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ENGLANDS
INTEREST

BY

Trade Asserted,

SHEWING THE
NECESSITY & EXCELLENCY
Thereof.

Wherein is Discovered, that many Hundred Thousand Pounds might be Gained to the KING and KINGDOM, by the due Improvement of the Product thereof, more particularly by WOOL, and the evil Consequences of its Exportation Unmanufactured. Wherein is Evident, that by one Pack, is One Hundred Pound Loss, which otherwise might be Gained. The Methods how, and some Helps for Remedy, Humbly Offered.

By *W. C.* A Servant to his King and Country.

The Second Impression, Corrected and Enlarged.

London, Printed for the Author, 1671.

The Preface to the Reader.

Should I consult my Disadvantages in being Exposed to Publick View, especially considering, my shortness as to Parts, Education, Time, and Authors, I must have been Silent; especially when it is such a Critical Generation as we live in, and some having nothing else to do but to Beget, and after Nourish contentions: But this being rather matter of Fact than Notion, and that wherein all are concerned, that I presume no one will be so Audacious, as to own an Opposition as to the Matter it self, but for the Manner; these things above considered, I hope the Reader, especially one who hath any respect to himself, and Posterity as an *English* man, or Naturalised, will overlook the impertencies, and mind the intent and scope of the Author; and hoping some that have more time, and every Accommodation and heart to it, may hereafter when more Digested, better Polish these Rude and Confused Lines, and leave it to Posterity as a Caution. I have only this farther to add as an Apologie, why I mention Fishing with Undrest, and Undied Cloath; the reason whereof is, Because it being now Obvious to us, the Damage we sustain, that the then Generation did not consider; and it will be so in our Woolls, if we do not timely prevent it; which I think deserves consideration, that by it the *Dutch* gain of us three Millions of Pounds *per annum*, that might have been saved: It's our great concern being forewarn'd not to loose the like in our Woolls.

When the greatest strength of the Nation in People, lies upon the severall Relations of Cloathing, &c.

When the greatest Customes, and Revenues of his Majesty, ariseth from Cloathing, &c.

When the mightiest power upon the Seas in shipping, grows from Cloathing and Fishing.

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When the formidable Obligation in Awing all Forreigne States, rests upon Cloathing, &c.

Even when the Practice, and Trade of Transporting its Materials in many places, is become an open Profession; if this calls not for some Allowance in me, for the Method, I must be silent, and humbly Beg pardon for appearing in Publick.

Some Letters by way of Complaint from beyond the Seas.

Lisle, March, 16. 1669.

WE have here a miserable Tarriff lately come forth, that Taxes Serges, at 25 Florens per 100. weight, Cloath at 40. Cottens, Rasiers, Kerfies, at 10 Florens per 100 weight; the French shew little respect to the King of England in this: The misery is the great quantity of Wooll that is stolen out from England into France, which makes them audacious, and at the Burrean, they will tell you down right, that the Woollen Fabricks of England, are altogether unnecessary in his Majesties of France his Dominions, because they say they can make as good or better themselves; But if they had not our Wooll, they would not say so: Thus we English have our throats cut with our own Weapons; and I wonder there is no one in England sensible of this grand Evil, as to Demonstrate it to his Majesty and Council in England: In time strangers will not care two pence for our English woollen Manufactures. Holland draws from Ireland whole Ships Loading of Wooll, besides what comes from England being stolen out from the Kentish, Essex, and Suffex Coasts, into France, Holland, Zealand, and Flanders: Dover, and Canterbury, being the only Nest to harbour such Night-Rogues, who are as so many Wolves to devour the Glory and Well-being of our Nation, which no Law I perceive will restrain them like Hempen Halters.

Lile,

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Lile, 26, April, 1670.

THe French are now got into a way of making a Low-price-sort of Cloath, called Searge de Berry, which comes as cheap as Northern Cloath, and of much better Wooll, it is about 5 quarters broad; they have so much, in which they have cloathed a great number of their Souldiers; and now the King of France hath lately made an Order, to enjyn the Fabrickers to make it of the same breadth as English Broad-cloath; so our Low-price-cloath is like to come to nothing, and all made of English Wooll.

