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TRADE

WITH

France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal,

CONSIDERED:

With Some OBSERVATIONS on the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France.



L O N D O N,

Printed for J. Baker at the Black-Boy in Pater-noster-Row, M. DCC. XIII.

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The Trade with France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, consider'd, &c.

HAT the Nations, that favour us most, ought to be most favour'd by us, is a Maxim in Politicks not to be deny'd.

Which of the Nations above-mention'd favours us most, is now to be consider'd.

I. The Spanish Trade furnishes us, 1st. With Wool, to imploy our industrious Poor.

2ly. With Oil, to work up that Wool. 3ly. It takes from us great Quantities of

Woollen Manufactures.

4ly. It consumes great Quantities of Pilchards, Herrings and Salmon from Great Britain and Ireland.

5ly. It

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5ly. It vends abundance of Beef, Butter,

Tallow, Hides, &c. from Ireland.

Ouantities of our Fish from Newfoundland, which may be esteem'd our Mines of Gold and Silver: That Trade being of so much more Advantage to us, as the Hands that are imploy'd therein, are not only useful to us, as they get that Wealth out of the Sea by their Labour; but as they are thereby render'd capable of serving on board the Navy Royal, which is both our Glory and our Safety.

II. The Portugal, and,

III. The Italian Trade,

Take off our Herrings, Pilchards, Salmon, Woollen Manufactures, Leather, and all the Products of Ireland in great abundance; and have all other Advantages in common with the Spanish (the furnishing us with Wool only excepted.)

The Portugal Trade furnishes us with some dying Commodities; and the Italian Trade with Raw Silk, to imploy our poor industrious Weavers of London, Norwich,

Canterbury, &c.

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All these Trades have as constantly increas'd every Year, as we have increas'd the Demand for their Wines; by which means the Navigation and Seamen of this Kingdom have been greatly encouraged, especially to the Mediterranean; where, by Act of Parliament, such Ships as carry out our Manufactures are to have 16 Guns and 32 Men, of which there is now a much greater number than there were 16 or 20 Years ago. But small Ships, with an easy Charge of Men, can fetch Wines from France; which will discourage the bringing in other Wines, and have this further bad effect, that the greatest part of those Ships must lie and rot, or come home dead freighted: the Charge whereof will fall on those British Commodities they carry out, which rendring them dear, will lessen their Exportation; as will also the Incapacity the Spaniards, Portuguese, and Italians will be in to pay for them. For no Nation (no not the Spanish it self with all their Mines) can take off the Commodities of another Nation, unless they likewise take the greatest part of theirs.

From every one of these Nations, to whom we constantly export more than we import from them, we bring the Ballance in Mony.

IV. The French Trade,

1st, Instead of furnishing us with Wool, deprives us of a great deal from Kent, Sussex, and Ireland.

2ly, It supplies us with no Commodities for the Improvement of our Woollen, Silken, or other Manufactures, as those other Nations do.

3ly, On the contrary, it takes from us whatever dying Commodities we are so unwise as to surnish them with; which they are willing to receive from us, the better to carry on their own Woollen Manusacture, in order to beat us out of the Turkey Trade from Marseilles; as they will also out of the Spanish Trade, by their much nearer Ports.

4ly, We cannot fend any of our Barrel-Fish, if we must pay Duties, 47 l. 10 s. Tourns. or 3 l. 11 s. 3 d. Sterl. per Last of 12 Barrels; and then we shall want Markets for our Herrings, Pilchards, Cod and Salmon: for, as was said before, the Spaniards, Portuguese, and Italians, cannot pay for them unless we take their Wines.

5ly, They will take off none of our refin'd Sugars, unless we pay them 22l. 10. Tourns. or 33s. 9 d. Sterl. per 100. wherein the great Care the French takeof their (7)

their Manufactures and Plantations may be seen.

