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THE
IMPORTANCE
OF THE
Ostend Company

CONSIDER'D;

Wherein is fully proved, from the State of our Trade with HOLLAND, and, *vice versa*, that

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| I. It is the Interest of each other, ever, to stand by, and support one another. | } | GREAT BRITAIN, and HOLLAND; and, in time, if let alone, will entirely ruin that; and enable the House of <i>Austria</i> to become Mistress of the <i>British</i> Seas. |
| II. That their Trade is reciprocally advantageous. | | |
| III. That the <i>Ostend Company</i> is destructive to the Trade of | | |
| | | IV. Means to prevent these Misfortunes. |

Tolle moras : semper nocuit differe paratis. Lucan.

Si prudens esse cupis, in futurum prospectum intende. Sen.

The Second Edition, corrected.

To which is added,

A LETTER from a Merchant in *Holland*, to a Friend in *London*, concerning his Majesty's Guaranteeship, &c.

LONDON:

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T H E

I M P O R T A N C E, &c.



R. *Westerveen*, *Advocaat* or
 Counsel for the *Dutch East-India*
 Company, and Mr. *Barbeyrac*,
 Professor in Law at *Groninguen*,
 notwithstanding the fallacious
 distinctions us'd, and the sophistical argu-
 ments urg'd by Mr. *Nani*, *Fiskaal* or At-
 torney General at *Brussels*, to the contrary,
 have demonstrated, that the erecting of the
 Company, generally known by the title of
 the *OSTEND COMPANY*, by his Im-
 perial and Catholick Majesty, is directly con-
 trary to the 5th and 6th articles of the Treaty
 concluded at *Munster* in 1648. between
Philip IV. King of *Spain*, Duke of *Brabant*,
 A 2 Count,

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Count, or Earl of *Flanders*, &c. and the *States-General* of the *United Provinces*. And Mr. *Forman*, a *Briton*, in his letter to Mr. *Pulteney* asserts, that 300,000 *l.* are yearly exported out of *England* into the *Austrian Netherlands*, and that such Goods are brought back as interfere with the Commodities imported, and sold by our *East-India* Company. But no author, that I have read, or heard of, hath laid open to the view of the *British*, or *Dutch* nation, the many dangerous consequences that must flow from this New Company, and the various fatal effects it will inevitably produce, which are now hatching, and in time, like caterpillars in their nest, when ripe, will burst forth, and spread themselves far and wide, and then mock the wisest counsels taken to destroy, and extirpate them. *Principiis obsta.* The design therefore of these sheets, is to unravel the said consequences, and to dissect the said effects, thereby to awaken both Nations to join in the most vigorous, and resolute measures to destroy this Cockatrice, whilst young, before it comes to maturity to sting the two Nations to death; or can so propagate, and multiply its accursed

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accursed Seed, as to make them fear, court, and worship it.

Before I enter upon this subject, it is necessary to set in a true light, the nature of the *Union* that is, and ought always to be between *Great Britain*, and the *United Provinces*; that thereby, if possible, each *Briton* may clearly see, and be satisfactorily convinc'd of the reasonable and absolute necessity thereof; and, consequently, may lay aside those strong prejudices they have unjustly taken up against that Nation, which is the ONLY true and faithful Friend and Ally of *Great Britain*, as WE are the ONLY People whose *Interest*, and *Prosperity* are inseparable from the *Welfare*, and *Happiness* of the *United Provinces*.

This important truth will demonstratively appear by making out the five following propositions:

I. *That the United Provinces with Great Britain, hold the Balance of Power in Europe, and are the Supporters of the Protestant Interest.*

II. *That their Interest, and Safety are, mutually, inseparable.*

III. *That*

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III. That their Trade is reciprocally advantageous.

IV. That each Nation by the decay, or ruin of the other, will be a vastly greater LOSER, than a Gainer.

V. That the Trade of Holland, if ruin'd, will remove into the Austrian Netherlands; whereby the Balance of Power will be vested in the House of Austria; and the Popish Interest will be strengthened.

I. The two last Wars are an undeniable proof of the truth of my first proposition: For without the numerous, and well paid Troops of these two Nations, What could the rest of the Allies have done? Could they, alone, have obliged *France* to make such a Peace as was concluded in 1697? Could they alone, have driven the *French* troops out of the *Empire*, or out of the *Netherlands*, during the last War? Could they, alone, have maintain'd, in *Flanders*, Forces superior in number to those of *France*? Could they, alone, have carried on the War in *Portugal*, and *Spain*? Could they, alone, have been powerful enough to force King *Philip* to abandon

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don Spain, as would have, certainly, happened, humanly speaking, if the fatal change of our Ministry had not interpos'd, and prevented it? No, certainly: 'Twas the Wealth, and the Riches of *Great Britain*, and of the *United Provinces* that enabled them to maintain so many Troops, as put the Allies into a condition, not only of making head against *France*, but gave them a superiority in number to the Forces of that Crown, and to fit out such large Fleets, as kept the Naval Power of *France* in awe; and, thereby, preserv'd the Liberties of *Europe* from becoming a Prey to the boundless Ambition of the late *French King*: And, therefore, by their Wealth and Riches, they are equally powerful to protect, support, and defend the *Protestant Interest* from being oppress'd by the *Popish Powers* of *Europe*. But if *Great Britain* had assisted the late *French King* in his ambitious designs against the liberties of *Europe*, with those Troops, and Fleets that acted in conjunction with the Allies to prevent, and defeat his aim, the loss to them would have been double. 1. By being weakened by the want of those Troops and Fleets; and 2. By having

having those Troops and Fleets turn'd against them: And neither the *United Provinces*, nor the Allies, nor both together, could have been powerful enough to pay such an additional Body of Forces, as would have made them as strong as *Great Britain*, and *France* united: Nor could the *United Provinces* have fitted out such a Fleet as would have dar'd to look the combin'd Fleets of *Great Britain*, and *France*, in the face; and, therefore, the *United Provinces*, and the Allies must have fallen a sacrifice to *France*. For the same reason, the power of *Great Britain*, join'd with the Forces of the *Popish* Princes of *Europe*, would make them an overmatch for all the *Protestant* Potentates; and, consequently, lay these at the mercy of the others. So, on the other hand, if the *United Provinces* had confederated with *France*, against the Liberties of *Europe*, and they had agreed to share the Spoil; *Great Britain*, which, in such case, must, *alone*, have born the Charge, and Burthen thereof, could not have been rich, and powerful enough to maintain so many *more* Troops, as would have made the army of the Allies equal in number to that of *France*, and the

and the *United Provinces*; nor could have been able to fit out a Navy strong and numerous enough to have cop'd with the confederated maritime Power of *France*, and the *United Provinces*.

* This will be evidently undeniable, by stating the number of Troops the *United Provinces* yearly maintain'd in *Flanders*, *Portugal*, and *Spain*; the annual Subsidies they paid to several Princes, and the men of War they had at Sea every year, during the last War.

Years	Number of Soldiers in <i>Flanders</i> .	Dit. in <i>Portugal</i> .	Dit. in <i>Spain</i> .	Subsidies to several Princes.	Men of War.
1701	79,858	The Number of Troops sent to <i>Portugal</i> and <i>Spain</i> , amounted to 23,807		Crowns.	
1702	110,242			75,000	
1703	120,242			200,000	55
1704	120,242			360,555 $\frac{1}{2}$	50
1705	120,242			610,333 $\frac{1}{3}$	56
1706	121,242			707,593 $\frac{1}{2}$	56
1707	112,271			791,868 $\frac{1}{2}$	54
1708	122,458			1,168,784 $\frac{2}{3}$	49
1709	122,458			1,210,805 $\frac{2}{3}$	53
1710	129,458			1,162,118 $\frac{1}{3}$	50
1711				1,162,118 $\frac{1}{3}$	43
			1,162,118 $\frac{1}{3}$	40	

* Those who are desirous to read what the *States General* alledg'd in their justification, against the Charge brought against them by the Resolutions of our *House of Commons*, 5th of *February* 171 $\frac{1}{2}$. That they had not answer'd their Quota of the Charge of the War, in proportion to what had been done by her late Majesty, may read the Memorial they presented to her, in which they intirely vindicate themselves. It is in the second Volume of the general Collection of *Treaties*, &c. p. 498.

If these Troops, these Subsidies, and these Men of War, had been join'd to the Power of *France*, it is plain the loss of the Allies would have been double, by being weakened by the want of them, and by having them turned against them. *Great Britain* therefore must have maintain'd an additional number of these Troops, and of Men of War, and yearly have paid the double of these Subsidies, or else the Allies could not have been in the same circumstances they were in, by the means of these Troops, Subsidies, and Men of War.

Thus it appears plainly, that when the Power of *Great Britain*, or of the *United Provinces*, is turn'd against the Liberties of *Europe*, that they are ruin'd; or if join'd with the *Popish* Interest against the *Protestant* cause, that it must be destroy'd.

