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Torism and Trade
Can never Agree.

To which is added, An
ACCOUNT and CHARACTER
OF THE
MERCATOR
AND HIS
WRITINGS.

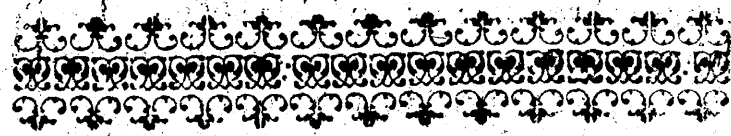
PARTICULARLY
His former Discourses against the
LAND-INTEREST, and a TRADE
with FRANCE.

In a Letter to Sir G — H —

LONDON:

Printed: And Sold by *A. Baldwin* near the
Oxford Arms in *Warwick Lane*.
(Price 6 d.)

1713



Advertisement.

T Here is in the Press and will be publish'd with all convenient speed, *A List, &c.* with Advice to the Freeholders and Traders of *Great Britain.* By the same Hand.

E R R A T A.

P Age 30. Line 26. for *Interrogation* put *Comma*
Page ditto, Line 30. for *Full Stop* put *Comma*.

S I R.

I am surpriz'd that a Man of your good Sense shou'd not expect that the *Tories* will, upon all Occasions, be Enemies to Trade. Trade is the great Support of Liberty, and Liberty is as inconsistent with *Torism*, as Moderation is with Popery, or Vice with Virtue. The *Tories* have an old Grudge against Trade, which they will never forget nor forgive. The Reformation in *Germany, France, and England*, began first among Tradesmen and Mechanicks. Industry is an effect of Sobriety, Idleness and Bigotry go always together; People are too Lazy to inform themselves of the Truth, and therefore believe as their Grandfathers did. Trade naturally encreases Property, and Property and Tyranny are Incompatible. There never was a Nation famous for Trade, but that Nation was Free, and there are not

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two greater Contraries in Nature than *Freedom* and *Torism*. Poverty is the sure fore-runner of Slavery; People that have nothing to lose but their Liberty, are not so solicitous to defend it as when 'tis accompany'd with Property, and if they can be made Poor, which is soon done without Trade, it will be no hard matter to make Slaves of them. They'll be ready enough to sell themselves to the first Purchaser.

As the *Papists* and *Tories* are on the same Foot among us, with respect to their Principles, that is, they are alike Enemies to the Revolution, to the Protestant Succession, to Moderation and Union; so one may take it for granted, that whatever a *Papist* says of Trade a *Tory* will certainly subscribe to it, and therefore I shall tell you a saying of the Earl of *Castlemain's* on this subject, not with respect to this Trade or that Trade, but to any Trade at all. 'Tis in a Narrative of his publish'd 40 Years ago: *England*, says he, *can subsist without Trade, which is not at all Necessary. We remember by our Histories when it began here. The Venetians, the Genoese, the Flemings, and the Jews, were us'd to bring us Superfluities, and manag'd the Traffick of the Nation. However 'twas then*

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then we conquer'd France. There's no occasion of Ships and Seamen, according to this Hypothesis. We have Corn enough, and let those that want it fetch it. We have Wool enough, and never need fear Nakedness. As to Wooden Walls, which cannot be supported without Trade, 'tis no matter, we shou'd without it be safe in our Poverty, and with all our Corn and all our Cloth be such Beggars, that it wou'd not be worth the while of any Nation to conquer us, unless it was to transplant us, and put People in our Place that know better how to value so great a Blessing as Trade is.

I have hinted already, that the *Papists* and *Tories* must of course have an Aversion to a Thing that gave Strength to the first Reformers, and settled the Reformation in *Europe*. Hardly a free City, or *Hanse-Town* in *Germany*, where Trade flourish'd, but the Reformation was embrac'd. Wealth is the Child of Trade, and Parent of Power. By Wealth they grew Strong, and defended their Liberty and Religion. This must be a terrible Grievance to *Torism* and *Popery*, and they cannot think of the Services done by the Protestant Republick of the United Provinces to

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Religion and Liberty, to do which they have been enabled by Trade only, without an abhorrence of the very Name of Trade.

There are two little Spots of Ground in *Italy* furrounded by *Tories* and *Papists*, Men of Idolatrous and Arbitrary Principles, Beggars and Persecutors; I mean those of *Lucca* and *Geneva*. Trade flourishes in both these petty Commonwealths. The People are Free and Industrious: Those that are Industrious will be Rich, and those that are Rich will, if they can, be Free. The whole Dominions of that little Republick of *Lucca* are contain'd in the Limits of 6 or 7 Miles square, yet in that Compass they are able to raise 20000 Horse and Foot. The *Lucqueses* are wonderfully Industrious, and enrich themselves by their Manufactures, as the *Dutch* do by their Foreign Trade. As to *Geneva* I shall repeat the Words of an Anonymous Author, in a Pamphlet publish'd three or four and twenty Years ago. The City is as one Hand in Labour and Arts, not a Person to be seen without Employment, and few or none Ignorant or unconcern'd in his Religion, but both making a Joint and, as it were, mutual Pro-