In another Letter treating of this Matter of Wooll, of the great quantities coming into France; thus our Englishmen have the Reputation, as they will betray their Fathers for two pence, it is no marvel that they will betray their Countrey: But I will detain you no longer.

These things considered, it's matter of Lamentation that we here in England, should be called upon from beyond-Sea, to look to our selves, and to preserve our Trade. And whereas in the first Letter, the Gentleman wonders at the Stupidity of us in England; and cause there is to wonder; yet I think it requisite to insert what hath been done by Demonstrating it to his Majesty, and what his Majesty hath done to prevent that Evil. First, There hath been before his Majesty the Matter it self, (viz.) The quantity of Wooll Exported. Secondly, The manner how. And Thirdly, The evil Consequences thereof, as at large appeareth in the ensuing Lines. Now, to trouble the Reader with the particulars, will be tedious, and make the Entry swell beyond its bounds, but briefly some few Hints how I have gone on Gradually step by step.

1. First, in October 67. being in Rummy Marsh in Kent, where I used to buy Wooll, and missing near 1500 Packs in a short time, and was credibly informed, that in one Night, there were twelve Shallops Loaden with Wooll, did observe the motion of those men, and caused a parcel of Wooll to be Seised, that

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that was going at night to be Shipt aboard a French-Shallop.

2. I came up to London leaving my own private Concerns, to acquaint the Parliament what Danger the Trade was in, and so much the more, because the French King had put such an Impost upon our English Woollen Manufacturies, as I was informed to be no less than 20 or 30 per cent; and soon after, I found, it so by experience in a small parcel of Drapery, which I adventured to Deep; and thus the said King did encourage his Subjects, having our Wooll to work it out, and so much the cheaper than we, as in the ensuing Leaves doth more at large appear.

The Parliament upon the Petition that I presented, ordered the Business to be considered by a Committee, in which Orders (so far as I can remember) these two things were included. First, that there might be an Address made to his Majesty to Wear, and to Encourage the Wearing of the English Manufacturies. Secondly, To put a greater Impost upon the French Linnen, to encourage the Planting and Sowing of Flax, and Hemp in England; this was to Ballance what the French King had before given an Example, and I hope will be good in the end by it, both as to the wearing of our English Manufacturies, which I was glad to see then, and also now again practised; and for Encouragement of Linning, something may be done also, there being some steps made therein by a Bill depending.

After the Adjournment of the Parliament, I petitioned his Majesty and Privy Council, for a Party of Horse to be in Kent aforesaid, by the Sea-side, and some Frigots to be at Sea (untill the Parliament was to Assemble again) his Majesty immediately granted the said Petition; and I attending sometimes at Sea, and sometimes at Land, with one, sometimes two Servants, and Horses, by which means there was near a thousand Packs of Wooll, that was prevented of being Exported that Summer.

In September 68. the Parliament not coming together to perfect the Bill depending, several Proposals were made to his Majesty in Council; soon afterwards was chosen a Council of Trade, consisting of some of his Majesties Privy Council, and some Merchants, and other able men; to which Council

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cil was referred all the Proposals before mentioned, with this Addition from his Majesty, (viz.) You are very strictly to inquire, and diligently to inform your selves by what ways and practises, the Wooll of this Kingdom comes to be Stolen, Imbezelled, sent away into Forreign parts contrary to Law, what places, &c. are most suspected in England, or elsewhere; and who doth Buy the said Wooll in those places, to the end that nothing of care or watch may be omitted; but that all such strickt and severe courses be taken, that an evil so mischievous, and inconvenient, may be totally prevented. Which said Council (after large Debate) did return their Opinion, that although there was some defects in the Law, yet the principle cause, was the want of Execution; therefore they desired that the care of that Business should be especially recommended to the President, and Governours of Christs Hospital, in London, for these following Reasons.

1. Because the charge of that Affair, was too much for any private Person.
2. Because the said Persons can have no private Interest, by the ill, or overdoing, or neglecting thereof.
3. It is their common Interest to look carefully after it, because the same Persons are Governours of Blackwel-Hall, which is the common Market for Woollen Manufacturies.
4. Many of them are at Leisure, being of competent Estates, and past their middle Age.
5. They are a Court already formed, being fitted with Rooms, and Officers, Methods, and Conveniences, &c.
6. We hope this will give great content to City, and Countrey.