6by, The Trade of Tobacco is farm'd in France, by which means there being but one Buyer, if they should be induc'd to take off any of that Commodity (which being so bulky, is of the utmost consequence to the Shipping and Navigation of this Kingdom) it will be at such low Prices, as will extremely depress the Colonies of Virginia and Maryland; which will force those Colonies to make among themselves the Necessaries they used to be furnish'd with from hence, and very much lessen the Customs.

land Fish, nor will they have any need of it; for if they transplant the Inhabitants of that part of Newsoundland which they are to yield up to us, to the Island of Cape-Breton, they had as good have kept where they were before; especially if they are to have the liberty of setting up Stages, to cure and dry their Fish on the main Island of Newsoundland. Nay, we shall be extreme Losers by what they yield us, if the Charge of Garisons is to be laid on the Fish; for that Charge will inevitably ruin the Trade.

And if the French have Cape-Breton, and also the liberty of drying their Fish on our Island

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Island of Newfoundland, where they liv'd

before; they will,

1. Furnish their own Country with Fish, which we us'd to do, before our former Princes suffer'd them to have the liberty of curing and drying their Fish in Newfoundland.

2. They will by their Situation have their Fish ready much sooner than ours, and thereby be able not only to supply themselves, but will also in time of Peace forestal the very Markets of Portugal, Spain, and Italy, where ours use to be vended.

3. They will hereby keep up and increase their Nursery of Seamen; for 'tis chiefly, if not wholly, to this Trade, that the Greatness of France by Sea is owing: their Maritime Power having begun to be considerable from their first trading at Newfoundland, and has kept pace with their Increase of Trade ever since; as appears by the infignificant Figure they made at Sea in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and even so lately as the Siege of Rochel, compar'd with the mighty Fleets they have since put to Sea, and with which they have thrice fought the united Fleets of Great Britain and Holland; where, tho they were twice beaten, yet once they got the better: and had we been either times alone, they must

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in all probability have destroy'd us; so much stronger are they by Sea, than either we or the Dutch alone.

8h, They will furnish us with abundance of Linen and Paper, to the great detriment of those Manufactures in Great

Britain and Ireland.

dys, to the great detriment of those Countries that abound in Barley, who have born so much of the Burden of the War by the Duty on Malt; the Duties on which Spirits bring into the Revenue prodigious Sums, in comparison to what the Commodity is worth when in Barley. Their Brandy will have an influence on our West-India Trade, by hindring the making Brandy of Molosses, which are drawn from our coarse Sugars.

conveniencies, they think it is enough that they furnish us with those delicious Wines, which our Nation is famous for being so unmeasurably fond of, and which we must pay them for in Mony. For if they take no Woollen Goods, no Fish, no refin'd Sugars nor Tobacco, we shall have nothing but Mony to exchange for their Wines and Brandies (of which in a free Trade we shall take several thousand Tuns per annum)

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because

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because our dying Commodities, our Lead, Tin, and other Goods from Great Britain, and our Provisions from Ireland, will never be able to answer for their Linens, Silks, Paper, and other Goods; the very Article of Black Silks only, amounting to a prodigious Sum. For allowing our of the seven Millions of People, which Sir William Petty computes by the Duty on Hearth-Mony to be in England, that three Millions of them are Women, and that one in fix of them spends 20 s. yearly in Hoods and Scarves (which surely is a very modest Computation both for Number and Expence) that alone will amount to 500000 l. without mentioning what is spent of that fort in Ireland, and all our Plantations, which must amount to a great deal; and this without including colour'd wrought Silks, or those brocaded with Gold, Silver, and Silk; the Value whereof must be an immense Sum of Mony, considering the Fondness our People have for any thing that is French.

This is but a short View of the Advantages arising by our Trade to Spain, Portugal, and Italy; and of the Disadvantages of our Trade with France; if it shall appear that they have refus'd to admit sour of our chiefest Commodities, and that we have not the Equivalent of resusing sour of theirs.

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theirs, which might, in some measure, have help'd to mitigate our Loss by the French Trade, viz.

Their Wines,
Their Brandies,

Their Silks,
Their Linen of all For our Woollen forts,

For our Tobacco.

For our Woollen Manufactures of all

forts.

