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A
D E F E N C E
O F T H E
D U T C H,

Against the Imputations of
FRAUD, CRUELTY, and PERFIDIOUSNESS.

Shewing how
DUTCH INDUSTRY may become profitable to
Great Britain in the HERRING FISHERY;
and this Kingdom restored to a prosperous
Condition, by *Good Oeconomy*, and *A more
spirited Policy*:

Particularly with regard to the
ENCROACHMENTS of *FRANCE*,
And the
UNTRACTABLENESS of *SPAIN*.

To which is added, A
S U P P L E M E N T,
Relative to the
SETTLEMENT of NOVA SCOTIA.

L O N D O N :
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near *Paternoster-Row*. 1749.



A
D E F E N C E
O F T H E
D U T C H, &c.

ALL national Reflections in Points of Policy, are unjust, when the Faults of the *Few*, are charged upon the *Many*: for, the *Few* only who direct and govern the whole Society, are truly blameable for every Act of evil Administration. If a Foreigner should charge the good People of *England*, with all the Blunders, Profusion and Corruption, of several successive Administrations in Times past, what *Briton* untainted by Venality, could bear the Imputation with Patience? It is not the Genius of a true *Briton*, to load himself with Imposts, Excises, and various other heavy Taxes, unless (like the Provender-As in the Fable) he is allowed to lighten the Burden on his Back, by stuffing Part of it into his Belly. *Dutchmen* are as like us, as one Man is like another. The People of both Nations under the Influence of evil Administrations, are the real
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Sufferers ; and are equally disposed to charge every Act of Misrule, to the Account of their Governors, whether distinguished by the Name of Pensionaries, or dignified by the frenchified Title of Prime-Minister, or known by the aggregate Appellation of *The ruling Faction*. These are the People who have the Power of doing Good or Mischief to Society, and are therefore chargeable with all the Public Acts of Cruelty, Fraud, &c. committed by one Nation against another. The Merchants, Artificers, and Seamen of *Holland*, were as innocent of the *Amboina Massacre*, and all the other Acts of Perfidy, imputed to the *Dutch*, as the Fool *, or any of his Fraternity. On the other Hand, the *Dutch* have suffered very often : and we all know how grievously of late, by the Perfidy and Oppressions of their gallicising Rulers ; and how justly they have broken the Yoke, even by the dangerous Method of popular Tumults. The *Dutch* therefore as a Nation, are to be pitied, and assisted also, (so far as it is prudent, and not injurious to our own Country) in reforming the Patch-work Constitution of their Government, which, like all other Things framed in an Hurry, cankered by Corruption, or compounded of Materials incompatible in Nature, must be often wanting Repairs.

In Support of the late national Reflections, cast upon the *Dutch* †, no good Argument

* See the Fool republished in the *London Evening-Post*, Sept. 15, 1749.

† See the Fool, *ibid*.

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can be drawn from Declarations of War, which we know are very often founded upon false Imputations, or at least Misrepresentation of Facts : Much less can any just Inference be drawn, in Disfavour of the *Dutch*, at this Time, from the Declaration of War by K. *Charles II.* when it is well understood that his War was waged on other Principles than those of National Honour, or Public Good. His Motive was generally servile Fear, or venal Compliance with the ambitious Views of *France*, at that Time our imperious Dictator, tho' now our *faithful and most sincere Friend*, as appear by the singular Honour done to this Nation, in requiring *Hostages, without giving any* ; by easing us of the enormous Expence of *supporting Cape Breton* ; and by all the other truly generous Concessions to us, in the late glorious Pacification. More Thanks, however, are due to the great Patron of *Nova Scotia* ; for bestowing on his Country an Equivalent for *Cape Breton* ; by establishing a Colony upon the Borders of our *American* Fishery, which may protect it from any future Insults of its Neighbours ; and in Time build a Navy, equiped with its own Productions, manned by its own Fishermen, and capable of avenging any Injury done to *Britain*, in that Part of the World. May the noble Lord and his Associates, who did this signal Service to their Country, live to complete the glorious Design ; and to receive the Thanks of the present Generation, for the most
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important Public Good done to this Kingdom since the Revolution.

Our Rivals in the *American* Fishery, see with Regret and Envy, what a Counterpoise this Colony may prove to their ambitious Designs; of exalting their Naval Power, by the sole Possession of that Fishery: And therefore to disappoint our Measures, they have (we are told) made an Encroachment, and are actually establishing a Settlement within our Limits, as ceded by the Treaty of *Utrecht*. In answer to our Remonstrances, they offer to adjust the Limits by *Commissaries*; the old Artifice of gaining Time to strengthen their Settlement, and then to support it by Force: or, by Negotiation to obtain, what they cannot in Justice demand. But surely there is Spirit enough yet left in *Britain*, not to suffer an apparent Right *even to be disputed*; but to drive out the Encroachers, as the *French* did, with much less Justice, our Settlers from *St. Lucia*.

