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The Touch-Stone of  
**MONEY and COMMERCE**

Or an Expedient

For increase of *Trade, Money, and Shipping*  
In *England.*

Shewing also how the *Arrears of the Army, and*  
other *Publique Debts,* may be forthwith Satisfied,  
without laying more *Impositions upon the People,*  
or *Burthen on Trade.*

Together with

*CVSTOMES and EXCISE REGULATED.*

Wherein is manifest the *Destruction of Trade,* by its  
*Irregular managment at present:* with means  
to prevent the like *Inconvenience for time to*  
*come.*

By *S. E. A Lover of his Country.*

L O N D O N.

Printed at the Authors Charge, for his Countries good:  
and are to be sold at the *Turcks Head in Corn-hill,*  
near the *Royall Exchange.*

1696

MEMORIAL

of the Affairs of Trade, and Shipping  
in England

showing also how the Affairs of the Navy, and  
other Inducements may be forthwith carried  
without laying more Burden upon the People  
or Burden on Trade.

Together with

CONSIDERATIONS

Wherein is manifest the Detraction of Trade, by its  
Irregular Management at present: with means  
to prevent the like Inconveniences for time to  
come.

By J. E. A Lover of his Country.

LONDON.

Printed at the Authors Charge for his Countries Good:  
and are to be sold at the Turkey Head in Cornhill  
near the Royal Exchange.

(1)

To the Supreme Authority,  
the Parliament of the Commonwealth of

ENGLAND.

Right Honourable,

I Know you cannot be Ignorant of the (at present) Deplo-  
rable Estate of England, whose former Plenty, and  
Freedome, of Commerce, hath sounded as Echoes of  
Tryumph to all Nations round about her: and in despite of  
envy or their Emulating her happiness, made her Trade the  
Worlds Exchange: untill of late years (for such is her un-  
happiness) her Millions of plenty are grown to complaints,  
and such her Commerce into a Languishing consumption:  
so universally dispersed that even the greatest of her Gentry  
complain for want of Mony, whilst their Tenants groan  
under the burthen of Contribution and Taxes; The Mar-  
shant and Mariner, too late sorrowing for their loss of no  
less then 1300 Sail of Ships since the Warr with Spain,  
whereof many richly ladens to the ruine of their Owners and  
Proprietors; when others yet Trading, and paying Excise,  
with other great Duties, complain more for the Intollerable  
burthen by the manner of Collecting it, then the duty it self:  
the laws of Excise being in truth contrived (as if purposely)  
to maintain a numerous rabble of Excise-men, the most use-  
less and unprofitable members in a Common-wealth: who  
making themselves gainers by the ruine of Trade, go away  
with the greatest share of the revenue, whilst the private  
Soldier for want of pay is brought to a kind of beggarry;  
being driven to take upon trust, (where they can have it.)

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the very meat they eat; and considering their penny-worths to pay dear for the Interest. All which together with the complaints of many, Thousands poor Families distressed throughout the Nation, for want of Trade, being considered, I hope will so work upon your spirits, (now the Lord hath again, I presume beyond your own Expectations brought you together) that you will not rest till you have Improved this opportunity once more put into your hands of doing good for your Country, to which end you are called: wherein the Lord will undoubtedly own you, and those yet unborn be Obliged to Honour your remembrance.

And apprehending that amongst other waighty affaires that of raising Monies for time to come, for supply of the Army, and Navy of the Common-wealth, by the most equitable and properest waies, not burthensome to the Nation, with the increase of Trade, Mony, and Shiping, (all so much wanting in England) are not the least of Importance: and having had the perusal of the severall reports, and proposals made this Parliament and Committee of Inspection, with all others that have written in reference thereunto; I have upon serious consideration substracted the most sutable and (as I apprehend) properest collections from the whole, and have taken liberty to publish it, with some additions of my own observations in England, and Experience in Forrain parts: which, when receiving the Honour of your debate, will I hope merrit the favour of your good liking, and the Authour have his expected reward, by being an Instrument of promoting the good and welfare of his Country.

**S E.**

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# The Touch-stone of

MONEY and COMMERCE

**A**mongst the diversity of Mettalls which God the Creator hath shut up in the concave Closet of the Earth; none is accounted more Excellent than Gold, and Silver; which since it became in use amongst men may properly be termed the Univerfall measure of all things, and the Staple of Commerce, which in All Ages, and Nations, where it goes drives the Wheel of Trade and Success. I shall therefore (since the World gives it that Esteem) begin with its Standard as in vallew here amongst us.

The Allay, or standard of England (I mean the Intrin-  
cical vallew of Plate) being inferiour to none, if not the best and purest of Europe, and the large proportion in waight allowed to our pound Sterling gives it the greater vallue in Forrain parts, and is therefore by them the more covetted: so that its par or vallue runing higher in the North-East parts of the World then our Native Commodities; England is by that means made but the Carravan for its transportation from the South-West parts thither; and by reason of the Warr with Spain, (a place that vended much of English manufactures) together with the Obstruction by us given the Spanish West-India-Fleet which occasioned Plate to run at a higher vallue there, England hath of late years been prevented of Importing Plate as Formerly, and her exports thereof greater by reason of the loss of her

*The English Standard better then Forrain*

*Plate decreased and the reason why*

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Southern Trade, from whence her Marchants usually sent Commodities for *Holland* and other Northern Countries of the production of English goods, which now are bought from the *Dutch* and others their Neighbours with English Coyn: who by that means are become almost Masters, both of our Mony and Trade, which will prove of dangerous consequence to England, if not timely prevented.

Plate Melted down.

Another reason of the Decrease of Plate, is by the abundance thereof melted down, and converted to the making of Silver and Gold Lace, Buttons, and the like, in which un-necessary superfluity in the three Nations; of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, is wasted no less then two hundred Thousand pounds *Sterling* Yearly, by a very good estimate of knowing persons dealing therein.

By Gold Smiths.

Also there is a great deminution of the Coyner of *England*, by converting it into Tankards, Bowls, and other Vessels of Plate, which in a super-abounding measure we daily see in *Gold Smiths Shops*, and *Gentlemen and Citizens Houses*, far exceeding the Estates and Fortunes of most of them, which though convenient for private uses, yet tends to the decrease of Monyes, and the Publique Stock of the Nation, and consequently to the decay of Trade: which is contained in a proposal late presented the Committee of *Safety* by one Mr.

