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T H E

British *Woollen* Manufacturers C A S E,

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Cause of the Declining State of their Trade, and High Price on *Irish*, and Low on *English* Wooll. And Reasons assign'd, that preventing the *British* and *Irish* Wooll and Yarn being Run, is of absolute Necessity to preserve the Trade of *Great Britain*.

Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the Members of Parliament.

S E L F Preservation as a natural Duty, is not inconsistent with the most strictest Amity with others.

Lands in *Great Britain* bears a Price in Proportion to the demand for their Produce, which finds their Price, as near or more remote to an inhabited Part of the Country, Town or City.

Trade, by her Manufacturers, does People Countreys, Towns and Cities.

The Poor in this Kingdom are numerous, and must be employ'd or maintain'd; one Shilling earn'd instead of one pence, is two or more difference.

No Manufactory so enriching, having so many Trades and Trades-men dependant as the Woollen, and none by its Exports and Returns imported employ more Shipping, and certainly none employ near so great a Number of Hands, tho' but few now fully employ'd, whose Wages is thro' Necessity sunk near half, and great Numbers no employ, and on the Parish Charge.

In making Neat Woollen Goods, Wooll adapted to each Sort made, is of the most absolute Necessity.

No Part of *Europe* so blest with Wooll, so fitted in Staple and Goodness, to the making the various Sorts of Neat Woollen Goods now made, as the Wooll grown in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; therefore by giving Encouragement for Manufactory in, and Exporting out of this Kingdom, all the Wooll now Run, would greatly enrich both King and People.

Other Parts of *Europe* have Wooll, and in Quantities, yet cannot make Quantities of Neat Goods, their Wooll being either Course hairy and brickle, or if Fine, very Short, which makes the *English* and *Irish* Wooll so Valuable, not wanting it as Wooll, but good Wooll adapted to mix with their own.

The Foreign Markets can be but supply'd, that Country Merchants that can sell Neatest and Cheapest will be the Men.

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the Men.

Tho' *Great Britain* cannot prevent Woollen Goods being made Abroad, where Labour is cheaper than in *England*, yet she can by keeping her own and the *Irish* Wooll at Home, prevent her Rivals making Quantities of Neat Goods to rival her self.

If the Woollen Trade for Exportation is an Advantage so very great to *Great Britain*, and in her Power to make it much more so; can any Care or Charge be too great to preserve it from the Encroachments of other Nations, as 'tis the grand Source of our Wealth and Power.

When the Lands and their Produce bore a less Price, and the Woollen Trade was not our Native Manufacture, a Law then was to encourage the exporting our Wooll as such; but on the Appearance of Advantage by Manufacturing it, a Law was made to disanul the former.

Since those Days, great Improvement have been made by the *English* Woollen Manufacturers, and may be greater yet, if Encouragement to preserve our Trade as now extended.

The Station this Trading *Protestant* Kingdom now stands in, is it not owing to the great Improvement in our Woollen, and that Trade so largely extended.

This Kingdom cannot increase in her Riches, if have not the Ballance of Trade in her Favour.

What more certain to maintain that Ballance, than encouraging our Manufacturers, especially our Woollen, exporting the Value thereby of our Labour, and Produce of our Lands.

If our real Exports of Woollen Goods are now great, notwithstanding so much Wooll is Run, to the Advantage of our Rivals, and our Poor so much unemploy'd; how great would it be if none were Run, and all exported out of this Kingdom.

In order to keep our Trade, we Make and Sell our Woollen Goods, on an Averidge 20 per Cent. Cheaper (tho to the half starving our Poor, and sinking so much of our Native Wealth) than Years past; and some Branches that work'd up great Quantities of Wooll, not only have lost three Parts of their Trade, but Sell 30 per Cent Cheaper than what they did Sell, tho' make now 10 per Cent better.

If the Value of the Wooll, run Yearly out of both Kingdoms, was no more than 100,000 lbs. this Kingdom's Loss is great, as each 100 lbs. worth Workt up, at its prime cost does on an Averidge, when Manufactured and fitted for Shipping, produces 600 lbs. worth of Goods, then every 100 lbs. worth of Wooll run, if out of *England* is 500 lbs. and if out of *Ireland* 600 lbs. lost to this Kingdom, besides the general Loss, as our ~~own~~ work up double that Quantity of their own Wooll with it, and Loss in our general Trade, to His Majesty and People, in the Returns not made.

When the Poor was fully employ'd *English* Wooll bore a Price, tho' Quantities was imported from *Ireland*, and then Parish Taxes was low.

Irish Woolls, e'er since so much has been run, have increas'd in Price, tho' but lately so very high, and *English* Woolls gradually have sunk its Price, notwithstanding so little imported from *Ireland*.

It cannot be for the *English* Landed Interest in general, that a few does gain by the Wooll run, no more than for their Interest to prevent their own Wooll, and not the *Irish* also. As Running the Wooll sinks Trade, and lowers the Lands, so every Pack run hinders them Selling two.

If either is run, *England's* loss will be great, as her Trade will still decline; if both is prevented, Trade will revive and absolutely be secured

As 'tis *Ireland's* present Interest to run her Wooll, in Wooll, Yarn or Goods, and *England's* absolute Interest that none be run; Is it not *Great Britain's* Interest to give *Ireland's* Interest a new Bias to her Wooll in subservancy to *England's* absolute Interest?

The Duty that was paid in *Ireland* for the Wooll exported to *England*, when paid, was a very great Incouragement to the Clandestine Trader in *Ireland*.

Altho' His Majesty's Gracious Intentions in removing that Objection, to the preventing the Running their Wooll have not had its desired Effect, yet fully demonstrates that the Foreign Manufacturers necessity of our Wooll is such, that they will out-bid the *English* Factor in *Ireland*, tho' a much greater Duty was on it, or a Bounty allow'd for exporting it to *England*.

Therefore as the Laws in being, tho' so strickt, not coming at the Knowledge of the Wooll grown, and how apply'd, have not answer'd their End. 'Tis evident if *Great Britain* will maintain her Woollen Trade for Exportation, and thereby her Wealth and Power, there is absolute need of a Law that will come at the full Knowledge of the Wooll grown in both Kingdoms, and what Run, the Quantity, and by whom.

Such a Law, as 'tis we presume in the Power of *Great Britain* to make, would put a stop to the Running of Wooll and Yarn, &c. give Trade a new Life, Employ our Poor, lessen the Parish Charge. Such a Law we cannot but hope and pray for, from the Wisdom of the *British* Parliament.

N. B. Preserving is much easier than re-calling a Lost Trade.

0483

The British

Woolen Manufacturers

C A S E.

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