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0521

#u Decay of Trade. TBLW,
A

TREATISE

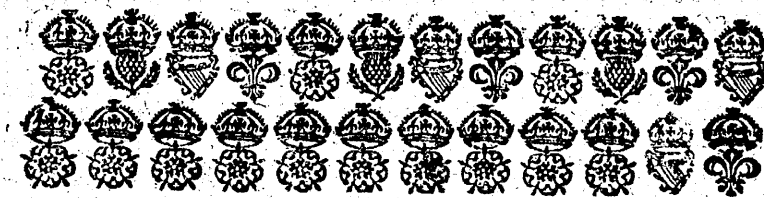
Against the abating of
INTEREST.

OR,
Reasons shewing the inconvenien-
cies which will insue, by the bringing
downe of Interest money to six or five
in the Hundred, and raising the
price of Land in this
Kingdome.

By a well wisher of the Common-wealth.



Printed at London for John Sweeting. 1641.



Reasons Against the Abating the Rate OF INTEREST.

*Wherein first is shewed how that it is not
necessary to the raising of the price of
Lands, for that (beside the too much as-
sistance of accidentall causes) Forraigne
Trade may by a more beneficiall way ef-
fect the same.*



THe Purchase and price of Lands
in this Kingdome, doth rise
and fall by no other ^a wayes
and meanes (for the common
benefit) then by the profit or
losse which is made by the over or underbal-
lance

^a The price of
our Land may
be raised also
by a great in-
crease of our
people & stran-
gers, which
would cause
the more con-
sumption of
forraigne wares,
& a lesse Ex-
portation of
our own, wher-
by the King-
dome would
be soene im-
poverished.

Reasons against the abating

^b We have no
Treasure but
by Trade.

lance of our ^b Forraigne Trade, that is to say, when we bring in and consume yearely a lesse value in Forraigne wares, than we export in our owne Commodities, we may rest assured that the difference is brought in and doth remaine to us in so much Treasure. And contrariwise, if wee consume a greater value in forraigne wares than we doe export of our owne Commodities, Then is our Treasure exhausted to ballance the account with strangers.

^c Ireland, Mus-
covia, Poland,
the East Indies,
and many other
places:

^d Spaine, Italy,
the Low Coun-
tries, &c.

^e Our wares
make us rich,
our Treasure
doth enrich us.

Daily experience doth also teach us, that in those Countries where monies are scarce, there the Lands and native wares are ^c cheape, so likewise where money doth abound, there the lands and wares are ^d deare; And thus it appeareth that although this Kingdome may be rich in it selfe, yet it cannot be enriched but by ^e Trade onely, by adding Treasure to our wares, which Treasure being the price and measure of all our other meanes both personall and reall, it doth thereby enable many, and multiply the number of Purchasers, which consequently doth cause the sellers of Lands to raise the price; But if Lands be too much raised, then the proprietors of monies (or many of them) will endeavour to deliver it for more profit at Interest, to supply the occasions of those who will imploy it in forraigne Trade or otherwise; which doth in-crease

the Rate of Interest.

3

crease his Majesties Customes and Subjects Imployments.

And if the Rate of the Interest be abated thereby to inforce the monyed men to turne all their meanes into Lands, then many losses will presently follow both to the King and his Subjects;

The ill conse-
quences of the
Abatement of
Interest.

First, if we take the businesse as it now standeth in this Kingdome, There are many men who have great summes of ready money, although they have neither Skill nor ^f Will to manage it in Trade of Merchandize, except they should doe it to the ruine of themselves and others also, who have more knowledge and experience; yet their money is still taken up at Interest and imployed by able Merchants to the benefit of the King and his kingdome;

^f Much money
is put to Inter-
est by the
Gentry, Wid-
dowes, and
Orphans.

Againe, if the Rate of Interest be abated, it will presently decline the quantity of our Trade, for monyed men will find meanes to make it over into the ^g Bankes of Italy, and other places, where it may yeeld them greater profit.

^g The Banks of
Italy do man-
age the monies
of their Gentry
Widdowes, Or-
phans, or who-
soever.

The prooffe of this Truth is seene in the practice of divers Nations, especially, I will instance the *Dutch*, whose Lands are ^h little and very deare, because their people are many, and although the Interest usually given in their Country, doth yeeld them at least double

^h The Hollan-
ders wealth &
foundation for
forraigne Trade
proceeds not
from their Na-
tive wares, but
from their fish-
ing in the Eng-
lish Seas, & o-
ther industries
which here I
omit.

Reasons against the abating

ble the profit of their Lands, yet they convey a great part of their monies into other Countries where they finde most gaine. And it is very probable that at least one third part of all the monies which are delivered in London at Interest, appertaineth to the Dutch, who manage it here by their Factors.

