most of such Branches of our Trade which no Nation in the World can take from us, but through an unaccountable Neglect, or something worse, in ourselves.

As to the rest of our Woolen Manufactures, and other Goods, most of them are a mere Drug here; but our Gold and Silver is as plenty as in *London*, of which the *Jews* make no inconsiderable Advantage, by diminishing its Value, by the Help of a Liquor, without defacing the Coin, and then sending it back to us, for more Specie to exercise their Knavery upon. In short, Sir, there are so many Articles in our Commerce, which, in my humble Opinion, demand our Attention at present, that I should grow tedious in repeating them: Every Man here concerned in the Government, by a Principle, and natural Affection, which can never be sufficiently admired and praised, glories in doing his best for *Father Landt*, an endearing and noble Expression, by which they term their Country; and I presume it will be no Dishonour in our Ministers to imitate them in what is so worthy of Imitation.

If you think my Notions worth a Place in your Paper, it will encourage me to furnish you with more of them upon another Occasion, for the Service of my Country. In the mean Time, I am your constant Reader, and,

S I R,
Your most humble Servant,
PEREGRINE ENGLISH.

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The Answer to the Letter in Fog's Journal.

S I R,

Amsterdam, Dec. 12. N. S. 1730.

THE Friendship which you always favour'd me with, while you lived here, makes me use the Freedom to acquaint you, that not only myself, but all the *English* Merchants residing in this Place, are extremely surprized and concerned at an impudent and false Letter printed in one of your News-Papers of the 21st ult. which goes under the Name of FOG's *Weekly Journal*, very seldom read here, and as little regarded.

This Letter is pretended to be dated from *Amsterdam* the 7th past; altho' I can assure you that none of us who reside here are capable of thinking, much less of writing such Absurdities, which can only tend to alienate the Affections of his Majesty's good Subjects from his prudent and just Government, and to breed a groundless Jealousy of his best Allies; whose Friendship has always been so useful to support and preserve our Religion and Liberties, and under whose good Government we here enjoy Freedoms and Immunities of Trade in all Respects equal to their own Natural-born Subjects.

As to the first Paragraph of this malicious and false Letter, as it chiefly concerns your home Consumption, and domestick Retail Trade of Shop-Keepers, I shall leave it to the Wisdom of the Legislature, who are best able to judge of it; and shall only observe, that this State allows of *Cramers*, or *Pedlars*, to carry about all Sorts of Merchandize, either by Land or by Water-Carriage, and to retail them, either from Boats or Booths, as they think convenient, both in Towns and Villages, especially on Market-Days; and the only Tax that I ever knew any of those Pedlars subjected to in any Town or City of the Provinces, was an Obligation to make themselves free of the Retailers Guild, or Pedlars Corporation, where they live or reside, or as we term it, have *Domicilium*; which does not cost them, for a Man's whole Life, above fifty Guilders, which is under five Pounds.

As the private Considerations and the Circumstances of our Affairs, which oblige several of us to reside Abroad, (to use the Letter-Writer's own Words) do not alter our Affection to our Country, so neither do they prompt us to any Dissatisfaction with the mild Government under which we live, and receive great Advantages in Trade, as the Nation the most favour'd; and whose Ships, Trade, and Manufactures are encouraged, at least as much as those of any other Nation, tho' our Manufactures and Goods happen particularly to interfere with those
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of this State and of their Natives; *viz.* the Woolen Manufactures, and *East-India* Goods of all Sorts.

Mr. Fog may probably have found out a Correspondent here, who, like his Predecessor *Mist*, has been obliged to fly his Country for treasonable Practices; or some desperate Bankrupt, or Smuggler, may have given him his Intelligence: But as for us fair Merchants, we find no Alteration in our Trade, or in the Freedom of our Ships coming hither to carry Freights to any Place in *Europe*, since the Treaty of *Hanover*. And as I have lived here as Apprentice and Merchant ever since the Year 1690 (as you know,) and have the Honour to be admitted into the Conversation of the Magistrates or Deputies from this City to the States, I do assure you upon my Honour, that valuing myself once in Conversation to one of them, as if they owed the Treaty with the *Algerines* to the Friendship of *England*, he answer'd me with some Resentment, that the Assistance of *England* in that Negotiation had been proposed to Lord T— while the Treaty of *Hanover* was negotiating, and that his Lordship absolutely rejected that Proposition, and answer'd, that he had rather we did not accede to it at all, than on such Terms.

This vile Letter-Writer advances a most egregious Falshood, as if between 3 and 400 *British* Ships (amongst which were a good Number of noble stout Frigates) were here at a Time, before that Treaty: I can assure you, Sir, and can prove it by the Books of the Custom-House, that there were never 50 Sail of *British* Ships at once at that, or any other Time in this Port, since I resided here, and hardly 80 Sail in a whole Year; many of which are Colliers, and little Smugglers from *Scotland*, as the Letter-Writer observes; and even that Trade is much diminished, and the *Scots* Factors, who gave them Credit, *viz.* Mess. *Sympson*, *Taylor*, and others, ruin'd by so doing.

It's true, that during the War betwixt the *Dutch* and *Algerines*, several of our *English* Ships were freighted to the *Streights* from this Place, and return'd hither from thence, with Oil and Fruits; and that happens still where *English* Houses in the *Streights* are concern'd in the Cargoes; but the *Dutch* Gallies and Frigates went as frequently, and as safely in general to the *Levant*, as the *British*, during the whole Course of the War, and even ever since the Peace of *Utrecht*; for in Ships of Force the *Dutch* always underfail us at least one fourth Part; but it was our Ships of little or no Force, such as seldom mounted 12 Guns, or even so many, and oftner none, that the *Dutch* employ'd for the Cheapness of their Freight, and on Account of their having *Mediterranean* Passes, (tho' never any very considerable Number of them, not one tenth Part of what the Letter-Writer would insinuate) by which Means they could have Insurance $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 per Cent. cheaper on our Ships, than on their own; and indeed this Employment, tho' not
great,

great, is lost to our Ships since the *Dutch* Treaty with the *Algerines*: And it was on this Account that the *Dutch* made such Concessions and such Presents to the *Algerines*, and were at so much Expence in fitting out a Squadron under Admiral *Somelodyke*, and afterwards under *Lynslagber*, and lastly under Commandore *Schryver*, in order to preserve that Treaty with the *Algerines*; who will be always ready to break it, if they be not sometimes visited by a superior Force.

And are the States, and particularly this great City of Trade, to blame, that they make Treaties to preserve their Commerce and Navigation, and to prevent us, or any other Nation, from becoming the Carriers of their Trade; when they have been, Time out of Mind, the cheapest Carriers of the Trade and Produce of other Nations to most Places in *Europe*?

This artful Letter-Writer rips up Placarts made by the States in 1652: It is very well known how much the Trade of *Europe* is alter'd since that Time, and how little those Placarts are now in Use; for those Regulations were made by the *Dutch* when *France* had very little Trade, and but few Ships, and when the Republick of *England* was the severest Enemy to their Trade; and it's very notorious, that the *Dutch* Mercantile Frigates and Gallies have not for many Years gone from Port to Port to wait for one another, but have run single with great Success, both in the first and last War, and ever since; and the Regulation made in the Placart of 1652, relates chiefly to the *Levant* or *Turkey* Trade, in which the *British* Ships never serve them, it being against the Rules and Restrictions of the *English Turkey* Company; and consequently our Captains, or Sailors, never made any considerable Fortunes from or by the *Dutch* to spend at home, as the Letter-Writer expresses it; and the chief *English* Merchants whom I ever knew, or who did ever reside here, married here, and bought both Houses and Lands, and their Families still remain here in Splendor and Plenty; such as the *Kirbies*, *Cliffords*, *Pease*, *Chitty*, and others; And as to poor Women's begging from Door to Door, to redeem their Husbands from Captivity at *Algiers*, I only remember two who were permitted to do so, and their Husbands were redeemed in the Reign of Queen ANNE, by Mr. *Cole*, then Consul for the *English* Nation at *Algiers*, who redeem'd all the *Dutch* Slaves that were redeem'd, and their Redemption never amounted to One Thousand Pounds a Year, notwithstanding a Skipper's or Master's Ransom was commonly agreed for at one Thousand Dollars each, payable at their Arrival in *Livorno*: And those who have Consul *Baker's* Books in their Hands, who was *Cole's* Predecessor, and Correspondent afterwards in *England*, must know this to be fact; and no *Dutchman* will own that their Trade to the *Levant* is better, or even so good, as it has been for many Years past. Indeed, the *French* have had a great Run
of

of Trade to the *Levant*; but if my Intelligence from *Marseilles* be true, they are heartily weary of it, and their Merchants break very fast, to our sad Experience.

The Letter-Writer mentions some Authors of Treatises upon the *India* Trade, and *Janigon's Present State of the Republick of the United Provinces*. I am confident by his Ignorance, or Zeal to do Mischief, he has no true Experience in Trade, or he would not advance so many Absurdities as he does: For tho' the *Dutch* drive a much greater Trade with *Ireland* than with *Scotland*, yet several of the Goods which he enumerates are not permitted to be carried from *Ireland* to *Holland*, or to any other Country, viz. Frises, Ratteens, Stockings and Sailors Caps, or any other Woolen Manufactures; neither do the *Irish* take any printed Linnens from the *Dutch*, having them cheaper at home. The Duty on *Irish* Butter, which this Author says was laid on it in *Holland* Four Years ago, was first laid on it 60 Years ago, as appears by the Placart 22d *January* 1671; and *French* Sweet Butter pays the same; and the Consumption of *Irish* Butter was always chiefly in *Flanders* and *Brabant*, by the way of *Ostend* and *Bruges*, except some Parcels which were carried to *Terveer* or *Campbeer* under the Name of *Scots* Butter, and was admitted there on the Privilege of the *Scots* Court, paying but 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ per Cent. Duty, but that was not permitted to go to *Holland* without paying the *Holland's* Excise to the Pacters or Farmers of that Excise; and the *Irish* Beef is upon the same footing; but their Hides and Tallow go in great Quantities both to *Holland* and *Zeeland*; and if any of their Wool goes thither, it's our own Fault that the Custom-house Officers in *Ireland* are not more honest or diligent in preventing it: And this great Inventor in Matters of Trade is very much mistaken, if he thinks that the *Dutch* have no other Wool to work at *Leyden*, than *Irish* Wool; for they have very large Quantities of *Polish*, and *German* and *Pomerania* Wool, and all the coarse Wools of *Spain* and *Portugal*, besides large Quantities of the superfine *Spanish* Wools from *Bilbao* and *Bayonne*. There is also another Falsity which he advances, viz. That the *Dutch* continue to import Live Cattle from *Denmark* and *Jutland*, whereas such Live Cattle have been declared Contraband, and been prohibited some time ago.

The Author of the Letter says, that when the *Dutch* write to *Ireland* for Butter, they mean Wool; and that he was about 15 Years ago transported from thence in a Ship loaded with Wool, screw'd down in Barrels, and only cover'd as a Blind with some Casks of Butter, and some raw Hides. By his small Skill in Trade he seems never to have known any other than that of Smuggling, and very probably did then transport himself for that, or some worse Reasons.

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There is another Article of his Letter in which there is a popular Mistake revived, industriously to prejudice His Majesty's well-meaning Subjects against the *Dutch*; and that is, the *Dutch* allowing only our Cloth to come into *Holland* mixt, (or Medleys as we call them) or all White.

I would gladly ask this unreasonable Scribler, whether *England* admits any Cloth from *Holland* or from any other Nation, either white, mixt, or dyed? The *Dutch* do wisely allow our Medleys, because it keeps them forward in their Trade to the Empire, where we cannot come without going thro' their Dominions; and for the Maintenance of their own Dyers, Packers, and Pressers, they declare all dyed Cloth Contraband: Can any Man in his Senses, or with an honest Design, blame them for preserving Bread to their Tradesmen and Artificers? A Complaint of the same Nature was made in the Year 1706-7, from the Clothing Counties in the West of *England*; I happen'd to be then in *England*, and a Reverend Prelate of my Acquaintance who is now dead, introduced me as a *Dutch* Merchant, to Lord *Sommers* on that Subject; and I assured his Lordship on very good Grounds, as I now do you, that if *England* will not admit their Cloth to go white to *Holland*, the States will prohibit its coming thither at all; and *Aix la Chapelle*, *Vervier*, and *Liege*, which furnish *Holland* with much middling Cloth, are tied down to the same Rules with the greatest Strictness.

If this designing Writer intends nothing but what is fair and honest, let him mark out wherein the *Dutch* treat *British* Subjects upon a worse Foot than they do those of any other Nation. Does not *England* put 8 *d.* an Ell Duty on their Linnen of all Prices? And do they put any more than 2 *d.* an Ell on our Cloth, of much greater Value? Does *England* admit of their *East India* Muslins, or Callicoes, Chints, and other Goods at any Rate? And don't they admit ours on a moderate Duty of 4 to 5 *per Cent*? They admit Coffee and Pepper from *England*, on a Duty not exceeding 5 *per Cent.*; and does not *England* lay a Duty of near 50 *per Cent.* upon their Nutmegs, Cinnamon, and Cloves? Were they to put an Act of Navigation in Execution against our Ships, as we do against theirs, what a Hardship would we think they did us! And yet we could not, with any Justice, complain of it; and it's greatly to be fear'd, that such Incendiary Writers as the Author of this elaborate Letter in *Fog's Journal*, must mean to put them on some such Measures destructive to our Trade, or he can mean nothing; for he pretends, that the *Dutch* ought to let their own Ships lie by the Walls, and rot, that ours may become their Carriers; that they must receive our Cloth all dy'd, dress'd and press'd, to support our Dyers, Packers and Pressers, and starve their own at *Leyden*, and elsewhere. He pretends, that they get our Wool; I am sure if they do, it's the King of *Great Britain's*

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Subjects that carry it to them; for I never heard of a *Dutchman* taken, or so much as suspected for Running of Wool.

It's a false Assertion, that we can carry our own Cloth to all the Markets to which the *Dutch* carry it: In the first Place, the Consumption of *English* Woolen Goods in the *Seven Provinces*, is very great, particularly of *Yorkshire* Cloth, *Exeter* and *Tiverton* Serges, and *Worcester* Frises; as is also that of *Colchester*, and other Bays, Says, and Perpets, in their Plantations of *Courago* and *Surinam*, to which Places we may not go or send directly. Then there is the whole Consumption on the *Rhine*, *Main* and *Upper Danube*, whither we cannot go but through their Dominions; not to mention *Lorraine* and *Switzerland*: But our Letter-Writer, probably, has no more learn'd Geography, than he has studied Placarts and Books of Rates; it's his Business to clamour, do Mischief, and incense the People against the Government, and neither to tell Truth, nor improve our Trade; and therefore he seems to set down, as a Novelty, their Prohibitions of exporting or selling to any Foreigner, Vessels, Nets, Cask, or other Materials for fishing of Herrings; Prohibitions as old as their Fishings; and is that any Argument why we should not fish Herring, build Buffes, and weave Nets? Do not the *Scots*, some Years, export 300 Lafts of Herrings? and cannot they, with the Assistance of a little *English* Money, build Buffes, as they have begun to do, and carry on that Fishing to a greater Extent and Perfection? The same Prohibitions subsist in *Holland* against the selling and exporting of any Materials for the Whale or *Greenland* Fishery; but has that been any Impediment to the *South-Sea* Company in setting that Fishery on foot? for which they are to be much commended, let the Success be what it will, in that they shew this Nation the Method of going rightly about a Business, which, if once brought to Perfection, must needs be attended with vast Advantages.

As to this Author's Conclusion, it's much of a Piece with the rest of his Letter; he says our Woolen Manufactures, and other Goods, are most of them a mere Drug in *Holland*; he is sadly misinformed, if he means for want of Consumption; for there are as many sent thither as ever; but the *Dutch* ordering them over from *England* for their own Account, are satisfied with a small Profit, because they can borrow Money to trade with, or upon Goods, at the Rate of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent. per Annum*, and think 5 *per Cent.* a good Profit; whereas our Interest being 5 *per Cent.* we must have larger Profit: Surely the *Dutch* are not to blame for this; and those who have brought publick Interest to 3 *per Cent.* and 4 *per Cent.* in *England*, are much to be commended for it, and will, I hope, go on and prosper.

