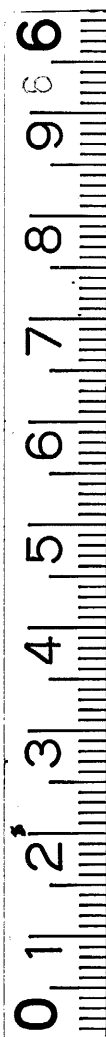


54-9



0001

Speculum Commercii: N
OR, THE
HISTORY
OF OUR
Golden Fleece.

*Written by the Author of the
Beaux Merchant.*

Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas.
Virg.

*Ad Sanitatem gradus est primus novisse
Morbum.* Erasmi.

LONDON:
Printed for R. and J. Bonwick, at the Red-
Lyon in St. Paul's Church-yard. 1716.



TO THE
 MOST ILLUSTRIOUS
 PRINCE,
 GEORGE,
 PRINCE OF WALES.

May it please your Highness,



*S Providence hath given
 us a grateful View of a
 glorious Succession in your
 Royal Highness and hap-
 py Issue (whom God preserve;) and
 as the true Interest and Glory of*

The Dedication.

these Kingdoms hath been evidently advanc'd by King Edward III. King Henry IV. and Queen Elizabeth, by a diligent Improvement of our Golden Fleece, (the Bread of our Nation;) and the Reverse as plain in the Reigns of King Richard II. Henry VIII. and King James I. by their Neglect of this true Interest, upon which Subject our Histories are wholly silent; I hope it will in some Measure justify me in this Address, provided I make good by Instances of Fact what I here insert. We are told by the illustrious Prince, the Duke of Rohan, that Princes command the People, and that Interest commands Princes. The Knowledge of this Interest is as much more rais'd above that of Princes Actions, as they themselves are

The Dedication.

are above the People. The Prince may deceive himself, his Council may be corrupted, but the Interest can never fail; according as it is well or ill understood, it makes States to live or die. He adds farther, that Queen Elizabeth, by the Improvement of her Commerce, did equal the greatest Kings in Christendom; to which I will farther add, that that illustrious Princess, by the Strength of her Golden Fleece, reduc'd the exorbitant Power of Spain, gave Aid at the same Time to Henry IV. of France, and supported the springing Liberties of the United Provinces; and that Great Britain can hereby give Rules in Trade, and balance the Power of all Christendom. Happy that Prince that considers the true Inte-

The Dedication.

rest of his own Kingdom, by fair Glosses upon the Subject of Commerce. Poison hath often been taken instead of Balsam, as Felony to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, the Freedom of our Markets to Aliens, to encourage our Woollen Manufacturers, Merchandize and Navigation, &c. to which I shall only add the last Words of K. Henry IV. to his Son K. Henry V.

“ While thy Subjects have Wealth,
 “ thou shalt have Obedience; but if
 “ made poor, they will be making
 “ Commotions and Insurrections.

My chief Aim herein, Great Sir, is the Re-establishment of the ancient Company of Merchant Adventurers of England, under the Charter of our dread Sovereign King George your illustrious Father, and
 under

The Dedication.

under the Title of, *The Royal Han-
 nover Company*. Nor can I think it
 (in great Submission) beneath the
 Dignity of your Royal Highness to be
 their Protector or Governor, as they
 have been the best Guardians of our
 Golden Fleece, and by whose Care
 in due Time its Glory may be re-
 ved, and shine as a Diadem in your
 Royal Crown. As a Member of
 Fellowship, (tho' unworthy) I sub-
 scribe my self

Your Highness's

most Humble,

and most obedient Servant.

J. BLANCH.



THE
HISTORY
OF OUR
Golden Fleece.

HE that sedately considers the Quantity and Quality of our Wool, will readily acquiesce in the Opinion of our Ancestors, who term'd it the Flower of the King's Crown; nor do our Wool-sacks in the House of Lords speak any less. As to its Quantity, I will only add the Words of the famous
Judge

10 *The History of*

Judge *Cook*, who tells us, Nine Parts in ten of our exported Commodities do come from the Sheep's Back; and the sixty eight thousand Pounds annually arising out of the Customs of *Calais* in the Reign of King *Edward* the Third, as is express'd by the Act of Parliament, *Anno vicesimo septimo Hen. 6. cap. 2.* when the Ounce of Silver was currant at twenty Pence, which makes Two hundred and four thousand Pounds, according to the present Value of our Coin. The Custom of a Sack of Wool, containing twenty six Stone, the Stone fourteen Pounds, was at this Time six Shillings eight Pence to the natural born Subject, and ten Shillings to the Merchant Alien: *Anno vicesimo septimo Edw. 3. cap. 1.* The Care of this wise Prince was doubtless extraordinary, in bringing all the exported Wool of *England* and *Ireland* to the Staple at *Calais*; yet doubtless some Fish went by the Net, and the Quantity work'd up in *England* at this Time was very considerable, it being fifteen Years after he had established his Manufacture; which may give some Light into

our Golden Fleece. 11

into its Quantity with a nice Accomptant. Its Quality more excellent: God and Nature hath herein seemingly conspir'd to make this Island happy, by the different Degrees in the Fineness of our Wool; twelve Pounds of our best *Herefordshire* Wool is of a better Value than twenty eight of our *Gloucestershire* Cotswold-Wool, and a gradual Sinking in the Fineness of several Counties Wools, viz. *Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcester, Somerset, Wilts, Sussex, and Hampshire* Wools; and our Cotswold-Wool is better in Value by one Third than the Wool of several Nothern and Welch Counties; hereby producing able Fabricks from the Prince to the Peasant. As remarkable in its Proof; it hath been wrought into good Cloth after it hath stood thirty Years in Wool, and may be mill'd in from thirteen Quarters set in the Loom, to less than six Quarters, agreeable to cold Countries; and our longest Staple Wool may be drawn to as fine a Thread as Silk, and wrought into Fabricks proper for the hottest Climates, capable of the finest Tinctures in a Harmony of Colours in our new Drapery.

12 *The History of*

pery. And our old Drapery of late Years, embellish'd with Flowers, Stripes, Chequers, &c. *Admirabile cernis*; Scarlet fix'd upon one Side of the Cloth, and a Blue upon the other: So that the nicest Fancy may be gratified in Furniture for Beds, Hangings for Rooms, Lining for Coaches, &c. Whereas few Years since we received Tapestry Hangings from *Flanders*, much flower'd imboss'd Cloth is now sent thither for the same Use; and we come short of no foreign Country in the nicest Curiosity of its Manufacture. We are likewise by Providence seemingly distinguished in peculiar Commodities for its Improvement, as Fuller's Earth, Copperas, Alum, &c. In short, our Cloth is said by *Edward the Sixth*, to be a notable Commodity, of which there is not the like in foreign Countries. *Anno quinto Edw. 6. cap. 6.*

But immediately unhappy, without a watchful Care; as we are an Island, as may hereafter appear, Wool may be deliver'd in *France* from *Suffex*, and other Places, much cheaper than into *Wiltshire* or *Gloucestershire*; and no Opportunity

our Golden Fleece. 13

portunity was ever let slip by our Neighbours to procure it by Corruption, and other incessant Attempts. It hath of late Years been detected in Package like Cloth, under Colour of Hogsheads of Copperas, in Butter-Tubs with Shot in the Middle, in Casks of Beef from *Ireland*, &c. *Corrupt Ministers*, says *Tully*, are the Bane of a Commonwealth; the best Laws will soon sleep, when the Execution is discouraged by those at the Helm. The Counsellors of Princes, and Magistrates of Commonwealths, are corrupted with Money, says the Duke of Rohan. And where Force fails, Money prevails, is a Dutch Proverb. *Ferro nocentius Aurum*. *Ovid*. And that which adds to our Care herein, the true Interest of our Kingdom hath been industriously lessen'd by some of our chiefest Merchants, to make Room for *Indian* Fabricks. *Sir Thomas Mun*, an *East-India* Merchant, that lived in the Reign of King *James the First*, tells us in Print, That we had better employ our People upon Husbandry and Fishing than Cloathing. And *Sir Josiah Child*, adviseth in like Manner, to set our Doors wide open

to

14 *The History of*

to all our native Commodities, not excepting our Wool, after the Example of *Holland*; and lays down this Maxim, *That there is an Infinite in Trade not to be fathom'd; like the Rabbin's Greek, Non potest legi.* The vast Importation of Bullion to purchase Calico, hath in ocular Demonstration brought our Silver Coin almost to a Finite: And the judging our true Interest between our Hand-maids investing their Wages upon Calico or *Normich* Stuff, upon Hat of Wool or Hood of *French* Lutestring Silk, seems to me to be no abstruse Point. The private Interest of others (who without this clandestine Trade and Commissions from Foreigners would make but a small Figure in Merchandize) being joined with a more considerable Party, that push forward in a wrong Way to supplant, and get the Places of those at the Helm, puts us in need of a *Janus*, instead of a *Palinurus*, to guide the Helm. But I now proceed: And could I appear something like an Historian, it would be grateful, having some Grounds for near Five hundred Years; but can't find by any of our Historians,

our Golden Fleece. 15

Historians, which entertain us with the Practice of elder Times, that we had any Wool; the Value of which I believe was industriously concealed by those foreign Countries that had the Benefit of its Manufacture; and they ground their History chiefly upon the Accounts they find from them. They tell us, That this Island was first discover'd by the *Phœnicians*, whose Pedigree the great *Bochartus* derives from *Anak*; a People famed for Invention, and promoting of Commerce, and driven out of their Countrey by the *Israelites*; and that they industriously conceal'd the Traffick they found here from other Nations, which they tell was only Tin and Lead, Commodities of great Value in the Mediterranean; and relate a memorable Passage from *Strabo* of a Ship that was voluntarily sunk by the *Phœnicians*, sailing from *Britain* to *Cadiz*, purely to conceal their Freight from a *Roman* Vessel that follow'd them; and that the Loss of the Goods was afterwards made good out of the common Treasury of the *Phœnicians*; when I believe this

16 *The History of*

this Ship was laden with Wool, and the Tin and Lead was only the Ballast. This Island was ever famous for Sheep: *Edward* the Fourth was condemn'd for his Present of Sheep to the King of *Ar-ragon*. And it appears by some of our Acts of Parliament, that great Quantities of our Wool were carried up the Streights of *Morocco*, and that the *Vene-tians* were great Workers of our Wool. Had this Ship been wholly laden with Tin and Lead, as they tell us, they had been under no Necessity of sinking the Ship, the Sea would soon swallow up a Freight of Lead and Tin in their Sailing.

The next People that came over, they tell us, were the *Grecians*; and that they call'd this Island *Albion*, from the Whiteness of Cliffs and Rocks; which I rather think was from the Candour of this noble Commodity of ours, *Exupe-rans Candore Nives*. And that *Jason*, fail-ing to *Colchos* with his noble Men, the Flower of all *Greece*, upon his new built Ship, the *Argo*, to fetch the Golden Fleece, might figure out their first Ex-pedition to this Island. They tell us he charm'd

our Golden Fleece. 17

charm'd *Medea*, the King's Daughter, who taught him how to tame the Brazen Bulls with their Steel-tipp'd Horns, and to cast the watchful Dragon into a Sleep that guarded it, and thereby gained the Fleece, and married the Lady, which may be the Moral of that Fable. And it's to me a wide Thought in *Camden*, that tells us, That this Island was called *Britain* from *Brith*, that signifies Painting, because the Inhabitants went naked, and painted themselves, when they were in the Pos-session of this noble Commodity, which at this Time clothes half Christendom. It's evident from our Histories that the *Britains* were skilful in the Working of Wool. They tell us, That *Cesar* in his second Return to *Rome*, after his Con-quest in *England*, brought with him in Triumph a Train of *British* Captives, which he employed about the Tapestry Hangings in the Theatre. Which shews them to be skilful, because several Fi-gures of the *Britains* were curiously wrought; which is likewise confirmed by *Virgil*, *Purpurea intexti tollant Au-lea Britanni*. And it's farther evident

18 *The History of*

to me, that Wool was the chiefest Treasure of this Island, from the memorable Act of King *Edgar*, in remitting the Tribute of twenty Pound Weight of Gold, three hundred of Silver, and five and twenty hundred Head of Cattel, obtained of the *Welch* by King *Ethelstan*, in Consideration of three hundred Wolves a Year, which must certainly be intended for the Preservation of his Flocks of Sheep.

