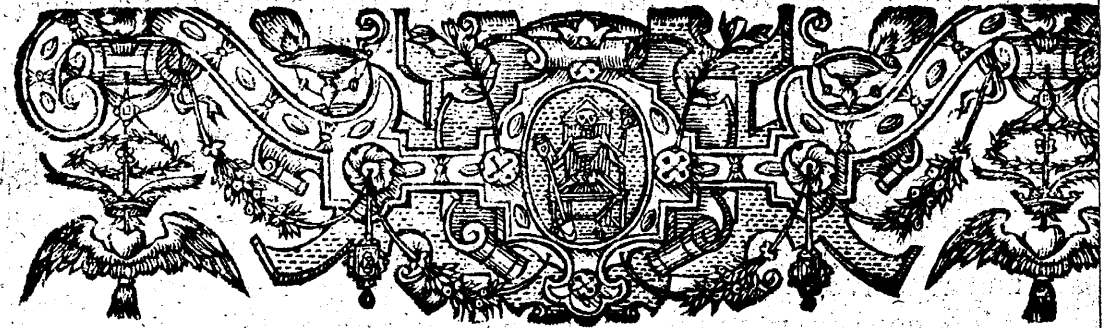
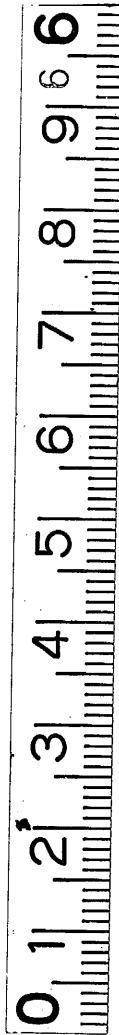


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Englands Glory.

BY THE
Benefit of *Wool* Manufactured therein,
from the *Farmer* to the *Merchant*; and the
Evil Consequences of its *Exporta-*
tion Unmanufactured.

Briefly Hinted,
With Submission to better Judgments.



Here is no King nor Prince in the World, known by experience, or upon Record, that hath such means to support their Splendour and Greatness as his Majesty of great *Britain*, nor has any Country or Nation such variety of staple Commodities within it self, and in such abundance, as hath the Kingdom of *England*, which are said by some to be a Hundred Native Commodities, which produceth a Thousand sorts of Manufactures: So that if those advantages were duly im-

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proved, *England* might be a general Mart for the whole World, and then by consequence be the glory thereof. That those advantages are not improved is too too obvious to all that look into it, by the sore complaints that are frequently made of the great poverty and decay thereof; and indeed (which is worst of all) by that general desperation of spirit which will not put forth a hand to help, support, or prevent the total desolation of our Country, upon a prepossest opinion, that all endeavours will be rendred fruitless and abortive.

The consideration whereof hath greatly prompted me (who must confess my self the meanest of Thousands more concerned) to use the utmost of my little skill, and unwearied diligence (though but as the Womans mite) to the right management of so great an undertaking; that the threatned ruine of all may be prevented, and (if possible) some good part of what is lost may be recovered. And whereas many have taken in hand to set forth these things, some treating of one thing, and other of another, which if all was collected and harmonized, it might very much conduce to the promoting of this weighty affair, of so publick a value: I shall confine my self to those things only, whereof I have had not only credible information, but a considerable (though a sad) experimental knowledge; and in a more particular and especial manner that of *Wool*, and of its Manufacture and Consequences, which amongst many, is the Richest Treasure in his Majesties Dominions, the flower, strength, and sinews of this Nation; and uniting the People into Societies, for their own Utility; it is the Milk and Honey to the Grazier and Country Farmer; the Gold and Spices of the East and West *Indies* to the Merchant, and Citizens, the continued supply of Bread to the Poor: and in a word, the Exchequer of wealth, and staple of protection to the whole; both abroad and at home; and therefore of full merit to be had in perpetual remembrance, defence, and encouragement for the most advantageous improvement thereof.

