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A
COLLECTION
OF
PETITIONS

Presented to the Honourable

House of Commons

AGAINST THE

Trade with *FRANCE*

VIZ.

- I. The Course of Exchange between *London* and *Paris* before the Revolution: Or, a Demonstration that our Bullion was then Exported upon the Ballance of our Trade with *France*.
- II. The Case of the Manufacturers of Gilt and Silver WIRE.
- III. Some Reasons Humbly offered to the Consideration of Both Houses of Parliament; shewing, The Necessity for making a Law this present Session of Parliament, to oblige all Foreign Plain Black Silks to be Imported at the Port of *London*, &c.
- IV. An Account of the Woollen Manufacture Made in the Province of *Languedoc*, and at *Abbeville*, in *Picardy*.
- V. The Case of the Woollen Manufacturers of *Great Britain*, and of the Poor they Employ, &c.
- VI. Particulars wherein the Bill for laying the Trade to *Africa* Free and Open, takes away and destroys the Property of the *African* Company and their Creditors, now united by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament.
- VII. The Case of the Clothiers, with Reference to their several PETITIONS.

London: Printed for *J. Baker*, at the Black-Boy in *Paternoster-Row*; and Sold by *T. Harrison*, at the South-West End of the *Royal-Exchange* in *Cornhill*, 1713. Price 3

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THE
 Course of Exchange
 BETWEEN
London and Paris
 BEFORE THE
 REVOLUTION, &c.



THE *Mercator*, and those that set him to work, labour as much as possible to have it thought, that when we had an open Trade with *France*, our Exports to that Kingdom were at least equal to their Imports thither, and that consequently a Ballance of Money was not issued out of *England* by means of that Trade. If therefore it can be demonstrated that a Yearly Ballance of Silver was issu'd into *France*, it is plain that our Exports could not be equal to their Imports; and then the *Mercator* and his Masters will be oblig'd to confess, that this Trade has not always been beneficial to this Kingdom.

The Way I shall chuse to do this, shall be by the Course of the Exchange between *London* and *Paris* for many Years before the Revolution.

But here I am oblig'd to explain this matter of Exchange a little, to make the Argument intelligible.

Exchange then is a Way of paying the Debts reciprocally

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due between two Cities of the same or different Countries, without transmitting any Money from the one to the other, and only by changing the Debtors of one City into the Debtors of the other.

For Example; A. of London is Indebted in 100 l. to B. of Bristol, and C. of Bristol owes just the same Sum to D. of London. 'Tis manifest these Debts may be paid without transmitting any Money from either of those Cities to the other, and only by transferring the Debts, viz. by the Payment of A's Debt to D. and that of C. to B. If therefore A. and C. shall mutually desire each other to pay the respective Debt of each, if the London Debtor shall by his Bill desire him of Bristol to pay 100 l. to the Creditor of that City, and the Bristol Debtor shall desire him of London to pay 100 l. to the Creditor in this City; it is manifest both Debts are transfer'd, each Debtor has chang'd his Creditor, and the Notes by which this is desir'd are properly and justly call'd Bills of Exchange.

In like manner, how numerous soever the Creditors may be, and whether the Debts are 100 or 100,000 l. yet as long as the total Sums due from each City to the other are equal, the whole may be discharg'd by Bills of Exchange, without transmitting a single Farthing from or to either of the Cities.

But where the Debts of either of the Cities exceed those of the other, it is impossible they should be all paid in each by Bills of Exchange, without transmitting the Difference in Money from that City which is most Indebted. For Example; If the Debts of the People of London to those of Bristol are 100,000 l. and the Debts of Bristol to London are 100 l. less; the whole reciprocal Debts of each cannot be discharg'd by Bills of Exchange: The Difference, that is to say, the 100 l. must be transmitted from London, or from some other Place that is Indebted in that Sum to London.

Where the Debts reciprocally due from the People of each City to the other are equal, no Reason can be assign'd why the Exchange should not be equal; why a Citizen of Bristol who wants to pay 100 l. in London, should not give as much for his Bill of Exchange, as a Londoner shall give to pay the like Sum in Bristol; or indeed, why in either of the Places any more than 100 l. should be given for a Bill of Exchange of the like Value. If this is so, the Exchange must be at Par (as it is usually call'd) that is to say, the Price

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Price of a Bill of Exchange of 100 l. must be Par or equal to 100 l. in both Places.