It's very plain to this very Time, that as our Neighbours have been covetous of our Wool, they have likewise been very industrious in concealing its Value; and when vast Numbers of *Flemmings* by the Stop of the Exportation of our Wool, have been forced over into *England*, they always pretended they were driven out of their Countries by Persecution; of which we have many Examples, the Persecution, and the Stop of our Wool as exactly agreeing in point of Time as a Tally, which we have swallowed without chewing: But leaving these Conjectures to the Judgment of my candid Reader, I now proceed to my Design in
Hand,

our Golden Fleece. 19

Hand, and shall take my Beginning from King *Henry* the Third, with the ninth Year of whose Reign begin our Statute Laws. This Prince being drawn into Straights by a foreign War, about the fifteenth and sixteenth Year of his Reign, (which oft times prove more Expensive than guess'd at the first time of making) granted a Charter with a Parcel of Ground, call'd the *Still-yard*, to *Flanders* and the *Hanse-Towns* of *Germany*, viz. *Hamburgh*, *Breme*, *Lubeck*, &c. to negotiate their Merchandise Custom free; the Consideration upon which it was granted, is to me uncertain; but I believe they thought it very extraordinary, by the Title they assum'd to themselves in *England*, Merchants of the *Hans* of *Almaine*, of the House, *Guilhalda Theutonicorum*, *Tutelary Allies*. This Charter was never totally overthrown, until the fifth and sixth Year of King *Edward* the Sixth. What Ground they lost in the Freedom of their Trade in one King's Reign, by the Power of their Gold they recover'd in the next; as will hereafter appear. The first Attempt that was made against the

20 *The History of*

Power of this foreign Interest, was by famous King *Edward* the Third in the tenth Year of his Reign, as Sir *Walter Rawleigh* gives an Account. He seized upon the Goods of the *Italian* Merchants, in whose Hands at that Time was the *East India* Trade, to his own Use, which were evidently the Hinderance of our Woollen Manufacture; and as a Preliminary to his noble Design, in which a whole Session of Parliament was spent, the next Year, *Anno Dom. 1337*, in which it was enacted, *Cap. 1.* It shall be Felony to carry any Wool out of the Realm, until it be otherwise ordained. *Cap. 2.* None shall wear any Cloth but what is made in *England.* *Cap. 3.* No Cloths made beyond the Sea shall be brought into the King's Dominions. *Cap. 4.* Who only may wear Furs. *Cap. 5.* It is accorded, that all the Cloth-workers of strange Lands, of whatsoever Countrey they be, which will come into *England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland,* within the King's Power, shall come safely and surely, and shall be in the King's Protection and safe Conduct, to dwell in the same Lands,

our Golden Fleece. 21

Lands, choosing where they will: And to the Intent the said Clothworkers shall have the greater Will to come and dwell here, our Sovereign Lord the King will grant them Franchises, as many and such as may suffice them; which was the whole Negotiation of this Session of Parliament; and that which laid the Foundation of the Security, Wealth and Happiness of this Kingdom. From these Measures so wisely concerted, there was no Room to doubt of Success: A Multitude of Manufacturers soon came over, and *Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk,* were the Counties they fix'd upon, and a very great Advance in the Cloth Trade was soon made. The next prudent Step he took to advance Trade, was the putting a Stop to Usury, the Bane of Commerce, *Anno decimo quarto, Cap. 5.* Punishments of Usury, by the King and Ordinaries. The promoting of Industry seemed to be his greatest Care. *Anno vicesimo tertio, Cap. 7.* No Person shall give any thing to a Beggar that is able to labour. And in the twenty fifth Year of this prosperous Reign, an Aulnager was established

22 *The History of*

established to adjust the Measure of Cloth, and inspect its Goodness, which was adding Justice to Prudence.

The Tide was hereby turn'd from Invasions to Conquests abroad; *Calais* was taken and peopled with *English*; and a grand Mart established for the Disposal of our Wool, &c. Which was the setting up of Merchandise, by exporting our Wool to *Calais*, and gave a great Encouragement to our Navigation, Wool being a bulky Commodity: Otherwise he could never have appear'd upon the Coast of *France* with eleven hundred Sail of Ships, as our Histories tell us. He likewise hereby established a Revenue to the Crown of above two hundred thousand Pounds *per Annum*, which the Customs of *Calais* produced. A Subsidy was granted to the King out of every Cloth sold. *Anno vicesimo septimo. Cap. 4.* And upon some Inconveniencies and Disturbances that happen'd at this Time at the Staple at *Calais* through the Wars, upon great Consultation with his Parliament, the Staple was fix'd at several Market Towns in *England* and *Ireland*,
and

our Golden Fleece. 23

and twenty eight Laws made for the regular Government of the Staple; in one of which, is had some Regard to the Merchants of *Almaine. Cap. 24.* Six Merchants being to be chosen to decide Differences, two of *Almaine*, two of *Lombardy*, and two of *England.* In the thirty first Year of this Reign, *Cap. 8.* A Subsidy of fifty Shillings a Sack was given to the King, for the carrying on his Wars, which brought in a thousand Marks a Day; a greater matter than a thousand Pounds in these Days, as Sir *Walter Rawleigh* tells us in his Prerogative of Parliaments. In the thirty seventh Year of this Reign, this wise Prince, after the Example of *Lycurgus*, gave a Rule for the Habits of all his Subjects according to their Degrees. *Cap. 8.* The Apparel of Servants. *Cap. 9.* The Apparel of Handicrafts-men, and Yeomen, and of their Wives and Children. *Cap. 10.* What Apparel Gentlemen, under the Estates of Knights; and what Esquires of two hundred Mark Lands, &c. may wear; and what their Wives and Children. *Cap. 11.* The Apparel of Merchants,
B 4

24 *The History of*

chants, Citizens and Burgeses. *Cap. 12.* The Apparel of Knights which have Lands within the Yearly Value of two hundred Marks; and of Knights and Ladies that have four hundred Marks Lands. *Cap. 13.* The Apparel of divers sorts of Clerks. *Cap. 14.* The Apparel of Plow-men, and others of mean Estates: And the Forfeiture of the Offender shall be of the Apparel that he doth wear contrary to this Ordinance. *Cap. 15.* Clothiers shall make Cloth sufficient of the aforesaid Prices; by which it is evident that they were all limited to the Woollen Manufactures; which was the most effectual Way to prevent the Importation of foreign Fabricks. I have seen a Balance of Trade taken near this Time, where the exported Commodities amounted to two hundred ninety four thousand one hundred eighty four Pounds seventeen Shillings and two Pence; and the imported but to thirty eight thousand nine hundred and seventy Pounds three Shillings six Pence. In the thirty eighth Year of this Reign, *Cap. 6.* The Felony touching the Exportation of Wool was repeal'd,

our Golden Fleece. 25

repeal'd, and the Forfeiture of Lands shall stand. In the fiftieth Year of this Reign, *Cap. 7.* It was enacted, that no Woollen Cloths should be transported before they be fulled; which shew'd a true Zeal for the Improvement of the Cloth Trade to the end of his Reign. His successful Wars in *France*, victorious Armies in the Heart of *Spain*, I will refer to the Historian, and will only mention his reviving the Order of the Round Table. The Government being now left to his Grandson, *Richard* the Second, in the eleventh Year of his Age, foreign Merchants became as much the Favourites of this Reign, as they were discouraged in the last; and by an unhappy Law made at *Gloucester*, *Anno secundo. Richardi 2.* *Cap. 1.* *England* was made a free Port, and a Liberty given to bring in Cloth of Gold and Silver, Silk, Sandale, Nappery, Cloth of Wool, and all sorts of Merchandise; and a Power given to Foreigners to sell their Merchandise by wholesale in the City of *London*, and all Market Towns; and if any City gave them any Disturbance, they should forfeit

26 *The History of*

feit their Charter. That the Habits of the Kingdom were hereby soon alter'd, is evident from our Histories that tell us, that the King had a Coat valued at thirty thousand Marks; that Sir *John Arundel* lost two and fifty Sutes of Cloth of Gold and Tissue; and that his Queen brought up the Fashion of high Head Attire, peaked up like Horns, and long train'd Gowns for Women. And by Act of Parliament made *Anno quinto Richardi 2. Cap. 2.* The Staple that brought in so considerable a Revenue to his Grandfather was overturn'd; Wools, Fells and Leather, may be carried into any Countrey by Aliens and Denizens, saving into *France*, until *Michaelmas* come Twelve-month. Hereby the Cloth Trade, so happily advanc'd by his Grandfather in *Kent, Suffolk* and *Norfolk*, immediately sunk, and a Rebellion ensued: *Wat Tyler* kill'd the Tax-gatherer with his lasting Staff, having no Work upon his Loom; and *Letister* the Dyer of *Norfolk* stirr'd up a Rebellion having no Work for his Coppers; *Durum Telum Necessitas. Anno undecimo, Cap. 7.* Merchant Aliens obtained Liberty

our Golden Fleece. 27

ty by Act of Parliament, to retail their Merchandise in Market Towns. *Anno decimo quarto, Cap. 1.* they got Liberty to export half their Money; but that which is most remarkable, and would be an incredible Relation, was not the Act standing, *Anno decimo quarto, Richardi 2. Cap. 5. Item,* That no Denizen carry Wools, Leather, Wool-fells nor Lead, out of the Realm of *England*, to the Parties beyond the Seas, upon Pain of Forfeiture of the same, but only Strangers. *Anno decimo septimo, Cap. 3.* A Liberty was given to export Worsted; so that this Reign was exactly the Reverse of the last. How this weak Prince, by the Neglect of the true Interest of his Kingdom, was, by his own Consent, dethroned, and afterwards murder'd; reduced to so low an Ebb of Poverty, that he was denied a Loan of one thousand Pounds by the City of *London*; forc'd upon several arbitrary Ways of collecting of Money, the Effects of Poverty, are plainly set forth by our Histories; and that which is here most Remarkable, was the Policy of these foreign Merchants,

28 *The History of*

chants, (who had the greatest Sway in the Kingdom at this time, the Trade being govern'd by them) in fixing the Government in the House of *Lancaster*, a wrong Line, which established a Bone of Contention; which effectually secured their Interest, as was manifest by the Consequence of the three succeeding Reigns. In the first Year of *Henry the Third*, *Cap. 16. Item*, It is accorded and assented, that the Merchants of *London*, from henceforth shall be as free to pack their Cloths, and quit off the same Packing as the other Merchants, or other Strangers within the said City, or within other Cities and Boroughs within the Realm, be: And if any Letters Patents be made to the contrary, they shall be utterly repealed, annulled, and holden of no Force or Virtue. The Restraint laid upon the Denizens of *England* from trading beyond the Seas with their own Native Commodities, by the Statute of *Richard the Second* was here releas'd to the Merchants of *London*, but all other Towns and Boroughs were still restrain'd, which was a little Particular. And in the fourth Year

our Golden Fleece. 29

Year of this Reign, *Cap. 15*. Merchants Alien were obliged to lay out the whole Money they sold their Merchandises for, upon the Merchandise of this Kingdom. *Anno quinto, Hen. 4. Cap. 7*. Merchant Strangers shall be used in this Realm, as Merchant Denizens are in others. And in the eighth Year of this Reign a Charter was granted to the Merchants of *London*, to trade to *Zealand*, *Brabant* and *Flanders*; which could be no more than a permissive Charter, having but lately obtain'd the Favour of packing up their Cloths; nor doth it any way appear that they made any Advance in their Merchandise: The Merchants of the *Stillyard*, at this Time, being under no Restraint. In the Reign of *Henry the Fifth*, the Charter of the *English* Merchants trading to *Zealand*, *Brabant* and *Flanders*, was confirm'd. *Anno secundo, Hen. 5. Cap. 6*. It was enacted, that Merchandises of the Staple, *viz.* Wool, Fells, Leather, Tin or Lead, whole and molten, shall not be carry'd to any Parts beyond the Sea, without the King's License, until they be first brought to the Staple, upon Pain of Forfeiture of them. This

30 *The History of*

This prov'd but a slender Security, Licences being easily obtain'd by Favourite Courtiers; it appears that the Kingdom at that Time was under great Uneasinesses by the Encroachments of Aliens. *Anno tertio, Cap. 3.* All Britains not made Denizens shall depart the Realm upon Pain of Death. In the eighth Year of this Reign, *Cap. 2.* the Merchant Stranger obtain'd our Wool by a new Contract. *Item,* It is ordained and established that every Merchant Stranger, buying Wools in *England* to carry them to the West Parts, and elsewhere, not coming to the Staple there to be sold, shall bring to the Master of the Mint of the Tower of *London*, of every Sack one Ounce of Bullion of Gold; and in the same Manner of three Pieces of Tin one Ounce of Bullion of Gold, or the Value in Bullion of Silver, upon Pain of Forfeiture of the same Wools and Tin, or the Value of the same, to the King. By this Act the Merchant Stranger had Liberty to carry Wool to the West Parts, or elsewhere, without coming to the Staple, bringing

to

our Golden Fleece. 31

to the Mint one Ounce of Gold for each Sack, which was a perfect Bubble to the Government, and a farther Advantage to the Stranger. The Balance of Trade was doubtless at this Time on the Foreigners Side; and being so, that very Gold so coin'd would certainly be issued out to pay the Debt, and the Government would lose the Coinage; for nothing can fix Treasure here but by bringing your Exports to exceed your Imports. The Government was now left to his Son *Henry* the Sixth, being but nine Months old; the Charter of the Merchant trading to *Zealand, Brabant, and Flanders*, was confirmed. In the second Year of this Reign, *Cap. 13.* the Ounce of Silver was advanc'd to thirty Pence. And the same Year it was enacted, that all Merchandises of the Staple passing out of *England, Wales, and Ireland*, shall be carried to *Calais*, so long as the Staple is at *Calais*. The Penalty if any carry Wools or Fells, not custom'd out of the Realm, to any Place favouring to *Calais*, shall be to forfeit them, and to be imprison'd: By which it appears

