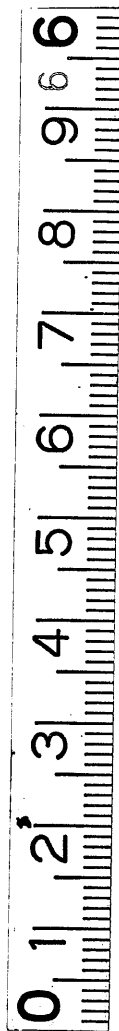


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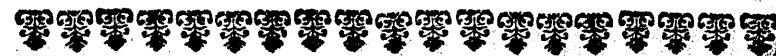


TWO
LETTERS

RELATING

To the Sovereignty of the *British*
Seas, and the Fisheries therein.

(Price One Shilling.)



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4.

LETTERS

WHEREIN

The Sovereignty of the *British* Seas, and that the sole Right of Fishing in them, appertaineth to the King of *Great-Britain*, &c. is Demonstratively Maintain'd and Asserted; for Information of the Projectors of the new proposed Fishing-Company in *Flanders*.

WITH

REMARKS on the *DUTCH FISHERIES* on our Coasts and Seas; and the great Advantages arising from them: With some Account of the Deficiencies of our Sea-Charts; and the Means whereby the same may be rectified at an easy Charge to the Publick. With a New Map of the *British* Coast and Seas, including the *Nymph Fishing Bank*; with Account of two Voyages to it.

Most Humbly Inscribed to the Rt. Hon. Sir John Barnard, Knt. Lord Mayor of London; and the Merchant-Adventurers, Insurers, and Mariners of Great-Britain and Ireland;
By WILLIAM DOYLE, Hydrographer.

Sume Animos a Rege tuo qui dat Jura Mari.
Hugo Grotius.

London: Printed for J. BRETT, at the Golden-Ball, opposite St. Clements Church in the Strand, 1738.
(Price One Shilling.)

To the Hon^{ble} Robert Herbert Esq^r
Commissioner of Trade and
Plantations



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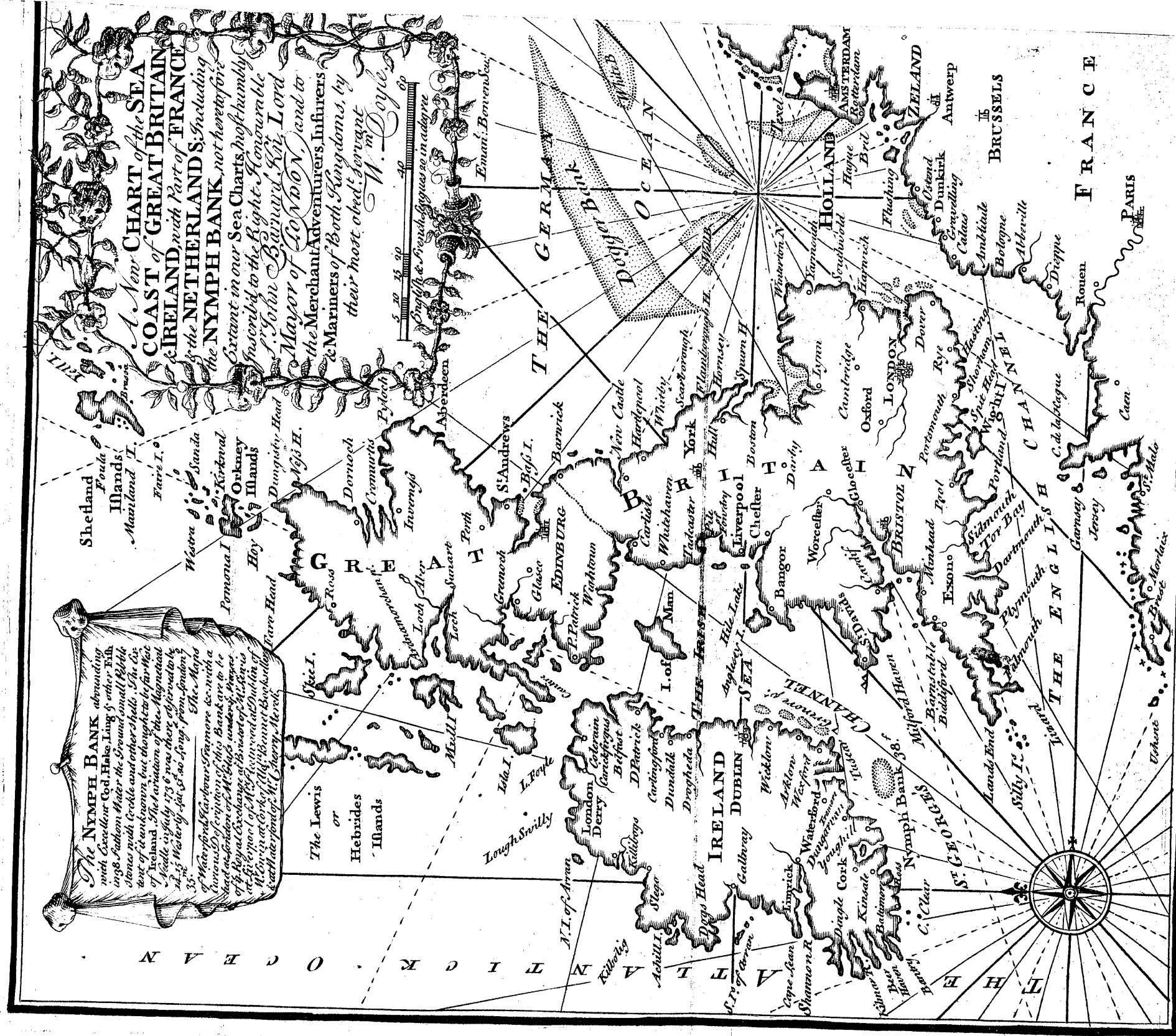
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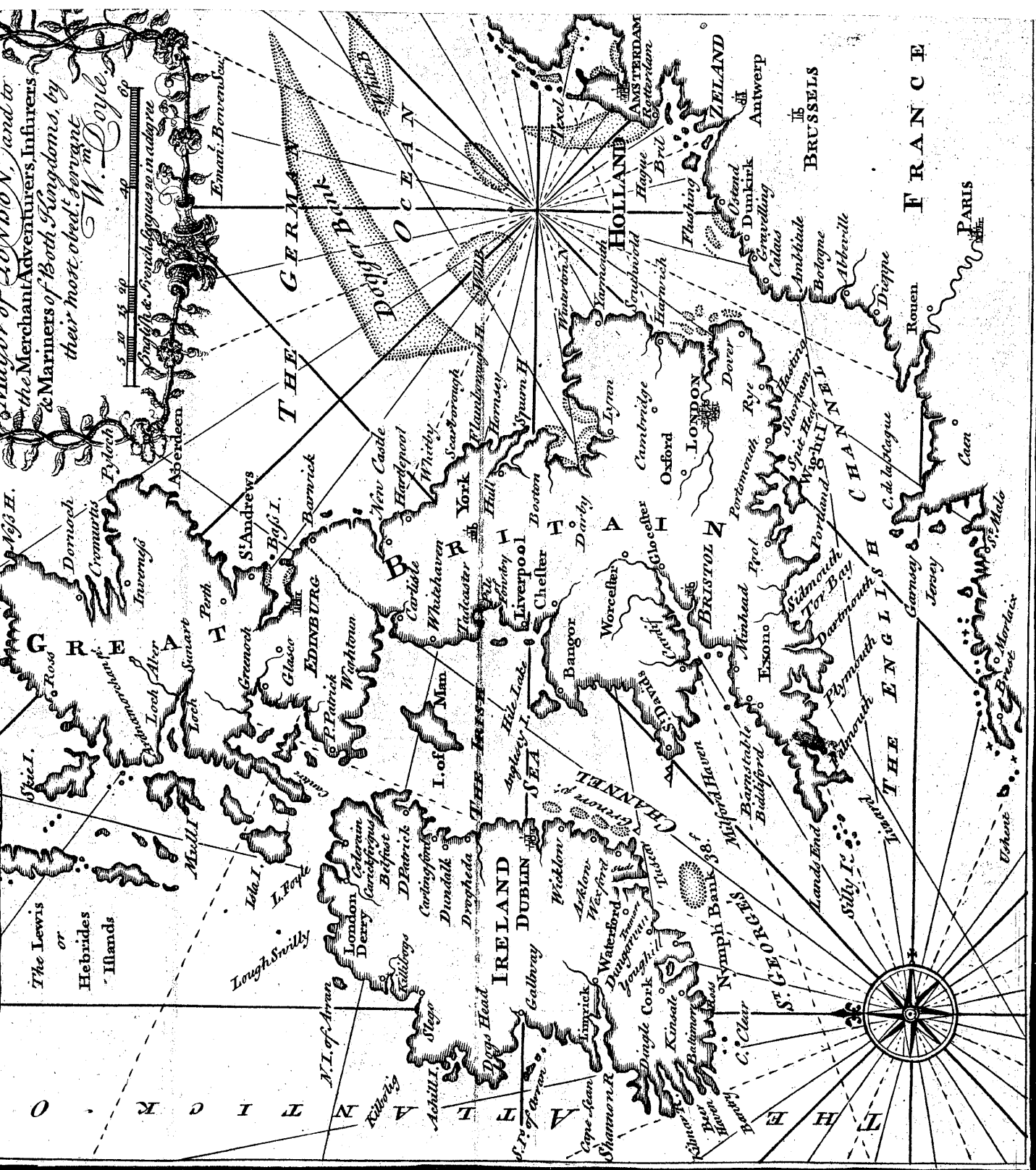
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Wm Doyle
 the Merchant Adventurers, Infirers
 & Mariners of both Kingdoms, by
 their most obedt. servant



A
LETTER

TO
*An Eminent Director of
 the Late Ostend East-
 India-Company.*

S I R,



AVING the Honour of
 your Acquaintance in *Flan-*
ders, when and where I ob-
 served the good Oeconomy
 of the Directors of the *East-*
India-Company in the Management of
 its Interests, insomuch, as I believe the
 small time of its Continuance considered,
 B that

that never was a more beneficial Progress made in any Establishment whatever; and, I am persuaded, the Success thereof was owing to yours, and the prevailing Integrity of the Directors in general; but that Establishment was grounded on a bad Foundation, the Privileges thereof being contrary to the Treaties subsisting, between His Imperial Majesty and his Allies; whose victorious Arms annexed the *Netherlands*, now in his Possession, to the Imperial Diadem. His Imperial Majesty, being at length convinced, according to his accustomed Equity, could not but condescend to the just Importunities of *Great Britain* and *Holland*, and abolish a Trade so destructive of the Interest of his Friends and Allies aforesaid. And as it seems, some Gentlemen of *Flanders*, amongst whom are, as I have Reason to believe, your Good Self, and several of the said late Directors of the *East-India-Company* and others, have formed a Scheme for the Establishment of a Fishing-Company exclusive of all others, of which we have the following Account in our News Papers.