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gress: And indeed, according to the present State and Condition of that Place, there seems to be such a Necessity for their Dependance one upon another, as that it cannot be suppos'd that either cou'd be supported without its Concomitant, and both of them thrive to a miraculous Augmentation and Improvement, notwithstanding that they are enclos'd and fenc'd about by Enemies to both. Besides that, it is a City situate within the Land, and has not so large a Territory belonging to it as appertains to some of our Nobility in their Demesnes, yet it bears the Character of a Commonwealth, and consider'd in all its Circumstances in respect of its Circuit, People, &c. may be thought the most Formidable Place of so small a Tract of Ground, and so little a number of Men, that is in the Universe.' Thus it is plain, that where Industry and Trade flourish, there will flourish a Spirit of Liberty, which in the Language of *Torism* is *Republican* and *Antimonarchical*, as I have seen asserted in several Addresses, Old and New, and one cannot have better Authority for any thing, they are so consistent one with another, and

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and shew so well the Ingenuity and Constancy of this Nation. Now whatever encourages a Spirit of Liberty, must eternally be hateful to the *Tories*, who build their Principles on Arbitrary and Despotick Power: For this Reason it was that Sir *Roger L'Estrange* us'd in all his Papers to treat the Corporations and Companies of Merchants and Tradesmen, as so many Factionous Assemblies and Nurseries of Sedition, *London* being the Grand *Emporium* of the World, has never escap'd the severest Strokes of their Satyr. What Sir *Roger Manley* says of that City in his History, that it is the *Old Forge of Rebellion*, has been plentifully improv'd by all their little Wits and Libellers, when the Citizens have at any time oppos'd their wicked Designs for betraying their Country; as they have done on many Occasions, and I doubt not will on many do again: For tho' there is a certain way of Management, which may for a while turn the Bent of the City from its Natural Byass, tho' there may be Junctures when to appearance the Majority of this Populous and Wealthy City will run retrograde, and act against those Principles that are their Security, tho' there will be

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be *North's* and *Rich's*, *Bolsworth's* and *Genew's* at all Times. 'Tis impossible that the City shou'd be without its *Pilkington's*, its *Clayton's*. 'Tis true, poor busy Fellows will always be found ready to betray their Country on the first Temptation. These will be very loud and active, great Pretenders to Loyalty, and flaming in their Zeal for what they are pleas'd to call the *Church* and *Crown*. But if you mind, you shall find them none of the Industrious thriving Tradesmen, but Fellows ever walking on the terrible Precipice of Bankruptcy, and supporting themselves by Corruption and Violence.

There cannot be wanting in so vast and so rich a City your *Ashurst's*, *Heathcot's Ward's*, &c. Men who dare assert the City's and the Nation's Rights and Liberties; but there will also be your *Wi—s*, your *Cl—s*, your *La—s*, your *M—s*, who having not Brains enough to know their True Interest, or Honesty to practise it, will be influenc'd by Counsels in which the City has no Share, and have a Crew of such Whifflers, as your *Silks* and your *Catlins*, to declaim or Bully for them as the Case shall need. *The Men of no Business*, says a very Judicious Author, are

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and have been the publick Disturbances and Incendiaries of a Nation. No Plots or Rebellions are brought upon the Stage, but are manag'd and prosecuted by this sort of Men, who are the most considerable Party among the Actors, who take no greater Pleasure in any thing than in fishing in troubled Waters, by which means they become not only Destructive to themselves, but allure and entice others, inveigling and drawing in those that are in a way of Trade and Business, to their Mischievous and Evil Practices, to the Irreversible Destruction of many Families. He goes on, These are the Men that in the present Juncture of Affairs are the Plague and Pest of the Nation, that as Locusts swarm in all Places, ecchoing out the most extravagant Panegyrics upon their abdicated King. Of such indeed are his Party and Adherents compos'd, whose Actions carry an agreeable Resemblance, as well to the present Principles, as to the known Practices of the Church of Rome.

I was mightily pleas'd to observe, that the Truth of my own Reflections was confirm'd by so good an Authority, and at such a distance of Time as immediately after the Revolution when this Gentleman wrote. That all the Mischief which can arise in the State, will

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will proceed from the Folly and Fury of an Idle, Beggary, Biggotted Faction, and by what Name to distinguish them is too well known for me to set a Mark on them. If we look a little farther back, as the Year 1680, when the Trade of London was at the height, when her Fleets fill'd the Ocean, and the Thames brought daily to her Bosom the Riches of both the Indies, we shall see what was then the Spirit of the British Capital. It was she who when the Bill of Exclusion was in Agitation, Voted a Petition for the setting of the Parliament, and an Address to his Majesty to declare their Loyalty, and to Petition him that the Parliament might set till Protestantism was secur'd, for which when the Parliament met, the House of Commons on the 10th of January 1680.

Resolv'd,

That the Thanks of this House be given to the City of London, for their manifest Loyalty to the King, their Care, Charge and Vigilancy for the Preservation of his Majesty's Person, and of the Protestant Religion.

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At the same time there were severe Votes and Resolutions against Henry Marquiss of Worcester, Henry Earl of Clarendon, Lawrence Hyde, Esq; Lewis Earl of Feversham, &c. and a Motion made for an Address to his Majesty to remove Edward Seymour, Esq; from his Majesty's Council and Presence, and there was another Resolution, which shews, with what Vigour an English Parliament proceeds when their Religion and Liberty are in danger, it pass'd immediately before that of Thanks to the City of London, which the House made, expecting every Minute a Message for their Prorogation.