But if a Sum of Money must be actually transmitted from London to Bristol, to pay the Difference or Excess of Debts due from the former to the latter, the Carriage and Insurance of this Sum must be paid by the People who are to transmit the Money. This cannot chuse but raise the Value of a Bill of Exchange at London above Par, and reduce the Exchange at Bristol below Par, in proportion to the Charge of the Carriage and Insurance of the Sum that shall be transmitted from the former to the latter. Suppose, for Example, the Debts due from London to Bristol are 1000 l. and those from Bristol to London but 900 l. that the Difference, viz. 100 l. must be transmitted from this last place, and that the Carriage and Insurance of such a Sum shall cost 10 s. it is certain the Debtors of London who are to pay the Money in Bristol, must be at this whole Charge: And the Question is, How, and by which of them it shall be born?

It is certain that not any one of the Debtors in London will be contented to bear the whole Charge of 10 s. every one of them will endeavour to procure a Bill of Exchange. And since there cannot be Bills of Exchange upon Bristol for every one of the Debtors in London, by our very Supposition, every one of the latter will be contented to give a little more than a 100 l. for a Bill of Exchange upon Bristol.

Every one of them also, to reduce his part of the Charge of transmitting the 100 l. to Bristol, will be ready to let a Bristol Creditor draw upon him with some Abatement. So that the Persons who make it their Business to remit Money, will be at the immediate Charge of transmitting the 100 l. to Bristol; and every Debtor in London is likely to bear his part of the Charge, by giving Six-pence more than a 100 l. for a Bill of Exchange of that Value upon Bristol, or by taking Six-pence less than a 100 l. in Bristol, to pay that Sum in London. By which means the Charge of transmitting the 100 l. lies upon the Debtors of London, and is born by all of them share and share alike.

If the Difference therefore of the Exchange between London and Bristol is to the Disadvantage of the former; if a Man in London will give Six-pence more than a 100 l. for a Bill of Exchange upon Bristol of this Value, or take Six-pence less than a 100 l. in Bristol, to pay this last Sum in London

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London: If this is the current Difference of the Exchange between both Places, it is a clear Demonstration, that a Balance in Money is due from London to Bristol.

The same Argument will hold good, not only between London and Bristol, but also between London and any other Town in England, or any other Country.

Money, of whatsoever Weight and Fineness, in whatsoever Country, ought certainly to be valued against the same intrinsic worth of Money in any other Country. For Example, The old French Crown is equivalent to 4 s. and 6 d. or to 54 d. English; or an 100 l. English is equivalent to 444 Crowns, 1½ Livres old French Money. The Exchange therefore between England and France is at Par, when we give neither less nor more in England than 54 d. for a Bill of Exchange, to pay an old French Crown; or when we give neither less nor more than 100 l. in England for a Bill of Exchange, to pay 444 Crowns 1½ Livres of old French Money. The same may be said in France, *mutatis mutandis*, with respect to the Payments they are to make in England.

On the contrary, if in England we are to give more than 54 d. for a Bill of Exchange to pay a Crown, or more than 100 l. to pay 444 Crowns 1½ Livres of old French Money; and the French shall give less than 444 Crowns for a Bill of Exchange to pay 100 l. or less than their old French Crown to pay 54 d. in England, it is manifest the Difference of the Exchange is in the Favour of France, and that a Balance in Money is going to them out of England. And the greater the Difference is against us, beyond what will pay for the Carriage into France, it is a Demonstration of the greater Balance of Money going out of England.

I will desire then any Man to observe, what was the Course of the Exchange from London to Paris, for some Years before the Revolution, or how much we paid here for Bills of Exchange upon that City.

EXCHANGE on PARIS.

		July	56½
		August	57
		September	55
		October	55
		November	54½
		December	54½
1673.	April	55	January
	May	55½	
	June	55½	

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January	}	55
February		
March		

1674.

April	55½	
May	56½	
June	56½	
July	57	
August	}	57 a 57½
September		
October	57½	
November	57½	
December	57½	
January	58½	
February	57½ a 57¾	
March	58 a 57¾	

1675.

April	58 a 57¾	
May	57¾	
June	58½	
July	}	57¾
August		
September	57¾	
October	56½	
November	55½	
December	54	
January	54½	
February	55	
March	54½	

1676.

April	55
May	55½
June	55½
July	55½ to 56
August	55½

September	54½
October	55 to 54½
November	54½ to 55
December	54½
January	55
February	55
March	54½

1681.

April	}	54½ a 55
May		
June	}	55½
July		
August	55½	
September	54½	
October	55½	
November	}	55
December		
January	55	
February	54½	
March	55	

1682.