Having thus, in a short Digression, paid my Devoirs to our new Friends, (with whom I must beg Leave to expostulate more hereafter) it is Time to return to our old Allies the *Dutch*, and examine the Charge against them, for presuming to fish for Herrings upon the North Coast of *Great Britain*.

That the Herring Fishery upon that Coast, is our undoubted Right; and perhaps, one of Nature's best Gifts to this Kingdom, cannot be denied with any shew of Reason: But if by Indolence, or Inattention to our chief Interest,

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we will not stretch out our Hands to value the Good offered by the Bounty of Providence, can we blame those who seek it with Hazard and Industry? It is our Part to applaud and rival them in that Fishery: or, rather encourage them to unite with us *as one People*, by inducing them to exchange their Marshes, for a more healthful Soil, on the northern Coasts of *Scotland*.

If the forfeited Estates of that Country, are applied without Fraud to this Purpose, and purchased Lands in a proper Situation, distributed by small Allotments, to such of the *Dutch* Fishermen as will bring over their Families, Boats, Nets, &c. this Kingdom will reap many great Advantages from an Accession of so many industrious Protestant Subjects; who by mixing with the *Highlanders*, will teach them of course, to taste the Sweets of Industry, and all the Blessings of civil Life; will give them *Independence*, and by that Means set them free from the Influences of their present Lords more effectually than any Laws which human Art can devise, or legislative Power can enforce: for when People have a Variety of Means to acquire by common Industry, a comfortable Subsistence, with *Independence*, none can be so stupidly insensible of human Happiness, as to prefer Slavery, Hardship, and Want, to Freedom, Industry, and Plenty. To establish therefore the Herring-Fishery by all possible Encouragement, is to open new Sources of Wealth; to root out all the Seeds of Rebellion

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lion from *Scotland*, and to make a miserable People happy, by a right Application of their Time and Labour.

But if the forfeited Estates are insufficient for the Purposes above-mentioned, it is no hard Task to supply the Deficiency, and even to point out just Methods of discharging a great Part of the National Debt, by *sumptuary Laws*, by Savings out of the Revenues; by lopping off all needless Pensions, and useless Places; by reducing all exorbitant Salaries of Places that are necessary, in proportion to the Trouble of Execution; and by a more material Reduction of a great Standing Army, still kept on foot in *Britain* and *Ireland*, which cannot be necessary when the Seeds of Rebellion are extirpated by the Methods above suggested. And as no Season is more suitable to such Reforms than that of a profound Peace; so now it is expected with Impatience, from an Administration so remarkable for Oeconomy and public Spirit.

But if all the preceding Methods should prove insufficient for so many great and good Purposes, the Crown Lands, called *Forests and Chaces*, may be sold to the best Bidders, at the *Royal-Exchange*, for an immense Sum of Money, tho' of very little Value at present, either to the Nation or to the Crown; except as the Means of making Places for ministerial Purposes, furnishing Country-Seats for first, second, and third-rate Ministers, together with much Timber-pillage for them and their Underlings. But as the present wise and righteous Admi-

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Administration cannot want the Props of Corruption to support their Power; so it is hoped, nay it is expected that these, and all other just Measures shall be taken, to encourage our Fisheries, and to discharge as much as possible of the Public Debt, to ease the present Load of Taxes, and especially the late Imposts upon Commerce, which must otherwise sink under the Weight; for, to amuse Country Gentlemen with an Abatement of one or two Shillings in the Pound of the Land-Tax, without easing Trade of its Burden, and discharging a great Part of the National Debt, is an Illusion under fair Appearances; it is in Effect increasing our Incumbrances by a small Loan at exorbitant Usury, which like a Canker will eat up the landed Interest of the Nation.

In short, the Power and Prosperity of this Kingdom is yet retrievable, by strict Oeconomy at home, and by good Policy with respect to our Allies, and Rivals abroad. And first, with respect to the *Dutch*, we need only to open our Arms, by giving easy and obvious Encouragements, which will induce the best, if not the greatest Part of that People, to become *one* with us. Let them have the common Rights and Privileges of *British* Subjects, with Places of Settlement proper for Trade, or Fisheries, and we may reasonably expect, from their *present Circumstances*, that all their rich Merchants, and of course their ablest Seamen, will soon retire to these Kingdoms, as the best Situation for Commerce, the Sanctuary for Liberty,

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berty, and of the Protestant Religion. Thus the Riches and Strength of the United Provinces may, in due time, be added to our common Stock, together with the Herring and Whale Fisheries, the Trade of the Spice-Islands, and all those other valuable Branches which they enjoy, and other Nations envy.

