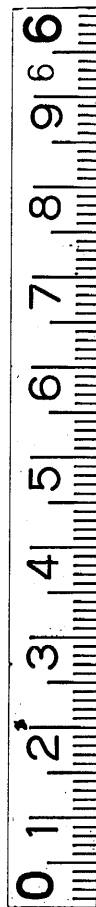


54-26



0382

A
PROPOSALⁿ

Fully to prevent the

Smugling of Wool,

W H I C H

By Methods Entirely New, shows how, and wholly takes of the Former CHARGE in the old Methods of endeavouring to do it.

A L S O,

Adds more than Ten Millions Yearly to the TRADE of the *British* NATION.

A N D

Is hinted, that the Great National D E B T may be Paid in Seven Years and Half, with several other very valuable Things.

A L L

Which, with all due Deference and Respect is offered to the *British* PARLIAMENT.

Printed for the A U T H O R, and Sold by W. M E A D O W S at the *Angel* in *Cornhill*, and several Pamphlet Shops in *London* and *Westminster*. M.DCC.XXXII.

(Price One Shilling) 6

New METHODS

propos'd for preventing the

Smugling of WOOL.

THERE were many Complaints by Way of Petition, from even all the great trading Cities and Towns of the Nation, made to the Parliament the last Session, concerning the Running or Smugling of Wool, an Affair of the greatest National Consequence; and what have been under the Consideration of Parliaments in many past Reigns; the last Session, there was a Committee appointed to hear and consider what any Persons had to say concerning it, and many Persons Opinions were known in Print and otherways; and after all that was said, and that consider'd, then it was not thought convenient to make a Law in any Kind, according to all that was heard and known concerning the preventing the Smugling of Wool; and since publick Notice have been given to encourage any that thought it convenient to have any Thoughts that Way. Among the many Methods that have been, or may be propos'd, the following New Methods appear; which I most humbly hope will prevent what has been so long desir'd, the Smugling of Wool.

Our Wool is the staple Commodity of *Great-Britain*, the main Spring that moves every other

(4)

other Action in Trade; a Thing which by being excellently different in its Kind from the Wool of all other Nations, therefore have been coveted by several of our Neighbour Nations, and they have yearly got great Quantities from us, notwithstanding all the Methods this Nation have taken to prevent them, which have been an exceeding Advantage to them, and Disadvantage to us.

Before it is shown how to keep our Wool to our selves, all that may grow in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, it may be convenient to make a Computation of its Quantity and Value; thereby may be seen the Advantage and Disadvantage to the Nations concern'd in the Commodity. So long ago as Sir *William Pettis* wrote about it, the Growth then in *England* was said to be computed at 96.000.000 *l.* Weight of Wool; since which Time a Union have been made with *Scotland*, and a very great Improvement have been in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* since his Time of writing; so that if there were 96.000.000 *l.* of Wool at that Time in *England* it may be, as it is suppos'd, that *Great-Britain* produces 500 000 Packs of Wool Yearly, which at 24 *l.* per Pack, amounts to but 120.000.000 *l.* which is 24 Millions Addition since so long ago, as that Great Man concern'd his Thoughts about it. And a farther receiv'd Opinion is, that *France* produces 600.000 Packs Yearly *Great-Britain* 500.000, and *Ireland* 300.000 Packs; and that foreign Nations gets yearly from *Ireland* 200.000, and from *Great-Britain* 100.000, from both 300 000 Packs yearly: If so it may be high Time for the whole Nation to Petition the Parliament; that if possible, some Method may be found to prevent so prodigious a Damage, which
Damage

(5)

Damage may be abundantly more than in common may be thought; and now it may be necessary to be known, in Order to animate the most Capable to exert themselves in preventing so matchless a Damage to the *British* Nation.

In Order to make the Damage to plainly appear, I will first make an Estimate as to Quantity. Say a Pack of Wool be 24 *l.* then 300.000 Packs by 240.

240
12:000:000
60:000:0
72:000:000

Thus it appears that the Quantity Smugled yearly is 72 Millions of Pounds Weight of Wool; and it is farther said and allowed by all that have said any thing about it, that with a Mixture of ours, our neighbour Nations can make woollen Goods to vie with us at foreign Markets; also it is as confidently affirm'd, that without a Mixture of our Wool, they cannot in any Measure make suitable Goods for those Markets. If this be the Case, which has been so often, and positively asserted; then how much does it concern this Nation to use all Means possible whereby to prevent Smugling of Wool, the which would prodigiously enlarge our Trade, even beyond what hath been imagin'd which Part of the Affair I shall set in a truer Light than it has yet appear'd.

At this Time Wool is said to be worth about 14 Shillings per Tod, or 6 Pence per Pound.

Then say 72:000:000 Six Pences
is 36:000:000 shillings
which is 1:800:000 Pounds

Thus it appears that one Damage to the Nation,
is

(6)

is Eighteen hundred thousand Pounds ; and this attended with at least as much more in Returns, as they deliver in the Dark, they also receive in the Dark and many Commodities that pay more Duty in a fair Way, than their first Cost, viz. Wines and Brandies pay about four Times as much, and it has been the small Quantities that have been receiv'd by the smuglers in Returns ; which, when it may be consider'd to whom the Wool has been sold, it seems very probable, that after that Manner, there may have been a greater Abuse than 1:800:000 l. in the Returns. But I will show a greater Damage than all this ; it is said, that they mix our Wool the best in the World, with three Times as much of their Course ; and as many say, they have given 14 d. per Pound, then say the 3 Pounds mix'd with it, be reckon'd but at 10 d. that is about 3 d. 1 f. per Pound, and makes the 4 Pounds mix'd to come to 2 s. or 6 d. per Pound, the same Price with ours.