And indeed all *Europe* is so entirely convinc'd, that *Great Britain*, and the *United Provinces*, are the supporters of their Liberties, that it is a Maxim among the Powers of this part of the World, not to suffer either of those Nations to become a prey to the House of *Austria*, or that of *Bourbon*. Therefore Queen *Elizabeth* assisted the *United Provinces* against the Crown of *Spain*; as *France* did afterwards:

And

And the Emperor, *Spain*, and most of the Princes of the Empire, declar'd War against *France*, upon that Crown's invading these Provinces, and over-running three of them: And our Parliaments forc'd King *Charles II.* to make Peace with them, and continually sollicit'd him to make War against that Crown in their favour *. The Emperor *Charles V.* hinder'd Queen *Mary* from putting her Sister, afterwards Queen *Elizabeth*, to death, that in case the said Queen, who was married to his son *Philip*, should have no children, the Crown of *England* and *Ireland* might go to her Sister, rather than to *Mary* Queen of *Scots*, who was then married to the Dauphin of *France*; because the uniting of so many Kingdoms to that Crown, would make it become an Over-match for the rest of *Europe*.

But suppose the *United Provinces* should only sit still, and not join its Forces against the Liberties of *Europe*, or the *Protestant* Interest; *Great Britain*, however, could not be powerful enough to give such an additional assistance as would equal what the *United Provinces* could, or would do; and so, *vice versa*. Consequently *Great Britain*, or the *United Pro-*

* *Meteren l'Histoire des Pais Bas. fol. 14. a.*

vinces, cannot support the Liberties of *Europe*, or the *Protestant* Interest, without the Assistance of each other.

II. My second proposition seems to be a necessary consequence of or to be imply'd in, what I have just now said; whether we consider them as *Free States*, or *Protestant Nations*. For the Power of *Great Britain*, in the hands of the Emperor, or of *France*, would certainly be made use of to subjugate the *United Provinces*, and extirpate *Protestancy* out of those Countries; and the Wealth, and Riches of the *United Provinces*, added to the mighty Power of the House of *Austria*, or that of *Bourbon*, would soon make us become an hereditary Country of the one, or a dependant Province of the other; and bring about the re-establishment of Popery, and the restitution of Church-Lands.

The two Nations are so sensible of this, that they have bound themselves to mutual Assistance by several Treaties; as by that of
10. *Aug.* O. S. 1585. 31. *Oct.* N. S. 1596.
16. *Aug.* O. S. 1598. 26. *June* N. S. 1608.
17. *June* N. S. 1609. 5. *June* O. S. 1624.
17. *Sept.* O. S. 1625. 31. *July* N. S. 1667.
23. *Jan.* N. S. 1668. 10. *Jan.* N. S. 1678.
3. *March*

3. *March* O. S. 1673. 17. *Aug.* O. S. 1685.
29. *April* O. S. 1689. In *Aug.* O. S. 1689.
9. *Dec.* 1689. 7. *Sept.* N. S. 1701. 11. *Nov.*
N. S. 1701. 9. *June* O. S. 1703. In 1706.
29. *October* N. S. 1709. 30. *Jan.* N. S. 1713.
6. *Febr.* O. S. 1715.

III. Now, in order to evince what I have laid down in my third Proposition, let us consider what are the marks of an advantageous Trade; and, then, try the mutual Commerce of *Great Britain*, and *Holland* by that test.

A Trade is certainly beneficial, that supplies us with what we want for Consumption, or that helps us to such things without which we cannot well commerce with other Nations: Or, that furnishes us with such Commodities, as we can negotiate with to other Places: Or, that yields us Materials fit to be wrought up into Manufactures, or, are used in, or about them: Or, that consumes the Product of our Country: Or, that is a Market for the Commodities we bring home from other Parts: Or else, that takes off our own Manufactures.

Holland supplies us with *Books, Spices, Velvets, Hollands, Linnen, Cambrick, Lace, Tape, Thread, Thread-Stockings, Flax, Starch, Paper, Clap-board,*

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Clap-board, Deal-boards, Juniper Berries, Geneva, Rhenish Wine, and Brandy, Pot-ashes, Brass, Copper, Aqua-Fortis, Iron and Brass Wire, Needles, Linseed, Train-Oil, Whalebone, Terras, (a sort of Lime) Steel, Iron, several sorts of Drugs, Coffee, Tiles, Silks, Mum, Anis-seed, Spanish-Wool, Sail-Cloth, Pitch, Tar, Hemp, Gun-powder, Muskets, Wooden Toys, Callicoes, Muslins, India Silks, Madder, Argal, &c. Some of which we consume at home, use about our shipping, or * trade with to other Nations.

On the other hand, *Great Britain* furnisheth *Holland*, for consumption, and commercing with other Nations, with *Corn, Coals, Lead, Tin, Pewter, Red Herrings, Sprats, Glass* of all sorts, *Glue, Alum, Vitriol*, all sorts of our *Woollen Manufactures* in vast quantities, *Tobacco, Sugars, Horn for Lanthorns, White-lead, Hats, Steel-Ware, Hides, Malt, Saffron, Beaver, Chalk, Indigo, Logwood, Galls, Silks, Silk-Stockings, Clocks, Watches, Pins, Lapis Calaminaris, Red-Oker, Rum, Fustick, Mastick, Indian Silks, Cotton, Rice*, several sorts of our own *Silk Manufactures, Birmingham and Sheffield Hard-Wares, Tea, Callicoe, Muslins, Coffee, Millet,*

* Near one half the Ships that trade to the Coast of *Guinea*, take in their Cargo in *Holland*, where the Goods, traffick'd with in those parts, are much cheaper than here.

Sago,

Sago, Saltpetre, and all sorts of our *Indian Goods*; all the Commodities we bring from our own *Plantations, Oil, Olives, Oranges, Lemons, Figs, Prunes, Currans, Raisins, Almonds, Drugs, Dying-Goods, Raw-Silks, Spun-Silks, Goat's and Camel's Hair*; and other Merchandizes imported from the *East-India, Turkey, Portugal*, and other Countries.

By this state of the Trade, carried on between us, and the *Dutch*, it is evident, that both Nations find their accompt in it.

But this is still more demonstrative; for tho' the Balance of our Trade with *Holland* be * 1,388,102*l. 6s. 8d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ on our side, and the *Dutch* continue, however, to trade with us, they must, therefore, necessarily be Gainers by the Goods, Products, Commodities, and Manufactures they receive from us, and, commerce with to other parts of the World. In like manner, though the Commerce we drive to the North be yearly † 200,000*l.* to our damage; yet since the Materials for Shipping we fetch from thence, enable us to carry on a Trade to all parts of the World, in which we are great Gainers, but which would cease without those Materials; our Traffick

* *British Merchant*, Vol. I. p. 26. † *Ibid.* p. 29.

to the North, in its necessary consequences, is, and must be, a beneficial Branch of Trade.

IV. The fourth Proposition is, *That each Nation, by the Decay, or Ruin of the other, will be a vastly greater LOSER than a Gainer.*

This will appear a *Paradox* to those who fancy that by the *Decay, or Ruin of Holland*, all the *Trade* thereof will remove to *Great Britain*. But I shall make it fully appear, that in such case, the *share* we should have in the *Dutch Trade* would be but SMALL, but that the *Loss* we should suffer would be unspeakably GREAT.

However, for arguments sake, we will suppose, that *during the last War*, the Province of *Holland*, (that contributed very near six tenths of all the Charges the *Seven Provinces* were at, and whose three Admiralties, *viz.* that of the *Maeze, Amsterdam, and North-Holland*, furnish'd near four fifths of the Men of War that were at Sea) suppose, I say, that the Province of *Holland*, had been sunk to the bottom of the Sea, and, that all its Trade had come to *Great Britain*: What would have been the Consequence? Would our Nation, over and above the Troops we paid in *Flanders, Portugal, and Spain*, have maintain'd

six

fix tenths of the Forces mention'd p. 9. that the *United Provinces* had in those places? Would our Parliament, over and above the Subsidies we annually furnish'd to several Princes, have contributed six tenths, of the Subsidies that the *States General* charg'd themselves with? Should we have, willingly, been at the Expence of fitting out yearly, four fifths of Men of War the *Dutch* had annually at Sea, over and above the numerous Fleets we put out to Sea every Spring? Would any *Briton* have desired to ingross all the Trade of *Holland*, at so dear a Price? And yet 'tis undeniable, from what I have said upon the first Proposition, that unless *Great Britain had been at all these additional Charges, the Liberties of Europe would have been destroy'd by France, in the last War*: And 'tis as certain, that *Great Britain, with all the Trade of Holland, cannot, alone, be the Supporter of the Liberties of Europe, and of the Protestant Interest, without bearing all the Expences, and Charges that the Province of Holland must be at, in case of need.*

By this View of the Case, every impartial Reader cannot but see, and be thoroughly convinc'd, *That the Purchase of the Trade of Holland is too dear for Great Britain; and that*

C

that

that it is better for us to be without that Commerce, than to have it on such Terms. Suppose such a Case should happen, of which there have been two *Crisis's*, the first * in the beginning of the Civil Wars in the *Low-Countries*, in the Time of *Phillip II.* King of *Spain*, &c. and the other † in 1673. Suppose, I say, that the People of *Holland* should burn their Water Mills, break their Dikes, lay their Country under Water, and seek for some new Habitation: Whither, or to what Countries would the Inhabitants, and the Trade of *Holland* disperse themselves? — I answer: Vast numbers of the People would sail to the Cape of *Good Hope*, the *East Indies*, and their Colonies in the *West Indies*: Many Merchants, and others, would retire to *Hamburg*, *Bremen*, *Emdem*, and other of the Free, and trading Towns of *Germany*, where the *Calvinistick*, *Lutheran* or *Romish* Religion is establish'd, or tolerated: Several would settle at *Petersburg*, and *Archangel* in *Muscovy*, others in *Sweden*; but great numbers of the *Roman* Catholicks would remove into the *Austrian Netherlands*; especially the Mer-

* *Borr* Oorsprong der Nederl. Beroerten boek 8. bl. 135. b.
 † *Burnet's* Hist. of his own Time. Vol. 1. p. 332.

chants;

chants; who would carry their Trade to *Antwerp*, *Ghent*, and *Bruges*: And many of the Merchants, and others, would make *Great Britain* their Country, and Habitation.