Resolv'd,

That whosoever advised his Majesty to prorogue this Parliament to any other purpose than in order to the passing of a Bill for the Exclusion of James Duke of York is a Betrayer of the King, the Protestant Religion and of the Kingdom of England, a Promoter of the French Interest, and a Pensioner to France.

Having mention'd the Thanks of the House of Commons to the City of Loudon, and that it was for their Peti-

Petition. I shall give the Substance of it, that the Reader may see how the Friends to Trade are Friends to the Protestant Religion, the Liberties of the Subjects, and how truly Loyal to their Sovereign. In it they set forth, that there is a most Damnable and Hellish Popish Plot branch'd forth into the most horrid Villanies against his Majesty's most sacred Person the Protestant Religion and the well establish'd Government of the Realm, for which several of the Principal Conspirators stand impeach'd by the Parliament. Therefore in such a Time, when his Majesty's Royal Person, the Protestant Religion and the Government of the Nation are in imminent Danger, they must humbly and earnestly pray that the Parliament, which is prorogued until the 26th of January, may then sit to try the Offenders, and to redress all the most important Grievances.

The number of Hands to this Petition was so great, that the Roll which contain'd them was above an hundred Yards in length, and with the Citizens that carry'd it up went Sir Gilbert Gerard and many other Gentlemen. Tho' this at first Sight may seem foreign to my Subject, yet it will not, on Reflection, appear so; for when we can prove

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prove, that those who oppos'd the progress of Popery and Arbitrary Power, were the most Numerous and Wealthy Part of this Trading City, it will of Consequence strengthen my Assertion, that *Torism* can never agree with Trade which is in other Hands, and can never be in theirs, while Persecution and Discord are so much encourag'd by them.

Now there is not a greater Enemy to Trade than Persecution. It was she that ruin'd the Manufactures and Commerce of the *Spanish Netherlands*. It was she that transplanted the Looms of *France* into *Great Britain*, *Germany* and *Holland*, and what Havock was she about to make in *England* when *Torism* put Weapons into her Hands in the latter part of King *Charles's* Reign. The Goals were crowded with the most substantial Tradesmen and Inhabitants, the Clothiers were forc'd from their Houses, and thousands of Workmen and Women, whom they employ'd, set to starving: Upon which I cannot but remember the Story of an honest *Wiltshire* Clothier, a *Presbyterian*, who being prosecuted by the Spiritual Court, their Agent, the Curate of the Parish

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Parish, and the Beggarly Informers, was compell'd to quit his Habitation, and to shut up his Work-houses, on which depended above a thousand Families for Bread. The Case of this Clothier being told his Majesty, he was pleas'd to send for him, and enquire into the Extent of his Trade, neither did he omit representing to him the Convenience as well as the Duty of his Conformity. The Clothier excus'd not his not complying with his Majesty's Pleasure for Conscience sake, expressing himself not concern'd for his own Loss by the Profit he made of the Labour of 5 or 6000 Souls, but for their want of Employment and Subsistence, which made such an Impression on the King, an excellent good Natur'd Prince when he was left to the Freedom of his Will and the Exercise of his Power, that he sent Orders to his Diocesan to connive at the Clothier's Nonconformity, which was done accordingly.

How near akin *Torism* and *Persecution* are, we need not give our selves the Trouble to demonstrate. One may hear it trumpeted every Sunday at *St. Andrew's Holbourn*, *St. Sepulchres*, *White-Chappel*, and from many other Pulpits so

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so well fill'd with Men of Apostolical Principles and Practices.

How many thousand Families did the fiery Zeal of the *Old Tories* under their Archbishop *Laud* drive out of *England*, most of them Tradesmen, the loss of whom was thought by some to be felt by us at this Day, it being a Moot Case whether we get or lose by the *British* Hands in *America*; but granting, what is my own Opinion, that the Trade of *Great Britain* is rather encourag'd than diminish'd by our Colonies, 'tis certain their Persecutors did not foresee that their Banishment would have so good an effect, nor send them to the Wildernesses of *New England*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *Carolina*, &c. with a design to advance Trade and Navigation. I must own those Men had never any just Notice of the Riches that People are to a Nation. I do not find *Torism* was ever engaged on the side of a Naturalization Bill, which is certainly very Beneficial to Trade.

The Glory of England is Men and Money, says the Author I last made use of, *England has in a competent Proportion the Blessing of both, but might be improv'd to more than double; for at the most moderate Computation it is not half*
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Peopled; and since there is so much wanting in Number, the best way to supply that Deficiency is by Industry.

