

0099

68-2



A N

PROPOSAL

Humbly offer'd to the

CONSIDERATION

OF BOTH

Houses of PARLIAMENT,

For Encouraging and Improving

TRADE

In GENERAL.



LONDON:

Printed for J. ROBERTS at the Oxford
Arms in Warwick-Lane. 1721.

Handwritten signature or initials

THE DEDICATION



To the Right Honourable
the Lords Spiritual and
Temporal, and Commons
of GREAT BRITAIN in
Parliament Assembled.

May it please your Lordships and Honours,

I might be deem'd an
unpardonable Presump-
tion, should I address
my self to this August Assembly,
on any less Occasion than that
on which the Welfare and
Prospe-
A 2

The DEDICATION.

Prosperity of this Kingdom intirely depends, I mean TRADE, which has always been the Source from whence those inestimable Treasures we ever did enjoy have flow'd. From this Consideration, how Necessary must it appear that all Persons in their various Stations ought, with the utmost of their Power, to contribute towards the Supporting and Encouraging thereof; and more especially at a Juncture when a great Part of this Nation have so lately been pursuing chimerical Riches, and neglecting Commerce, by which our Ancestors

The DEDICATION.

Ancestors acquir'd not Imaginary, but REAL WEALTH? At a time when our Treasure is very much exhausted by the great Exportation of Bullion to foreign Parts, occasion'd by the extravagant Rise of our Publick Stocks: The Credit of our Merchants very much impair'd by the frequent Failures of their Correspondents abroad, and the unhappy Circumstances of our Affairs at home; all which have render'd Trade very precarious and uncertain: I then thought it might be a Service not unacceptable to my Country, if I could

The DEDICATION.

could point out a proper Method to settle Trade upon a more certain and profitable Foundation than it has ever yet been, that so it might give a Turn to the false Byass of the Mind, and bring Men back to their substantial Interest, TRAFFICK. With this View I form'd the following Scheme, and if I am so happy as to have your Approbation, I humbly conceive it will have the greatest Tendency towards a National Benefit, for Clashing against no Interest, it will diffuse it self throughout every Branch of TRADE for the Benefit

The DEDICATION.

Benefit of the whole, and may be made to extend to all the Trading Cities and Corporations in this Kingdom. With the highest Deference and Respect I submit my PROPOSAL to your Lordships and Honours Judgments and Determinations, and I humbly Request you will Encourage, with your Favour, the sincere Endeavours of

Your LORDSHIPS,
 And HONOURS,
 Most Obedient,
 Humble Servant,

R. S.

[1]



INTRODUCTION.

AS it is impossible for any
 People to live happy
 without a good *Œ*econo-
 my in Government; so it is e-
 qually impossible for a Nation to
 grow Rich without Trade. To
 Illustrate which, it is necessary
 to enquire by what Means the
 Riches of this Nation have been
 obtain'd; and it has always ap-
 pear'd, that as our Manufactures
 have Increas'd and Improv'd; so,
 in proportion, the Nation grew
 B Rich:

[2]

Rich: And by all Accounts that I can learn, both from History and Enquiry, our Increase of Trade is wholly owing to the Encouraging our Manufactures and foreign Traffick; which, at this Juncture, seems to be under very great Discouragements, not only from many Grievances very burthenfome to Trade, which may by proper Methods be rectify'd without any Prejudice to the Government; but also by the Humour of the Peoples being Diverted from their ordinary Course of Trade, by the Numbers of chimerical Projections, which, by the Lenity of the Government, have got to such a Head, as to engage the greatest Part of the most confiderable Traders therein; which, for a time, must
prove

[3]

prove very detrimental to the Manufacturing and Trading Part of this Nation; who are not only by far the most Numerous, but absolutely Necessary, in their Stations; and to whose Industry, with the Diligence of the Merchants, the Wealth of this Kingdom is intirely owing; and without the Continuance thereof it is impossible for this Nation to Support its Grandeur.

FROM hence, concluding it absolutely necessary to give all possible Encouragement to the Manufacturing and Trading Part of this Kingdom, by effectually removing the several Clogs and Difficulties which at present they Labour under, that so with more

B 2

Ease

[4]

Ease and Chearfulness they may be induc'd to pursue (their own and the Nation's Interest) TRAF- FICK; which has been the chief Support to this Nation, by the immense Riches that have been gain'd thereby, and at the same time very Instrumental towards de- fraying the necessary Expences thereof.