Brus-

Brussels, August 28. 1738.

“ The Measures taken by the Courts
 “ for restoring Trade in the *Austrian Ne-*
 “ *therlands*, animates the Merchants to
 “ take hold of that Opportunity. Some
 “ of them who are arrived here from several
 “ Parts of *Flanders*, have presented a Scheme
 “ to the Arch-dutcheffs, by which they pro-
 “ pose the setting up a Company that should
 “ alone enjoy the Right of Fishing: For
 “ that Purpose they demand several Ad-
 “ vantages, which if granted to them,
 “ they will engage themselves to furnish
 “ this Country with Fish in as great
 “ Plenty, and cheaper than at present,
 “ by fetching it from abroad, and at
 “ the same time pay the Emperor the
 “ same Sum, which the Duties upon
 “ Foreign Fish produce — The Court
 “ judging that this Scheme might be
 “ beneficial, hath sent a Copy of it to
 “ *Vienna*, and another to His Imperial
 “ Majesty’s Commissaries at *Lisse*.”

It cannot be doubted, Sir, but that a Scheme, conducted by Gentlemen of known Abilities and Integrity, might be very beneficial to the *Austrian Netherlands* :

Netherlands: Especially as it is notorious that the Advancement and Encouragement of Fisheries is a great National Benefit, of which you have recent Instances in your Neighbours the *Dutch*, who have drawn from what they call their Golden Mine (namely our *British* Seas) infinite Advantages. If you prohibit the Importation of Foreign Fish, as they principally supply your Markets, they'll be Sufferers: 'Tis to be presumed, your Company intend to fish in our Seas, for elsewhere I know not how they can, to the Purposes above proposed: In the mean time I may almost venture to affirm, that His Imperial Majesty will deliberate upon the Treaties subsisting, so as never to acquiesce in any Measures, whereby *British* caught Fish may be prohibited in the *Austrian Netherlands*; and that consequently the Projectors of this Scheme are, in that Particular, making a Rope of Sand, as did the *India-Company* aforesaid. For it is as well unjust as unreasonable, that the Fish of our own Seas should be caught and engrossed by Strangers, in Prejudice of our natural Right, since, Sir, it will appear by what follows, that his Majesty, the present King of *Great Britain*, notwithstanding the Indulgence lately granted

granted for a promiscuous Fishing in the *British* Seas, has a Right to re-assume his Authority, and permit none to fish therein without his special Licence, as hath been heretofore done and obtained, from his Predecessors for many Ages: Nor can it be esteemed unreasonable (should the *Netherlanders* introduce any Innovation or Prohibition concerning the *British* Fishery, as I am informed the said Projectors propose) if thereupon an absolute Interdiction should be made to the Companies fishing on our Coast and Seas, so as such a Community could never subsist, but the *Netherlands* must needs be supplied as heretofore: For, Sir, it is a well received Truth, that the Sovereignty of the *British* Seas is the most precious Jewel of the *British* Crown, and, next under God, the principal Means of our Wealth and Safety; this appertaineth to the Kings of *Great Britain* by immemorable Prescription, continual Usage and Possession, the Acknowledgment of all our Neighbouring States, and Municipal Laws of the Kingdom; and that to His Majesty, by Reason of His Sovereignty, the Supreme Command and Jurisdiction over the Passage of all Ships of War and others, as also of fishing in the *British* Seas, rightfully appertaineth. This
Right

Right hath been insisted on many hundred Years by the Kings of *England*. The famous *Edgar*, with a Navy of 400 Sail, vindicated his Dominion in the adjacent Seas. *Canutus* exacted his Tribute, called *Danes Geldt*, on them. *Egbert*, *Alfred*, and *Ethelfred*, were acknowledged Supreme Governors of the Ocean surrounding the *British* Shore. In the Year 1200, King *John* had the Honour of the Flag paid him in Acknowledgment of his Dominion, ever since continued to his Successors in the *British* Seas; and all the *Netherlands* craved Protection and Liberty to fish in them, of *Edward 1st*. The Earls of *Holland* petitioned *Edward 3d*. as did the *French* King *Henry 6th*. for the like Purpose; And our learned *Camden* affirms, in his Time the *Hollanders* durst not cast a Net on our Northern Coast, till Licence was first obtained at *Scarborough* Castle for so doing. *Philip 2d*. of *Spain*, obtained Licence of *Queen Mary*, that his Subjects might fish on the North Coast of *Ireland* for the Space of 21 Years; and it appears by the Records of that Kingdom, that he yearly paid into the Exchequer 1000*l*. Sterling. This Right was strenuously insisted on in the seventh Year of King *James 1st*. as appears by the following Proclamation. A



A Proclamation touching Fishing.

“ **J**AMES, by the Grace of God,
 “ King of *Great Britain, France* and
 “ *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. to
 “ all, and singular the Persons to whom
 “ it doth or may appertain, greeting. Al-
 “ though we do sufficiently know by our
 “ Experience in the Office of Regal Dig-
 “ nity (in which by the Favour of Al-
 “ mighty God, we have been placed and
 “ exercised these many Years) as also of
 “ the Observations we have made of other
 “ Christian Princes exemplary Actions,
 “ how far the Absoluteness of Sovereign
 “ Power extendeth it self; and that in
 “ Regard thereof, we need not yield Ac-
 “ count thereof to any Person under God
 “ for any Action of ours, which is law-
 “ fully grounded on that just Prerogative;
 “ yet such hath ever been, and will be
 “ our Care and Desire, to give Satisfac-
 “ tion to our Neighbour Princes in any
 “ Action which may have the least Rela-
 “ tion to their Subjects and Estates, as
 “ we have thought good (by way of
 “ friendly Premonition) to declare unto
 “ them,

“ them, and to whomsoever it may ap-
 “ pertain as followeth.

“ Whereas we have been contented
 “ since our coming to the Crown, to tole-
 “ rate and permit an indifferent and pro-
 “ miscuous kind of fishing to all our
 “ Friends whatsoever, to fish within our
 “ Streams and upon any of our Coasts of
 “ *Great Britain, Ireland*, and other adja-
 “ cent Islands: So far forth as the Per-
 “ mission and Use thereof might not re-
 “ dound to the Impeachment of ^{our} Prero-
 “ gative Royal, nor to the Hurt and Da-
 “ mage of our loving Subjects, whose Pre-
 “ servation and flourishing Estate we hold
 “ our Self principally bound to advance,
 “ before all worldly Respects: So finding
 “ that our Continuance therein hath not
 “ only given Occasion of great Encroach-
 “ ments on our Regalities, or rather ques-
 “ tioning our Right, but hath been a
 “ Means of daily Wrongs to our own
 “ People that exercise the Trade of Fish-
 “ ing: As (either by Multitude of Stran-
 “ gers that do preoccupy these Places, or
 “ by the Injuries which they receive most
 “ commonly at their Hands) our Sub-
 “ jects are constrained to abandon their
 “ fishing, or at least to become so discour-
 “ aged in the same, as they hold it better
 “ for

“ for them to betake themselves to some
 “ other Course of Living, whereby not
 “ only many of our Coast Towns are
 “ much decayed, but the Number of Ma-
 “ riners daily diminished, which is Matter
 “ of great Consequence to our Estate,
 “ considering how much the Strength
 “ thereof consisteth in the Power of Ship-
 “ ping and Use of Navigation. We have
 “ thought it now both just and necessary
 “ (in Respect that we are now by God's
 “ Favour lineally and lawfully possessed,
 “ as well of the *Islands of Great Britain*,
 “ as of *Ireland*, and the rest of the *Isles*
 “ adjacent) to bethink Ourselves of good
 “ lawful Means to prevent those Inconve-
 “ niences, and many others depending
 “ upon the same.

“ In Consideration whereof, as we are
 “ desirous that the World may take notice,
 “ that we have no Intention to deny our
 “ Neighbours and Allies, those Fruits and
 “ Benefits of Peace and Friendship which
 “ may be justly expected at our Hands in
 “ Honour or Reason, or are afforded by
 “ other Princes mutually in Point of
 “ Commerce and Exchange of those
 “ Things which may not prove prejudi-
 “ cial to them: So because some such
 “ convenient Order may be taken in this

“ Matter, as may sufficiently provide for
 “ these important Considerations which
 “ do depend thereon, we have resolved
 “ first to give Notice to all the World,
 “ that our express Pleasure is, That from
 “ the Beginning of *August* next ensuing,
 “ no Person of what Nation or Quality
 “ soever (being not our natural born Sub-
 “ jects) be permitted to fish on any of our
 “ Coasts and Seas of *Great Britain, Ire-*
 “ *land*, and the rest of the *Isles* adjacent,
 “ where most usually heretofore any fish-
 “ ing hath been, until they have orderly
 “ demanded and obtained Licences from us,
 “ or such of our Commissioners as we
 “ have authorized in that Behalf, *viz.* at
 “ *London*, for our Realms of *England* and
 “ *Ireland*; and at *Edinburg* for our
 “ Realm of *Scotland*, which Licences our
 “ Intention is, shall be yearly demanded
 “ for so many Vessels and Ships, and the
 “ Tonnage thereof, as shall intend to fish
 “ for that whole Year or any Part thereof,
 “ upon any of our Coasts or Seas thereof,
 “ as aforesaid, upon Pain of such Chastise-
 “ ment as shall be fit to be inflicted upon
 “ such wilful Offenders.