I believe if one could procure three or four Ship Loading of Merchants to come hither and bring as many Plumbs with them, they would not be beaten back. But there are several Men who have an Objection ready against any Proposals for encreasing our People. If you offer such a Colony they are *Beggars*, and such a one they are *Schismatics*, by which means, one Part of the Glory of the Nation, *Men*, is diminish'd, and what *Torism* has done with *Credit*, which is almost as good in Trade and Politicks as Money, I think I need not trouble my self or Reader about at this time. Sometimes we are told * *Credit depends upon Nothing and NoBody*: † *That*

it ought to be look'd upon as a Cheat. As to the *No Whennes* and *no Whennes* of it, and its being the *Essential Shadow of Something that is not.* I think one need not go about to answer such Objections, I'll engage to do it effectually, when any Mortal alive can understand a Word of it; yet these, and Arguments no better than these went not long ago a great way in putting our *Credit* and the *French*
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* *Essay upon Credit*
† *Truth on both Sides.*

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on the same Foot, and reducing our Bank to the Condition of the Town-House at *Paris*: But thanks to our Stars, a good Peace has set all to Rights again, and we have now nothing to do but to take Care that our Trade should flourish as well as our Credit. What we are to hope for from *Torism* in that Case has been hinted already. Can we imagine that Persons who have two such Interests on their side, as a *Church Interest* and a *Land Interest* will be mindful of so Paltry an Interest as Trade. The *Examiner*, who was possess'd more than any Man with the *Demon* of *Torism*, was always launching out in his Panegyricks on the *Land Interest* and *Church Interest*, and tho he had not quite Front enough to stand by what his old Friend *Castlemain* said, that we should have no *Trade at all*, yet he never fail'd to maul it when ever it fell in his way.

'Twas out of spite to it that he call'd the *Dutch* the greatest Traders in the World, *Herring Curers*; and says of their State, that they Govern their *Republick with the Spirit of Shopkeepers*. I have before me some Reflections on that Ingenious *Tory* on the same Subject, which are very *apropos* on this

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this Head. Let him, says the Author of them, give into the Opinion of a famous Senator of his Party, who being informed that the *Turkish Fleet* was lost in a Storm, Swore, D—— him he was glad of it, for the Citizens grew so proud there would be no humbling of them till they were Poor; or of another leading Man among them, who being solicited by the *West India Merchants and Planters* to favour them in an Affair depending in Parliament, curs'd them and their Plantation, swearing, He wish'd them all at the Devil, for they were good for nothing but to be a Receptacle to Fanaticks.

I doubt not, Sir, you could furnish me with many Instances of the Services Trade has met with from some Men, and could tell me at large the Answer of a small Officer of the *Livery Stamp* to some Merchants who made Application to him in a certain Affair, and was answer'd by him, *They must not hope for any such Thing, for Monsieur such a one, naming a Frenchman of great Note, since the Month of September 1711, was too much concerned himself in Interest in it ever to let it pass as they would have it.*

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I doubt not also you could tell me what Care was taken to have that Answer suppress'd, what Excuses were made for it, what Sollicitations for Silence, which have prevail'd so far as to keep it in a great measure from me, or I would have told not only you, but all the World of it.

This Accident naturally leads me to consider the State of our Trade with respect to *France*, and how far *Torism* has given Incouragement to the only Trade in the World, by which we can be undone. I will not say what were the first Bargains it made with *France*, after the *Restauration*, how it dealt with her for *Dunkirk*, sold her Ship Stores, taught her the Art of Building Ships, and furnish'd her with the Materials, all that goes for nothing in Comparison of the Invasions it suffer'd her to make on our Tariff, till our loss in the Balance of Trade with her rose Yearly to eleven or twelve hundred thousand Pounds. In the time of the Pension Parliament, when there was a Debate about a War with *France* for the Preservation of the *Netherlands*, which was very warm on the 30th of *March 1677*. Those who were against it, said, among other Things, *That England being a Trading*

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Trading Nation, could not endure a War. To which it was answer'd, *That it had been made appear, and that in Parliament, that upon the Ballance of the French Trade this Nation was detrimented by it 900000 l. or a Million; the Value of the Goods exported hence thither, whereby it is evident that such a Sum of the Treasury Money of the Nation was Yearly exhausted and carry'd into France, and all this for unnecessary Wines, Silks, Ribbons, Feathers, &c. the saving and retrenching of which Expence and Exhausting, will in a great degree serve to maintain the Charge of a War.*

Now tho it is not to be suppos'd that the *French* broke in all at once so furiously on our Tariff, yet if we lost two or three hundred thousand Pounds Yearly more by that Trade afterwards to the Year 1688, we may form a Medium of a Million from Sixty eight to Eighty eight, which amounts to twenty Millions Sterling, and the Improvement of such Twenty Millions in Twenty five Years since, will amount by a common Calculation to as much as the Charge of the last Glorious War. And if so many Millions were lost by us and gain'd by our Enemy, the Loss to us is

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double, inasmuch as we are weaken'd as much as they are strengthen'd by it, and then without being the best Arithmetician in *Europe*, we may easily calculate that the Trade with *France* for Twenty Years only, between 1668 and 1688, was to our Damage as much as the Two *French Wars*.

How may this Argument be further improv'd by considering, that if we had not been such Losers in the *French Trade*, we might probably have gain'd as much in others, and the Improvement of that Gain, for Twenty Five Years in the way of Commerce, wou'd amount to a Treasure which wou'd frighten one to hear nam'd, when we reflect that Care and Conduct might have made it ours. Trade may as well Impoverish a Nation as enrich it; the Trade of *Spain* and *Portugal* Beggars those Nations, and our Trade wou'd do the same by us, were it not for our Manufactures. How those will be prejudic'd by a new Commerce with *France*, one may easily imagine by the universal Allarm the Fears of it only put the Nation in, or they wou'd not have so soon follow'd their Loyal Addresses with Petitions. Our Trade with *France*, says an Author of good Credit

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dit, in all Ages past sufficiently proves, that our Kingdom may be made Poor by Trade, as we shou'd have been by the vast Treasure their Linens, Wines, Silks, Toys, and Salt, drew from this Kingdom, if our other Commerce in the World had not balanc'd our Loss there.