The 2d. of April 69. his Majesty did order a Commission under the great Seal of England for that purpose, to the said Governours, but some Objections being in their way, principally the want of Money, did not so enter upon it; which said Commission I procured upon my own Cost and Charge.

About August 69. I petitioned his Majesty for some thing to be done in Ireland, and a Letter was written by the Kings Order, to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on purpose about Wooll; after his Commission was Sealed, the effect thereof

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was, that in six weeks time after he came to *Ireland*, there was Landed in *Minehead*, near a 1000. Packs of Wooll more in that time, than had in some years before, and the like at *Chester*, and *Liverpool*, proportionably; as I was credibly informed, there being such quantities before Exported beyond Sea, as was Asserted in the House of Commons, to be no less than one hundred thousand Packs.

Immediately after, I procured the discovery of five Vessels that went into *Callis*, in *France*, Laden with Wooll, and all in two days time; which said Discovery, following of it, there hath been near a 100 persons found guilty, 8 or 10 Vessels taken, and about 140 Bags of Wooll, being intended for Transportation, Seised and Condemned; all this in *Kent* (besides some small parcels in other places) and had not the Officers (at least one man) compounded with all the famous Transporters of Wooll in *Kent*, and thereby prevented me in prosecuting the said Transporters, and Re-delivered these Boats that were Seised and condemned, I had done very much, if not altogether destroyed that evil practice, at least in *Kent*: For about *October*, *November*, *December*, and *January*, (in 1669.) there was such a stop put upon it, upon that discovery I had made, and the fears amongst the Transporters, that there was no Wooll, or very little, Transported in these Months; but as soon as the said Officer, the Compounder-General for *Kent*, had Critically got into his old Road, and compounded as formerly, and offered Deputations to some of the Grand Transporters (if they would have paid for it) the Transporters went on as furious as ever, when they know they can come off so: What if it cost a man 10 or 20 pound in a year, if he get 2 or 300 pound by it, and is assured of his discharge? by this means the Kingdom is greatly Impoverished, and loose its Trade. (I was informed that the parcel of Wooll mentioned in page 30. that was Seised in *London*, and condemned, is now bought by a Transporter.) But upon a motion made before the Barrons of the Exchequer, in *Easter Term* last, there was a Rule given in Court, and ordered to be entered; that from that time forward, no Licence should be allowed in Court, without the Appro-

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Approbation of two persons; one to controul the other; and that all the Wooll that is Seised and Condemned, to be brought up to *London*.

And as to that of *Ireland*, having an Order from the Farmers of his Majesties Customs, to Examine what is Inserted in page 17. of the fraudulent Certificates in all the *Southern Ports*, and when I came to *Exon*, I found that an *Irish Merchant*, one *Blake*, had been tampering with some Officers there, about the Form of their Seal, and the Names of their Officers; and not accomplishing his ends there, did elsewhere procure the said Frauds in some petty Port, as I was credibly informed, and afterwards found it so. For when I did upon this Information, write presently to *Ireland*, to two persons to make an enquiry, they found the said *Blake* in *Galloway* (concerned in all, or most of those five Vessels mentioned in pag. 22.) to get up the Bonds, but he was prevented; and by that means much good hath been done, and more may, if followed, and not suffer such quantities to be Shipt as formerly, upon no consideration whatsoever; and now it is seasonable to give some touch of what was propounded in the Honourable House of Commons, about permitting Wooll to be Transported from *Ireland*, taking it for granted, that there was the quantity Exported, as above specified, and being under the consideration of Raising Money for his Majesties present supply, I was informed that this motion was made, That if Wooll was suffered to be Exported from *Ireland*, paying 2 d. or 3 d. per pound Custome, it would, First, make it so Dear to Forraigners, that the *English* could undersell them in the Manufactory. Secondly, It would raise a great Revenue to his Majesty. Thirdly, It would be an inducement to the Officers, to be more careful to look after the Custome, and so less would go: This seemed to many Wise Grave Senators at first, to be very Feazable, until I gave Answer to it. And that was thus,