“ Given at the Palace of *Westminster*
 “ the *6th* Day of *May*, in the *7th* Year

“ of

“ of Our Reign of *Great Britain*, Anno.
 “ Dom. 1609.”

Notwithstanding this Proclamation,
 Strangers still more and more incroached
 upon our Coasts and Seas; and during the
 whole Reign of King *James*, pretending,
 because of the long Connivance of Him-
 self and Queen *Elizabeth*, that they had
 a Right of their own by immemorial Pos-
 session, which some *Dutch* Commissioners
 pleaded (*in Terminis*) before the King and
 Council; and they made no other Use of
 His Majesties Indulgence, than to tire out
 His whole Reign with artificial and evasive
 Answers: All that the King gained by
 the tedious Overtures and Dispatches too
 and again, was, in Conclusion, only a ver-
 bal Acknowledgment of those Rights,
 which while they acknowledged they
 equally evaded, abusing the Favour of His
 Majesty's peaceable and gracious Govern-
 ment, whereby He permitted all His Friends
 and Allies to make Use of His Seas and
 Ports, in a reasonable and free Manner
 according to His Treaties. He cherished,
 and as it were nourished our Neighbours,
 gave them Leave to gather Wealth and
 Strength on our Coasts; they were once
 glad to invite our Merchants Residence
 with what Privileges they desired, they also

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at one time offered us even the Sovereignty of their Estates, they sued us for Licence to fish on our Coasts, and obtained it under the Great Seal of *Scotland*, which they soon suppressed; when thus by Leave or Contrivance, they had possessed themselves of our Fisheries not only in *Scotland* and its *Isles*, as well in *Ireland* as *England*, and by our Staple had raised a great Stock of Trade; by this Means they so increased their Shipping and Power at Sea, that they were not content to be kept within any Bounds, the Truth whereof is evident by a Letter of Secretary *Naunton's*, to the Lord Ambassador *Carlton*, dated 21st. *January* 1618. we read thus.

“ I received Direction from His Majesty to signify to the State's Commissioners here, that albeit their earnest Entreaty, and His gracious Consideration of the present Trouble of their Church and State, had moved His Majesty to consent to delay the Treaty of the Great Fishing till the time craved by the Commissioners, yet understanding by the new and fresh Complaints of His Mariners and Fishers on the Coast of *Scotland*, that within these four or five Years past, the *Low Country* Fishers have taken so great Advantage of His Majesty's

“ Majesty's Toleration, that they have grown nearer and nearer on His Majesty's Coasts Year by Year, than they did in preceding Times, and oppressed some of His Subjects of Intent to continue their pretended Possession, and driven some of their great Vessels through their Nets, to deter others for Fear of the like Violence from Fishing near them, &c.

“ His Majesty cannot forbear to tell them that he is well persuaded of the Equity of the States, and of the Honourable Respect they bear unto Him and His Subjects for His Sake, that they will never allow such unjust and intolerable Oppressions: For Restraint whereof, and to prevent the Inconveniencies which must ensue upon Continuation of the same, --His Majesty hath by me desired, that you write to their Superiors, to cause Proclamation to be made, prohibiting any of their Subjects to fish within fourteen Miles of His Majesty's Coasts this Year, or any time hereafter, till Order be taken by Commissioners to be authorised on both Sides, for a final settling of the main Business.

“ His Majesty hath likewise directed me to command you from Him, to
“ make

[14]

“ make the like Declaration and Instance
 “ to the States there, and to certify His
 “ Majesty of their Answer with what
 “ convenient Speed you may.”

Thus far Secretary *Naunton* to the Ambassador. What Effect the Ambassador's Negotiation with the States had, appears by a Letter of His from the *Hague* of the 6th of *February*, 1618. to King *James* Himself, where among other Passages he hath this:

“ I find likewise in the Manner of Proceeding, that Treating by way of Proposition, nothing can be expected but their wanted dilatory and evasive Answers; their Manner being to refer such Propositions, from the States General to the States of *Holland*. The States of *Holland* take Advice of a certain Council residing at *Delph*, which they call the Council of the Fishery. From them such an Answer commonly comes, as may be expected from such an Oracle. The way therefore (under Correction) to effect your Majesty's Intent, is to begin with the Fishers themselves, by publishing against the Time of their going out, Your Resolution, at what Distance You will permit them to fish; whereby they will be forced to have Recourse to
 “ their

[15]

“ their Council of Fishery, that Council
 “ to the States of *Holland*, and those of
 “ *Holland* to the States General; who
 “ then, instead of being fought unto, will,
 “ for Contentment of their Subjects, seek
 “ unto Your Majesty.”

During the whole Reign of King *James* 1st, Encroachments more and more increased, and the *Netherlanders* about the 12th Year of the Reign of King *Charles* 1st, were grown to such a Height of Power and Figure at Sea, that they had the Confidence to keep Ground ^{Gaard} upon our Seas, and to project an Office and Company of Assurance for Advancement of Trade, and also to prohibit us free Commerce even within our Seas, and took our Ships and Goods if we conformed not to their Plancharts, in all which and our Sufferings may seem forgotten, yet the great Interest of His Majesty's Honour and the Welfare of His Subjects, occasion'd the following Proclamation, which was backed with a Gallant Fleet to refresh the Memories of these bold Encroachments on our Right.



A Proclamation by King CHARLES the 1st, for Restraint of Fishing upon His Seas and Coasts without Licence.

“ **W**HEREAS our Father of Blessed Memory King *James*, did in the 7th Year of His Reign of *Great Britain*, set forth a Proclamation touching Fishing, whereby for the many important Reasons therein expressed, all Persons of what Nation or Quality soever (being not His natural born Subjects) were restrained from fishing upon any the Coasts and Seas of *Great Britain, Ireland*, and the rest of the *Isles* adjacent, where most usually heretofore fishing had been, until they had orderly demanded and obtained Licences from our said Father, or His Commissioners in that Behalf, upon Pain of such Chastisement as should be fit to be inflicted upon such wilful Offenders: Since which time albeit, neither our said Father nor our Self have made any considerable Execution of the said Proclamation, but
“ have

“ have with much Patience expected a voluntary Conformity of our Neighbours and Allies to so just and reasonable Prohibitions and Directions, as are contained in the same.

“ And now finding by Experience, that all the Inconveniences which occasioned that Proclamation, are rather increased than abated. We being very sensible of the Premises, and well-knowing how far we are obliged in Honour to maintain the Rights of Our Crown, especially of so great Consequence, have thought it necessary, by the Advice of our Privy Council, to renew the aforesaid Restraint of fishing upon our aforesaid Coasts and Seas, without our Licence first obtained from us; and by these Presents do make public Declaration, that our Resolution is (at Times convenient) to keep such a competent Strength of Shipping upon our Seas, as may (by God's Blessing) be sufficient both to hinder such farther Encroachments upon our Regalties, and assist and protect those our good Friends and Allies, who shall henceforth by Virtue of our Licences, (to be first obtained) endeavour to take the Benefit of Fishing on

D “ our

“ our Coasts and Seas, in the Places ac-
 “ customed.”

*Given at our Palace of Westminster
 the 10th Day of May, in the 12th
 Year of our Reign of England,
 Scotland, France, and Ireland.*

The second Proclamation being set forth in the Year 1636, served to speak the Intent of those Naval Preparations made in the Year preceding, which were so numerous and well provided, that our *Netherland* Neighbours were apprehensive of some great Design in Hand, for the Interest of *England*; and were let to know, that we hold it as a Principle not to be denied, that the King of *Great Britain* is a Monarch at Land and Sea, to the full Extent of his Dominions; and that it as much concerneth Him to maintain His Sovereignty in the *British* Seas, as in His three Kingdoms; because without that these cannot be kept safe, nor He preserve His Honour and due Respect with other Nations, but by commanding the Seas, command the Respect of His Neighbours.

His Majesty's Intention by that Fleet, was not a Rupture with any Prince of State, nor to infringe any Part of His
 Treaties,

Treaties, but to continue and maintain that happy Peace, wherewith God had blessed his Kingdoms, well-considering that Peace must be maintained by the Arm of Power, which keeps down War by keeping up Dominion. And His Majesty being provoked, found it necessary, even for His own Defence and Safety, to re-assume and keep His ancient and undoubted Rights in the Dominion of the *British* Seas, and to suffer no other Prince or State to encroach upon Him, thereby assuming to themselves, or their Admirals, any Sovereign Command.

But to force them to perform due Homage to His Admirals and Ships, and to pay them Acknowledgment as in former Times they did; as also to set open and protect the free Trade both of His Subjects and Allies, and give them such safe Conduct as they might reasonably require: Nor would He suffer any Men of War or Free-booters to take Prizes or keep Guard, to offer any Violence, or give any Interruption to any lawful Intercourse upon his Seas, being resolved to do no Wrong, as to do Justice both to His Subjects and Friends within His Dominion aforesaid. True it is, that the Indulgence of *Queen Elizabeth*, King *James*, and King *Charles 1st*,

their Neighbouring Nations, especially the *Hollanders*, by giving them too much Liberty, did in their Times encourage them to assume a Liberty to themselves; and what at the first was but a Licence, they improved into a Custom, and made that Custom an Authority, infomuch that some of the busiest of them openly declared against the King's Propriety on the *British* Seas. Amongst these was *Hugo Grotius*, a Gentleman of great Ingenuity, who wrote his Treatise asserting a *Mare Liberum*, or Free Sea, which gave the first Warning for His Majesty's Equipment of His Fleet, for the Purposes above-mentioned. *Grotius* in this Particular was so far inclined to obey the Importunities, and serve the Interests of his Countrymen, that he disoblged himself of the Truth, and moreover, to speak the Truth, of his Conscience itself, for if you look into his *Silvee*, lib. 2. on the first Inauguration of King *James 1st*, he is pleased to express himself in these Words — *Tria Sceptra Profundi in Magnum Coiere Ducem*; which is, That the Right of the *English*, *Scottish*, and *Irish* Seas, were united under one Scepter; nor is he satisfied with this, but he goes on and says, *Sume Animos a Rege tuo, qui dat Jura mari*, which english'd is,
 Take

Take Courage from the King who giveth Law to the Seas -- Direct Contradictions to the Positions in His *Mare Liberum*. Tho' the Proposition were true, that the Sea is common and free, yet it is no otherwise to be understood, than in the same Sense we usually say, that the High Ways are common and free; by which is meant that they cannot be usurped by any private Person for his sole proper Service, but remain to the Use of every one. Not therefore that they are so free, as they should not be under the Protection and Government of some Prince; and that every one might do therein whatsoever it pleaseth him, either by Right or by Wrong, the true Liberty of the Sea excludes it not from the Protection and Superiority of such as maintain it in Liberty, nor from the Subjection of the Laws of such as have Command over it, but rather necessarily it includes it, that the Sea no less than the Land, is subject to be divided amongst Men, and appropriated to Cities and Potentates, which was ordained by God from the Beginning of Mankind; and this was well understood by *Aristotle*, when he said, That unto the Maritime Cities the Sea is the Territory, because from thence they take their Sustainance and Defence, a Thing which cannot

not possibly be, unless Part of it be appropriated in like manner as the Land is, which is divided betwixt Cities and Governments, not by equal Parts, nor according to their Greatness, but as they have been, or are able to rule, govern or defend them: And many Cities there are, who being awed by their more mighty Neighbours, have been constrained to forbear any such Attempt; for which two Causes, though they be *maritime*, and bordering on the Sea, may happen to remain without any Possession of the Sea.