By this Account, it is plain that *Great Britain* would not, nay, could not, gain any very considerable number of new Inhabitants: Nor would it be possible for any large Part of the Trade of *Holland* to fall to her share; for the Merchants that should retire to *Hamburg*, *Bremen*, *Emden*, &c. *Petersburg*, *Archangel*, *Sweden*, *Antwerp*, *Ghent*, and *Bruges*, would carry with them the respective Trade they had in their native Country; and consequently those Branches of Commerce would not be added to the Traffick of *Great Britain*.

But this is not all: Where would *Great Britain* then find so beneficial a Market as *Holland* now is? Where should we then dispose of all those Goods, Products, Commodities, and Manufactures we now export to *Holland*? Where should we then find an additional Ballance of 1,388,102 l. 6 s. 8 d. ½? In this Province there are above 3,000,000 of Inhabitants: *Great Britain* supplies them wholly with some of those various sorts of Merchandize mention'd, p. 14, 15; and in a great

great measure with the rest. Suppose then that vast numbers of these Inhabitants should retire to the Cape of *Good Hope*, the *East* and *West Indies*; it is evident that the Consumption, in *Holland*, of the Product, Goods, &c. imported from *Great Britain*, would be diminish'd, proportionably, to the Loss of those Inhabitants; and, consequently, that the Demand by the *Dutch* for our Commodities would be lessen'd in a like degree. Suppose that the rest of the People were dispersed as before is mention'd: What Effect would this have upon our Exports? — I answer, that the Demand for our *Corn*, and *Coals*, would either entirely cease, or be vastly diminish'd; because they would have in almost all Places, sufficient Quantity of *Corn*, and Plenty of *Wood*, *Coal*, &c. for firing; or in some they would be supply'd with them from other Parts, and not from us; and because we should not Trade with those Commodities to many Places, where they would be settled, and to most of them we *could not* Traffick, the Manufacturers would either begin *Woollen* and *Silk Manufactures*, if there were none already set up where they should come, or would increase, and improve those they

they found there; and, consequently, the Demand for our *Woollen*, and *Silk Manufactures* (now in *Holland*, and which are sent thence to such Places) would then be lessen'd, there. Great Quantities of *Steel Ware*, and *Looking Glass* are yearly sent to *Holland*, and there used, or traded with to other Countries: But the Demand thereof would be considerably diminish'd, by the *Dutch's* removing to those Places in *Germany*, where those Manufactures are, as at *Berlin*; since, neither for Use, or Traffick, would they want ours, because they would be supplied, for both, where they liv'd. Those who should go to *Danzick*, would want none of our *Lead*, or *Salt-petre*, because they would find there sufficient of those two Commodities both for Consumption, and Trade to other Parts; and, consequently, our Exports of these two sorts of Merchandize, would not be so great as at present: Neither would the *Dutch*, when remov'd into other Countries, consume so much of our *Tobacco*, as they do at present; and, therefore, would not take off so much of this Commodity; and, consequently, this Branch of our Trade would suffer in this respect. Besides, the dispersed *Dutch* would Traffick, immediately, with the Goods

Goods of those Places where they were settled, which they now purchase with our Products, Commodities, and Manufactures; and, therefore, they would not take from us, those large Quantities as they now do; whereby our Commerce would greatly decline. In one Word, we could not Trade to those Places on the same footing that the *Dutch* do; nor vend there such an additional Quantity of our Commodities, as the *Hollanders* now take off; part of which they consume at home, and Traffick with the rest to such Markets, tho' they were actually settled in those Quarters; because they would not then want our Manufactures, &c. as at present, to purchase the Commodities of such Places, to commerce with. For the *Dutch*, in return for these Goods, buy vast Quantities of all sorts of Merchandize, either for their necessary consumption at home, or their Trade to other Countries; but we could not bring from the same Places, an additional Quantity of each sort of Commodities, equal to those bought by the *Dutch*, because we have not a consumption for them at home, like that in *Holland*; nor can we negotiate with them at other Markets, as the *Dutch* do. As for Example: The *Hollanders* purchase

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purchase in the *North*, incredible Quantities of *Iron, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, Masts, &c.* great part of which is for their own Shipping: Now, it is plain that we could not take off more of those Materials than we consume at present; and, consequently, those Countries, from whence we bring those Products, would not increase their demand of our Manufactures. We should not import a yearly additional Quantity of *Spanish Wool*, equal to the number of Packs the *Hollanders* now annually purchase in *Spain*; not only because our consumption thereof, at home, would be no greater than at present; but because we should not Trade therewith to other Countries, to prevent their setting up *Woollen Manufactures*, which would necessarily lessen the Exportation of our own; and, therefore, it is reasonable to conclude, that the *Spaniards* would not be better Customers to us than they are at present. The *Dutch* buy of the *Portuguese, Sugars, and Tobacco*; and these, in return, take off such Goods as are sent from *Holland*: But, should we import from *Portugal, Sugars, and Tobacco*, since our own *West India Plantations* afford us enough of each for consumption, and for Re-exportation? Our Markets,

Markets, in *Portugal*, would, therefore, be no better than they are at present. The *Hollanders*, annually, purchase in *France*, great Quantities of *Wines, Brandies, Silks, Paper, Glass, Indigo, Sugars, East-India Goods, English, Irish, and Spanish Wools, &c. Silk and Worsted Stockings, Hats, Coffee, Linnen, Worsted, Watches, Pendulums, Galls, &c.* But all such Commodities, are either *prejudicial* to our Imports from the *East-Indies*, our *Plantations*, or from *Turky*; or *hurtful* to our Trade with other Countries; or *ruinous* to our Manufactures: And therefore, as our Demand of the *French* Commodities would not advance, so our Trade to *France* would remain what it is at present.

Having thus laid open how, and in what manner, the Ruin of the Trade of *Holland* would affect *Great Britain*: I shall now, on the other hand, examine and shew how detrimental it would be to *Holland*, if *Great Britain* were ruin'd, and its Trade scatter'd abroad.

Put the case, that the Trade of *Great Britain*, had been remov'd to *Holland*, before the last War: It is very evident, that in such case, *Holland* alone (for the other six Provinces, could not have encreas'd their Expences) must have been at additional Charges, equal to those

those we bore during the last War, or else that the Liberties of *Europe*, would have been annihilated; and by consequence, that *Holland* must have annually maintain'd, *over and above* what she did, the Troops and Men of War, and have yearly paid the Subsidies, following:

Years	Number of Soldiers in Flanders.	Ditto in Portugal.	Ditto in Spain.	Subsidies to several Princes.	Men of War.	The Province of Holland would hardly have purchas'd the whole Trade of Great Britain upon such Terms as these.
1701	10,000	Total	Total	75,000		
1702	40,671	19,314	57,973	200,000	74	
1703	50,671	and two		496,111	79	
1704	50,671	Battalions		975,666 ^{2/3}	74	
1705	50,671	form'd		1,170,186 ^{2/3}	79	
1706	52,671	out of		1,280,763 ^{1/3}	78	
1707	52,790	Prisoners.		1,962,118 ^{2/3}	72	
1708	58,228			2,656,159 ^{2/3}	69	
1709	67,699			1,948,785	67	
1710	72,197			1,948,785	62	
1711				1,948,785	59	

But if we were ruin'd, and our Trade were to be disperfed abroad, *Holland* would have but a small share thereof; and, consequently, would be a greater *Losser* than a *Gainer* by our Catastrophe: For, of the incredible swarms of our People that would quit their Native Country, the *Bulk* of them would retire to

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Newfoundland, Bermudas, Accadia, New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Carolina, and the Caribbee Islands: Several would sail to the *East Indies*; many would settle at *Hamburg, Bremen, Embden, Petersburg, Archangel, Sweden, &c.* and several would go over to *Holland*; but, would be but a handful, compar'd with the numberless Legions who would fly to those other Places. Besides, the *Dutch* would have but a small Pittance out of our Commerce; for our Merchants would carry with them the respective Branches of Trade, that they were concern'd in at home: By our Manufactures of all sorts going, and settling in various parts of *Europe*, the *Hollanders* would not only not have such Quantities of our *Woollen Goods, Steel Ware, Hats, Clocks, Watches, Glass* of all sorts, &c. as they now have yearly from *Great Britain* to trade with; but they would find the same Manufactures set up, or encreas'd and improv'd by our Workmen in those very Towns, where they, the *Dutch*, now commerce with them; and, besides, they would experience that those very Places would, by degrees, traffick with these Commodities, as well as they. Whether this would sensibly affect