4

pears

32 *The History of*

pears that the Ounce of Gold for each Sack of Wooll was no Benefit. In the eighth Year of this Reign several beneficial Laws were made: *Cap. 19.* If a Mariner shall receive into his Ship any Merchandises, or carry them to any other Place than to the Staple at *Calais*, the Goods and Ship shall be forfeited. *Cap. 20.* No Merchant dwelling in *Calais*, shall buy beyond the Sea any Merchandize of the Staple. *Cap. 21.* A Repeal of all Licences granted to Men of *Newcastle* and *Berwick*, to carry Merchandises to other Places than to *Calais*: The Penalty of carrying Merchandises of the Staple into *Scotland*. *Cap. 22.* If any Sand, Earth, or any Dirt, be wound up in the Fleece of Wool, the Person grieved shall have his Action at the common Law of Trespas and Deceit. *Cap. 23.* No Thrums or Woollen Yarn shall be carried out of the Realm. *Cap. 24.* No Merchandise shall be sold to an Alien but for present Payment. The Restraint upon Merchants living in *Calais* in buying Commodities of the Staple in *England* was certainly a politick Law; as
4 likewise

our Golden Fleece. 33

likewise the Stop of Credit to Merchant Aliens, which deserves our present Consideration. *Anno decimo Hen. 6. Cap. 7.* All Wools and Wool-Fells that shall be carried to any other Place than *Calais*, shall be forfeit to the King and the Finder. As it hereby appears that the Merchants of the *Still-yard* were concerned in the clandestine Exportation of our Wool, they had likewise framed to themselves some other Conveniency, which was very handy, in *Southwark*, as appears by the Statute, *Anno undecimo Hen. 6. Cap. 1.* They that dwell at the Stores in *Southwark* shall not be impanelled in Juries, nor keep any Inn or Tavern, but there. *Cap. 13.* A Confirmation for three Years of the Statute of the 8th of *Hen. 6.* and the 18th, that Wool, &c. brought to *Calais* shall be sold for ready Money: The Merchants of the *Still-yard* at this Time being affected with the Act that gave the Forfeiture of the Wool to the King and the Finder, relieve themselves by a new Act, *Cap. 14.* It shall be Felony to ship or carry any Merchandises of the Staple in Creeks
C during

34 *The History of*

during three Years. And it as was found by Experience in the Reign of *Edward the Third*, that Felony to prevent the Exportation of Wool, was rather a Shelter than a Remedy: It was found the same at this Time. And at the End of the three Years, *Anno decimo quarto, Cap. 10.* a Law was made that gave the Forfeiture of all Merchandises shipped in Creeks to the King and the Finder. And under this Shelter of Felony it is express'd in the Statute, that vast Quantities of Wool were shipped into *Holland, Zealand, Brabant, and Flanders*, without paying any Custom. *Anno decimo octavo Hen. 6. Cap. 15.* The Merchants of the *Still-yard* obtain'd their old Shelter again; It shall be Felony to carry Wool or Wool-Fells to any other Place than *Calais*, saving such which pass the Streights of *Morocco*. And under this Shelter of Felony Wool was carried so free into *Flanders*, and Trade so far advanc'd, that the Duke of *Burgundy* put a total Stop to the Importation of *English* Cloth into his Dominions, as appears by a Law made *Anno vicesimo septimo Hen. 6. Cap. 1.* If Woollen Cloths
made

our Golden Fleece. 35

made in this Realm shall be prohibited, and not accepted in *Brabant, Holland, and Zealand*, then no Merchandise growing or wrought there within the Dominions of the Duke of *Burgundy* shall come into *England*, upon Pain of Forfeiture thereof.

Cap. 2. Because in the Reign of King *Edward the Third* the Subsidies and Customs of the Staple of *Calais* were threescore and eight thousand Pounds yearly, and now be not above twelve thousand Pounds, therefore no Licence granted, or to be granted, by the King, shall be available for the Carriage of Wools, Fells, or Tin, to any Place out of the Realm, but to *Calais*; and whosoever doth obtain, accept, and put in Execution any such Licence, shall be out of the King's Protection, except, &c. The stopping of these Licenses, whilst it remain'd Felony, was of little Signification; and it no Way affected the Duke of *Burgundy*, as appears by a Law made the next Year: *Anno vicesimo octavo, Cap. 1.* A Rehearsal and Confirmation for seven Years of the Statute of

36 *The History of*

the 27th of *Hen. 6.* and the first prohibiting Merchandises growing or wrought in *Holland, Zealand, and Brabant,* to be brought into this Realm, until *English Cloth* may be sold there. A Law was made at this Time, That Merchant Aliens shall bestow all their Money upon other Merchandises, and carry forth no Gold and Silver, upon Pain of Forfeiture thereof. The chief Care of these three Reigns was to prevent foreign Merchants sending out Gold and Silver, and several Laws were made in order hereto, and Hosts appointed to inspect their Buying and Selling, to see that they bought the Commodities of this Kingdom, which, whilst the Balance of Trade was on their Side, was but hedging the Cuckow, as the Proverb. And as the Cloth Trade hereby advanced in *Flanders,* it sunk in a like Proportion in *England;* And this unthoughtful Prince, by the Neglect of the true Interest of his Kingdom, was dethroned. In the third and fourth Year of King *Edward* the Fourth a more effectual Care was taken: *Anno tertio, Cap. 1.* No Alien shall ship

our Golden Fleece. 37

ship or carry out of this Realm any Wools, Fells, Morling, or Shorling; neither shall any Denizen carry them, but to *Calais;* excepting such as be growing in *Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland,* and the Bishoprick of *Durham,* which shall be carried to *Newcastle.* Every Merchant shall receive for his Merchandise of the Staple ready Payment, whereof the one Half shall be in Bullion of Gold or Silver, which shall be coined at the Mint of *Calais.* Whosoever winderth any deceitful Thing in Wool, shall forfeit six Pence for every Fleece. If any *English* or *Welshman* shall bring in, or carry forth, any Merchandise in an Alien Ship, if he may have Freight in a Denizen Ship, he shall forfeit his Merchandise. *Cap. 3.* Whosoever shall bring into this Realm any wrought Silk to be sold, concerning the Mystery of Silkworkers, shall forfeit the same, and ten Pounds. *Cap. 4.* Certain Merchandises, which it is not lawful to bring into this Realm wrought; that is to say, woollen Caps, woollen Cloths, Laces, Corfes, Ribands, Fringes of Silk, and of Thread,
C 3 Laces

38 *The History of*

Laces of Thread, Silk twin'd, Silk in any wise embroider'd, Laces of Gold, of Silk or Gold, &c. *Cap. 5.* What Kind of Apparel Men and Women of every Vocation and Degree are allowed, and what prohibited, to wear. *Anno quarto, Edm. 4. Cap. 1.* The Length and Breadth of Cloths made to be sold: No Cloths wrought beyond Sea shall be brought into *England*. A Clothier shall pay his Work-folks ready Money, and shall deliver them Wool according to the Weight. *Cap. 2.* All Wools, Fells, Morlings, and Shorlings, to be transported, shall be shipped at those Ports where the King hath a Beam, Weights, and a Collector of Customs, and shall be carried to *Calais*: And the Merchant shall bring Certificate thereof from the Customer of *Calais* to the Exchequer, to be enter'd of Record. *Cap. 3.* The Wools, Fells, Morlings, and Shorlings, of the Countrey beyond the Waters of *Tweed* and *Tees*, and of the Counties of *Northumberland*, *Cumberland*, *Westmorland*, *Richmondshire*, *Northalertonshire*, and the Bishoprick of *Durham*, only, and of none other Counties, shall be carried
to

our Golden Fleece. 39

to *Newcastle*, to be transported to the Staple of *Calais*: And of all other Shires to the Staple of *Calais*, upon Pain that every Offender that transporteth them in other Sort, shall forfeit to the King and Informer the double Value thereof. *Cap. 4.* No Person, during three Years next, shall buy, or take any Promise of Bargain, for any Wools then not shorn, of the Growing of *Berks*, &c. before the same be shorn, and until *Bartholomew-Day* following, but they which shall make Cloth or Yarn of them, upon Pain of Forfeiture of the double Value thereof. *Cap. 5.* No Merchandises of the Growth or Workmanship of any of the Countries subject to the Duke of *Burgundy* shall be brought into this Realm, until he revoke a Proclamation made for the Banishment of *English* Cloths out of his Realm. The King at this Time established the Charter of the Merchants trading to *Zealand*, *Brabant*, and *Flanders*; and call'd in Question the Charter of the Merchants of the *Still-yard*, whose Charter was now continued by the Payment of a good
C 4 Sum

40 *The History of*

Sum of Money, and likewise upon this strict Condition, That they should colour no Foreigner's Goods, as is expressed in the Journals of *Edward* the Sixth. The Standard of our Coin was at this Time advanced to forty Pence. Upon this Stop of our Wool, a considerable Struggle happen'd between this Crown and *Flanders*, and some Hostilities were offer'd by the Duke of *Burgundy*. A vast Number of woollen Manufacturers were drawn into *England*, and the Duke of *Burgundy* was forc'd to admit our Cloth into his Dominions. *Anno septimo Edm. 4. Cap. 3.* No woollen Yarn or Cloth shall be carried beyond the Sea unfull'd. In the twelfth Year of this Reign, *Cap. 5.* the foreign Merchants obtain'd (which is very remarkable) their old Expedient to procure our Wool; during five Years the Wools, &c. of certain Counties only shall be carried to *Newcastle*, and all others to *Calais*, upon Pain of Felony. In the succeeding Reign of *Richard* the Third a Law was made that over-turn'd the *East-India* Trade, which at that Time was in the Hands of the *Venetians*.

our Golden Fleece. 41

Venetians. And indeed it was that Law which gave this King a Reputation to Posterity, notwithstanding the inhuman Actions he was guilty of: *Anno primo Rich. 3. Cap. 9.* The Grievances done by Merchant Strangers to the King and the Realm, for remedy whereof be it enacted, That all Merchants of the Nation of *Italy*, which have now within this Realm Wares and Merchandises brought from beyond the Sea, and before the Feast of *Easter* next coming shall have, shall cause the same to be sold or barter'd in Gros, and not by Retail, to the King's Subjects, before the first Day of *May*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord, 1485; and shall employ the Money coming of that Sale, before the first Day of *May*, within the same Port or Ports where they do arrive, upon Commodities and Merchandises of this Realm, upon Pain of Forfeiture of the Value, as well of all the said Wares and Merchandises kept and not sold before the said first Day of *May*, or otherwise sold, as is before rehearsed, as of as much Money as shall be

42 *The History of*

be made over by Exchange, contrary to this Act. And also, that all the Merchants of *Italy*, which after the Feast of *Easter* next coming shall bring any Merchandise or Wares into this Realm to be sold, shall sell or barter the said Wares and Merchandise in Gross, and not by Retail, to the King's Subjects, upon Pain of Forfeiture of the same; and that the said Merchants do in no wise sell or barter within the said Realm their said Wares or Merchandise which remaineth unsold after the End of eight Months, but carry and convey the same out of this Realm within two Months next ensuing after the said eight Months, if Wind and Tide will that suffer; and otherwise, as soon as Wind and Tide will suffer after the said two Months, upon Pain of Forfeiture, as well of as much Money as shall be made over by Exchange, as of the said Wares or Merchandise so sold or barter'd, after the End of the said eight Months. The Penalties, Forfeitures, and Losses, of all the Premises, always to run and be upon the said Merchants of the Nation of *Italy*, doing contrary to this Act. A very severe Act was this
against

our Golden Fleece. 43

against *Italian* Merchants, who at this Time were in the Possession of the *East-India* Trade; but highly consistent with the true Interest of this Kingdom. Nothing is so prejudicial to the woollen Manufacture and Employment of our People as the Cotton Commodities and cheap Workmanship of the *Indians*. Which brings me to the Reign of King *Henry* the Seventh, by whose prudent Conduct the Kingdom was established in great Tranquillity and Riches. He renewed the Charter of the Merchants trading to *Flanders*, *Zealand*, and *Holland*, and gave them the Title of *Merchant Adventurers*, entrusted them with the sole Power of the Trade in the woollen Manufactures to those Parts, exclusive of all others, which gave great Disturbance to the *Flemmings*. By the second Law that he signed, he obliged Aliens made Denizens by Letters Patent, or by Act of Parliament, to pay Aliens Duties. And to shew his good Liking to the Act of *Richard* the Third against the *Italian* Merchants, *Anno primo, Cap. 10.* by Act of Parliament he reserved to
him-

44 *The History of*

himself all the Penalties, Forfeitures, and Seizures, limited in the aforesaid Act; with Intent doubtless to give them a true Prosecution; which was most that was done the first Session of his Parliament. In the third Year of his Reign, as he gave his own Subjects the Advantage of Trade, he likewise took Care to put them upon Industrious Practices. By the long Disturbances that had been between the Houses of York and Lancaster, doubtless many Practices had been introduc'd which were prejudicial to the true Interest of the Publick, as appears by his Chancellor's Speech to his Parliament, Part of which I here insert:

And because it is the King's Desire that this Peace, wherein he hopes to govern and maintain you, do not only bear unto you Leaves for you to sit under the Shade of them in Safety, but also should bear you Fruit of Riches, Wealth, and Plenty, therefore his Grace prays you to take into Consideration Matter of Trade, as also the Manufactures of the Kingdom, and to repress the bastard and barren Employment of Monies
to

our Golden Fleece. 45

to Usury and unlawful Exchanges, that they may be, as their natural Use is, turn'd upon Commerce, and Lawful and Royal Trading; and also that our People be set at Work in Arts and Handicrafts, that the Realm may more subsist of it self, that Idleness be avoided, and the drawing out our Treasure for foreign Manufactures stopp'd.