Answ. 1. As to 2 d. or 3 d. per pound dearer, signifies nothing: For if they Enter 10 Packs, there shall go off a 100 Packs Unentred. But grant it did all pay that Custome there in *Ireland*, it pays no Custome when it's Imported in *Holland*, *Flanders*,

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Flanders, or France; and then to consider the Custome is paid here to his Majesty upon our Woollen Manufactory, when Exported, which is about five pound for a Pack of Worsted-stuffs, &c. and it's such Wooll that is covered; and that as before the *French King* laying such an Impost upon our *English Woollen Manufacturies*, of 20 or 30 per cent, this overbalanceth by ten parts the first Reason, and besides about the Manufacturers working so much cheaper, as in page the 7th. which I humbly suppose, is a sufficient Answer to the first Reason of the Motion.

Answ. 2. As to his Majesties Revenue by 2 d. or 3 d. per pound, is answered in short; The Custome paid as above upon the Export of our Woollen Manufacturies, is double that Custome; but the Custome upon the Importation of the Product thereof, may amount to three times the worth of the Pack of Wooll; considering page the 5th. from hence may be concluded, That his Majesties damage by the quantity that is asserted to be Transported, cannot be less than one Million of pounds Sterling; so that this also is Answered.

Answ. 3. As to the Officers inducement, I shall answer in short, by asking this single Question, (*viz.*) Which in reason can be the greatest Inducement, 3 d. per pound for Custome, or 3 s. per pound Forfeiture, if Shipt to be Transported, which is now in Force and Recoverable? But there was more in the bottom, For within a day or two of the said Motion, there was a Noble Lord did affirm in the Committee for Wooll, that his Lordship was offered a hundred thousand pound Sterling, to pass an Act for Transportation of Wooll; and besides, there is a Petition of many years standing, that within this few months I had a view of, for Combed Wooll to go off upon the same pretence as before; alledging it is course Wooll, and not for the Clothier. It's true, that it is not fit for Cloath, but it is for Worsted-stuffs, and Stockens, which is as prejudicial, if not more than Clothing Wooll, as in pag. 3.

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- I. **F**irst is discovered in general the Riches of England, in the abundance of Commodities; and by it the multitude and variety of Manufactures by a due Improvement, England might be a general Mart for the whole World; also, so conveniently situated in all respects, and by good consequence, his Majesty might be the greatest Prince, Page 1.
- II. The Advantage, the Dukes of Burgundy had by our Wooll, until King Edward the Third, it was Exported at 6. d. per pound, and many English Merchants Transported themselves with it; the Cloath returned from Burgundy at 10 s. per Yard, by which it's plain what England lost, 2.
- III. The Wisdom and Care of the said King Edward the Third, not only in confining his Wooll, by very strict Laws to England, but in the Replanting of his own Subjects, who had been long settled in Flanders, and so inviting Cloathers over to convert his Wools into Cloathing, and to add something more than is inserted in page 2. and 3. Upon a Visitation made by himself to the Duke of Burgundy; during his Residence there, he employed such able Agents amongst the Flemish Cloathers, as (barely upon his promises) he prevailed with great Numbers of them to come into England soon after him, where he most Royally performed those Promises, as at large appeareth in that History.
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- VI. *The Evil consequences of losing our Trade, which is so necessary, and excellent to any Kingdom. Of the Craft of the French by their Modes, and the Folly of our English in following,* 6.
- VII. *The Advantage the French have of us in the Cheapness of their Manufacturers; and of what Evil consequence it is to us, especially to the Farmer, and Grasier, and indeed to all; and then by consequence, to the Nobility and Gentry in their Rents,* 7. and 8.
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- X. *That by the Loss of Trade, which is by Exportation of Wooll, the Farmers loss in the price of Beef, Mutton, and Corn, is and may be three or four Fold the worth of a Pack of Wooll; and hence it is, that there are so many Farmers, and Grasier undone, and more, unavoidably will follow, if not timely prevented, as at large appeareth,* 9. and 10.
- XI. *Some Notes collected out of Sir Walter Rawleighs Observations, to confirm those Assertions, about Cloath Transported Rough; and only for want of Dressing and Dying, there was Loss to the Merchant and Labourers in 55. Years, above 20. Millions; besides the Loss, for want of increasing of our Shipping, and also the King in his Customs, many Thousand pounds per annum.* 11. and 12.
- XII. *That by the Harmonious content and pleasure (one in another) in Trade, all degrees are Employed, Enriched, or both; and the Evil*