Then to find something of the Value of the Damage they do us, may be to see what the Account may be.

A Say weight of Wool smugled	72:000:000 l.
From us, and mix'd with 3 times	
as much of theirs, by 4 shows	4
the Quantity manufactur'd	_____
Which is of Wool, at 6 d. per P.	288:000:000 l.
So many Shillings	144:000:000
Which is so many Pounds Cash	7:200:000 l.
Then say the Charge of their	
Manufacturing it, is but 3	
times as much, then by 4	4
shews the Value	_____
	28:000:000

A Thus

(7)

A Thus appears the Value when manufactured ; and this is the Sum which our Neighbour Nation interfere with us at foreign Markets, 28 Millions 800 Thousand Pounds beside the Profit they make on the Goods ; if they make 20 per Cent. they gain 5 Millions 760 thousand Pounds, and makes the Sum 34:560:000 l. another Disadvantage we labour under is, that what Wool they get from us, is the Choice and best Part of our Wool ; they do not purchase any of our meaner Sort.

This is a true State of the Affair ; and altho' the Sum may be very surprizing, it is fairly stated, and this is the Damage they do us at the following Markets ; first, the Country of Georgia, Persia, the Armenian Merchants at Constantinople, Old and New Spain, and Portugal, &c. and all these Markets must be furnish'd, and with suitable Goods, and these will buy as soon of us as of any Nation, and must have them of us, if other Nations cannot supply them, which seems to me to be the Case ; if we prevent Smuggling of Wool, they cannot get the like Wool or Quantity of any other Nation or Nations.

No doubt, but they deal with Spain now, so do we for a small Quantity ; and it is not any large Quantity that can be had from that Nation, neither is its Quality in any Measure so suitable as ours ; and there is no doubt, but those Nations that have given our Dealers in the Dark large Prices, would not have given so much if they could have found any else where. There are Countries that have Wool, but not abundance of it. the Quality is the Thing ; and our Sheep are like our Cocks or Mastiff Dogs, they will soon change their Kind, after they may have chang'd their Country ; so that the Quality

(8)

Quality of our Wool seems to be a peculiar Blessing bestow'd on us, as well as the Quantity, which hitherto have been greatly Run, and to no great Advantage to those that have been most concern'd in it ; they greatly complain for want Monies, as if they had nor smuggled one Pack, and as they are going to lay by their Embroideries, I hope they will now see it their Interest to lay by all their Dealings in the Dark.

This Affair will afford another Consideration ; it is said, that 3 out of 8 has been the Quantity got from us ; and it must, as said before, be the best of our Wool ; and if so, if prevented, then we shall be in a better Capacity to make woollen Goods than we have been, and have less occasion of Spanish Wool ; if there has been 300:000 Packs of our choice Wool Run away with in the Dark, and now we keep it to our selves ; and if there should be the same Demand at the Markets aforesaid, we may be forced to purchase 300:000 Packs of course Wool, which will be much easier to be had than that of a finer Quality.

Now I have said something as to the woollen Affair being chang'd among the Nations by preventing Smugling ; I will show what Interest and Advantage the British Nation may have in the Change ; as to the Value of 28:800:000*l.* worth of Wool, we cannot expect the whole Value to be in our Favour.

Say 72:000:000 <i>l.</i> of Wool have been carried away from us in the Dark	} <i>l. Sterl.</i> 1:800:000
and at 6 <i>d.</i> per Pound, amounts to	
And Manufacturing it amounts to, as is said 4 times as much among us.	
Then by _____	5
Thus it appears that the Value for Exportation will be 9 Millions	} 9:000:000

And

(9)

And whereas the best Markets will be in our Choice : Then it cannot be supposed that we may make less than 33 per Cent. which is _____	} 3:000:000
The Advance of our Trade thus far amounts to 12 Millions _____	
Then say, we get but 10 per Cent. by the Returns Home, clear of Charge, is _____	} 1:200:000
The next Thing to consider, is, that Ireland have 100:000 Packs of Wooll not run ; 50:000 Packs of which I allow for their own Cloathing, now they are willing to leave off their French Embroideries ; and the other 50:000 Packs at 6 <i>d.</i> per Pound. _____	
And the Manufacturing to 4 Times as much, _____	} 1:200:000
That Sum is _____	
Then the Advance of Market at 33 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> per Cent. is _____	} 500:000
Then, as above, allowing 10 per Cent. on the Profits of Goods Home is _____	
Thus it appears that the Addition to our Trade will be 15 Millions, &c. _____	} 15:400:000
Out of this the People of Ireland are to have 15 hundred thousand Pounds, which they, instead of Wine and Brandies, may have in ready Monies : We have many Millions in Change-Alley which want a much better Improvement. And I very much question, by the Complaints the People of Ireland make, whether they ever had 50:000 <i>l.</i> Cash yearly, of all the Foreigners they have traded with in the Dark. What they have traded for, have been such Returns as have yearly disappeared.	

