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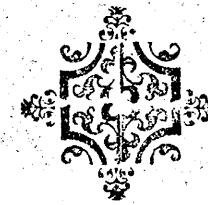
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THE
SPINSTER:
IN
DEFENCE
OF THE
Woollen Manufactures.

To be continued Occasionally.

NUMB. I.

Cætera, ni Catia est, demissa veste tegentis. Hor.



LONDON:

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THE
SPINSTER.

HIS Discourse is written in the
Behalf of the Needy and Di-
stres'd, in Opposition to the
Wealthy and Powerful ; who,
I fear, may conspire for their own Ends,
to leave the Afflictions and Complaints of
their miserable Fellow-Subjects and Fel-
low-Creatures neglected, and unreliev'd ;
I shall continue it from time to time,
during the Dispute between the Dealers
concern'd in the Woollen and Callico
Manufactures.

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But tho' my present Opinion is clearly on the Side of the Cloathing made from our own Wool, I shall not be Deaf to Callico.

And if any Gentlewoman, dating her self at the present Writing and Time of Year in *England*, and in Callico, shall write her Thoughts to *Rebecca Woollpack*, Spinster, at *Mr. Roberts's* in *Warwick-lane*, Post paid, (for the Woollen Manufacture cannot at present bear Postage.) she shall have a fair and candid Answer.

I write my self Spinster, because the Laws of my Country call me so, and I think that Name, us'd in all Writings and Instruments as the Addition and Distinction of a Maiden or single Woman of this Island, denotes to us, that the general Expectation of our Lawgivers was, that the Industry of female Manufacturers would be most laudably employ'd this way, and there-

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therefore they gave the Office of the Spinner as a Title to the Gentlewoman.

It might be further urg'd, that this Word intimates that a Woman's chief Praise consists in Domestick Industry, and in Simplicity, rather than Variety of Dress.

In order to come at the true State of Trade, and the Interest of this Island, with relation to the Habits now worn, I shall take the modern *English* Lady at eleven a-clock in the Forenoon, which is her break of Day, and allowing her to twelve for private Devotion, suppose she has call'd to be dress'd, and from the Parcels of her Dress, observing what she wears of *English*, and what of foreign Product, with the Prizes of each Part of her Habit, make my Inferences accordingly.

None

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None amongst those whom we call People of Condition can be at Home, or Abroad, visit, or receive Visits, without having several Dresses, with several suitable Undresses, according to the following List, of absolute Necessaries for a fine Lady. She has now nothing on but her Slippers, and her Maid in Callico cloaths her with the Productions of the whole Earth, as under-written :

	l.	s.	d.
A Smock of Cambrick Holland, about three Ells and a half, at 12 s. per Ell	2	2	00
Marseilles quilted Petticoat, three Yards wide and a Yard long	3	6	00
An Hoop-Petticoat cover'd with Tabby	2	15	00

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A French or Italian Silk quilted Petticoat, one Yard and a quarter deep, and six Yards wide	10	00	00
A Mantua and Petticoat of French Brocade, 26 Yards, at three Pounds per Yard	78	00	00
A French Point or Flanders lac'd Head, Ruffles and Tucker	80	00	00
Stays cover'd with Tabby, English	3	00	00
A French Necklace	1	05	00
A Flanders lac'd Handkerchief	10	00	00
French or Italian Flowers for the Hair	2	00	00
An Italian Fan	5	00	00
Silk Stockings, English	1	00	00
Shoes, English	2	10	00
A Girdle, French	0	15	00
A Cambrick Pocket Handkerchief	0	10	00

French

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	l.	s.	d.
French Kid Gloves	0	02	06
A black French Silk Alamode Hood	0	15	00
A black French lac'd Hood	5	05	00
Imbroider'd Knot and Bosom Knot, French	2	02	00
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Total	210	07	06

This is the necessary Demand upon every Gentleman, who would live in Fashion and in Quiet, for one Dress for his Lady; and as it would be scandalous, as his Wife anxious for his Reputation, (according to her Duty admonishes him) for her to be known by her Cloaths, she cannot but have five Suits at least, and even with that she must stay at Home one Day in the Week; but she is willing to do any thing for her Children and Family, and would not appear abroad every Day, like that flaring Busybody her Neighbour Mrs. Blank.