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- Evil consequences of Poverty and Idleness discover'd,* Page 13. 14.
- XIII. *The Loss is one Million per annum, by the Exportation of Wooll; but I must enlarge, and add Two Millions per annum, for the Augmentation of the quantity of Wooll, as in page the 8th. in which his Majesties Dammage cannot be less than One hundred thousand pounds per annum,* 15.
- XIV. *The methods of the evil Practice, and Craft, and Confe-deracy in many corrupt Office, &c. as at large appeareth, in* 16. 17. 18. 21. 22.
- XV. *Discouragements for any Person to endeavour the Prosecu-tion of such evil Practices,* 18. and 19.
- XVI. *The Encouragements of Transporters (from their own mouths) as well as Experience by composition: (for what can other-wise be expected, if the Laws be never so Penal, and not duly exe-cuted, which doubtless in such a weighty Affair, as scarce any thing greater; and therefore by consequence such Compounders deserve greater punishment than some Transporters,)* 19. 20.
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- XVIII. *Remedies humbly offered as a Supplement to those former Acts,* 29. 30. and 31.
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ERRATA.

Page 5. line 4. for 60. read 90. and l. 17. for 123. r. 120.
p. 17 l. 14. for sealed, r. seized, and l. 19. for Persecuters
r. Prosecutors. p. 19. l. 32. for in r. and, p. 20. l. 5. for you r.
yet, p. 29. l. 22. for 23. and 27. r. 22. 37. p. 36. l. 25. for as
r. and.



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The great Loss and Damage to *ENG-
LAND*, by the Transportation of
WOOLL to Forreign Parts.



Here is no King nor Prince in the World, known by experience or upon Record, that hath such means to support their Splendour and Greatness as his Majesty of Great Britain; nor has any Country or Nation such variety of Staple-Commodities within it self, and in such abundance, as hath the Kingdom of *England*: So that if those Advantages were duly improved, *England* might be a general Mart for the whole World; and then by consequence be the Glory thereof. That those Advantages are not improved is too too obvious to all that look into it; By the fore Complaints that are frequently made of the great Poverty, and decay thereof; And indeed (which is worst of all) by that general desperation of Spirit, which will not put forth a hand to help, support, or prevent the Total desolation of our Country, upon a prepossest Opinion, that all Endeavours will be rendred Fruitless and Abortive.

The Consideration whereof, hath greatly prompted me (who must confess my self the meanest of thousands, more concerned) to use the utmost of my little skill and unwearied diligence (though but as the Woman's Mite) to the right management of so great an Undertaking, that the threatned Ruine of all may be prevented, and (if possible) some good part of that which is Lost may be recovered. I shall confine my self to those things only whereof I have had not only credible Information, but a considerable (though a sad) experimental knowledge; and in a

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more particular and especial manner, that of the Manufacture of Wooll in *England*, which, amongst Many, is the Richest Treasure in his Majesties Dominions, the flower, strength, and sinews of this Nation; a Band uniting the People into Societies for their own Utility: It is the Milk and Honey to the Grazier and Country Farmer; the Gold and Spices of the East and West *Indies*, to the Merchant, and Citizens; the continued supply of Bread to the Poor; and, in a word, the Exchequer of Wealth, and Staple of Protection to the whole, both abroad and at home; and therefore of full merit to be had in perpetual remembrance, defence, and encouragement, for the most advantageous Improvements thereof.