Every Sentence in this Speech has its Emphasis from his noble Intention to advance the true Interest of his People. He puts them upon the Consideration of Trade, the only Spring of our Riches. And whereas from the Disturbances that for many Years had been kept on Foot, many of his Subjects had fix'd themselves in an idle Way of Living by Usury, &c. and sat under the Shadow of Leaves without bearing Fruit, or, as in our Times, in driving round a Ring, he therefore desires the Assistance of his Parliament, and for their Encouragement he useth very animating Expressions: He terms Usury to be a bastard and barren Employment: The Trade, which employs our People, and makes the Kingdom
more

46 *The History of*

more subsist of it self, without drawing out our Treasure, he terms not Lawful, but Royal; in which he found a ready Compliance. *Anno tertio, Hen. 7. Cap. 5.* it was enacted that all Bargains by the Name of dry Exchange shall be void, whereby any certain Sum shall be lost. *Cap. 6.* All unlawful Chivesance and Usury shall be extirpate; all Brokers of such Bargains shall be set in the Pillory, put to open Shame, be half a Year imprison'd, and pay twenty Pounds. From these prudent Measures his Company of Merchant Adventurers at *Antwerp* became very flourishing: And he hereby turn'd Wheels into Anchors, the proper Support of a Merchant; from the Shadow of Leaves without Fruit, in a Ring turning round like the Beast with a Bladder in his Head, (which in the Animal we term Giddy,) to a profitable Merchandise that gave Employment to the Poor, and stopp'd the issuing out of Treasure for foreign Fabricks. This wise Prince hereby made his Kingdom easy, put a Stop to its intestine Broils, and thereby baffled the numerous Attempts of his Enemies

our Golden Fleece. 47

Enemies at home and abroad. The Advantage of his own Merchants was his chiefest Care, as appears by the Act, *Anno tertio, Cap. 7.* Be it enacted that no manner of Merchant, Denizen, nor Stranger, do take upon him to enter, or cause to be enter'd in the Books of any Customer of any Port within this Realm, any manner of Merchandise coming into the said Realm, or going out of the same, in any other Merchant's Name, saving only the Name of the true Merchant, Owner of the same, upon Pain of Forfeiture of all such Goods and Merchandise so enter'd; and every of the said Merchants which so shall take upon him, to cause such untrue Entry to be made, to have Imprisonment, and make Fine thereof at the King's Pleasure. Words of a plain Signification, which deserve to be wrought in Letters of Gold in every Custom-house in *Great Britain.* The Payment of Aliens Duties, to which all Merchants were subject which were not natural born, very much encouraged our *English* Merchants. *Anno tertio, Cap. 11.* No Cloth shall be transported

48 *The History of*

ported until it be barbed, roughed, and shorn. As this wise Prince hereby established an Employment for his People, he thereby fix'd himself in their Affections, which proved his best Security, and he thereby frustrated the Attempts of the *Flanderkins*, who were highly disgusted at the Stop of their Trade by the Establishment of his Company of Merchant Adventurers at *Antwerp*. By the Expression of a *Dry Exchange*, and Stop of *Brokers*, it's evident that Stock-jobbing is no new Practice. The Navigation of his Kingdom was his next Care: *Anno quarto, Cap. 10.* No *Gascoine* or *Guienne* Wine, or *Thoulouse* Wood, shall be brought into this Realm but by *English* Ships, and *English* Masters and Mariners; nor any Person shall freight in a Stranger's Ship to be brought into this Realm, or carried forth, if he may have sufficient Freight in the same Port in a Denizen Ship. *Cap. 11.* No Person during ten Years shall buy, or take Promise of Bargain, of any Wool that shall grow in *Berks, &c.* before the Assumption of our Lady next after the shearing there-

our Golden Fleece. 49

thereof, but such as shall make Yarn or Cloth thereof, nor any Merchant Stranger before the Purification of our Lady, *&c.* upon Pain of Forfeiture of the double Value. The Statute of *Edward* the Fourth was here revived with this additional Limitation to the Merchant Stranger: An excellent Law for the Good of the Clothing Trade. In the eleventh Year of this Reign great Care was taken to adjust the Measure of Corn by one Bushel through the Kingdom; which was no small Advantage to the poor. *Anno undecimo, Cap. 8.* He that lendeth his Money upon Usury, or maketh any Bargain of Lands or Goods, grounded upon Usury, shall forfeit one half thereof. *Cap. 14.* The Law to oblige Aliens made Denizens by Letters Patents, or Act of Parliament, to pay Aliens Duties, was again revived. From which it is evident from ten Years Experience, that this Act was beneficial to the Publick, as likewise the Act against Usury. *Anno duodecimo Hen. 7. Cap. 6.* A Petition, signed by several Merchant Adventurers dwelling out of the City of *London*, was present-

D

ed

50 *The History of*

ed to the Parliament, complaining of the Company of Merchant Adventures residing in *London*, which was the Head Court, upon their exacting too high a Fine from those that were admitted into their Fellowship; which Fine, upon their Request, was reduced from eleven Pound to ten Mark, as appears by the said Law; and from which it likewise appears, that this Merchandise was extended to many other Cities and Towns as well as *London*.

Two remarkable things happen'd in this Reign, and particularly shew the good Effects of this Improvement of Commerce; first, a Disappointment to *Juno* the Dutchess Dowager of *Flanders*, who by the Instigation of her Merchants, and her own spleenatick Zeal, nurs'd up the Pretender *Lambert Simnel*, and afterwards *Perkin Warbeck*, who attempted to land upon the Coast of *Sandwich* and *Deal*, in *Kent*, depending upon the *Kentish* Woollen Manufacturers, who had been famous for Rebellion in the Reign of *Richard* the Second, but found the Case so far alter'd, they being now well employ'd,
that

our Golden Fleece. 51

that had he not smell'd the Powder, they had soon made Dice of his Bones. The Lord *Bacon* tells us, that they consulted the chief Gentlemen of the County, how to tice him in and betray him: As likewise, when the *Cornish* Men were stirr'd up to a Rebellion, by *Flamock* a seditious Lawyer, upon the Payment of a Tax, and led into *Kent* by the Lord *Audley*, in Hopes of a like Assistance; the *Kentish* Men soon joyn'd with the King's Forces, and drove them like a Covey of Partridges into a Tunnel; and the Ring-leaders were hang'd, and the rest let go. The other, upon the Stop of Trade with *Flanders*, and the Removal of the Staple from *Antwerp* to *Calais*, upon the Encouragement given to *Perkin Warbeck* by the *Flanderkins*; at which time the Lord *Bacon* likewise tells us, that the Merchant Adventurers being then a strong Company, and well underfet with rich Men and good Order, did hold out bravely taking off the Commodities of the Kingdom, though they lay dead upon their Hands for want of Vent, till Commissioners came from *Flanders* to

52 *The History of*

treat of Peace; and that the *English* Merchants came again to their Mansion at *Antwerp*, where they were received with Procession and great Joy; which is a very good Note of Observatiou, and a material Point to be consider'd in Case of a War. Very few Laws were made in this King's Reign, but nothing wanting to promote Trade, the Spring of our Riches. The King borrowed two thousand Pounds of the City of *London*, at his coming to the Throne, and in twenty two Years left in the Treasury at his Death, one million eight hundred thousand Pounds, which makes of our Moneey, two millions four hundred thousand Pounds, the ounce of Silver at this time being current at forty Pence. And by the Establishment of Merchandise in most of his Mart Towns he made his Subjects as flourishing. But as Trade had in an extraordinary manner been advanced, it likewise received as fatal a Wound by the last Parliament of this King; and how this wise Prince came to sign such Acts, is to me unaccountable. *Anno decimo nono, Cap. 22.* A Repeal of a former

our Golden Fleece. 53

mer Statute, prohibiting Men of *Calais* to be Factors for Merchant Strangers in *England.* *Cap. 23.* Be it ordained, established, enacted, and provided by the King our Sovereign Lord, by the Advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons of the same in this present Parliament assembled, for Merchants of the Hanse in *Almaine*, having the House in the City of *London*, commonly call'd, *Guilhalda Theutonicorum*; that by Authority of this said Parliament, every Act, Statute, or Ordinance, Acts, Statutes, or Ordinances, heretofore made, not concerning Merchants, Merchandises, or other Wares, extend not to the Prejudice, Hurt, or Charge of the said Merchants of the Hanse, contrary to their ancient Liberties, Privileges, free Usages, and Customs of old time granted to the said Merchants of the Hanse, as well by the King's noble Progenitors, and ratified and confirmed by the King's Grace, as by Authority of divers Parliaments; but that all such Act, Statute, and Ordinance, Acts, Statutes and Ordinances, so made, or to be made, in De-

54 *The History of*

rogation of their said Liberties, Privileges, free Usages and Customs, stand and be, as against the said Merchants and their Successors and every of them, void, repealed, annulled, and of none Effect; any Act, Statute, or Ordinance, Acts, Statutes, or Ordinances to the contrary, made, or to be made notwithstanding. The Merchants of the Hanse hereby recover'd a Fee Simple Entail, all Laws made, or to be made, hereby repealed. How this was obtain'd of the Parliament at the end of a Session, is to me reconcilable, but how it came to pass the Royal Assent is wonderful. The King, as appears by the History, had at this time an Inclination to marry, and whether these Merchants of the Hanse might not have some Hand and Design in the extraordinary Character of the Queen of *Naples*, which at this very time the King was so far taken with, that he sent over *Francis Marsin*, *James Braybrooks*, and *John Stile*, three confident Friends, to give him a particular Account of her Person, Complexion, Favour, Feature, Stature, Health, Age, Customs, Behaviour, Conditions and Estate,

our Golden Fleece. 55

state; as if the King had been young, a Man would have judg'd him to be amorous, as the Lord *Bacon* expresses it: And at this very Juncture, while he was in the height of Expectation, these Laws were signed; whether Passion of that kind may not obtain in Age as well as Youth, may admit some Dispute; but by Failure of Estate in the Lady, his Affections cooled, and in few Years his Son, *Henry* the Eighth, came to the Crown in the blooming time of his Age; a Person of a clear sanguine Complexion, which made him apt to give and take Temptations of the Sex, which was too hard for the first, the strongest and the wisest Man, as the Lord *Herbert* expresses it, so that *Venus* became the governing Star; to which being added a full Treasury, the Habits of the Kingdom were immediately changed, far fetch'd and dear bought, was most agreeable to the Ladies; and by the Act of Parliament, *Anno quarto, Hen. 8. Cap. 6.* it appears, that three or four thousand Pieces of Cloth of Gold, Silver, Velvet, &c. were imported into *England* in one Ship. As these