God instituted Principalities for the Maintenance of Justice to the Benefit of Mankind, which was necessary to be executed as well by Sea as by Land; and *St. Paul* said, That for this Cause there were due unto Princes, Customs and Contributions; and it would be a great Absurdity to praise the Well-governing and Defence of the Land, and to condemn that of the Sea, if the Sea, in some Parts thereof, for the ampleness and extreme Distance from the Land, is not possibly to be governed and protected, it doth proceed from a Disability in Mankind, as in the same Consideration, the Desarts and great Vastities of the Land are equally incapable of Government and Protection; and it is the Gift of
God,

God, that a Land, by the Laws and published Power, be ruled, protected and governed; so the same of course in Respect of the Sea --- It is a gross Equivocation of *Grotius* and others, who affirmed, That the Land, by reason of its Stability and Firmness, may be governed, but not the Sea, for being an inconstant Element passeth, and hath a Motion proper to it as well as the Air; all, and every Part of those fluent Elements being intended, it is certain that they cannot be governed, because when a Man secureth any Part of them, the other flieth out of his Power: This also happeneth unto Rivers which cannot be restrained in their fluent Motions; but when Mention is made to rule over a Sea or a River, it is not understood of the Element, but of the Scite where they are placed. The Water of the *Adriatic* Sea doth continually run out of it, nor can it be restrained, and yet it is the same Sea as well as the *Thames*, the *Rhine*, the *Seine*, or the *Po*, which are still the same Rivers as they were a thousand Years ago, and these are subject to the Protection of Princes --- Were the Seas without Protection, every one might do therein whatsoever he listeth, by robbing, spoiling, and making it unnavigable: This would be absurd

furd in Reason, and by necessary Confe-
 quence it must be acknowledged, that the
 Seas ought to be kept governed and pro-
 tected by those to whom it did appertain
 by Divine Disposition, and it must of Ne-
 cessity follow, that whosoever trafficketh or
 saileth on the *British* or other Seas under
 such Protection, ought to be subject to such
 Laws, Customs, and Imposts for the Sup-
 port of the same, as such are who travel
 through a Country upon Land — There
 might be alledged many Examples, how
 long the *Lydians*, the *Phrygians*, the *Phœ-
 necians*, and many other Eastern Nations,
 have been one after another Lords of the
 Sea; the like may be affirmed of the
 West, for both *Polybeus* and *Appian* affirm,
 That the *Carthaginians* enjoyed the Com-
 mand of the Sea, and without all Contro-
 versy, we shall find that the Common-
 wealth of *Venice* hath enjoyed the Domi-
 nion of the *Adriatic* Seas for many Ages:
 The *Tuscans* to this Day have an absolute
 Dominion in the *Tyrbene Sea*; those of
Genoa in the *Lygustic*; the like may be
 alledged of the *Danes*, *Swedes*, and *Nor-
 wegeans*; and to conclude the Dominion
 of the Seas is admitted amongst those
 Things that are lawful, and received into
 the Customs of Nations, is so far from
 Con-

Contradiction, that nothing can be found
 to controul it in the Customs of our lat-
 ter Times, unless it be by some, who being
 Borderers upon the Sea Dominion of others,
 do strive to violate the Rights of their
 Neighbours, under pretence of civil Com-
 munity — Now as to the Objection con-
 cerning the Freedom of Fishing, Com-
 merce, and Passage, pretended to be com-
 mon to all, it is most evident from the
 Customs of all Times, that Commerce
 and Passage hath ever been so limited by
 Princes in their Territories, that it is either
 permitted or prohibited according to the
 various Concernments of the Public Good;
 and Princes are concerned that they admit
 no such Strangers or Commerce as the
 Common-Wealth may receive any Da-
 mage thereby; and *Aristotle* plainly and
 expressly saith, That Provisions ought to be
 made by Laws with whom Subjects may
 or may not converse; and *Bodine* affirmeth,
 That it is lawful to prohibit any Foreigner
 from entering the Borders whether on Sea
 or Land, and also to force him out if he
 hath entered them, not only in Time of
 War, but even in Time of Peace, that the
 Privileges, Safety, and Welfare of the Peo-
 ple may not be incommoded or infringed
 upon by Strangers, even *Oliver Cromwel*,
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when Lord Prorektor took care of this Particular, and maintained the Sovereignty of the *British* Seas --- King *Charles 2d.* asserted the same, and in the Preamble of an Act passed in the 14th Year of His Reign, it is declared ---

“ That the public Honour, Wealth,
 “ and Safety of this Realm, as well in the
 “ Maintenance and Support of Navigation,
 “ as in many other Respects, doth in a
 “ high Degree depend upon the Improve-
 “ ment and Encouragement of the Fishery.

King *James II.* in His Royal Brother's Time, personally vindicated this Right, and after His Accession to the Throne, till the Revolution, esteemed it as the greatest Ornament of His Crown. In the glorious Reigns of King *William* and Queen *Anne*, the Honour of the Flag, as a Token of Dominion, was strenuously insisted on, not as a Complement, but as a Right (*Debita Reverentia*;) and a *Sweedish* Fleet of Ships and their Convoy in the latter Reign, upon Refusal of that Reverence, were shown the Ill-Consequence of it: And it is as well known, when the haughty *Spaniards* would have seized *Naples* out of your Sovereign's Hands, and infringed the Neutrality of *Italy*, that their *Armado* felt the Force of the late King *George*, who

who stopt the Torrent of their Ambition, which renders the Memory of that great and magnanimous King precious in these Kingdoms, not only as He greatly advanced the Honour of the *British* Name, but improved its national Commerce by suppressing and chastising Pyrates, and such as infringed on the Rights and Properties of His faithful Subjects. And as the Crown is lineally descended to our present most gracious King *George II.* who hath preserved and procur'd to *Britains* (to the great Glory of His Majesties Administration it may be truly said) the best and finest Fleet of Ships that ever graced the Ocean, or maintained the Rights of the *British* Seas; a competent Number of these great and amazing Fabricks are now compleatly Man'd with Gallant Officers and Brave Sailors eager to obey their Sovereign's Command, if fair Means will not procure Satisfaction for the Depredations committed by the *Spanish Guarda Costas* on our defenceless Merchant Ships. I my self having among many others of my Fellow Subjects been a very great Sufferer by them; and we hope, and doubt not, but speedy Satisfaction will be made for the Injuries, done with Security for a free and uninterrupted Commerce hereafter, according to Treaties and the Law

of Nations; for as was the Case before recited in the 12th Year of King *Charles 1st*, who in his own Defence was obliged to equip His Fleet, and maintain His Right in the *British* Seas, so His present Majesty well considers that Peace must be obtained by the Arm of Power, which keeps down War by keeping up Dominion; and if the Ends proposed and justly expected from the *Spaniards*, is not soon obtained, His Majesty having the Arm of Power, may easily compel them, and chastise these Infringers of the Rights, and Plunderers of His good Subjects, at Times and Places convenient. I hope, Sir, from what is here briefly related (for a Volume might be deduced from Antiquity, Prescription and Reason, to assert His Majesty's undoubted and sole Right of Fishing, &c. on His Coasts and Seas) and this is chiefly intended for the Information of the Projectors of your proposed Fishing Company, to which I add this Admonition, that they decline all Thoughts of obtaining a Prohibition of *British* caught Fish; and that for these Reasons; First, that such a Prohibition would be not only expressly contrary to the Treaties, and consequently unjust as well as unreasonable, for 'tis well known the *Netherlands* cost much *British* Blood and
Treasure,

Treasure, and would not such a Prohibition of Fish, or any other *British* Commodity, be an ungrateful Return for the Conquests made in Favour of His Imperial Majesty, who, nor in Equity nor Prudence, can comply with your Projectors Desire, no more than he can support and justify a Fishery on our Coasts and Seas, without Licence obtained for so doing.

Moreover our Sovereign regards His Honour and Royal Prerogative, and the Rights and Interest of His good Subjects (especially in Matters of the greatest Importance as is that of the Fishing, which is a Nursery of Seamen for His Royal Navy) preferable to all other worldly Considerations; and as it has been shewn that His Majesty having the Arm of Power can, and that justly, prevent your Company's fishing on his Coasts and Seas; whence it is evident that Community could not subsist, and the *Netherlanders* (in whatever Possession they are or may hereafter be) ought to be content with their usual Manner of Fishing; nor is it advisable for your Projectors to think farther of such a Prohibition, no more than making Ropes of the Sand-Banks bordering on your Coasts.

I am, Sir, with Truth and Esteem,

Your most humble Servant,

Oct. 10. 1738.

WM. DOYLE.