But the Disadvantages will yet be infinitely greater, if the Wines and other French Commodities are to pay no more Duties then what are payable upon the like Commodities from other Nations.

For the Wines and useful Commodities which we receive from other Nations, come to us in exchange for our own Manufactures and Products; but it cannot be so from France, when they will not receive them; and therefore their Wines and other Goods ought to pay more Duties than others.

The Linens we receive from Holland, Germany and Flanders, are in exchange for our Plantation Goods, Sugars, Tobacco, &c. and also for vast quantities of the Woollen Manusacture from all the parts

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of this Kingdom, especially from the West and the North.

'Tis a great mistake to say, (as 'tis reported it is faid) that the same Commodities pay, or ought to pay equally, the same Duties from all Countries, and that therefore the French insist upon its being fo now. They that say so, must say it out of Ignorance, or some other Rea-

1/2, They ought not to pay alike, because in Reason, Prudence and Justice, the Product of that Nation that takes off most of our Commodities, ought to pay less than that of others; which makes it just that all French Goods should pay more than the like forts from other pla-

2dly, It has generally been otherwise in Fact, for which we appeal to almost every Page of the Book of Rates; Portugal Wines, and Spanish Wines, have time out of mind paid different Duties, as well as French Wines. And the Linens and Silks from feveral Countries have also paid different Duties, according as they are in goodness; and as those Countries from whence they come, have deserved better or worse of us in point of Trade. Tis supposed France will have the Modesty

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not to pretend that they deserve any favour of us in point of Trade; or else must acknowledg, which they will hardly do, that their Wines and Manufactures are not better than others, or not more esteemed by us, and that therefore they cannot bear more Duries.

However, there are some Reasons given why French Wines ought to pay less Du-

ties than they do.

1st, The first is, that People may drink it so much cheaper. But sure this Reason can never weigh with any thing that has the Name of a Gentleman, and far less with a PATRIOT, when he fees 'tis against the true Interest of his Country.

2dly, The second is from the Incapacity that the Gentry in England will be shortly in, of purchasing it at high Prices. This indeed may have some weight with it, if it shall happen that the Silk Weavers, and those multitudes of Hands that are usefully employed on the Woollen Manufactures, shall find no Work by the Importation of French Silks, and by the Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactures in Portugal, (which will infallibly ensue, and which they are waiting to do, on the equalizing the Duties on French and Portugal Wines;) as also by the setting up

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the Manufacture of Cloth by Count Bergeick in Spain, as our Gazette (an Authority not to be questioned) gave us an account he was doing, in the Gazette of the 9th Instant; and when those Hands that might expect to find Employment in the Fishery granted to the South-Sea Company, and other Fisheries of this Kingdom and of Newfoundland, shall find themselves disappointed of Work, (for of what use will it be to catch Fish, if there be no vent for it?) When all these Woollen and Silk Manufactures, and the Seamen, and Fishermen, shall find little or no Work, they must inevitably starve, or be a burden upon the Landed Interest: and then the Poors Rates that are already in many places 25. 6 d; 3 s; 3 s. 6 d. and in some others 4 s. and more in the Pound, will advance to 8 s. or 10 s. in the Pound; and then the remainder will never afford to buy dear French Wines.

3dly, The third Reason that is given, is, that by the present Treaty of Commerce with France, this matter is agreed to by her Majesty. To which we humbly presume to offer the following Answer.

I. That the Treaty with Portugal, which is universally allow'd to be advantageous to us, pleads the same Authority from her Majesty's

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Majesty's Ratification, that this with France does; and if we are not misinformed, more, because this Treaty with France is not to have effect till some Acts of Parliament now in sorce are altered.

World to hope, that her Majesty, out of her Princely Tenderness for her People, if it shall appear to be prejudicial to the Trade of Her Kingdoms, will be graciously pleased not to think Her self obliged to make good to the French King any such Agreement; which we are the rather induced to hope, from the Instance her Majesty has given of the same Care of Her People in the Alterations that have been made in the First Barrier-Treaty with the States General, upon the Humble Representation of this House of Commons, that it was prejudicial to the Trade of this Kingdom.