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According to this Rule, Foreigners sell this Lady to the Value of a thousand Pounds, where the *English* sell her to the Value of five; and I believe any Company, or Person, Trade, or Trader, on the *British* Side of the Channel, will find it hard to ballance this Loss to our Country by what they sell of *English* Cloathing to Foreigners: I shall not therefore press the Advantage further in the Argument, so far as to mention that her Garters are *French*, and cost one Pound five; that she has a Pair of Pockets of *Marseilles* quilting, which is another one Pound five: Nor need I observe that her Stay-Buckles, and Buckles for her Shoes, cannot be any other than *Brilliant*, the Price of which alters according to the Price which others of our Acquaintance, whom we love or envy, have purchas'd theirs. But I wonder I forgot that whatever Part of the Town the Lady lives in, she must have a Muff of

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five Pounds five Shillings ; and if she lives in the City, she will catch Cold if she has not a Sable Tippet worth fifteen Pounds.

I had like to have concluded without taking Notice, that the Lining of her Gown and Petticoat was *Italian* Lute-string, cheap at eight Pounds ; but on the *English* Side of the Account, which I forgot, when about her Legs, it must be added that she had Thread Stockings worth ten Shillings.

In an Affair of this Nature, wherein a great Demand of things of small Price rises to great Profit, it must not be forgotten that the Cap on which her Head is drest is foreign Silk, and so is the Lace that ties it, as well as the Lace for the Stays. But for our Encouragement at Home, we supply her with Pins, patches, Powder, and Wire. Patches may perhaps make a Fraction in the Account, therefore it must be consider'd that it is *English* La-

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bour upon *Italian* Silk. I am dressing her for a Visit ; and as she is going out, she calls for her *Turkey* Handkerchief, for which she gave five Pounds five Shillings ; but she is now ready to move, and has call'd for either her Coach or her Chair ; but as the Maid is going, she bids her call both, lest she should alter her Mind before she comes to the Door, and then 'tis time enough to chuse which of the Vehicles she pleases.

Whether we are taller this Age than we were formerly, I cannot determine, but am divided in my Conjectures whence it is that our Women dress their Heads lower, and the Ceilings of our Rooms are rais'd higher than in former Times ; but be that as it will, the Apartments thro' which I am to conduct this Lady are hung with foreign Silks, and the Chairs cover'd with the same. But she is come to the Door, and takes her Chair lin'd with Velvet, as dear as the Silk with which herself is clothed, and bids her Coach (the inside

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of which is of Velvet also, but of a Colour less suitable to her Complexion) put off.

This is the State of the Case, and it behoves all on the Callico Side of this Question to make out, as is above demanded of them, that they bring to *England*, by Sale of the Product of these Kingdoms, more than the Luxury and Charge in Dress describ'd in the Instance of one Lady reduces us to the Necessity of supplying our selves with from other Nations.

The Legislature, before which this Question now lies, will certainly consider whether the Manufactures of Wool, which is as much a Produce of the Land as are Corn and Grass, shall, instead of working those Fleeces, and gaining to themselves a comfortable Livelihood, and raising the Rents of their Landlord, become immoveable Incumbrances upon that Land, and live in the Poors-rate, to the Ruin of them both.

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It is not proper to dictate to Lawgivers, but we may give them Information. I have read in the *Lives of Plutarch*, that the wise *Lycurgus*, in order to maintain the Commonwealth in its Simplicity, forbade the Use of certain Dresses to Women; and to deter them from appearing in them, allow'd them no Remedy against Abuse of their Persons in those Habits.

