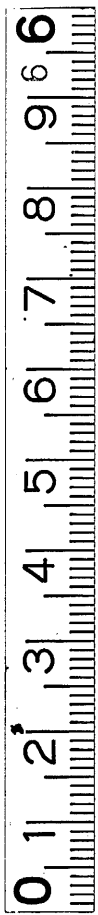


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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

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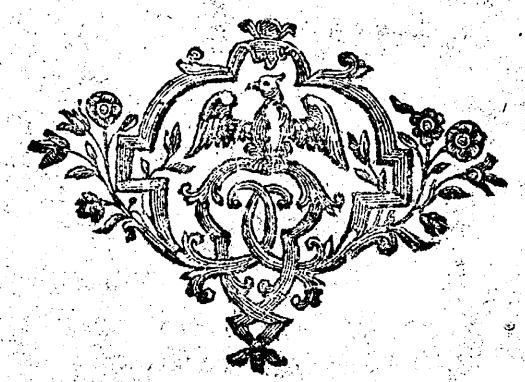
Now Depending in the

House of LORDS,

With Relation to the

Woollen Manufacture.

By a CLOTHIER.



LONDON:

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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

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Now Depending in the

House of LORDS, &c.

IT is allowed on all Hands, that the Woollen Manufactures of *England* are the Foundation, and great Support of its Traffick, Navigation, and Riches; and it is as evident that our Neighbours, especially the *French*, rival us in this valuable Branch of our Trade.

It is therefore necessary to encourage our own Manufactures, and to obstruct as much as possible those of other Countries.

The most effectual Way of performing this, is to prevent the clandestine Exportation of Wool from *England* and *Ireland* to foreign Parts.

For our Wool is of such a Nature, as to be particularly adapted to Manufactures of general Use; and it is also by its Length and Fineness capable of being mixed with the coarse Wool of other Countries, where-

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whereby it renders that hairy Stuff pliable, and more proper for making those Manufactures, wherein our Neighbours rival us.

As to superfine Cloths, they are made entirely of *Spanish* Wool, in *England* as well as in *France*; but in making up the middling Draperies, as well those worn in *France*, as what they export to other Countries, there must be a Mixture of our Wool; for without it they cannot work up their own into such neat Goods, as can vie with ours in foreign Markets.

The Proportion of this Mixture is generally One third Part of the Wool of *England* or *Ireland*, and Two Thirds of the Wool of *France*, &c.

Thus every Tod of our Wool carried to *France*, enables them to supply foreign Markets with Manufactures equal to three times that Quantity of Wool wrought up in *England*.

This lessens the Demand of our Woollen Manufactures, and consequently the Price of our Wool, and transfers the Employment of our Poor to other Countries.

If 150,000 Tod of Wool is annually run out of *England* and *Ireland*, (and it is probable double that Quantity is thus carried away) then this Wool being mixed with twice as much *French* Wool, produces 450,000 Tod.

This Wool, computed at 12s. a Tod, is worth 270,000*l.* but when manufactured, it amounts to five times the Value of the Material, that is, to 1,350,000*l.*

Of this, all that *England* and *Ireland* receive is the Price of their Wool, which, because it is of much better Quality than the *French* Wool, and for that it is clandestinely carried to them, we will admit it costs the *French* 20s. (when their own is not worth above 8s.) a Tod; so that the 150,000 Tod of our Wool amounts to 150,000*l.* and this deducted out of the Produce of the Manufacture, the Remainder, being 1,200,000*l.* per Annum, is clearly gained to *France* by

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by means of our Wool, for without it theirs would not be fit for this Manufacture.

The immediate Loss which our landed Men and Manufacturers receive hereby, without considering the consequential Damages to our Traffick and Navigation, is sufficient to prove the Necessity of putting a Stop to this clandestine Trade of running Wool out of *England* and *Ireland*.

The Bill now depending in the House of Lords is calculated to prevent this evil Practice, more especially in *Ireland*.

But it is objected, that by taking off the Duty on Yarn imported from *Ireland*, as is intended by that Bill, the Price of our Wool, and the Employment of our Poor, will be lessened.

What is already said in this Paper is a sufficient Answer to this Objection, and proves that by how much the more of the Wool of *Ireland* is brought over to us, instead of being carried to foreign Parts, by so much the more of our Wool and People must be employed in making up those Manufactures, which our Neighbours now work up from their own Wool mixed with that of *Ireland*.

It is therefore surprizing, that Gentlemen who are deeply interested in the Welfare of *England*, should apprehend any Danger from the Importation of more Yarn from *Ireland*.

For admitting that all the Wool now run out of that Kingdom, was imported to us in Yarn, it is evident, we should not only gain Employment in manufacturing thereof into Draperies for Exportation, but we should further obtain a Demand for Manufactures to be made up by double that Quantity of *English* Wool.