The *Wools* of *England* (before it was manufactured within it self) have ever been of great account and esteem abroad, sufficiently testified unto, by the great amity, which it begat, and for many Hundred Years (inviolably) maintained, between the King of *England* and Dukes of *Burgundy*, only for the great benefit, that (from that

that Commodity) did accrew to that People; insomuch that the *English Wools*, they receiv'd at 6 *d.* per Pound, they returned again (through their industrious manufacture thereof) in Cloth, at 10 *s.* per Yard, to the great enriching of that State, both in the advancement of the Revenues of their Sovereign, and in a full employment (thereby) continued among the People; whereby the Merchants of this Nation were occasioned, (as a People unwilling to be wholly dispriviledged of so great a benefit) to transport themselves (with their Families (in great numbers) into *Flanders*, from whence they held a constant Commerce with most parts of the World; this continued without intermission, between *England* and *Burgundy*, until King *Edward* the 3^{d.} made his mighty Conquests over *France*, & *Scotland*, and as a suitable improvement of so great a mercy, did wisely project, and also accomplish the manufacture of *Wools* within the Bowels of this Kingdom, to the great enriching of his own People, and also to the Peopling of his new Conquered Dominions; the memory of whose wisdom and care for his People, is worthy to be had in remembrance by *English Men*, unto the Worlds end.

The said King having thus settled the manufacture of *Wools* within the Kingdom of *England*, confined it by a penal Statute, which (at first) reached not only to Goods, Chattels, and Land, but also to Members, and Life it self; but in a short time repealed the two latter thereof, continuing the other in its full force to remain to future Generations: which exceeding great advantage to the prosperity of the *English Trade*, hath now continued these Three Hundred Years, by the vigilancy of the Kingdoms Monarchs, and the protection of its Laws, in the continued careful execution thereof upon offenders, with more than a little diligence to provide against the thirsting desires of Foreiners to wrest this Native priviledge (of so great a moment) out of *English* hands, which by the providence of God (through the great care of our Ancestors) has been (for many Ages) enjoyed by the Nation, as it is indeed its proper right: But so it is, that (for some years past) the diligence of Foreiners, to enrich themselves upon us, has so much exceeded our care to preserve our selves, that it's now come to, if not beyond a question, Who have the greatest benefit of the manufacture of *English Wools*, they who have no right unto it, or they to whom of right it doth belong? That

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 That this is indeed so, will appear, by considering that not only *Holland, Flanders, and Zealand* have long sucked the sweetness of the sinews of our Trade; but *France* is likewise learning to be too hard for us, as is manifest by the great quantities of Wools, that (of late years) have been transported from *England* and *Ireland* thither; how injurious it must be to us, is also unquestionable, if we consider the consequence thereof, which was (without question) much in the Eye of our Ancestors, as appears by what is above hinted in *Edward* the 3^{ds} time, and in several Kings Reigns since.

Every Pack of Wool sent to *France*, doth prevent us (not only) of the benefit of the manufacture thereof, but of two Packs more besides it self, viz. Thus, it being combed, and combed Wool (for the most part) exported thither, the *French* (having no Wools of their own, but such as are very coarse) are not able to make Cloth, or fine Stuff, without the conjunction of ours therewithall; there being none (to my best information) fit for that purpose in all the World, but ours only, all other being likewise coarse, but *Spanish*, and that much too fine (especially for Worsted Stuffs, and not in any wise fit for combing; so that without *English* or *Irish* Wools there can be no fine Worsted Stuffs, nor a middle sort of Cloth made, in the whole World; neither will any Wools be well mixed together, but *English* and *Spanish*, (only for Cloth) because the *Spanish* is with the *English* of one nature, being formerly *English* Sheep, though now much finer, from the alteration of the Climate, and the nature of the Land whereon it is fed, as by good experience appeareth here in *England*, both neer, and at a farther distance.

Wherefore the exportation of *English* Wools into *France* must of necessity be greatly prejudicial to this Nation, not only in the quantity sent over, but also in the advantage which is thereby given them to manufacture a double portion of their own Wool, (which formerly was little worth) into such commodities, as spoils us of the advantage of our proper Trade, not only thither, but also into other parts, viz. in these three respects.