Of all the Nations upon Earth, the *French* are those that shou'd get the least by us; for we may depend upon it, that there can be no Augmentation of Wealth and Power accrue to *France*, which we or our Posterity will not be oblig'd to struggle with, if not to submit to it: And what Fools shall we be to contribute so far to our own Ruin, as to pick out that Nation to be bubbles to 'em in Trade, whom of all Mankind we ought to be upon our Guard against, that they may not get a Penny by us.

Old *Double*, the reputed Author of the *Mercator*, whose Judgment is as Superficial as it is Inconstant, told us in King *William's* time, that the Trade to *France* cou'd never hurt *England*, if that were settled on the same Foot with the *Dutch*, as in his Discourse on the *East India Trade*; but he insists upon it, that without such a Tariff it wou'd hurt us, as may be seen in his own dear Words, . . . If

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‘ If ’tis expected, *says he*, the high
 ‘ Duties now lying upon *French Com-*
 ‘ modities shou’d be taken off, the
 ‘ Legislative Power here may reason-
 ‘ ably insist upon the following
 ‘ Terms.

I. ‘ That we may carry thither all
 ‘ sorts of Goods, the Importation of
 ‘ which is not universally forbidden
 ‘ to their own Subjects.

II. ‘ Particularly as to the *Levant*
 ‘ Goods, that we may be permitted
 ‘ to carry them to *Marseilles* and other
 ‘ Places in *France*, where the Impor-
 ‘ tation is allow’d of, and that the Im-
 ‘ position thereupon of 20 *l. per Cent*
 ‘ be taken of.

III. ‘ That the Duties laid upon our
 ‘ Woollen Manufactures may be less-
 ‘ en’d; if ’tis expected the Duties up-
 ‘ on *French Wine* and *Linnen* should
 ‘ be lessen’d here.

IV. ‘ That it may be free for us to
 ‘ carry thither Sugars, Tobacco, and
 ‘ other Goods of our Plantation Pro-
 ‘ duct, under moderate Duties.

V. ‘ That all Edicts and Tariffs be
 ‘ revok’d, which forbid the importing
 ‘ or wearing of our *East India* Goods,
 ‘ and that the Imposition upon ’em
 ‘ be reduc’d to the same Proportion as
 ‘ shall

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‘ shall be thought convenient to lay
 ‘ here upon the Luxurious Consump-
 ‘ tion of Commodities brought from
 ‘ *France* hither.

VI. ‘ That the Imposition of 50
 ‘ Pence upon Foreign Shipping be
 ‘ taken off as to *England*.

These, Sir, are the Demands of the
Mercator in the Reign of King *William*,
 and amount to this, that we have Li-
 berty to carry our Cloth, our Stock-
 ings, our Hats, our every thing to
France; to sell our *Turkey* and *East In-*
dia Goods there, as also our Sugars,
 Tobacco, Cotton, Ginger, &c. To this
 he adds, *The Publick of this Kingdom*
may very well insist upon having things
brought as near as possible to the Pasture
they were in about the Year 1664. And
 pray compare them with that Honest
 and experienc’d Gentleman’s Project in
 his New Paper, if you, who are a Mer-
 chant, and feel what he only dreams of,
 can bear reading such a parcel of incon-
 gruous, unintelligible Jargon.

I have seen an Author * of much
 better Authority, because of
 much greater Worth and
 Experience than this Weekly
 Projector, who gives us a Calcula-
 tion

* *Britannia*
Languens.

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tion of the Trade of *France* with respect to us and other Nations, which wou'd make us afraid of giving a helping Hand to the encrease of it. Besides what the French receive from all the Regions of the World, says he, they draw from the Northern Countries only,

By their Wines,	2,500,000
By their Salt,	1,000,000
By their Brandies,	500,000
By their Silks, Stuffs, Toys, and Fripperies,	4,000,000
Total	8,000,000

To corroborate the aforesaid Calculation, made by a Merchant, we need only take notice, that in one Article, that of Wrought Silks, we imported to the value of 600000 *l. per Annum*, as appears by Mr. Fortney's Computation. That Loss has been fav'd with a great many other Advantages by the Silk Manufacture in *England*, which will be entirely ruin'd by the Imports of Silks, if we lay that Trade open to them, or give them any Encouragement in it. This was prov'd with great force of Truth and Reason by Coll. *L'Eccloux* before the House of

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of Lords; yet Old Double tells you very plainly, that our *Silk Manufacture is a Trifle that we must give it up*, &c. as much as to say, that the maintaining of Ten or Twenty Thousand Families signifies nothing, and that out of Complacency to our Neighbouring Catholics we must turn Fifty Thousand *Hugonots* a Starving. I own Religion has no great Concern in this Controversy, but I challenge this Project-Monger to give me a better Reason for the giving up that Trade to *France*, than because the one are *Papists* and the other *Protestants*. I have not Time or Inclination to enter the Lists with this interested Theorist, who talks of Trade in the *Park* as a Mathematician does of Navigation on *Hampstead Hill*.