And this surely will raise, rather than lower the Price of *English* Wool; and increase, rather than lessen the Employment of our Poor.

But some People say, that the *French* do not want our Wool to enable them to make up those Manufactures,

Manufactures, which interfere with ours in foreign Markets.

This indeed may sound well in the Mouth of a *Frenchman*, whose Vanity excites him to boast that his Country stands in Need of no Assistance from any other, and whose Interest it is to deceive us in this Particular: But it ill becomes an *Englishman* to say those Things, especially when, on the one hand, we are almost every Year contriving or making Laws to prevent the running of Wool, and, on the other hand, *France* is as constantly endeavouring to draw it over to them.

If there is any Force in this Objection, it proves that we ought to repeal all the Laws against exporting of Wool. But this can never be thought agreeable to the Interest of *England*: It must therefore be allow'd, that our Rivals in the Woollen Manufactures want our Wool to mix with theirs.

Of this sufficient Evidence was given to the Committee of the House of Commons, by Persons employ'd in the Woollen Manufactures of *France*; and it is manifest, that Nation cou'd not possibly cope with us in this Trade, were it not for the *English* and *Irish* Wool they get from hence.

I am sensible, it is thought the *French* under-sell us in foreign Markets by the Cheapness of their Labour: But tho' this may give them some Advantage over us, yet I cannot allow it is as great as is generally imagined.

If the Advantage which the *French* have gained in their Competition with us for the Woollen Trade, depended singly on the Cheapness of their Labour, this would appear in every Branch of the Manufacture, especially in those Articles whereof the Material is purchased at the same Expence by *England* and *France*.

But it is plain, that in the Manufacture of superfine Cloth, which is made of *Spanish* Wool that costs us at least as much Money as the *French* pay for it, they

they have not as yet been able to under-sell us in foreign Markets.

It must therefore follow, that as the *French* pay an extravagant Rate for our Wool, we should be able to under-sell the Manufactures they make thereof, if they had not some other Advantage besides what arises from the Cheapness of their Labour.

The great Advantage they have over us is, by mixing their Wool with ours, as is before mentioned; for by this Means, tho' the *French* give 25 per Cent. dearer for our Wool, yet they get a Material for their Manufactures much cheaper than we can have it.

For suppose the Price of Wool in *England* is 16 s. per Tod, this must cost the *French* 25 per Cent. dearer, that is, 1 l.

But, as they mix this Wool with twice the Quantity of their own, which is not worth above 8 s. per Tod, that is for two Tods, 16 s.

So three Tods of this Mixture costs them but 1 l. 16 s.

Whereas the like Quantity of Wool stands our Manufacturers at 16 s. per Tod 2 l. 8 s. which is above 33 per Cent. dearer than the *French* pay for their Material.

And as the Value of Woollen Manufactures is five times the Price of the Wool, so the *French* by having the Material 33 per Cent. cheaper than we, have an Advantage over us, on that single Consideration, of at least 6 per Cent. on the Manufacture. No Wonder therefore that they under-sell us in foreign Markets, and that they have got such a large Share of this Trade out of our Hands. And should not this Consideration rouse every Lover of *England* to set about preventing the pernicious Trade, which gives this Advantage to our Rivals?

But it is objected, That the People of *Ireland* will not be prevail'd on to quit their illegal Trade of running Wool; and some imagine, that all future

Laws

Laws will prove as ineffectual as those formerly made for preventing thereof.

To this it may be answer'd, That Laws are never so well observ'd as when they rule in the Minds of People; and we are sensible, those made in our Parliament to prevent the Exportation of Wool, and Manufactures made thereof, from *Ireland* to foreign Parts, have been generally look'd upon as Grievances in that Kingdom. But now that, by taking off the Duty on Yarn imported from *Ireland*, it will become the general Interest of the *Irish*, to prevent the running of Wool, we may hope to see the Evil effectually rooted up.

And by leaving to their Consideration, how this shall be done, we give them an Opportunity of shewing such a Mark of their Zeal for the Interest of *England*, as we hope they will, on all Occasions, readily give us, especially when they consider, that the more they assist us in this Particular, the more we shall be induced to favour them in many others.

And what Reason have we to doubt, that the People of *Ireland* will concur with our Expectations in this Affair? Have they not lately shewn their Readiness to assist us in this our favourite Trade, by taking off the Duty payable on Wool and Yarn exported to *England*? And was not this done at our Request, and singly for the Benefit of our Manufactures? And will it not appear very Reasonable, that since they have done this, to the lessening of their Revenue at least 10,000*l.* per *Annum*, we should take off the Duty on Yarn Imported from *Ireland*, which does not exceed 7000*l.* a Year? especially, since our Manufacturers have, by Petitions from all Quarters of the Country, as it were with an unanimous Voice, implored this Encouragement to their Trade.

F I N I S.