B

Then

(10)

Then the *British* Nation, whom by all Manner of Ties whatsoever, ought to have the sole Management of all their Affair of Wool, will, by the Method here proposed, be more than 20 times more advantageous, to Dealers, than all the Foreigners they have hitherto traded with; because they may have what Quantity of ready Monies they please, and in the Way of their own Obligations; with which they may make what Improvements of their Wood-Lands, &c. they think fit, in order to advance their Linnen Manufacture. And their Wool will grow yearly without any Trouble.

Now I will give a short Sketch of what Methods have been taken, for the preventing of Smugling of Wool. Secondly, Some Methods that some Persons propose should be taken; and then will set forth my own Proposals.

To prevent Smugling of Wool from *Ireland*, the Inhabitants have been confined to a few Ports for Exportation and Importation; also something as to a Duty; and a Number of Officers have been to look out in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*. All the Methods taken, and the great Charge the Nation have been at, have proved ineffectual; although, as one *Haines* says, That in the Year 1715, there was an Account of 55:000 *l.* a Charge for Ships of War looking out to prevent Smugling.

Several New Methods have been proposed; As, 1st, That the Clerks of every Parish should take an Account of the Sheep in the said Parish; and that every Owner of Sheep should give the said Clerk an Account how much Wool he sheared; and the Clerk to transmit the Account some where.

2dly,

(11)

2dly, That no Felmonger shall take in Skins without an Officer, who shall take the Number, afterwards weigh the Wool, &c.

3dly, That no Person under (under a Penalty) shear a Sheep without a Permit, in which must be specified the Number of Sheep to be shorn.

4thly, That no Sheep be shorn but in the Presence of two Excise Officers, and those to take Bond for the Duty, which is proposed to be 4 *d.* per Pound, and too much Trouble of this Kind for me to here insert.

5thly, Another proposes, that instead of Ships of War to look out by Sea, that there should be 32 Sloops, which I think would make the Charge more than 55:000 *l.* per Annum in that Way. I shall not tire my Reader's Patience, by enumerating Things which I think wide of answering the End, as to prevent the Running or Smugling of Wool.

Now I will set forth my Thoughts about it, viz.

1st, The Word Death, as a Penalty, I think, sounds too harsh in the Ears of any Person inclined to inform or discover the pernicious Practice of Smugling Wool: Therefore, suppose that severe Penalty be changed to a certain and speedy Transportation; the Living Man may be of great Advantage to the Country which he was a Disadvantage to before transported.

2dly, That Transportation be the Penalty of the Seller, the Buyer, the Carrier by Land or Water, the Receiver, or any Person assisting or conniving; even the Officer who is under Oath to the contrary, yet too often conniving.

3dly, If any Little &c. Manager be taken in the Menaging Part; he may, on his Discovery of others concerned, not only be pardoned, but also have 50 *l.* as a Reward.

B 2

4thly,

(12)

4thly, That the Employer, and every Person concerned, forfeit all they possess: Thereby it may be no Charge to the Government.

5thly, That all Persons apprehended of being concerned in Smugling, be directly brought to Tryal, and cleared or transported, not to lie in Prisons to spend what they may be possessed of.

6thly, That instead of the Informer or Discoverer having one half of the Goods seized, he being no Way concerned in the Management, may have 100 l. as a Reward honestly paid; although the Goods seized may not be worth 20 l. or 20 s. provided he discovers any Persons concerned in the Goods, which he cannot well fail in, because they must be in somebody's Custody; and if the Goods be valuable, the Discoverer may have his Choice of half the Goods, or the 100 l.

7thly, In Case after such a Law may be made, that any Person or Persons should be so daringly bold as to attempt the Running or Smugling of Wool or woollen Goods; to prevent such, I propose, that on the Return of any Ship, &c. that any of the Ship's Company should think fit to make a Discovery of those concerned in the Affair, that such a Person be not only pardoned; but also have a Reward of 200 l.

8thly, Were it possible after such a Law made, to get Wool on Board, and carry it beyond the Seas, and that none of the Ship's Company wou'd discover; then any Person living beyond the Seas, coming over and making a Discovery, so that these concerned may be convicted; that such a Person should have for his Reward 500 l. which would encourage the Dealers on the other Side the Water to come over, it being abundantly more than they could get in a Wool Voyage;

(13)

Voyage; more especially when all their Hopes of a frequent Trade must be over. These Methods being entered into, not only makes every Man's Servant by Land and Sea his Inspector, his Officer; but it makes the whole Nation, and those that live beyond the Seas Inspectors.

2dly, As the above proposed Methods being put in Practice, will assuredly prevent the Smugling of Wool, which as is plainly made appear, have been so prodigious a yearly Damage to this Nation. So as considering the Charge of proceeding after the Manner proposed, it must be a lessening of the Charge the Nation have been at to prevent so pernicious a Practice in Time past. The Rewards proposed are 50, 100, 200 and 500 l. according to the Difference of the Circumstance of the Information or Discovery. The carrying Wool, &c. unlawfully beyond the Seas, is the Thing to be prevented: That cannot be done without Shipping: And those concerned in Shipping in common, are Men of worth; and the Foreigner is as liable as any *English* Inhabitant, and cannot manage without some *English* being concerned. And in this Affair there must be several concerned; and when it appears how the Wool is to be disposed of as soon as shorn, it will be found more difficult as to the false Trader's Management, then in its present View, when every Body shall be kept under a continual Sense of the many Hazards they are to run throw; they will consider twice, before they attempt or grapple with such Difficulties as by the Methods proposed they must. As to the Charge that may attend such a Management, must be by the Rewards to be given, and those must be the Effects of Discoveries, and then something must be discovered in which there must be some Value, either in Men or Things. Suppose that there were

(14)

were a Circumstance that required a 500 *l.* Reward in it, there must be something valuable to be Discovered. Admit there were to be 10 such that wou'd be less than a 10 *l.* part of former Charges to little Purpose; and now the Nation is sensible of the Damage, such Dealers in the Dark have done, and will do, if they continue; therefore such Managers must expect no favour, and when they find they shall be strickly punished for every Offence, they will be careful how they offend.