Mr. Marshalls Proposals.

*Marshall*, unto whom I give this remembrance, though I know not the Author.

Gold and silver exported, how to be prevented.

And having I hope sufficiently laid down the reasons of the decrease, and exportation of *English Coyn*, which is too apparent in the scarcity of Gold, but of late Years more frequently passing then Silver; and by the few half Crowns left in comparison of the abundance

Coynd

(5)

Coynd since the Warr in *England*, (they being the most profitable to be exported, or melted down, as being least worn, and waying more proportionably then smaller Coyn, from the Mint, by so much as the labour of Coyning is less.) I now propose the means for encrease thereof, with advance to Trade and the Publique Revenue.

The English Shillings to be made less.

That from hence forward the *English Shilling* may contain in weight but 11d, and the Silver to be a penny shorter, so that our vallue according to the present Standard may futirely be allowed taken and reputed for 12d *Sterling*, and so be stamped and the standard fixed according to that vallue, all other Coyn running alike in proportion.

The Mint to be set going, and all Mony new Coynd.

That the Mint in *London*, with others to be erected in the most proper places of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, may be set going, and all Monyes in the States hands above the vallue of groats (the smaller being worn and not considerable to return a profit,) may be forthwith new Coynd according to that standard, and by degrees calling in the old Coyn and paying the owners again with new, (they allowing for all Clyn, and Broken,) all the Mony in *England* will (without obstruction of Trade) be new Coynd into more necessary peeces as; parts into half Crowns, and the other into Shillings, and Six pences, whereof at present there is to great a proportion, as being the more troublesome in counting: The *Spaniard* being so expert in this manner of new Coyning his Mony, that I have known all the Brass Mony of his Kingdome (which cannot be less in number of peeces then 6 times the *Sterling Mony* in *England*;) new Coynd in two moneths time, which I here intimate to shew the facility

of

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To prevent  
cheats in false  
Coynage.

of that, which some perhaps may think to be a work of great difficulty: But not approving of that cheat in Spain, I return to prevent the Cheats that some may also suggest will be practised in England, by false Coynage, though for my own part, I apprehend need not be feared.

Monies to be  
brought into  
Bank

That it may be ordered upon some penalty that all Mony within London and lines of Communication may be brought into the Guild-Hall, or some other safe place within the City: Or otherwise into some treasury to be appointed in every Parish; there to remain as in Banck until new Mony be given in Exchange so that all sums considerable (contracted for by Marchants or others) may be aswell paid from one to another in Banck, as if actually told and delivered: the experience whereof we find continuallly practised in Holland, Genoway, and amongst other Bankers, who find both ease and profit thereby; and I think would be also of great use in England, if here erected: And for all petty sums for pocket use, it will presently be supplied by the Monyes first to be issued out of the Mint. The like manner of bringing their Monies into a Treasury may be observed in other Citties and places of Commerce, and no Monies be suffered to pass in payments but of the new Coyn. Provided that any sum of Monies payable at a day certain by persons either of City or Country; if delivered into the next Bank or Treasury, may be held paid, and Credit given for so much to the person that of right ought to have it. And since I have hinted at a Bank, I shall give the manner of it; I suppose not known to all persons, but worth observation to some.

A Bank is a Certain number of sufficient men of Credit and Estates joyned together in a stock; as it were for

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The nature of  
a Bank.

for keeping severall mens Cash in one Treasury; and letting out imaginary Mony at Interest, for 2 1/2, or 3 per Cent. to Trades-men, or others that agree with them for the same: and making payment thereof by assignation, passing each mans account from one to another; yet paying no monies in so much, that if a Marchant or other person want Mony: If he have or can but procure credit in Bank, he may make as good payment by assignment in Bank without it. As for Example, the said Marchant buyes Cloath of a Cloathier for 100 lb. value more or less, and goes with him to the Bank, where he is debtor for so much monies as he takes up; and the Clothier is made Creditor for so much as he sold his goods for to the said Marchant: Then such Clothier having occasion to pay Mony to a Stapler or Wool-monger for Wool bought, the said Clothier is made Debtor, and the Wool-monger Creditor upon account: the said Wool-monger buys Wool of a Country Farmer, for so much Mony, more or less; so the Wool-monger is made Debtor, and the Farmer Creditor: the Farmer must pay Rent to his Landlord, and is likewise made Debtor, and his Landlord Creditor: the said Landlord for his occasions buyes good of a Mercer, Grocer, Vintner, or the like, or from all; then he is made Debtor, and such Mercer or other Trades-man Creditor: then peradventure such Mercer or other Trads-man buyes goods from the same Marchants that took up the first Credit in Bank, and stands yet Debtor there, but upon sale of his goods to the Mercer, or other Trads-man both clears their accounts in Bank: and so in all Trads; as occasion presents, which is practised in many places as aforesaid, and is of very great use and advantadge to Trade; the payment made therein

B being

Mr Lambs description thereof.

being generally esteemed better by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. then out of Bank, as preventing troble and the receiving Clipt or bad Mony : but being already published at large in a Book written by Mr. Lamb, who is worthy of encouragement therein: I shall not stay longer hereon, but return to my purpose.

To prevent the melting down of Plate.

That to prevent the melting down of any Coyne, by Gold-Smiths or others, to the prejudice of the State and decrease of Monies : An Imposition of 1 2d upon every ounce of Silver, and the like proportionably upon Gold, may be laid upon all Plate already wrought, and to be wrought into any form for use, other then the Mint, aswell in the hands of Gold-Smiths as other persons whatsoever : and an Office to be appointed in London, and each respective County of England for the same to be paid, upon penalty of forfeiture : and to receive in testimony thereof some stamp of the Office, and accordingly to be registred. Alwaies provided, that such as will bring in wrought Plate to the Mint, may be allowed to Coyne it upon like terms as at present.

New Coynage of Gold.

That all Gold may be Coynded alike in proportion, regard being had to its current value, which now runs higher then Silver by 2 sh in the pound: so that out of every 20 sh peece of Gold will be taken the waight of 5 sh 4d. to make its parrity or quality equal with that Standard.