3dly, This is the only time to regulate our Commerce with France, and what is now settled we can never hope to be relieved from hereaster. Therefore 'tis of the last Consequence to let pass any thing that may have the forementioned satal Effects upon both our Home and Foreign Trade.

4thly, Tho the Duties now in question, when they were laid on, were not intend-

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ed to continue exactly as they stand, yet were designed to give Time and Opportunity to the Parliament to consider maturely what was proper to be done in a Treaty of Commerce with France.

N. B. When Mr. Methwen, by Her Majesty's Order, was concerting this Treaty with Portugal, the French were at that moment tempting them to break it; and in order to it, offer'd them to take off their Brazil Sugars and Tobacco: yet they prefer'd us, because we took off their Wines. But if they are disappointed in that too, they will doubtless accept the Treaty which the French are ready to enter into with them now. And here we cannot but take notice that the Portugueze Sugars are almost all of them fine Sugars. which the French are willing to take of them that they might break our Trade, tho they refuse to take from us any Clay'd or Refin'd Sugars. So heartily do the French favour our Trade.

There is no notice taken here of the Benefit we receive by the great quantities of Corn lately sent to France; because that is but an accidental Advantage, arising from the Dearth last Year; for in common Years they abound in Corn enough to serve themselves, and for Exportation too: so that

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that this is not to be mentioned, as an Advantage in a regular course of Trade.

One thing further must not be omitted, which is, That during the very great struggle that has been made for several Years past, to keep the high Duties upon French Wines, it has been frequently necessary both by speaking, and writing, to disclose very openly the Nature of our Trade with Portugal, Spain and Italy, and to press that all the Favours that were possible might be continu'd to those Nations, from whence fo great a Ballance was yearly paid us in Mony. This has already awaken'd the Portugueze, the Consequences of which may be very fatal to our Trade, and by that to the Landed Interest, which are inseparable. But it must be remember'd, that all those ill Consequences are justly chargeable on those that occafion'd that Discovery; The unthinking immoderate Lovers of French Wine, to whom it is wholly owing.

Some Observations on the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France.

SINCE the above-written, the Treaty is Publish'd by Authority.

The 8th Article is against the Portuga!

Treaty, by proposing an Equality.

By

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By the 9th, 'tis provided, That the Tariff of 1664, shall not take place till two Months after a Law shall pass here, to reduce the Duties on all Commodities, to an Equality with what is paid for Goods of the like nature, imported from any other Country in Europe. Notwithstanding which, in case such an A& shall pass here, 'tis hop'd the French King may be oblig'd by an Edi&, to suspend the Payment of the high Duties now payable on our Goods in France for those Two Months; or the A& not to take place till such time as the Treaty shall take place in France.

The 10th Article fays, the Duties on Tobacco shall be reduc'd hereafter; but does not fay when that HEREAFTER shall begin. 'Tis further said in the same Article, That the Subjects on both sides, that is, we suppose, the French as well as English, shall pay the same Duties, and that there shall be an equal liberty of Selling; and the British Subjects shall have the same Laws (relating thereunto) as the Merchants of France themselves. That may be; and yet the Farm, notwithstanding what is mention'd in the third Matter refer'd to the Commissioners, pag. 50. may still subsist, because 'tis only lest to Commissio(19)

missioners; which if they do not agree, as 'tis very probable they may not, then by virtue of the 9th Article, it remains as it was; that is, a Farm still: and then neither the Subjects of France nor England, will have any liberty of Selling, but to the Farmers only, at what Price they please: which amounts to a Prohibition.

The same may be said of the Inspection of all our Manusactures in France, which is the first Matter refer'd to the Commissioners, pag. 49. that if it is not agreed, the French will, 'tis probable, find Pretences to suffer none to be imported.