There is another Invective which he throws out, and which I believe is no less groundless, *viz.* that our Money is sent in

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great Plenty into *Holland*, and there diminished in Value by a certain Liquor, and then sent back to us, without defacing the Coin: Surely the prudent Directors of the Bank of *England*, and the skilful Goldsmiths and Bankers in *Lombard-street*, would have detected and represented against this Fraud, had it been ever practised. And if this Author has seen *English* Silver and Gold Specie in *Holland*, I can recommend him where he may see as much, that went out of *Holland* to *England*, of no less intrinsic Value.

And as Mr. *Fog* has thought fit to give his Letter, or Notions, as he calls them, (and very false and scandalous ones they are) room in his Journal, I wish your Government may give him room in the Pillory; for if any *Dutchman* should presume to write so injuriously, and with so bad an Intention to his native Country, our Magistrates would set him to rasp Brasil Wood, or pump Water for his Life. If there be Defects in your Trade, or Discouragements on any of your Manufactures, I make no Doubt but the Wisdom of your Parliament will remedy them in the approaching Session, by easing the Materials of all Duties, that may still remain upon them; and we have on all Occasions seen how readily our good King comes into every Thing that can be moved in Parliament for the Ease and Advantage of his Subjects.

I am, &c.

TO

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TO THE
MERCHANTS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

Amsterdam, Oct. 29, 1731.

GENTLEMEN,

SO many Men have an Interest in the Ruin of our Country, and such Doctrines and Positions in Trade and Politicks have been broached of late, by a Set of mercenary Scriblers, that it may now seem highly dangerous to offer any Thing for the Service of the Publick. Tho' the Duty we owe to his Majesty, and the Affection we naturally ought to have for that Community of which we are born Members, are not only warranted, but even strictly commanded by God himself; yet we daily see the Discharge of that Duty, and the Exercise of that Affection branded as Crimes of the highest Nature: And *Those* who have Courage and Honesty enough to exert themselves upon such Occasions, loaded with the most odious Epithets, and the most injurious Appellations. Every Thing that appears in this critical Juncture, either for the Service of *Great Britain*, the Honour of the King, or the Safety of the *Protestant Succession*; which, in my Opinion, never had more need of zealous, honest Advocates, than at present; is either immediately attacked by some Traytor in disguise, or made the Theme of some paltry, prostitute Answer-Jobber. Virulence

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and Scurrility then supply the Place of Truth and Argument; while the Authors of such Pieces, as are not only a Disgrace to the Nation, but may prove of the most fatal Consequence to it in the End, strut in all the Pride of a Triumph, instead of meeting with the publick Punishment, so justly due to such declared Enemies to their Country.

When I sent over that Letter, which Mr. FOG, at my Request, and through a Motive of Duty to *Great Britain*, published in his Journal of the 21st of last *November*, I expected no less, than what I have since met with from Mr. *Osborne's* concealed Correspondent; but how cover'd soever, that unmannerly Disclaimer for a *Dutch Interest* against the Industry of his Country-men, may think to keep himself; I shall pursue him through all his Mazes, and oblige his Protectors, if he has any, to abandon him to the Contempt and Indignation of every injured *Briton*.

Some Men may have a sort of Vanity in suffering for their Country, but I must confess, I am not altogether of that Humour. I feel a very sensible Anguish, when I am either ill-used myself, or see any Man injuriously treated, for endeavouring to advance the publick Welfare; but 'tis only because such a Treatment is so great a Discouragement to Virtue, and that publick Liberty to which we are Heirs by our Birth-right, that *Britain* cannot but suffer too in the Injury done to any of her Members: In such Cases, she is always wounded through the Sides of *Those* that endeavour to serve her. This is so self-evident, and has been so often demonstrated but by too many fatal Examples, that I don't doubt, in the least, but it will deserve, and also meet with, the Attention of those Gentlemen who have our Destiny now in their Power.

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If I had committed any wilful, material Errors in my Letter to Mr. FOG, which I am not yet sensible I have done; Mr. *Osborne's* Friend might have found out much more becoming Terms, to entertain the City of *London* with, than those he has vouchsafed to make use of, in pretending to detect me. The Rules of common Decency, as well as Respect for his Readers, had he been a well-bred Man, would have obliged him to such a Conduct; and had he been as much an *Englishman* in his Heart, as he ought to be by his Birth, he would have candidly shewn me, in what Points I had been mistaken; without unjustly accusing me of a Design, of which I am altogether as incapable, as, I am afraid, he is of becoming an honest Man. Instead of this, he flies into the most extravagant Passion, and stuffs his Letter with Language, fitter for the Mouth of a Scavenger than the Pen of a Gentleman: He declares himself a professed Advocate for the *Dutch*, and arrogantly shews his Countrymen, how prevalent the Interest of *Holland* is with him over that of *Great Britain*. What Weight this last Circumstance will have either with you or our Clothiers, or whether our Legislature will think this Dispute worth its Notice, is what I must leave to Time; which will as infallibly confirm the Truth of my Assertions, as the Loss of our Woollen Trade will bring immediate Want and Misery upon our Manufacturers, and prepare the Way for the general Ruin of the Kingdom.

When I received the *London-Journal* of the 12th of last *December*, which was not until the Fifteenth of *June* following, and it was even by great Chance that I saw it at all, I thought it too late to make a Reply to it, so much Time having elapsed, and the Parliament being up: I therefore resolved to treat that Libel with Neglect for some

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Time; and to go on in my own Way, in serving my Country. But I have been lately prevailed upon to change that Resolution, at the Instances of some Friends: Because, as they tell me, that *Journal* may be read by several worthy People, and good Patriots, in the distant Counties from *London*; who may never have an Opportunity of comparing it with my Letter, which it pretends to answer. It is for this Reason, Gentlemen, that I have undertaken a Reply to it: And now, address it to You, as the most competent Judges of a Dispute, in which the Interest of *Great Britain* is so sensibly concerned.

I have also thought it necessary to prefix the Letter in Mr. *Osborne's Journal*, as well as that in Mr. *Fog's*; that the Reader may be let into the State of the Question, without being at the Trouble of having Recourse to different Papers. And as the great God can bear me Witness, that I have nothing so much in View, in this Undertaking, as the Service of *Britain*, in regard to those industrious and laborious People who are the chief Support of it, and who deserve all the Encouragement that can possibly be given them: I hope that no sinister or tortured Construction will be put upon my Endeavours; especially by such honest *Britons* as really wish to see our Trade abroad, and our Manufactories at home; restored to that flourishing Condition in which they have formerly been. Such as are *secret* or *purchased Enemies* to either, may rail on as long and as loud as they please; for I now assure them, once for all, that as to my own personal Concern, I shall equally despise their Calumny and their Malice, and never take any further Notice of either, than as I find it affects my Country to have such Vipers in her Bosom.

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These Vipers hiss at every Thing, that is not calculated for a certain Meridian; and a celebrated * Author complains, upon a very remarkable Occasion, that he has to do with Men who would write against their God, for *Hire*, as they do against their Country. With what Justice he says this, is neither my Business nor my Inclination to meddle with; but, for my Part, I think I may reasonably say, I have been attacked by one of the same Species: By a Man who writes as insolently against the Interest of his Fellow-Subjects, as if he had not only Protection, but even a Pension for doing so; and turns all the Artillery of *Billings-gate* upon me, because I have dared to shew my self a Friend to the Trading Part of my Country-men.

The Merchant, Farmer, Trader, Artificer, and Labourer, compose the five Classes of Mankind, which support and nourish a State; the rest, how useful and how ornamental soever in their different Capacities and Stations, are, properly speaking, fed and supported by the Labour and Industry of these Money-bringers into the Nation. For this Reason, the State ought to cherish them as the Apple of its Eye; but yet we see, what Quarter Mr. *Osborne's* Friend would give them, if he had as much Power to put his Inclinations in Execution, as he has had Impudence to publish them.

The Facts he advances in Favour of the *Dutch*, and the Objections he brings against what I offered for the Service of *Britons*, I shall take notice of in their proper Order, at least as far as the Nature of Arguing will permit me; but as to his scurrilous Epithets, and the abusive Part of his Letter, I must confess my self unable to

* The *Craftsman*.

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cope with him: It is a Sort of Employment to which I have always had a particular Aversion; and if I am forced, upon some Occasions, to treat him as he deserves, I first beg your Permission to do so; for I assure you, Gentlemen, I shall never have any Ambition to learn the modish Rhetorick of the Times, especially from such a Professor, until I see his Reputation as well established in the Opinion of honest Men, as I find it is in his own.

I pass over the low, common-place *Cant* of the first Paragraph, as unworthy of Notice; and shall make no further Remark upon the Second, than to observe to you, that had I been guilty of what it falsely charges me with, *viz.* "Of writing such Absurdities, which (he says) can only tend to alienate the Affections of his Majesty's good Subjects from his Government," I am thoroughly persuaded, that Mr. Osborne would not have deferr'd his *Discourse on the Nature and Obligation of Treaties, in Answer to the Craftsman*, meerly to afford his *Dutch* Correspondent an Opportunity of belching out his Choler against me, upon that Account. Here, by the way, this great Orator, as he thinks himself, makes but a very wretched Compliment to his Majesty's good Subjects; and gives the World, at the same Time, but a very scurvy Idea of his own Understanding, when he supposes that Absurdities in a Writer, are capable of alienating the Affections of a People from their Prince: It is hard, indeed, if *Britons* do not know how to distinguish between Absurdities, and the real Causes of those Evils which they now groan under. By this little Remark, you may take a Sample of my Antagonist's Capacity, or the Opinion he had of yours in writing so.

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By his long Experience of Things, and the great Company he tells us he keeps, he ought to know that the most effectual, and the readiest Way, to alienate the Affections of his Majesty's good Subjects from his Government, is to betray our Trade to Foreigners; to plead in Defence of their Encroachments upon us; to attack with Outrage and Impunity such honest Men who have Duty enough to their Prince, and Affection enough to their Country, to stand up for the Interest of both: This is the infallible Way to provoke and irritate the Minds of the People; and not *That* which I took in writing as my Conscience obliged me, in behalf of the trading and labouring Part of the Nation.

When a Man reads this *famous Journal*, which may be truly called an Original, both in regard to the Insolence of the Style and the Desperateness of the Attempt; when he beholds this *Anglo-Dutchman* in such a fusty Fume; when he sees such a Heap of Dirt and low Scurrility raked up together, and the Letter conclude with Threats and Menaces of the most thundering Nature; what can he think, but that there is some deeper Design in this Proceeding than meer Revenge against me? May he not naturally believe it to be *in Terrorem* to other publick-spirited Men; in order to intimidate and frighten them from performing *What* their Duty obliges them to? May he not also conclude, that both the Publisher and Writer, if they are different Persons, had Instructions from elsewhere for what they have done? But whether they had or not, it is evident that I have nettled them and their Friends to the Quick; not by writing violently, as they would have it, against my Country, but honestly and dutifully for it. This they look upon as a grievous Offence; and such an one, no doubt it is, in the Eyes of
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English-men who are neither afraid, nor ashamed to embrace a *Foreign* Interest, in Prejudice of a *British* one. For doing so, I leave them to the Notice of the Government; and, if either of the two Letters deserves the *Pillory*, in the Opinion of my Country, I wish with all my Heart, that the Author and his Abettors too, if he has any, may not escape it. Mr. *Osborne's* Friend prides himself in being a declared, and I believe a *retained*, Advocate against the Merchants and Manufacturers of *Great Britain*, and I glory in nothing more than in endeavouring to promote their Interest: This, in a few Words, is the State of the Quarrel between us, and the Reason why he attacked me in the Manner he has done; for which, if ever I have the good Fortune to meet him, he may expect my Thanks in such a Kind as his Behaviour has deserved from me. I have had the Satisfaction of doing my Duty; and when every *Briton* does his, as far as his Capacity or Power enables him, these Disputes will become altogether unnecessary; and nothing, humanly speaking, can then hinder us from becoming, again, a flourishing and happy People.

After taking off the Mask, and shewing himself in his *Dutch Livery*, my Adversary proposes the third Paragraph of his Letter as an Answer to the second of mine; whether it is really so or not, you may judge by comparing them together. The Privileges, which, he says, this State allows to *Cramers* and *Pedlars*, are altogether foreign to the Purport of my Letter; and I see no other View he could have in lengthening his own with 'em, but to magnify the *Dutch Policy* in this Particular; and propose it as a *Model* for our Ministers to follow, in favour to that Sort of Strollers, to the Prejudice of our Shop-keepers and Traders.

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What he says in the next Paragraph, that we are the Nation most favour'd by the *Dutch*, is most notoriously false. I defy him to prove it in any one particular Article: And if I say that the *French Hugonots* are more favoured, or at least more looked upon, all over the *Seven Provinces* than the *English* are, it is no more than what every *Briton* here can vouch from his own Observation and Experience. But, perhaps, this Writer thinks he may safely conclude, without Fear of Contradiction, that we are the Nation most favour'd, because we are not worse treated than the *Muffs*, or have not any odious, distinguishing Mark of Contempt put upon us. I don't say that the *Dutch* have any Design to treat us in such a Manner, while they have such Champions as Mr. *Osborne* and his Friends in *Britain* to support their Interest there.

If he finds no Alteration in our Trade here since the Treaty of *Hanover*, he is the only *Briton* in *Holland*, if he be a *Briton*, that can say the same. I grant him that our Ships have the same Freedom to come here, and carry Freights to any Place in *Europe*, that they enjoyed before that Treaty; but I must ask this impudent Chicaner, whether they meet with the same Encouragement, or with any thing like it? By his Disingenuity I begin to know him, and am pretty sure that he never served his Time in *Holland*, as he says he did, meerly to impose upon the unwary Part of his Readers. I believe, Gentlemen, that you will find something in the Close of his fifth Paragraph very well worth your Notice; wherefore

^a The People of *Westphalia* are called *Muffs* in *Holland* by way of Contempt. They come in Swarms every Summer into the *Seven Provinces*, to drudge and labour for the Boors and Farmers; as the *Savoyards* do into *France*, to sweep Chimneys and clean Shoes.

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I ask leave to transcribe it: By it he gives me up the Argument in effect, and shews the World how great a Politician, as well as how honest a Man, he is.

“ And as I have lived here, says he, as Apprentice and Merchant, ever since the Year 1690, (*as you know,*) and have the Honour to be admitted into the Conversation of the Magistrates, or Deputies from this City to the States, I do assure you, *upon my Honour*, that valuing my self once in my Conversation with one of them, as if they owed their Treaty with the *Algerines* to the Friendship of *England*, he answer'd me with some Resentment, that the Interest of *England* had been propos'd to Lord T----- while the Treaty of *Hanover* had been negotiating, and that his Lordship absolutely rejected that Proposition, and answer'd, *That he had rather we did not accede to it at all, than on such Terms.*”

This Writer, whoever he is, seems very fond of letting us know that he is become a Person of Consequence, and keeps Company with the Magistrates of this City, or Deputies to the States. He says he has lived here as an Apprentice; but, at the same Time, affects to prate in the Stile of a Courtier, and assures us *upon his Honour*. Most worthy Assurance! Now, Gentlemen, I must acquaint you, without any Intention to injure the polite, well-bred Part of the *Dutch*, that this Phrase is almost as much unknown in Conversation here as it is in *Lapland*, and it would be, be highly ridiculous in any Man to make use of it. The Term therefore favours more of some saucy, prostitute Scribler in *London*, than of one that had been bred behind a Counter in *Amsterdam*, or served his Time in a *Dutch* Pack-House. But, whatever Figure he may have made in the first

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Scenes of Life, I find he has come at a Secret, which he blabs out very *mal-à-propos* for his Friends.