And if it be objected that it is our prejudice to suffer Strangers to carry away the profit of Interest from his Majesties Subjects, The answer is, that (beside their freedom of Commerce) this losse by Interest is repaid with great advantage to his Majestie in his Customes and Imposts (outward and inward) by the increase of trade, which addeth also unto the Subjects imployment in shipping and diverse other kinds. The Merchant also who disburseth the Interest to the Stranger, doth thereby reape a greater benefit to himselfe in his trade; which causeth him to take up the money at Interest: All which gaines may import about 40 per Cent. yearly.

Now if the Interest here were brought to a lower Rate, then our Trade would certainly decline, and the afore written profits to his Majestie and his Subjects would be lost, and lands would fall in price. For there is no doubt that not onely Strangers, but also the English would convey their monies and their

plate

the Rate of Interest.

plate also (if it be coyn'd into money) into those Countries where they can finde greater profit: Nor can any strict law prevent this evill if gaine may be obtained.

*Italy, Turkie,
Spain, the East
Indies, Ireland,
&c.*

And if it bee yet further objected that a low Interest will give the Merchant greater encouragement to take up money to enlarge his trade.

The answer is already given, that when the Interest is low, the Merchant shall finde little or no mony to take up, which would disaccomodate and perplexe others also who are no Traders, and forcethem daily to sell Lands at low rates to supply their occasions, unto which I adde only, that 2 or 3 per Cent. abated in Interest, is farre lesse considerable in the Merchants gaine than it would prove in the monied mans losse.

*Where mony
failes there land
must fall.*

I might produce some other reasons to prove that the abating of Interest will carry our money out of this Kingdome, decline our Trade, and bring downe the price of our Lands, &c. but I omit them for brevity.

B

The



The Interest which is
given in severall Countries.

12
15
18
20
25
30
per Cent. yearly.

The Exchanges for *Italy* upon the Faires
of *Piacenza* and other places, give 8, 9, 10, 11,
12, per Cent. more or lesse according to the
times of plenty or scarcity of money in those
Countries.

Reasons



Reasons against raising
the Price of our
LANDS.

If the price of Lands should
be improved to thirty yeares
purchase as is desired, shall
not the fruites thereof, the
Labourers hire, the Cattell,
and all mens expences bee
raised in proportion? Shall not the Native
Commodities of this Kingdome, which serve
for forraigne trade, as Corne, Wooll, and the
like together with their manufactures be pro-
portionably raised?

Italy is a rich Country, and very populous,
which makes their Land worth neere thirty
yeares purchase, whereby also their Corne
Victuals, Cloath, &c. are sold at farre greater
prices than we pay here in *England*, where

B 2 Land

Reasons against raising

Land is much cheaper, and the people nothing neerer so many in proportion, each Countries bignesse duly considered.

When our wares are thus made deare, whether shall we carry them? in what Country shall we vent them? when at the prices they are already raised of late yeares, we finde that the Merchants gaine is so little that many are discouraged to follow their Trade as formerly they did; Is not the use of our Wares in Forraigne parts much declined, Mines of Lead and Tynne being lately found out in other Countries.

The Company of Merchant Adventurers did heretofore vent fourescore thousand Cloathes yearely in the Nether-lands. And now (since the disturbance by the Project of Dying and dressing of our Cloathes here, which had a faire shew, but a bad effect) they vent not above thirty thousand Cloathes yearely, which it seemeth also they performe to very little profit; for the Netherlanders of late yeares doe make Cloathes as well, and as good cheape as we can doe, with Woolls from *Spaine*, which are of our *English* race granted them in the Raigne of King *Henry* the seventh, and Queene *Mary*. Now, consider I pray you, how, and where we shall vent our Native Wares, if we raise their price to a higher rate than other Nations can and do afford them.

The

the Price of our Lands.

The Exportation of our Corne which formerly returned us much money is now totally lost by its dearenesse here, And if our exportations thus decrease daily, how shall we performe our Importations without exhausting our treasure.

I must confesse that within the time of my remembrance the vent of our Cloth in *Turky* is increased about ten thousand Cloathes yearely, but the reason why, is worth our observation. The *Venetians* for a long time did serve *Constantinople* and divers places in *Turkie* with broad Cloath, untill the *English* about 50 yeares past, entering into the Trade in those parts, and being able to afford their Cloth better cheape than the *Venetians*, they did in few yeares drive them totally from that trade of Cloth in *Turky*.

And thus we see by plaine prooffe that cheape wares doe increase trade, and deare wares do not only cause their lesse consumption, but also decline the Merchants trade, impoverish the Kingdome of Treasure, lessen his Majesties Customes and Imposts, and abate the Manufactures and Employments of the poore in Shipping, Cloathing, and the like, which are matters very considerable to be well and duely ordered for the good of the Common-wealth.

FINIS.

^a The multitude of strangers which are now in this kingdome do much increase our consumption of forraigne wares & decrease the Exportation of our native commodities, which is a direct way to impoverish this kingdome. They also begger our poore people by depriving them of their manufactures & raising the price of corne, victuals, rents, & the like.

[illegible]

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