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 affect the Trade of *Holland*, I leave to every one to judge. By the ruin of our Commerce, and consequently of our Navigation, and by the Loss of such vast Numbers of our Inhabitants, the *Dutch*, by necessary consequence, would not, nay, could not, have such a Demand from us; as at present for *Sailcloth, Pitch, Tar, Hemp, Iron, Hollands, Thread, Rhenish Wine and Brandy, Madder, Argal, Dealboards, Clapboard, Paper, Starch, Potashes, Spices, Gunpowder, Brass, Copper, &c.* But this is not all: Such a strong Convulsion might so disorder the poor Remains of our Trade, as to turn them into a new Channel, by making it be carried on *no longer by the way of Holland*, but *immediately* to other Countries, where so many of our Merchants would be settled. There is still another thing behind: Our Colonies on the Continent of *America*, would undoubtedly set up for *Free, and Independent States*; and would soon flourish with all sorts of Manufactures (they now have from us) by means of the Workmen fled to them; and, by degrees, would bring our *Caribbee Islands* to shake off their Subjection to us; and, by inter-trafficking with one another, entirely deprive *Great Britain* of those profitable returns she now

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annually receives from those Islands; and which, by being re-exported to *Holland*, enable the *Dutch* to Trade advantageously with other Nations; and, consequently, the want of the Products of those Islands, would very sensibly affect their Commerce to other Parts of *Europe*.

I have hitherto only endeavour'd to prove, that *Great Britain*, or *Holland*, would be a greater LOSER, as to TRADE, than a Gainer by the Ruin of the other Nation. But it is no less certainly true, as to the SAFETY, RIGHTS, and LIBERTIES of each People. For if *Holland* were dispeopled, and beggar'd, what assistance could the *United Provinces* afford our Kings against Invasions from abroad, or Rebellion at home: Or what Succour could the *British* Nation expect from them against a Tyrant; trampling upon the Laws, and scattering in the Wind their Rights, and Liberties? So, on the other hand; if our People should retire to other Countries, and our Trade should once bid us farewell; how could we effectually make good to the *United Provinces*, the Treaties of mutual Succour we have so frequently renew'd with, and confirm'd to them? How could we assist them
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against the Invasion of an ambitious Neighbour, or the Attempts of their Stadholders against the Nation's Freedom? The most effectual methods to ruin the Trade of *Great Britain*, or *Holland*, and to drive their People away, are, to make Dissenters uneasy, and to deny them Liberty of Conscience; and for our Kings to become Absolute, and the Stadholders of *Holland*, to be above the Laws.

I shall now proceed to make out the Fifth Proposition, *That the Trade of Holland, if ruin'd, will remove into the Austrian Netherlands; whereby the Balance of Power in Europe, will be vested in the House of Austria; and the Popish Interest will be strengthen'd.* That by the Ruin of the Trade of *Holland*, the Balance of Power in *Europe* would be broken, and the *Protestant* Interest weaken'd, is undeniable, from the Arguments I have urg'd to prove the first Proposition: And that the Balance of Power would be turn'd to the side of the House of *Austria*, and the *Popish* Interest strengthen'd thereby, are the necessary, and unavoidable Consequences thereof: For, since by the Ruin of *Holland*, one of the Supporters of the Balance of Power of *Europe*, would be destroy'd, and no other Nation could rise up
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in its stead; (for the *Hollanders* would be so dispersed, as is shewn before, as not to make any Nation become powerful enough to undertake, with *Great Britain*, so great a charge) and we alone could not be able to maintain it: And since most of the *Popish* Merchants of *Holland* would retire to *Antwerp*, *Ghent*, and *Bruges*, in the *Austrian Netherlands*, and consequently draw to those Towns all the Trade they carried on in *Holland*; it is manifest, that the *Austrian Netherlands* would soon become the STAPLE for all *Europe*, as FORMERLY; and soon grow as RICH, and POWERFUL as *Holland* now is: Whereby the mighty Power of the House of *Austria*, supported, and strengthened by the RICHES, and WEALTH of the *Netherlands*, would, inevitably, be a threatening Ruin to the rest of *Europe*; as it would at this day endanger its Liberties, if back'd by all the Force, Power, and Wealth of *Holland*: And that the *Popish* Interest would be strengthened by the Ruin of *Holland*, is, as hath been said, a consequence thereof; because no new *Protestant* State could arise, in the room of *Holland*, to join with *Great Britain*, in supporting the *Protestant* Interest: And we alone could not be the Defenders

ders of it: And, therefore, the *Popish* Interest would, of course, become too strong for the *Protestant* Cause.

I thought very proper to premise what I have said in order to open the eyes of those *Britons*, who are not aware of the consequences, fatal to *Europe* in general, and to *Great Britain* in particular, that will, and must follow the ruin of *Holland*.

Having thus made out the five preliminary Propositions, I now shall expose naked to the View of the *British*, and *Dutch* Nations, those Dangers they are threaten'd with from the OSTEND COMPANY.

The Consideration of the Importance of the OSTEND COMPANY, is not to be confin'd to the Trade that that Company carrieth on to the *East-Indies*; but as that Trade will be the Cause and Fore-runner of Commerce reviving, and re-flourishing in the *Austrian Netherlands*, and of such Commerce becoming a NURSERY for *Seamen*, and so make the *Austrian Netherlands* OUR RIVAL IN TRADE, AND NAVAL POWER.

* Though our *East-India* Trade yearly carrieth out of the Nation, to the value of

* *British Merchant*, vol. I. p. 30. 31, vol. II. p. 223.

4 or 500,000*l.* in Bullion; yet the Treasure of *England* is so far from being exhausted, or diminished thereby, that on the contrary, the Nation is a Gainer by that Commerce; because the Company imports such Commodities as are re-exported, and sold for a much larger sum than the Bullion sent to the *Indies*, amounts to. And * the *Raw Silk* imported, imploys a great many useles hands: And, therefore, this Trade is advantageous, and not detrimental to us.

That the *East-India* trade is vastly profitable to *Holland*, is so generally known, and agreed by all, that it would be loss of time to urge reasons to prove it.

The *OSTEND COMPANY* imports the very same sorts of *East-India* Goods as we, and the *Dutch* do; *Spices* excepted, of which the *Dutch* are the sole Masters. Now before the Merchants, and others of the *Austrian Netherlands*, since incorporated into a Company, traded to the *East-Indies*, we and the *Dutch* supplied the *Netherlands* with *East-India* Goods. But at this time, that Company furnisheth those Countries with such Commodities, as they us'd to take from us,

* *British Merchant*, Vol. II. p. 223.

and

and the *Dutch*. And therefore, the BENEFIT that *Great Britain*, and *Holland*, formerly received from the *East-India* Trade, must be diminished, just as much as the *OSTEND COMPANY* is profited by it.

Tho' this Company, be, in this respect, highly detrimental to us and the *Dutch*; yet both of us, in a PARTICULAR MANNER, SUFFER, in other respects, by this Company. We are damag'd thereby, by the vast Quantity of *India*, and other Goods, that are smuggled into *England*, from *Flanders*. At the first setting up of this Company, the Smuggling Trade (encourag'd and promoted by our own Merchants and People) was carried on by large Boats, with ten or twelve oars each; which row'd from *Ostend* to the River, and often, at high water, have run through Bridge before the face of the Customhouse Officers: This, produc'd an * act that no Boat should row on the River with above four Oars, which put an end to this practice. Since then, the method is to send out large Boats, which meet the Sloops that trade to, and from *Ostend*, before they come into the River, and the Goods they receive from such Sloops, they run a-shore

* Stat. 8. G. C. 18. Sect. 3.

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in the Creeks, in, and near the River, as soon as the Night favours them. And,

'Tis to be observ'd, That our Trade to Ostend from London, Hull, Topsham, &c. is favour'd by the Netherlanders, merely to encourage our Ships to take off their India, and other Goods: Of which incredible Quantities are smuggled to London, and to the North and West Parts of England.

But the Damage the O S T E N D C O M P A N Y doth, us and the Dutch, will yearly become greater and greater, as their Trade encreaseth: For, by degrees, they will supply other Countries, besides the Netherlands, to which the Dutch send great Quantities of India Goods; and thus interfere with them, and, consequently, lessen the Demand of the Dutch East-India Goods. Now we sell to the Dutch, a great deal of the Commodities imported from India: But if they find that the O S T E N D C O M P A N Y, by supplying foreign Markets with the like sorts of Goods, so clogs them, that there is a less Demand for such Goods than formerly: It follows, that the Dutch will not take off such Quantities of our India Goods as they were wont to do; and, consequently, that we shall suffer by it.

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The Dutch feel their Trade greatly diminished, since the O S T E N D C O M P A N Y was set up; because by the Art, and Cunning of the Netherlanders, large Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures, Lead, Glass, Leather, &c. are now sent into Flanders, which before went directly to Holland; from whence Flanders, and the rest of the Low Countries, were supplied, and we are furnish'd from thence with Wines, Brandies, Lace, Hollands, Cambrick, &c. which we us'd to have from the Dutch; and, by consequence, the Trade of Holland suffers very considerably.