A very small Part of that immense Treasure expended already in Defence of the *Dutch* as our Barrier on the Continent, might, by another Turn of Policy, have produced all those desirable Ends. But if ever that Maxim was true, how can the *Dutch* be our Barrier upon the Continent, at this Time? Not by their Land-force; for, the whole Body of that People, computed at about two Millions, is but an Handful in Comparison of their Neighbours: not by their Situation between us and our most potent Rivals; for the Ports of *France* are much nearer to our Coasts. The *Dutch* therefore cannot be our Barrier in any other Sense, than as a Maritime Power; but how great their Declension has been in that respect, is obvious to all *Europe*. Whether that Declension be imputable to the bad Constitution of their Government, (founded upon Aristocracy and Democracy, which are absolutely incompatible in Nature) or to the Fraud and Treachery of their late Governors, or to the Nature of their Harbours, which are too shallow for large Ships of modern Built, are Points well worthy of the Inquiry of better Judgment than mine. But if the latter be the Case

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(as I suspect) then the *Dutch* can never rise again to be a Maritime Power of great Eminence in *Europe*: for, as it is the present Practice to build Ships much larger and sharper in Proportion than usual, (by which Means they carry greater Weight of Metal, sail better, and require deeper Water than formerly) it seems to me impossible to admit Ships of that Constructure into the *Dutch* Ports; and therefore that Nation cannot for the future contend upon equal Terms with the other Maritime Powers of *Europe*. If then the *Dutch* cannot be our Barrier, either as a Maritime Power, or in any other Respect, to what Purpose has been all our Expence of Wars upon the Continent, in pursuance of that false Maxim? And of what Advantage can the Conquest of such a Country be to *France*, when deserted by the present Inhabitants, whose Tenaciousness of their Liberty and Religion would most certainly induce them to prefer Freedom and Safety in so near a Retreat as *Britain*, to Bondage in their own Country: as the old *Tyrians* forsook the Continent, and settled upon a neighbouring Island, where they lived free from all fear of the *Assyrian* Power, and gave Being to the *Carthaginian* State, which grew to be the greatest Maritime Power of that Age.

But after all, can this Nation want any other Barrier than its own Navy, and the Sea, cast round it by the Hand of Providence? Is it not populous enough for its own Defence against all the Powers of *Europe* in Conjunction, if

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formed into a regular well-constituted Militia? Is not the *British* Navy superior to all others united? and may not that Superiority be preserved by good Policy, and due Encouragement to our Fisheries, Commerce, and Colonies? Why then should *Britain* exhaust its Blood and Treasure by Wars on the Continent, to make Conquests, or procure Benefits for other Nations? But if it be necessary for preserving the Balance of Power in *Europe*, to form Alliances, in opposition to the Designs of Universal Monarchy, why should *not our Part of any future War be at Sea*, the Sphere of our natural Strength, where we may serve our Friends most effectually, and injure our Enemies by intercepting their Treasures, which are the Sinews of War, as that Art is now exercised by mercenary Armies?

Had our naval Operations been conducted with Vigour, Oeconomy, and good Discipline *, in the former and late War with *France*, that could not have lasted so long, nor this ended so much to our Disadvantage, both with respect to *France* and *Spain*, as was manifest by the Successes of the last Year. But yet *France* seems to have prescribed the Terms of Peace, and kept back *Spain* from any Stipulations in our Favour; for what Reason is not easy to comprehend, since its Losses at Sea, and in *America*, were an Over-balance of all its Acquisitions by Conquest at Land. But that politick

* By Discipline is meant a just Distribution of Rewards and Punishments.

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Court has ever succeeded better by *Negotiation*, or *Encroachment*, than by its Victories; as may be demonstrated by a fair Induction of Particulars for a long Series of Years. The former Topic I expect to see treated by some abler Hand; and shall therefore take Leave, only to present to the Publick, a short Sketch of *French* Policy, by *Encroachment in America*; a distant Scene of Operation, out of the short Sight of modern Politicians; but perhaps not less conducive to the Advancement of *French* Power, and Wealth, than any in *Europe*.