To prevent the wearing of Silver Lace.

That the superfluous wearing of Silver, and Gold Lace, Buttons, &c. may be prevented by good example given of some other more comly Trimming to be worn at Court; or by adirect prohibition against it, as is at present in France: Or otherwise by laying an Imposition of 1 sh 6d on the ounce to be paid by the maker

maker thereof; or by laying a yearly Fine or duty on the persons wearing it, of the quality of an Esq; or upwards 1 ol. each: the Gentleman 5l. and all of a meaner quality 3l. per Annum each: which I presume will bring in a Considerable revenue, or else cause the same to be held contemptible and not worn: either of which will prove usefull to the Publique good, and prevent such superfluous extravagancies.

Which being done, I doubt not but in a short time the want and scarcety both of Gold and Silver, will be found so plentiful in England, that our lost Trade will again revive; and no Commodity be held the dearer for this moderate advance of Monies; which is not here introduced to encourage the Supream Authority of England to Immitate our Neighbours the Hollander, and other States and Princes, whose usuall custome is to advance their Monies in their payments, and to decry them in their receipts; which though some account to be good State Pollicy, yet I am bold to call it great oppression, when no excuse can be pleaded other then State Interest: but otherwise, if in pollicy, done either to keep a Competency, or to supply a scarcety of Monies in a Kingdome or Common-wealth. As for instance, if the State of England had put the 20 sh. peece of Gold higher in value but 6d. when it first began to rise it self, and be drawn away it would have stopt that currant, and perhaps also have prevented Forrain Nations of covetting our Silver, by keeping them Ignorant of its worth and value; and I wish heartily that such timely care were taken in the preventing other Inconveniences of as great Consequence by inspecting the proceedings of Forrain Princes, and States, touching Trade and Commerce, (wherein we are as much concerned

of the increase of Mony, and Trade.

The manner of Inhabiting Monies in Holland.

That the Export of Gold, and Silver might have been better prevented formerly.



earned as any,) that we might not suffer our selves to be out-witted, and by degrees Courted out of all Trade, as we have from our Gold and Silver, for which the gapp being now opened so wide, and the scarcity of Gold by degrees rising a disparity from its standing value, to above 2s. in every 20s. and our Silver by being here (as I may properly say) bought at so low a rate, is found a better Commodity in Forrain parts than our Native Manufacture, and Commodities: so that the stream is even grown to an inundation and drowning of all Trade, for want of such timely prevention.

This design is more to reconcile the value of Money and Trades, then for a Revenue.

The benefit to the State, and Commonwealth.

And truly I apply this my design of advancing Monies more principally, as a means to reconcile the present disparity of the Coyn and Trade of *England*, with the currant Commerce, of Forrain parts, then singly to advance the States revenue; though I confess, finding the same will prove so advantagious both to State and Common good, I am the more incouraged hereunto, and am glad to be serviceable to both; conceiving the States advantage thereby cannot be less then 5 Millions, besides the ease to the Common-wealth, of paying the like sum in contribution, and other Taxes; and no man have the less in esteem or vullue, but all will be enriched again by Trade, that will revive by the return of Treasure; which the *Dutch* having more plentiful in reallity then *England*: besides being supplied imaginary, upon occasion by the help of their Banks, is the principal reason they eat us out of Trade, and by no better way then this to be prevented. Then will all *English* Traders have vent for their Commodities, and the Farmer have Money to pay his Landlord; Cloathing and other Manufacturies will find a market, and be encouraged: the Souldier have his pay, and the Commonwealth

wealth in general again have Trade; all being now at a stand for want of Money the Usurer only excepted, (whose ungodly gain is become the greater) So that if it should be admitted, the scope of this design were upon no other account but to satisfy the Immergencies of State, (which I hope I have given sufficient reasons of Contradiction) it cannot be more justly and equitably imposed then upon the greatest Money-mongers, who of all Men have born the least Share of Burthen in *England*, during the late Wars, and justly deserves this remembrance.

Usurers have born the least share of Taxes.

And referring the ingenious States man, that desires to enquire farther into the mistery and practice of Forrain States concerning rising and falling their monies to the severall and differing Authors that have written more at large thereupon; I conclude this subject, with this my observation, That whilst we put so high an esteem upon Forraign goods, and continue our Coyn at the same vullue, it will be still drawn away, and our Exports become the less; which is wholly Inconsistent with the Common good of *England*: whose poor are employed, Trade increased, and wealth brought in by so much the more, as the current of her Exports exceed her Imports: which stream hath run backward ever since the *Spanish War*: which War more duly deserves the daily remembrance of the Supreme Authority of *England*, then *Callis* did to the Kings of *France*, whilst it continued under the *English Scepter*.

The reason why Plate is drawn away.

Having done with the subject of Money: I come now to speak of Commerce and Shipping, the other Wheel of Trade, Driven by Marchants; but so laden with Impositions, and more by the abuses in collecting

Of Shipping and Commerce.

jecting it, as if *Marchants* (the most honourable profession and principal Fountain, from whose Industrious streams, floweth in the riches of a Common-wealth) were guilty of some high crimination, and not deserving the least incouragement. And since I have subtracted the principal parts of this composure from other Authors, whom I desire not to rob of the thanks due unto them for so Publique a merrit; I have and shall give each a due remembrance, and come now to *Mr Hawkins*, the substance of whose Proposal made to this Parliament and Committee of Inspection, was for the taking away of Contribution, with Culltome and Excise upon all goods Imported or Exported in *English bottoms*; and that in consideration thereof, and for a Revenne to the State, an Imposition should be laid only upon *Wine, Beer, and Tobacco*; throughout *England, Scotland, and Ireland*; to be Collected by Commissioners, to be appointed in every County, in manner following.

That every *Vintner, Strong-water-seller, Inn-keeper, Ale-house, and Coffee-seller*, in the three Nations should yearly compound for his drafft of any such Liquors and Drinks: and to pay quarterly the sum to be agreed with the said Commissioners.

That all private Families whatsoever should pay yearly for the Drink spent in their Houses, according to the rates and qualifications following.