Whatever Schemes he built his Calculations on, they were none of his own, he borrow'd them of Mr *King* of the Herald Office; and tho' it is easie to disprove all his Political Arithmetick, and confute all Mr *King's* Schemes, which overthrows the Building this Projector has made on them; yet because he can marshal up three or four Ranks of Numbers, which are like so many magical Figures to certain Politicians, because he has acquir'd a little Mercantile Court, he is made much of

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as a Person extremely well acquainted with Trade: Nevertheless I will lay him as much Money as he is worth, that he cannot fit out a Ship for *Newfoundland*, nor make out an *Invoice* for *Virginia*. This Man, who usurps the Office of *Chief Director of the Commerce of Great Britain*, after having been very unhappy in a new Trade, set up upon the Revolution, the laying Wagers against the Government, the first News we hear of him is a Project to raise Money, upon which I have heard a Story; that applying himself to a Man of Quality for a Post, and being recommended by him to the Lord H—, that Lord did prefer him to one; I think it was Surveyor of the Woods and Forests, worth between three and four hundred Pounds a Year, which when this worthy Gentleman heard of, he came to his Lordship and said, he had a Project for the Publick Service, and he doubted not it would deserve a better Employment. This Project was no more nor no less than a sort of Sponge, the putting a stop to the Payment of the Debts already contracted, and making use of the Money appropriated for that use; which when the Noble Lord understood, he told him it would be to ruin the King's Affairs

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Affairs, and he might depend upon it, as long as he had any Share in the Management of the Business of the Publick, he shou'd never be employ'd by it. This produc'd Projects upon Projects, Schemes upon Schemes, and a Poem, wherein I find these Verses.

*His Lubbard Genius from its Basis crost,
In heaps of false Arithmetick is lost,
And crude Essays with heavy Schemes of
(Trade,
All undigested doze his Lumpish Head.*

After this he wrote for the *East India Company*, and then for Sir *Charles Duncomb*, which doubtless he did for nothing, as the *Review* wrote for the *African Company* and the *Colliers of Newcastle*. The *Times* taking another Face he brings his *Double and Whiglowe* upon the Stage, full of *Staunch Principles*, and for the very Pinnacle of the Church Interest. Some time after another Face appearing, out comes a Voluminous Tract upon *Moderation and Union*. He then lay quiet for several Years, and we heard no more of him till his new *Dialogues*, for which he was so cruelly mawl'd by the *Medley*, and now lately, as it is suggested, he appears in the *Mercator*, a Paper so stuff'd with *Incongruities, Falshood, Ignorance, and*

Affurance, that I wonder how any one can read it, was it not besides so mortally dull and tedious. I presage his Time will be cut very short, and that his Friends will be asham'd of an old pretending batter'd Pen, which comes Stale to the Market, and only intercepts the Reward due to Younger and usefuller Pretenders. The last Project he publish'd as to Ways and Means, was in his last Dialogue, p. 198, 201, which I shall give the Reader a Sketch of, to shew what an accomplish'd Projector he is, and that his Friends may more easily raise the Devil than Money by such Figures as his are.

- A Project of the Mercator's to raise Money.*
- A Tax on Auction of Books and Pictures.*
- On Quack Bills, Almanacks, and Plays.*
- On Cockpits, Bowling-Greens, and Nine-Pine-Alleys.*
- On Shovel-Boards, Billiard Tables, Musick-Booths.*
- On Strong Water Shops, and Raree Shows.*
- On Vintners, Wine-Coopers, Jockeys, and Undertakers.*
- On Chocolate and Coffee-Houses.*
- On Cards and upon the Jews.*

Let any Man Alive judge whether this Writer who has study'd all Ways and Projects to raise Money from wagering upon *Mons* to the Ballance of the

the Trade of the World, is not a rare Pen to direct us in the settling our Traffick. He who never traded in any thing but Policies of Insurance and other *Coercive Papers*, and has rais'd all his *Heavy Schemes* from the Hearsay of People of almost as little Experience as himself. How can a little Scrivener of *Birchin Lane*, or a Dealer in Stocks and Funds instruct any one in the Advantages of Trade in General and Particular, and set the Commerce of the World with respect to *England*, in a Ballance.

There are as great Qualities necessary to do this, as to perform any one Act of Science; and a Man can no more succeed in it without Experience, than a *Case-Graver* can make a *Watch*. Some Merchants themselves have but imperfect Notions of this great Ballance of Trade, most of them dive in to it no farther than it has Relation to this Part of the World, or that to which they Traffick: But their Best Heads take in all Parts of Commerce, make just Observations upon all, go to the Bottom of Things, and prove them by Practice.