Before the Treaty of *Utrecht* was ratified, and in the very Interval between the Cessation of Arms in *Europe*, and the Time when it was to take Effect in *America*, a *French* Squadron and Armament was equiped, and dispatched privately, to invade, take, and destroy the *British* Leeward Islands, as the envied Rivals of *France* in the Sugar Trade; and first *Antigua* was the destined Sacrifice, as the principal and most important of those Islands to *Britain*, for its excellent Harbours, and Situation in the Track of Navigation to the other Leeward Islands, and to *Jamaica*. But Monsieur *Cassart*, who commanded the Expedition, failed in the Attempt, partly by the Vigilance of the Inhabitants, and partly by some lucky Accidents, and not by our naval Power; and afterwards attacking *Montserrat*, he ruined it so effectually, that it is hardly restored to its former Condition at this Day. The Plunder of that Island falling very short of the Expence
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of the Expedition ; and the *French* convinced by Experience, that open Force could not give them a Superiority in those Islands, have, since the Peace of *Utrecht*, constantly increased their Possessions and Power by *Encroachments* ; first upon *Dominico*, a large fruitful Island in Sight of *Montserat*, inhabited by *Indians*, the *Aborigines* of those Islands, who for several Generations have been Subjects of *England*, under a Commission from Lord *Willoughby* of *Parbam*, and his Successors ; the chief Governors of *Barbadoes*. Yet this well known Encroachment, has been connived at by every Administration to this Day.

Some Years after, (*viz.* in 1722.) the late Duke of *Montagu* having obtained a Grant from the Crown, of the Islands of *St. Lucia*, and *St. Vincent* ; (two of the *Carribee* Islands, included for many Years in the Commissions of successive Governors of *Barbadoes*, from the Kings of *Great Britain*) provided Ships, Military Stores, and much People at a great Expence, to possess and settle those Islands : But soon after landing at *St. Lucia*, they were forced off by the *French* of *Martinico* ; pursuant to an express Order from their Monarch *.

* Vid. *Salmon's* modern Hist. p. 264. Vol. 3. Fol. Ed.

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The Mandate of the (French) King to the Sieur Chevalier de Fenquiere, Governor and Lieutenant General of the Windward Islands in America.

“ HIS Majesty having been informed that
 “ the King of *England* has given the
 “ Islands of *St. Vincent*, and *St. Lucia*, to the
 “ Duke of *Montagu* ; has made his Com-
 “ plaint of it in *England*, and has *alleged*
 “ that neither the one, nor the other of those
 “ Islands belong to that Crown : The first of
 “ them ought to remain to the *Carribees*, ac-
 “ cording to Conventions made with that
 “ People, and the second *belongs* to *France* ;
 “ who has been willing to *suspend* the *Settle-*
 “ *ment of that Island, on the Request* * of the
 “ King of *England*. Notwithstanding these
 “ *Reasons*, his Majesty *has not been informed*,
 “ that there has been any Revocation of this
 “ Grant. On the contrary, he understands
 “ that the Duke of *Montagu*, is preparing to
 “ send and take Possession of those Islands,
 “ and to transport Numbers of Families thi-
 “ ther. This Undertaking being *contrary to*
 “ *the Rights of his Majesty*, his Intention is,
 “ that in Case the *English* should take Posses-

* By this Part of the Mandate, it is confessed that the Settlement of *St. Lucia* was suspended by the *Request* of the King of *England*, or in plainer Words, by *Agreement* or *Convention* : And yet the *French* have settled that Island *contrary to Agreement*, without Interruption.

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“ fion of *St. Lucia*, and settle there, the *Sieur*
 “ *Chevalier de Fenquiere*, shall summon them
 “ to retire in fifteen Days, in Regard that
 “ Island belongs to *France*; and if they do
 “ not depart, he shall compel them to it by Force
 “ of Arms. He shall take Care to charge
 “ some of the wisest and most experienced of
 “ his Officers with this Expedition: His Ma-
 “ jesty desires there should be as little Effusion
 “ of Blood as possible; nor will have any
 “ Pillage made: He only wishes the *English*
 “ would retire, and not possess themselves of
 “ a Country which belongs to him.”

Done at *Versailles*,
 Sept. 21. 1722.

If the Crown of *France* had a just Title to those Islands, who can blame such a spirited Mandate? It would be rather commendable, and is certainly well worthy of Imitation, by those who have a much clearer Title than bare *Allegations and positive Assertions*, to drive the *French* out of their Encroachments on those Islands, and in *Nova Scotia*, by a Squadron of *Men of War*, rather than by Reference to *Commissaries*: For, it is dangerous, and we know by Experience, very expensive and fruitless, to trust the Rights of a Nation to three or four *private Men*, called *Commissaries*; unless the Court should swarm with those of *ethereal Spirits*, (such as a celebrated Writer
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dreams of) who are much wiser, and more incorruptible than any modern Sons of *Adam*.