First, The combed of the *English* Wool makes Wooffe for the Warpes of the *French* Wool, and so takes up (it may be) as much as the quantity above specified, to every Pack of *English* Wool, with-

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 without which, they can (only) with their Wool make Rugs, and at the best, Cloth for Sea-men, and the like.

2^{dly}. Their combings or pinnions, viz. the short Wool that's combed out of the Worsted, serves for their Linnen warp to make some of their Druggets, because their Linnen being fine spun, and coloured, is not discernable to all Persons, to be that we call *Linsie Woolfe*.

3^{dly}. The finest short *English* Wool is mixed with the lowest of *Spanish* Wool, called short Wool, for some of their best Druggets, that is woove for Worsted Chanies, and also for a middle sort of Broad-cloth, about 10 s. or 12 s. per Yard. This is the cause (I judge) that short *Spanish* Wool is so scarce here in *England*.

Now if we consider these things together, the dammage of the exporting of this one Pack from *England* to *France*, at about 10 l. or 12 l. Sterling, preventing the manufacturing of two Packs more in *England*, which would be worth one 100 l. *Englands* loss (in the whole) by the exportation of a Pack of Wool, is little less than 90 l. in its first exportation, moreover considering the Custom paid when exported (if manufactured in *England*) with the Frait and Custom where it is imported; the product of all these charges augmenting the 100 l. when sold there, laid out in another commodity beyond Sea, the Custom whereof being paid there, with Frait and Custom (when imported) in *England*, it's much, if it do not more than double the first principal.

Now, if it be so, that the exportation of one Pack of *English* wool, exported at 10 l. or 12 l. be neer 200 l. dammage to the King and Kingdom in general, the consequence, what will be the loss in the exporting of 10. or 15. Thousand Packs into *France* (in two Years time) is easily accounted (by such) as are concerned in the affaires: And although this evil is almost incredible to many, yet it is too manifest, to such as have made (something) their business to look into it; and not only so, but these further inconveniences must (by this means) arise upon us.

First, The spoiling of our Trade with *France* in all our Woollen manufactures, as doth already appear, by the Impost put upon the same, there, from 20 to 40. per Cent. since so great quantitie of our Wools is exported thither, whereunto woful experience may be a sufficient witness.

And secondly, In time it will capacitate the *French*, as well as the *Dutch*, (if not much better) to under-sell our *English* Merchants, in Forrein Parts, nay (possibly) in our own Country. (to this, I shall only mention the words of a Merchant in *Flanders*, by Letter to another here, treating on this matter thus, *We English have our throats cut, with our own Weapons, wondering at the Stupidity of the English here, that they should so long omit, to possess the King's Majesty with this deplorable and dangerous case, in respect to the present and future inconveniences thereof.*) by reason whereof (as in time the *French* will not only prevent our *English* woollen manufactures, to be sold in *France* (as before minded) and also in other Forrein Parts, but also bring theirs into *England*, and sell them for four times the value here, to the great enriching of themselves, and to the impoverishing of the *English*, only by new fantastick fopperies, for which the *English* pay not less than some hundred thousands in a year, to get themselves into the *French* mode. So much (indeed) have we been deceived (in this matter) to our shame, as well as to our apparent loss; that whereas (in time of the late War) with the *Dutch* and *French*, those *French* Druggets were thereby much prevented, many *English* striped broad-cloths rent through into three parts (about 10 s. per Yard, price) being put into the form of *French* Druggets, were sold in each part at 8 s. per Yard; and so (in the whole) came to 1 l. 4 s. per Yard. So likewise it is certainly true, that many of those Druggets made here in *England* goe for *French*, and in order thereunto, directed to *French* Men in some of our Southern parts, have from thence been conveighed unto *London* (and there sold for *French* Goods) to have coloured the business with the Custom-house Officers, to save the Custom of *French* Druggets. And this continued long, before the cheat could be discovered; but being once found out by the Clothier, (who could not (to his own private advantage) conceal such an apparent injury to his Country, it was soon prevented: whereby we may come to see (with clearness) the advantage, that that People makes upon our *English* fancies, by over-selling us in the same kind of commodities, that they make out of our *English* Wools, joyned (as before minded) with their own; having also an advantage thereunto, by the cheapness of the manufactures thereof, beyond what we can do (the *French* being
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very populous, and living harder than we can in *England*; as is evident by their Linnens, that Paying Freight and Custom with profit to the Merchant, yet can be afforded cheaper than can be made in *England*.