The *Dutch*, it seems, had the ——— I don't know what to call it ——— to propose the Assistance of *England* in procuring a Peace for them with the *Algerines*; and resented the Refusal. Their Resentment was certainly as just and friendly as their Proposal was reasonable and modest; and we are not a little obliged to this great Statesman for the Discovery: I should rather say I have reason to congratulate my self upon my good Fortune, in doing so important a Piece of Service to my Country as to wring this Secret from him; but it is not the only one I shall squeeze out of him, if he writes any more upon Politicks. The *Dutch* knew very well of what vast Advantage a Peace with the *Algerines* would be to their Trade in the *Mediterranean* and *Levant*; and, Thanks to them for their good Opinion of our Understanding, would have made *Tools* of us, if they could, to procure one for them. Pray, Gentlemen, What do you think of this? They took the Advantage of the Treaty of *Vienna*, and the Difficulties it threw our Ministry into, to propose our Assistance in making a Peace for them with the *Algerines*, and propos'd it too as the Terms upon which they would accede to the Treaty of *Hanover*. This demands no further Explanation; nor do we need any more to be satisfied of the Sincerity, Justice and cordial Friendship of our Allies ——— But let us return to Lord T-----'s Part in the Scene. His Lordship was sensible, on the other hand, how prejudicial such a Peace would prove to our Trade in those Parts of the World; and, in this Point, Affection to his Country prevails with him over all other Considerations. He absolutely rejects the Proposition of the *Dutch*, and says, *he*

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had rather they did not accede to the Treaty of Hanover, than upon such Terms as he knew would prove injurious to England; that is, a Peace between the Dutch and the Algerines. This is just what I advanced; and, I think, I may fairly claim the Honour of the Argument, since I am supported in it by the Sentiments and Behaviour of so great a Man. I assure you, Gentlemen, that I am heartily glad to see this Circumstance brought to light, especially from that Quarter out of which I have dragg'd it, as *Hercules* did the Thief *Cacus* out of his Den; because it not only sets the Disposition and Politicks of our Friends before us in open View, but also does Justice to that Noble Lord: It loudly proclaims him a true *Englishman* in his Heart, at the same time that it exposes this blundering Scribler to the Contempt and Repentment of every honest Man in *Britain*. This Fellow valued himself, forsooth, because he thought our Ministers had been such wicked, abandon'd Men, as to give up our Mediterranean and Levant Trade to the Dutch, by procuring a Peace for them from the Algerines. Behold the Man who has the malicious Impudence to say I write against my Country!

If *Britons* please to consider this Article with that Attention which it seems to demand, they will find such a Chain of Consequences to draw from it, as they may, perhaps, think it high Time to provide against; and if our Minister can over-look such a Sarcasm upon him, the World must allow that he is very good-natured.

Lord T-----'s Opinion and Foresight amounted to just what I said in the Letter which allarm'd this Writer and his Friends so much, viz. That the *British* Trade here is changed from what it was before the Treaty of *Hanover*, and the Peace made for the Dutch with the *Algerines*: A Fact which

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which none can be barefacedly shameless enough to deny, except it be some Renegado *English* who is ready to prostitute his Pen, as well as he has done his Conscience, to serve any vile Cause he may be found fit for. Wherefore if any *Briton* has had a Hand in procuring that Peace for the *Dutch*, I only wish that the Nation may know him in Time, and that Lord T----- may be made High Steward to try him.

If, in speaking of the Decay of our Trade, I have over-reckoned the Number of *British* Ships we saw here before the Peace between *Holland* and *Algiers*, I have been guided, in that Particular, more by the Opinion of others than any Experience of my own; for I must confess that I never had the Curiosity to count them. But whether they were altogether as many as I said, or quite so few as this Author would make them, is no great Matter to the main Argument; they are not, at present, the tenth Part of what they used to be before that Peace. He says he can prove by the Custom-House Books, "that there never were fifty Sail of *British* Ships at once in this Port since he resided here, or hardly eighty Sail in a whole Year." This, I own, is going through with his Work, and I am fully persuaded that he would be as good as his Word, had he limited the Number to Ten. But I must be so free with him and his Friends as to tell them, that I would lay no more Stress upon the Testimony of the *Dutch*, nor give any more Credit to a Certificate from the Custom-House or Admiralty of *Amsterdam* in a Dispute of this Nature, than to the Accounts printed in *Holland* in Justification of the Murder of our Country-men at *Amboina*.

My Antagonist owns, nevertheless, that during the War between the *Dutch* and the *Algerines*, our Ships were usually freighted from this Place to the

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Streights; and That he says happens still where English Houses in the Streights are concern'd the Cargoes; no thanks to the Dutch for that, to this quibbling, shifting Fellow for allowing it: But this is not the Question. I said that since their Peace with Algiers the Dutch have discontinued freighting our Ships upon their own Account; he is forced to acknowledge it, and even something more than he was aware of in the following Words. "And indeed (says he) this Employment, tho' not great, is lost to our Ships since the Dutch Treaty with the Algerines: And it was on this Account (15) that the Dutch made such Concessions and such Presents to the Algerines, and were at so much Expence in fitting out a Squadron under Admiral Somersdyke, and afterwards under Lynslagher, and lastly under Commodore Schryver in order to preserve that Treaty with the Algerines," &c. Now, Gentlemen, what could I have said more, than this Man has done, to prove the Importance of that Treaty, either as to the Advantage the Dutch reap from it, or the Disadvantage it lays our Trade under? If the Dutch did not find the Benefit of it, would they be at such Pains and Expence to preserve it? And can it be an additional Advantage to their Trade in the Mediterranean and Levant, without being a Disadvantage to ours there in Proportion?

The next Thing Mr. Osborne's most judicious Friend does, is to ask this modest pertinent Question. "And are the States and this great City of Trade to blame that they make Treaties to preserve their Commerce and Navigation, and to prevent us, or any other Nation, from becoming the Carriers of their Trade, when they have been, Time out of Mind, the

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"the cheapest Carriers of the Trade and Produce of other Nations to most places in Europe?" Behold, Gentlemen, how eagerly this poor mercenary Creature pleads for the Dutch! But, to make him easy in this Point, I was so far from blaming either the States or this great City of Trade, that I rather propos'd them as Examples for us to imitate, in what is worthy of Imitation. I am so far from wishing any Harm to the Dutch, that I shall always rejoice, as much as any Briton ought to do, at their Prosperity, when it does not, in any respect, diminish or hinder ours; when that happens, I cannot help shewing my self a Subject of Great Britain.

I also respect the Dutch for their Oeconomy and Industry, and admire several Things in Holland which

¹ In the London Evening Post, from Tuesday July the 13th to Thursday July the 15th, are the following Words, "Hague, July 17, All our Letters from France continue full of the Resentment of that Court, which, they say, is ready to burst upon the Kingdom of Great Britain. They would persuade us that his most Christian Majesty will make use of the King of Spain, notwithstanding his Declaration, to revenge the Injury he imagines he has received from the Hands of the English: That in Order hereunto the important Fortrefs of Gibraltar, (Gibraltar which secures the English Shipping from the Corsairs of Barbary, and makes the Vesse of that Nation the Carriers of Europe up the Streights) shut in closer and closer by Sea and Land, with a Design to render it useles to the English.

The Author of this Letter seems to have a Notion of the Mediterranean and Levant Trade very different from Mr. Osborne's Correspondent: He thinks that we ought not only to be our own Carriers, but to continue so to other Nations up the Streights. This he looks upon to be so important an Article, which Mr. Osborne makes so slight of, that he cries out with Indignation and Resentment at the Distress and Danger of Gibraltar, that Fortrefs having been hitherto the greatest Security of the English Shipping against the Corsairs of Barbary. What must be the Fate of Gibraltar, a little Time will discover; but it is to be hoped that it will remain to Britain; to which it was yielded by the Articles of Utrecht, as well as won by Conquest in a fair War. When

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which I could heartily wish to see more in request in *England*. If the Gentlemen in the *Dutch Ministry* act the Politicians, and refine a little too much in playing the Statesmen with some of their too passive Neighbours and Friends, we must allow that their Conduct is not actuated by any private Views, nor by any mercenary Ends of their own: it is to promote the Interest of *those* they govern; to encrease the Riches of the People and the Revenue of the Publick; to employ their Poor; and to contribute all that lies in their Power to the general Prosperity of their Country. These are

When a Cession is made of any Town by a Treaty of Peace, is naturally supposed that the Prince or Potentate to whom it is given away, shall possess and enjoy it in as full, free, and advantageous a Manner as the former Possessor did, except there are some express Articles to the contrary in the Act of Cession; otherwise such a Cession would be a downright Banter and Affront upon the Prince to whom it is made. If then the *Spaniards* endeavour to render *Gibraltar* useless to *England*; if they are shutting it in closer and closer by Sea and Land; if they build Forts near enough to our Fortifications to kill our Men in them; if they also build Forts to command the Bay, and hinder Relief from entering the Town whenever they please to besiege it in Form; and if they actually hinder the Ships of other Nations from coming to it at present; Quere, Whether we can be said to be any longer in the real Possession of *Gibraltar*? Whether the Articles of *Utrecht* can be said to subsist? Whether we ought to have any Peace with *Spain* while those Forts and Works continue, and while *Gibraltar* remains shut in by Sea and Land? Whether *Great Britain* ought not insist upon the immediate Demolition of those Works and Forts, and to have the Country left as open as it was at the Conclusion of the Peace at *Utrecht*? Whether this ought not to have been insisted on before any thing had been undertaken in Favour of *Don Carlos*? And, Quere, Whether, if *Gibraltar* must go at last, we ought not to be reimbursed all the Expences we have been at about it, as well in Sieges as Fortifications, and also all the Expences we have been at about *Don Carlos*; and to have some particular extraordinary Privileges and Advantages in Trade, well secured and guaranteed to us, exclusive of the *Dutch*, as an Equivalent for parting with it?

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are laudable Actions, and the *Dutch* are to be highly commended for performing them; but we are certainly as much to be blamed if we suffer them to do so at our Expence. The flourishing Condition of the Trade of *Holland* is but too loud a Panegyrick upon the Gentlemen that have the Administration of the publick Affairs; and it is the Happiness of the *Dutch*, to see the Interest of their Country in the Hands of Ministers and Rulers, whose private Property and Advantage are inseparably annexed to, or incorporated with the publick Prosperity. The greatest Ambition of these Gentlemen is to deserve the Character of true Patriots, which they prefer to all pompous Titles and exterior Marks of Honour: They look upon every *Dutchman* to be one of their own Family, a Son of the Commonwealth, and treat him accordingly. Such is the present happy Condition of the *Republick of the united Provinces*; such the Character of their Ministers: I am not conscious to my self of having ever wrote or said any thing, in the whole Course of my Life, that tended, in the least, to blame them for their Affection to their Country, or that could reasonably give any room for so impertinent a Question as the *London Journal* puts to *Great Britain*.

The *Dutch* indeed are not to be blamed for making the most they *honestly* can of their Trade; upon these Terms I am always ready to wish them Success, and think it the Duty of a Christian not only to rejoice at, but even to contribute all

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¹ In this Article *Holland* is happy in the superlative Degree. A Minister or Magistrate gives himself no Airs upon Account of his Post or Riches; nor does he insult or despise any Man for his Poverty or his Misfortunes. He makes the Laws of his Country operate for the Protection and not for the Oppression of the Subject; and never affects to ape the Ministers of absolute and despotick Princes.

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he can to the Prosperity of his Neighbours: But this is always to be understood when they act upon the Square with us: Otherwise we observe the Precepts of the Gospel towards all the World but ourselves; we are kind, generous and beneficent to *Foreigners*; but hard-hearted to our own Poor, cruel to our Families, and unjust to our Posterity.

It is but too true, what Mr. Osborne or his Friend says, that the *Dutch* have been, Time out of Mind, the Carriers of the Trade and Produce of other Nations to most Places of *Europe*: But who gave them a Patent for being so? If they have been the Carriers of the Trade and Produce of other Nations, Time out of Mind, I think it long enough in Conscience. Is it a Reason, Gentlemen, why we must suffer them to continue so to the End of Time; or until they have left us Nothing for them to carry? If they must continue to be Carriers to other Nations, which I think the *Swedes* have wisely provided against by a late Act of Navigation, is it a Reason why they must be our Carriers too, when we have so many Ships and so many Sailors of our own now unemploy'd? Must they transport our Manufactures and Products from Port to Port, where, with most humble Submission to our Wise and Patriotal Ministers, we ought, and, I believe, might carry them ourselves, in spite of any Opposition which these our good Allies and constant Friends might be disposed to give us upon that Account? This I must confess, Gentlemen, is a Part of what I propos'd in my Letter to Mr. Fog; and I am as little ashamed of having done so, as afraid to face Mr. Osborne and his Friends, either at home or here, how enraged soever they may be at the Proposition.

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The next Charge against me is the ripping up, as the *Journal* calls it, Placarts made by the *States* in the Year 1652. This is certainly a very great Piece of Wickedness in me, because it shews upon how different a Footing the *Dutch Mediterranean* and *Levant* Trade is at present from what it was then; a Thing which the *Journalist* and his Friends seem not at all desirous the *British* Nation should be acquainted with. I readily grant him that it is well known, too well indeed, how much the Trade of *Europe* is alter'd since that Time; and if those Placarts have been of little Use for some Time past, it has not been so much for the Reasons he assigns, as for those which I have already given; viz. the Peace with *Algiers*, the Method which the *Dutch* fell upon before it, of building Ships of much greater Force than those mentioned in the Placarts, and, what was still cheaper as well as safer, that of freighting our Ships. It may be true that some of the *Dutch* mercantile Frigates and Gallies run, with Success enough, single the last War without waiting for one another; but it is likewise well known that many of them have been catch'd up by the Way. A little before the Peace with the *Algerines*, as well as I can remember, there was a fifty or sixty-gun Ship that lay at the *Boompjes* in *Rotterdam* and designed for the *Mediterranean*; but as stout a Vessel and as well mann'd as she was, two *Algerines* blew her up: Most of the Crew perished, and consequently there were few or no Slaves made to be redeem'd.

That the Placarts I have mentioned were chiefly made for the *Levant*, as my Adversary asserts, is absolutely false, or Mr. *Janiçon* has misled me: If he pleases to peruse that ingenious and inquisitive Author, perhaps he may change his Opinion; at least he will find the *Mediterranean* much more frequently mentioned than the *Levant* in those

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Placarts;

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Placarts: But whether it is so or not, they were published as being absolutely necessary, which is all I advanced; and I have only taken notice of this Article in my Way, to shew you what a Trifler and Chicaner I have to contend with.

It is also as absurd in him to say, that the Captains of our Ships made no Fortunes by taking in Freights for the *Dutch* before their Peace with *Algiers*; if they did not, they would hardly have continued that Business so long. As to the Rules and Restrictions of the *Turky-Company*, they make little or nothing against what I advanced; a Blot is no Blot 'till it is hit, but more I shall not say upon this Article; for I don't think it my Duty to inform against Particulars, tho' I shall always hold my self obliged to advertise my Country of what I think may injure her in general. It is altogether as unfair in him to infer, as I find he has a mind to do by the Manner in which he expresses himself, that those Captains purchased Houses and Lands and settled here, because four eminent *British* Merchants whom he names did so; he would certainly have made the List longer if he could: In what I said you will please to observe, Gentlemen, that I confined my self entirely to Captains, but made no mention of Merchants; and now I defy him to name two of those Captains that ever settled here. There is not a *Dutchman*, of any tolerable Knowledge in Trade, if the Question were not to the Disadvantage of his Country, and of one of the Advocates for it, but would readily vouch the Truth of what I advanced in relation to the Freight of our Ships; and as readily own that what I said of Women begging from Door to Door, in *Holland*, for Money to redeem their Husbands out of Slavery, is literally true: If this Writer remembers but two of them, I can tell him that there are still Thousands in this City,

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City, *Rotterdam*, &c. who have much better Memories. As to ¹ Consul *Cole's* and Consul *Baker's* Books, he may have as much Recourse to them as he thinks fit; they can be of no Evidence against the Truth of a Fact so notoriously known: But he is subtle enough in referring his Readers to such sort of Proofs as he has hitherto done, because he knows they would much rather believe than be at the Pains to detect him.