The *French* thus encouraged by (what shall I call it) the Remissness or Timidity of several Administrations since the Peace of *Utrecht*, have kept Possession of those two fruitful Islands, *Dominico* and *St. Lucia*, to this Day, without Interruption; tho' it was perfectly easy, without much additional Expence, to have expelled them by the Squadron stationed at the *Leeward Islands*, during the last War. For the same Reason, that truly Politick People, have encroached lately upon *St. Vincents*, and *Tobago*, not by Stealth, but publickly, and immediately after the late Cessation of Arms. If the Surrender of *Cape Breton* had been suspended until these well known Encroachments were given up, all the Puzzle and pusillanimous Apprehensions about the Means now proper to redress those Wrongs, had been prevented. But so it is, that Cowardice disappoints its own Purposes, and runs into great, by endeavouring to avoid little Dangers. Good betide the Man, and the universal Applauses of his Country attend him, who advised that just and salutary Measure! And may those who rejected his Counsel, receive amply the Reward of their Wisdom! Wonderful it is indeed, that such Wisdom can preserve itself, in Power, and yet want Ability to exercise it in a few Instances, for the general Good; tho' that may be done consistently with the Plan of private Emoluments: For, Men of ordinary
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Genius, ever so wickedly inclined, have some Ambition for Applause ; or, at least, they love a Dash of Popularity, if it were only as a decent Covering, like that of Charity, to hide a Multitude of Sins.

But since all those Encroachments are now under Consideration of the noble Peer whose Province it is, and who is well apprised, and not less willing to redress these Injuries, to the Honour of *Britain*, and the Safety of its Sugar Colonies : I need say no more upon that Subject at present, than to shew how the Injury extends to the *Dutch*, *Danes*, and *Spaniards*, as well as to this Kingdom.

By a transient View of the Map, it appears, that the *Carribee Islands* are situated in a Chain, cross that Part of the Western Ocean which terminates upon the Continent of *South America*. Of that Chain *Antigua* is the northern, and *Tobago* the southern Link. Now the *French* are possessed by Right of *Martinico*, *Guadalupa*, and several small Islands in the Centre ; and by late Encroachment have extended their Possession as above mentioned, to *Dominico*, *St. Lucia*, *St. Vincent*, and *Tobago* : So that *France* has now the whole Chain of *Carribee Islands* *, of any Value for Extent and

* *Barbadoes* being to the eastward, is not mentioned as in the Chain of the *Carribee Islands* ; but yet being one of them, is from its Nearness to *Tobago*, in more imminent Danger of Invasion from that Island, whenever it becomes well settled by the *French*, because an Armament may be conveyed from one to the other, in a very few Hours.

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Harbours (except *Antigua*) which are situated in the Track of Navigation, to the Coast of *Carraccas*, *Curacao*, *Surinam*, and *Carthagena* to the southward ; and to *St. Eustatia*, *St. Thomas*, *Santa Cruz*, *Porto-rico*, *St. Domingo*, *Cuba*, *Jamaica*, *Porto-bello*, and all the Coast of *New Spain* ; from thence to the Bay of *Mexico*, and *Messisippa* to the northward. What then can hinder the *French*, in case of War, from intercepting all the Navigation from *Europe*, in the Passage to those several Ports, whenever the Naval Power of *France* is in tolerable good Condition ? more especially if *Antigua* should also fall under their Dominion, which is far from being impossible, if its great Port, called the *English Harbour*, (the best of any in that Part of the World for the Reception and Security of a *British Squadron*) is not well fortified, and the *Leeward Islands* powerfully protected by the Royal Navy. For if *Antigua* should be lost, or its best Harbour ruined, *Montserat*, *Nevis*, *St. Christophers*, and all the lesser Islands, to the westward of them, must, for Want of Harbours, and Protection, fall of course into the Hands of our Enemies. In that Case, of what Value can *Jamaica* be to this Kingdom, when our Fleets cannot pass thither without a Convoy superior to the Naval Power of *France* ? And what Trade can bear the immense Expence of such Convoys ? Will then the *Dutch*, *Danes*, *Spain*, and *Britain*, rest satisfied under these Usurpations of *France* ; and by that Means give

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it the Power of intercepting all the Trade of *Europe* to *America*? As the Crown of *Spain* is more eminently interested by its extensive and rich Dominions there, it is surely the Part of that Nation, even to take the Lead, in preventing such fatal Usurpations, by a close and everlasting Union, with the greatest Maritime Power of *Europe*.

It is too true, that the Ambition or Avarice of Ministers, is often repugnant to the real Interest of their Sovereigns, as well as of their Fellow-Subjects. If the *Spanish* Ministry temporizing with *France*, for their own private Interest; or if ambitious Views to the Succession of that Crown, by Failure of Male-Heirs in that Branch of the Family now upon the Throne, should influence the Counsels of *Spain*; it is now, as much as ever, the Interest of every other State in *Europe*, to prevent the Union of those two mighty Empires under one Head; because, with such Accumulation of Power, what can hinder an universal Monarchy? Nay, it is not less repugnant to the Interest of every Subject of *Spain*, that its Dominions should be cantoned into Provinces of *France*, and of course the *Spaniards* become Vassals to the *French*.