All Gentlemen of 1000*lb. per Annum*, or upwards, or 10000*lb. personal Estate*; or a *Marchant* for themselves, and all in their Families per Head.

8 or 10*s.*

Mr Hawkins his Proposal touching Excise.

Mr Hawkins his Proposal touching Excise.

Mr Hawkins his Proposal touching Excise.

All others of 500*lb. per Annum*, or upwards, or 5000*lb. personal Estate*, to pay for all in their Families per Head.

6 or 8*s.*

All those of 100*lb. per Annum*, or 500*lb. personal Estate*, to pay for themselves and all in their Families per Head.

4 or 6*s.*

All worth 100*lb.*, and those in their Families to pay per Head.

2 or 4*s.*

All worth 20*lb. Estate*, and their Families, excepting all Children under, 12 years of age to pay per Head.

0 or 1*s.*

And all Persons of a lower Estate to go free.

That all persons that take *Tobacco* by the Pipe, sneezing, or Chewing, to pay yearly as follow.

All Lords and persons of Dignity, and their Ladies to pay yearly each.

3*l.*

Knights and their Ladies, each.

2*l.*

Esquiers and their Wives, each.

1*l.*

Gentlemen and their Wives, each.

10*s.*

Yeowmen and their Wives, each.

5*s.*

Handicraft men and their Wives, each.

2*s.*

Labourours and their Wives, each.

1*s.*

All Servants and Children above 12 years, old.

1*s.*

The Calculation made of the Revenne that will be brought in by the Publique drafft of *Wine, Beer, and other Drinks* in the three Nations, is a Million yearly.

By the rates set upon all private Families, for themselves, and those they have in Family, is computed will amount yearly to two Millions.

Besides, for the Takers of *Tobacco*, which is uncertain till settled, and therefore not estimated. Which sum of three Millions is more then was ever yet Collected.



cted by Custome, Excise, and Contribution: besides by taking off the burthen from Trade, Mony, and Shiping, which are the stay and support of Commerce, will be again increased in England.

The result of the Committee of Inspection thereupon.

This proposal receiving the debate of Parliament was committed to the Committee of Inspection: and upon their consideration confined only to the Publique draff and sale of Wine, Beer, and Tobacco, in publique Shops, and Houses: whereby I perceive they were not pleased to approve of any such Imposition to be laid upon private Families: Remembring (as I suppose) how distastfull it was in the year 1651. when Excise was paid by private Families, much after this manner. Neither do I think it proper at present, considering how the State of affairs stand in England, to take off the Duty of Custome and Excise from a few *Marchants* that sell it again for profit, and place it so generall upon all private Families, now not sensible of paying any thing; though in truth I hartly wish it gone from all, except from such goods as in policy ought to pay a greater duty then ordinary; for encouragement and setting a ballance to Trade. But for taking away the trouble occasioned to *Marchants* by the ill method or manner of Collecting it, (which is so great a Charge to the Publique,) I think it most necessary to be forth with done; which will be a most acceptable service and favour to *Marchants*. And for that I find it so rationally answered in a paper put in before the said Committee by *Mr. Cradock* (whose report also touching this subject, lies before them) I think it proper to commit the heads thereof, also to publique view.

Its therein confessed, that the taking away of all Custome, and Excise, lying for the most part upon For-

rain

rain goods, will increase a Forrain Trade, and make the Importation and Consumption of England to be the greater: But mony and a great part of the English manufactures will by that means fall and decrease; for that by laying a duty upon such Forrain manufactures whereof the like are made in England, and the continuing of it upon Coals, Lead, and Tynn, not to be had else where but in England, doth not only bring Forrain Nations to contribute to our Revennue, but supports our Native Industry, which otherwise would be under fould and discouraged: and if not by that means ballanced and supported with some more proper law made to prevent the Exportation of Wools, and Fullers-earth, whereby the Native Commodities of England exported may be made equivalent in value to purchase the Commodities Imported, and Consumed: It must necessarily follow that Plate must go to supply it, as it hath done for some years past. Moreover it were most Imprudent for this Common-wealth, not to have regard to the Incouragement of Trade with Friends, and Alyes, and with that Country which vends most of our superfluities, and supplies our defects: and otherwise to discourage that Trade which hinders our manufacturies at home, or proves otherwise prejudicial to our Plantations abroad; which will never be well inspected without a Committee of Trade. Besides, the method in Collecting the Custome and Excise, may be so amended that by taking away the superfluous number of Officers, and preventing the frauds of some *Marchants* that by saving their own duties are enabled to under-sell their Neighbours, to the great prejudice of Trade, that the revenue may be brought in by a more proper way for incouragement of Trade, and

Mr. Cradocks answer to Mr. Hawkins his Proposals.

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ease of so great a charge to the Nation.

Which if once taken into Consideration, *M. Hawkins* his method would be found as much short in property, as his Calculation of so many Millions is too large in quantity: for allowing the 9725 Parishes in England to have 160 Families, in each Parish, at 6 Persons in a Family; the whole number of Persons makes 9336000, which being reasonably proportioned according to the rates set upon private Families, will not amount to the part of Two Millions, the sum estimated; and to expect from *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, above as much, they both paying in Custome and Excise, not the 1/3 part, nor in Contribution more then the 1/3 part, were as unequal as impossible in those parts to be Collected.

Also in the Calculation of the Publique sale of Wine, and Beer, the mistake cannot be less: for if the late Farmers by so much complained of Extortion, could not make their Rents contracted for their respective Farms of Beer and Ale in England, which together with the whole receipts of Custome and Excise upon Wines in the three Nations (which paies as much as it first Cost,) amounts unto in all but 420000lb per Annum, How can *Mr. Hawkins* expect to raise a Million upon the same, And admitting the Vintner may be compounded with at a Rate considerable; the Marchant being freed from paying Custome and Excise may drink Wine in his own house at half the Tavern price; As other private Families may also, that buy it from Marchants; which will not easily be prevented: so that the Vintner and that revenue will infallibly be ruined.