April	55	
May	55½	
June	55½	
July	55½	
August	55½	
September	55½	
October	55	
November	55	
December	}	54½
January		
February	}	54½ a 55
March		

1683.

April	}	54½
May		
June		

		(8)	
June	54 $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$	January	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
July	54 $\frac{3}{8}$	February	54
August	54	March	
September			
October		1686.	
November		April	54
December		May	54 $\frac{1}{4}$
January	54 $\frac{5}{8}$	June	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
February	54 $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$	August	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
March		September	54 $\frac{5}{8}$
		October	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
1684.		November	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
April	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	December	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
May	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	January	
June	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	February	54 $\frac{1}{4}$
July	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	March	
August	55 $\frac{1}{4}$		
September	54 $\frac{7}{8}$	1687.	
October	54	October	53 $\frac{3}{4}$
November		November	53 $\frac{1}{4}$
December	54 $\frac{1}{4}$	December	52 $\frac{7}{8}$
January		January	52 $\frac{7}{8}$
February	54 $\frac{1}{4}$	February	52 $\frac{3}{4}$
March		March	
		1688.	
April	54 $\frac{3}{4}$	April	53
May	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	May	
June	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	June	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
July	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	July	
August	54 $\frac{5}{8}$	August	53 $\frac{7}{8}$
September	54 $\frac{5}{8}$	September	
October	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	October	
November	54 $\frac{1}{4}$		
December			

These are the Prices, as Exchange went from hence to Paris; but when Bills were drawn at Paris on London, the Difference was a Penny, or Three Half-Pence higher;

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higher; which is so much the more to the Disadvantage of England.

It is manifest by the above-mention'd Scheme, during the Year 1673, at a Medium, we paid in London 55d. for a Bill of Exchange, to pay in Paris the then French Crown, or the Equivalent of our 54 d. that is, to pay 444 of their Crowns, $1\frac{1}{3}$ of their then Livres (which are the Equivalent of our 100 l.) we paid 102 l. 8 s. 7 d.

And on the contrary, as at the least so much short is always given for Bills of Exchange at Paris on London, as those at London exceed, it is certain, that no Man in Paris, during that Year, at a Medium, paid more than the Equivalent of 97 l. 12 s. for a Bill of Exchange to pay 100 l. in London. So that the People in Paris paid as much less than Par for Bills of Exchange, to pay their Debts in London; as we here gave more than Par for the Payment of ours in Paris.

It is not to be imagin'd, that during a time of Peace, as that was, between England and France, it cou'd cost any Man above one per Cent. to carry and ensure Crown Pieces, or Bullion from London to Paris; that is, 20 s. for 30 l. Weight, four times as much as would be given for equal Freight of an East-India Voyage, tho' the Return from Paris is made in a 24th part of the time. If therefore, according to the Course of the Exchange, any Man in London Indebted in 444 Crowns, $1\frac{1}{3}$ Livres, old Money; or which is the same thing in 100 l. will pay 102 l. 10 s. to him that shall discharge this Debt: And if the Value of 100 l. in Bullion can be carry'd and ensur'd to Paris for this Purpose at the Cost of 20 s. 'tis plain here is 30 s. clear Profit to the Man that exports the Value of 100 l. in Bullion to that City. And if this Voyage can be repeated twelve times in a Year, and the Course of the Exchange shall continue still the same, the clear Gain will be 18 per Cent. per Ann. This, perhaps, would be thought as great Profit, as was to be gain'd by any Trade whatsoever. - Is it then in the least to be doubted that great Quantities of Bullion, whether Coin'd or Uncoin'd, were exported in that Year from London to Paris?

But of this we may rest assur'd, that as it appears by the Difference of the Exchange, that Money was due

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due to *France* upon the Ballance of our Trade, so the Imports from that Kingdom hither must needs have exceeded our Exports to that Country; and if the Loss of Money was a Detriment, the *French* Trade could not possibly be beneficial to this Kingdom, unless it can be shewn that we were some way or other repair'd by means of the same Trade.