But if the *Spanish* Court will pursue such destructive Measures, our Vigilance and Activity cannot be better employed, than in contracting their Designs; first, by sincere Overtures of Friendship, and a strict Alliance offensive and defensive; and by every reasonable Com-

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Compliance in our Power, without the least Intervention, Influence, or Mediation of *France*. But if these fail, by Counter-alliances, and other political Operations on the Coasts of *Chili*, where there are mighty Nations of *Indians*, who never yet submitted to the Yoke of *Spain*, and who will rejoice to secure their Independence by an Alliance with *Great-Britain*. By their Friendship we may reap infinite Advantages in Trade, with a Country not less abounding with Gold-mines than other Parts of that Continent; and by their Strength we may force the *Spaniards* to a right Conduct, without great Armaments and Imbarkations from *Europe*, or any other Expence than that of a few able Leaders and Engineers; for Arms and Ammunition will produce plentiful Returns of Gold. If then *Spain* continues intractable, deaf to our Offers of Friendship, and persists in refusing us a Share of its Commerce, we have surely a Right to extend our Trade into Countries as independent of *Spain* as any in *Europe*, tho' on the same Continent.

This Hint I have taken from the Author of Lord *Anson's* Voyage, which abounds with admirable Observations naval and political; not less valuable than his Works in another Science, for which he is honoured by all *Europe*, except those of his own Countrymen, who want the Faculty of discerning Merit, or the Spirit of rewarding it. Thanks to the *India-Company* for saving this Country the Disgrace of such a Neg-

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lect! Take that Author's own Words * as the Conclusion of this Head. " Indeed were we " disposed to aim at the utter Subversion of the " *Spanish Power in America*, no Means seem " to me more probable to effect it, than due " Encouragement and Assistance given to these " (Patagonian) *Indians*, and to those of *Chili*.

From the preceding Arguments, it is presumed this Conclusion may be fairly drawn, that whatever Part we take in *future Wars*, should be at Sea only; and by sudden Irruptions, into such Parts of the Enemy's Country as are most unguarded, and most liable to be sensibly injured; since by our naval Power we are best able to serve our Friends, and subdue their Enemies, without exhausting our national Treasure. Thus we may and ought to assist the *Dutch*, and all our natural Allies; but more especially the *Spaniards*, who, of all others ought to stand foremost in our Esteem, and we in theirs; because we are naturally united by mutual Ability to supply each others Wants, without Danger of Rivalship; for no other Nation of *Europe* wants, or can take off their Fruits and Wines; nor can any other furnish them so well with Woollen, and a Variety of other Manufactures, not interfering with their own Productions. Nevertheless our ancient Friendship with *Spain* has been fatally broken, by a servile Fear of another *Court* operating continually against us. Nothing therefore can restore our former Amity,

* *Ld. Anson's Voyage*, 4to Edit. Page 69: See also Page 92, and 141.

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but a new and more spirited Policy; together with a generous Removal of all Obstructions, except the Cession of *Gibraltar* *, to the Renewal of that excellent Treaty made in the Year 1715; by which all the beneficial Stipulations of former Treaties were revived, and many new Advantages conceded to us. Among others it was mutually agreed, that neither Kingdom should impose any new Duties upon each others Merchandize. An Advantage lost by the last War, and not restored by the subsequent Pacification. Nay, the grand Obstruction to our Navigation in the *American Seas*, by the Spanish Claim of Right to search our Ships, which occasioned the last War, has been ingloriously forgotten at the Conclusion of it. But it is humbly hoped the Legislature will take these Circumstances under Consideration; and particularly repeal that Law, by which an Impost of 5 per Cent. was laid upon all dry Goods † imported, (under which the Fruits, Iron, Wool, &c. of *Spain* are comprehended)

* Whoever consents to the Surrender of *Gibraltar* to *Spain*, without an Equivalent, ought to be stigmatized as an Enemy to his Country: But yet it may be a right Policy to surrender that important Fortrefs for a full Equivalent, less important to the Honour and Interest of *Spain*, but more advantageous to *Britain*, as a Place of Trade and valuable Productions; For if a Fleet at *Minorca* cannot be stationed so well to prevent the Junction of *French Squadrons*; yet if we are firmly united to *Spain* in Alliance, all their Ports will be as open to our Fleets, in case of a War, as *Gibraltar* is at present.

† In Consequence of this Duty on our Part, *Spain* has added new Duties on the Merchandize of *Britain*.

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not only as a previous Step, necessary to our Reconciliation with *Spain*, but as a Means of preventing the utter Ruin of our Commerce; for what Trade can support such an high Duty, accumulated upon all those Imports which the profligate Wit of former Times could invent, or Profusion require!