And for Tobacco *Mr. Cradock* agrees with *Mr. Hawkins*, that the receipt will be uncertain till settled and approves of the conceit to be good, though not for

for the end Intended; for that the laying such an Imposition thereupon will peradventure cause many Gentleman and others to leave it for Fancie, as they took it: and the Ladies of England that now take it too publique to do it more private, not to the dishonour of their Sex and Country.

I have the rather been large upon this Proposal, finding it took up so long Debate before this Parliament and Committee of Inspection, and was taking with many of them. For I confess if so great a Revenue could be made out, and the People be brought to pay it willingly, such a method may be drawn from *Mr. Hawkins* his proposals as may be good for advance of Trade. But what the Committee of Inspection hath done in designing Wines and Tobaccoes to pay by Lycence, I may not civilly contradict: yet am bold to Query: Whether that duty will be as properly collected from many hands, so dispersed throughout the Nations, as from the Few Imports thereof? And if it be by any alledged that it will much advance the revenue (which I fear will not prove so,) Whether it may not also be called hard measure when the Sellers thereof are compelled to pay such a duty, or leave off Trading in those Commodities, for which they have no warrant to rate the same in the Wines, and Tobaccoes; to be sold by any method or prescription, other then every mans fancie; it being otherwise (at present) in the Brewers Trade, who makes his Drink so much the smaller, according to an exact proportion of so much the Barrel as is laid thereupon?

But for Beer, Ale &c. in Publique houses, it will be undoubtedly the properest way of Collecting it by Lycence, as *Mr. Hawkins* hath designed, whereby the

Common-

Query whether it be best for Wine and Tobacco to pay by Lycence?

Of Customs of Beer and Ale

Beer and Ale, will be best collected by Lycence.



Commonwealth will be excused of 20000lb per Annum, now paid in Sallaries to Officers, besides brybes, and the trouble of attendance upon Offices, to make weekly entries, &c. And the 1000lb yearly paid for every Lychence to the *Justices of Peace*, their Clerks by the persons that sell Drink in Lychensed houses, will serve to pay half the rent of many of the poorer sort. But for that I find it most plainly set down in the report made by *Mr Cradock*, part in Print (but never published,) and part written, I have inserted it in the latter part of my Book *Verbatim*, and also taken from thence the cheifest part of my Method, (touching Customs, and Forrain Excise, with the increafe of Shiping,) the rather for that I find his method so well approved by many Members of *Parliament*, *Collonel Harvy* especially, whose experience in those affaires, I render inferiour to none. I shall therefore proceed as follows.

That the Book of Rates for Customs may be referred to some fit Persons experienced in Trade, to be rectified; and all Goods and Marchandize rated therein according to the true worth and vallue now Currant.

That where regard shall be had, to Impose a greater or smaler duty to be paid upon any Commodity, either for advance to the revenue; the perservation of our own Trade; or to discourage or invite others to Trade with us, in general or particular Commodities; hit may be done by imposing more or lets to be paid in the pound, according to such Book of Rates; and not by putting a differing price upon Goods of the same specie and vallue; as is improperly done in the Book of Rates now in being: and cannot be properly corrected in any part, without a new Impression of the whole.

That the duty may be paid upon all Goods alike, by all

Touching a method presented in, by Mr Cradock, to the Parliament

Of Customs and Books of Rates.

with this

all Persons, the difference to be only upon Commodities Imported or Exported in Forrain Bottoms; (that is to say) such Ship or Vessel not built in England, or English Territories, or not in the possession of English Owners, and whereof the Master and 3/4 of the Mariners are not Natural born Subjects of England. That such goods and no other shall pay a greater duty in the nature of Forrain Customs, which will be of greater advantage to the State, be more agreeable with the government of a Commonwealth, and prove the best expedient for increafe of Shipping, and encouragement of Navigation.

That *London*, *Bristol*, *Plimouth*, *Dover*, *Portsmouth*, *Hull* and *Farmouth* may be made free Ports for Merchants to Import, Land, and House all dry goods in the States Ware Houses, without paying any duty, more then a reasonable rate for Ware-House room: and that such goods, with all other Forrain goods whatsoever, may be at pleasure exported in such English Ships as aforesaid; with all Customs and Excise paid; to be returned; and in Forrain bottoms with half subsidy returned, as at present: whereby goods may find a Market in Forrain parts to some advantage. The State hereby cannot hazard more then 19000lb per Annum now received for half subsidy, which I am confident will return with great advance, when that Clog of Trade is taken away, which only prevents goods here to be Imported; for Exportation, as in *Holland* and *Leghorn*, where most goods consumed or sent by land-carriage up into the Country pay a greater Excise then in England; besides English Shipping will be Employed in Exportation of great quantities of Forrain goods, yearly that will then be laid on shoar by *Sweds*, *Danes*, *Hamburgers*,

Forrain Ships only to pay Forrain duties.

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Of making free Ports in England.

D



*Hamburgars*, and other of the *East-Land Frozen Countries*, whose Shipping comming home but little to late, are enforced to remain in our Harbours for safety most part of the Winter; during which time they might make another Voyage to the *South-West parts*, and return again Laden: so that excepting what is done in favour to English Shipping, which cannot safely be taken away, England will be as free as *Holland*, or any Port in *Europe*.

That Timber may be Prohibited to be Exported, and care taken for its preservation: For the *Hollander* (though buying his Timber from us, and other Forrain parts) makes Shipping his great manufacture; whilst the English having it more plentiful both in *England, Ireland, and New-England*, instead of building one, imprudently buy four Ships from them, which will be prevented by putting this difference between English and Forrain bottoms, and will be so great an Incouragement for building here, that in few years Shipping may become as great a manufacture in England, to her support against Forrain Enemies, and encrease both of Trade and the Revenne.

That to the end all Forrainers may be prevented of entering Ships for English, whose Proprietors, and building are not really such, all Shipping now belonging to the respective Ports and Harbours of England may be ordered forth-with to be registred, and a duty of *40<sup>sh</sup>. per Tunn* laid upon all that shall be bought for the Future, from Forrain Nations, to be registred also in like manner; and oath being made by the owners, or the major part of them, before the Commissioners or Collectors of the Custome house appointed for the Port, of each Ship really and truly appertaining to English

England as free as Holland, &c.

For building of Shipping in England.

