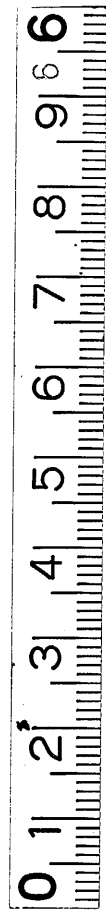


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A
M E T H O D

Proposed to prevent the many

ROBBERIES *and* VILLANIES

Committed in and about the

CITY of *LONDON*;

A N D

For Establishing a FUND for the Main-
tainance of the Poor, without Detriment
to any Individual.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. SWAN, near *Northumberland-
House*, in the *Strand*; M. COOPER, in *Pater-
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Exchange*. 1752.

(v)

TO THE
CITIZENS
 OF
LONDON.

Gentlemen,

THE Reason of my addressing you in this Manner, is from the known Worth of your Abilities and Merit,

(vi)

Merit, that when any Thing is proposed for the Benefit of Trade, and the Good of the People, I have often been a Witness of your Zeal in the Promotion of it. --- You have now a great Opportunity to establish still farther that great and good Opinion which all the trading Parts of the World have of you, by encouraging the few Hints which are mentioned in the following Pages, particularly those Laws relating to the Poor, which are of the greatest Consequence to

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to the City of *London*, which if once put into Execution, would clear the Streets of those Vagrants and idle People, who now infest them in such a Manner, as makes it dangerous to the honest Part of the Community to proceed in their lawful Callings.

I hope I shall soon see the good Effect proceed from this, especially as the Time of the Year calls upon you to chuse those Gentlemen who are both able and willing to do it, and par-

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particularly ever lay an Obligation on,

Gentlemen,

Your much obliged, and
most humble Servant,

CIVIS.

December 16, 1751.

A

*Method proposed to prevent
the many ROBBERIES, &c.*

IT is with great Pleasure, I see there is some publick Spirit still remains in the Breasts of us *Englishmen*.

I mean as to Encouragement for Artists, Manufacturies, and Sciences, which I may venture to say are the Bulwarks of the *English* Nation.

For when once we suffer them in the least to droop, goodbye Liberty and Property; — Though I must say they have been lately struck at by our Neighbours and Rivals in Trade, by an Encouragement for all Foreigners to come and settle, in order to
B improve

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improve them ; the End of which, will be the entire Destruction of our Navigation, which now, and I always hope will support its Dignity, and also be a Scourge and Terror to our Enemies, without which our Manufacturies must be entirely lost.

Therefore I hope we shall all join with one Voice to find out some Ways and Means to continue that so valuable a Blessing amongst us, which was begun with so much Labour and Expence, and now brought to so great a Perfection.

I am very glad to see a Method proposed to do this, by a Paragraph lately inserted in one of our daily Papers, (and without Detriment to any Individual) a Scheme I hope will not be stifled in its Infancy (which it too often the Case when a Great Man is not the Patron) — more especially when a Fund may be raised to support the industrious poor Manufacturer, and keep him at Home with his Family ; which if he is obliged to seek a Support from our Rivals Abroad, he will bring a great Loss to his native Country, and oblige his poor Family

to

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to become burthensome to their Parish, which is a double Loss to us.

But I hope the latter will rouse us from a Lethargy which is too prone to *Englisbmen*, and oblige us to give our joint Consent in the Method I entirely agree upon, with my worthy unknown, where he can have his Vote in the Distribution of their Capital ; which unless he agrees to must infallibly fall upon each Individual more or less.

The Method I propose, is, that whereas there is a Number of Livery Companies in this City of *London*, whose Capital is very large, and still have a large Surplus above the Intention of the Donors, whose Properties I would not in the least violate : These I recommend to advance a Sum equal to their Capital ; the Corporations throughout *England* to do the same, which would redound greatly to the then reigning Members of each, and also make a glorious Figure in our own History a Century hence.

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I cannot help taking Notice here of the glorious Example our great Corporation of *London* shewed us in the Year 1745 (a Time I hope I shall never see again) when they advanced a large Sum of Money, for the Good and Support of our poor Fellow-Creatures, who fought our Battles in the *North*, against those unnatural Subjects; and by which Support, that was also followed by several Companies and Corporations at that Time, we now feel the Comfort of, and hope we shall in future Ages more and more.

Therefore hope, that what I have here recommended to you will be forwarded with Chearfulness and Dispatch (especially when it will not be at the Expence of any Individual) and also be a great Comfort to our own poor Countrymen, to find that there is a Fund established in their own Country, for a Means of a Support for themselves and Families, without being obliged to seek it elsewhere, which must certainly be the Case if there is no Encouragement here.

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Therefore I most earnestly entreat you, whilst the Power is yet in your Hands, to execute it with that Zeal as becomes the Spirit of a Member of the Community.

When a sufficient Sum is advanced, I would recommend it to be deposited in the Chamber of *London*, to be under the Inspection at any Time of an Order from the Committee of Managers, who I shall hereafter mention, to see how the Money has been applied from Time to Time; and that no Person shall be employed, but who shall prove he cannot get Employ from the constant Master Manufacturer.

Now as this would be a Means to keep all the poor Manufacturers employed, it would also keep the Minds of those industrious Poor from idle Thoughts, and committing Hostilities, or rather worse Crimes on their Fellow-Creatures, which in the End would bring Destruction on themselves and Family; and what is still worse, the Community is sinking when any one useful Member is taken from it.