3dly, That the Smugler of Wool, &c. may be prevented, I further propose, that Wool and Yarn and woollen from *Ireland* be made enumerated Commodities; than the Master of every Ship that is to take such on Board, must first Enter into a Bond of a 1000 *l.* with sufficient Security, that those Goods shall be Landed at the Port he Clears for, or some Port of *Great-Britain* (also, that Fullers-Earth be an enumerated Commodity) this is the Method that secures Tobacco and other *British* Commodities from our *American* Plantations; and to further secure the Affair of Wool as to its being Smugled from *Ireland*; it may be convenient that every Ship, &c. belonging to that Kingdom, be Numbered, down to 18 Foot Keel, as Registered according to the Act of Navigation; and that their Numbers be fixed on their Sterns, as on our Barges, then every Moveing Custom-house Officer having a List of what belongs to his Part he may daily know what Ships are in, and which are out of Port, and for what reason out of Port, he may judge; and for the Future he is not to connive at any false Act in Trade, on the Penalty of being Transported.

4thly, The next thing to be considered may be to shew how to remove the People of *Ireland's* Uneasiness, as to their Charge by Land Carriage of

(15)

of their Wool. It has been said that that Charge to them have been 10 *per Cent.* and the Reason of that Charge, they say is the fewness of Ports which they are allowed for Exportation, and Importation into *Great-Britain*, to remove both these disadvantages to the People of *Ireland*, it is proposed, that all the large Ports round that Kingdom be open for Exportation, if to the Number of 50, and that all the publick Ports round *Great-Britain* if to the Number of one 100 shall be opened for their Importation, this will not only ease them in their Land Carriage; but also give them the Opportunity of 150 Markets instead of 6 and 7, and to give the People of *Ireland* another Advantage; it is proposed, that at every Port there shall be a suitable Ware-house, or Ware-houses built, such a Number as may with Conve- niency hold all the woollen, Affair that may be near the said Port. Also, that there be a sufficient Number of Ware-houses built at all the *British* Ports, and to these Ware-houses shall the Wool of both Kingdoms be brought as soon as shorn; and there, and no where else bargained for and delivered, than there will be no great Distance for the People of *Ireland* and to carry their Wool, neither will they be obliged to sell in a private Manner not knowing the Markets, there the Seller and the Buyer will have a full Knowledge of the Value of their Goods; this Method will be like our Fairs, and the *English* may as well have Factors in *Ireland*, as at *Leghorn*, &c. or the People of *Ireland* may send their Goods over to any of the *British* Ware-houses; and it is proposed that Attendance shall be given from *Monday* Morning, until *Saturday* Night, and that every Pack shall be Mark'd and Numbered, and a Receipt shall be given for the Mark Number and Weight *Gratis*; and it shall be Entred into a Book, it

(16)

it may be said, there will not be a Conveniency to see the Goods, as to that, the Ware-houses are so Projected, that every Man may at any Time have a sight of his Goods, 2dly, It may be said, we may be forced to sell; to that it is answered, there may be Ware-house Room; if desired 12 Months for 12 Pence per Pack, and for 3 Pence per Pack, it shall be weighed in, and the like out, so that there shall be no Embezzlement or Necessity to sell, and when ever the Goods may be delivered, the Ware-house Keeper shall give his Permit to go with it either to the Ship or to, or with the Manufacturer, and if found without the Permit it shall be liable to Seisure; or, if out of the Way of the Permit as to the Places going the same; and it shall be in the Power of any body that may have a Suspicion to Demand a Sight of the Permit, and according to the Harmony that may be between the Permit as to Quantity, &c. and the Way it is going, and the Person may be Treated as a Smugler, or otherways, and if it goes aboard Ship, the Master of the Ship when he Clears out shall carry all his Permits to the Custom-house; where the chief Officer shall send to the Ware-house-keeper and Demand, and the Ware-house keeper shall give the Number of Permits he has given to go on Board such a Ship.

5thly, There is one Thing more complained of, as a Method taken by the Smuglers of *Ireland*, viz. that they do not make a full Report at the Custom-house of what they take on Board: And as they come up Chanel, they put into some Port in *France*, and unload that overplus, and there proceed to the Port in *Great-Britain* they clear'd for, this Method of Smugling is fully prevented by the Methods proposed; there is 200 l. Reward to any Man on Board, that discovers such a Fraud: He discovering is not only pardoned but also rewarded

(17)

warded therefore they ought to be jealous one of another, hereby he that discovers is pardoned and Rewarded, all the others concerned either on Board or on Shore, are all liable to be Transported, also forfeit all they have, and as to Wool, this will be the Hazard any English will run by sending it by Sea; and no doubt, but the Law will be severely executed, now it appears that the Damage is of so prodigious a Consequence to the Nation.