The *Wool* of *England* (before it was manufactured within it self) was always of great account and esteem abroad; sufficiently testified unto, by the great amity which it begat, and for many hundred years (unviolably) maintained, between the Kings of *England*, and Dukes of *Burgundy*, only from the great benefit that (from that Commodity) did accrew to that People: inasmuch, that the *English Wools*, they received at 6*d.* per Pound, they returned again (through their Industrious Manufacture thereof) in Cloath at 10*s.* per Yard, to the great enriching of that State, both in the advancement of the Revenues of their Sovereign, and in a full employment (thereby) continued among the People; whereby the Merchants of this Nation were occasioned, (as a People unwilling to be wholly dispriviledged of so great a benefit) to transport themselves (with their Families, in great numbers) into *Flanders*; from whence they held a constant Commerce with most parts of the World. This continued without Intermission, between *England* and *Burgundy*, until King *Edward* the 3*d.* made his mighty Conquest over *France* and *Scotland*; and as a futable improvement of so great a mercy, did wisely project, and also accomplish, the manufacture of *Wools* within the Bowels of this Kingdom, to the great enriching of his own People, and also to the peopling of his new Conquered Dominions. The memory of whose wisdom and care for his People, is worthy to be had in Remembrance by *English* Men, unto the Worlds end.

The said King having thus settled the manufacture of *Wools* within

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in the Kingdome of *England*, confined it by a penal State, which (at first) reached not only to Goods, Chattels, and Lands, but also to Members, and Life it self; but, in a short time, repealed the two latter thereof, continuing the other in its full force to remain to future Generations: Which exceeding great advantage to the propriety of the *English* Trade, hath now continued this Three Hundred years, by the vigilancy of the Kingdoms Monarchs, and the protection of its Laws, in the continued careful execution thereof upon Offenders, with more than a little diligence, to provide against the thirsting desires of Foreiners to wrest this Nations Priviledge (of so great a moment) out of *English* hands; which by the providence of God (through the care of our Ancestors) has been (for many Ages) enjoyed by the Nation, as it is indeed its proper right. But so it is, that (for some years past) the diligence of Foreiners to enrich themselves upon us, has so much exceeded our care to preserve our selves, that it's now come to, if not beyond, a question, Who have the greatest benefit of the manufacture of *English Wools*, They who have no Right unto it, or, They to whom of Right it doth belong?

That this is indeed so, will appear, by considering that not only *Holland*, *Flanders*, and *Zealand* have long sucked the sweetness of the Sinews of our Trade; but *France* is likewise learning to be too hard for us, as is manifest by the great quantities of *Wools*, that (of late years) have been Transported from *England* and *Ireland* thither. How injurious it must be to us is also unquestionable, if we consider the consequence thereof, which was (without question) much in the eye of our Ancestors, as appears by what is above hinted in *Edward* the 3*ds.* time, and in several Kings Reigns since.

Every Pack of *Wool* sent to *France*, doth prevent us (not only) of the benefit of the manufacture thereof, but of two Packs more besides it self, viz. Thus; It being Combing, and Combed *Wool* (for the most part) exported thither. The *French* (having no *Wools* of their own, but such as are very coarse) are not able to make Cloth, or fine Stuffs, without the conjunction of ours therewithal; there being none (to my best information) in all the World fit for that purpose (but ours only) except in *North-Holland*,

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Holland, and that a small quantity of fine Worsted Wool; all other being likewise coarse, but Spanish Wool; and that much too fine, especially for worsted Stuffs, and not in any wise fit for Combing; so that without English or Irish Wools, there can be no quantity of fine worsted Stuffs, nor a middle sort of Cloth made in the whole World. Neither will any Wools be all mixt together, but English and Spanish (for Cloth only), because the Spanish is with the English of one nature; being formerly English Sheep, though now much finer for the alteration of the Climate, and the nature of the Land whereon it is fed, as by good Experience appeareth here in England, both near and at a further distance.

Wherefore the Exportation of English Wools into France, must of necessity be greatly prejudicial to this Nation; not only in the quantity sent over, but also in the advantage which is thereby given to them to manufacture a double portion of their Wool, (which (formerly) was little worth) into such commodities as spoils us of the advantages of our proper Trades, not only thither, but also into other parts, viz. in these three Respects.