The 11th Article says, The 50 Sols French Mony, paid per Ton on the British Ships, shall cease, and that no such Duty shall be laid hereaster: but that will not prevent their exacting a surther Duty that has already been laid for some Years, of 20 Sols more than the abovesaid 50 Sols; for we have been forc'd to pay 70 Sols per Ton on all Ships that have carry'd any of our Manusactures or Growths (except Corn) ever since the Tarisf of 1701, which being laid in time of Peace, and not mention'd now, 'twill not be strange if it be insisted on.

In the 29th Article, the Bail to be given in England, for Ships taking Letters of C 2 Mast,

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Mart, is to be 1500 l. Sterl. and 3000 l. Sterl. according to their bigness; that to be enter'd into by the French, is to be but 16500 l. Tournois, and 33000 l. Tournois: which, reckoning the exchange at 4s. 6 d. per French Crown, which is the highest that it can be reckon'd at, makes this diference; that in the 1500 l. we must give more Security by 262 l. 10 s. and in the 3000 l. we must be bound in 525 l. more than the French.

Since by this Treaty, four British Commodities excepted out of the Tarisf of 1664, must pay the high Duties impos'd in France in 1699, sure 'tis highly reasonable that Four of the Commodities of France should pay the Duties impos'd in England in the 7th and 8th of William III. And the better to see how high those Duties are, here is a Comparison between the Tarisf of 1664, and that of 1699.

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Cra	Mon br.Fr	French Mony French Mony 4 s. 6 d. pr. Fr. Cro.	Mony	French-	Mony	166 French	,

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By the 9th Article, and by the Explanation in pag. 54. of the Treaty, 'tis AB-SOLUTELT agreed, that the abovemention'd Duties shall be paid for these Commodities; which how unreasonable it is for the French to demand at the time they insist to have the Duties taken off here, the following Observations will shew.

A Cloth of 50 Yards, coarse or fine, must pay, for every 25 Yards, 55 Livers Tourns. that is, in Sterling Mony, at 4 s. 6 d. per French Crown, 8 l. 5 s. Sterling.

A Ratine the same. Serges proportionable.

Barrels of Herrings, which one Year with another cost, put aboard, 16 s. a Barrel, must pay in France above 5 s. 11 d. per Barrel.

Refin'd Sugar 33 s. 9 d. per 100 fb. Suttle, which is above 60 l. per cent. of the Value here, one fort with another.

Can any Man suppose these Duties don't

amount to a Prohibition?

Besides, the manner of Expression in the second Article, pag. 84. is to be taken notice of. 'Tis there said, that to facilitate the Trade of Cloths, Ratines and Serges (Pour en faciliter le Comerce) it shall be allow'd to import them; Where? not in all or any Port of France, but only in three Pla-

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ces, St. Vallery, Roan, and Bourdeaux. The Intention of France, in which Restriction. is with defign, that being afterwards transported by Land, or if by Sea in their own Ships, the Carriage should render them dearer. And by the 9th Article 'tis agreed, That if the Commissioners on both sides shall not adjust the Matter of these excepted Commodities, then they shall stand as before; that is, they may be visited and inspected. The 9th Article also seems to want an Explanation, as to what Provinces are mention'd in the Tariff of 1664. and of what Provinces are excepted by the words, Otherwise than according to the Rule at that time prescrib'd.

The French are so kind, in order (no doubt) to facilitate our Commerce, to permit our salted Barrel Fish, upon paying those high Duties, to be admitted to an Entry in five Places, viz. the three abovemention'd, and Nants and Lisborn; the last is a Place of no Trade, but serv'd only to make up the number of Places, and is about twelve Leagues from Bourdeaux in the River Dordone; but in all other Parts of France to remain prohibited. And shall our Trade be thus incumbred, and theirs

free?

Better no Trade than a Destructive One.

FINIS.

ម៉ាត្តេ ប៉ុន្តែមាន ម៉ែន ដីដៃដែល ១៥៤ ម៉ា ដែលស្ថិត មាន្ត្ aliteria in anticoloria de la constitución de la co Special was the fight, it spile (in is a ob D (s and of the state of the state of the state pir ; maint ben and the bis Light for the section of the first supplies of the section of the

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