6thly, By the way, there is one thing that may be worthy of Consideration, and not unnecessary to be mentioned here: Now there seems to be a Likelihood of a better Harmony between *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* then ever was, and I hope it will be of exceeding Advantage to both Kingdoms. I perceive the People of *Ireland* are weary of their Foreign Embroideries, at length they begin to be weary of finding no Advantage, and now is set forth their having ready Monies from *Great-Britain*. And to take them off from *French* Wine and Brandies, I propose that Rum may come under the Consideration of Parliament; it is a Production and Manufacture of our own, and purchas'd with our own Productions and Manufactures, and one of the valuable Spirits that is drank in *Great-Britain*, and may be the like in *Ireland*; it may there supply the Place of *French* Brandy. Suppose it should be thought convenient by the Representatives of the Nation to lower the Duty on Rum from 4 to 2 *shil.* per Gallon, and allow a Drawback of 1 *shil.* per Gallon in all that may be exported to *Ireland*; the following Advantages may attend such a Regulation. First, There would assuredly be ten times more Rum imported into *Great-Britain* than at present, and then all would be fairly entered; and when the People of *Ireland* may not have the Opportunity

C

of

(18)

of Smugling *French* Brandies, they may be glad of Rum in the Room of them; and Rum then will be even as cheap to them as *French* Brandies are now, and to the People of *Great-Britain* cheaper; yet no way interfere with the Consumption of inferior Spirits, because then it would be near as dear again as those. 2dly, To encourage the People of *Ireland* to have a greater Correspondence with *Great-Britain*, and to change their Taste as to Wines; suppose that two Thirds of the Duty of all Sorts of Wines exported from us to them were a Drawback; then the People of *Ireland* would drink Wines as cheap from us, even as from *France*, in their present Method, and abundantly cheaper than the *English*; and when the Smugling of Wool may be over, and so much to their Advantage as is set forth, they may be encouraged to Trade with the *English* as much as possible.

7thly, In order to compleat the effectual preventing the Smugling of Wool, it may be convenient to keep those inclin'd to Smugling, under a continual Sense of their Damage and Danger by the many Hazards they are to run thro'; and that they may have no Pretence, that it may be out of their Minds; to prevent such an Excuse, it may be convenient that an Abstract of the Law made be printed and put into every Weekly Journal for twelve Months or more; also, that a sufficient Number of Abstracts be printed singly at the King's Printing-House, and sent to every Sea Port, City and Town in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, and there to be read weekly by the Cryer at three of the most publick Parts of the said City or Town; and that a suitable Number be sent to all his Majesty's Custom-houses where the Wool Affair may be carried on; where, upon the Arrival of any Ship, *British* or
Foreign

(19)

Foreign, the Custom-house Boat may carry two on Board, deliver one to the Master, and place the other up in the most publick Part of the Ship; and there to remain during her Stay. By this Method both the Master and the Men will know the Law made; the Master will there see his Danger, and the Men their Encouragement to inspect any unlawful Management. And to acquaint those that live on the other Side the Water, I propose that a small Ship or Sloop of War do take a large Number of the Abstracts on Board, and make it her Business to sail from Port to Port, from one Country to another, even from *Sweden* to *Denmark*, *Hambourg*, *Holland*, *France*, *Portugal* and *Spain*, and disperse them to proper Persons; and that the Commander and Officers be allowed 500 *l.* yearly to bear their Charge; also, in case they can make Discoveries, they may have the same Reward as is allotted other People: Notwithstanding they may be otherwise paid by the Government, yet this will give them great Encouragement as well as Opportunities to inspect. Then all People both at Home and Abroad will know the *British* Law against all that have any Concern in robbing the Nation of its Wool, the best Branch in the *British* Trade; and when 'tis seen how valuable it is, no Transgressor may expect any Favour.

8thly, Now I will set forth the Charge of the Ware-houses, and then the whole Expence in this way of Management will appear. Say at a 100 Ports in *Great-Britain* there may be built a sufficient Number of Ware-houses to conveniently hold 500,000 Packs of Wool, and if they were to cost about 500,000 *l.* I cannot think the Sum would be thought too large, it being to accomplish so advantageous an Affair. However, if no other Person can find a sufficient Sum without

(20)

laying a Tax on the Nation, I will. At this Time, I shall only compute the Charge of the Management of the Houses, and show how that Expence may be paid. I propose there shall be eight Porters at each Warehouse, or rather divided as may be convenient, according to the Quantity of Wool that may come, their being Difference in the Parts of the Nation as to Wool more or less. This Number of Men will be 800, and these are as said before, to weigh in and out, and suppose they be allowed 20 *l.* per Man yearly, one with another, and their Wages divided according to the Charge of the Place; and that Sum will be 16000 *l.* 2dly, I propose two Clerks to each House, or divided according to Business, and these to have 50 *l.* each, which is 10,000 *l.* 3dly, I propose a Warehouse-keeper to each House, and those to have 100 *l.* per Annum, and that is 10000 *l.*

Say 100 Warehouse-keepers, at	10,000 <i>l.</i>
Ditto 200 Clerks, at	10,000 <i>l.</i>
Ditto 800 Porters, at	16,000 <i>l.</i>
Ditto Contingent Charges	4,000 <i>l.</i>
	<hr/>
	40,000 <i>l.</i>

Now I will see what the Receivings will be.