I

I hope this last will have some Effect upon us, especially when it has been mentioned and recommended to us by his most gracious Majesty in his Speech from the Throne, to endeavour to put a Stop to the audacious Villanies and Robberies committed in this great Metropolis, occasioned by the Number of idle People, who I am afraid the chief Part are our poor Manufacturers, who I am inclined to hope their Principles are not so far prejudiced as to make them continue in their bad Ways, was there a proper Place to apply, to get an honest Employ for their daily Bread.

This I am inclined to hope would be one Way to rid the Streets of a Pest of People (who as they are) is dangerous to the honest Part of Mankind to proceed in their lawful Way, to get a Support for their Families; and if it is not hindered will certainly bring those whose Principles are yet untainted, to doing that which is contrary to their present Inclinations.

I shall now proceed to the Method I proposed in the former Part of my Letter, to point

point out those I think ought to have the Disposal and Management of this Fund.

First, I would have the Master and Wardens of each Company, the Mayor and two more of each Corporation; also if any Company of Manufacturers established in any Part of *England*, should think proper to send their Mite, three Persons whom they shall agree upon, to be Members amongst the rest of the Managers; and lastly the Chamberlain of *London* for the Time being, whose Sentiments are always inclined to do Justice to the Poor (especially the * present) whose Accomplishments are such as deserve the Esteem of all Mankind, therefore may well be called the Father of the Poor.

The Gentlemen who belong to the several Companies and Corporations, will doubtless amount to a great many, therefore I would not have a Court holden with a Number less than thirteen, the Chairman always to have the casting Voice; the Lord Mayor for the Time being, always to be President; every Body coming, who are proper Representatives,

* *Thomas Harrison, Esq;*

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representatives, to have Voices ; and that whatsoever Business is done at each Meeting to be allowed as valid.

A general Meeting of the Managers to be holden annually, and that Notice should be sent to each Manager by Letter, by the Secretary belonging to the Managers of such Meeting, at least one Month before the said Meeting, and also to be published in two of the publick daily News-Papers, in order that every Body may be acquainted with it ; also an Account to be published annually of the Minutes of their Proceedings, which in all likelihood would be a Means to the Encouragement of private Benefactions.

But shall submit myself to the Opinion of those whose Talents are far superior to mine for them to settle a Method for the Application of the Money and Management for the industrious poor Manufacturer.

So I beg leave that the Publick will excuse the Imperfections herein pointed out, and take it as I mean it, the honest Intentions

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ons of a Person who always, and shall ever make it his Study to be a useful Member to the Community, especially to this great and flourishing City.

I beg Leave to add something more to my aforesaid Thoughts, which I hope will show a sufficient Reason to continue and encourage our poor Manufacturers at Home, more particularly for the Use of their Country, and also a Comfort to their Families, which last Motive I hope our established Religion will plead strongly in our Favour, *viz.* to do good to our Neighbour.

I mean as to our Manufacturies at Home ; it is the Interest of a trading Nation to encourage and confine their Sciences to themselves, which in the End, advances their Interest Abroad, and commands the Respect of the People at Home.

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There is a worthy * Magistrate of the City of *Westminster*, who has been, and is still indefatigable in having our Laws put in full Force, which are now subsisting, relating to the Poor, and are the best in the World, but the worst executed.—He has recommended it to the Publick in a Book lately published, concerning the preventing of Robberies committed in and about this great Metropolis, which if I could have my Wish, should be sent to every Parish in *London* and *Westminster*, wherein they may see at one View, the Abstracts from several Acts of Parliament, wherein each Parish are obliged to provide for their indigent Poor, and also be the only Means to lessen the Expence to the House-Keepers of each Parish.

But the chief Motive I mentioned that worthy Gentleman's Book, was in Relation to our Manufacturies to be kept at Home, which

* *Henry Fielding, Esq;*

(19)

which is always political for a State, which if ever it wanders, is sure to be at our Expence, and that at no less a Loss than the Destruction of the whole.

In order to prevent it, let us give a sufficient Encouragement to the Manufacturies here established (as that worthy Gentleman says) then you may be sure to continue them among us; for without that, they may be drawn away for a small Premium more.

But the chiefest Reason for an Encouragement here is, that by paying them so well, you oblige all the foreign Markets to come to you for your Product, by Reason they cannot have them elsewhere; and by our own People being employed to their Satisfaction at Home, as our Neighbours Abroad not being able to carry on any Manufactory without some of our Artists.

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As a farther Encouragement I would recommend a small Provision for those who have been so unfortunate and obliged to fly their Country from their Creditors for trifling Sums, which if once was made known, we should have our Countrymen flock Home from all the Manufacturies Abroad, in order to enjoy that little allotted for them, which would be more Comfort in their own Country than twice the Value in a strange Land, where they are looked upon as Enemies to the Natives of the Place they are among.

Now let us look into the Consequence of such Indulgence to our poor Artists.

Our Neighbours and Rivals in Trade will be destitute of a Manufactory to their Country; which every Body must allow is the brightest Gem the greatest Monarch has in his Crown; therefore I hope, as this can be
done

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done (without Expence to any Individual) I shall soon see it put into Execution.

But the greatest Blessing I foresee that will attend this great Affair is, that we shall have our Manufacturies in so great Esteem Abroad, that instead of being obligated to Foreigners for their Commissions, we shall be courted for our Produce.

Then on the other Hand, we shall have all our industrious Poor employed, consequently our Taxes in general reduced, the Streets cleared of an obnoxious Set of People (as they are now) whose Inclinations and Care is to seek out those whom they may devour; and lastly answer that great and good End his most gracious Majesty has so tenderly thought of, and recommended to the legislative Power, for the Safety and well-governing of his People

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M. Beggs
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