If therefore the present M-----y will make good their high Pretensions to Public Spirit, let them ease our Trade of its insupportable Burdens; let them give due Encouragement to our Colonies and Fisheries in general, and to the *Herring Fishery* in particular, as the great Sources of our naval Power; let the obvious Means above mentioned, be taken for that Purpose, and for discharging the National Debt: Let a strict Oeconomy be observed in all the Expences of Government; not grudging however what is necessary to promote our Fisheries, and to establish our new Colony of *Nova Scotia*, as the great Barrier and Safeguard of the *British* Dominions, and Fishery in *America*: and in particular, let all our *old false Maxims in Politicks* be abandoned, as tending more to the Advantage of other Nations than of this our native Country.

F I N I S.

A

SUPPLEMENT,

Relative to the

SETTLEMENT

OF

NOVA SCOTIA.



A
SUPPLEMENT,
Relative to the
SETTLEMENT
O F
NOVA SCOTIA.

THE great Defects in the original Constitution of our old Settlements in *America*, is a just Cause of Complaint; and as it is a good Reason for endeavouring to prevent the like Evils in the new Colony of *Nova Scotia*, so it shall be my Apology for presuming to add a few Hints upon that Subject.

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In the Settlement of our old Colonies, proper Cautions were not taken to prevent the *Monopoly* of large Tracts of Land, which are still engrossed by a few rich People of *Jamaica*, as well as in the Provinces of *Virginia*, *New-York*, *Carolina*, *New-England*, &c. This is the only Cause why that Island is not well peopled at this Day. The Northern Colonies above mentioned are under the like Disadvantage, for the same Reason; particularly towards the Boundaries most remote from the Sea. Those Lands which are thus reserved by monopolizing Grantees, or their Successors, for the Profit of a future Sale, cannot be purchased by poor Settlers at an exorbitant Price, who would gladly cultivate them, if they might do so upon reasonable Terms: And thus, for want of Occupants the *French* have made, and are still making, Encroachments upon the Back of all those Colonies.

For this growing Evil there are but two Remedies practicable; consistently with Justice, and the Constitution of a free Government. The first and most obvious is, by laying an high Tax upon every uncultivated Acre of Land, by the Legislature of each Colony. Such a Tax may contribute to the Support of Government, instead of other heavy Imposts upon

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upon the poor industrious People, who in all Places, and much more in new Colonies, should be exempted from such Burdens. For if Engrossers of uncultivated Land are obliged to pay annually a considerable Tax *per Acre*, towards the Support of that Government by which they are protected (which is highly just and reasonable) they will be glad to sell those Lands at a moderate Price, rather than to keep them at a certain annual Expence, or otherwise suffer them to be seized by the Publick, and sold to the best Bidder for the Arrears of Taxes. For thus the uncultivated Lands will be sold, and subdivided into small Tracts; and consequently those Colonies will become more populous, by a Multitude of new Settlers.

The other Remedy (in case the Legislators of each Colony will not do this Justice to their Country, because perhaps they are the chief Engrossers of Land) is by a Law of that Kind enacted by the *British* Parliament, which has the same Right to interpose in such Cases as in those of Trade, when the public Good demands, and Necessity justifies the Measure.

But as it is much easier to prevent, than to redress publick Grievances, it may be expected that the Monopoly of great Tracts of Land in *Nova Scotia*, will be absolutely prevented by all

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all proper and legal Institutions. For instance; that no Tracts of Land be granted on the Sea-coast, or on the Borders of the River St. *Lawrence*, (which are here supposed the ancient Boundaries) but in small Allotments of 20 or 30 Acres to one Person or Family, without Quit-rent, or any other Tax, but that of military personal Service, one half Day in every Month, to learn the proper Exercises of a Soldier, and in all Cases of Alarm or Invasion, when the Occupant is to appear well-armed, at his appointed Station. Arms, Ammunition, and proper Accoutrements should be provided for the first Settlers, at the publick Charge; but afterwards at their own Expence.

These Lands round the whole Colony (except the Part adjoining to *New-England*) for half a Mile from its Boundary, ought to be appropriated, partly for Towns, Roads and Commons; and upon the Sea-Coast, for the same Uses; and also for *Stages* proper for curing Fish. All the rest of the Lands contiguous to the Boundaries, should be granted in small Allotments, as above-mentioned, to disbanded Soldiers, or any other Protestant Settlers, who think fit to inhabit *Nova Scotia* as *British* Subjects.

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Let not this be deemed a mere *European* Speculation, since it is founded upon Facts verified in *Barbadoes*, which by these small Cantonments of Land, and other Institutions of the like Nature, is abundantly more populous than any Part of equal Extent, (except great Cities) in the *British* Dominions: as on the contrary, *Jamaica*, and many Provinces of *North America*, are thinly inhabited, and very weak, for want of such excellent Laws. But by the like Means, *Nova-Scotia* may become as populous as *Barbadoes*; and as it is of much greater Extent, may, in Time, grow powerful enough to defend itself against all Attempts of its Neighbours, the *French* and *Indians* united.