Weighing in and out 500,000 Packs	
at 6 <i>d.</i> per Pack, is	12,500 <i>l.</i>
Ditto 6 <i>d.</i> per Pack the Permit, is	12,500 <i>l.</i>
Ditto 12 <i>d.</i> per Pack House-Room	25,000 <i>l.</i>
	<hr/>
	50,000 <i>l.</i>

Now I have set forth in a very plain Manner, the very great Damage this Nation have yearly sustained

(21)

sustained by the Smugling of Wool, and have also shown the very great Advantage to the Nation by preventing that notorious pernicious Practice; which I am well assured may be prevented for Time to come, by these new Methods here proposed. Which will not only prevent the Damage, but also lessen former Expences of the Methods then taken. And these Methods discovers such Advantages to the People of *Ireland*, as they might never have had any Notion of; which must engage them to come with Pleasure into the Methods proposed. And to crown all, the Methods proposed cannot fail of adding many Millions to the *British* Nation's Trade yearly.

Some of the Advantages to the People of *Ireland* by this Proposal are as followeth.

First, They will be in a Capacity at once to make an Improvement of their Wood Lands, &c. and thereby may in three Years make twice the Linnen Cloth they do now.

2dly, Instead of Six or Seven Ports for Exportion, and Importation of their Wool, it is now proposed they shall have 150, consequently so many Markets.

3dly, Instead of their having Foreign Wines and Brandies, and other Things that have rather made them bad Husbands, than have capacitated them to improve their Lands, by this Proposal they may yearly receive of the *English* about one Million and a half ready Monies as to their Wool.

4thly, By this Proposal it appears they may have Wine and Rum as cheap from the *English*, as they have had Foreign Wines and Brandies. And for any *American* Commodities, those they may have as cheap from *Great-Britain* as from any Part of *Europe*.

As

(22)

As to the Advantages by this Proposal to the *British* Nation, I have been something particular in the foregoing Part of this small Treatise. And altho' I have not said all the Advantages, I have said enough to invite any Nation of the World into a Belief of the Advantages I have propos'd. Let the most nicest Pen scan my Computation, I doubt not but I shall be found right, in the Sum propos'd, to make in the Alteration of Trade among the Nations; I leave them about one half of the Trade for a Consumption of their course Goods; and if this be the Effect of preventing the Smugling of Wool, there must be another Consequence, a preventing of the Smugling Part of the former Returns: Thereby there must be a large Sum added to the Revenue on that Account; and there being such an Addition made to our Returns in a fair Way of Trade, the natural Consequence must be, that so many Millions more than in common, must largely add to the Revenue, which must greatly add to what I have said before 15,400,000 *l.* a Sum enough to even surprize the greatest Men alive.

There is no Proposal ever so clearly set forth, with all the Truth possible, but it may from some Cause or other meet with Objectors, altho' there may not be Room for any real Objection. If any Blemish in this, it may be, because it did not come from *Oxford* or *Cambridge*: The Plainness of the Style may lessen it in some Mens Esteem; but the Production of the Proposal, the lifting the Trade of the Nation to such a Height, and carrying it such a Length, may fully atone for every Objection. The Smuglers of Wool may object, the Persons that may have had any Hopes as to their great Performance in the Affair may object; if any Man can set the Affair in a truer Light, he may deserve the Reward

(23)

ward due for such a Performance; if not, this is really my own, and what I have taken much Pains about, and is very different from all that have yet appeared.

And that it is my own Thoughts I can sufficiently prove. It is known by some of the Honourable House of Commons, that there was a Proposal concerning Wool ready, that was not given in last Session of Parliament; and why, because I did not see among the many Resolves of Parliament, any Resolve that a suitable Reward should be given; for which Reason, altho' I was in the Committee Chamber, I did not show it. Since that Time we have been told, That his Majesty have Commanded the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, to Hint to the People the Royal Desire to have some farther Thoughts about it; and in Obedience to the Royal Command, my Contrivance for preventing the Smugling of Wool appears; which Contrivance, with such Amendments as may be thought fit to be made by Parliament; and then made a Law, I doubt not but the Smugling of Wool will be fully prevented to the Satisfaction, and great Advantage of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*.

Such a Turn in Trade, as here made out, must greatly add to the Ballance in Trade in our Favour; and in a short Time must make the Nation abundantly more Rich, consequently abundantly more Powerful.

2dly, By thus encreasing our Trade we shall be in a much better Way to Improve some of those Millions that are daily handed about in *Change-Ally*, by the Way of Out-witting one the other.

3dly, There must be the following Advantage in this Turn of Trade, when the Markets before Named may be supply'd with the finer Sort of
Woollen

(24)

Woollen Goods by the *English*, then the other Part of our finer Sort of Woollens that used to be carried to *Turkey*, and those other Markets; and by Reason of Foreigners interfering with our Merchants, they met with bad Sales, that Part of our Trade must consequently advance. The bare Alteration in Trade as to who supplies, can no way alter the Consumption or Demands of those Countries. And for the working Part, the Workmen must be where the Wool is; and it will directly employ many Thousands among us, that are now said to be starving. And then should we want a greater Number of Workmen, and it should be some little Time before the full of the Work and the Workmen may be got together; then that which may be worked up, must fetch a better Price, because the Consumption and the Demand continues.