But so it is, that the advantage we give them, besides, in the mixture of our Wools with theirs, is such, that whereas their Wool of it self, is not worth above 4 l. per Pack, being mixed with ours, becomes so fit for Worsted-stuffes, as that it comes to be worth no less than 12 l. per Pack. So that all those things considered, it becomes obvious to every Eye, (that doth not (wilfully) close it self) that the exportation of Wool from *England* and *Ireland* is of a dangerous and destructive nature to the very being of the Trade of this Kingdom. Whatever objections have been made (with respect to the Graziers present advantage) thereunto, whose loss may possibly be supposed (by prohibiting exportation) to be about 20 s. in every Pack of Wool that's so exported: In answer whereunto, I have this to say, That though it may be granted, it will be so for a time in this one particular commodity, yet such will (thereby) be the spoyle of the general Trade of the Nation, that what is gotten in one, will be lost in every other commodity, as Corn, Beefs, and Muttons; on each of which, with the Wools, the Farmers and Graziers advantage doth much more than equally depend; besides the inevitable danger of the ruine of our Trade, and so consequently the starving of our Poor, without some extraordinary means for their support; who while the priviledge of our Trade is kept inviolate with other Nations, we have money plentifully to expend for the advancement of the Farmers and the Graziers; for that is that which chiefly advanceth the Grazier and Farmer, which is Flesh and Corn, and not the quantity of Wool, as afterwards will more fully appear.

And it hath always been observed (in former and latter times) hitherto, that when the Clothiers have had the best Trade at *London*, the Farmer did not loose his share in the advantage thereof in the Country; according to the dispose of providence, who hath ordered Nations, but more especially the People of every Nation, (in matters of this kind) to depend upon each other, and so to rise or fall together, as they are designed to mercy, or to judgment, by the hand of God. These things considered, with a little deliberation,

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ration, it will manifestly appear, that the exporting of our *Eng-lish* Wool, will not only prove the spoyl of our Merchants and Clothiers Trade, and so consequently expose the Poor to desperate straits for subsistence, but (in short time) must of necessity make the Country-mens employments (of every kind) to come to little, and so make them uncapable of paying Rent.

For, if it be so, that while we have but a little Trade, we can hardly live one by another, What may be expected, if our Trade should be taken away? which is now more in danger (by the *French*) than it hath been these 300. Years past--- And then we may consider, what the price of Wool may be in *England*, when we by our remisness shall lose our Trade, by the skill and circumventing practices of Foreigners, and we helping forwards for a supposed profit; For there was not more art and skill in our Ancestors, to bring home the work at first to the Wool, and prohibiting the exportation thereof, and setting the manufacturing in *England*, than is now to export the materials thereof unmanufactured. The necessary consequence will be to bring the Price of Wool (as it was 300. Years ago, when most was exported) to 6 *d.* per Pound, as appears in a little Piece, called, *The Golden Fleece*, written by *W. S. Gent.* in the Year, 56. although the Cloth made in *Flanders* of our Wools, at 6 *d.* per Pound, was then sold here in *England* at 10 *s.* per Yard, when at this Day the Cloth made in *England* of Wool, worth 12 *d.* per Pound will hardly yield 7 *s.* per Yard, which is above 30. per Cent. worse to the *English* Trade now, than it was to the *Flemmings* formerly.