As for the Year 1674, we paid here a Medium for Bills of Exchange upon *Paris* 57½ to pay 54; or to pay there the Equivalent of 100 *l.* it Costs us here 106 *l.* 3 *s.* 5 *d.* And even the following Year to Pay in *Paris* the Equivalent of 100 *l.* it Cost us here for Bills of Exchange 104 *l.* 12 *s.* 7 *d.* And for the same Reason as before, Bills of Exchange upon *London* were purchased as much below Par in *Paris*, as we paid above Par for those we Bought in *London* upon *Paris*. And 'tis well known, that in *Morlaix* and other Towns of *France* with which we Traded, the Exchange was yet a great deal more to the Disadvantage of this Kingdom. These were such prodigious Differences, that it is wonderful any Bullion could be left in *England*. But certainly the Profit was so very great for Exporting of it into *France*, and so much of it therefore, we may depend upon it, was Exported thither, that one cannot wonder she was able at this time to carry on such successful Wars as she did against the whole House of *Austria*, and (*England* excepted) against almost all the rest of *Europe*. And will the *Mercator*, or those that set him to Work, pretend, that such a Trade as that was beneficial to this Kingdom?

As for the Years 1676, 1681, 1682, 1684, the Ballance against us upon the Bills drawn in *London* was almost two *per Cent.* at a Medium; and at least as much in all that were drawn in *Paris* upon *London*. This was a sufficient Encouragement for the Exportation of great Quantities of our Silver, as well as a Demonstration that great Quantities of it were Exported. And will any Man pretend to say that the Trade to *France* was then profitable to *England*?

In the Years 1683, 1685, 1686, the Ballance was not above 14 *s.* *per Cent.* *Lib.* against us at a Medium upon Bills of Exchange drawn in *London* or *Paris*. Perhaps it will be thought this was not an Encouragement sufficient to Export great Quantities of Coin out of *England*;

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England; yet doubtless it was sufficient to intercept very great Part of that Bullion which was coming to us upon the Ballance of our Trade with *Holland*, *Spain*, and other Countries. And however, it is at least sufficient to shew, that we lost by our Trade with *France*.

From *October* 1687, to *September* following, was the only time that the Profit of the Exchange was on the Side of *England*. It appears, That during those few Months we gave no more than 98 *l.* 12 *s.* 3 *d.* for Bills of Exchange of 100 *l.* on *Paris*; and consequently, that *Paris* had then greater Sums to pay in *London*, than *London* had in *Paris*. But whether we were oblig'd to our Trade for this, is very justly a Question; for the Period of Time was remarkable. A Pretender was to be born; a Standing Army was kept up against the Consent of the People. These extraordinary Expences might call for extraordinary Sums. The Parliament did not think fit to give them. Who then should furnish those Sums but *France*, which was likely to reap most Advantage by what was doing at that time in *England*? King *James* was to be enabled to keep *England* quiet, while his most Christian Majesty was to make Conquests upon all his other Neighbours. It is not improbable that great Sums were remitted hither upon this Account; and this might be the Cause of a Ballance at that time in our favour: But 'tis a melancholly Consideration, that Money should be always issuing hence to *France*, unless when that Prince is to Corrupt our Administration, and to pay the Price of our Ruin.

B 7

The

The Case of the Manufacturers of Gilt and Silver Wire. Humbly offer'd to the Honourable House of Commons.

THAT upon a moderate Computation, there are above Twenty Thousand Persons employed and maintained by this Manufacture, viz. Wire Drawers, Flatters, Spinners, Twisters, Lace-Weavers, Bone Lace-Makers, Embroiderers, Flourishers of Mullin, Button-Makers, Fancy Ribbon-Weavers, Broad-Weavers making Tissues, Brocades, and other rich flower'd Silks and Stuffs.

The Neat Produce of the Duty on Gilt and Silver Wire, from the First of July, 1712, to the Second of May, 1713, (being Eleven Lunary Months) including Stock in Hand; amounts to

The Drawback for what hath been exported from the Port of London, and the Out-Ports, during the said Eleven Months; amounts to upwards of

Which being deducted, there remains According to the same Proportion, the other two Months will produce

Which being added, the Amount of the whole Year will be

Out of which is to be deducted the Charges of Collecting, &c.

Greater Quantities have been exported, which Merchants (thro' Difficulties of getting Drawbacks, and to prevent a Seizure at Foreign Ports, where prohibited, or some other Reasons) have not enter'd.

Others

Others who usually were supplied here, have been furnished from France and Holland, to send to Foreign Ports since the Imposition.

There has been actually Exported; Gilt and Silver Wire, Spangles, Flatted Wire, that is used Abroad for Lace, Buttons, Embroidery, and also many Grofs of Gold and Silver frosted Buttons, for which there is no Drawback allowed; which Branches of the Trade will be greatly prejudiced, if not lost, by Reason the Duty on Gilt and Silver Wire advances the Price.