56 *The History of*

Habits prevail'd, the Woollen Manufatures grew into less Esteem: And as the Merchants of the Hanse had now their full Liberty and Privileges, the Merchant Adventurers sunk. In the first Year of this Reign, *Cap. 5.* the excellent Law that obliged all Merchants to enter their Merchandise in the true Owner's Name was repealed. *Anno septimo, Hen. 8. Cap. 6.* All sumptuary Laws were alter'd, and at this time began the exorbitant Power of *Spain*, which was reduc'd by Queen *Elizabeth*. The Emperor, *Charles* the Fifth, being a politick Prince, by the Advantage of his Commerce in *Flanders*, advanced by our Wool, soon grew too great for his Neighbours; imprison'd the Pope, and took the King of *France* Prisoner; which alarmed this Kingdom so far, that it broke the intimate Correspondence between *Henry* the Eighth and the Emperor, which had been carried on with great Familiarity: The Emperor having propos'd a Marriage with the Lady *Mary*, and always signed his Letters to King *Henry*, *Tuus filius & cognatus*; but at this time married *Donna Isabella*,

our Golden Fleece. 57

Isabella, the Infanta of *Portugal*, and thereby gained the *East-India* Trade; which he improved very much to Advantage, altho' he had condemned it before, by telling the *Portugals* they were Enemies to all Christendom; for you carry nothing out of it but Coin, which is hurtful to all Countries. This turn'd Friendship into Enmity, and in the nineteenth Year of this Reign, by the Assistance given to the King of *France*, a War happened between the King and the Emperor; and the Trade being at this time in the Hands of the Merchants of the Hanse, and other Foreigners, the Cloth in *Blackwell-Hall* stuck upon the Hands of the Clothiers, and the work People began to mutiny: For appeasing of which, Cardinal *Wolfey* commanded the Merchants to take off the Cloths at a reasonable Price from the poor Mens Hands; threatening otherwise, that the King himself should buy them and sell them to Strangers. But the sullen Merchants little moved herewith, said, they had no reason to buy Commodities they knew not how to utter, as the Lord *Herbert* tells us.
The

58 *The History of*

The work People rebel; and to give them Satisfaction, a Decree made in the Star-Chamber on the twentieth Day of *February*, in the twentieth Year of this Reign, was put out by the King, and in the twenty first Year it was confirmed by the Parliament; by which Decree it was enacted, that no Stranger Artificer, inhabiting in any City or other Place, shall keep in his House but two Strangers born; that Aliens Housekeepers shall bear such Charges as the King's Subjects do; that Aliens shall be sworn to be true to the King, to obey him and his Laws; that Aliens shall not assemble in Conventicles, but their Halls. From which it appears that this Rebellion arose from the Encroachment of Aliens, and that they at this time were the chief Disturbers of the Peace, in their being sworn to be true to the Government. It is likewise set forth in the Decree, that when they had gathered much Riches and Money, then they convey the same over the Sea, and there purchase Lands and Tenements. The Historian tells us, when Cardinal *Wolfey* fell into Disgrace, that the Walls
of

our Golden Fleece. 59

of his Gallery were hung with Cloth of Gold, Cloth of Silver, Cloth of Tissue, and Cloth of Bodekin, all foreign Fabricks; and the Poverty of the Countrey is as plainly set forth by the Act, *Anno vicesimo quarto, Hen. 8. Cap. 3.* Beef, Pork, Mutton and Veal, shall be sold by the Weight call'd Averdupoise; no Person shall take for a Pound of Beef or Pork, above one half Penny; nor for a Pound of Mutton or Veal, above three Farthings, and less in those Countries where they be sold for less: As likewise from the Acts of Parliament, *Anno vicesimo septimo, Cap. 1.* *Anno tricesimo secundo, Cap. 18. Cap. 19.* By which Acts it appears, that many Houses in the chief Streets of *Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Gloucester, Bridgenorth, Queenborough, Northampton, York, Lincoln, Canterbury, Coventry, Bath, Chichester, Salisbury, Winchester, Bristol, Scarborough, Hereford, Colchester, Rochester, Portsmouth, Pool, Linn, Feversham, Worcester, Stafford, Buckingham, Pontfret, Grantham, Exeter, Ipswich, Southampton, Great Yarmouth, Oxenford, Great Wicomb, Guilford, East Retford, Kingston upon Hull, Newcastle upon Tine, Beverley,*

60 *The History of*

Beverley, Bedford, Leicester, Berwick, Shafton, Sherborn, Birtport, Dorcester, Weymouth, Plymouth, Plimpton, Barstable, Tavestock, Dartmouth, Lyskarde, Lestythiel, Bodmin, Truro, Helstone, Bridgewater, Taunton, Somerton, Alcheſter, were fallen down, decayed, and at this time remain unedify'd, lying as desolate and void Grounds: and many of them adjoining nigh unto the High Streets, replenished with much Ordure, Filth and Uncleanness; with Pitts, Cellars, and Vaults lying open and uncover'd, to the great Peril and Danger of all the Inhabitants, and other of the King's Subjects passing by the same; and some Houses be very weak and feeble, ready to fall down, and therefore Dangerous to pass by, to the great Decay and Hindrance of the said Boroughs and Towns; upon which it was enacted, that if the Owner of any decayed House, within any of the aforesaid Towns, do not repair the same within three Years after Proclamation, the chief Lord may enter in and retain it, as it was evident by the Statute of *Anno duodecimo, Hen. 7. Cap. 6.* that Merchandise was established in these

our Golden Fleece. 61

these Towns as well as *London*, which is likewise confirmed by the Cellars and Vaults, which must be provided chiefly for Merchandise. It is likewise as plain, that the chief Occasion of this Decay, must spring from the Advantages gain'd by the Merchants of the Hanse, whose chiefest Residence was at the Still-yard in *London*, who at this time had destroyed our Factories at *Antwerp, &c.* and got the whole Trade into their Hands. As Trade declined, and the Kingdom grew poor, Insurrections and Rebellions sprung up in *Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, &c.* upon which a new Law was forced to be made, *Anno tricesimo secundo, Hen. 8. Cap. 16.* By which it is enacted, that no Alien born, not made Denizen, being an Artificer, shall take or occupy any House, or Chamber, nor sojourn with a Stranger, nor occupy any Craft; an Alien shall not make any Cloth, sell any Ware by retail, or shall take any Servant but the King's Subject, or his own Child; from which it is evident, that this Uneasiness amongst the King's Subjects sprung up chiefly from the Encroachments of Strangers, who

62 *The History of*

who naturally pursue the Interest of their own Countries. Had not this Prince supported himself by the Church Lands, he might have undergone the Fate of *Richard* the second. And in these two Reigns, I think, I have fairly proved from undeniable Grounds, that the Kingdom was enriched by the first, by securing the Benefit of the Golden Fleece to his own natural born Subjects; and as plainly impoverished by the last, by the Indulgence of Merchant Aliens in the importing of Cloth of Gold, Silver, &c. The Standard of our Coin was in this Reign advanced first to five and forty Pence, and then to eight and forty, which brings me to the Reign of King *Edward* the Sixth, who began his Reign in the tenth Year of his Age: To whose admirable Character I shall only add, that the clearest Negotiation of Commerce that ever happened in this Kingdom, was purely preserved by the Hand-writing of this excellent Prince; which next to the Reformation, was the greatest Happiness that ever happened to this Kingdom. The Merchants Adventurers began now to

our Golden Fleece. 63

take Courage; (the Bribes of the Still-yard Merchants finding no Admission in this Government) and in the beginning of the Year, 1552, they put in their Complaint to the Council against them; to which the Merchants of the Still-yard put in their Answer upon the eighteenth Day of *January*, in the same Year; and upon the twenty fifth, the Answer was deliver'd to some learned Counsel to look and oversee it: Upon the eighteenth Day of *February*, the Merchant Adventurers put in their Replication to the Still-yards Answer; and upon the twenty third, a Decree was made by the Board, that upon Knowledge and Information of their Charters they had found: First, that they were no sufficient Corporations: Secondly, that their Numbers, Names and Nations were unknown: Thirdly, that when they had forfeited their Liberties, King *Edward* the Fourth did restore them on this Condition, that they should colour no Strangers Goods, which they had done. For these Considerations, Sentence was given that they had forfeited their Liberties, and were to be no more than

64 *The History of*

than Strangers. Upon the twenty eighth, loosing no Time in this important Affair, there came Embassadors from *Hamburgh, Lubeck,* and the Regent of *Flanders,* to speak on the Behalf of the Still-yard Merchants, so unwilling were they to part with this Interest; and upon the second of *March,* the Answer for the Embassadors of the Still-yard, was committed to the Lord Chancellor; the two Secretaries, Sir *Robert Bowes* and Sir *John Baker;* Judge, *Montague Griffith;* Solicitors, *Gosnold, Goodrick* and *Brooks;* by which it is evident that it was thought a Matter of Weight. It remain'd under Consideration till the first Day of *May,* and then the Still-yard Men received their Answer; which was to confirm the former Judgment of the Council, as is express'd in the Journals of *Edward* the Sixth. And thus ended the Reign of the Merchants of the Hanse of *Almaine,* of the House *Guilhalda Theutonicorum;* which the *Dutch* Historian tells us, had stood fourteen succeeding Reigns; and indeed for the last five and forty Years they had the sole Command of our Commerce: the Condition they

our Golden Fleece. 65

they brought the Kingdom into was one Half-penny a Pound for Beef and Pork, eighteen Pence for a Stone of Wool, as appears by the Statute, *Anno vicesimo quinto Hen. 8. Cap. 13.* And the Houses in most of the chief Towns in *England,* in which the *English* Merchants resided in the Reign of *Henry* the Seventh, were now fallen down, as was before recited.

I am now to shew what Improvement was made the next fifty Years. The Merchandise and Navigation being carried on by the Merchant Adventurers, in their first Shipping they carried off forty thousand Cloths; and in *Oct. 3.* following it is thus express'd by the Hand Writing of *Edward* the Sixth; *Because I had a Pay of forty eight thousand Pounds to be paid in December, and had as yet but fourteen thousand Pounds beyond Sea to pay it withal, the Merchants did give me a Loan of forty thousand Pounds, to be paid by them the last of December, and to be repaid by me the last of March. This Grant was confirmed the fourth Day of this Month by a Company assembled of three hundred*

66 *The History of*

dred Merchant Adventurers. It stands in some of our Histories that the Hanse-Towns had collected Money enough to have bribed the Parliament of *England*; and that their Interest was over-turned there but by one single Vote. Several good Laws were now made, *Anno quinto & sexto, Edm. 6. Cap. 6.* The true Length, Breadth, and Weight of woollen Cloths; in the Preamble of which Statute it is said, That many Clothiers did study rather to make many than good Cloths; as likewise that certain wise, discreet, and sage Knights and Burgesses did examine divers honest Clothiers, Drapers, &c. in order to the true making of Cloth, in which they had great Regard to its Weight. And by this Law it appears that an Attempt had been made, whilst the Trade was in the Hands of the Merchants of the *Still-yard*; and the Letter *E* crown'd was order'd to be wrought in the Cloth, to shew its Reformation; which was so far from answering its End, that it was enacted in this Law, That the Letter *E* crown'd shall not be wrought into the Cloth for and by the
Space

our Golden Fleece. 67

Space of two Years, thereby to shew a Reformation. The Reputation and Goodness of our Cloth is no small Advantage in foreign Markets, but no Way to be trusted, as it here appears, to the Guardianship of foreign Merchants. *Cap. 7.* It was enacted, that no Manner of Person or Persons, being born within the King's Obeisance, shall after the last Day of *May* next buy, bargain, take, or make any Promise or Bargain of Wools, but only such Person or Persons, his Wife, or his or their Apprentice or Apprentices, inhabiting in his or their Mansion-House or Houses, as shall of the said Wools make Yarn, or any Kind of Cloth, or else a Merchant or Merchants of the Staple of *Calais*, or his or their Apprentice or Apprentices, dwelling in his or their Mansion-House or Houses, to be shipped only to the Staple of *Calais*, upon Pain of Forfeiture of double the Value of the said Wools. A Restraint was likewise put upon the Merchant Stranger from buying any Wools, before the Feast of the Purification of our Lady next after the clipping or shearing of
E 2 the

68 *The History of*

the same, in Favour of the Manufacturers. This Law was made in great Doubt, as appears by this Proviso; Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to the King our Sovereign Lord, by his Proclamation at any Time hereafter to be made and set forth, to repeal this Statute. Notwithstanding which it remained in Force seventy Years. *Cap. 8.* No Person shall weave any broad woollen Cloth, unless he hath been seven Years Apprentice. That Law was complained of the first Year of Queen *Mary*, and some Dispensation given to the City of *Worcester*; but in the fourth and fifth Year of *Philip* and *Mary* the same Law was made anew. And a Law of this Kind would be of great Service to the Clothing Trade at present to commence at some Distance of Time from the making, and to have no Retrospect.