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¹ It is worth Notice that there is but just twenty Days between the Dates of the two *Journals*, those Dates exclusive, and that Mr. *Osborne's* Correspondent says he lives in *Amsterdam* and has done so ever since the Year 1690: How then could he be so well acquainted with Consul *Cole's* and Consul *Baker's* Books? If he says he writ over, upon this Occasion, to get them examined, I answer, that he had not Time to do so; as any Man may easily see when he reckons the Time that Mr. *Fog's Journal* must have been in coming to *Amsterdam* from the Date of it, the Time that a Letter must take in going back to *London* to get the Books searched, the Time in searching the Books, the Time for an Answer to come back in, and then the Time for sending over the Letter inserted in the *London Journal*: All this Work must have required more than twenty Days, even tho' the Wind had been fair all the while, and not a Post-Day had been lost. But I shall go a shorter Way to work with Mr. *Osborne's* Friend. The Date of his own Letter contradicts him. *Fog's Journal* is dated the 21st of *November*, 1731. O. S. which is equal to the 2^d of *December*, N. S. made use of in *Holland*; so that between the Date of *Fog's Journal*, and the 12th of *December*, N. S. the Date of the Letter in *Osborne's Journal*, there are but nine Days the Dates exclusive, six Days of which were elapsed before *Osborne's* Friend could possibly receive *Fog's Journal*. Wherefore if he could send from *Amsterdam* to *London* to have Books examined, and have an Answer back, all in three Days; what I can say to the Matter is, that he either keeps a *Pacolet* or deals with a Devil: If the latter, I am sure that he has as blundering a Devil to deal with as ever has been heard of. An impolitick Devil! to give so promising an Imp no better Instructions! not to shew him how to impose upon Mankind with a greater Air of Ingenuity and Truth! But perhaps this Devil has too much Work upon his Hands, and is almost worn out himself by the long Practice he has made of the Arts of Tricking, Cheating and Lying.

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In his next Paragraph, relating to the *Dutch* Trade with *Ireland*, he is altogether as judicious and as candid as in those before it. To tell Truth in order to serve my Country is a Zeal to do Mischief, in the Stile of this worthy *hollandized* --- I had almost said *Pensioner* ---- But this mighty Merchant, who, as he says himself, has lived here ever since the Year 1690, this Man of such Self-sufficiency in the Knowledge of Trade, should have shewn that the several Species of *Irish* Manufactures which I mentioned, *viz.* Frizes, Ratteens, Stockings, Coarse Bays, Sailors Caps, &c. are prohibited here, as well as the Exportation of them is, as he says, forbid in *Ireland*; until he does this, he proves nothing that can destroy my Assertion; but, very unluckily for him, were they prohibited here, as indeed they are not, the Argument would be still stronger against him: The *Irish* would have much fewer Commodities to bring here, and the Balance would be more in Favour of the *Dutch*, from which the *Irish* could not possibly save themselves but by bringing still greater Quantities of their Wool. Tho' most of the *Irish* woollen Manufactures are not permitted to be publickly carried out of *Ireland*, THAT neither hinders the unlawful Exportation of them from thence, nor their being well-received here; because they come cheap, and the *Dutch* have always their foreign Markets to carry them to. And, tho' it is well known that there are several severe Laws, now in being, against the carrying of *Irish* Wool to any Place but to *England*, and that too but from some particular Ports in *Ireland*, yet the *Dutch*, as well as they love us, get great Quantities of it, to the visible Decay of the *English* woollen Manufacturies. As to the *Irish* Linnen, it may be better than the *Dutch* Linnen, for any Thing I know to the contrary; but the *Irish* still want either the
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Art or the Water to bleach like the *Dutch*, nor do they yet equal them in printing it, either as to Colour or Design; wherefore I say, again, that large Quantities of printed Linnens go from hence to *Ireland*, contrary to what the *London Journal* most falsely asserts.

Another Thing that sticks mightily in this Author's Gizzard, is the mention I made of the exorbitant Duty of 16 *Guilders* 15 *Stuyvers* lately laid here upon every three hundred Weight of *Irish* Butter: This puts him in a Rage, and he thinks he mends the Matter, and fully excuses the *Dutch* for it, when he says the same Duty was put upon that Commodity in the Year 1671. Every Body knows the Terms *England* and *Holland* were then in, and may draw what Conclusions he pleases from it. For me, it is sufficient to tell him that there was no such Duty upon *Irish* Butter for several Years until the Time I mentioned; and upon the Revival of it the States of *Zealand* made so violent an Opposition, that it became the general Topick of Conversation here for several Weeks; however the *States General* carried their Point at last. As to the *French* sweet Butter, which Term, I confess, I don't very well understand, if it pays the same Duty, as he says, he may observe, if he pleases, that the *Irish* salt Butter is, according to his own Confession, upon the same Footing with it; which, I think, is sufficient to justify the Reason I had to take notice of this Imposition: since every Body knows that the *French* salt Butter pays no more than what I mentioned, that is ten Pence *per* hundred. Now as to the Consumption of *Irish* Butter being chiefly in *Flanders*, it is but a mere Evasion to escape from the Argument; it might have been so formerly, and were it so still, as it is not, it would make nothing against me. *Irish* Butter used to
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come in great Quantities to *Holland*, before the reviving of the Duty of 16 *Guilders* 15 *Stuyvers* upon every three hundred Weight of it, and the *Dutch* Merchants still take some by the Way of *Rouén* under the Notion of *French* Butter. This Man further adds that I write artfully, but I am sure, he writes not only very disingenuously but very falsely; he endeavours to bewilder his Readers, and lead them as much as possible, by Shifts and Evasions, from the main Subject and Design of my Letter.

He slides over the Article of *Irish* Beef, which I say again is absolutely prohibited, and tells us that *Ireland* sends great Quantities of Hides and Tallow to *Holland* and *Zealand*. This I own to be Fact; but what then? These are bulky Commodities as well as Beef and Butter; they take up a great deal of Stowage; nevertheless two Bales of some Sorts of Goods which the *Irish* take from the *Dutch*, to smuggle along the *Channel* into *England* as they return Home, over-value the Cargo of a small Barque loaden with Hides and Tallow: This Practice, and that of bringing their Wool here, are the best Resources the *Irish* have to keep themselves from sinking under the Balance of their Trade with *Holland*.

But if the *Irish* Wool comes here, he says, "It is our own Faults that the Custom-House Officers in *Ireland* are not more honest or diligent in preventing it." This I also grant him in as ample a Manner as he could wish; it is just what I said: But as his Words have something particular in them, I shall give them the Honour of a Repetition. "And if, says he, their Wool goes thither it's our own Faults, &c." Surely this pert Dunce, as cunning as he thinks himself, did not reflect that he was writing from *Holland*, and had dated his Letter from

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from *Amsterdam*, or he would never have said goes thither instead of comes here. From this Blunder we need not be any longer at a Loss to know Mr. Osborne's Correspondent; who after this Proof of his Silliness goes on to say, "And this great Inventor in Matters of Trade is very much mistaken, if he thinks that the *Dutch* have no other Wool to work at *Leyden* than *Irish* Wool, for they have very large Quantities of *Polish*, and *German*, and *Pomerania* Wool, and all the coarse Wools of *Spain* and *Portugal*, besides large Quantities of the superfine *Spanish* Wool from *Bilboa* and *Bayonne*."

In Answer to this Rant, I must desire him to produce any one Article of my Letter that could fairly authorize it. I acknowledged that the *Dutch* get Supplies of Wool from *Lubeck* and some Places of *Germany*; I had no occasion to mention more, nor shall I dispute with him about the Quantities they have from *Poland* and *Pomerania*. The Quality of those Wools is very well known, and I shall never envy the *Dutch* for what Quantities they get of them, how large soever, provided we can keep them from fingering ours. It is also true that they get large Parcels of superfine *Spanish* Wool, and, as angry as he may be at the Assertion, much larger Parcels of *British* and *Irish* Wool to mix with it; which may not a little contribute to the Increasing their Share, and the Diminishing ours, in the *Galleons* and *Flotilla*. Mr. Janison says, Page 497, "that the *Hollanders* carry on a very considerable Trade with *Spain*, particularly at *Cales*, and tho' the *Spaniards* are Masters of the *Gold* and *Silver* Mines, they reap less Benefit by them than the *Dutch* do, by the prodigious Quantities of Goods which the latter send to *America*, in the *Spanish* Merchants Names, who, in this Case, deal very

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“ faithfully with them. The *Dutch* have also
 “ found the Means to Trade (☞) directly with
 “ the *Spanish West-Indies* by the Way of *Curaço*,
 “ an Island near enough to *Cartagena*.” These
 Articles, I am persuaded, will neither escape
 the Notice of so vigilant a Ministry as *Great*
Britain has the Happiness of being under at pre-
 sent, nor the Attention of a *British* Parliament.

This Railer says further, that I advance another
 Falstiy, viz. “ that the *Dutch* continue to import
 “ live Cattle from *Denmark* and *Jutland*, whereas
 “ such Cattle have been declared contraband, and
 “ have been prohibited sometime ago.” It is im-
 possible for this Man to write fairly. Tho’ the
 Words *continue* and *sometime ago* are evasive, they
 shew nevertheless, in spite of his Teeth, that such
 live Cattle used to be imported into *Holland*, and
 in all Probability will be so again. But he should
 have marked the Time when they were declared
 contraband; and whether such a Declaration,
 was not upon Account of the late Difference
 between his *Danish Majesty* and their *High Mighti-*
nesses, concerning the Duty upon *Dutch* Ships in
 passing the *Sound*; the *Tariff* for which expired
 in 1726, or 1727. ¹ *French* Wines have also
 been declared contraband in *Holland*, however the
Dutch were without them but one Vintage. As
 to the Importation of Cattle from *Jutland* please
 to consult Mr. *Janiçon*, P. 464.

His next Paragraph is another Sally of his
 Manners and Good Breeding; but, nevertheless,
 the only Answer I shall give it, is to pass it by
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¹ This was upon a certain Occasion, when the *States General*
 declared the *French* Wines contraband in order to procure their
 Terms from the Court of *France*: If I say no more of it at
 present, it is not for Want of Matter to speak upon, as my
 Antagonist shall find when I see him curious to be more tho-
 roughly informed.

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with the Contempt it deserves; as I would have
 done the saucy, scurrilous Author of it, if the
 Interest of my Country had not obliged me to
 act otherwise. If I said, that, when the *Dutch*
 write to *Ireland* for Butter, they often meant
 Wool, I asserted nothing but the Truth, and
 have been an Eye-Witness of it; but Honour
 does not permit me to satisfy him, or any Man,
 further in this Particular, by descending to any
 ungentleman like Proofs of it. *Great Britain*
 is the best Judge what Notice this Hint deserves,
 and I have now no more to do with it, than
 humbly to acquiesce to her Opinion, and rest as
 well satisfied with the Conduct of the Gentleman
 at the Helm as she herself seems to be.

But, the most hideous Outcry of all against me,
 is for endeavouring to serve our woollen Manu-
 facturers, and those laborious People they procure
 Bread to. After a Flourish of his usual Politeness,
 and calling me Names which become himself and
 his Friends much better, he says, I revive a po-
 pular Error in speaking against the sending our
 Cloth white to *Holland*; and asks, “ whether
 “ *England* admits any Cloth from *Holland*, or
 “ from any other Nation, either white, mixed
 “ or dyed.” Now, I think that no Man could
 ask so impertinent a Question, if he did not
 heartily wish to see the *Dutch* become the sole
 Possessors, as they are at present the greatest
 Carriers, of the woollen Manufactures of *Europe*,
 and the Landed Gentlemen of *Britain* forced to
 send their Wool a begging to *Holland*. This is
 what, I suppose, would satisfy our false Brother,
 and set his Mind perfectly at ease; but I must tell
 him, that should any *Englishman* ever be so
 harden’d in Villany, as to take any Steps towards
 the admitting of Cloth from *Holland*, I wish he
 may receive his Reward at *Tyburn*. We make our

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woollen Manufactures with our own Wool, which is not the Case of the *Dutch*. They are one of the chief Branches of our Trade; and, I believe, I may call them the principal one: We do not want the *Dutch* Manufactures, but they want ours, because they make a greater Profit by sending them to foreign Markets than the *English* Manufacturers do by sending them here. No Thanks then to the *Dutch* for allowing our Medleys, since, as he is forced to acknowledge, "it keeps them forward in their Trade to the Empire, where," he falsely asserts, "we cannot come but through their Dominions."

Gentlemen, were this a seasonable Time and Place to do so, I could shew how we might soon trade to the Empire without going through the Dominions of the *States*; but what is not convenient to be done to day, perhaps, may be proper to morrow: And I now give my Country Credit for a further Explanation of this Article.

By what he says next, he seems to be either a Fool or a Madman himself, or to imagine that he is writing to such. He tells us that it is for the Maintenance of their own Dyers, Packers and Pressers, that all dyed Cloths are contraband in *Holland*: We know it to be so; and I take it to be an unanswerable Argument, why we ought to look out for a Remedy in behalf of our own Dyers, Packers and Pressers at home, tho' at the same time, we may not blame the *Dutch* for taking care of theirs. As he delights in asking Questions altogether foreign to my Letter, because they help to fill up his Paper, and draw off the Attention of his Readers, he demands "whether any Man in his Senses, and with an honest Design, can blame the *Dutch* for preserving Bread to their Artificers and Tradesmen:" But I shall answer this Question by proposing another. *What Opinion*
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must the World have of us, if it sees us to continue to support the *Dutch* Tradesmen and Artificers, by such Means as visibly tend to the Ruin and Destruction of our own? I neither did, nor ever shall, blame the *States* for any honest, laudable Measures they take for preserving Bread to their Subjects: In this Respect I have already characterized them, as a People worthy of Imitation. But it is when they go further, that I shall not fear to express my Dislike of it, as I hope every true *Englishman* will do, for the Honour as well as the Interest of his Country. If the *Dutch* take such Care of their Tradesmen and Artificers, all I proposed to myself in venturing to appear in Publick, was the Hopes of procuring the same Care to be taken to preserve that Bread to our own Artificers and Tradesmen, which, I find, Mr. *Osborne's* Confederate, Thanks to his Good Nature and Honesty, would have the *Dutch* eat for them: And these Hopes encrease, as often as I reflect upon the Abilities of our Minister, when he pleases to exert them, and observe the profound Respect and Attention which all *Europe* pays to his Conduct. Under such a Minister our *British* Weavers, Dyers, Packers, and Pressers, may reasonably expect, that as much Care will be taken of them for the future, and as much Indulgence shewn them, in point of Trade and Industry, as the *Dutch* have the Happiness to meet with from theirs.

He further observes that, "a Complaint of the same Nature, (that is, against exporting our Whites) was made in the Year 1706-7, from the Clothing Counties of the West of *England*." But I shall let him go on to speak for himself. "I happen'd, says he, to be then in *England*," and a Reverend Prelate of my Acquaintance

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“quaintance, *who is now dead*,¹ introduced me, as a *Dutch Merchant*, to Lord *Sommers*, on that Subject; and I assured his Lordship, as I now do you, that if *England* will not admit their Cloth to go white to *Holland*, the *States* will prohibit its coming thither at all; and *Aix-la-Chapelle*, *Vervier*, and *Liege*, which furnish *Holland* with much middling Cloth, are tyed down to the same Rules with the greatest Strictness.” By this Confession it appears, that the Clothing Counties of the West of *England* were then of my Opinion; and, I am very sure are still so; but this Petty-Fogger for the *Dutch* had more Sense, it seems, than all those Counties put together: If so, their Understanding was very low at that Time; and he would have us believe, that it is not much mended since, when he endeavours to pass this Nonsense upon them.

This busy Reptile would impose upon us, that he has been intimately familiar with most of the greatest Men of his Time; and that a Reverend Prelate of his Acquaintance introduced him to Lord *Sommers* to invalidate a Complaint from the Clothiers of *England*. The good Bishop was certainly well set to work, and acting in his own proper Sphere; that is, *bestirring his Stumps for his good old Cronies the Dutch*: But, who that pious charitable Prelate could be, I must confess I am at a Loss to guess, except it was the renowned G---B---; for I do not remember any other of that sacred Function capable of doing such a Piece of Service for *England*. The Jest also is, that, to give the greater Weight to this Fellow's Eloquence, before one of the most eloquent Men then

¹ If this be true, it shews that the Friends to *Holland* were alarm'd at a Complaint from the Clothing Counties of the West of *England*, and thought fit to put their TOOLS to work to prevent its taking Effect.