Upon this new turn that our Commerce is taking, I have some Consequences to propose to the serious Consideration of every Briton.

Admitting that our Exports are increas'd by our Trade's removing from Holland to Flanders; yet, if our East-India Commerce, as hath been said, suffers, and our Customs are lessen'd by it, vastly more than formerly; it follows, that the Nation is no Gainer by our new Trade to Flanders; and that, therefore, our Negoce ought to return to Holland, its old Channel. But we do not now carry a greater Quantity of our Manufactures, &c. to Flanders than we sent before to Holland; because

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we only change the course of our Trade, but do not encrease it thereby: And yet the ill Consequences are the same: Which ought to be an argument to induce us to bring our Commerce back to *Holland*. But this is not all, by our trading immediately to *Flanders*, we deprive the *Hollanders*, and, without reaping the least benefit ourselves, of all those Goods, Products, Commodities, and Manufactures they used to carry on such an advantageous Trade with to other Countries, as enabled them to be ONE of the SUPPORTERS of the BALANCE of POWER in *Europe*, and of the PROTESTANT INTEREST; and therefore, it is undeniable, that we, voluntarily, contribute to ruin them, and, thereby, BREAK THAT Balance, and WEAKEN the Protestant Interest: Nay, what is infinitely worse, and a necessary consequence of our Practice: by carrying our Goods directly to *Flanders*, we enable the *Netherlanders* to drive a profitable Trade with all other Countries, to which the *Dutch* send our Commodities also; and thus we take the Riches gain'd by such Commerce from the *Dutch*, and put them into the Purfes of the *Netherlanders*: And, what is still the dreadfulest of all, we are doing our utmost

utmost to make TRADE RE-FLOURISH in the *Low Countries*, and become a NURSERY FOR SEAMEN: All which will, and must, in the most effectual and sensible manner, BREAK the BALANCE OF POWER in *Europe*, and DESTROY the PROTESTANT INTEREST; and make the *Austrian Netherlands* become, as I have observ'd before, our Rival in Trade, and Naval Power.

I hope every *Briton* will reflect with the utmost seriousness upon these Consequences.

As the Riches that the OSTEND COMPANY gain by the sale of the Goods they bring home from the *East-Indies*, will encourage, and enable them to continue their Trade: So this Success, and this Profit, will, in time, not only stimulate the said Company to begin other Trades, but will give new encouragement to the present Merchants to pursue their Commerce: Will spread an Inclination, a Desire, and a Longing through all Ranks, and Degrees of the *Netherlanders*, to be sharers in so beneficial a Calling: Will bring them to breed up their Children to Merchandize; and will awaken the States of *Brabant*, and of *Flanders*, to make Laws to encourage,

courage, and promote Trade and Navigation: And the increase of Riches and Power, that will accrue to the Emperor hereby, will be pleasing, and irresistible Arguments to push him on to give all possible Protection to Trade, and Navigation by Grants, and new Privileges, and by making advantageous Treaties of Commerce, and Navigation with the Princes, and States of *Europe*.

Though this may, at first blush, appear to be a very chimerical, and at worst, but a remote danger; yet if we consult past; or present Precedents, they will teach us, that the most flourishing States, and Cities in former Ages, had, and those that now subsist, have the Foundation of their Greatness laid upon the like motives: And Reason will tell us, if we listen to it, that such Principles must, and will necessarily produce the Effects I have mention'd. For it is, I think, impossible to assign any other reasons for the Riches, Power, and Grandeur of the *Phœnicians, Carthaginians, Athenians, and Rhodians* of old; and of the *Hans Towns, Genoa, Venice, the Province of Holland, &c.* at this Day. So that it is most reasonable to conclude, *that sooner, or later, we shall see Trade, and Navigation*

Navigation ~~re-*flourish*~~, and *re-flourish in the Austrian Netherlands; and those Countries become, as formerly, the STAPLE for Europe.*

* I. For the *Netherlanders* are of the same Temper, Genius, and Disposition, they were of formerly; and which brought Trade to them, and made it flourish in their Country; and, therefore, they can, by encouragement, make Commerce return among them; and, by suitable favour, restore it to its antient flourishing State and Condition.

II. † The Situation of their Country, in the middle, between the Southern and Northern Nations of *Europe*, was the reason antiently that induc'd the Traders of the South, and of the North, to make it a Place of *Entrepot*, or a *Staple*, for depositing their Goods in the Midway, as *Holland* is at this day; and, consequently, by protecting, and encouraging Commerce, the *Netherlanders* may once more make their Country the *Magazine for Europe*.

III. § The *Netherlands* have, as formerly, the Advantage of good Rivers for the convenient, easy, and cheap carriage of Goods,

* Mémoires sur le Commerce des *Hollandois* p. 13.
 † Ibid. P. 12. *British Merchant*, vol. 1. Pref. p. 24, 25.
 § Mém. p. 78.

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and Merchandize from one Town to another: And, within 150 years last past, there are, in some parts, such large Canals dug, and in others, such fine Causeways made, as amply supply the want of Rivers: two vast Advantages that former Ages were without. And are not the *Netherlanders*, at this very time, endeavouring to facilitate a Communication with *Liege*, that trading Town on the *Maeſe*?

IV. * Formerly the *Flemmings* had the *Wool- en*, and *Linnen Manufactures*, and their Country produc'd great Quantities of very good *Flax*, as it doth at this day. Their Towns have their several Manufactures: *Antwerp* and *Mechlin* make fine *Lace*; this last City affords fine *Thread*, and *gilt Leather*; *Brussels* hath also the Fabrick of *Lace*, and *Tapestry Hangings*; *Audenarde* likewise Manufactures *Tapestry Hangings*; *Cortryck* weaves *Linnen*, and *Table Linnen*; from *Ghent* are brought *Thread*, *Lace*, and *Linnen*; at *Bruges* are woven *coarse Linnen*, *Lace*, and several sorts of *Woolen Goods*; *Ypres* makes good *Cloth* and *Serges*; and of late there is a *Cloth Manufacture* set up at *Limburg*, which is already come to that Goodness, that the Cloth, there made, is sold 30 *Stuy-*

* Mém. p. 12. 13.

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vers in 5 *Guilders*, per *Dutch Ell*, cheaper than the *Dutch Cloth*.

It will not be improper to add here a short account of the beginning and improvement of this Manufacture at *Limburg*. Twelve years ago there was only *coarse Cloth*, but now they weave *superfine*, and *fine Cloth*. They have *Spanish Wool* for *superfine*, and *fine Cloths*, and of their own *Wool*, they fabrick their *course Cloths*. The *Cloth Trade* was set up there by some *Amsterdam* Merchants, who employ'd several of our unfortunate Manufacturers who had fail'd in *England*. The first *English-* man was one *Capel*, who broke at *Stroud*, in *Gloucestershire*, and was forc'd out of *England* by his Creditors, who refus'd the composition of 10s. per Pound he offered them, though it was his all. He join'd in company with one *Mr. Clermont* of *Amsterdam*, and began the *Cloth Manufacture* at *Limburg*. He is now grown very rich, though he hath been settled there but about eight years. Several other of our poor broken Workmen have follow'd him thither. The cheapness of Provisions, and, consequently, of the Wages, which are not above half what we give our Manufacturers, is the reason why this Cloth sells for

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30 *Stuy-*

30 *Stuyvers* in five *Guilders*, per *Dutch Ell*, less than the *Dutch Cloth*.

V. * *Baudouin*, Count of *Flanders*, made the Trade of his Subjects flourish by encouraging it. And hath not the Emperor lately made a Treaty of Commerce with *Spain*? Doth he not still persist to protect the **OSTEND COMPANY**?

VI. † The Liberties of the *Low Countries*, and the Privileges of the Towns there, formerly drew great numbers of Manufacturers into those Parts: And those Liberties and Privileges still subsist.

VII. The Ports of **OSTEND** and **NEWPORT** lie finely for the *Herring*, *Cod*, and *Whale Fisheries*; the **NURSERIES FOR SEAMEN, AND A NAVAL POWER**. And § some Ports and Sea Villages in *Flanders* antiently flourish'd by the *Herring Fishery*. May not then the *Netherlanders* by degrees pretend to a *Right of Fishing* in the *British Seas*, by virtue of the ** Treaty made between our King *Henry VII.* and *Philip Duke of Brabant*, Count of *Flanders*, &c. 4. Feb. 1495. By the fourteenth article of which it is agreed,

* *Mém.* p. 13. † *Pag.* 16. § *Pag.* 18. 44. ** *Traité de Paix.* T. 1. p. 782.

“ That

“ That the *Fishers* of both Parties (of what condition soever they be) may freely go and sail every where by Sea, and safely fish, without any Impediment, Licence, or Passport, &c.” And of * that concluded between the Emperor *Charles V.* and *Mary*, Queen of *Scotland*, at *Binch* in *Hainault*, 15th Dec. 1550. which confirms that made at *Binch* in 1541. between *Mary Queen of Hungary*, Governess of the *Low Countries*, and *James King of Scotland*? And is not *Newport*, at this very time, applying to have a Grant for the *Fisheries*? Are not the *Herring*, and *Whale Fisheries*, now under the Consideration of the Company?