The Merchants of the *Hanse* had at this Time advanced their Gold, as our Guineas some Time since. Upon which, *Chap. 19.* it was enacted, That no Gold shall

our Golden Fleece. 69

shall pass in Value for more than it shall be declared by the King's Proclamation to be current for. The Standard of our Coin was at this Time advanced to sixty Pence. And whereas King *Edward* the Third, and King *Henry* the Seventh, for the encreasing of Trade had put a total Stop to Usury, it was at this Time enacted, *Cap. 20.* No Person by any Means shall lend or forbear any Sum of Money for any Manner of Usury or Increase to be received or hoped for above the Sum lent, upon Pain to forfeit the Sum lent and the Increase, Imprisonment and Fine at the King's Pleasure. Which Law continued in strict Force unto the thirteenth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*: And when Usury sprung up in the latter Part of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* it was condemn'd by *Gerrard d'Malynes*, and term'd the Canker of *England's* Commonwealth; that like a Canker-worm it was banished out of *Sparta* by *Lycurgus*, severely punished in *Egypt* by *Amasis*, banished out of *Sicilia* by *Cato*, condemn'd in *Athens* by *Solon*; that *Sergius Galba*, President of

70 *The History of*

Africa under the Emperor *Claudius*, caused one to be punished by Death with Famine, for feeding and entertaining this Monster, which, like a Whirlpool, swalloweth whatsoever it catcheth. *Cap. 21.* No Tinker, Pedlar, or petty Chapman, shall wander from the Town where he dwelleth, or exercise the Trade of Tinker, but such as shall be licensed by two Justices of the Peace, or more, under their Hands and Seals, upon Pain of fourteen Days Imprisonment. It appears farther by the Act, *Anno septimo, Edm. 6. Cap. 5.* that the Kingdom was run into a great Degree of Lewdness under this great Concourse of Aliens. For the avoiding of many Inconveniencies, much evil Rule, and common Resort of misruled Persons, used and frequented in many Taverns of late newly set up in very great Number in Back-Lanes, Corners, and suspicious Places, within the City of *London*: For Remedy whereof the Taverns were reduced to the Number of Forty, and *French Wine* limited to eight Pence the Gallon; which ended the Reign of this excellent Prince.

And

our Golden Fleece. 71

And upon the Marriage of *Philip* with the Queen of *England*, which the Duke of *Rohan* called a mysterious Marriage, the Merchants of the *Hanse* endeavour'd to recover their Privileges by the Favour of their Countreyman, King *Philip*: But their Attempts proved ineffectual, and the Parliament made an excellent Law, *Anno primo & secundo Phil. & Mar. Cap. 2.* Whosoever shall wear Silk in or upon his Hat, Bonnet, Girdle, Scabbard, Hose, Shoes, or Spur-leathers, shall be three Months imprison'd, and forfeit ten Pounds, except Mayors, Aldermen, &c. If any Person knowing his Servant to offend, do not put him forth of his Service within fourteen Days, or do retain him again, shall forfeit a hundred Pounds. *Calais* was lost in this Reign, which was thought to shorten the Days of Queen *Mary*; who was succeeded by her Sister Queen *Elizabeth*, who built upon the good Foundation laid by her Brother King *Edward* the Sixth, and studied the Employment of her own People. The Lord *Clarendon* tells us, That she endeavour'd by all Means to draw over greater Numbers

E 4 of

72 *The History of*

of foreign Manufacturers by Stop of our Wool, enlarging their Privileges where for the Conveniency of their Trades they chose to reside, and granted them Churches in *Norwich*, *Canterbury*, and other Parts of the Kingdom, as well as *London*, whereby the Wealth of those Places was marvellously increased; and hereby the Loss of *Calais* was abundantly made good in working up of that Wool in *England* which for many Years had been sold there. We have many considerable Families now standing, whose Parents were at this Time drawn over by the Stop of our Wool. And the Cruelty of the Duke of *Alva* in his Persecutions doth no Way appear to me in the History of the United Provinces: He was Regent of *Flanders* but four Years, was received with great Joy, and none suffer'd, as I find, in that Time but Count *Egmond* and Count *Horn*. In the first Year of this excellent Princess she revived the Law made in the third Year of *Henry* the Seventh, That no Person, Denizen or Stranger, do take upon him to enter any Manner of Goods coming
in

our Golden Fleece. 73

in or going out in the Name or Names of any other Person or Persons than the very true Owner or Owners of the Goods, upon Forfeiture of the same; And at this time Aliens Duties were called the ancient Revenue of the Crown. In the next place she made an effectual Law to preserve the Employment of her Navigation, by obliging all Persons that shipp'd any Goods upon foreign Bottoms to pay Aliens Duty. And in this Law she limited the Merchant Adventurers of *England* to two Shippings a Year, which was continued upon the tenth of *March* and the tenth of *September*, very proper Seasons to avoid the Danger of the Sea; and hereby a Quantity of Goods was shipp'd off for six Months, and Returns brought back for the like time, in a regular and well govern'd Trade. In the second Year of her Reign, the Charter of Merchant Adventurers was confirmed; and in the sixth Year she gave them the Title of Merchant Adventurers of *England*, authorized them to exercise their Government in any Parts of her Kingdom, and added *Germany* to their Charter, with as
ample

74 *The History of*

ample Power to exercise their Trade in those Parts, as they had formerly enjoy'd in the Low Countries. This Company soon advanced their Cloth Trade to eighty thousand Cloths a Year, and the Value of fifty thousands in Collens and Kersies, reckoning three Collens to one Cloth, which they exported *communibus Annis*, as Sir *Walter Rawleigh* gives the Account. She likewise established a Company for *Russia*, which was confirm'd by Act of Parliament, by which the *Dutch* Historian tells us, she encroached on the *Hanse* Towns in their Trade up the *Baltick*; which I think was a little harshly express'd, her Ships being laden with their own native Products. In the fifth Year of her Reign, *Cap. 6.* Whosoever shall sell, or deliver to any Person, having not in Possession, Land or Fees, to the clear yearly Value of three thousand Pounds, any foreign Wares not first grown or first wrought within the Queen's Dominions, appertaining to the clothing or adorning of the Body, for which Wares, or the Workmanship thereof, the Seller shall not have received the whole Money or Satisfaction

our Golden Fleece. 75

Satisfaction in Hand, or within eight and twenty Days after the making or Delivery thereof, the Seller, Maker, &c. shall be, without all Remedy, by Order of any Law, Custom or Decree, to recover any Recompence for such Wares or the Workmanship, whatsoever Assurance he shall have by Bond, Surety, Promise or Pawn, of the Party or any other; and all Assurances and Bonds in that Case shall be void. Usury being stopp'd in the Reign of her Brother *Edward* the Sixth, she here put a Stop to all Credit in Trade, which gave it a great Advance. The Life of Trade is Consumption, and I know but one Instance of Credit by which more of our Commodities may be said to be consumed, *viz.* by the inconsiderate Buyer that hereby consumes more than his Revenue will allow, which is an Act of Imprudence, and ill grounded; but there seem to me many Reasons by which the Consumption is lessen'd by Credit. By the Credit of *Blackwell-hall* the Number of Woollen-drapers is considerably advanc'd, and thereby the Charge in retailing of Cloth must be advanced, and
come

76 *The History of*

come the dearer to the Consumer. By this Credit likewise established have evidently sprung up Factors, Wool-broggers, &c. which add to its Charge without benefitting the Manufacture, and it must consequently be thereby the dearer to the Consumer, and lessen its Consumption. From this Credit in *London* hath sprung up a Credit in the Countrey, which hath multiply'd Badgers and Retailers of Provisions, which hath brought a Burden upon Lands by the Increase of our Poor, and the good Success in Trade which follow'd upon this Act, is a full Answer to all Objections. *Anno decimo tertio, Eliz. Cap. 19.* Every Person above the Age of seven Years, shall wear, upon the Sabbath and Holy-days, unless in the time of their Travels out of their Towns, Hamlets, &c. upon their Head a Cap of Wool, knit, thicked and dress'd in *England*, made within this Realm, and only dressed and finished by some of the Trade of Cappers, upon Pain to forfeit for every Day not wearing, three Shillings four Pence, except Maids, Ladies, Gentlewomen, noble Personages, and every Lord,

our Golden Fleece. 77

Lord, Knight, and Gentleman of twenty Marks Land, and their Heirs; and such as have born Office of Worship in any City, Borough, Town, Hamlet or Shire, and the Wardens of the worshipful Companies of *London*, which was the last sumptuary Law that was made. In the twenty first Year of her Reign she granted a Charter to the Eastland Merchants, who shipp'd off great Quantities of Cloth from *Ipswich* and other Places. By these three Companies she very much improved her Golden Fleece and the Products of her Land. A Princess very much celebrated by Historians, but herein was her chiefest Glory; for above two hundred Years, and down to the Reign of *Philip* and *Mary*, a Liberty was given to transport Corn, when the Quarter of Wheat was sold at six Shillings and eight Pence, Rye at four Shillings, and Barley at three: The Price of Wheat in the middle of this Reign was thought to be moderate at five Shillings the Bushel; and Wool that was sold in the Reign of *Henry* the Eighth for one Shilling and six Pence a Stone, was now worth

78 *The History of*

worth fourteen Shillings, as appears by good Authority. The Kingdom was left in a very flourishing Condition to King *James* the First, who confirmed the Charter of the Merchant Adventurers of *England*, but the Course of Trade was soon alter'd; the Law made in the first Year of *Philip* and *Mary*, to prohibit the wear of Silks by all Persons under Quality, was repeal'd, and all Laws relating to Apparel. But that which gave the fatal Stroke to the Commerce of *England*, was a Subsidy granted to the King out of Wool exported. *Anno primo Jacobi, Cap. 33.* We your said poor Commons, by the Advice, Assent, and Authority aforesaid, do give and grant unto you our said Liege Lord our Sovereign, for the Causes aforesaid, one other Subsidy, that is to say, of every Merchant born Denizen, of and for every Sack of Wool, thirty three Shillings, four Pence; and of and for every two hundred and forty Wool-Fells, thirty three Shillings, four Pence; and of and for every Last of Hides and Backs, three Pounds, six Shillings, eight Pence; and so after the same Rate for every less
or

our Golden Fleece. 79

or greater Quantity, for any the same Merchandise more or less; and of every Merchant Stranger, not born Denizen, of and for every Sack of Wool, three Pound, six Shillings, eight Pence; and of and for every two hundred and forty Wool-Fells, three Pound, six Shilling, eight Pence; and for every Last of Hides and Backs, three Pound, thirteen Shillings, four Pence; and so of all the said Wools, Wool-Fells, Hides and Backs, and of every of them after the Rate to have, take, enjoy, and perceive the Subsidies aforesaid, and every of them, and every Part and Parcel of them to your Highness, from the eighteenth Day of *March* last past during your Life natural. I don't find any Limitation in Place for the shipping of this Wool; so that for one Pack that paid a Duty, doubtless, many were clandestinely shipp'd that paid none. *Scotland* in obtaining this Act, was but the Cat's Foot to *Holland*; a wonderful Advance in the Cloth Trade was soon made there, even to twenty five thousand Cloths a Year, and the Cloth Trade in *England* sunk in a like Proportion; and from thence a great Uneasiness,

80 *The History of*

easiness, the flourishing Trade of Queen Elizabeth being fresh in Memory. Many of our Woollen Manufacturers were hereby forced to seek their Livelyhood in foreign Countries, or starve at home; which appear'd so visible in the eleventh Year of this Reign, that the Earl of *Middlesex*, the then Lord Treasurer of *England*, prevail'd with the honourable Privy Council, to take a Balance of the Trade of the Nation, in Merchandises imported and exported from *Christmas, Anno 1612*, to *Christmas 1613*, at which time by the Accompt then made up, the Exportations amounted to the Sum of two Millions, four hundred, eighty seven thousand, four hundred thirty five Pounds, seven Shillings, ten Pence, and the imported to two Millions, one hundred forty one thousand, one hundred fifty one Pounds, ten Shillings. They took the Value of the Customs, and multiply'd them by twenty, which I believe was a very uncertain Rule. The King borrowed of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of *England*, sixty thousand Pounds, which remains a Debt unpaid to this very Day,

3

whose

our Golden Fleece. 81

whose Trade likewise by the Exportation of Wool continually sunk: And in the thirteenth Year of this Reign, upon some Complaints made against the said Company, with a specious Project offer'd by Sir *William Cockayne*, to dye as well as dress all the Woollen Manufacture of this Kingdom before Exportation, as likewise the Offer of a good Sum of Money, the Companys Charter was called in, and a new Company incorporated in their Stead. Upon which the *Dutch* put a Stop to the Importation of all *English* dyed Cloth, which soon overthrew that Design; and in two Years time the Trade was sold again to the Merchant Adventurers for fifty thousand Pounds, by Contract with Sir *Lionel Cranfeild*; at which time the Government press'd very hard to get a hundred thousand. It was a vain Attempt to give any Rules to *Holland* or any other foreign Countrey in the Cloth Trade, whilst they have the Liberty of your Wool, by which they were at this time so far advanced, that they laid a Tax of nine Guilders upon a Pack Cloth, eighteen Guilders upon a long