And though for the present, the price of Wool be risen by its exportation, yet if the quantity lately exported (being no less than 20. Thousand Packs) had been kept in *England*, the quantity (if not with 10. Thousand Packs more) would in time have been exported in the particular manufactures. For if the Wool was not exported to those places beyond the Seas, there to be manufactured, they must of necessity have our Woollen manufacture, and then could not have those advantages (as before hinted) by our Wools, to improve the *French* wool, and short *Spanish* wool, and their fine-spin Linnens.

By all which, it is so obvious, that in time to come, the *Wools* in *England* would be much cheaper, because by the aforefaid means

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means, less Wool would be used in *England*, and besides that which would be used, the manufacture would be so low, that it could not bear up any price (as is begun already in *France*; and will suddenly follow in *England*) for it is generally reported, that Wool is as cheap in *France* at this Day, as it is in some parts where it is used in *England*. And if it be so now, what in reason can be expected, as the effects of these two things? *viz.* The first, when the great quantity that is lately exported to *France*, with those three additions before hinted, that the 20. Thousand Packs helps to work out, and especially most making *VVorsted* Stuffs, which goes as far by that means, as 40. Thousand Packs of Wool would if used in *England*, because it would be made more into substantial Cloaths, which consumes more Wool, than those light and thin Stuffs do: which is a sufficient Answer to that Objection, that the great quantity of any commodity, that is exported, must be of scarcity, and so consequently raise the price: which I must confess, if it was a consumptive commodity, but it is quite contrary in this. For as our experience is, when the *Wool* was all used in *England*, (or very little exported) then it was 18 *d.* per Pound, and when all, or the greatest part was exported, it was at 6 *d.* per Pound.

The wise Man saith, *What is, hath been; and, what hath been, maybe again;* and so no new thing.

I shall conclude with a short review of the *Graziers* and *Farmers* present loss: In the greatest Commodity, which pays his Rent, as was formerly hinted. Suppose, through want of Trade, Mutton be sold but at 6 *d.* per Quarter (which is but little) being 2 *s.* per Sheep; and there being some Sheep that one 100. will but produce a Pack of Wool (though some less) that comes to 10 *l.* which is the worth of the Pack of Wool, (and so proportionably as to *Beefs*) which is wholly lost to the *Grazier*.

And for the *Corn* (as I suppose) there may be about 50 *ls.* worth, (as far as I can judge in my travels, to One Hundred Sheep throughout the Nation, which for want of a Trade, it may not (at some seasons) come to Thirty or Forty at most; and if a good Trade, it may be worth Sixty or Seventy: By which means it may easily be demonstrated, how the *Farmers* come to be impoverished.

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The advantage of the Tenant consists in the advance of the greatest Commodity that pays his Rent, which is not in Wool, but in Corn: and it is a necessary consequence, that there being so many Thousand Families depending upon the Cloathing Trade, which (as before hinted) was instrumental to advance the price of Corn, that where-ever Trade is, there People are most populous, and when those Persons are deprived of their Trade, depending wholly upon it, they must unavoidably come to the Parishes: which is in many Places begun already, and Daily increasing; and feared in time will so increase, that the Poor will be expecting more than there will be to contribute to them. And as there be in many Country Parishes Ten that live on the Trade, for One that can live of himself. VVhat will become of those Parishes, when the Trade is gone? So that it may easily be concluded that the Farmers loss for want of Trade is four-fold greater than the Pack of VVool, by the lowness of the price of Corn. And this is the true reason: for those Persons that formerly, when there was a Trade, could lay out *Ten Shillings* in Corn, have now but *Five Shillings*, which being multiplyed by Hundreds of Thousands in the Nation, it will be no difficult point to see which way the Grazier and Farmer come to be undone, and so are forced to give up their Lands into their Landlords hands: For it is not so much the super-abounding Crops that lessens the price of Corn, but the want of Money. For I have known as much Corn grow Yearly, formerly, as is now, (when Trade was good) to be 20. or 30. *per Cent.* dearer than now.