4thly, And when we shall keep our Wool at Home, and those Workmen beyond the Seas, either those that may for want of Work may have gone from us, or the Foreigners that may find themselves starving may come over to us; then there must be a greater Consumption of all our Necessaries for Life. And when Workmen shall encrease upon us, and we shall keep the one half of our best Wool to be work'd up by us, we shall be forced to get some Wool from abroad, and where, I may know a proper Place or Places.

5thly, Suppose the Nations that may be disappointed of our fine Wool, they did not trade for any of our meaner Sort; should those Nations be obliged to buy some of our finer Sorts of Woollen Goods to mix with their courser Sort, we should have a Market opened that way. And for manufacturing, there may be a Method proposed, whereby to make it more cheap and easy

(25)

easy in a proper Season, at which Time, a Moddle may be given as to the Ware-Houses; also, then may be known how the Monies may be found to defray the Charge of Building without a Tax on the Nation.

I am a Person that have traded about 40 Years, and have personally traded in many distant and different Parts of the World, and all the Time on my own Account; and for about 7 Years, I have retir'd from all Trade and Business a few Miles from *London*, and not wanting Bread, I have had many leisure Hours to consider of the many Observations I have formerly made Abroad; and at Home, since I have return'd from a 30 Years Travel, in which I travell'd after a different Manner from other People; I have always had a Ship of my own, to go when and where I pleas'd; I have always been my own Commander, Owner, and Merchant; I have never been a Servant to King or Subject, so never confin'd to this or that Station, to this or that Port to load, but always at Liberty to visit any Part of the World wheresoever I pleas'd, and all at my own Expence; so that if I have gain'd more Experience as to the many different Advantages of the World, it has been at my own Charge, attended with many Hazards, Losses, and Difficulties, which so long a Travel must admit of. If after all I can do any extraordinary Service for *Great-Britain*, I hope, I may not be thought unworthy of a suitable Reward; if I had deliver'd this Affair of Wool last Session of Parliament, I had then deliver'd it in writing, but supposing that many have thought concerning it, since I have thought it more requisite to say what I have to say in print; that as the whole Nation, as appears by their many Petitions, are exceed-

D

ing

(26)

ing desirous, that Smuggling of Wool may be prevented, they may see what I have said in Order thereunto.

I shall conclude what I have to say at present, with a Word or two, concerning another National Affair; in which, there have been as much a Mismanagement as in any National Affair of its Consequence; and as much wants an Inspection, *viz.* the Royal Hospital at *Greenwich*. What I shall hint now, is only to introduce an Inquiry or Inspection; according to the Date in one Part of the Front, it has been 66 Years in Building, it exceeds Church Work as to Length of Time; it has been longer than *St. Paul's* or *Solomon's Temple*, and yet, hardly three Parts finish'd; and about 33 Years ago, it was granted by King *William III.* to this present Use, with a suitable Support; and by Reason that Support was never rightly inquir'd into, a Complaint was made that it was not sufficient; and when His present Majesty came to the Throne, He was Royally pleas'd to recommend it to the Consideration of Parliament; the Parliament were pleas'd to add 10:000 *l. per Annum* to its former Support; but when the former Support may be rightly inquir'd into, it will be found, that there has been a sufficient Support, whereby to have finish'd it long ago, and after a beautiful Manner. I have consider'd its Support according to Law, by which it appears to me, that there have been, or ought to have been 1:980:000 *l.* receiv'd in the 33 past Years; and if the last fourth Part may be equivoiently so long in Building as the other three have been, that Amount will be 1:320:000 *l.* more; this is plainly to be made out.

Had

(27)

Had it been His Majesty's Royal Pleasure, at His coming to the *British* Throne, instead of recommending it for an additional Support, to have granted a Commission of Inspection into its former Support and Management; not only the 10:000 *l. per Annum* ever since wou'd have been sav'd, but also a right Knowledge of that Affair would have been had, and the Building finish'd, and after a much better Manner than it now goes on in.

I am,

PHILO-BRITANNICUS.

I do not sign my Vaunt, &c. Name for peculiar Reasons known to my self; the Proposal is such, that many would covet to set their Names to; but I hope that no Person, that have no just Right, will in any Sort make a Pretence to have any Share in what is above set forth, as I have not rob'd any Man in Conversation, &c. I hope to be justly us'd by all I have said any thing to; and if there be any thing valuable propos'd, I hope it will be as generously allow'd the Author.

January the 1st,
1732.

H E R E

(28)

HERE I really intended to have stop'd, and have spoke no more plain Truths at this Time, only to have waited and observ'd the Consequence of the two foregoing Things in the Beginning of this New-Year.

But I having two Friends come to see me in my Country Hut, as now and then I have an Acquaintance from *London*; they tells me, that on *Christmas-Day*, a Gentleman was graciously receiv'd by His Majesty in Order to his laying before Him a Method for paying the Great National Debt; this was acceptable News to me, that there was like to be a Hearing concerning it (this may cause more Hearings) this News put me upon some farther Thoughts. I called to Mind that sometime ago I had many Thoughts about the National Debt, and had form'd a Method for the Payment of it; upon a Scarch I found it, and I may put in for the Plate.

There are several that have started for it; one is for paying it at once, by changing the Nation for Paper; a second, says, he'll pay it another Way, in about 20 or 25 Years; a third, says, he'll pay it in less than 20 Years; a fourth, says, he'll pay it in about 14 Years; and if I may be allow'd to be the fifth, I say, I can show how to pay it in 7 Years and half, if the Sum be 50 Millions *£ Sterling*, and without laying any new Tax on the Nation, but take of some old Ones.