The Patrons of that Colony (I mention it to their Honour) have already began the Distribution of Land with due Precaution; and therefore, we may reasonably expect, will proceed to secure all the Boundaries, by small Cantonments of Land upon military Tenures; not repugnant to popular Freedom, but in a manner like the Practice of *Barbadoes*, as before suggested. But there is yet a Difficulty remaining; and that is, to contrive an effectual Method of preventing, absolutely, the Monopoly of large Tracts of Land in *Nova-Scotia*, until the whole Province is cultivated; but without
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discouraging Industry in the present, or After-times. Now this is the great Point tending to render that Colony exceeding populous, the Practicability of which I have partly hinted already, and shall proceed to delineate more explicitly.

Let all the Lands from the Frontier (which I suppose half a Mile within the natural Boundary) to the Quantity of 300 Acres, be granted without any Quit-rent, saving a Barley-corn, revertible however to the Crown, in Case of not being cultivated within 7 Years after the Grant, or so much of it as is not then cultivated: From 300 to 400 Acres, at a Quit-rent of one Shilling *Sterling per Acre* annually, after 7 Years Possession; from 400 to 500 Acres, at 2 Shillings *Sterling per Acre*, after the like 7 Years Possession; from 500 to 600 Acres, at 4 Shillings *Sterling per Acre*, after the like Term of Possession; thus doubling the Quit-rent for every additional Hundred Acres. All these Quit-rents cease as the Lands become cultivated; but in the mean time to be received by the Treasurer of the Colony, chosen by its own Legislature, and applied by its Direction to support the Expence of Government; or in Default, to seize and sell the uncultivated Lands for Arrears of Quit-rent, to the best Bidder at publick Sale. By this Method

thod of increasing the Quit-rent, in Proportion to the Quantities of Land granted above 300 Acres, all Monopolies of large Tracts must be absolutely secured from the rapacious Hands of Engrossers; because they cannot possibly make a Profit by keeping uncultivated Lands, at the certain annual Expence of an high Quit-rent:

Among other Institutions it will be necessary to set apart many Plats of Land for Cities or Towns, in dry and healthful Situations, where there is Plenty of good fresh Water, and Harbours or Rivers convenient for Trade or Fisheries. In such Places every Inhabitant may be entitled to an Allotment in Fee Simple, without Quit-rent, who will build a substantial Brick or Stone House of moderate Dimensions after 7 Years Possession. But in the Establishment of Towns, particularly of the Metropolis, and of those upon the Boundaries, exact Care also must be taken to appoint such Situations as may be capable by Nature of good Fortifications. And in these it is very easy to conform to all the Rules of Proportion, Convenience, Health and Beauty. Of all these perhaps *Philadelphia* is the most perfect Model, as it was contrived by its wise Founder upon the Plan of *Babylon*.

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The preceding Regulations may be presumed the Out-lines of an Institution much more perfect than has yet taken place in any of our Colonies; will certainly prevent Monopolies of large Tracts of Land; and, in all Probability, render *Nova-Scotia* the most powerful Province in *America*. And so indeed it ought to be, as the Barrier of all the other *British* Colonies upon that Continent, and the Bulwark of our greatest and most valuable Fishery. That this Colony will soon rise to such an Height of Prosperity, cannot be doubted, if properly encouraged, and powerfully protected: particularly if all foreign Protestants are induced to settle, by being conveyed thither without any Expence; admitted to the same Rights and Privileges as *British*-born Subjects, and supported in their first Settlement for a reasonable Time, with Supplies of Provisions, and other Necessaries of Life, which may be bought excessively cheap in the neighbouring Colonies. But as a more expeditious, and less expensive Means of strengthening that Settlement, without draining the Mother-Country of its useful Hands, the Fishermen of *Boston*, and other Places adjacent, may, by proper Encouragements, besides the Nearness of so beneficial a Fishery, be induced to transplant into *Nova-Scotia*. For *Boston*, and the Province of

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of which it is the Capital, are able to muster forty Thousand fighting Men; Half of which Number would render our new Colony impregnable, and *Boston* itself stand as secure from Invasion, by the Interposition of a Barrier so populous and invincible.

But after all these hopeful Beginnings, if this great and beneficial Enterprize should be suspended, by the Menaces or golden Promises of a certain crafty Power; or if it should be neglected for Want of Money, withheld to squander another Way: If (I say) this Colony should at length prove a mere Baby of State, highly favoured and fondled in the Cradle for a young Patriot's Amusement, but afterwards forsaken and exposed, as *Carolina* was formerly; then may we say, with just Cause of Lamentation, that this Kingdom is fallen indeed below the Envy of its meanest Neighbours.

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