What deserves Consideration is, that there are great Numbers of Seamens Wives, Widows and Children employed, in Winding of Silk brought from Turkey, in Exchange for our Woollen Cloath; and paying 1 s. 6 d. per Pound Weight Custom to the Queen: No other Silk being used in the Gilt and Silver Wire Manufacture; and these poor People are employed at 18 d. and 20 d. per Week, and the Bone Lace-Makers at 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d. per Week.

There hath been since the Duty took place, several Parcels of Gold and Silver Thread, Lace, and Fringes, &c. seiz'd and offer'd to Sale: And probably greater Quantities have been clandestinely Imported from France or Holland, and other Foreign Parts, which have escaped the same Fate: A considerable Value being of a small Bulk, which Practice will continually Lessen the Duty, Destroy our Trade, and Increase the Poor, as is evident upon Comparing the Consumption of the Preceeding Year with that of the Present.

It was enacted Last Sessions of Parliament, that during the Continuance of the Duties, then laid upon Gilt and Silver Wire, no Gold or Silver Thread, Lace, Fringe, or other Work made thereof, shall be imported, or brought into Great-Britain, &c. which Clause, if repealed, or Liberty given to France to import them, and the Duties notwithstanding shall be continued on Gilt and Silver Wire, these Manufactures will be brought in cheaper, than can be made in England; whereby both our Foreign Exports and Home Consumption will chiefly consist of French Fabrick, which will unavoidably Involve with it, the Ruin of the said Trade, and of several Thousand Families who now have their sole Subsistence thereon.

Some

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Some Reasons humbly offer'd to the Consideration of both Houses of Parliament; Shewing, the Necessity for making a Law this present Sessions of Parliament, to oblige all Foreign plain Black Silks to be Imported at the Port of *London*, to be there Seal'd and Mark'd, after the Duties laid thereon shall be paid; and for obliging all plain Black Silks manufactured here to be Mark'd or Seal'd before expos'd to Sale.

THAT the Manufacturers of the said plain Black Silks, by their Industry, have brought the said Manufacture to such a flourishing Condition, as have sav'd to this Kingdom, in ready Money, the Sum of Three Hundred Thousand Pounds Yearly, for Twenty Years last past.

II. That this most considerable Branch of the Silk Manufacture lies under a great Discouragement, by the vast Quantities of Foreign Silks which are brought clandestinely into this Kingdom, from *Holland*, and other Parts, without Paying the Duties laid thereon by several Acts of Parliament.

III. That according to a moderate Computation, her Majesty has been defrauded Yearly, by those illegal Practices, of the Sum of Sixty Thousand Pounds; and it has much increased since the *Peace*, by the Freedom of Navigation: That if a speedy Care be not taken, we humbly conceive, this Branch of the said Silk Manufactory will in a short Time be entirely lost in this Kingdom, by Reason there is no Law, that directs the *Padefoy*, *Rastegenes*, and *Mantua* Silks, both Foreign, and those manufactured here, to be mark'd and seal'd, as there is for the *Alamodes*, *Lustrings*, and *Ranforcees*,

IV. That

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IV. That the sole making of *Alamodes*, *Lustrings* and *Ranforcees*, by the Royal Lustring Company, will expire at the end of this present Sessions of Parliament, and other Weavers will have an equal Right to make the said *Alamodes*, *Lustrings*, and *Ranforcees*. *Vide 9 & 10 Gul. 3. cap. 43.*

V. That in regard there are several Laws made for Preventing the fraudulent Importation of the said *Alamodes*, *Lustrings* and *Ranforcees*, wheresoever made, which shall be found in the Possession of any Person, not mark'd and seal'd, as in the said Laws are directed, shall be forfeited; and the Person, in whose Possession the same shall be found, shall forfeit One Hundred Pounds. *6 & 7 Gul. 3. cap. 18. 8 & 9 Gul. 3. cap. 36.*

Wherefore, and for that there is no Provision made by Law, whereby the said *Alamodes*, *Lustrings*, and *Ranforcees*, hereafter to be made by the said Weavers, may be seal'd and mark'd as it is required by the said Laws:

For Remedy therefore, and in order to prevent the illegal and pernicious Trade of Smuggling, the Preserving of Her Majesty's Revenues, and giving Incouragement and Employment to many Thousand Families, by manufacturing the said Goods;

The said Manufacturers most Humbly Pray, if it is consistent with the great Wisdom of Parliament, that not only all such Alamodes, Lustrings and Ranforcees, as shall be made by the said Weavers, be mark'd and seal'd; but that the Padefoy, Rastegenes, Mantua Silk, and all other plain Black Silks, may also be mark'd and seal'd; and that all the last mention'd Goods, that shall be Imported, may be likewise seal'd and mark'd at the Custom-House, London, by the proper Officers, as the said Alamodes, Lustrings, and Ranforcees are done, by virtue of the said Laws.