F

Cloth,

82 *The History of*

Cloth, and twenty four Guilders upon a fine Cloth, which is eighteen Shillings, thirty six Shillings, and forty eight Shillings of our Money, as Mr. *Misselden* gives the Account; who likewise at this time made a Balance as the Lord Treasurers had done before, and the Imports amounted to two Millions, six hundred and nineteen thousand, three hundred and fifteen Pounds, and the Export but to two millions, three hundred and twenty thousand, four hundred thirty six Pounds, twelve Shillings, ten Pence. And he tells us in the Introduction of his Book, that *Craesus*, King of *Lydia*, had a Son born dumb; and his Countrey being invaded, and the King himself in eminent Danger of being killed by a *Persian*, his Son spake, which never spake before, and cried out, *O homo, ne perimas Patrem!* When I beheld the former flourishing Trade of ours, to be threatened with as many eminent as in eminent Dangers, and the very Life thereof to be a bleeding. Whilst I was musing the Fire kindled, and at the last I spake with my Pen as I never spake before, *O homines, ne perimatis Regnum!*

our Golden Fleece. 83

Regnum! O Men, kill not the Kingdom Or had I still been silent, and were all Men mute, surely the Cause it self would call for Relief, or the Stones would cry to the Timber, the Ships to the Seas, the Seas to the Shores, one Deep to another Deep, because it is not the Complaint of a common Man, but of a Kingdom; the Poor starve in our Streets for want of Labour. In many other Accounts that I have seen, the Trade of *England* was at this time in a very low Condition, which could not be otherwise from this Practice. The Merchants Adventurers of *England*, being forc'd, by lending such large Sums of Money to the Government, to lay Impositions upon their Cloth; the *Dutch* likewise charging it with a Duty in *Holland*, (as has been said) whilst they had the Freedom of our Wool, and freed their own Countrey Cloth of all manner of Charge, and gave their Makers many Privileges and Immunities. An *East India* Trade was carried on this whole Reign, and a very great Extravagance in the Consumption of foreign Products. Upon an Examination made by the Right

84 *The History of*

Honourable *Henry Viscount Mandevil*, Lord President, he found that Silver Thread, Spangles, Purles, Oaes, and the like foreign Importations, amounted to eighty thousand Pounds and upwards yearly, as *Gerrard de Malynes*. The Lord *Clarendon* tells us, that some Disturbance was at this time given, upon the Account of Religion; the *Flemmings* that came into *England*, in the Reign of *Edward the Sixth* and Queen *Elizabeth*, were of the *Calvinist* Persuasion, and had their Churches by the Favour of Queen *Elizabeth*. At this time the King had a Hearing between the differing Parties in Religion, and so slender a Defence was made by the Dissenters, that the King, by some Words of his, gave Encouragement to the Archbishop *Bancroft*, and Bishop *Wren*, the then Bishop of *Norwich*, to use some Force; which made some of the *Flemmings* go back into their own Countrey, to the great Prejudice of *England*, in instructing them in the making of our Kerfies. But I rather think, that the great Advance of Trade on that Side and Declension here, was the chiefest Cause;

our Golden Fleece. 85

Cause; for I find, as *Edward the Third* gave Privileges to draw Manufacturers into *England*, the *Dutch* did the same at this time to draw Manufacturers into *Holland*. The Ways of raising Money by Monopolies, Patents, &c. was likewise a convincing Proof of the ill State of the Kingdom; and it appears to me that they were endeavouring to advance Prerogative into an arbitrary Power, by some Expressions I find in a Letter of the Lord Chancellor *Bacon's* to the King, upon the Match of Sir *John Villers* with the Daughter of Sir *Edward Coke*; in which he tells his Majesty, that his Prerogative and Authority was risen some just Degrees above the Horizon, more than heretofore: That mutinous Spirits grow to be a little poor, and to draw in their Horns: That his Majesty by this Match would lose Ground, by bringing Sir *Edward Coke* into Favour, who was by Habit popular, and too old now to take a new Plie. It's farther evident by a Letter of the Lord *Bacon's*, to the Earl of *Buckingham*, after he was made Lord Chancellor, and when his Majesty was in *Scotland*, in

86 *The History of*

which he tells him, there was a great Apprehension of Tumult by Apprentices and loose People upon *May-day*, which he kept quiet by putting in Muster the Train'd-Bands, by laying a strict Charge upon the Mayor and Aldermen of the City, and Justices of Peace for the Suburbs: That the Apprentices and others might go abroad with their Flags, and other Gaudries, but without Weapon of Shot and Pike, as they formerly took Liberty to do. Which Charge was exceedingly well perform'd and obey'd. And the last was, that we had, according to our Warrant Dormant, strengthen'd our Commissions of the Peace in *London* and *Middlesex*, with new Clauses of Lieutenancy, which as soon as it was known abroad, all was quiet by the Terror it wrought. From which it's evident that the Court at this time stood in fear of the People. An Expedient was at this time made use of to prevent the issuing out of our Treasure, by stopping the remittance of Money by Exchange, which they called the Statue of Employments. Upon which Statute several *Dutch* Merchants were

our Golden Fleece. 87

were afterwards prosecuted to the Number of one hundred and eighty; and the Attorney at first brought a Cause to a Hearing against twenty of them, or thereabouts, which were of the greatest Ability to make Restitution. Their Fines amounted in the whole to a hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, of which Mr. *Courteen* and two others were condemn'd in twenty thousand Pounds a piece. From which it is evident, that the *Dutch* Merchants had a very great Share of our Merchandise in *England*, as well as their Trade advanced to twenty five thousand Cloths a Year by our Wool in *Holland*. Had this Prince lived but few Years longer, he had, according to the Duke of *Rohan*, been overturn'd by the Neglect of the true Interest of his Kingdom; and he evidently laid the Foundation of the Misfortune that fell upon his Son. In the Year 1647, *Oliver Crommel* put a Stop to the Exportation of our Wool; put out a Proclamation to support the Charter of the Merchant Adventurers of *England*; removed their Residence in *Holland*, from *Delph* to *Dort*. The Parliament likewise made an Ordinance

88 *The History of*

to support the Merchant Adventurers of *England*; and came to this Resolution in a full Debate of Trade, that the Woollen Manufacture of this Kingdom could not be issued out to the Benefit of the Nation but by Rule and Government in Trade. Our *East India* Trade was at this time totally sunk, and never a more flourishing Trade was known in *England*, in a full Employment of our Woollen Manufacturers, which was the chief Support of *Oliver* in his slippery Station. The Lord *Clarendon* tells us, that the *Hollanders*, in the first place, encouraged our Parliament against the King; but when *Oliver* put a Stop to the Exportation of our Wool to *Holland*, he likewise tells us, that with thirty Men of War, without any Notice, they attack'd twenty Men of War of ours, and were afterward very well rewarded for their Insolence by *Oliver*: Which brings me to the Restauration of King *Charles* the Second, in whose Reign sprang up the exorbitant Power of *France*. The Book of Rates was in the first Place settled in Favour of *France* in the Custom of Linens: The fine Linens of *Flanders*,
were

our Golden Fleece. 89

were charged at three Pence *per Ell* Custom; and the fine Dowlas of *France* at one half Penny *per Ell*, which continued the whole Reign. A good Law was at this time made to prevent the Exportation of our Wool; but in this Law a Clause was inserted, to give a Liberty to export three thousand, three hundred Tods of unkemb'd Wool to the Islands of *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, which proved to the Advantage of *France*, in their *Spanish* Trade. The Island being peopled with *French* for the most part, made a wonderful Advance in the Stocking Trade, which is a principal part of Merchandise in *Spain* and the *West-Indies*, and evidently sunk the Stocking Trade in *Somersetshire*, and many other Parts of *England*: And these Islands being so commodious to *France*, they had the greatest Benefit of their Labour. In two Years after this it was made Felony to all Persons that should be any way aiding or assisting in the Exportation of Wool, without any other Advantage to the Informer; which prov'd a full Toleration, no one ever suffering upon the Act. And by a very
good

90 *The History of*

good Account that I have seen, which was sent over by an *English* Merchant in this Reign, thirty two thousand Packs of *English* kemb'd Wool, for the most part, was received in three Ports in *France*, the Manufacture of which amounted to a large Sum *per Annum*. At this time the Merchant Adventurers of *England* were invaded in their Rights and Privileges, and their Trade thrown open to *Holland* and *Flanders*; by which some *English* Merchants, not free of that Company, made some Benefit by false Goods for a short time, but were soon routed out by the *Hollanders*, which is well in Memory. The next Advantage that they gain'd, was the taking off the Aliens Duties, in the twenty fifth of *Carol. 2.* which was call'd in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, the ancient Revenue of the Crown. All Fashions now began to alter in favour of *France*; the laudable wear of Hats was now turn'd into Hoods made of *French* Silk; and hereby every Servant Maid in *England* is become a standing Revenue to the King of *France*, by one third of her Wages; and many
Hats

our Golden Fleece. 91

Hats for Men imported from *France*. The Trade between *France* and *Italy* was hereby so cemented, *France* taking off their Silk, and giving them Woollen Goods adapted to their Use, made with our Wool, that a high Duty was laid upon all *English* Cloth by the Duke of *Savoy*, which was taken off but few Years since; and such Improvement made in *France* with our Wool, that so high a Duty was laid upon our Cloth, that it made, in effect, a Prohibition; which was insensibly pass'd over with us by the Power of *Medea's* Charms, and all Fashions govern'd by this Goddess, which advanced the Commerce of *France*. We came in a manner to be wholly served with their Linens; Claret flowed in abundance, and Nants Brandy our chiefest Cordial. And the Money arising from these Commodities was invested in *Colchester* Bays and other Drapery, and sent to their Factory in *Spain* to make up a compleat Sortiment of Goods to be joyned with their Linens, for the *Spanish* *West-Indies*; and return'd into *France* in Pieces of Eight, *Spanish* Wool, Iron, *Cocheneal*,

92 *The History of*

cheneal, &c. which for many Years was a very profitable Branch of Commerce. And to our costly Experience we have found, that all these Advantages were highly improved by the Policies of *France*. The Gentleman that wrote *Britannia languens*, hath taken a great deal of Pains in setting forth our great Declension in Trade, in many Particulars, through the whole Course of this Reign. But in great Submission, I think he is much out in telling us, that long Experience hath demonstrated, that the mere prohibiting of the Exportation of Wool is but a Cobweb, the *Dutch* and *French* being constantly supply'd with what Quantities they please to have, and ever will be as long as their Advantages in Trade will enable them to give more for our Wools than our *English* and *Irish* Natives; and that those who think to better our Trade in general by the forceable Subversion of the *Dutch* Trade and Navigation, are as much mistaken. He could not in this grand Affair of our Wool any way affect *France* without touching the Interest of *Holland*, which by his last Expression he

seems

our Golden Fleece. 93

seems to be very tender of; and if in this Particular he is in the right, I have taken a great deal of Pains to no Purpose. When King *James* the Second came to the Crown, he put out a Proclamation to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, and took that effectual Care to have his Orders executed in *Kent* and *Sussex*, which were the chiefest Places of its Exportation into *France*, that the *French* Embassador, at our Court, complained, that his Master's Fisher-boats were disturbed upon our Coasts; notwithstanding which it was so far pursued, that it drew over vast Numbers of *French* into *England*, that could not subsist in *France* without our Wool. He likewise made ready Payments for every thing he bought, and we had a very flourishing Trade during his Reign. The Duke of *Rohan* tells us, that the Advancement of the Protestant Religion was the particular Interest of this Kingdom, which this unfortunate Prince endeavouring to subvert, was thereby overthrown himself. At the Revolution, a Bill was brought into our Convention Parliament, to pre-

vent

94 *The History of*

vent the Exportation of Wool, in its Title, by appointing Commissioners to put the Laws in Execution, if they would do it at their own Charge; whilst in many Particulars it gave a direct Encouragement to its Exportation. The Islands of *Jersey* and *Guernsey* were by this Act allow'd three thousand three hundred Tods of Wool more than they were allowed by the Statute of the twelfth of King *Charles* the Second. But herein was usher'd in a Clause, by way of Rider, of fatal Consequence to our Merchandise and Navigation, which do live and die together. And for the better Encouragement of the Manufacture, as well as the Growth of Wool, be it farther enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from hence forward it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons whatsoever, to buy any Cloth, Stuffs, Stockings, or other Manufacture of Wool made in the Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, or the Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, and the same freely, without any Molestation or Trouble whatsoever, to export to any Parts beyond the Seas, paying the usual Custom,

our Golden Fleece. 95

Custom, provided that nothing contain'd in this Act shall be construed to avoid the Charters and Grant made to the *Levant* Company, to the *East-land*, to the *Russia* Company, to the *African* Company, or to the Privileges granted to them, or any of them. This Act to continue for three Years, and from thence to the end of the next Session of Parliament. The Merchant Adventurers of *England*, the first and most considerable Company, whose Charter extended to *Holland*, *Flanders* and *Germany*, was the only Company that was hereby destroyed. But *Holland* having gain'd this Point, they are at Liberty to carry our Cloth, Serges, &c. to the *Levant*, to the *East-land*, to *Russia*, to *Africa*, or to any other part of the World; and having our Serges white directly from *Exeter* to *Holland*, they are much cheaper to them than our Merchants have the same by Land Carriage to *London*, and they hereby affect all other Companies. At the end of the three Years a Bill was brought into our Parliament by the Interlopers, to continue this Act; which Bill, by the Application
of