English proprietors, Certificate thereof shall be given, under their hands and seal of Office; which with the usuall oath at present made by Masters upon entry in Custome house, may be a sufficient testimony in any Port of England; and all other Ships be deemed as Forrain, and the duty be Collected for all goods Imported or Exported therein accordingly.

That to prevent the Exportation of *Wools*, and *Ful-lers-Earth*, it may be made Felony for any person proved to be ayding, consenting to, or assisting in the Shipping or putting the same on board any Forrain Ship, or Vessell, or English Ship of War, (some of them by report using to carry it for *Holland*, being never visited the Custom-house Officers,) and that the Captain, Master, and Mariners thereof (if within seven years after taken in England,) may be also adjudged as Fellons: But if Shiped in other English bottoms, the Goods, and Ship, only to be forfeited: for that few Masters (if any at all) offend in that kind without approbation of their owners, who are too often consenting to, and Employers of Masters and their Sea-men upon that account: so that by taking away the penalty from Masters and Mariners, (at present lying so hard that I conceive it duls the edge of the Law) their Testimony, which is all that can be had, will not only be preserved, but Justice be more freely Executed. And if *Wools* were Prohibited to be water born, within the *Dommons* of *England*, and *Scotland*, upon any pretence whatsoever, (except to be brought from an Island to the Main) and also not to be put in any House, Barn, or other place nearer the Sea or any Navigable River then the owners dwelling-House, upon pain of Confiscation, with a greater fine, according to the nature of the Offence, I am confident

or certified by

To prevent the Exportation of Wools and Fullers-Earth.

not to be carried

dent it would prevent much fraud practised; which is of very great Importance to England, and most worthy of remedy.

Commissioners of Customs to have more power.

The prooffe to ly upon the owners of goods feizen.

That upon feizing any Ship or other goods: whatsoever upon pretence of breach of any law, or for non-payment of Duty, the Commissioners of the Customs in London may be Impowred to call any person before them, and to take examinations upon oath touching the same; and if they see cause to discharge such seizure; (referring only such as they find in their judgement duly seized into the Exchequer,) and that the difficult prooffe now lying upon the feizer (which I doubt introduces much perjury) may be put upon the proprietor: who if innocent of Fraud intended, is the best able to clear his goods without further expence or delay by sute in the Exchequer: besides much fraud in saving Customs, will by this means be prevented. Provided it may not be construed to extend any power to Officers of the Customs for seizing other goods but such as by very probable or apparent demonstration are in truth seizable, whereof the Commissioners of the Customs, may take care for preservation of Trade, and punishing offenders according to their demerits.

This being the substance of what I apprehend is deficient touching the premises, and necessary to be communicated to the Parliament, to whom I have presumed to Dedicate these my unworthy lines, Conceiving it within the power of the Commissioners of Customs to rectify other things amiss; in the method whereof more is spoken in Mr Cradocks report; unto which I refer my self and others, desirous of the particulars, and proceed to the method for Excise.

That the same Book of Rates to be made for Customs,

stomes, may also stand and be for Excise; the difference of paying more or less then Custome to be rated so much more or less in the pound, in like manner as aforesaid which will prove a kind of check to each Office, by the other, and be the best Informant to the general Surveyours that shall be appointed over both.

Method for Excise

That the Excise and Customs being dependent one upon the other, may be reduced into one Intire Office, (the receipts only to be kept distinct,) and managed by the same Commissioners and Officers; which will be very much to the ease and accommodation of Marchants in their dispatches, and take off the trouble from Shop-keepers and others of fetching tickets, (which is the chief cause of such complaint against the duty.

Excise to be brought to the Customehouse.

That in order thereunto, instead of the first buyer the Marchant may be made lyable to pay the Excise; who doth the same voluntarily already, in all the out parts, and many also in London selling their goods accordingly.

Marchants to pay Excise.

That in lew of the Marchants standing lyable to pay Excise, six moneths time may be given him to pay for the like quantity he entred in-wards, and paid Customs; regard being had to such Commodities as are not sold or exported within the said term, which may have three moneths time more, but no longer. Also that a certain allowance may be computed for Leakage of Wines, and other liquid or wasting Commodities, at so much per Cent, and no other allowance to be made upon any pretence whatsoever.

Time to be given for payment.

That by making that a standing Law, which is now so differently practised, and falls out often as Controversies between the Marchant and first buyer, who (although by the Law in being is lyable to pay the duty,

Marchants will have warrant to sell the duty with his goods.

ty, yet the *Marchant* also stands obliged to see it done, and discharged upon his account (which trouble is in smal parcels of goods sold a greater inconvenience then the payment of the duty) many sutes will be there- by prevented, and the *Marchant* have more possitive warrant to demand for and sell both the Custome and Excise with his goods.

Accounts how to be kept.

That all Collectors and Receivers of Customes their Journal or day Book, of receipts may serve to charge the *Merchant* for Excise, whose Firm may also serve for Bill of Entry at Custome-House, and from thence be transferred to the Leagar, (which is all the trouble extraordinary,) and both accounts are compleated: the trouble in this and all things else, will be to both *Marchant* and *Officer* shortned, the accounts upon occasion readier to be compared and examined, and many mistakes and other inconveniences that now happen between both, be prevented.

5 per Cent to be allowed.

That the 5 per Cent now allowed upon all Goods entred in Custome-House may be taken off, and in lew thereof 5 per Cent may be allowed the *Marchant* in Monies, upon payment of his Excise: Provided it be paid in at the day appointed, as aforesaid: otherwise the *Marchant* shall not claim any benefit thereof: whereby Arrears will be prevented, by which the State hath lost many hundred thousand pounds.

The Officers of Excise and Customs help to cheat the State.

That the Officers of Customes and Excise, are so farr from corresponding one with the other, or the one to question that which might prevent a fraud to the others Office, (if it bring no profit to himself, as servants of one Master should do,) that they are rather helpfull to cheat the State against each others Office, as though servants of two different Interest; which shews how unnecessary

unnecessary and Inconsistant one of them stands with the Publique good.