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A
LETTER

TO

*An Eminent Merchant-
Adventurer of and at
Bristol.*

S I R,

AVING in my Letter to
an eminent Director of
the late *Ostend East-India-
Company* (chiefly for the Rea-
sons therein contained) asserted
and maintained, that the Dominion of the
British

British Seas and sole Right of fishing therein, appertaineth to the Crown of *Great Britain*; if we consider also the natural Scite of these our Seas, that interpose themselves between the great Northern Commerce, as well as the East, West, and Southern Countries, with the infinite Advantage that by fishing in the same is daily made by Strangers, it cannot then be doubted, were the Fisheries of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* duly encouraged and industriously followed by the Natives of these Kingdoms, the same, without Injustice to any State or People, might be made the most flourishing in the known World.

For the Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* do yield such a continual Sea-Harvest of Gain and Benefit, to those that with Diligence do labour in the same, that no Season of the Year, in either of them, passeth away without apparent Means of a profitable Employment, especially to such as apply themselves to fishing: For on one Part or the other of the said Coasts, and therein such infinite Shoals of Fishes are offered to the industrious Fishermen, as is wonderful not only to Strangers, but even to those employed amongst them.

The Premises considered; it maketh for the Ignominy of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*,

land, that God and Nature offering us so great a Treasure, even at our own Doors, we do, notwithstanding, neglect the Benefit thereof; and by paying Money to Strangers for the Fish of our own Seas, impoverish our selves to make them rich: Inasmuch for want of Industry and Care in this Particular, a great many fishing Towns are reduced to great Poverty; whereas, on the contrary, by dilligent endeavouring to make Use of so great a Blessing, we might in a short time repair those decayed Towns, and add Strength and Riches to our Country — We have Timber sufficient to build Herring Busses, and other Vessels at reasonable Rates; We have hardy and able Men fit for such Employment, who now live poorly and idle at home; we have Victuals exceeding cheap and plenty, our Harbours, Bays and Coves, are good and convenient, being as well near where the Fish haunt, as for Succour in Strefs of Weather, for Water, Salt, and packing our Fish, and exporting it sooner than Strangers can, for all these Reasons, as that our Harbours are seldom frozen as those of the *Hollanders*, *Hamburgers*, and *Bremeners* are. I now, Sir, proceed (at the earnest Desire of certain Well-wishers to the Fisheries of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*) to add a few Words

to the Account already published in my Maps of the dangerous *Bay of Tramore*, and of the *Harbours of Waterford* and *Rinesbark*, and Sea Coast to them adjacent, of a fishing Bank now named the *Nymph Bank*, about eleven Leagues *S. S. E.* from the High Land of *Dungarvan*. For, Sir, in order to render the said Maps as useful as possible, as well by describing the said Bank, as taking the perspective Views of the Land from it, and other Stations distant from the Shore, withall to set the Tides and Currents, and determine the Variation of the magnetical Needle, and whatever respecting the Fishery on the said Bank, might be useful to the present and future Ages; I say, Sir, for the desirable End aforesaid, my own Surveying Boat being too little for a distant Expedition, upon Application to *Henry Mason Esq;* a Gentleman always ready to promote whatever might be useful and beneficial to his Country, who had the Goodness to accommodate me with his Pleasure-boat of about twelve Tunns, very compleat for the Purpose; her Name the Bank now bears; and having on Board seven Men, at Midnight, (*July 15th, 1736.*) I arrived on the said Bank; and then and there anchoring in 39 Fathom Water, the Ground small Pebble Stones, intermixt with
Cockle

Cockle and other Shells; we instantly applied ourselves to fishing, and found a wonderful Affluence of Fish, such was the Number of excellent large well-fed Cod, Hake and Ling, Reas or Schetes of a monstrous Size, Bream, Whiteing, Red Gurnet, and other Fish, as to me (tho' I have been fishing on the Banks of *New-foundland* and *New-England*) seemed wonderful; I never saw equal or better Diversion, and I think it very extraordinary, that a Bank so near the Land as eleven Leagues, and its Dimensions unknown, should have been many Ages neglected, having withal so many Ports adjacent to it. Had the industrious *Hollanders* so great a Blessing near them, they would have drawn immense Advantages from it. But I return, Sir, to our Fishery: In six Hours we filled our Fish-room with Cod, Hake and Ling alone, and all Parts of the Boat with other Fish; as for the monstrous Reas they were thrown over Board, they would in *England, France* or *Holland*, have yielded very considerable; we continued on the Bank twelve Hours, during which Time I set the Tides, took the Views of the Land, and in this and the following Voyage, found the Variation of the magnetical Needle, as is fully expressed in the said Maps, to which the Curious are referred
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red; being full freighted with Fish, and as well pleased as tired with fishing, weighed Anchor, and after a Voyage of 36 Hours, arrived at *Passage* with our Fish in very good Order, and to the Surprise of many, as well for the Novelty of the Voyage as the Excellency and Number of our Fish — Such was the Satisfaction of the first, that I soon determined on a second Voyage, in order in different Places to make Observations, as well Westward as Southward of the first Station; for this Purpose, Volunteers readily offered themselves; the Profits of the first was Encouragement for a second Voyage, in the Execution of which, between the High Land of *Dungarvan* and the said Bank, we frequently sounded, the deepest Water was 43 Fathom sandy Ground, but no Fish; at length continuing our Course *S. S. W.* arrived on the Bank, found 38 Fathom small Pebble Stones, and Cockle and other Shells; this was on the Edge of the Bank which I conceive to be ten or eleven Leagues from the Shore — In various Places I made Experiments, sometimes Westward, again South East of the first Station, till by a good Observation of the Sun, having a clear Horizon, I found myself in the Latitude of *51d. 20n.* at least fifteen Leagues from the Land,

Land: In all Places had the same Ground and very good fishing. I was at least four Leagues Southward of the first Voyage, and still on the Bank; future Experiments must determine its Magnitudes; some pretend this Bank extends far Westward of *Ireland*, and it is believed by others, that it joyns that of *New-foundland*: This is merely conjectural, and future Experiments and Discoveries may produce Effects which may be conducive to the public Good. The Assays I have made, may induce others to fish on the *Nymph Bank*.

And I may add, that the Cod, Hake, Ling, &c. taken by us, was the best fed I ever saw: Doubtless then their Sustenance must needs be very good, and in very great Plenty where such prodigious Shoals abound; and it may from the Premises reasonably be infered, that the Fish continue on this Bank all Seasons of the Year, which is humbly submitted to public Consideration.

It may, Sir, be satisfactory to the Curious to know, during the Survey which I made on this Coast, that I observed the fishing Season in *Tramore Bay*; and Places adjacent for Makrell, Polluck, Gurnet, Bream, and great Variety of other Fish, begins about the Close of *April*; Hake and Ling you have there and at the *Harbour's*

bour's Mouth of *Waterford*, in Plenty most of the Summer Season, and continue during the Herring Fishery, usually beginning in *October* and ending about *Christmas*: The Herrings have of late Years in incredible Shoals frequented *Waterford* Harbour: In the Year 1736, during the Summer Season, founded the Coast, I observed the Seas incredibly replenished with Fish, many great Grampusses frequented the Harbour as high as *Passage*, and great Numbers of Porpusses pursued the Salmon, even above *Waterford* and *Rofs*. There also are Lobsters, Crabs, and most Sorts of Shell-fish in abundance, so that I am amazed these many Advantages, and wherewith all the Sea-coast of *Ireland* abounds, hath not produced answerable Effects: But I hope the Act past this last Sessions in that Kingdom, for Encouragement of the Fisheries there, will alleviate all Grievances, and induce the industrious Fishermen to answer the Achievements of the *Hollanders*. As I resided some Years among them, I shall briefly relate the Observations I made concerning their Oeconomy, in Respect to their Fisheries, with some Account of their wonderful and laudable Industry and Opulence, arising from the Bounty of our Seas,

Seas, which may be an Incentive to the *British* and *Irish* Fishermen, in due Time to partake of equal Advantages.

The *Hollanders* employ at least 1800 Herring-Busses, having on Board them Men, Women and Children; they carry with them Stock of good Sea Provisions, Plenty of Salt and Barrels; they salt their Fish the Moment it is taken, and in a Manner alive; these Busses are large, strong, well-fitted, and capable to bear tempestuous Weather, wherewith even in the Summer Season they often encounter. Instead of attending the Herrings on the Coast and in the Harbours, they go and meet them at Sea in innumerable Shoales or Scholes, at which time they are in the greatest Perfection: By Ordinance of the State, the Busses are under the Direction of Commandores who are the expertest Fishermen, nor dare they at an Anchor or Lying too, cast their Nets, till *Midsummer-Day*; the Fishery then commencing is called the Summer Fishery, which continues till the latter End of *August*; they do not commonly come to Harbour, but continue at Sea, and other Vessels are employed in bringing Salt-barrels, &c. and carrying home the Herrings, which immediately after landing, is carefully washed and repack
with

with choice good Salt in branded Casks of different Sizes, the Packers are sworn and paid by the Magistrates; and the extraordinary Method of Curing renders the *Dutch* Herrings preferable to all others-- The Winter Season commences at *Michaelmas*, and continues till the Middle of *November*; during this Season the *Hollanders* pursue the Scholes on the *British* Shore, even from *Shetland* to *North Britain*, and Southward to *Thames Mouth*: Besides 700 Strand Boats, 800 Evars and Sullets; they have at least 800 Doyer or Well-boats, above 100 Tuns each, which fish on the Coasts of *Great Britain* for Cod and Ling only; they also employ several hundred small Boats on and about the Coasts of *Yarmouth*, and sell their Herring to the *English* for ready Money; at the *Fero Islands* and *Iseland* they employ many Doggers on the Cod Fishery, the like all over the North Seas, and by killing Seals or Sea Dogs, they make profitable Voyages, add to these at least 200 Sail of great Ships, annually employed in the Whale Fisheries at the *Streights*, *David*, and on the Coasts of *Greenland*.