An

An Account of the Woollen Manufactures made in the Province of Languedoc, and at Abbeville, in Picardy.

A Bout 50 Years ago Mr. Colbert, by the French King's Orders, set up a Manufacture for White Cloth in Languedoc, in Imitation of our Long Cloth, to serve for their Levant Trade. This Manufacture is much increased, and it supplies them with Cloth to carry on that Trade. The Place where they are made is *Sattes*, near *Carcassone* and *Clermont de Lodeve*, on the Royal Canal, about 40 Leagues from *Marseilles*; where, besides these White Cloths, are also made great Quantities of mix'd, as followeth:

- Breadth.* *Carcassone*, mix'd Cloth.
1 Yard $\frac{3}{4}$ Which answers to our mix'd Cloth of about 12 or 13 s. a Yard.
- 1 Yard $\frac{1}{2}$ Which answers to ours ditto of 8 or 9 s. a Yard.
Limoux, mix'd Cloth.
- 1 Yard $\frac{3}{4}$ Which answers to our mix'd Cloth of 6 or 7 s. a Yard. These are usually sent to *Italy*.
St. Chignan and *St. Pons*, white Cloth.
- 1 Yard $\frac{1}{2}$ Which answers to our white Cloth of 9 or 10 l. Sterling a Piece of 43 Yards. These are for *Italy* and the *Levant* Seas.
- 1 Yard $\frac{3}{8}$ Which answers to ours of 8 l. Sterling a Piece of 43 Yards, which are also sold for the same Places as the former.
Tournon, white Cloth.
- 1 Yard $\frac{3}{8}$ Which answers to our *Drap de Berries*. These are for Clothing the Armies.
Ditto, mix'd Cloth.
- Ditto. Which answers to our *Leeds Double Dozens* of 5 s. a Yard.
Lodeve and *Clermont*, mix'd.
- Ditto. Very thick, which answers to *Leeds Double Dozens* of about 4 s. a Yard; are sold for *Italy*.

De

- Ditto. *De Cormus* or *Petit Lodeve*, mix'd.
Which answers to *Leeds Double Dozens* of 4 s. a Yard
Bedorieux, mix'd.
- Ditto. Which answers to our *Leeds Double Dozens* of 5 s. a Yard. Which are also sent for *Italy*.
Dolorgues or *Petit Bedorieux*, mix'd.
- 1 Yard $\frac{3}{4}$ Which answers to our *Leeds Double Dozens* of 3 s. a Yard.
Vigan, white Cloth.
- 1 Yard $\frac{3}{4}$ Which answers to our *White Leeds* of 6 l. or 7 l. a Piece of 42 Yards. These are usually dy'd into Colours for *Italy*.
La Caune and *La Salvete*, mix'd.
- 1 Yard $\frac{3}{4}$ Which answers to our *Leeds Double Dozens* of 2 s. 6 d. a Yard.
Bedorieux, mix'd *Drogguets*.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Ell. Which answers to ours of 2 s. a Yard, and are sold for *Italy*.
Bays at *Castres*, of all Colours which answer to *Leeds* plain *Reds*, and mix'd *Kerseys*, of 30 to 35 s. a Piece, of 17 or 18 Yards long.
Bays at *Castres* and *Mazamet*, which answer to our *Colchester Bays*, are of the same Length and Breadth. These are for the most part sent to *Spain*, with which that Kingdom has been supplied during the late War.
At *Mazamet* and *Boissezon* are made a sort of white Goods, which answer to our *Devonshire* white *Kerseys* of 2 s. a Yard, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ qrs. of Yard broad.
And another sort which answers to our *Leeds Kerseys* of 30 lb Weight, 30 Yards long, of 40 s. a Piece.
The same is White, 3 quarters of a Yard broad.
At *La Cabarede*.
A *Serge* mix'd with thread and wooll very fine, half ell broad; *Serges* of *Ferriers*, and other Places, mix'd Thread and Wool, half Yard broad, for *Italy*.
At *Agnan* and *St. Bauzely*, a white Stuff double mill'd, half Yard broad.
At *Toulouze*, *Grizetts* and *Ferrandines*, made of Goats Hair and Wool, and many other sorts, some of which are like unto our *Norwich* Stuffs.
Serges of *Uzes* superfine, (commonly call'd *Serge de Nesmes*) mix'd very fine, half Ell broad, the same we now make in *England* in Imitation of them.
Ditto, of the same Place, of Medium Fineness, also mix'd half Ell broad.