From these Men it is we should look for Informations, and not from any Conceited Enterprizing *Theorist*, prepar'd

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par'd to *assert* or *confute* according as he is paid, and having Lights of all Kinds, he puts his Picture in that which his Customer wants to purchase of him; Ask a *Virginia* Merchant what are the Profits and Laws of Exchange. How a Nation gets or loses by the Rise or Fall of them, it is well if you find he knows the Difference between a *Stiver* and a *Milree*. Ask the Dealers in Exchange how it comes that we get by sending our Money to the *East Indies*, a *Point Old Double* labours with more Warmth than any other, he is lost, and can as easily solve a *Problem* in *Euclid*; but the *Mercator* is the very Soul of Trade, he has it Root and Branch, and without ever having dealt for a Penny in his Life, can tell you how to grow Rich or Poor, and Poor or Rich, the very same way. according as you are dispos'd to hear him and pay him.

If after all this you should demand why I do not descend to Particulars, and prove his Falsties? Besides that, the Voice of the People in their *Petitions* from all Quarters of the Kingdom cry out against this Trade-Sophister. I doubt not the Sense of the Parliament of *Great Britain*, the Wisest and most August Body in the World

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World will declare it self in a Day or two to the Silence and Confusion of this Dreamer in Trade. Interest never lyes, if *Merchants, Clothiers, &c.* were not sure the *French Trade* on the *Mercator's* Foot would ruin us, no Faction, no Party could prevail on them to interrupt the general Joy of the Nation on the late *Peace*. *Petitions* would not clash with *Addresses* as those from *Leeds* did. For I am satisfy'd all the good People of *England* have such a Dutiful Affection for Her Majesty, who has so gloriously and happily reign'd over them, that there is not a Man of them would shew the least uneasiness in his Obedience to her Royal Pleasure, if Interest and the Preservation of Trade did not compel him to lay the fair State of the Case before our Representatives in Parliament, whom her Majesty has been so Graciously pleas'd to consult in the Course of these Negotiations, and whose Advice is not so unnecessary as the Enemies to all Parliamentary Rights and Privileges, the Enemies to our Constitution, and the Friends to *France* are pleas'd to represent it.

I must here do *Double* the Justice to own I can hardly think it is done him by common Fame in laying the *Mercator*

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tor at his Door. The Life of that wretched Paper is like to be very short. It vanishes at a Breath from the House of Commons, and I would not for a good deal that a Man who has been so good a Friend to the Press as *Tom Double* should be so disgrac'd as to see all his fine Projects blasted in so few Days. Who put him upon Writing, and for what end I shall not trouble my Head about. If the Petitioners succeed I know he will have writ to no End, and whoever put him upon it will be asham'd of him. To contradict the Experience of all the Traders in *England*, for has there one Merchant, one Tradesman defended his Cause tho so often defy'd to do it. To contradict the Experience of fifty Years Commerce and to give no better Authority than his own bare Word for it, must end in the most terrible Mortification that every poor Man met with, the Contempt that is the Consequence of baffled Error and Presumption. I cannot doubt the good Effects of the Wisdom and Justice of the *British* Parliament and to their Determinations all Loyal *Britains* will resign themselves with Pleasure.

I shall in the next Place, remember you, Sir, of a small Difference between the *Mercator* and *Old Double* about the
Land

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Land Interest, which *Torism* affects to be mighty Zealous for out of spite toits *ill willer Trade*. The *Examiner*, who pretends to every thing, has often entertain'd us on this Subject. He cannot cast Account so well as *Tom Double*, but he can assert every whit as well, and speak of Things he knows nothing of. This *Land Interest* *Tom Double* in his last Dialogues would fain have set up above Trade, giving entirely into the Principles of *Torism*; but alas he did it purely for Fashion sake and for want of Memory, for himself has clear'd that Argument perfectly well, and I chuse to make use of it because his Word will have weight with such as will allow none to have Sense that are not of their own side, and that Monsieur *Double* is a *Staunch Tory* we may be sure of by the Company he was caught in at the *Blue Posts* in the *Hay Market*, no less a *Tory* than Monsieur *Poussin*, for by *Tory* I never mean an Honest Churchman, Zealous for the Prerogatives of the Crown and Church, a good Subject and an *Englishman*, but a downright Friend to *France* and the Pretender.

Notwithstanding whatever he and the *Examiner* have said of the *Land Interest*, whatever Common Sense dictates that Land can be worth nothing without Trade as to our Defence, and consequently

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sequently

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frequently our Preservation, I shall for the Satisfaction of some Honest Gentlemen who run away with a Notion of the Preference of the Land to the Trade Interest, remember him what the *Mercator*, or the Reputed *Mercator*, says of it in another Discourse of his.

‘ Many in their Debates and Councils seem to have no other View and Aim than to promote the immediate Interest of Land, they are always warm in the Concerns of it, and more indifferent and careless in what relates to Trade than perhaps is consistent with the Welfare and Safety of this Kingdom. After he has argued further on this Head, he comes to his Demonstrations, which nearly touch those who are accus’d by him of this Indifference and Carelessness. ‘Tis not hard to shew, says he, what is the Annual Income of *England* from Land Trade, and all sorts of Business, and what is the Annual Expence of the whole People both in War and Peace, and how much the National Stock increases in Time of Peace, &c. He then goes on with his Schemes, which if the Enemies to Trade ever read and understood, they would never let a Crew of Mercenary Scriblers divide the *Land* and *Trade Interest*, but look upon them
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to be inseparable, and that when they promote that of *Trade*, they promote that of *Land* also, which is very easy to prove. ‘Tis no Matter whether his Schemes are his own or not. I am very well satisfy’d they are all borrow’d by his Performances since and his blind Arguments on such just Plans. Since 1666. says this Doctor of Commerce, the Price of *Land* in the best Counties was come from 20 to 26 and 27 Years Purchase, and in those Parts where formerly it was sold for 14 Years Purchase it yielded 17 and 18. And as to Money upon *Land Security* there was much more lent out at that Time at 4 and 4 and a half than at 5 or 6 per Cent. From that Year there were more Improvements made in *Land* than had been known in 50 Years before, by enclosing, Manuring, taking in of waste Ground, and meliorating what was poor or barren. He argues thus on a Supposition that from 1666 we flourish’d in Trade, and that from our so flourishing by it, this Value and Improvement of Land rose. He then shews how by Trade our General Rental for Lands, Houses, Mines, &c. encreas’d after our Commerce became considerable, which Scheme of his is as follows.