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then living, he is introduced as a *Dutch Merchant* too: His *Dutch Rhetorick* must certainly have wrought a most wonderful Effect upon his Lordship, because he assured him, as he now threatens *Great Britain*, that if *England* will not admit their Cloth to go white to *Holland*, the *States* will prohibit its coming thither at all. Here is Modesty in Perfection: Conditions are prescribed to us by the hectoring Author. We are threaten'd that the *Dutch* will not trade with us at all, except it be upon their own Terms: But *Great Britain* knows better in what Light to consider this Insult, and how to resent it, than I do. Three paltry Towns are put in a Balance, by him, against the Kingdom of *Great Britain*; tho', by the Unhappiness of their Situation they cannot send their Manufactures, such as they are, to any Markets so advantageous to them as those of *Holland*; and, because those Towns are therefore tyed down by their *High Mightinesses* the *States General*, to send no Cloth to *Holland* dyed in one Colour, *England* must be obliged to the same Restrictions. This is hopeful Reasoning; just such as some of Mr. *Osborne's* Friends make use of upon other Occasions: But such as, I hope, no *Briton* that has a Grain of Courage, Sense or Honesty, will think himself bound to acquiesce to. Should the *Dutch* prohibit our Cloth, as this Journeyman Scribler advises them, they themselves would be the first to find the Inconvenience of such a Prohibition; provided, as I have already said, that we could keep our Wool from them, and would resolve to be our own Carriers for the future. This, indeed, would considerably diminish the Revenue and yearly Profits of one of the *Protestant Powers* of *Europe*, but it would proportionably augment those of another *Protestant Power*, whose Welfare and Prosperity we

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we are infinitely more obliged to take care of. Here I may, reasonably too, ask, whether we ought to prefer the Interest of the *Dutch*, the Third of whom are *Papists*, and at least one Sixth of the other two Thirds *Jews*, before that of the People of *England* and *Scotland*, where we reckon three hundred *Protestants* to one *Roman Catholick*.

I must further observe, that we may easily perceive this Author's Drift, in expressing himself in the Present Tense, when he relates the threatening Part of what he pretends to have said to Lord *Sommers* four and twenty Years ago. The Lord and the Bishop are now both in their Graves, and he may make use of dead Mens Names without fear of Contradiction from them; tho' were one of them still alive, I should be as sorry to see the Fate of our woollen Manufacturers left to his Decision, as to find the Writer of the Letter in the *London Journal* made the Director of our Trade. For if the *Part*, which he pretends to have acted in this Affair, relating to the Complaint from the Clothing Counties of the West of *England*, be as he has represented it, it plainly demonstrates, that ever since he has been able to prate or scribble, his Tongue and his Pen have been constantly employed against the Interest of his Country, and the Industry of his Countrymen.

After straining all his Faculties in this wicked Work, he grows insolent in the Conceit of his Success, and challenges me to "mark out where the *Dutch* treat *British* Subjects upon a worse Foot, than they do those of other Nations." Now, Gentlemen, I must appeal to your Impartiality, and hope you will allow my Letter to Mr. *Fog* to witness for me, that I have neither said nor insinuated any such Thing; as I have not, this Challenge then is as knavish as it is artful.

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artful. It is knavish, in as much as it is designed to lull *Englishmen* asleep to their own Interest, but to keep them broad awake to his boasted Friendship, Justice, and *bonne Foy* of the *Dutch*; it is artful in Regard to the Place in which it is made; and the whole Letter seems contrived as a Sort of *Noli prosequi* for the Trade of *Holland*, and a *Dead Warrant* for the Industry of an *Englishman*. Wherefore, since he has mentioned this Matter in so peremptory and so blustering a Manner, I must call upon him, in my Turn, to mark out to his Country, in what particular Article *Englishmen* are better treated by the *Dutch*, than the Subjects of other Nations are: If they are not; where then is the Need of all this Noise about the Friendship and Kindness of *Holland* to us?

People of all Languages, Religions and Countries are welcome in *Holland* for their Money, and to trade and work here too, if they please; but the surest Way to be well-used is to make themselves *Burghers*, and become Subjects to the *States*: They are then *Dutchmen* and no longer *Foreigners*. But tho' several *Englishmen* have done so, they still find a Distinction made between them and the Natives, which is much more sensibly perceived and felt than easily expressed. This Distinction, indeed, regards the *Episcopal English* here much more than it does the *Presbyterians*; which I shall demonstrate to you. The latter have Churches at *Dort*, *Leyden*, *Amsterdam*, *Rotterdam*, *the Hague*, *Middleburg*, *Flushing*, *Campveer*, and *Utrecht*: All these Churches are supplied with *Presbyterian Ministers*, and some of them with two, and all paid by the *States*. This, perhaps, may be the Article which gave Mr. *Osborne's* Correspondent a Handle to advance, contrary to Truth and Justice, that the *English* are the Nation most favour'd in *Holland*. The Church

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of *England* meets with no such Mark of Favour, but rather so much the contrary, that the *Episcopal English* in *Rotterdam* found Difficulty enough to get Leave to hang up a small tinkling Bell to their Church, even while we were conquering Towns in *Flanders* for the Dutch.

As to our Church here, in *Amsterdam*, it had formerly been a *Romish* Chapel, and is no more at present than a large Garret or upper Pack-House handsomely fitted up to perform divine Service in: But I do not say this is the Fault of the Dutch, tho' I have been assured, upon enquiring why we had not a better Church here, that the Magistrates would hardly permit us to build one, were we able or willing to do so. Our Ministers are but two, that I know of, in all *Holland*; tho' the States maintain four *Presbyterian* ones, viz. two *English* and two *Scotch* in *Rotterdam* alone; ours are paid partly by the Government in *Britain*, and partly by their Congregations here: They receive no Stipend or Bounty from the States, nor was any ever offer'd to them: So that I don't see wherein the Church of *England* is more favour'd in *Holland*, than the *Jews* or *Infidels*, and perhaps I should not be in the Wrong, if I said they are not as much favour'd; but I will affirm that they are not, in any respect, upon a better Footing than the ¹ *French Roman Catholicks* here. As to the *French Hugonots*, their Ministers are also

¹ The *Reformed*, or those who follow *Calvin's* Doctrine and Liturgy, are computed to be one Third of the Inhabitants of *Holland*. The *Roman Catholicks*, who enjoy all the Rights, Liberties and Privileges which the *Calvinists* do, except Employments in the Magistracy, are reckoned another Third; but tho' they are incapable of Civil Employments, they may exercise any Post or Command in the Army under that of *Velt-Marechal*. The *Lutherans*, *Anabaptists*, and other Sects of Christians, make up, with the *Jews*, the other Third of the People.

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also paid by the States; and in this Case they are as much favour'd as the *British Presbyterians*, and much more so in several other Respects, as being entirely conformable to the Liturgy of *Calvin*, which the others are not. The *Lutherans* have also their Churches here, and the *Jews* their Synagogues: That belonging to the *Portuguese Jews* is a most sumptuous Pile; and the new *Lutheran Church* is a Masterpiece of Architecture, with one of the finest Domes in *Europe*. In short, Gentlemen, if we may judge by Appearances, almost every Nation makes a better Figure here than we do; and, as I said before, is more looked upon than we are. Strangers that have spent some Time in *Holland*, if they have been Men of any Observation, cannot but have remarked a certain Sort of Surliness and Aversion in the Dutch towards the *English* in general: Wherefore, if my Adversary thinks fit to bestow any more of his Compliments upon me for the future, I hope he will not forget those Articles in which we are the Nation most favour'd; and when he shews that *Englishmen* are more favour'd in *Holland*, or even so much ¹ as the Dutch are in *England*, I promise to quit the Field to him. — But, in the mean Time, let us return to our Trade.

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¹ No Man living ever knew an *Englishman* Burgher Master of *Amsterdam*, *Rotterdam*, &c. Tho' some of them, according to my Antagonist's Confession, have lived in Splendor and Plenty here, and have had Fortunes to entitle them to and become those Posts. But several young Men, even very young Men, may remember to have seen *Dutchmen*, *Holland Dutchmen*, Lord Mayors of *London* and *Dublin*. Nay let Mr. *Osborne's* Friend shew, if he can, that the *English* in *Holland* are admitted into the Magistracy at all, tho' they make themselves Burghers; let him shew also how many of them have Commissions in the Train-Bands. The Dutch let no *Foreigners* into their Magistracy, tho' naturalized; and perhaps we should do well in imitating them.

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We are far from thinking *England* obliged to the *Dutch*, as *Osborne's* Intelligencer insinuates, for taking her Callicoos, Chints, Muslins, and other *India* Goods, at a Duty of four or five *per Cent.* and our Coffee and Pepper at five *per Cent.* because they themselves were always the greatest Purchasers at the Sales of the *Ostend* Company; consequently *India* Goods found as free Admittance from *Flanders* as they did from *England*, and perhaps at a lower Duty, if the Truth were known; and this too at a Time when the *Dutch* themselves made so loud an Outcry against that Company. If this great Inventor in Trade, to borrow one of his own Epithets from him, was ignorant of a Circumstance so well known to all the World besides, it is another Proof that he did not write his Letter in *Amsterdam*; but if he purposely designed taking Notice of it, because he knew it would make directly against his Design to impose upon *Britons* and serve the Interest of *Holland*, he is an impudent Knave for his Pains; and while such impudent Knaves either receive Encouragement or escape with Impunity, *Britain* must expect to see them multiply upon her every Day, until she falls, at last, into their Snares, thro' her own Indolence and Injustice to herself in not punishing them in Time.

Now, that I have been insensibly led to speak of the *Ostend* Affair, I shall let you into what I believe has been hitherto a Secret to most People in *Britain*, tho' I am persuaded, nay am pretty certain, that it is not so to some of Mr. *Osborne's* Friends.

When the *Flemings* began to Trade to *India* and *China*, and the *English* and *Dutch* to make a Noise at them for doing so, a certain Ministry offer'd to drop that Trade entirely, for a Sum of about seventy five thousand Crowns; which I believe

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believe is not the Fortieth Part of what *England* has sent to *Hesse-Cassel*, not to mention *Secret Services* and *Subsidies* to other Princes in order to strengthen it self against the Treaty of *Vienna*. If this seems a little strange to some Ears, and if I am publickly called upon by my Country to do so, I shall give an Account *bona fide* how I came to the Knowledge of it. — But I leave this Digression to pursue my Argument, and say, that if the *Dutch* admit our *India* Goods, they know what Markets to send them to, and how to make that Profit of them which I hope we shall do ourselves, when our Minister having settled the Affairs of State, may find a little more Leisure to look after those of Trade; we owe no Obligations to *Holland* upon that Account, nor is it any Mark of Distinction or Favour to us.

After thus letting us know, how much he thinks we are obliged to the *Dutch* for taking our *India* Goods, he tells us, by way of Aggravation, of the ungrateful Returns we make them, “ that *England* lays a Duty of near 50 *per Cent.* upon “ their Nutmegs, Cinnamon, and Cloves;” like his Brother Moth, the declared Enemy of our woollen Manufactures, he will never leave fluttering about the Blaze 'till he burns his Wings. Does this prating Fellow believe *Fifty per Cent.* Duty upon *Dutch* Spices to be any Sort of Equivalent for the Loss of our Part of the Island of *Amboina*, when the *Dutch* seized upon our *Factories* there, murder'd our Countrymen, and thrust us entirely out of the Spice Trade, in a Time of Friendship and Alliance with us? The Length of Time has not yet effaced the Monuments of that inhuman bloody Action out of our Records, tho' our domestick Confusions and Misfortunes that followed it, for so long a Series of Years, have hitherto retarded our Resentments: And it is highly impolitick

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impolitick in this thick-skul'd Statesman, to put us in Mind of a Cruelty, which has never been surpass'd, and hardly ever equal'd, by Infidels, and an Insult and Plunder which no Nation could, in Honour, forgive. *The Dutchified Party in England* have formerly used all possible Means to divert us from thinking of the Consequence which the Loss of *Amboina* is to us; but now an Advocate for the *Dutch*, providentially blunders out an Argument which cannot but bring it fresh to our View. Wherefore, as very few *Britons* have a just Idea of that Loss, I shall venture to give you a short Account of *Amboina* itself: For tho' I am perswaded, Gentlemen, that several of you are much better acquainted with that Island than I am, yet I make the Digression for the Sake of the Publick: Upon that Account I hope it will be looked upon to be a very necessary, and a very proper one in this Place.

Amboina is the first and best of the eight great Governments under the *Dutch Governour General* in the *East-Indies*, and commands ten other neighbouring Islands, viz. *Boero, Amblan, Manipa, Kelang, Bonoa, Ceram, Ceram-Laoet, Noessa-Laoet, Honimoo* or *Liaffe*, and *Boang-Besior Omo*. Of these eleven Islands; four, viz. *Amboina, Oma, Honimoo*, and *Noessa-Laoet*, produce all those Cloves with which the *Dutch* furnish the whole Universe, and of our Share of which we have been deprived, since the Massacre of our Countrymen and the Destruction of our Factories there by the *Hollanders*. Consider then, Gentlemen, what an Article our Share of the Trade of those Islands, which produce other Spices besides Cloves, would make in our Commerce; and how immense a Treasure we have been yearly robb'd of, since the *Dutch* unjustly and violently engross'd the Spices to themselves. But as we are now free from those domestick

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domestick Confusions, and that Weakness in several of our Ministers, and Knavery in others, which some of our Neighbours have never failed to make their Advantage of, may we not reasonably expect Satisfaction to be made us? May we not encourage our selves with Hopes suitable to the Duty and Obligation our Minister is under to see Justice done to his Country?

The Town of *Amboina* consists of about ten or eleven principal Streets, is about half a * *Dutch League* in Circuit, and the Inhabitants of those Islands amount to about fourscore thousand. I could enlarge upon this Subject, but defer it until I treat of the *Dutch Settlements* in the *East-Indies*; and this I propose to do in another Letter, which I shall also have the Honour to address to you.

In the mean time, when we consider the Conduct of the *Dutch*, and compare it with *that* of some other People, we need not be astonished at their prodigious Encrease of Riches and Power since they took up Arms against their Sovereign. They are, perhaps, the only Nation in *Europe* that has thriven by Rebellion; because they have not only left nothing undone on their Part, ever since, to raise their Republick to the utmost Pitch of Grandeur, but have, in all Times, and upon all Occasions, found *Englishmen* enough to assist them, without the least Regard either to the Honour, the Interest, or even the Safety, of their own Country; and one of this Character, I think it is pretty plain my Antagonist declares himself to be, by the Rage he is in at the Hints I have given to *Great Britain*.

In his Fury he obliquely threatens *Englishmen*, that the *Dutch* will put an Act of Navigation in Execution

* A *Dutch League* is four Mile, at 15 Leagues to a Degree.

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cution against their Ships, and as knavishly seems to advise them to do so, if we should look too narrowly into the Condition of our Trade. It is he then that is the *Incendiary* in acting thus, as well as a *LYAR* in saying that I pretend “ that the *Dutch* ought to let their own Ships lie by their Walls and rot there, that ours may become their Carriers,” &c. Hitherto, I have said nothing like it, but, now, will say that I had much rather see the *Dutch* Ships rot in that Manner than our own, and the Dyers, Packers, and Pressers of *Leyden*, starve, as he terms it, than those of *Great Britain* famished in order to enrich them. Mr. *Osborne* ought to be proud of his Correspondent, and to honour him for the future with a double Portion of his Friendship, for being so exceedingly tender-hearted and careful of the *Dutch*, and so thorough a *Cannibal* to an *Englishman*.

The *Irish* grew so fast upon us in their woollen Manufactures, as it was then said, that our Parliament thought it necessary to put a Stop to the Exportation of them: The Act seem'd cruel, yet a better Way was not proposed: And, in this Step, *England* was not altogether as clear-sighted, at that Time, as she thought herself to be. The *Irish* Wool then found the Way to *Holland*; the *Dutch* Manufacturies have flourished ever since the passing of that Act, which, I think, was in King William's Time: Thousands of Protestant Families have been beggar'd in *Ireland* by it; and Multitudes of *Dutch* Papists enriched at *Leyden* and other Cities here. Now, Gentlemen, if the Law of Nature and Self-preservation obliged the *English* to bear a little hard upon their Fellow Subjects in *Ireland*, who, it was said, began to undersell them in foreign Markets; must this Man's audacious Sophistry prevail upon them to slacken, in

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Complaisance to the *Dutch*, that Care of themselves which they so rigorously exerted against the *Irish*? Or does *Osborne*, or his Oracle, think, that a British Parliament is to be always tongue-padded into the Approbation of Practices, which so evidently contribute to the impoverishing of our Protestant Manufacturers in *England*, and the enriching of the Roman Catholick ones in *Holland*? Practices which also as visibly tend to the Destruction of our Naval Affairs!