C

Ditto

(18)

Ditto, of *Allez*, White, half Ell broad, which is very fine Stuff, fit for Furniture of Houses, and is as fine as any *Exeter* Serges, for *Italy*.

Pessots of *Pompignan*, and of *Durfort*, white, 3 quarters and a half of a Yard Wide, this is also a very fine Stuff, and is like unto a fine *Exon* Serge, from 32 to 36 Shillings the Piece, of 20 Yards.

Ditto ordinary, also white, 3 quarters of a Yard wide, much like the *Exon* Serges of 30 Shillings the Piece, of 20 Yards long; vast Quantities of these are made for the Use of *France*.

Imperial White Serges of *St. Hippolite*, and other Places, one Yard Broad, much like unto our long Ells, and Perpetts, are of the same Length and Breadth, dress'd and folded the same way as ours: vast Numbers of Pieces are yearly made and sent to *Italy*, *Spain* and *Turkey*.

Besides these, there are yearly made in this Province a great many other sorts of Stuffs made of Wooll, as *Ratines*, *Half Ratines*, *Shalloons*, *Durances*, *Ruggs*, *Blankets*, *mill'd Serges*, and many others, too Tedious to Innumerate here; besides a prodigious Manufacture of worsted Stockings at *Nesmes* near *Montpelier*.

At *Abbeville* in *Picardy*, there is a large Manufacture set up at the *French King's* Charges, for the Settling of which he gave the Undertaker 80000 Livres, besides several other very great Priviledges and Advantages: This Manufacture is for fine *Spanish* Cloth, made all with *Spanish* Wooll, which is now brought to very great Perfection: These Cloths are like unto our *Spanish* Superfine Cloth from 13 to 16 Shillings a Yard.

N. B. If it were permitted to Import Woollen Manufactures from *France*, there is no Doubt to be made, but that in a very little time our Woollen Manufactures would be lost here; since all sorts might be Imported much Cheaper from *France* than ours are sold for here. What Merchant then can pretend to be able to send any Woollen Goods into *France*, when the Duties of 1664, and on Cloth the High Duties of 1699, are to be Paid there? Nay, if there were no Duties at all to be Paid: For besides the Cheapness of their Manufactures, there are such vast Quantities of them made, in almost all the Provinces of that Kingdom, that they have not only enough for themselves, but also plentifully supply *Turkey*, *Italy*, *Piedmont*, *Spain*, and other Countries: And the *French* have a great Advantage over us in all Colour'd

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Colour'd Goods, the Druggs for Dying being there much Cheaper than we buy them here, and several of these Druggs are of their own Growth: Their Wooll in *Languedoc*, and the adjacent Provinces, is as good as that of any other Country, (*Spanish* Wooll only excepted) their Labour very Cheap, and the Inhabitants very laborious.

This Account is given by a Merchant who has lived about 20 Years in *Languedoc*, and constantly dealt in Woollen Manufactures, and is now in *England*, where he also deals in our Woollen Manufactures, and therefore knows very well the Sorts and Prices of both.

N. B. A *French Ell* is something more than 1 Yard and a Quarter English; and in *France* they generally sell an Ell of the aforesaid Woollen Manufactures at about the same Price that we sell a Yard of the same Manufacturer here.

The Case of the Woollen Manufacturers of Great Britain, and of the Poor they Employ, In relation to a Trade with France.

Sheweth,

THAT the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom are not only the Support and the Riches of this Nation, and of our Landed Interest; but also the Subsistence of Millions of Poor of both Sexes, who are employed in these Manufactures, without which most of them must Inevitably Perish, or be an Immediate Heavy Charge (which already is almost insupportable) to the respective Parishes they belong to, or (that which would still be of much greater Consequence to this Nation) remove themselves into Foreign Countries, there exercise their Trades, and Teach those Nations to perfect their Woollen Manufactures, to the great Prejudice, if not to the Intire Destruction of our own.

That the great Support of these Woollen Manufactures, for the Vent thereof, is our Foreign Trade.

That *Turkey*, *Italy*, and *Portugal* are the chief Places to which the said Woollen Manufactures have been Exported, during

during the late War, in return of which, Materials from thence are Imported for these and the other Manufactures in this Kingdom, for the further Employment of our Poor.