That seven Commissioners may be appointed at the Custome-House to mannage both duties; whether the Excise may be removed in all Ports: and that any three of the said Commissioners may be a *Corum*; so that they may divide into two Committees upon occasion: and that 8 hours in the Day may be allowed for all men to have their business done, either in Custome or Excise, (that is to say, from 8 in the morning till 12 a Clock, and from 2 till 6 in the afternoon.) And that all the Excise Officers may be discharged, excepting some few Accountants, and Surveyours, which will be inconsiderable in respect of the present number which accord to this Method will be useles.

The number of Commissioners.

That the prejudice to the State for want of reducing the Excise sooner to a more certain method is evident, in that the said Duties of Excise, set on Wines and many other Commodities is double as much (and in no particular less then the duty of Customes; yet as to the same Commodities, it ever came short in the receipts of what the Customes yeeldeth to the Revenue, as may appear by the account following, taken out of Mr *Cradocks* report: which I have examined by the Auditors Books, and do think it worthy to be hear Communicated.

Excise makes less then Customs.

The total receipts of the Customes of England are usually 390000l. per Annum, as it amounted unto, for the last four years, taking them together; from which I subtract 95000l. per Annum, received for Native goods Exported, and 19000l. per Annum, for half subsidy of Forrain goods again Exported, and the real receipt of Forrain goods consumed in England is Yearly. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr Cradocks account.

276000l.

That



To reduce odd  
circumstances

That the said Forrain goods consumed ought to pay Excise: which upon Wines, Drugs, and many other Commodities is double as much as the duty of Customs and upon all other Commodities 5 per Cent, more so that the Excise may be reasonably computed at least a part more then Customs, which then amounteth to 345000l. per Annum, from which is deducted for Leakage of Wines, and other Liquid Commodities after Housing 8000l. per Annum, which is all that can be pretended, and the real receipt of Excise Yearly ought to be.

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For the Excise of Forrain goods, for the last four years past by a Computed medium for one year have been received but 175000l.

175000l.

So there appears to be lost in the Collecting it (by the present method) of what it ought to make according to the entries in Customs-House Yearly 162000l.

162000l.

Moreover there may be preserved by bringing the Excise under the Customs-House management, and taking away the superfluous number of Officers and other resident charges Yearly 030000l.

030000l.

Also by putting the Excise of Beer, and Ale into the method following, to be paid by Licence in the several Counties of England (London excepted) it may be Collected for 6d in the pound better then for the 2s at present allowed the Sub-commissioners; and thereby will be also preserved Yearly 018000l.

018000l.

So the demuntion of the Revenue by the superfluous charge of Excise Officers and apparent loss (as I conceive by the improper method) in collecting it is Yearly 210000 pounds. (allowing the Customs receipts the same, which by a better method might be also very much improved) I say 210000l.

210000l.

Excise Improved by Major Manton.

I presume some that are acquainted with the receipts of the Excise may alledge that a greater sum then 175000l, was received for Forrain Goods the last Year,

Years which is confessed; but Computing the last four Years (which is the properest way to find its real income) and it will be found not to exceed the said sum: yet I confess a very great Improvement was the last year made by regulating their Method, in keeping Marchants accounts, which was done by Major Manton one of the late Commissioners, whose ingenuity duly observes this remembrance.

I confess my own opinion could not credit this account, with other particulars in Mr Cradocks report, (as the revenue of Customs to be decreased 80000l. per Annum, since the Year 1655. finding the total receipts as great as formerly) untill I was convinced of its reality by a further inspection into the Book of Rates, as I have likewise made into the method of Excise, which I find contrived as if purposely designed to ruine Trade; by compelling every person buying or selling any Goods in the strickness of the Law to fetch a Ticket before it be delivered (though living at never so remote a distance from the Excise Office) or else must submit his Goods and himself and Trade to be interrupted by every (of the too many) Excise Officers, which is not all; for he that desires to walk according to their Excise rule, is so much enslaved by the long and tedious attendance upon Offices, that, besides his own trouble and hinderance in his Trade, requires a Servants labour extraordinary to all of any considerable dealings. And I am bold to affirm that the very Officers of Excise are as chargable to the Commonwealth, as a considerable Army: Besides, the present method refers so much to the Oaths of all Trades and their servants that he is become the most expert Marchant that sweares with the most handsome reservations,

Customs fallen since 1655.

Trouble to Marchants by the ill method and other inconveniences.

and knows best how to equivocate: which custome of sinning hath so taken away the Conscience of it, that by such careless swearing is introduced most wilfull perjury; to the great dishonour of God the scandal of our religion, and infamy of this Nation: so that if not speedily stopped, it will eat out the very life of Grace, and Spirit of Fidelity from amongst us: whereby that sacred bond of an Oath (observed by the very *Turks*, and *Heathens*, as the most binding tye on Earth, and should be also a Christians chief security) will expose the Lives and Estates of every honest tender Conscience to the cruelty and trechery of such profane persons.

*This written in hopes to cause Excise to be taken down, &c*

Truly, the hopes I have that this will be rectified have induce me to bestow this labour, in expectation, that what advance shall be made to the revenue will be applied to extemate the burthen of Trade: so that Cloathing and other English manufactures, with the Oyls and other materials, Imported to be Employed thereupon, will be exempted from paying the least duty: whereby we may recall that Staple from *Holland*, and prevent those ingenious Artists from under selling us.

*The nature of Collecting Excise in Spain*

I find also in Mr *Cradocks* report a second method touching Excise, which I remember to have seen practised in *Malaga*, and as I suppose is in use in all other parts of *Spain*, where in truth Excise is greater then in England, but Collected (in my apprehension) by a much properer way then with us here: for there only two or three Officers with a Book (wherein the Marchant stands charged, goes to their Houles once in 5. or 6. moneths, and taking account of all Goods remaining upon the Marchants hands give him another distinct charge, which being compared with his old account,

account, they compute for all Goods found gone or sold, for which the Marchant gives his bill to pay accordingly at a moneth after: so that likewise by this method the Marchant is made pay Excise for asmuch as he entred in the Custome-House: and may deliver his Goods at pleasure, without ticket or trouble of Officers; and Oaths are not at all required. But I must return to the method of Beer, and Ale, which I conceive will be Collected most proper, and at least charge by Lycenses, as aforesaid, and the Excise now rendred so Compulsive be accounted a more voluntary duty.