VIII. **OSTEND**, and **NEWPORT** are as convenient Harbours for Privateers, as *Dunkirk* was; and, consequently, the *Netherlanders* can, in time, interrupt and damage our Trade, and that of *Holland*; as their Commerce suffer'd formerly from the *Spaniards*; and as the *French* prov'd a Thorn in † our side, and in that of the *Dutch*, during the two last Wars, by the means of *Dunkirk*.

* *Traité de Paix* T. 2. p. 690. † What Damage the *French* did us, let our Merchants say: The *Dutch* lost above 11,000,000 *l. Sterling*.

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IX. * Formerly *Navigation* flourish'd in *Flanders*, by means of *Manufactures*, and *Fisher-ies*: And cannot the *Flemmings* make *Navigation* revive in their Country by *encouraging Manufactures*, and *undertaking Fisheries*? Cannot they have immediately from the *North* all Materials for Shipping, as cheap, and as easily as we, and the *Dutch*; or have Ships built for them in other Countries? † Cannot they have *fishermen* from *England*, *Holland*, *Hamburg*, *Bremen*, &c; and *Sailors* from *England* and *Holland*, as they actually now have, and from *Hamburg*, *Dantzick*, and other places, as the late *Czar* of *Muscovy* had? If any Prince of the House of *Austria* should have a Genius turn'd to *Trade*, and *Navigation*, like the late *Czar*; what could possibly hinder *these* from reviving and re-flourishing in the *Low Countries*, as they do at this day in *Muscovy*? And then may not the House of *Austria* keep the *Naval* force of *Holland* in awe, as the late *Czar* was dreaded by the Crown of *Denmark*, one of the *Maritime*

* Mémoires, &c. p. 14.

† Have they not already nine Ships of about 400 Tun each, and are they not building ten or twelve more? Cannot they have *Wool* from *England* and *Holland*, as it is yearly smuggled over to *France*? Cannot they wheedle away our *Manufacturers*, after the Example of the late *Czar*.

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Powers of the *Baltick*? And may not, then, the House of *Austria*, in case of a War, make the Coasts of *Great Britain* the Scene of *Desolation*, as the late *Czar* laid waste the maritime Parts of *Sweden*; the other antient *Naval* Potentate of the *Baltick*?

All this demonstrates, that it is not impossible to make *Trade*, and *Navigation* revive and re-flourish in the *Austrian Netherlands*. And if this should happen, will not the *Trade*, and *Navigation* of *Great Britain*, and *Holland*, be sensibly affected thereby, and *decline*, as the *Netherlanders's* increase? And as they grow richer, and more powerful, shall not we, and the *Dutch*, become poorer, and weaker? And, as I have often said before, will not the BALANCE OF POWER be turn'd on the side of the HOUSE OF AUSTRIA, and the POPISH INTEREST become too strong for the PROTESTANT CAUSE.

Let us examine whether it be possible for the *Trade* and *Navigation* of the *Austrian Netherlands* to revive, and re-flourish, and the *Commerce*, and *maritime Power* of *Great Britain*, and *Holland*, not dwindle, and decay.

If the *Netherlanders* should set up all sorts of *Woollen Manufactures*, encourage the Im-
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portation of *English*, and *Irish* Wool, and draw over our Workmen; would not all sorts of *Woollen Goods* be soon made in great perfection in the *Low Countries*, and be in great Quantities there, as they are in *France*? Would not this, almost wholly, destroy a Demand for our, or the *Dutch Woollen Commodities*, in the *Netherlands*; as the Increase of the *French Woollen Manufactures* by the *English*, and *Irish* Wool that is smuggled over to *France*, hath, in a manner, ruin'd our *Woollen Trade* to that Country? Would they not traffick to other Nations with the Goods made of our and the *Irish* Wool, as the *French* do at this day; and, thereby, lessen, at those Markets, the Vent of our, and the *Dutch Woollen Manufactures*? Would they not, in exchange for those Commodities, purchase such Merchandize as they have from us, and the *Dutch*?

Can the *Flemmings* do all this, and the Trade of *Great Britain*, and *Holland* not suffer by it?

Can they set up *Silk Manufactures*, and traffick with them; and can we, and the *Dutch*, have an equal Demand for ours, both in the *Netherlands*, and at other Markets where they should commerce? Can they apply them-

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themselves to all other sorts of Manufactures, and make all other sorts of Goods that they, at present, take from us, and the *Dutch*, and trade with them; and the two Nations not find their Trade decay?

Can they traffick in any Countries with such Commodities as we and the *Dutch* send thither, and the Demand for ours not be lessened?

Can they supply *Great Britain* with *Wines*, *Brandies*, *Hollands*, *Cambrick*, *Thread*, *Lace*, &c. whereby our Demand for those Commodities from *Holland* is greatly diminished, and the *Dutch* be no Losers?

Can they bring home, and trade with *East-India* Goods, and we suffer not by it, as well as the *Dutch*?

Can the *Flemmings* trade to any Countries of *Europe*, in Ships of their own, and not breed up Seamen?

Can they apply themselves to the *Fisheries*, and *these* not become NURSERIES FOR SEAMEN?

Can they trade by Sea, and not become expert in NAVIGATION?

Will they suffer us, and the *Dutch*, to be the *Carriers* to supply them with Necessaries for

for Consumption, or Materials for Manufactures, or Commodities for Trade, when they have their own Ships, and Seamen to fetch them?

All this demonstrates, That, in the Nature of things, it is impossible for the *Netherlanders* to become a **TRADING People**, without greatly **DAMAGING** the **COMMERCE** of *Great Britain*, and of *Holland*.

That it is impossible for them to apply themselves to Trade, but that they must increase in **SHIPPING** and **SEAMEN**.

That it is impossible but their Seamen must, by degrees, become **SKILFUL**, and **EXPERT** in **NAVIGATION**.

That it is impossible but, at last, *Great Britain*, and *Holland*, will, at their cost, to their sorrow, and to their danger, find a **POWERFUL RIVAL** in **TRADE** and **NAVAL STRENGTH**; and that it is impossible but that, then, the **Balance of Power** will be vested in the House of *Austria*, that has, at last, after many Attempts, made the *Empire* (a) **hereditary** in their Family; endeavour'd to (b) **enslave** the *German Princes*; has aim'd at the **Conquest** of *Great Britain*; (c) has ambi-

(a) Traites de Paix. Tom. 2. Observ. p. 31. 45.

(b) Pag. 45.

(c) Meteren Hist. des Pais Bas. fol. 292. b. 295. b. 360. a.

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tiously grasp'd at (d) **UNIVERSAL MONARCHY** by *Land*; and has attempted an (e) **ABSOLUTE EMPIRE** at *Sea*, in the *Baltick*, (f) and of the *British Seas*. I appeal to every one, whether the Conclusions, I am going to draw, from the Assertions of some present *Germans*, and of some of the Emperors Subjects, be not natural, and unavoidable.

1. (g) *That the Emperor is NOT bound by the Treaty of Munster*; by which the King of *Spain* renounc'd all Right, and Title to the **Sovereignty** of the *United Provinces*; that, **THEREFORE THE EMPEROR HAS A RIGHT, AND TITLE TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE UNITED PROVINCES**: And 2. (h) *That he cannot be bound by any Treaty made by the Kings of Spain; unless ratified by himself or his Ancestors*: That, **THEREFORE, HE HAS A RIGHT TO ALL THOSE COUNTRIES THAT THE KINGS OF SPAIN HAVE YIELDED TO ANY PRINCES BY TREATIES, IF NOT RATIFIED BY HIM, OR HIS AN-**

(d) Negociations secretes touchant la Paix de Munster, T. 1. p. 11. Meteren Hist. des Pais Bas. fol. 360. a. 407. a.

(e) Traites ut supra, p. 44. Memoires sur le Commerce des Hollandois. p. 71. Aitzema. 1. Deel. blad 694.

(f) Meteren Hist. des Pais Bas. fol. 113. b. 394. b. (g) Defence du droit de la Compagnie Hollandoise des Indes Orientales par Mr. Barbeyrac, p. 101. 112.

(h) P. 101.

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CESTORS. I leave it to every one, to find out what the present Emperor drives at, for himself, or his Posterity; by erecting the *OSTEND COMPANY*; and, (i) by encouraging Trade in the Gulf of *Venice*; and by building Men of War there; since (k) The “*Theory of TRADE is a Princely Science, and the true Regulation of it, the KEY OF EMPIRE;*” for (l) whatever Nation can “*make herself Mistress of NAVIGATION, will get TRADE into her Power; and, by consequence, RICHES; and, if I may so say will have the World at her beck.*” And it is impossible, but that then the *Popish* Interest will be vastly strengthen’d, by having at its head, the House of *Austria*; of which, the Emperors *Rodolph II. Matthias, Ferdinand II. and Leopold*, have persecuted the Protestants: And the Emperor *Charles V. and Philip II. King of Spain*, have bath’d their Hands in the Blood of *Protestants*, and made them seal their Faith with their Lives.

I cannot but think, that every *Briton*, and *Dutchman*, who knows that *Trade and Navigation*

(i) Whether *Gibraltar*, and *Port Mahon*, will not be of the greatest Importance to us, in case the Emperor, by degrees, gets a *Naval Force* in these Parts, I leave to every *Briton’s* Consideration.