That if the Eighth and Ninth Articles of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with *France* should be render'd effectual, (by which the Commodities imported from *Turkey, Italy, Portugal,* and other Places, in return of our said Woollen Manufactures, are to pay as much Duties as those to be imported from *France*) we should thereby loose the export of our said Woollen Manufactures to the aforesaid Countries.

That this great Loss could in no ways be made up to us by a Trade with *France*; for by the said Articles of Commerce with that Nation, our Woollen Manufactures can't be Imported there; the Duties laid upon some of them by this Treaty amounting to near a Prohibition of the same.

That if even our said Woollen Manufactures should be Permitted to be Imported into *France*, upon much less Duties than those agreed upon by this Treaty; yet are we apprehensive that the *French* will take little or none from us, they having in their Country very considerable Quantities made of almost all sorts we make here, and, (as we are informed) Cheaper than ours can be afforded.

We therefore humbly hope, That the said Eighth and Ninth Articles of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with France shall not be render'd Effectual; and that this Parliament will not do any thing that will discourage so Great and Valuable a Manufacture as that of the Woollen, on which the Employment of so many People depends, as well as the Welfare of the whole Nation: But on the contrary, that the same will Receive all Manner of Encouragement: That the Markets abroad, which our Merchants have hitherto supplied with our said Woollen Manufactures, may not be supplied by the French, by turning the Trade of this Nation otherwise than it has hitherto been carried on, to so great an Advantage to this Kingdom.

Particulars

Particulars Wherein the Bill for laying the Trade to *Africa* Free and Open, takes away and destroys the Property of the *African-Company* and their Creditors, now United by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament,

I. THE Bill Enacts, That any *British* Subject may Trade to any Part or Place in *Africa*, between *Cape Blanco*, and the *Cape of Good Hope*.

It was admitted by the Promoter of this Bill, at the Bar of the House of Commons, that the African Company, by their Grant under the Crown, have a Legal Property in their African Lands, Forts and Settlements, which they desired not to invade or Diminish.

If the Company have such Property, It must of Consequence be an Exclusive Property: For if it be common to all, it can be no Property.

Now if the Bill gives Liberty to Trade to any of those Lands, Forts or Settlements, which must be meant by the word Places in the Bill; or gives a Liberty to enter into 'em by Force to Trade there; Does not that Liberty destroy the Company's Property? what Profit can the Company make of their Forts or Settlements, if all must be laid Open and Common to Strangers?

II. The Bill Enacts, that for the Preserving and Maintaining such Forts and Settlements as have been acquired (that is, purchased) by any other Corporation (meaning the *African Company*), all Goods Exported to *Africa* shall be subject to a Duty not exceeding Ten per Cent. to be Paid to such Persons as her Majesty shall judge convenient for that Purpose, *i. e.* for Preserving and Maintaining, &c.

Now if the African Company, at Immense Charges, have acquired by Conquest or Purchase, Lands, Forts and Settlements in Africa.

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If this Act gives Strangers not only Liberty to Enter and Trade into those Forts and Settlements at their Pleasure, but Power to Preserve and Maintain 'em as they Please.

Is not this a gross Invasion of Property? Can Strangers enter Lands, or Maintain the Forts and Settlements without having the Command of 'em?

Is not this turning the Company out of their Possession, or (which is worse) making 'em Underlings to Strangers that have the Supreme Possession?

If this be not Violating Property, the Promoters of this Bill will tell what is.

What sort of a Proprietor would a Country Gentleman be, if his House and Lands were laid Free and Open to his Neighbours, to be Us'd, Plow'd and Graz'd at their Pleasure, (they are Preserving and Maintaining the Buildings and Fences?)

Could such a Gentleman see his Neighbours Domineering and Eating up the Profit of his Estate, and yet think his Property not destroy'd?

And yet this must be the Deplorable Case of the African Company and their Creditors united, if this Bill pass into a Law.

III. The Bill enacts, That if any Governour of any British Fort or Settlement on the Coast of Africa shall Obstruct any Persons, or their Ships, or their Vessels, from Trading with the Natives in Africa, or otherwise Molest them in their Trade there, such Governour is to pay (Double) Damages.

This Clause directly Punishes the African Company for Defending their own Possessions against Forcible Entries or Trespasses by Strangers.

Is not this destroying the Company's Property in their Lands and Forts?

What Property can the Company have if they cannot defend it? Or which is worse, if they must be Punish'd for defending it?

This Bondage pretending not to Hurt a Man's Property, and yet Punish him with Treble Damages for defending it, is so much worse than taking it all away at once, that Words are wanting in the British Language to Name or Describe it: Foreign Languages would Describe