But, Gentlemen, I don't pretend by this that we should be the sole Manufacturers of Wool in *Europe*, or become altogether Carriers for the *Dutch*; the first is not possible, and the latter would be absolutely beneath us, if the *Dutch* had any thing of their own Product to carry. All that I humbly propose to *Great Britain*, is to do by the *Dutch*, as the *Dutch* do by all the World; which is, to keep as much of our Trade from them, as we can manage our selves; and to put all the Faculties of our Bodies and Minds immediately to Work to do so: When we have so many Ships and Sailors unemployed, and so many Shipwrights, Rope-makers, Anchor-smiths and other Tradesmen concern'd about Shipping, now in Want of Bread, I think it is as much the Duty of every *Englishman* to speak, that can speak, as it little becomes *Those* who call themselves so, to rail at and abuse him for so honest a Service. If our Manufacturers are perishing for want of Work, must the Causes of their Misfortunes not be examined into? Must our Artificers and Tradesmen remain unrelieved, because the Relief of them may offend the *Dutch*? If *Holland* gets our Wool, as I say it does, and insist upon it, is it any Satisfaction to us, that this chattering Jackanapes, “ never heard of a *Dutchman* taken, or so much “ as suspected, for running of Wool?” This shews

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upon what Anvil this Letter was hammer'd ; and is one of those unintelligible Strains, with which a certain Click of Writers endeavour to puzzle their Readers, when they know that Matter of Fact is against them, and find they cannot answer the Arguments of their Adversaries.

As to his next Paragraph, whatever the Consumption of our woollen Manufactures may have formerly been in *Holland*, it is not so at present ; the *Dutch* make use of their own, and the Distress and Poverty of Thousands of our Manufacturers at home, but too visibly prove the Decay of that important Branch of our Trade. The *Dutch* attack every Thing in the woollen Manufactures, in which they succeed to a Miracle, as well as they have done in the Silk. This is obvious to every Man that has any tolerable Knowledge of *Holland*, and if this Author has lived here of late Years, as he pretends he does at present, he cannot but have observed it.

To take him methodically, I must now answer for my Skill in Geography and Books of Rates, which I did not think there was any great Necessity of making a Parade of in my former Letter, since I only attempted to write for the Benefit of my Countrymen, and not through any Vanity to shew my Talents, nor with any Hopes to recommend myself to Preferment. However, I shall now enter so far into my own Praise as to tell him, that he shall find I have Skill enough in both, either for him or his Friends, whether *Dutch* or *English*, when I am pushed to exert it. If I said, in general Terms, that we might be the Carriers of our own Manufactures to the same Markets where the *Dutch* now carry them, so much to their own Profit and our Loss, I presume that those on the *Rhine*, *Main*, *upper Danube*, *Lorraine* and *Switzerland*, when compared to the
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rest of the Globe, will be looked upon by all impartial Men, as a poor chicaning Objection to the Truth of what I asserted : And, even to those Markets too, I can, and will, shew in Time, how to send our Manufactures without asking Leave from the *Dutch* ; as he shall see, perhaps, when he least thinks of it.

As to *Curaço* it is but a small Island ; and *Surinam*, tho' on the Continent, does not contain above seven or eight thousand Families : They are both *Dutch* Colonies, and no honest Writer in his Senses could understand them to be meant by me in the Markets I intended, any more than the *Seven Provinces* themselves, or the Countries and Towns that depend on them. By this, he shews his Weakness and Disingenuity in arguing, as well as his Malice and Injustice in saying, " my Business is to clamour, do Mischief, and incense the People against the Government, and neither to tell Truth nor improve our Trade." But notwithstanding this Accusation, my Business is, and ever shall be, what it appears very plain by his Letter his is not, nor ever was, and I am very sure never will be : It is to tell Truth, to improve our Trade as far as my Abilities permit me, to serve my King, and devote my Life to the Interest of my Country : With these Views I writ my Letter, and with the same Views I resolve to continue to speak and write, as often as I find Occasion or Necessity to do so, without standing in Dread of any such unmannerly, menacing Scribbler, or of any Foreigners that may possibly set him to Work, how powerful soever they may be, or how provoked or enraged at the Truths I shall tell, or at what I shall propose to *Great Britain*. Whilst I do not displease the King, in doing so, I have nothing to fear ; and I most humbly hope that his Majesty never will be offended at such
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Things, as are dutifully designed for the Advantage of his Subjects, the Safety of his Family, and the Honour of his Reign.

It is the Happiness, as well as the Glory, of *Great Britain* to have, in the Person of his present Majesty, a Father to protect her, as well as a King to reign over her; a King who is equally the Ornament of the Crown he wears, and the Delight of the People he governs: His People are able to preserve him, and will do so upon Occasion, against any crooked, double-meaning Schemes that may be contrived to his Disadvantage, as well as the Ruin of the Nation. His Majesty, Thanks be to God! is not a *Dutchman*, nor is he so precariously seated upon the British Throne as to be obliged to purchase the Friendship of *Holland*, upon such Terms as may be injurious to his People, and destructive to their Trade. He has also a Ministry in whom he has a fixed, settled Confidence; they do their utmost to deserve that Confidence; and I hope they will do no less to acquire the Esteem and Approbation of their Country, by taking that due and honest Care of her Interest which she expects from them. Those Gentlemen know, that nothing can alienate the Affections of the People from his Majesty more than bad Advice to him, and the Success of such Incendiaries, and his Abettors, as now attack me.

Tho' it was also with an honest Intention, but, I must confess, with some Resentment for the Injury done to my Country, that I mentioned the *Placarts* published by the *Dutch* for engrossing the *Herring Fishery* entirely into their own Hands, yet Mr. *Osborne's* Friend resolved to give our *Fishery* no more Quarter than he had done our woollen Manufactory: Every thing is righteous and just, in his Opinion, that the *Dutch* do, and every thing I say, is Clamour, and a Design to do Mischief.

Mischief. But, when our Ministers please to weigh those *Placarts* in the Scale of Justice, Reason, and Love to their Country, I venture to assure myself, that they will not only approve the Mention I made of them, but also think that I mentioned them in a very proper Time. Tho' those *Herrings* are ours, by all the Laws of Right and human Reason, he pleads as violently for the *Hollanders* in this Article, and with just as much Sense and Knowledge, as he does in others. If he had his *Will* every thing should be theirs; and *Britons* should have nothing left to call their own, but Dependence upon *Holland*: But, curst Cows have short Horns. — Here he finds himself at a Plunge again, and has Recourse to his old Shift of puzzling his Readers; but he is not the only Writer, as I have already observed, that practises this *Legerdemain* with great Success. Such Men, without the least Sense of Shame or Remorse of Conscience, prostitute themselves to the base and horrible Drudgery of endeavouring to plunder their Countrymen of that good Sense, and debauch that Understanding, which is so necessary for the Preservation of their Rights and Liberties: They strive to pass their Forgeries and intricate Cavils, for the most serious Truths, and the most demonstrable Arguments: And, what is ungenerous beyond Expression, they endeavour, by all sorts of Artifices, to impose upon the Credulity of those who are most disposed to believe them, and most biassed in their Favour, thro' an Opinion that no Man can be harden'd enough in Villainy to attempt the Ruin of his Country. Whether my Antagonist is one of these Writers, let his famous Epistle to *Osborne* speak for him. He says, I set down “ as a Novelty, their (the *Dutch*) “ Prohibitions of exporting, or selling, to any “ Foreigners, Vessels, Nets, Casks, or other Ma-
“ terials

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“ terials for fishing of *Herrings*; Prohibitions as
 “ old as their Fishings: And is that an Argument,
 “ (crys he) *why we should not fish Herrings, build*
 “ *Buffes, and weave Nets?* Do not the *Scots* some
 “ Years export 300 Lafts of *Herrings*? And,
 “ cannot they with the Assistance of a little *En-*
 “ *glish* Money build Buffes, as they have begun
 “ to do, and carry on that *Fishing* to a greater
 “ Extent and Perfection?”

Gentlemen, was there ever Impudence like this? If you understand this *Chaos* of Words, I protest I do not, farther than as a downright Bamboozle, and a plain Demonstration that he had nothing better to offer, either against the Mention I made of those *Placarts*, or in Defence of the Proceedings of the *Dutch*. As he is an *Englishman*, what, in the Name of God! can he mean by these Words, “ *and is that an Argument why we should not fish Herrings, build Buffes, and weave Nets?*” Did I mention the *Placarts* to draw any such Argument from them? Or, did I not mention them with just a contrary View? But Knave and Fool are so chequer'd in this Fellow, that, in some Places, it is impossible to read him without as much Mirth as Repentment; tho' I must allow, we have but very little Reason to laugh, *while we see our Herring Fishery in the Hands of the Dutch*.

I am sensible that the Circumstances of our Affairs have sometimes obliged us to be passive under Injuries and Insults, which neither our Honour nor our Interest would have suffered us to let pass without Chastisement, at another Time. But since several Pamphlets published of late, and at which our Ministers seem no Way offended, have given an Account of the flourishing Condition of our Credit, and the Abundance of Wealth in the Kingdom, I hope there are no further *secret Reasons*, why the *Dutch* must continue to run away with

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with our *Fishery*; and three hundred Laft of *Herrings*, which, he says, the *Scots* have exported some Years, be lugg'd in as an Object sufficient by the Considerableness of it, to divert our Attention from that immense Profit made by the *Dutch*, the greatest Part of which we might and ought to secure to ourselves. If their *Prohibitions* are as old as their *Fishings*, it only proves that their Endeavours to hinder us from making Use of our own, are as ancient as their Injustice in doing so, and our Weakness and Indolence in suffering it.

Mr. *Jamison*, of whom I shall give you a more particular Account immediately, says, in treating of the *Herring Fishery*, that, before the Establishment of their *India Company*, it was the most considerable Branch of the Trade of the *United Provinces*, and was therefore called the *Gold Mine of the Republick*; an Appellation which it still very well deserves. That at present it is called the *great Fishery* to distinguish it from the *Whale Fishery*, because the *Dutch* do not employ above two hundred and fifty Ships, from two to four hundred Tons each, in the latter; which, upon that Account, is called the *little Fishery*. That ingenious Gentleman further remarks, that it well deserves the Name of the *great Fishery*, inasmuch as it employs above twenty thousand Men, and is still one of the principal Branches of the Trade of the *Dutch*, who furnish the greatest Part of Europe with *Herrings*. He says likewise, p. 442. It is the common Opinion that the Inhabitants of these *Provinces* vend every Year upwards of three hundred thousand Ton of *Herrings*, which, at two hundred *Guilders* per Ton, produce sixty millions of * *Guilders*; out of this Sum he deducts about twenty three millions of *Guilders* to defray all Expences of Fishing, Salting, Barrelling, &c.

Now,

* A *Guilder* is 20 *Stuyvers*: A *Stuyver* is a *Dutch Penny*.

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Now, if this Account of Mr. Janiçon's be true, the *Dutch* clear about thirty seven millions of *Guilders*, or above three millions three hundred and sixty thousand Pounds Sterling every Year ^{our} Herrings: An Article which ought to open ^{our} Eyes and Ears of every Man in *Britain*, and to rouse up all that is *British* in us. It calls with open Mouth upon us for our utmost Attention; it reproaches us with the most infatuated Indolence, and the most shameful Neglect of our own Interest, that any Nation has ever been guilty of; and commands us to employ all our Thoughts how to retrieve such a Treasure, by repairing our former Remifness.

We have no *one* Branch of Trade in *England* equal to it, as our Trade stands now, should it even fall short by one Half of what Mr. Janiçon makes it amount to, which I believe we shall not find it does, when we consult the great ¹ *De Wit*, who says that the *Fishing*, in his Time, subsisted four hundred and fifty thousand Persons; but it must be owned that he spoke of the *Fishery* in general, and of all Persons concern'd either in catching, curing or selling of *Fish*, or making Materials for *Fishing*. ² *Emanuel van Meteren* also says, that in the Year 1601, the *Dutch* sent fifteen hundred Busses to the *Herring Fishery*; and our own Countryman, the great Sir *Walter Raleigh*, assures us that in the Year 1609, the *Hollanders* employed three thousand Vessels in that *Fishery*, on the Coast of *England*.

If then Mr. *Osborne*, or the Worshipful Correspondent he has pick'd up, and whom he favour'd with his Friendship when in *Holland*, as the *Journal* ex-

¹ *Aan wifing der beifame politike Gronden en Maximen van de Republick van Holland. Cap. IX. Page 41.*

² *Historie der Nederlanden, Boek XXIII. fol. 446.*

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exprefses it, thinks that I have introduced as a Novelty the *Dutch Placarts* relating to the *Herring Fishery*, he is miserably mistaken; I was no more a Stranger to the Antiquity of them, than I am to the Damage we sustain by permitting the *Dutch* to continue Masters of that never to be sufficiently valued Article of Trade, which God and Nature designed for us, if we have but either the Courage or the Honesty to design it for ourselves.

How long we have given Attention to the *Herring Fishery* I cannot justly say, but the *Flemmings* knew the Value of it long before the *Dutch*. It flourished in *Flanders*, but thro' the Neglect of our Ancestors, from the Time of one *William Benkelfz*, whom some People call *Biervliet* from a Town in *Flanders* on the Banks of the *Scheld* where he was born. This *Benkelfz*, who was but a simple *Fisherman*, taught his Townsmen, in the fifteenth Century, to salt and barrel up *Herrings*, by which they immediately grew rich and flourishing. Other Towns in *Flanders* followed their Example, with equal Success; and it was from the *Flemmings* that the *Dutch* learn'd *what*, by their Address and Management, joined to our Supineness and Infatuation, has since made them so great and powerful.

Benkelfz dyed in the Year 1497; and the Emperor *Charles* the Fifth coming to *Biervliet*, in 1556, order'd a Monument to be erected over him, to perpetuate the Memory of a Man that had render'd so great a Service to his Country. This Action in the Emperor was, in my humble Opinion, one of the most glorious of his Reign; and the Honour done to a mean private Person in his Grave, for having been serviceable to the Publick, ought to stir up the Emulation of every *Briton* to do as much for the Place of his Nativity; especially

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cially, since he cannot doubt the Approbation and hearty Concurrence and Protection of a Sovereign who possesses, in the supremest Degree, all the good Qualities either to be found or wished for in a King.

As to the *Placarts* which the *States General* have published concerning the *Whale Fishery*, I knew them as well as those relating to the *Herring Fishery*; tho' I declined crouding my Letter with them, because I looked upon the *Whale Fishery* to be but a very inconsiderable Branch, in regard to other Articles of our Trade, in which our so much careffed Allies find a much better Account than we do. But since this heavy-armed Champion for *Holland* has brought those *Placarts* into the Lists, and made them part of his Coat of Mail, I find I must be obliged to strip him to his Doublet.

In the *Placart* published by the *States General* the 19th of *March*, 1661, the *Dutch* are forbid to hire their Ships to Foreigners, or to sell them Chaloops or Boats, Barrels, Sails, Harping-Irons, or any other Materials or Instruments necessary in *Whale Fishing*. This *Placart* was renewed in the Year 1663, and confirm'd by another of the 5th of *April*, 1669. And to encourage that Trade still farther, their *Highbightinesses* published another *Placart* the 9th of *April*, 1675, exempting all those concern'd in the *Whale Fishery* from the Payment of the 2 per Cent. Entry, and doubling that Duty at the same time upon the Blubber, Whalebone, and Oil, imported in Foreign Bottoms. This last *Placart* made the *Whale Fishery* flourish to such a Degree, that when our *South-Sea Company* undertook a *Fishery* at *Greenland*, the *Dutch*, I don't say the *States*, lost all Patience; they huff'd and bluster'd as if they were the only Lords of the Ocean, and no other Nation had a
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Right to fish in it but themselves. They began to reckon up *how often they had beat the English at Sea, as well as the French, and even both together*; and a Print, which, by the Drapery of it, I suppose had been made in King *Charles* the Second's Time, was shewn upon that Occasion, with a great deal of low Wit and impertinent Mirth, in an Ordinary where I once happen'd to dine. For the Modesty of that Piece, and the Good Nature of our Friends, I shall describe it, as it now dwells upon my Memory.