The Number of Fishing-Ships employ a great many Men, they breed the ablest Sailors, and by these the *Dutch* supply their

their Voyages to all Parts, so that they are become as it were the Citizens of the World --- By the Number of their Ships and Mariners, and their Trade occasioned principally by their fishing, they have not only fortified themselves at home, but many times have gloriously repelled foreign Invasions: The Beauty and Strength of their Cities is inferior to none, and numberless are their Havens, whereon they have laid out on some 30, 40, and others above 100,000 l. Sterling: On their Fortifications also prodigious Sums of Money; and these may be compared to any whatever, all which is originally flowing from the Bounty of the Sea, from whence, by their commendable Industry, they derive their Wealth and Safety: Their Greatness in the *East* and *West-Indies* in many Places, whereof they are become Lords of the Sea Coast, and have likewise fortified on the Main where the Kings and People (especially in the *East-Indies*) are at their Devotion; and more than all this, the Neighbouring Princes in their Differences, by Reason of their Power at Sea, are glad to have them of their Party: Moreover, how mightily is the Public Revenue and Customs of *Holland* increased by their fishing? As for Licences, Waftage, and Lastage,

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which is paid to the State for Custom of Herring and other Salt-Fish, we are likewise to know, that great Part of their Fish is sold in other Countries for ready Money, for which they bring home the finest Gold and Silver; and much of the latter they recoin of a Baser-Allay under their own Stamp, which is not a small Means of augmenting their public Treasure. As touching their private Wealth, if we consider the abundant Store of Herring, and other Fish by them taken, we conclude the Gain thereof, made by private Men, must needs be very great; for this Trade of Fishing, employing so many Men and Ships at Sea, must necessarily maintain as great a Number of Tradesmen and Artizens on Land, as Spinners, and Rope-makers, Twine for Nets and Lines, Weavers to make Sail-cloth, Packers, Tollers, Dressers, and Couchers to make the Herrings lawful Merchandize; Tanners to tan their Sails and Nets, Coopers, Block-makers, Lightermen, and Labourers for carrying and removing their Fish, Carpenters, Smiths, Shipwrights, Carmen, Brewers, Bakers, and many others, too long to enumerate in this Place, besides the Maintainance of their Wives, Children and Families --- Moreover, any Man
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or Maid Servant, or Orphan, having any poor Stock, may venture the same in their Fishing Voyages, which ordinarily affords them great Increase, and is duly paid according to the Proportion of their Gain.

Holland affords little, as its natural Produce, besides Butter and Cheese, yet by Means of their Fisheries, aboundeth in a plentiful Manner with all kind of Provisions, as Corn, Beef, Mutton, and all other Necessaries of Life; and for Luxury, Wines, Silks, Spices, &c. and for Defence, in all manner of Arms and Ammunition, in Pitch, Tar, Timber, and Iron for Shipping, all which they not only have in Abundance for their own Use, but by Means of their Import and Export, may be said to be the Magazine of the whole World.

Amongst the *Holland* Buffes, two or more, according to their Situation and Number of the expertest Fishermen, are appointed to guide the rest, who are bound to follow them, and cast their Lines and Nets according to their Direction, whereas every one of us acts as he pleases --- The *Hollanders* set out in *June* to find the Schole of Fish, and having found, keep with it till *November*, and many times longer as it may happen --- whereas

[44]

we stay till the Herrings come to our Roads and Harbours, and sometimes for want of a good look out, miss them: Our Herring Fishery continues about ten Weeks, and theirs six Months. The *Holland* Busses are large, strong, and well-fitted, and our Boats are small, thin sided, and open, and consequently unfit for distant fishing: The *Hollanders* are industrious, and when discharged of their Lading, immediately put forth for more, and seek for Markets abroad as well as at home, whereas our Fishermen, after they have been once at Sea, seldom go again, till the Money for their Fish is spent, and they in Debt, seeking to supply the Markets: The *Hollanders* have certain Merchants, who, during the Herring Season, come to the Place where the Busses and Vessels by them laden usually arrive; these joining in Company, presently agree for the Ladings of twenty, thirty, or forty Busses at a time; so being discharged, immediately set out to their former Stations of fishing, whilst our Fishermen are uncertain of their Chapmen, and spend much Time in selling their Fish --- It were to be wished, that these and many other Effects were taken into Consideration, and Orders made agreeable to the Plan of the *Hollanders*, to
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make our Fisheries more prosperous and successful, since the Neglect thereof hath brought great Misfortunes to many good Towns and once flourishing Corporations, as well in *Great Britain* as *Ireland* --- The apparent Decay of many Towns, particularly the Cinque Ports, is testified by Authority even of Parliament Itself, in the Statute of the 33 of *Henry VIII.* avoiding the Prolixity of the Original, it is to the following Purpose:

“ Because the *English* Fishermen dwelling on the Sea-Coast, did leave off the Trade of Fishing in our Sea-Coast, and went the Half Seas over, and thereupon they did buy Fish of *Pickards, Flemings* and *Zelanders*, by Reason whereof many Incomodities did grow to the Realm, *viz.* the Decay of the Wealth and Prosperity of the Cinque Ports, and Members of the same; as also of our Towns by the Sea Side, which were built and inhabited by great Numbers of People, by Reason of exercising the Craft and Feat of Fishing. Secondly, the Decay of great Numbers of Boats and Shipping; and thirdly, the Decay of many good Mariners, able in Body by their Diligence and Labour, and continual Exercise of fishing; and expert
“ by

“ by Reason thereof, in the Knowledge
 “ of the Sea Coast, as well within the
 “ Realm, as other Parts beyond the Seas.”

It was enacted, that no manner of Persons, *English* Denizens or Strangers, at that Time or any Time after, dwelling in *England*, should buy any Fish of Strangers; and it were to be wished, for the Encouragement of the *British* Fishermen, that so good a Law were continued to this and all Times hereafter --- It is needless to enforce Arguments on that Account; most of our Neighbours have shewed us an Example, and it is unreasonable that any Nation, who are permitted to fish on our Coasts and Seas, should prohibit, as they do, *British* caught Fish to be sold in their Dominions: And should the New Company proposed in *Flanders*, obtain that Advantage of such a Prohibition as is confidently reported, it were full Time to nip them in the Bud, and prevent their fishing in our Seas, which would effectually reduce them to a reasonable Compliance with the just Right we have heretofore had, to vend our Fish at their Markets.

It has been already shewn, that we are possessed of greater Advantages than any People, as well by particular Companies
 or

or private Persons for fishing, and afterwards for exporting our Fish to foreign Markets: We then ought to set our Hearts and Hands effectually to work, and by a frugal and industrious Management of Affairs, we may in a few Years, become Masters of the Fishing Trade, as well in the Northern as Western Seas. Great is the Example which the *Hollanders* hath set us; and if upon their Plan we could act, with such Improvements and Advantages as our Happy Situation inviteth us unto, we might soon achieve Glory to our King and Government, and as is said in the Introduction, become the most flourishing Nation in the whole World.

The learned Sir *John Burrougs*, in his Sovereignty of the *British* Seas, demonstratively affirms, Page 140, that the yearly Value of Fish taken by Strangers in his Time upon our Coasts, amounted to at least 10,000,000l. Sterling, from whose Authority, and what is before said, great is the Advantage of Fishing in the Northern Seas; the like may be affirmed of the Sea Coast of *Ireland* and the *Nymph Bank* adjacent, because on them and the other, as is already known, there is an inexhaustible Store of the best sort of Fish;
 and

and were Well-boats employed on these Fisheries, the Great and Oppulent City of *Bristol*, and those of *Bath*, *Gloucester*, *Woocester*, the Towns of *Taunton*, *Tiverton*, *Bridgwater*, *Minthead*, and all the Places situated on the River *Severn* and adjacent to it, might be supplied with Fish cheap and plenty, to the great Benefit of the numerous Manufacturers inhabiting the same; and the like Advantage would accrue to *Cork*, *Kingale*, *Youghal*, *Waterford*, the great and populous City of *Dublin*, the Coast of *Wales*, *Liverpool*, *Chester*, and many Places in the inland Parts of both Kingdoms. For in Respect of the Situation of the *Nymph Bank*, it is evident all the fine Harbours on the South of *Ireland* are contiguous thereto; the City of *Dublin*, as also *Bidiford*, *Bastable*, and the *Welch Coast* exceed not thirty; *Bristol* fixty; *Liverpool* and *Chester* seventy Leagues Distance from it: so that in Case a Fishery were established on that Bank, numerous are the Places as well for sale of Fish salt, or fresh, or drying it in Ports of Safety, as also exporting the same to *Portugal*, *Spain*, and other Markets, preferably, cheaper, and sooner than can be done from any other Bank or Coast whatever. Notwithstanding the happy Situation of the *Nymph Bank*,

Bank, by Reason of the Ignorance and Poverty (not to speak of the Indolence) of the *Irish* Fishermen on the adjacent Coast, very little compared to the Benefit that might, has been drawn from it --- For these People are not only generally unskilful in the Art of Navigation, but their Boats are open, thin sided, and unfit to bear or brook tempestuous Seas: The Terror of which, and driving beyond their Knowledge, hath been an invincible Impediment to the Progress, which might have long since be made. Well-boats stout and strong, such as are employed by the *Hollanders* in the Northern Seas, might be built at *Bristol*, and all the Western Ports of *England* and *Wales*, where Timber and other Materials for Shipping are reasonable; and the same Places and *Ireland* abound not only with all Fishing Geer, but expert Mariners and other hardy and able Men, where also Provisions and Cloathing for them are to be had exceeding cheap. So that were a Fishing-Company erected in these Parts, (under proper Regulations and enjoying particular Privileges) doubtless a Fishery might be carried on at that Bank and on the Sea-Coast adjacent, preferable (for the many Reasons here alledged, with others in Reserve) to

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any Company which ever hath, or ever can be established in the *Austrian Netherlands*, or elsewhere. The Premises duly considered, great Benefit would by this Means accrue to His Majesty's Revenue in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and likewise to no less than the Artizens of 32 different Trades which are employed on Land, in the various Manufactures and Utensels requisite to a Fishery, and be at the same time a Nursery of hardy and able Sailors so much wanted in these Kingdoms, as well for Defence as Support of Navigation — If what I have, Sir, advanced on this Head, proves acceptable to the Public — I may be thereby induced in due Time and Place, to communicate some farther Thoughts concerning this Matter, with particular Proposals for establishing a Fishery on the said Bank and Coast, whether it may be an incorporated Company, or private Persons, who ought not to be excluded from fishing, as they may see convenient. As it has already been shewn, that his Majesty's Title to the Dominion of the *British* Seas, and sole Right of Fishing in the same is unexceptional, so an exact Survey and Description of them and the Coast they wash, would greatly redound to His Majesty's Honour and the