To accomplish which, it will require a diligent Search to be made into the present State and Condition of Trade, and to find out some Method, nicely to dis- tinguish what Branches are most beneficial to the Nation, from such as appear in the con- trary; that effectual Measures may be taken to Encourage and Discourage, as shall be most ad- vantagious

[5]

vantagious for the Good of the Publick.

The Manner of doing which may be effected by the follow- ing Proposal.

PROPOSAL



[6]



T H E
PROPOSAL

For Improving

T R A D E, &c.

THAT besides the Commissioners of Trade, an Office be erected in the City of *London* (as being the METROPOLIS for Trade in this Kingdom) under the following Title:

AN

[7]

AN OFFICE for the more effectual encouraging and improving TRADE in General, and for preventing such Practices as are prejudicial thereunto.

THAT the Business of this Office be to take into Consideration the manner how to improve and encourage Trade, and in order thereunto, to make proper Enquiries into the Abuses in the several Branches thereof; and after full Information, to take such Measures as may most conduce towards correcting and amending the same.

BUT there being so many distinct Branches in Trade, it may at first perhaps be thought Impracticable
 to

to have a true Information of the Abuses in the several Particulars ; but neither this, or the manner of Correcting them, will appear so difficult, if you consider the following Method.

THAT this Office, at the first erecting, do give publick Notice, that they will receive in Writing at the said Office, Complaints from all Persons, without Distinction, of the Hardships and Abuses in the several Branches of Trade, and after due time for perusing and digesting them in a proper Method,

THEY will again give Notice on what Particulars they think most necessary to Redress, and that they will receive Proposals in order

der thereunto, after the same manner as they receiv'd the Complaints.

THAT the most material Transactions and Proposals be laid before the Commissioners of Trade, for their Approbation; and that they, for that Purpose, do once in a Month or two (or as often as shall be thought needful) meet at the said Office, in order to agree on proper Measures for carrying on this Undertaking.

AND for Encouragement suitable Rewards be given to such Persons as shall be found Instrumental towards the Improving of Trade, or detecting such Measures as are detrimental thereunto.

C THAT

[10]

THAT the farther Power and Manner of settling this Office be left to the Wisdom of Parliament.

I have now given a short Relation of this Proposal, and the manner how it may be effected; but the Regulation thereof to be adjusted as the Legislative Power shall think proper.

BUT yet may venture, with Modesty, to say, that without a due Execution thereof (or some Measures agreeable thereunto) it will be impossible ever to arrive to a true Knowledge of the State of Trade in General; but this rightly pursu'd, will render you capable to form, not only a general Notion, but even to pry into
the

[11]

the several Branches thereof, by the variety of Opinions of others; by which Means you will find what Branches are Beneficial to the Nation in General; and so have it always in your Power to encourage those who are for the Interest of the Nation, and discourage such as appear to the contrary.

THIS will be a farther Step towards the Improvement of Trade than has been made for several Years, and will effectually answer the general Cry of those who say, What is there doing for the Benefit of Trade? When all the proper Measures are taken that is possible to know not only what is amiss therein, but how that which is so may be rectified and amended:

C 2

Nay,

Nay, when it is in the Power of all Persons so easily to make known what is wanting in their particular Branch, and afterwards to propose how the same may be Accommodated for the Benefit of Trade in general.

THIS must certainly divert the Minds of all sensible Persons from chimerical Pursuits, and turn them to more profitable Cogitations, how every one shall Improve and Flourish in their respective Stations and Occupations.

THE Pursuit of this will always have the greatest Influence on the Trading part of the Nation, because there will be always somewhat doing for their Advantage, which will occasion them to make

a different Enquiry from what they do at present; for now all their leisure Hours are spent about insignificant Projections; the Reason for this is obvious, they neither know nor hear of any thing doing for the Benefit of Trade, set but somewhat on Foot for the Improvement thereof, (somewhat that is new especially) and that they can apprehend to be for their Advantage therein, you will immediately have their Thoughts flying from thence, and their Discourse turn'd to enquire what is doing, what has been done, what may be done for their Advantage therein; this will turn their Inclinations, one and all, throughout the whole Kingdom, to that Power that shall do most for the promoting their Interest, which will

will not appear to be theirs alone,
but also the Interest of the whole
Nation in general.

THIS will make the Working
Part chearful in their respective
Employments, the Trading Part
Diligent and Industrious in their
various Stations, and encourage
both to live peaceably and con-
tentedly in their several Occupa-
tions; the Consequence of which
will be to make TRADE flourish,
the NATION rich, and MONEY plen-
tiful.

F I N I S.

Page 4. line 18. for *in* read *to*.