As the Spring is drawing on, and all Things seem to tend toward a general Pence, I hope all Things planted in *Great-Britain* may grow this Season; if People get at the Benefit of being heard by Persons in Power, I shall have Reason to hope, that something more than ever was, will be done for and by this Nation.

We

(29)

We have assuredly the Best of Sovereigns, we have a King and Queen who are very desirous of the Prosperity of the Nation, and wou'd take Pleasure in having many Opportunies of advancing its Interest, but does nothing without the Advice of Council; and if it be true, that the Great Men in Power are hearing Projectors, or Contrivers of good Things, I will put in my Mite among such.

I. As to the Wool Affair, I hope, I have set that in an acceptable Light.

II. As to the Affair of the Royal Hospital at *Greenwich*, I can set that in as true a Light.

III. As to show how to pay the National Debt with ready Monies in 7 Years and half, if Fifty Millions; that I can assuredly do.

IV. As to the removing the stumbling Block out of the Way of great monied Folk, that cannot think of any Way but *Change-Alley*; I can show another Way to them, whereby 5 per Cent. may be allowed for all the Monies belonging to the People of *Britain* out of Trade, when the Debt may be paid.

V. As to the Nation's Trade, I can show how to make that entirely safe; so safe, that no Adventurer in Time to come, may say, my Ship have been taken after this or that Manner, and I am so much a Sufferer, or ruined.

VI. As to the *British* Interest in a *America* the most profitable Part of the World distant from us; I can show how that may be improved to the utmost Degree.

VII. As to a farther advance of Trade of the *British* Nation, than by the preventing the Wool from being Smugled; I can show how that may be done also.

VIII. As to the Affair of the Royal Navy of *Great-Britain*, which Number of Ships according
a printed

(30)

a printed List of their Names, is 235 Sail, which are the Safety and Bulwark of the Nation, and no little Charge, those ought not to be forgot; but if any thing can be done that may lessen their Charge; either by Preservation or otherways, nothing ought to be omitted; I can certainly show how the Ships and Riging may be so preserved as to be kept in a much better Order, and last as long again, and by a different Method to what is us'd with us, or any Nation in *Europe*.

IX, As the Ships of the Royal Navy those may be put into the best Order possible, it may also be convenient that Seamen should be in as great an Order and Readiness, because a Million of Ships without Men, are of no Signification; therefore it is highly necessary that that Affair be so regulated, that Men may be held in the same Readiness as the Ships; which they may assuredly be to any Number.

These are Things of the very greatest Consequence to the Nation, and may be thought too many, and too great for any one Man to know. But when it may be consider'd as to the Expence and Pains that I have been at in 30 Years Travel to acquaint my self with many distant Parts of the World, I hope it may be allow'd that I may know more than in common; and having since I return'd spent more than 7 Years in considering what I have formerly observ'd; and it's very evident, that I have had different Thoughts from many other Men, by my laying down such different Methods for the preventing the pernicious Practice of Smugling of Wool. Many Men gave their Opinions last Session, but none sufficient whereby to make a Law.

It

(31)

It is to be suppos'd, and hop'd, that the *British* Parliament will multiply more Advantages to the Nation the approaching Session, many Times more, yes 20 Times more than ever was added to the *British* Trade, the Support of the Nation, in any one Session. The Wool taking such a Turn as set forth, must add in the trading Part with the Duties the Effect of that Trade, about 20 Millions yearly; and should the Representatives of the Nation, put the Payment of the National Debt into a Method of being paid in 7 Years and half, that must be a very great additional National Good, and must cause the People whom they represent, to receive them with open Arms. And I farther suppose, that these two Things being put right, there will no longer be a Dispute where the Ballance of Trade and Power rests among the *European* Nations. And I assure my Reader, that I have a Method prepared which shows how 5 *per Cent.* may be allowed for all the Monies the Inhabitants of *Great-Britain* may have now in the Stocks, that than may be out of Trade, and without any new Tax, or continuing any old one for that Use; 5 *per Cent.* may be had, and 5 *per Cent.* is assuredly better than 3 or 4; and all the other 6 Things which I have hinted, I can assuredly perform to the very greatest Advantage.

It has been allowed, that the Union made with *Scotland* was the Glory of Queen *Ann's* Reign, be the Charge of it what it might; which, if I have not been misinform'd, was very considerable; and the Harmony, which these propos'd Methods, by being put in Practice may bring about, cannot fail of fermenting the Interests of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, there being such exceeding Advantages to both Kingdoms;
and

(32)

and otherways, the said Methods will bring about such Things as to the Trade and Power of the Nation, as have not been known in any Princes Reign in any Nation in *Europe*. Should these Things have their desire Effect (which humanly speaking cannot fail) then there cannot be any longer a Question about want of Monies; but a Palace suitable to the Grandure of the Nation and Royal Family, may be directly set forward, and in few Years built.

I should not have been either so weak or so bold, as after this Manner, to have asserted and set forth these great Things, if I were not well assured they are Matters of Fact; and if they are, then these great Advantages must be very pleasing to all the People of *Great-Britain*. When I see what Turn this Affair will take, then, if I can be farther serviceable, I shall appear in Order thereunto.

This Proposal is registered according to Law, and here noted, to prevent such as would infringe the Property of the Proposer.

I am,

Philo-Britannicus.

F I N I S.