Safety

[51]

Safety of Navigation, which includes that of the Royal Revenue and Trade — Wherefore, I hope, Sir, you will pardon the Freedom of the following Relation: In the Year 1726, having a Ship of some Consequence under my Command, bound from *Rotterdam*, North about *Scotland*, intending for *Ireland*, I was at that time furnished with the best *English*, *French*, and *Dutch* Sea-Charts extant, and suitable to the aforesaid Voyage: During my Passage, being arrived near the *Orcades Islands*, I encountered strong South West Winds; and being unwilling to put into any Port on the Main Land of *Scotland* or said *Islands*, was obliged to beat to Windward, and of Course frequently plying near the Shore, I found my Books and Charts of little or no Use, neither truly describing the Lands or Currents, the Land being very rudely laid down, and the Currents in no Respect accounted for, tho' of utmost Importance to such as are bound about Land; I could not therefore but reflect on the great and absolute Necessity there is of an actual and true Survey of the same — I also coasted along the *Hebrides* or *Lewis Islands*, where also meeting contrary Winds, was obliged to approach the Shore, and observed the Ap-

H 2 pearance

pearance of many good Harbours; and I have been since assured, there are many excellent Ports, tho' as little known, as I may in a Manner say, as *Australis Incognita* to our *British* Mariners. I cannot, Sir, pass by these Places, without mentioning *Loch, Sunart, Ardnamorchan*, which is the Westwardmost Point of the Main Land of *Scotland* is the Northern, and the *Isle of Mull*, the Southern Entrance into this *Loch*; its Extent Eastward is 24 Miles within the Land, and is capable of containing above 1000 Ships of the greatest Burthen. Captain *Alexander Bruce*, a Gentleman of great Abilities, hath lately made a curious and exact Survey of it at his own Expence, expressing all the Rocks, Sands, Shoals and Soundings, with the setting of the Tides and Currents: This is a Work lately published at *Edinburg*; and the Captain hath so well acquitted himself, that Strangers, without the Help of a Pilot in bad Weather, frequent this Harbour, and by the Directions in his Chart, enjoy a Place of Safety: Here are the valuable Lead-Mines of *Strontian*, occupied by the York-Buildings-Company, and it is frequented by the Ships which lade on their Account: It is to be hoped, that the Captain may be employed,
and

and that at the public Charge, to survey what he hath so well began, namely, all that Coast and the *Islands* to it adjacent, which I am well assured, abound with many excellent but little known Harbours, which might in Times of Peace, but especially in War, be exceeding useful to great Fleets, as well as private Vessels.

The Merchant Adventurers of *Liverpool*, to their Honour be it said, hath at their private Expence, amounting to above 500l. Sterling, employed two good Mathematicians, who hath lately surveyed the Sea-Coast from the Point of *Linus* in *Anglesea*, to *Formby Pt.* in *Lancashire*, as also to *Formby Channel*, which extends to *Black-Coomb* to the Northward, together with a Plan of the Harbour of the Pile of *Fowdry*, which last is a famous Herring Fishery, the Maps of which being lately published, will be of great Use to the Navigation of their Seas and Harbours; these worthy Gentlemen have confirmed that undoubted Maxim, that all polite Cities, rendered by their Trade and Navigation, superior to their Neighbours, ought to set on work, and encourage all such as endeavour to render themselves useful to the Public; and it is as well known,
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as before observed, whatever contributes to the Safety of Navigation, includes also His Majesty's Revenue, and justly claims the Attention of the Honourable Governors thereof, as well of the public Companies and private Insurers in these Kingdoms.

You will have, Sir, the Goodness to excuse this Digression, if such it properly is; and it were to be wished, that Encouragement and Employment were given to Men of real Capacity and Merit, according to the Remonstrance lately made by the Merchants of *Liverpool*, as I have heard, to Gentlemen in Power, for the Continuance of the Survey of the Sea-Coast, to the said Survey already made and adjacent to it; and the like may be said of the Channel of *Bristol*, and all the Western Parts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, it being notorious that the same is exceedingly wanted, which may be evinced by the Insurers of Ships in particular, who by their many Losses have sufficiently experienced the Truth of this Assertion --- I may farther add, that having passed the *Hebrides* or *Lewis Islands*, and arriving on the Northern Parts of *Ireland*, I found the Deficiencies of the Sea-Charts were equally great all along the Coast, until I arrived
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at *Killebegs*, which might be made one of the most convenient and strong Ports (especially in Time of War) for the Accommodation of our *East* and *West-India* and *Turkey* Fleets, being capable to receive Ships of the greatest Burthen, where they might ride as in a Basin, secure from the Injuries of Weather, and Attempts of the Enemy, provided the Entrance were fortified, which, respecting its Situation, might be done at a small Charge.

As the Western Parts of *Ireland* is farther extended into the great *Atlantic Ocean*, than any Part of *Great Britain*, the Ships which occupy *St. Georges* and the *Bristol* Channels, and many times such as are bound into the *English* Channels, on their Return from the *East* and *West-Indies* and other Places, endeavour to make *Cape Clear*, which is the South-westwardmost Part of *Ireland*, and by Means of heazy Weather, frequent in the adjacent Seas by unknown Currents, Tempests, and other Incidents, are often drove to the Northward of that *Cape*: And notwithstanding the many spacious Bays, Ports and Rivers, wherewith these Parts abound, they are nevertheless very little known to our Mariners; no Wonder then that the Gazets are replete with the Loss of their Ships, to the great
Detri-

Detriment of His Majesty's Revenue and Trade, and Destruction of our Seamen and others. I have been told, that the *French*, hoping to have *Ireland* as a Gratitude for their Services, and pretended Friendship for the late King *James*, did by Order of the late *Lewis le Grand*, cause a Survey to be made of the Sea-Coast, from *Cape Clear* to *Galwey*. Indeed, if any such was ever performed, the Charts are like a Candle hid under a Bushell, for I could never find any, tho' I diligently enquired at *London*, *Paris*, and *Amsterdam*; had these many Bays great in Extent, including in them many commodious Harbours, been actually and truly surveyed, and the Maps and Charts in Possession of our Mariners, many *British* Ships would have escaped Shipwreck, as well as the Enemy in the late Wars: And it is well known, that the *French* Privateers having Fishermen Natives of these Places composing Part of their Equipage, who knowing the many little Bays, Coves, and other Recesses, with the various setting of the Tides, have by this Means escaped the *British* Men of War and *Dutch* Capers; whence I conceive, Sir, that an actual Survey of these Parts is exceedingly wanted; as it would exhibit many Refuges to the Distressed

tressed in Peace or War, and would of Course be advantageous in War as well for avoiding as chacing the Enemy; and indeed the like may be affirmed of the Southern and Eastern Part of that Kingdom, as is said. I lately made an actual Survey of the Harbour of *Waterford*, towards the Expence of which, the Magistrates of that City were Contributors; I have adjoined thereto the Bay of *Tramore* and Harbour of *Rinesbark*, and the Sea-Coasts adjacent, and I believe there are few who trade or occupy the *British* Seas, who have not heard of the frequent Shipwrecks which have happened in that Bay and Coast adjacent — I remember in Queen *Anne's* Reign, when one of Her Majesty's Bomb Ship and the whole Crew perished; a long time before and since that remarkable Loss, scarce any Year hath escaped without Disasters, which have in that dangerous and destructive Bay affected the Royal Revenue, as well as Merchants, Mariners, and the Insurers of Ships; and the same principally arising by the Mistake of the said Bay for *Waterford* Harbour; wherefore the Magistrates of the City, during the Survey aforesaid, enjoyn'd me to consider of a proper Expedient, whereby Mariners might from the Sea be
I enabled

enabled to distinguish one from the other. In Pursuit of this desirable End, I made several Excursions on the Sea, and at a considerable Distance from the Land, observed a great Similitude between the Opening of the said Bay and Harbour, and approaching the Shore, such an Uniformity in the Soundings, as to the Depth of Water, and Quality of the Ground, which is fine white Sand, that nothing answerable to such Distinction could be by these Means possibly effected. When *Hook Tower* can be seen, the same is an undoubted good Mark for *Waterford Harbour*, but if in Obscurity, it is almost impossible even for the Natives, much more for Strangers, (especially in the least heazy Weather) to know the Difference.

These Considerations, Sir, drew me into the following Reflections, which are humbly submitted to your good Judgment, as also to the Gentlemen of the *Trinity-House* and others, whose Care it is more particularly to inspect into all Matters, tending towards the Safety of Navigation, especially that of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; and, Sir, from a View of my Map of that Coast what follows will be better understood. *Hook Tower*, which is above 100 Foot high, is situated

ated on very low Land, at the Starboard Entrance of *Waterford Harbour*: *Great Newtown Head* is on the Larboard Entrance of *Tramore Bay*; this Head is not only higher than *Hook Tower* from the Surface of the Sea; and being higher also than the Land within it, even a Man or any small Object might be seen at a considerable Distance — I then conceive, Sir, from the Consideration of such Situation and Height as aforesaid, if a whiten'd Sea-mark consisting of two solid Turrets, each 70 Foot high, that is, Cylindrical to the Height of 50 Foot, and Pyramidal the other 20, the Diameter at the Base 30 Foot, or rather more; and on the said Head so built and disposed, at 100 Yards Distance from each other, as that a right Line supposed to be drawn through their respective Diameters, and the same extended, would exactly coincide with *Brownstown Head*, which forms the Starboard Entrance of the said Bay: Such might be very useful for the End proposed — The Land Westward of *Great Newtown head* trenches a Way *W. S. W.* so that on the Western Side the Turrets could never be seen in One, except only to such as are just entring into the Bay,

consequently to all such Ships that are in the *Offin* they would ever appear Two to the Northward of them. To such as were unfortunately enter'd the Bay, they would appear Two to the Southward of them. As *Brownstown Head* interposes to such as are to the Eastward, close in with the Land, they cannot be seen in One; and as they are Two, they can never be mistaken for *Hook Tower* in the *Offin*; nor by Ships which may enter *Slade-Bay* can *Hook Tower* be taken for the *Turrets*, not only as one is on exceeding low, and the others pretty high Land; as also because *Hook Tower* is the Frustrum of a Cone, and by reason of the Smoke, black and dirty; whereas the Tops of the *Turrets* would be Pyramidal, and as is propos'd constantly whitened. The Distance from *Hook Tower* is about 3 Leagues to the supposed *Turrets*; and when the *Turrets* cannot be seen, the Tower might; and on the contrary many Times when the Tower cannot be seen, the *Turrets* might; and consequently either apart, or when both the Tower and *Turrets* can be seen, reciprocally contribute to the Benefit of the Distress'd Mariner, by being on one hand the means of avoiding a most dangerous Bay, as
on

on the other of obtaining an excellent Harbour.