*Method touching Beer and Ale.*

That in referrence thereunto, the former Laws Prohibiting all Persons to sell Beer and other Drinks without Lycense, may be revived, and enjoyned to be duly executed; and that Lycenses may be granted only to such as the Justices of Peace in each County shall think fit and apoint at a yearly rate: unto whose assistance may be added a Commissioner, without whom nothing shall be transacted: who with a servant or two at most may be sufficient to mannage any indifferent County according to this method, at little charge in respect of of what is now therein expended.

*How all men may be justly rated.*

That the unequallity in the Trades and draughts of several persons appearing the greatest obsticle in this designe, I conceive may be rectified by the said Commissioner, who making it his whole business, may inform himself by the former receipts, or by the People themselves, that are apt enough to inform him also what they paid the last Farmers; which together with the assistance of the said Justices may enable them to put an equal estimate upon all Lycenses, according to the quality and trade of the Persons desiring them; who will not be unwilling to pay down a quarters rent,

Drink sold in  
Fairies to pay  
Excise.

and give Bond yearly to be renewed, for the remainder.  
That no License granted to any Person may extend further then for Drink sold and spent in his dwelling House: So that the Drink sold at Publique Faires, may not be exempted from paying Excise, but may be Collected at so much the Barrel, by the said Commissioner and his servants, which will be of some use, if only to pay them their yearly Sallaries.

power to  
punish offend-  
ers.

That the said Justices or any one of them, together with the said Commissioner may have power to call Constables and other Officers to their assistance in their severall districts: and also to lay a Fine or other lawfull punishment upon offenders (that sell drink without License, according to ther demerits: to be paid one Moyety to the State, and the other to the poor of the Parrish where the offence is committed: by which means the People will be made to observe the plain Laws by them understood, and be freed from that of Excise, often intrapping them, and so mystical to vulgar apprehensions.

Brewers out of  
London to be  
discharge of  
Excise, except  
for small Beer.

That all common Brewers not selling within London, and lines of Communication, by means thereof may be dis-obliged from paying Excise for all strong Beer, or Ale; and a penalty be imposed on such as shall sell to persons not Licensed that usually are known to tapp out or retayle the same: and that in consideration of the six pence per Barrel laid on smaller Beer, the Brewer that will not compound may be made lyable to such Imposition quarterly to be paid as two of the said Justices and Commissioner shall reasonably calculate. Alwaies provided, that any Brewer finding himself Injured by such estimation and shall together with the testimony of another make proof thereof upon Oath before the said Justices, &c. that then due allowance may be returned him accordingly. That

Brewers of  
London to pay  
as at present.

That this way of management will not be so proper in London, and lines of Communication, where the Brewer serves all that is expended: and from whom the duty will be collected at the least charge; but as to the Country duty the case is much different, for their Excise being paid promiscuously by others as well as by Common Brewers, both must be kept to a survey, which if done to any purpose, the one fourth part of the receipts will not defray the charge: by which means both the former Commissioners and late Farmers have been enforced to compound with all in the Country at as good rates as they could: which in effect is the method here prescribed, dearly paid for, and brought from Holland to England, for expedition over the Alps.

Obstructions in  
Government  
hinders the  
receipt.

To this may be added, that the revolutions and Interruptions of Governments since the Death of the Protector, have been great Obstructions, to the receipts upon both Forraim and Inland duties, which are (as I conceive) augmented by giving the Custome and Excise but a 2 or 3 moneths continuance, and is no small Intemation to Officers (whose places seem the more contingent,) and others also to make Hay whilest the Sun shines: but apprehending the reason, I shall say no more, but that when the Excise upon all Goods is reduced to a certain sum, and day of payment according to the methods aforesaid, it may then be revived from one moneth to another, (if thought fit) without prejudice to the receipts; when contrariwise if it remain subject to supposed changes, under the present method, the revenue will be exposed to ruine, and many Marchants also receive prejudice by the advantage made by others that pay little (if any duty at all:) which is, and will be a great hindrance to Trade.



(32)

And apprehending that the Excise laid upon Beer, Ale, Iron, Hops, with other Inland Commodities, (not usually exported,) is the properest to be continued as long as the necessities of State require to be so supplied, as being the least burthen to Trade, and therefore in use, with the *Netherlands State*, whose revenues is chiefly supported thereby. I shall conclude with *Mr Cradock*, that if less were laid upon many particulars of Forrain Goods, more would be received into the revenue: and that by this regulating the Custome and Excise, the foregoing Orders and Tickets, whereby the State hath been abused, and still are with other frauds practised between the Marchant and first buyer will be prevented: the *Marchants* colour of being so much in arrears as he hath been; (whereby the *Common-wealth* lost five parts of six, at once of all the debts in the Nation) and no good way to this day found to make the Marchant truly accountable, will be also remedied, the Shop-keepers and others freed from the trouble of fetching Tickets, the revenue of Excise and Custome be improved as may appear by the aforesaid account two hundred and odd thousand pounds *per Annum*: besides by such advance of Plate may forthwith yeeld profit to the State at least five Millions; and by the Imposition upon all wrought Plate half a Million at present, and 50000 *lb. per Annum* for time to come: which will discharge the Arrears due to the Army, and other Publique debts with a great overplus. Navigation in England will be also encouraged, Shipping and Mony increased, and the Excise Officers so *obnoxious* to the People be taken away, the *Common-wealth* eased and the revenue be more quietly mananged to the content of all People, and Incouragement of Trade.

Post-script.

The benefit to  
the State and  
Common-  
wealth.

(33)

## Post-script.

**T**O the objections which some perhaps will make that these Particulars are of great waight, and therefore fit to be deferred till they may be more properly discoursed on, is answered; that what is said touching Plate, may soon be determined, and a Revenue thereby brought in sooner then by a monethly Assesment, and with more satisfaction to the Nation; and that the method here laid down for Excise and Custome doth a breviate the Circumstances (that occasion trouble) and superfluities (that beget charge) and brings it into a narrower compass, and the Revenue to a greater Certainty; which if referred to a Committee Experienced in Trade, might be composed within a fortnight, and would be a most acceptable service done in England.

FINIS.