The General Rental in 1600	6,000,000
The Land, &c. then worth	{ 72,000,000
at 12 Years Purchase.	

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The Gen. Rental in 1688 14,000,000
 The Land, &c. then }
 worth 18 Years Purchase by a Medium. } 252,000,000

By this it appears, that the Lands of *England* were risen in value in 88 Years 180 Millions, and was worth almost four times as much at the latter End as at the Beginning of that Century. Let us now see how our Stock rose in value also. By Stock is comprehended *Coin'd Silver, Coin'd Gold, Bullion, Wrought Plate, Rings, and Jewels, Furniture, Apparel, &c. Stock for Trade, Consumption, &c. and the Live Cattel, &c.*

The Stock of *England* was,

In the Year 1600	17,000,000
In the Year 1630	28,000,000
In the Year 1660	56,000,000
In the Year 1688	88,000,000

And without the Interruption of Wars, wou'd, according to him, have been 112 Millions. Thus Trade improv'd, our Stock near one hundred Millions in Ninety Year, and our Land 180 Millions: And the General Wealth of the Nation in Land, Trade, &c. almost Three Hundred Millions.

This, Sir, is the *Interest* the *Examiner* and all other Tory Writers cry down, in Complaisance to the Land Interest, which

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which wou'd be ruin'd without it. Nor are these last Schemes Fanciful and Imaginary; whoever help'd Old *Double* to them, they are pretty near the Truth. I might now observe how modest this Writer is in the same Treatise, where he falls upon Mr *Polluxin*, a Member of Parliament, one of the Commissioners of Trade, and what is more a wealthy Merchant, calling him by way of Reproach, a *Lisbon Factor, a Dealer to Portugal*, and the like, and endeavouring to prove, that Merchants are not as fit Judges as He of the Trade of the World, giving this humble Parallel as an Instance of it; *It was to the deep Judgment of the Ministers of State, Richlieu and Colbert, and not to the Merchants, that France ow'd the Prosperity of their Trade.* I do not think 'tis in Trade as in Poetry, that a Man may be a good Critick and yet be a bad Poet, or no Poet at all; and since the *Mercator* is not yet a *Richlieu* nor a *Colbert*, and probably must be content with the Post of a *Commis* or a *Financier*, instead of that of a Minister of State 'twill be wise in him to leave the Province of Trade to the Merchants, who have travell'd the Country, and not set up for a Guide when he knows not one Step of the way. It

It might not be Foreign from my Subject to offer something in behalf of the Money d Interest as to the Credit of such as are possess'd of it, and to endeavour to prove, that he who has 6000 l. by him in Money and Money's worth, deserves Trust as much as he who has 300 l. a Freehold for Life, in Old Houses or Land, in *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*. I might also recommend to those who are such Enemies to Trade, the Reputation it has always been in with Wise Politicians, and that if they wou'd gain so honourable a Name, they must come nearer to the Opinion of their great Master *Machiavel*, who says in his *Decades on Livy*, speaking of certain *Florentines* or *Pisans*, who thought no Science so Noble and Beneficial as that of *Heraldry*, that *Gentlemen are a sort of People who are useless Members of Society, and the Plagues of Princes and Common-wealths*. It will be laid, that he who said it was a Man of Republican Principles: However, I care not for that, what he says is on my side, and seems to prove that the *Whigs* and *Tories* of all Countries have differ'd as to their Sentiments of Trade; that the former have been always for and the latter against it.

Since the Writing the preceding Pages, happy News is come for the Trade of *England*, the House of Commons, the greatest Bulwark of our Trade and Liberty, has thrown out the Bill that allarm'd all the *British* Traders; and the *Mercator* has the Shame to have written 10 or 20 Papers of the most Flagrant Falsties and Inconsistencies to no manner of Purpose. All the Comfort the poor Creature can have, is, that they will be forgotten in as few Weeks as they were written, and happy will it be for him if he is himself as soon forgotten as his Writings.

I must now, Sir, clear you from all the Offence that any body may take at what has been said in a Letter, of which you will know nothing till you see it in Print, and perhaps not then. The Author is a Lover of his Country, and consequently of its Trade; and as you are a Patriot and a Merchant, he cou'd not address these Cursory Reflections to a Gentleman more capable of protecting them; tho' 'tis very unlikely you shou'd grant your Protection to a Person who has been at so little Pains to court it; but is entirely
 Your, &c.