I conceive, Sir, the *Turrets* in respect to Duration should be solid in respect to seeing them at a great Distance whiten'd; and as the aforesaid Mistake happens in the Day-time (for *Hook Tower* is a sure Guide, by means of its Light in the Night to *Waterford Harbour*) so of course Lights in the *Turrets* are needless; but were there such, they might be of ill Consequence, by interfering with that of the Tower, so that the Charge attending the *Turrets* would be no more than the bare Building, and once in 50 Years of whitening them. *Great Newtown Head* abounds with loose firm Stone, and as may be seen by the Map of it, the *Lady Mary's Cove* is very near, where Lime Stone in abundance may be brought from the Parts adjacent to *Hook Tower*: These Conveniences subsisting, and Labour very cheap, the Charge of building them would be of course very little, compared to what the Insurers have sometimes paid for a single Ship, besides that which is infinitely more valuable, the Loss of one Crew of our Mariners.

Besides, Sir, many Ships occupying the said Seas, as well those of *London*

as several Ports in the *English* Channel, *French*, *Dutch*, &c. by Tempest drove on the said Coast, might greatly profit of the said Mark or Turrets, by such a Direction to *Waterford* Harbour; and also such as occupy *St. George's* and the *Bristol* Channels in heazy Weather, unable to see High-lands of *Dungarvan*, especially the former advantageously to form their Course, so as to avoid the very ill-describ'd and dangerous Rocks, Sands and Shoales between *Hook Tower*, *Grenock*, and the *Fuscar*, are frequently oblig'd to make *Hook Tower*; for which End in heazy bad Weather, as is said, too nearly approaching the Shore, are often embay'd in *Dungarvan* and *Tramore* Bays, or the Western Coast between them, and there lost; as are also Ships for the like Reason, between *Hook Tower* and *Wexford*. — Whereas it may be well supposed that the Turrets which may be made larger than here proposed, and such elevated on great *Newtown Head*, might from the *Offin* be seen at a far greater Distance than the Tower; and be a notable and eminent Mark whereby Ships might form their Course (whether Bound Eastward or Westward) and avoid the said dangerous Bays and Coast, and particularly the destructive
Rocks

Rocks called *Islands Kane*, about a Mile Westward of the said *Great Newtown Head*, for they have also occasioned the Loss of many a good Ship, and many a brave Seaman — A Duty of a Half-penny per Tunn upon all Shipping, which occupy the *Irish* Coast, *St. George's*, and the *Bristol* Channels, Inward and Outward, for the Space of Ten Years, would more than defray the Expence of Building the Turrets, and repairing them 500 Years.

A small Charge, indeed, when compared to the great Losses already sustained, for want of the Distinction before mentioned; as also to the great Benefit which the Distressed might hereafter receive by such a Sea-Mark; and the more so, because between *Cork* and *Dublin* there is no Harbour but *Waterford* capable to receive Ships of great Burthen, consequently of the greater Importance is that Harbour, and whatever might be a safe Direction to it in tempestuous Weather.

The generous Example of the Corporation of *Waterford*, and Merchants of *Liverpool*, and Captain *Bruce*, hath incited others to have their Harbours and Coasts survey'd by Persons of Judgment and Capacity. Many such there are, doubtless, belonging to the Royal Navy and Revenue:

And

And it were to be wished, that these Gentlemen in their respective Stations, as their Leisure might admit, would be active in exhibiting to the Publick such Surveys and Discoveries as they might make of Rocks, Sands, Shoeks, ^{Shoals} Currents, &c. or otherwise, if particular Corporations are now, or at any Time hereafter may be, inclin'd to contribute towards the Survey of their Harbours, Coasts, or Fishing-Banks to them adjacent, and that by Persons of known Abilities. It is (under Correction) proposed, That as the much wanted and general Survey of these Coasts and Kingdoms is evidently and equally necessary for the Service of the Royal Navy as the Revenue, 'twere then to be wish'd, that the Right Hon. and Hon. the Commissioners and Governors of them, would (as an Encouragement to such as apply themselves to such useful Purposes) order and direct the Commanders of his Majesty's Ships of War, and Revenue-Sloops in their respective Stations, to furnish the needful Men with their usual Allowance of Provisions for carrying on the Work, as Occasion might require, for such Affairs being only practicable at Sea but in peaceable Times. I humbly conceive such a competent Number of Men would be far from obstructing
His

His Majesty's Service by being spared on such Occasions: On the contrary, were Surveying Vessels commission'd they might, (as being employ'd on the Coast, and constantly, as I may in a manner say, for the Purpose aforesaid at Sea,) be as well useful to the Revenue as to Navigation, by not only obstructing Smuglers, but by rendering such Surveys cheap and easy to the Corporations aforesaid: By this Means the Interest and Honour of his Majesty and these Kingdoms, and the Benefit of Navigation would be greatly advanced and promoted: All which is most humbly submitted to the Right Hon. and Hon. Gentlemen in Authority, for promoting the Ends proposed; that Measures might be taken, as in their great Wisdom may to them seem convenient.

As I have hinted my Thoughts on this Subject, so I have Reason to believe, *Sir*, that at all Times and Stations the Commanders of His Majesties Ships, and Gentlemen of the Revenue, will of their own Accord contribute their Friendly Assistance, and promote the Publick Good: For during my Survey of *Waterford* Harbour, &c. I experienced the Friendly Regards of one and the other to me and my Work —
My Worthy and Honour'd Friend *William*
K *Lingen,*

Lingen, of *Dublin-Castle*, Esq; at my Desire recommended me to his Brother Capt. *Lingen* of his Majesty's Sloop *Cruiser*, when wintering in *Waterford* Harbour, who offered me his Assistance; but by Means of the Inclemency of the Weather I could not partake of his Favours. The Spring advancing, on the Captain's Departure, I applied myself to Capt. *Roger Martin*, of His Majesty's Sloop *Hound*, who not only expressed his greatest Satisfaction in the Usefulness of my Design, but with Pleasure, and in a Manner suitable to it, order'd me all Necessaries: And I cannot sufficiently express the Alacrity wherewith Lieutenant *William Cary*, and all the Officers and Sailors served me on this Occasion: And it is with Pleasure I improve this Publick Opportunity of testifying my Gratitude to Capt. *Martin*, who, besides the many Favours conferred upon me in his Station, had the Goodness to accommodate me with his Table; and the great Civilities of his Ship, till my Arrival at, and Departure from, *Portsmouth*, towards *London*, with Intent to publish my Maps, &c.

As what I have here related, *Sir*, is more Matter of Fact than Speculation, and that intended for the Information of all

all Capacities, I have (as most consistent with the Subject) render'd my Thoughts in a plain and familiar Manner, well knowing that Rhetorical Tropes would in this Case rather tend to cloud than to inform the Understanding. However, such as it is, if it may in any Degree contribute to the Publick Good, and consequently to your Satisfaction, the End proposed will be effectually obtained by,

S I R,

Your most Devoted

and most Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM DOYLE,
Hidrographer.

CHARING-CROSS,
Oct. 11. 1738.

F I N I S.

Advertisement.

WILLIAM DOYLE *Hydrographer*, having lately made an actual and exact Survey of the dangerous and destructive Bay of *Tramore*. of the Harbours of *Waterford* and *Rinesbark*, and Sea Coast adjacent, and also in various Stations taken the perspective Views of the Land, particularly from a Fishing-Bank, 11 Leagues S. S. E. from *Dungarvan*, (now named the *Nymph Bank*) which aboundeth with *Cod*, *Hake*, *Ling*, &c. as is fully described in the Map of the said Coast and Harbours, just published and printed from a Copper Plate, curiously Engraven by the Celebrated Mr. *Emanuel Bowen*, of and at *London*. The maps which are as well ornamental in Gentlemens Houses, as useful to Navigation, are suitable to, and printed on a Sheet of the best Imperial Atlas Paper, 33 Inches long, and 26 broad. Notwithstanding the Author hath been at very great Expence, as well in the Execution of this useful Work, as Attendance on the Engraver, &c. yet (regarding the safe and advantageous Navigation of the said Seas and Harbours, as the Maps are particularly useful to all such as Occupy *St. George's* and the *Bristol Chanel*) is willing to dispose of them at the easy Rate of Eighteen-pence per Map.

The Maps may be had of Mr. *Thomas Glass* Print-seller under the Piazza on the Cornhill-Side near the Stairs of the Royal Exchange *London*; at *Bristol* of Mr. *George Lewis*; at *Liverpool* of *John Ansdell* and Mr. *James Fleetwood*; at *Portsmouth* of Mrs. *Wilkinson*; at *Dublin* of Messieurs *G. Risk*, *G. Ewing*, and *William Smith*; at *Corke* of Alderman *George Bennet*, *Booksellers*; and at *Waterford* of Mr. *Denis Cherry*, *Merchant*.

October the 10th, 1738.

At the above Places may be also had a new Chart curiously Engraven of the British and Irish Sea Coasts, including the *Nymph Bank*, now first Published and Inscribed to the Right Honourable Sir *John Barnard*, Lord Mayor of *London*; and to the Merchant Adventurers, Insurers, and Mariners of both Kingdoms, at Four pence per Map.