(k) *Wood’s Survey of Trade*, Dedic. p. 6. (l) *Memoires sur le Commerce des Hollandois*, p. 50.

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gation are not only the Support, but the very Soul, of *Great Britain*, and *Holland*, upon finding that the *Flemmings* will apply themselves to *Trade and Navigation*, will pronounce (m) *Arcendi a littore Flandri*: And I am satisfied that *Europe*, for the Reasons I have urg’d, will

(m) After the beginning of the Civil Wars in the Low-Countries, when the States of *Holland, Zealand*, and their Allies, with the Prince of *Orange*, in the Year 1575. took into Consideration, what Nation they should fly to for Succour; the *Empire, France, and England*, were proposed: But, after a mature Deliberation, they preferred the Protection of the last, “*As well for the Conformity, and Profession of Religion, as for the Conveniency of Traffick, and the Power of the Queen by Sea, and Land; and, because the Government was mild, and not subject to Extorsions, or any extraordinary, and heavy Taxes; so that if they could obtain the Succour, and Protection of the Queen, they could keep their Rivers intirely free, and hinder the People of Brabant, Flanders, and the other Provinces, from receiving any thing by Sea; and, so, destroy the Hopes of the SPANIARDS, of making themselves MASTERS OF THE SEA.*” (*Meteren Histoire des Pais Bas*, fol. 113. a. b.)

In 1585, when the Deputies of the States General offered the Sovereignty of the United Provinces to Queen *Elizabeth*, among the many Arguments they urg’d to induce her to accept of it, this was one: “*Al- though these Countries during this continual War, had suffered very much, and the Enemy had taken from them many Towns, and strong Places: The Provinces of Holland, Zealand, Utrecht, and Friezland, remained, however, by the Grace of God, intire; in which, were many large and strong Towns, fine Rivers, Canals, Havens, and Sea Ports, which might be highly serviceable, beneficial, and commodious, to her Majesty, and her Successors, which it was not necessary to deduce. Nevertheless, one Advantage was fit to be taken Notice of in a particular Manner, viz. That the United Provinces of Holland, Zealand, Friezland, and the Towns of OSTEND, and Sluyce, with the Kingdoms of her Majesty, could make her entirely MISTRESS OF THE GREAT OCEAN, and, consequently, procure a continual, and settled Felicity to Her, and her Subjects.*” (*Ibid.* fol. 253. b.) And, besides the various Reasons, that Her Majesty’s Council alledg’d to persuade her to accept of the Sovereignty offer’d to her, they laid before her “*the Danger she was to expect; if the Spaniards once come to make themselves Masters of the Low-Countries, to have there an absolute Government, to change the Religion, abrogate the Privileges of the Provinces, and subdue them entirely to their Will; that then (for the Hatred they bore to her) they could invade her with a great NAVAL POWER, and, by*

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will agree with me in this, concerning the OSTEND COMPANY, that DELEND A EST HÆC CARTHAGO.

Having, thus, laid open to the View of my native Country, and of the Dutch, that Scene of Horror, in which the Posterity of the two Nations, must be the principal Sufferers: It seems natural, that I should propose some Methods to save our innocent Progeny from such Misery: And, accordingly, I offer to the Consideration of Great Britain, these Propositions following:

“ Means of their Treasures of the Indies, first destroy the TRADE, and NAVIGATION of England, and then raise Civil Wars in the Nation. ” After the Queen, and her Council had resolv'd to enter into a Treaty with the Deputies of the States General, there were several Conferences held, in which the Deputies laid open “ of what Importance it was to the Kingdom of England, to keep these Countries, so long allied with her by a great Number of Treaties, in this Alliance, by Reason of the Situation of the two Nations: For, in the Low-Countries, there were many fine great Rivers, and England was an Island, opposite to it; so that, in Case of a Rupture, they could do each other great Damage; and, being united, they could remain MISTRESSES OF THE SEA, by which both of them carried on their Trade, and, without which, they could not subsist. England had no other Fortifications than the deep Sea: But in the Low-Countries, there were many strong Towns, which applied themselves chiefly to Navigation, so that the Nation abounded with Seafairing-Men, and had many Ships, with which, the deep Ditches of the Sea of England could be rendered useless, and, England easily invaded: ” And that England, by Means of its good Ports, and Situation, could greatly distress the Commerce of the Low-Countries. These were the Motives that induc'd the two Nations, formerly to make so many Contracts; and reciprocal Alliances; not only between the respective Lords of those Provinces, but also between the two Powers, as perpetual Confederates, that they might ever remain united, and not suffer themselves thus to be lorded over. (Ibid. fol. 254. a.)

I. That

I. That a Duty per Pound, be laid on all Wool in the Fleece in England, and Ireland, with a Drawback per Pound, on all Wool manufactur'd, and a Bounty per Pound, for all Woollen Goods exported; as has by this Time been propos'd to the Ministry, by a Friend of mine, to whom I owe this Method to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, and that of Ireland. This will effectually prevent our Wool from being smuggled over to Flanders; and will keep the Woollen Manufactures from reviving, and re-flourishing among the Flemmings.

II. That every Artificer, Wool-Stapler, Wool-Comber, Carder, Spinner, Weaver, Clothier, &c. who is retired into foreign Countries, for Debt, be discharged from it; and not be subject to any Execution, or Statute of Bankruptcy upon that Account; on his, or their returning within a set short Time. This will prevent their being inticed into the Austrian Netherlands.

III. That all Causes of Action, whatsoever, not exceeding ten Pounds, shall be decided by a Court of Justices of the Peace: That, where the Debt, Duty, or Demand, is above the said Sum, but doth not exceed twenty Pounds, no Arrest, but only Summons shall lie, nor

Execution

Execution by *Capias ad Satisfaciendum* be allow'd of: And, that where the Execution is for a greater Sum than *twenty Pounds*, the Plaintiff shall maintain the Defendant, at so much *per Diem*, whilst he keeps him in Prison. That Statutes of Bankruptcy shall be no more taken out. This will prevent our Workmen from being ruin'd by the Charges of Arrests, for dribbling Debts; and keep them from flying into the *Austrian* Netherlands, to avoid rotting, and starving in Jail: This will save our Manufacturers, *Wool-Staplers, Master-Combers, Master-Weavers, Clothiers, &c.* from being torn to pieces by the Expences of a Statute; and protect their Credit from being blasted, and thereby, their Ruin compleated, by publick Advertisements of their Misfortunes: Whether all this will not keep our Workmen, Manufacturers, from flying to the *Austrian* Netherlands, I leave every one to judge.

IV. That every *Artificer, Wool-Stapler, &c.* that exerciseth his Trade, Calling, &c. in the *Austrian* Netherlands, or in any Port, Town, or Place belonging to his Imperial Majesty, on, or near the *Adriatick* Sea, be recalled Home, upon Pain of forfeiting to his,

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next Heir, all his, or their *Right, and Title* to any *Estate whatsoever* in Possession, or in Trust for them, or in Remainder, or Reversion; and of being deemed to all Intents, and Purposes an *Alien*: And that every *Artificer, &c.* that shall, hereafter, go and exercise his Trade, &c. in those Countries, &c. shall, *ipso facto*, incur the like *Forfeitures, and Incapacity*.

V. That every one of his Majesty's Subjects, that shall build any Ship, or Ships, for the Use of the *Ostend, or any other Company*, that shall be set up in the *Austrian-Netherlands*; or any other foreign Country, or for a Subject of the *Austrian-Netherlands*; or shall be instrumental, or concerned therein, directly, or indirectly, either in his Majesty's Dominions, or in any foreign Country; or shall directly, or indirectly, assist, or furnish the said Company, or Companies, that shall be erected as aforesaid, within his Majesty's Dominions, or in any foreign Country, with any Materials, &c. for building, or fitting-out a Ship, or Ships, shall be adjudged, *ipso facto*, a Traitor, and forfeit, and be disabled, as before is mentioned.

VI. That all Trade, immediately to the *Austrian-Netherlands*, be prohibited upon severe Penalties,

Penalties, and that every Person, whether he be a Subject, or not, that shall import any Goods, &c. of what kind, or value soever, immediately from the Ports of *Ostend*, or *Newport*, or from the Coast of *Flanders*, shall forfeit to the Seizer, or Informer, the said Goods, and their *Value besides*; and that every Captain of a Ship, being a Subject, that shall enter into the said Ports, except he be driven therein by Strefs of Weather, shall incur a Penalty.

VII. That our Trade with *Flanders*, and the rest of the *Low Countries*, whenever the Legislature shall think fit to permit it, be carried on ONLY BY THE WAY OF *HOLLAND*. The Reasons for this, are alledged, p. 36.

VIII. (n) That no *Flemming* be allow'd, by any means, to fish in the *British Seas*. This will prevent their getting an unexhaustible Nursery for Seamen.

(n) That the *Flemmings* can have no Right to fish, by virtue of the Treaties made with King *Henry VII.* and *Mary Queen of Scotland*, is evident, because they have been interrupted by Wars; and the *Liberty of Fishing*, mention'd in, and granted by those Treaties, hath never been revived, or re-granted by any tractatal Agreement between our Kings, and the House of *Austria*: Such Agreements speaking only of *COMMERCE*, and NOT of *Fishing*; and, therefore, all the general Words must be understood of *COMMERCE ALONE*, the *Subjeet matter* of such Treaties, and NOT of *Fishing*, which is a thing *distinct*, and *different* from it; and, consequently, those antient Treaties can be revived only AS TO *COMMERCE*, and not as to *Fishing*.