The *English Channel* is there represented, and our Fleet beaten by the *Dutch*; some of our Ships in Flames, others sinking, and a few saving themselves by Flight. On the Shore stands an overgrown gigantic *Dutchman*, with a lusty Broom on his Shoulder, and a great *Dutch Knife* in his Hand: Before him are the *English Admirals* on their Knees; one of whom, I suppose, denotes the late King *James* when Duke of *York*: They are in the most abject suppliant Posture: They hold their naked Swords by the Points, and, with low Humility and a beseeching Air, present the Hilts to this High and Mighty Lord of the *English Channel*. That nothing might be wanting to render this Insult over the *English Nation* entirely compleat, and shew us what our dear Friends *would* if they *could*, the Scene closes with this Compliment, as well as I can remember the Orthography, 't *Canal uijt Cannail!* But, This, in modest *English*, signifies no more than *Out of the Channel, Scoundrels!* I make no further Remark upon so extraordinary a Compliment, than to hope, Gentlemen, that no true *Briton* will ever forget it.

This good Disposition in the *Dutch* towards us seemed to revive and spread itself again, upon the *South-Sea Company's* talking of a *Whale Fishery*; and the *Ridder van Foris* was oftener named,

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upon that Occasion, in *Holland*, than I believe he had been in thirty Years before: Had the *Chevalier's* Agents at that Time been Men of tolerable Parts, they might, perhaps, have improved this Humour to their Master's Advantage: But, that Prince, like his Father, has had the Misfortune to be often served either by Knaves or Fools. To what Lengths this Disposition in the *Dutch* might have been pushed, I cannot say; but being, another Time, in a Coffee-House, I over-heard a faucy Fellow, who would have made another excellent Correspondent for Mr. *Osborne*, say, as he was puffing out his Malice and Tobacco, in a Circle of *Dutch Greenlanders*, " We have sent the *English* one King already, and they will not be at rest with their Projects until they force us to send them another." Do we then owe any Thanks to the *Dutch*, or the Mercenaries they may possibly have in *England*, that their *Placarts*, (to repeat more Words out of the *Journal*,) have not " been any Impediment to the *South-Sea Company* in setting that *Fisbery* on Foot?" He need not tell us that the *Company* is much to be commended for doing so; for we may very well presume, from what has been said before, that the *Letter-Writer* speaks here with the wrong Side of his Mouth; as well as when he says, " let the Success be what it will, in that they shew this Nation," (pray mark the Blunderer that dates his Letter from *Amsterdam*,) " the Method of going rightly about a Business, which, if once brought to Perfection, must needs be attended with vast Advantages." The Words

¹ The Methods which the *Dutch* take to make their *Whale-Fisbery* turn to Account, cannot fail of Success. As the greatest Number of the *Greenland* Traders are also Tradesmen and Artificers, such as, Ship-wrights, Sail-makers, Rope-makers, Anchor-smiths,

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if once brought to Perfection were well put in; and I now tell him, that if we once begin to go rightly about our *Herring Fisbery*, (but not by a Company,) to which, I hope, the Justice of our Ministers, and the Affection they ought to bear to their Country, will give us a noble Example, honourable and advantageous Alliances obviously point themselves out for this Purpose, and will soon bring it to Perfection.

I have already partly answer'd what my Adversary says in his next Paragraph, and it may be further demonstrated from his own Words, that our woollen Manufactures, since he obliges me to speak of them again, are now, except our Whites, become a mere Drug here. For if, as he says, the *Dutch* order them over from *England* upon their own Account, when they have Occasion for them, we need no further Demonstration to convince us, that our Manufacturers have now no other Way left of sending them with any Prospect of Advantage; and such as venture to bring them to the *Dutch* Ports upon their own Risque, will always come short of their Expectations. Of this so many have had the melancholy Experience, that I am
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smiths, Black-smiths, Brewers, Butchers, Bakers, &c. they form several little Societies among themselves, and have Shares in two, three, or four Ships, more or less, in which there may be also an eminent Merchant and Shop-keeper or two concerned. By this Means they are not charged with Salaries to a Croud of *Directors*, nor subject to their arbitrary Dividends. They build, rig, equip, and victual out their Ships at the best Hand, with this additional Advantage, that all the Expences they are at are always laid out among themselves. Every Society has a *Book-Keeper* to take Care of their *Fisbery* Affairs, &c. At the Return of the Ships, he makes out every Man's Account according to the Share he has in them: By this Method no body can be wronged, because they have no *Directors* to stand bare-headed to, and worship; and a great deal of Business is done with a very little Noise. *Britain* may consider this Method if it pleases.

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astonished that no publick-spirited Man among the Losers, has yet had Courage enough to contradict this impudent Publisher of such notorious Falshoods. The *Dutch*, he says, are satisfied with a small Profit, because they can borrow Money at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. whereas we must have a larger Profit, because we must give 5 per Cent. for Money; but he immediately tells us again, that our Ministers have reduced the Interest of Money to three or four per Cent. If so, *Englishmen* need not, or at least ought not, to give five per Cent. for it. In short, there is no Possibility of understanding this Man. Answer me he knew he could not; and yet no Answer at all might, perhaps, have lost him a P-----n. His Business then was to fly to his old Refuge of Nonsense, Scurrility, and false Facts, of all which he has a large Magazine upon such important Occasions.

Even the Notice I gave my Country of the villainous Practices of diminishing the Value of her Coin, could not escape Reproach from this righteous Writer, because, perhaps, he and his Confederates find their Account in it; thus every thing must be construed into a Crime, that tends to prevent our Neighbours from making a Property of us. It is well known that not a Shop-keeper in *Amsterdam* will take our Guineas without weighing them: Where one happens to be Weight, several of them are found light, which, I believe, he dares not assert they were when they came from the Mint; nor could they possibly lose so much of their Value, as they are frequently found to want, merely by Wearing in a Pocket. If the Directors of the *Bank of England*, and the Goldsmiths of *London*, have not hitherto detected the Fraud, as he says they would have done had it ever been practised, they may have had Reasons for their Conduct, which I have nothing to do

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do with; but, what is more probable, I believe they spent their Time more advantageously than in making Essays upon Guineas. Whether they did or not, my Assertion is not destroyed, in the least, by the Occupations in which they have employed themselves, which, perhaps, may have been prudent enough, in the Light they consider'd them. *France* has very often, and very wisely, forbid the bringing back such of her current Coin as had gone out of the Kingdom, because it is frequently counterfeited and abused in *Holland* and *Geneva*: And tho' *England* has not such Reason as *France* has for this Method, because of the Profit which the latter makes by the Mint; yet I believe something like it would turn to her Advantage in the present Case.

What he advances next, sets his great Abilities, Ingenuity and Candour, in a very proper Light for *Britons* to look on them; for which Reason I shall give him a particular Attention. He says, "and if this Author, (meaning me,) has seen "*English* Silver and Gold Specie in *Holland*, I "can recommend him where he may see as much "that went out of *Holland*, of no less intrinsick "Value." But, Gentlemen, how unfair and evasive is this! I ask him, if it is *Dutch* Money he can shew me? Surely he will not say it is, tho' he has Assurance enough to say any Thing that may serve to impose upon his Country, if he thought it would pass without Detection. I know no *Holland* Coin that is worth carrying away except Gold Ducats, and even these too are so subject to the Discipline of the *Smouffes*, or *German Jews* here, that a Man has Difficulty enough to change them even in a Publick House; if he does, he must lose a Stuyver or two, and often more, upon a Ducat: Without the Gates of *Amsterdam* he still loses more; but as to the Country People, they

they will hardly change them upon any Account. This Man must then mean *Spanish, German or French Silver*, such as Pieces of Eight, Ducatoons, old *French Crowns, &c.* which, if true, makes nothing to his Purpose. The Author of the *Importance of the Ostend Company consider'd* says, as I have already observed in my former Letter, that the Balance of our Trade with *Holland* is every Year ¹ 1,300,000 Pounds Sterling in our Favour; our *Wiseacre*, then, might have known that this Sum ought to go yearly from hence to *England*, either in Coin, in Bars of Gold, or in Ingots of Silver; a Thing which neither he, nor all the Men upon the Face of the Earth, will ever be able to prove, as *Balance of Trade*, while Trade continues upon the Footing it does. He might

¹ If the Balance of our Trade with *Holland* be 1,300,000 Pounds Sterling a Year in our Favour, what becomes of that Money? Why has the Exchange with *Holland* been so frequently against us? That Balance, with *That* of our Trade with *Portugal*, ought to double the Specie of the Nation in four Years. The last War was a *Drain* which drew away above 3,500,000 Pounds Sterling of our Specie yearly; but Trade brought in new Supplies, or we must have infallibly been out of Coin in four or five Years. As we have had near nineteen Years Peace; as we had no such *Call* upon us to drain us of our Cash as heretofore, when we were fighting to get *Spain* for the House of *Austria* and a *Barrier* for the *Dutch*, one would be apt to imagine that there ought to be at least between seventy and eighty Millions of Pounds Sterling in the Kingdom of *Great Britain*. To prove this Computation, we have no more to do than to see what Nations we gain from by Trade, to compute the yearly Balances as near as may be, to add those several Balances together, and then to deduct from the Total our annual Expence for our Troops abroad, for *Subsidies* to foreign Princes, *secret Services, &c.* and Losses by our Trade with other Nations; the Remainder ought then to be in the Kingdom: At least we ought to enquire where it is, or what is become of it.— But to put this Matter in a more familiar Method of being demonstrated:

Our

might also know, that if the Balance is in our Favour, very little of our Coin ought to come hither

Our *Foreign and Home* Expence for the Year 1711 stood as follows.

<i>Foreign Expence.</i>		<i>Home Expence</i>	
	l.		l.
40000 Land Forces in <i>Fland.</i>	919092	40000 Men for Sea Service	2.080000
Proportion of 3000 <i>Palatines</i>	34251	Ordinaries for the Navy	120000
4639 <i>Saxons</i>	43251	Guards and Garrisons	546,108
Baron <i>Bothmar's</i> Regiment	9269	Transport Service	144,000
Troops of Augmentation	220000	Civil List	700,000
10000 Additional Troops	177511	Interest of National Debts	2,700000
Ordnance for the Land Service	130000		
Forces in <i>Spain and Portugal</i>	1,500000	Home Expence An. 1711,	6,290,108
<i>Subsidies</i> to the <i>Allies</i>	478936	Foreign Expence ditto	3,512,310
Foreign Exp. An. 1711.	3,512,310	Home and Foreign Expence in Pounds Sterling Anno 1711,	9,802,418

But the *Foreign Expence* very much exceeded what it is stated at as above, and that Exceeding arose from the great Demand then made for Naval Stores for the Ships of War, the Expences made by Seamen when abroad, and the immense annual Losses by *Privateers, &c.* By all which the *Foreign Expence* must have amounted to above four Millions of Pounds Sterling per An. besides the large Sums annually paid to *Foreigners interested in our Funds and trading Companies.* Yet notwithstanding this *Foreign Expence* of above four Millions per An. exclusive of the *Interest of Money to Foreigners,* it is evident that we had then a continual Coinage of Gold, nor did Foreign Gold, during the Time of the last War, ever rise in its Value above Gold in our own Coin; a plain Demonstration, that the *Balance from Trade* did by much exceed the *foreign Expence of the last War.* Now if it is supposed, that our Gain from Trade has been the same since the Peace, that it was during the Time of the last War, and particularly as it stood in the Years 1709, 1710, 1711, and 1712; then it follows of Course that *Britain* must have added to her Capital Stock of *common Bullion* seventy six Millions of Pounds Sterling at least. But if, on the other Hand, it appears that the *Quantity of her Specie is rather lessen'd than encreased since the Death of Queen ANNE,* then it will as naturally follow, that either our annual Gain by Trade must be lessen'd in Proportion, or that our *Gold and Silver has been unfairly and clandestinely transported and carried away to foreign Countries.* This is most humbly submitted to the Consideration of our vigilant and able Minister.

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hither, but what Merchants, Traders and Travelers bring in their Pockets for their immediate necessary Expences, which never could possibly amount to the tenth Part of what we daily see rousing about here. Upon the whole, if this Man is a Merchant, he is, certainly, a very silly, ignorant one in the Nature of Trade, and a Disgrace to that worthy Profession; a Profession which, as it is one of the main Pillars, is one of the chief Ornaments of *Britain*: And, as such, I hope it will always meet with due Protection and Encouragement. I assure you, Gentlemen, that I could lengthen this Paragraph by enquiring a little into this pretended Balance of 1,300,000 Pounds Sterling a Year, which it is wildly, I fear I should rather say designedly, asserted we get by trading with the *Dutch*; but it is not yet Time to do so: When it is, I believe I shall demonstrate the Custom-House Books to be but very fallible Guides to lead us to so high a Computation. But should the Balance be really as the Author of the *Importance* says, the *Dutch* have a greater Advantage by it than we have; because the Goods they take from us they send to foreign Markets, where they make a much higher Profit upon them than we do by selling them to the *Dutch*, who also make another Profit by the Goods and Commodities they take in Exchange for them, to send away to other Markets; all this we might do ourselves without being *amused with the Notion of a Balance*, the Amount of which we might double, or perhaps treble, by putting our Trade upon a right Footing. I believe I could also shew the true Springs thro' which so much of our Coin flows into this Country, and the hopeful Errands our Sloops trading between *London* and *Rotterdam* are very often employed in. When foreign Coin or Bullion goes from *Holland* to *England*, upon some

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particular Occasions, it is sent and received in the most open and ostentatious Manner; then it probably passes as *Balance of Trade*, upon the unthinking Part of *Englishmen*: But when our Gold and Silver comes over here, to purchase that foreign *Specie*, it makes no Noise at all; *hush* is then the Word, and I shall say no more of it at present. Had I said no more of other Abuses, perhaps, I should have had fewer Compliments from Mr. *Osborne's* Friend.

Now, Gentlemen, I hope I have sufficiently proved the Assertions of my former Letter, and as fairly answer'd the Objections brought against them by Mr. *Osborne's* famous Correspondent, who, after scandalously straining his Talents, such as they are, and shewing the Weavers, Dyers, Packers, and Pressers, as well as the Merchants, Clothiers, Shipwrights, Sailors, &c. of *Great Britain*, how inveterate an Enemy he is to them, loudly calls for the Civil Arm to support his Insolence, and punish such honest *Englishmen* as discharge their Conscience and Duty to their King and Country. At the same Time that he threatens Mr. *Fog* for publishing, and Me for writing, necessary and demonstrable Truths, with the *Pillory* and other corporal Punishments as well as *Imprisonment for Life*, he makes use of such Arguments and Expressions himself, as would incline People, unacquainted with the Virtue and Patriotism of our Minister, to believe that this impudent, scurrilous Fellow is rewarded for writing as he does: Rewarded I suppose he is, *but I am firmly persuaded that it is not by our Minister*. Wherefore, as secure as he may think himself, *whether in the Protection of Foreigners, or foreignized Britons*, whose mercenary Drudge he seems proud of being, I trust in God that the Day will come, when our distressed Manufacturers, and other Tradesmen and Arti-

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ficers, may have the Satisfaction of seeing him amply recompens'd in another Manner, for the villainous Pains he has taken to starve them to Death.