As I am talking to the Female World, whose Apparel is the cause of this Evil, and speaking of *Lycurgus*, let me recommend the Imitation of the *Spartan Dame*, now represented on the Stage, where they will find the Duty of a Lady not restrain'd to domestick Life, but enlarging the Concern for her Family into that of her Country. When a Woman of Honour and Understanding takes this Matter seriously into her Thoughts, she will consider how far her Fortune and Person may influence or support a Fashion, destructive to the Society of which she is a

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Member; she will then, in Justice as well as Compassion, be fearful of putting on an Ornament, which, if generally worn, may respectively expose, according to their Sex, Crowds of her Fellow Subjects to Shame, or Death.

It is not to be imagin'd, nor perhaps desir'd, that we should return to the Manners of the first Ages of the World; but it is to be watchfully guarded, that we admit of no Refinements that may be prejudicial instead of being advantagious: An *English* Lady will therefore be such, not only in her own Person, but also in her Children and Servants. There needs no greater Skill for coming at the truth of this Debate, than what every ordinary Mistress of a Family must be capable of. *No one will make and provide at home, what will hinder a Family from doing what would purchase a great deal more than what would buy the same thing from abroad; and on the contrary, no one will go abroad for what they can have for less*
Cost

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Cost and Labour at home. This is, perhaps, the main Principle, which, observed or neglected, makes Men rich or poor, a Nation great or contemptible.

But I shall transgress the Design and Limits of this first Discourse, which I intended shou'd go no farther than just alarming the innocent Causes of this Evil, the Ladies, against ruining their Country; their great Grandmothers, who for Ornament and Dress painted their own Bodies, would be astonish'd at the *Callico Picts*, their degenerate Children, and fly from their own Offspring, as putting themselves in Masquerade only to reduce themselves to their primitive Poverty and Nakedness: This is not at all said to disparage Trade in general, but to make us more circumspect in maintaining the Balance of it on our own Side: No, it is very far from that, and I very much admire that excellent Eulogium in the sixty-ninth *Spectator*, first Volume. That judicious, delightful, and memorable Writer,
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ter, after having celebrated, with greatest variety of Eloquence, Wit and Humor, our Happiness as a trading People, has it thus: "There are not, says he, more useful Members in a Commonwealth than Merchants. They knit Mankind together in a mutual Intercourse of good Offices, distribute the Gifts of Nature, find Work for the Poor, and Wealth to the Rich, and Magnificence to the Great. Our *English* Merchant converts the Tin of his own Country into Gold, and exchanges his Wooll for Rubies. The *Mahometans* are cloathed in our *British* Manufacture, and the Inhabitants of the frozen Zone warm'd with the Fleeces of our Sheep.

"When I have been upon the *Change*, I have often fancied one of our old Kings standing in Person, where he is represented in Effigy, and looking down upon the wealthy Concourse of People with which the Place is every Day fill'd. In this Case, how would he be
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"surpriz'd to hear all the Languages of *Europe* spoken in this little Spot of his former Dominions, and to see so many private Men, who in his Time would have been the *Vassals* of some powerful *Baron*, negotiating like Princes for greater Sums of Money than were formerly to be met with in the Royal Treasury! Trade, without enlarging the *British* Territories, has given us a kind of additional Empire: It has multiplied the Number of the Rich, made our landed Estates infinitely more valuable than they were formerly, and added to them an Accession of other Estates as valuable as the Lands themselves."

If it should appear that there are particular Collections or Bodies of Merchants, or particular over-grown Traders, who act and deal with a direct contrary View to that of this general Prosperity of Trade, I will at present say no more of them, but that they have no Pretension

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sion to any part of this Panegyrick. Upon the whole, we are undone, if, in the present Posture of the World, something is not *resolv'd* for the Improvement and immediate Preservation of our Trade; for as it now stands, I think it may be comprehended in what one *Indian* Boy, talking to another one Day as they waited for their Masters at the great House in *Leadenhall-street*, said to his Comrade. The poor *Indian* governing himself by outward Appearances, and what he observed wherever he went, was overheard to say, *I cannot see, Pompey, in what the People of this Country excell those of ours, except it be that they are govern'd by their Wives; they go to our Country to bring home to their Women fine Dresses from Head to Foot, only to purchase of them their Hair for Periwigs.*

F I N I S.