96 *The History of*

of the Merchant Adventurers of *England* was thrown out. A Bill likewise was brought into the House at the same time to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, and to regulate the Factors of *Blackwell-hall*, upon a Petition of the Clothiers of the County of *Gloucester*, which Bill was likewise stopp'd that Session. Three thousand three hundred Pounds Sterling was collected in the City of *Hamburgh*, (as can be proved) and remitted to *London*, to support this Freedom of Trade. And if so large a Sum was collected in that little Town, what may we reasonably guess might be collected in the United Provinces, *Bremen*, &c? The Bill to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, &c. the next Session was brought into the House and thrown out. It was received a third and fourth time, as will appear by the Journals of the House, pass'd thro' Committees, and lay upon the Table. Could I give a particular Account of the Footsteps of this Bill in its four Years Expedition by the Journals of the House of Commons, it would be like the Pilgrim's Progress. It was never but once
thrown

our Golden Fleece. 97

thrown out, and that upon a smart Speech made against it by Sir *John Su---s*, to whom I made some Application by a Friend, to know what part of the Bill he objected against; and he gave for Answer, that he was against the whole Frame of the Bill. Soon after which he was made a second *De la Poole*, as in the Reign of *Richard* the Second: And the greatest Opposers of this Bill became Commissioners of the Customs, Excises, &c. by which it is plain, that it went against a strong Easterly Wind. It always fought its Way thro' Committees, but had the unfortunate Fate in the House, of the lame Man at the Pool of *Bethesda*. When any Motion was made for its Report, a more important Affair always stepp'd in: A Bill to naturalize *Solomon Amey*, a *French* Merchant, that cheated our Clothiers, and took Sanctuary in *Holland*: To cut off an Entail: To cut a River, &c. In the fifth and sixth Year of King *William*, when so large Quantities of our Wool were carried into *Holland*, the Balance of Trade was so far against us, that we had but five and twenty Shillings *Flemish* for
G our

98 *The History of*

our Pound Sterling, which was above five and twenty *per Cent* Loss in the Exchange: At which time likewise there was a better Market in *England*, in buying Tallies at fifty *per Cent*, from which, sprang up in *Holland* a Coach and Six, as Mushrom Plumes in *England*.

King *William* (of Blessed Memory) perceiving the prodigious Growth of Trade in *Holland*, by our Wool, in the seventh and eighth Year of his Reign, put Sir *Henry Goodrick*, his Favourite Privy Counsellor, and Mr. *Henry Baker*, upon soliciting the Bill to prevent it; which being joyn'd to the Clothiers Interest, and likewise a lucky Accident at this time happening by the Information of one *Crocker*, of very large Quantities of Wool shipp'd off at *Leith* in *Scotland*, which Information was corroborated by the Seisure of two *French* Mens Books, it happily pass'd into a Law, which repeal'd the Felony, and fix'd a Penalty upon the Hundred or Port, where any Wool was shipp'd off, as in Case of Robbery, by the Statute of the twenty seventh of Queen *Elizabeth*, *Cap. 13.* But in this
4 Law,

our Golden Fleece. 99

Law, as the Interlopers lost one Point, they gained another. Whereas in the first Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, there pass'd an Act, entitled, an Act for the better preventing the Exportation of Wool, and encouraging the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom, which Act was continued by an Act made in the fourth and fifth Years of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, entitled, an Act for reviving, continuing, and explaining several Laws therein mentioned, which are expired and near expiring, and will now soon expire: And whereas for preventing the said Mischiefs, it is necessary the said Act should be continued: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, that the said Act, and every Clause, Matter and Thing therein contained, (except what is hereafter otherwise altered, explained or repealed) shall continue and remain in full Force, as if the same were herein
G 2 and

100 *The History of*

and hereby particularly recited and mentioned: (their Liberty by a side Wind, by the Expression of every Clause in the said Act confirmed.) But as hereby their free Trade was establish'd, some farther Advantage likewise sprang up. By the aforesaid Act in preventing the Exportation of our Wool, several Commissioners being appointed to put the Laws in Execution against the Exportation of Wool: And any five or more of them having a Power to depute Agents; and Sir *Henry Goodrick* being one of the Commissioners, he did, with five more, send out a very great Number of Agents, to prevent the Exportation of Wool, in hopes of obtaining from the Parliament some Fund for their Salary, which at this time was of great Service. Altho' he could obtain nothing of the Parliament, the Exportation of our Wool was so effectually stopp'd, that the labouring Oar was now in *Holland*, and ninety thousand Families were ready to perish for want of our Wool; as appears by a Letter of *Dudley Irish*, a true Copy of which I here insert.

our Golden Fleece. 101

To the Company of Merchant Adventurers of *England*, residing in *London*.

Right Worshipful Sir and Sirs,

WE are obliged to inform your Worships, that in all likelihood, all English Manufactury will be this Session of the States prohibited, or at least a considerable Imposition put on them. This is occasion'd by the Clamours of the City of *Leyden* and *Harlem*; they demonstrating that ninety thousand Families, for want of Work, must perish, if not prevented: This one of the States, being my Friend, told me; so that I believe, it will be a National Concern to prevent such Resolutions; which cannot in any Reason be done to the Company of Merchant Adventurers, having agreed, that always such a Company should be here free and exempt of all Taxes, for which our Blessed *Queen Elizabeth* remitted them a considerable Sum, that, as Affairs now stand it may make for our Re-establishment. This we thought fit to impart,

G 3 which

102 *The History of*

which hope may conduce to the Company's Benefit, committing your Worships in the Divine Protection, remain,

Dort Sept.
29. 1699.

*Right Worshipful Sir and Sirs,
your affectionate Servants, the
Brethren of Merchants Ad-
venturers residing in Dort.*

DUDLEY IRISH, *Treas.*

These People were forc'd to come into *England*. In the eleventh and twelfth Year of King *William*, a Bill came from *Holland*, which was pass'd into a Law by our Parliament, to take off all our Duties from the Woollen Manufactures exported. No Application was ever made by our *English* Merchants to procure any such Bill, and indeed it was a Surprise when it appear'd in the Votes. But to my own Knowledge, several Packs of Cloth belonging to *Dutch* Merchants, which were pack'd up before any such Bill was brought into the House, and usually shipp'd as soon as pack'd, were now kept here, and had the Benefit of the said Act.

our Golden Fleece. 103

Act. A Petition signed by the chiefest *English* Merchants upon the *Exchange*, was at this time put into the House, praying, that this Remittance of the Duty should be limited to the natural born Subject of *England*, and then the Merchant Alien had been upon the same Foot as he was before Alien Duties were taken off by the Statute of the twenty fifth of King *Charles* the Second. A strenuous Debate arose in the House, whether or no the Petition should be consider'd, and upon a Division of the House, it pass'd in the Negative. If King *Edward* the Third was right in his Politicks, in collecting so high a Duty out of our Wool exported, the parting with eighty thousand Pounds a Year, an ancient Revenue of the Crown, was swallowing without chewing; because likewise, without the Payment of a Duty, no Distinction can be made in a general Trade, between the natural born Subject and the Alien. His Majesty likewise at this time, in all his Speeches, press'd the Encouragement of the *English* Merchants. I have another Instance to shew how the Interest

G 4

stood

104 *The History of*

stood between us and *Holland*, in the Negotiation of Commerce. In the sixth Year of our late Excellent Queen, a Bill was brought into the House of Commons by Mr. *Lannoy*, a considerable *Turkish* Merchant, and others, to obtain Liberty to import *Cocheneal* from *Holland*, which was restrain'd by the Act of 12 *Car.* 2. This Commodity is brought home upon the *Flotilla*, by the *Spaniard*, once in two Years, sometimes more in a War, and bought at *Cadiz* chiefly by *Great Britain* and *Holland*. Of late Years (as Opportunity offer'd) it hath been engrossed in *Great Britain*, and by probable Conjectures, with *Dutch* Money, and the Price advanc'd from eighteen Shillings a Pound to thirty. To the dying one Cloth of the finest Grain Colour, five Pounds of *Cocheneal* is us'd. The *Serges* of *Exon* are at this time carried white to *Holland*, much cheaper than by Land Carriage to *London*, and can be afforded five *per Cent* cheaper in Grain Colours at foreign Markets, by this Odds in the Price of *Cocheneal*. This Bill pass'd thro' the House of Commons, and was sunk
in

our Golden Fleece. 105

in the House of Lords, the *D--- Asylum* at that time; and which was very Remarkable, a *Cocheneal* Bill sprang up in the House of Lords, went thro' the House of Commons, and is now a standing Law, in which it is enacted, that *Cocheneal* may be brought in from *Cadiz*, *Sevil*, *Port St. Mary's*, *St. Luckar* and *Gibraltar*, or any other part of *Spain*; the same Liberty we had before; which I take to be the greatest Bubble that ever pass'd thro' the Defiles of our chiefest Centinels. To which I will add one Instance more, *viz.* the Importation of *Aqua-fortis* from *Holland*, which is now in Practice: When the chief Ingredient from which it is drawn, is *Copperas*, which they fetch from us, and indeed, is a Commodity in a manner peculiar to *Great Britain*. This Branch of their Merchandise is supported by our *East India* Company, in selling their *Salt-petre* at a Price so far exceeding the Price in *Holland*. And hereby likewise the *Hollander* is enabled to under-sell our Merchants in fine Grain Colours at foreign Markets; which may be fairly brought under the Statute of *Felo de Se*;
and

106 *The History of*

and a Duty upon Copperas exported, may in this case fairly turn the Tables, with a free Importation of Salt-petre; otherwise, in a Sea Fight, if ever any happen, we shall not have our Powder so cheap as our Neighbours. In the Reign of King *Richard* the Second, a Law pass'd, as hath been shewn, to stop the Natives of *England* from Merchandise with foreign Parts; and if the use of Cochineal in dying of Cloth in *England* had at this time been stopp'd, and *Holland* to be the Monoply of Grain Colours, in Consideration of their Kindness in buying our Cloth white, I think it had carried a better Face. We have two Acts of Parliament standing in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, against the use of Logwood, which may reasonably occasion some Speculation, for many Colours are not to be made without it; and it's wonderful to consider the different Thoughts upon Trade. The *Spaniard* at this time was putting up for Universal Monarch, and all the Logwood was in his Hands. The Queen hereby cut off part of his Revenue, and had our Army been limited
to

our Golden Fleece. 107

to blew, it had sunk the Price of Cochineal.

Whatever Concessions have been made to our nearest Friends, in reducing the exorbitant Power of *France*, or whatever Hardships upon a Politick Account, may be put upon any Society of Merchants in a War; our Merchandise and Navigation is too tender a Point to be invaded in time of Peace, and the Birth-right of the natural born Subject, in Equity, ought to be restored. And if that Stock of Money, now employed by *Holland* and other foreign Countries, in buying the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom, was invested in the same Commodities, fully manufactured at our Factories abroad, as in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, they would, in all likelihood, extend our Woollen Manufactures to more remote Parts of the World, and thereby encrease their Consumption. To the obtaining of which, the good Genius of our new Reign, and the consummate Policy of our dread Sovereign, King *George*, in his adding *Bremen* and *Stoad* to *Hannover*, whereby a mutual Commerce

108 *The History of*

merce may be established by the River *Weser*, in a settled Factory at *Bremen*, or *Stoad*, (at the latter of which the Merchant Adventurers of *England* were formerly established) to the equal Advantage, as well of *Great Britain* as *Hannover*, in the Disposal of our Woollen Goods for the Linens of *Westphalia*; and under the Title of the Royal *Hannoverian* Company; which said Company may be extended to *North Britain*, and likewise take in all naturalized Aliens that will reside here and trade as Principals. And it seems to me as much Policy at this time to naturalize Ships as Men. This I take to be *Pan Pharmacon*, the sovereign Remedy for all our Maladies. And if our *South-Sea* Company was in like manner established in settled Factories at *Calais*, *Bilboa* and *Lizbon*, for the regular issuing out and Disposal of the new Draperies of this Kingdom, that Company would be more beneficial to themselves as well as the Publick, who seem at present to be without a Foundation.

And thus I have endeavour'd to shew wherein the true Interest of this Kingdom,

our Golden Fleece. 109

dom, in point of Trade, does chiefly consist, as likewise the ill Steps that have been taken down to this time, to its Prejudice; that we seeing the Faults of others (as in a Glass) may hereby benefit our selves. And I will adventure to say, that if each Power in *Christendom*, with all its Advantages, were nicely weighed in a Balance, *Great Britain* by its Golden Fleece, would have the turning Scale.

F I N I S.

0056