To conclude, I here solemnly protest, that what I have said has not proceeded from any national Dislike to the *Dutch*, nor any Design or Desire to hurt them, when they do not hurt us. The World is wide enough, both for *Englishmen* and *Dutchmen*, to trade in, by a fair and honest Industry, without Circumvention, Surprise or Artifice; and all I am concern'd for at present is the Interest of *Britain*, in endeavouring to secure her from the Effects of these three Articles. Of all the Nations in *Europe*, the *Dutch* have the greatest Obligations to us, and consequently the least Reason, according to the Rules of Justice and Gratitude, to undermine or over-reach us in Commerce: When they do, I hope, that neither our Laws, nor our Ministry, will be partially brought in, to interpose in their Favour, to the Ruin of *Englishmen*; nor that it will ever be made a Crime, in a *Briton*, to endeavour to advance the Interest of his Fellow-Subjects, to encrease the Stock of the Nation, and to augment the Revenue of his Sovereign, *which nothing can do but a flourishing extensive Trade.*

At present we are under no Dread of a *Prosecution* for doing so, whatever Clamour and Outcry *Pensioners* and *foreignized Mercenaries* may make against us, because, I hope, our Minister will shew himself in this Case, to be an honest conscientious Man; he knows the Rights, the Liberties, the Expectations we are born to; he also knows what we may naturally expect from a Man that professes to study nothing but the Safety of the *Protestant Succession*, the Honour of the King, and the Happiness of his Country. Under

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der such a Minister, then, all is safe and sure as to the Article of offering our Complaints and Advice, if we either think the Nation injured from abroad, or believe it to be in Danger from underhand knavish Practices at home.

But should a ministerial Interposition ever happen hereafter to hinder us either from Speaking or Writing, in order to shew any Disadvantages which *Britain* may possibly labour under, and the wounding Injuries she may probably receive from the Practices of some of her Allies, we may immediately suspect such a popular Interposition to be the Result of *foreign Directions*, or, at least, of *foreign Presents*; we may be sure then *that the Care of the Publick is no longer the Business, or Design, of him who may take upon himself to direct our Affairs.* From that fatal Moment we must look upon our Liberty to be merely nominal; we must no longer call ourselves Freemen: Nor must we expect to see any more Advocates pleading for our Constitution or our Trade: Even our Sighs, then, against the Encroachments of our Allies, if loud enough to be heard, will immediately be explained into Insults and Affronts; and publick Punishments accordingly inflicted upon us, by Way of Satisfaction to those who injure and starve us. Our Trade then dies of Course; and the Nation inevitably dwindles into Poverty.

The Effects of Poverty are always dreadful every where, but most so in a Nation used to Victory, Magnificence, Plenty, and Liberty; in a Nation accustomed to relieve and support her distressed Neighbours and Allies: The best we can expect from it is Slavery at home and Dependence abroad. But, as I have said already, the Wisdom, Justice and Integrity of our present Ministers are sufficient to secure us from these terrible

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ble Events, or we can secure ourselves *if permitted the Liberty to do so*; The latter it would be Injustice in us to doubt of; and we have all the Reason in the World to hope for the former.

I have the Honour to be,

With great Esteem and Respect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most humble and

Most obedient Servant,

PEREGRINE ENGLISH.

POSTSCRIPT

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POSTSCRIPT.

GENTLEMEN,

I Promised to give you an Account of the Author I have quoted so often; and I have chosen to keep my Word by Way of *Postscript*.

Mr. *Janiçon* was born in *Holland*, or at least brought here very young. Among other Accomplishments he understands our Language and our History perfectly well: He has also studied our Laws, and our Constitution both in Church and State; and, by a long Residence in *England*, is thoroughly acquainted with our Interest, and our Customs: With these Qualifications, he is looked upon as one of the first-Rate Pens in *Europe*; but, nevertheless, some of his Writings gave such Offence to the *Jesuits*, that those great Statesmen found Credit enough with the *Protestant States of Utrecht*, to get him removed out of that City, where he was settled with his Family. Sometime after that Affair, he was made Agent at the *Hague* for the late Landgrave of *Hesse Cassel*, to whom he dedicated his *Etat present de la Republique des Provinces Unies, & des Païs qui en dependent*. This excellent Book is printed by *Jean van Duren* at the *Hague*, 1729. And the only Fault in it is the Author's unmanag'd Partiality for the *Dutch*. "Brought up," says he in his Dedication to the Landgrave, "in the Bosom of the wise Republick of the United Provinces, my constant Study and Delight has been to contemplate and, which is the same Thing, admire its Government. Attached, besides, by the Principles of Religion,

" to

“ to a *State*, which is become an *Azyle* to an
 “ innumerable Multitude of the Reformed, I
 “ did all that lay in my Power to come to
 “ the Knowledge of those Maxims which, in
 “ so short a Time, have raised this *Republick*
 “ to the Pitch of Glory in which we now be-
 “ hold it.”

If these Words are sufficient to convince you
 of his Zeal for the *Dutch*, his PREFACE, of which
 I shall also translate a few Lines as well as I can,
 will give you equal Satisfaction, as to the Care
 he took to be well-informed of the Subject he
 had in Hand.

“ But, as not one of those Authors,” (speak-
 ing of several whom he had consulted,) “ formed
 “ the same Plan that I have done, I found myself
 “ stopp’d at almost every Step; and I must own
 “ that I never could have succeeded in my Un-
 “ dertaking, if I had not had Recourse to some
 “ Persons, who, having themselves a perfect Know-
 “ ledge in this Affair, had also the Generosity to
 “ put me in the Way again, as often as I strayed
 “ out of it. I have not spoken of any College
 “ of the Generality, without consulting several
 “ Members of that College: I have followed the
 “ same Method, in the Description of the two
 “ *India Companies*: And, for what regards Trade
 “ in general, besides some Authors, and among
 “ them the Pensionary *De Wit*, out of whom I
 “ have placed the Quotations at the Foot of
 “ each Page, I have consulted several eminent
 “ Merchants upon every thing I have said. In the
 “ Description of each *Province* and *City*, I had
 “ the good Fortune to meet with Persons of great
 “ Experience and Knowledge, and even several
 “ Members of the Regency, who were ready to
 “ instruct and assist me. The Publick ought not
 “ then to be less grateful, than I am, to those
 generous

“ generous Persons, for the Lights they have been
 “ pleased to give me, upon this Occasion.

By this you see, Gentlemen, that I have quoted
 no ordinary Author; in the Account of whom I
 have been the more particular, because his Book
 has been highly approved by several of the fo-
 reign Ministers at the *Hague*, to whom I have the
 Honour to be known; and because I design to
 go thro’ all his Chapters on Trade, and add such
 Remarks as, I think, contribute to the Service of
 my Country.

Until then, I shall lengthen this Postscript
 with the Representation of the *English* Merchants
 at *Bruges*, relating to the *Barrier Treaty* concluded
 in 1709.

But, preparatory to that Representation, I must
 observe, that when our Laws, and our Monarchy
 itself, lay bleeding under Sacrilege, Rebellion and
 Usurpation, the so often boasted Supporters of
 the *Protestant* Religion clapt up the Peace of
Munster, in which they got several Articles in-
 serted, very disadvantageous to the Trade of *En-
 gland*; because *England* was, then, in the most
 deplorable Confusion and Distress, and in no Man-
 ner of Condition, either to oppose their Measures,
 or to help herself in any Respect. Their Beha-
 viour, of a much later Date, has not been any
 thing more friendly, nor even so excusable. Tho’
 in the two last Wars we lavished away our Blood,
 as well as the Money of the Nation, in conquer-
 ing Towns to enlarge their *Barrier* with, every
 Town we gained for them proved a Damage to
 our Trade, by the Restrictions they laid our Mer-
 chants under, and the Duty they put upon our
 Goods: As we extended their Dominions for them
 in the *Austrian Netherlands*, we prejudiced our
 Merchants abroad, and hurt our Manufacturers

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at home. By Virtue of the *Barrier Treaty*, concluded at the *Hague* in 1709, the *Dutch* put the *British* Subjects in *Flanders* upon a worse Footing, than they were in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second of *Spain*; and all Goods going to, or coming from *Ostend*, were made to pay the same Duties with those that pass by the *Scheld* under the *Dutch* Forts: This the *English* got by putting *Ostend* into their Hands. They also immediately took off eight *per Cent.* from all Goods they sent to the *Austrian Netherlands*, but left it still upon ours. In the Treaty of *Gertruydenberg*, they took care to settle every thing for their own Advantage in the Preliminaries, but whatever concerned the Interest of *Great Britain* was to be left to a general Treaty: We had no Tariff agreed on with *France*, but the *Dutch* took particular Care that the *Scheld* should remain shut up, because it ruins our Trade with *Antwerp*.¹ A Trade directly to *Antwerp* would be of great Advantage to *England*, which the *Hollanders* are so sensible of, that in all Treaties whatever, they have taken special Measures to exclude us from it: But, why we have so long and so tamely suffer'd this, is obvious to every Man of Sense; but I will not name it, because, I hope, we shall not suffer it much longer.

If the *Dutch* had been kept within the Limits of their own Provinces, which they might have been, without endangering the Liberties of *Europe*,

or

¹ *Antwerp* furnishes *Holland* with the finest Thread and Lace in the World, which the *Dutch* make a good Hand of, by sending them abroad to foreign Markets. In return, the *Dutch* send to *Antwerp* all sorts of Silks and Brocades, Stuffs, Broad-Cloths, and other woollen Manufactures, Indians and printed Linnens, Muslins, Spices, Druggs, Dying-Stuffs, Pot-Ash, Wines, Brandies, Salt, Herrings, Stock-Fish, Train-Oil, Sugars, Tobaccos, &c.

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or making any Difference in the Balance of Power, the *Scheld*, and several Places from which we are now excluded, had been open for us to trade to. Was it not, then, very odd, and might not all the World be justly surpris'd at it, that we should throw away our Treasure, run our Country in Debt, and open the Veins of some of the bravest of our Nobility and Gentry, to secure a Barrier for the *Dutch*, to enlarge their Trade, and, at the same Time, to prejudice and lessen our own? But, how strange soever this might seem to Foreigners, it proved to be directly our Case.

Had the Towns and Places, which the *Dutch* possess in *Flanders*, been given up to those to whom they naturally belonged, we should now have had an open Trade up the *Scheld*; our Allies would, nevertheless, have been still secure enough from any Danger from *France*, which, I am persuaded, is what they apprehend the least; tho' perhaps they might be a little more moderate in their Proceedings, and less ambitious in their Views. Ought we, then, by contributing for so many Years to enlarge the Territories of the *Dutch*, to be excluded from Trading to Places, which, without our Assistance, they could not possibly have now been in Possession of, nor can expect to keep, should we be oblig'd in Justice to our own Merchants, Tradesmen and Artificers, and for our future Security, to discontinue our Alliance with them? Let the most *Dutchified*, and the most unreasonable Man in *England*, lay his Hand upon his Conscience, if he has any, and answer this Question to the Advantage of *Holland*, if he can. The *Scheld* belongs to *Flanders*: *Antwerp*, tho' in *Brabant*, is seated on the Banks of it, but not in the Possession of the *Dutch*; strip them, then, of the Towns and Places they have on the *Flanders*

Side of that River, and the *Scheld* is open to us of Course: But, if they must be still continued in the Possession of those Towns, and some Forts on the River, let us oblige them, nevertheless, to give us a free, undisturbed, open Passage up the *Scheld* to *Antwerp*: Let not our Alliance with the *Dutch* continue so prejudicial to our Trade: Let us not continue to secure Frontiers and Barriers for them, so detrimental, and so injurious to our Merchants, while *Holland* seems so insensible of the Obligations it owes us, or, at least, returns them in such a Manner.----- But, Gentlemen, I shall not detain you any longer from the Representation itself.

The Representation of the English Merchants at Bruges, relating to the Barrier Treaty.

David White, and other Merchants, her Majesty's Subjects residing at *Bruges* and other Towns in *Flanders*, crave Leave humbly to represent:

“ That, whereas, the Cities of *Lisle*, *Tournay*,
 “ *Menin*, *Doway*, and other new Conquests in
 “ *Flanders* and *Artois*, taken from the *French*
 “ this War, by the united Forces of her Majesty
 “ and her Allies, are now become entirely under
 “ the Government of the *States General*; and,
 “ that we, her Majesty's Subjects, may be made
 “ liable to such Duties and Impositions on Trade,
 “ as the *States General* shall think fit to impose
 “ on us: We humbly hope and conceive, that
 “ it is her Majesty's Intention and Design, that
 “ the Trade of her Dominions and Subjects,
 “ which is carried on with these new Conquests,
 “ may be on an equal Foot with that of the
 “ Subjects and Dominions of the *States General*,
 “ and not be liable to any new Duty when
 transf-

“ transported from the *Spanish Netherlands* to the
 “ said new Conquests, as, to our great Surprise,
 “ is exacted from us on the following Goods, viz.
 “ *Butter*, *Tallow*, *Salmon*, *Hides*, *Beef*, and all
 “ other Product of her Majesty's Dominions, which
 “ we import at *Ostend*, and there pay the Duty
 “ of Entry to the King of *Spain*, and conse-
 “ quently ought not to be liable to any new
 “ Duty; when THEY carry the same Goods and
 “ all others from their Dominions, by a free Pass,
 “ or *Transire*, to the said new Conquests. And,
 “ we are under Apprehension, that if the said
 “ new Conquests be settled, or given entirely
 “ into the Possession of the *States General*, for
 “ their *Barrier*, (as we are made believe by
 “ a Treaty lately made by her Majesty's Am-
 “ bassadour at the *Hague*,) that the said *States*
 “ *General* may also soon declare all Goods and
 “ Merchandizes, which are contraband in their
 “ Provinces, to be also contraband and prohi-
 “ bited in these new Conquests, or new *Barrier*;
 “ by which her Majesty's Subjects will be de-
 “ prived of the Sale and Consumption of the
 “ following Products of her Majesty's Domini-
 “ ons, which are, and have long been, declared
 “ contraband in the United Provinces, such as,
 “ *English and Scotch Salt*, *Malt-Spirits* or *Corn-*
 “ *Brandy*, and other Sorts of distilled *English*
 “ *Spirits*, *Whale and Rape Oil*, &c. It is, there-
 “ fore, humbly conceived, that her Majesty, out
 “ of her great Care and gracious Concern for
 “ the Benefit of her Subjects and Dominions,
 “ may be pleased to direct, by a Treaty of Com-
 “ merce or some other Way, that their Trade
 “ may be put on an equal Foot, in all the *Spanish*
 “ *Netherlands*, and the new Conquests or *Barrier*,
 “ with the Subjects of *Holland*; by paying no
 other

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“ other Duty than that of Importation to the King
 “ of Spain, and by a Provision, that no Product
 “ of her Majesty's Dominions shall ever be de-
 “ clared contraband in these new Conquests; except
 “ such Goods as were esteem'd contraband before
 “ the Death of Charles the Second King of Spain.
 “ And it is also humbly pray'd, that the Pro-
 “ ducts and Manufactures of the new Conquests
 “ may also be exported without paying any new
 “ Duty, besides that of Exportation at Ostend,
 “ which was always paid to the King of Spain;
 “ it being impossible for any Nation in Europe
 “ to assort an entire Cargo for the Spanish West-
 “ Indies, without a considerable Quantity of se-
 “ veral of the Manufactures of *Lisle*, such as,
 “ Caradoros, Cajant, Picoles, Boratten, and
 “ many other Goods.
 “ The chief Things to be demanded of France
 “ are; to be exempted from Tonnage; to have
 “ a Liberty of importing Herrings, and all other
 “ Fish, to France, on the same Terms as the
 “ Dutch do, and was agreed by them at the
 “ Treaty of Commerce, immediately after the
 “ Treaty of *Ryswick*. The enlarging her Ma-
 “ jesty's Plantations in *America* is naturally re-
 “ commended, &c.”

GENTLEMEN,

This Representation of the *English* Merchants,
 is a pretty good Picture, in Miniature, of the
 Maxims and Policy of our Allies, in regard
 to Trade; and if those Merchants had Occasion
 to complain, I think *Great Britain* had also
 as much Reason to resent such Proceedings. From
 this Circumstance, we render no Injustice to the
Dutch, in believing they would leave us as little
 Trade

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Trade as they could, but we shall do a great
 deal of Justice to ourselves, in taking back as
 much of our Trade out of their Hands, as possi-
 bly we can. In the mean Time, Mr. *Osborne's*
 Friend may find here, for his Comfort, that some
 of the Product of *England* is contraband in *Hol-
 land*, and that the *States General* were far from
 treating us as he pretends, or even allowing us
 to trade to our new Acquisitions, for them, upon
 the same Footing with their own natural-born
 Subjects.

F I N I S.