IX. And

IX. *And Lastly*, That the *Dutch* must attack, and destroy the Ships of this Company, wherever they meet them, within the Limits of their respective Companies; and that his Majesty, as *Guarantee* of the (o) *Barrier Treaty*, which, (p) confirms that of *Munster*, of which the erecting of the *OSTEND COMPANY*, is a DIRECT, AND POSITIVE VIOLATION, must assist them therein.

If the Emperor will, still, protect, encourage, and support this Company, I leave it to the Consideration of my native Country what Steps to take.

I shall only add, that if *this* Company be not destroy'd, *ours* must be ruin'd: That if the reviving Trade, and Navigation of the *Flemmings* be not stifled, *our* Commerce, and *Maritime* Power must dwindle, and decay: And that, the House of *Austria* become Mistress of *Navigation*, (q) she will get Trade into her Power; and, by consequence, *Riches*; and, if I may say so, WILL HAVE THE *World* AT HER BECK; and then, the *Liberties* of *Europe* will soon be *no more*, and the *Protestant Religion* be destroy'd.

(o) Made and concluded between the Emperor, his Majesty, and the States General at *Antwerp*, Nov. 15. N. S. 1725. (p) Art. 26.

(q) Mémoires sur le Commerce des *Hollandois*, p. 50.

H

A L E T

A LETTER from a Merchant in Holland, to his Friend in London, shewing the Right that His Majesty hath to take, and destroy the Ships of the Ostend Company, trading within the Limits of the Dutch East and West-India Companies.

S I R,

ACCORDING to your Desire, I send you my Thoughts upon the Subject you propos'd to me in your Letter, dated March the 25th 1725.

That the Inhabitants of the Austrian-Netherlands, by the (r) fifth and sixth Articles of the Treaty of Munster, concluded in 1648, between Philip IV. King of Spain, and Lord of the Netherlands, and the States-General of the United-Provinces, are excluded from trading

(r) The Clause of the fifth Article of the Treaty of Munster, insisted upon by the Dutch-East, and West-India Company runs thus, The Navigation, and Trade to the East and West Indies shall be maintained, according, and conformably to the Grants already made, or hereafter to be made, for that Purpose, which shall be secured by the present Treaty, and the Ratification thereof, that shall be procured on both Sides; and under the said Treaty shall be comprehended all Potentates, Nations, and Countries, with which the Lords States, or they of the East and West-India

ding within the Limits, of the Dutch East, and West-India Companies, is fully demonstrated in the two Dissertations by Mr. Westerveen, and in the Defence du Droit de la Compagnie Hollandoise des Indes Orientales, written by Mr. Barbeyrac.

This Treaty of Munster is confirm'd by the XXVIth Article of the Barrier Treaty, made between his Imperial and Catholick Majesty, his Britannick Majesty, and the States-General at Antwerp, the 15th Day of November 1715. The Words whereof are, ' The Commerce, ' and all that depends thereon, between the ' Subjects of his Imperial, and Catholick Majesty in the Austrian Netherlands, and those

India Companies in their Names, within the Limits of their said Grants, are in Friendship, and Alliance.

It is afterwards stipulated, and agreed by the same Article, That His Catholick Majesty, and the States General, shall respectively remain in Possession of, and enjoy such Lordships, Towns, Castles, Fortresses, Trade, and Lands in the East, and West Indies, as also in Brasil, and on the Coasts of Asia, Africa, and America, respectively held, and possess'd there by the said King, and States, and in the Manner they are respectively possess'd at the Time of this present Treaty, including especially, therein, such Countries and Places as from the Year 1641, have by the Portugueze, been taken, and seized upon, from the said Lords States, as likewise comprehending therein such Countries, and Places, as, without infringing this present Treaty, the said Lords States shall hereafter conquer, and possess.

The sixth Article runs thus, And as for the West Indies, the Subjects, and Inhabitants of the Kingdoms, Provinces and Territories of the said Lords, King, and States, respectively, shall abstain from navigating, and trading into the Havens, Ports, or Places provided with Forts, Holds, or Castles, and all other possess'd by either Party; that is to say, that the Subjects of the said Lord King shall not navigate, or trade into those held by the said Lords States, nor the said Lords States into those held by the said Lord King.

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of the *United Provinces* remaining, in the whole, and in part, upon the Foot establish'd, and in the manner appointed by the Articles of the Treaty made at *Munster*, the 30th Day of *January* 1648. between his Majesty King *Philip IV.* of glorious Memory, and the said Lords the *States-General*, concerning Commerce; which Articles are confirm'd by the present Treaty.'

By the XXVIIIth his Majesty makes himself Guarantee of the said Treaty, the Words whereof are, 'And for greater Security, and Execution of the present Treaty, his *Britannick* Majesty, promises, and engages to confirm it, and to be Guarantee thereof, in all its Points, and Articles, as he hereby confirms it, and becomes Guarantee of it.'

That the erecting of the *Ostend Company* by the Letters Patent of his Imperial and Catholick Majesty is a direct and positive Violation of the Vth and VIth Articles of the Treaty at *Munster*, is unanswerably made out in the above mention'd *Dissertations*, and *Defence*.

The Case being thus stated, the Question is, *Whether his Majesty hath a Right to take and destroy the Ships of the Ostend Company trading*

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Trading within the Limits of the Dutch East and West India Companies, before the Dutch have proceeded to any Hostilities against the said Ships?

To this, I answer, *That his Majesty has an undoubted Right to seize and destroy those Ships, whenever he shall judge fit, and convenient, without staying till the Dutch have first begun Hostilities against them.*

When a Prince solemnly makes himself Guarantee of a Treaty, he binds himself down to see it fully, and faithfully executed, and to have all Infractions of it redress'd. Various concurring Substances may hinder the injur'd Party from proceeding to Force, after all peaceable Methods have, in vain, been tried, and made use of; and the State of Affairs may imbolden the offending Party to persist in his Denial of Justice: If, in such like Cases, the Hands of the Guarantee were to be tied fast, till the injur'd Party loosens them, by attempting to do himself Justice, such Guaranteeship would be intirely useles. It may so happen that the Guarantee is as immediately, and as highly interested in the faithful, and rigorous Execution of the Treaty, as either of the Principals is: And then, every Violation thereof is a Damage to *him*; and every Denial of Redress

dress is a just Cause for *him* to demand Justice by Force of Arms, and to compel a religious Observation of such Treaty. This I take to be self-evident: And this is the Case of his Majesty. *Great-Britain* is as importantly concern'd in the strict Observation of the *Barrier Treaty*; which, as has been said, ratifies the V. and VI. Articles of the Peace of *Munster*, by which the Inhabitants of the *Austrian Netherlands* are excluded from trading within the Limits of the *Dutch East and West-India Companies*, as the *United Provinces* are. Trade, and Navigation cannot revive in the *Austrian Netherlands*, but we, and the *Dutch* must SUFFER thereby. Trade, and Navigation cannot flourish in those Provinces, but *Great Britain*, and *Holland* must see a dangerous, and fatal RIVAL in Trade, and an awful MARITIME POWER: Trade and Navigation cannot settle once again in the *Low Countries*, but the House of *Austria* must become an impending RUINE to the Liberties of *Europe*, and the Protestant Religion must expect a certain, and approaching EXTIRPATION. His Imperial, and Catholick Majesty by granting his Letters Patent for establishing in the *Austrian Netherlands*

lands a Company to trade to the *East and West-Indies*, has directly *contraven'd* the Treaty of *Munster* confirmed by the *Barrier Treaty*. Remonstrances upon Remonstrances have been made to the Emperor by his Majesty, and the States General, to revoke those Letters Patent, and so bring things back to what they were before the said Company was establish'd: But Justice has been denied; his Imperial Majesty persists in his Violation of the said Treaties; and is determin'd to encourage, and promote the *Trade, and Navigation*, of the said Company, in spite of the most solemn Treaties, and in Defiance of the Power of *Great Britain*, and the *United Provinces*. His Majesty, then, is greatly concern'd to have the *Barrier Treaty* be religiously observed: He is a great Sufferer by the Establishment of the *Ostend Company*, which is a positive Violation thereof. Justice, however, has always been denied Him; it, therefore, follows, that He hath an undoubted Right to use Force to compel his Imperial and Catholick Majesty, to a faithful Observation of the said Treaty: And, consequently, may, in strict Justice, take and destroy the Ships of the *Ostend Company, trading within the Limits of the Dutch East*

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East and West-India Companies, without staying till the Dutch begin Hostilities against them.

I have reduced what I had to say upon this important Subject, into almost as small a Compass as the State of the Case takes up, and the narrow Limits of a Letter will admit of: Yet, I think, the Reasons I have urged, are so cogent, and so undeniable, as will abundantly satisfy every one that shall peruse them, and your self in particular, for whose Satisfaction I chiefly undertook this Subject.

I am,

S I R,

Amsterdam, April 18 1726.

Your most humble,

and most obedient

Servant,

J. L.

FINIS.