First, The Combed of the English Wool makes Wooff for the Warps of the French Wool (or rather of the Turkey Sheep) and so takes up (it may be) as much as the quantity above specified, to every Pack of English Wool, without which they can (only) with their Wool, make Ruggs, and at the best, Cloth for Sea-men, and the like.

2dly. Their Combing or Pinnions, viz. the short Wool that's combed out of the Worsted, serves for their Linnen warp to make some of their Druggets, because their Linnen being fine spun, and coloured, is not discernable to all persons, to be that we call Linsie-Wolfe.

3dly. The finest short English Wool is mixed with the lowest of Spanish Wool, called short Wool, for some of their best Druggets, that is wove upon worsted Chanies; and also for a middle sort of Broad-cloth about 10 s. or 12 s. per Yard. This is the cause, I judge, that short Spanish Wool is so scarce here in England.

Now if we consider these things together, the dammage of exporting of one Pack from England to France at about 10 l. or 12 l.

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12 l. Sterling, preventing the manufacturing of two Packs more in England, which would be worth 100 l. Englands loss (in the whole) by the exportation of one Pack of Wool can be little less than 60 l. It being generally combing-Wool (as before hinted) that is exported to France, which makes Worsted, Stuff, and Stockins; and besides the advantage given them (as above asserted) by one Pack of rough Wool; it's obvious to all Manufacturers, that a Pack of Worsted (or Cumbed) Wool, worth 20 l. at 12 score to the Pack, which is 20 d. per Pound, and to make it more easie to every ordinary capacity; that in Stockins (to speak within compass) A Pound of fine Wool would make at least two pair of Hose, worth 5 s. a pair, that is 10 s. per Pound of Wool; or reckon thus, to ordinary Hose, three pair to a Pound of Wool at 3 s. 4 d. per pair, come to the same sum, and 12 score Pound of Wool making a Pack, so many pence for the Pound of Wool, so many Pounds for the Pack, and a Pack of Wool making 480 pair of Hose: which 12 score Angels, being cast up, is 123 l. without any respect given to the advantage given them in rough Wool, as before asserted.

This, an instance for all, moreover, In it's first exportation, considering the Custome when it is imported; the product of all these Charges augmenting the 100 l. when sold there, laid out in another Commodity beyond Sea, the Custom thereof being paid there, with Frait and Custom (when imported) in England, it's much if it do not more than double the first principal.

Now if so be, that the exportation of one Pack of English Wool, exported at 10 l. or 12 l. be near 200 l. dammage to the King and Kingdom in general, by the consequence; What will be the loss of exporting 10. or 15 Thoutand Packs into France, besides many to other parts (in two years time) is easily accounted (by such) as are concerned in these Affairs: and although this Evil is almost incredible to many, yet it is too manifest, to such as have made it (something) their business to enquire into it; and not only so, but these further Inconveniencies must (by this means) arise upon us.

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First,

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First, The spoiling of our Trade with *France* in all our Wollen manufacture, as doth already appear by the Impost put upon the same there, from 20 to 40 per cent. since the great quantity of our *Wools* is exported thither, whereunto woful experience may be a sufficient witness.

And secondly, In time it will capacitate the *French* as well as the *Dutch*, (if not much better) to under-sell our *English* Merchants in Forreign Parts, nay (possibly) in our own Country. To this, I shall only mention the words of a Merchant in *Flanders*, by Letters to another here, treating of this matter thus: *We English have our Throats cut, with our own Weapons; wondering at the stupidity of the English here, that they should omit, to possess the King's Majesty with this deplorable and dangerous Case, in respect to the present and future Inconveniences thereof.* By reason whereof, as in time the *French* will not only prevent our *English* manufactures to be sold in *France*, but also bring theirs into *England*, and sell them for four times the value here, to the great Inriching of themselves, and the Impoverishing the *English*, only by new fantastick Fopperies; for which the *English* pay not less than some Hundred Thousands in a Year, to get themselves into the *French Mode*.

So much indeed, have we been deceived (in this matter) to our shame, as well as to our apparent loss; that, whereas in time of the Late War with the *Dutch* and *French*, those *French* Druggets were thereby much prevented, many *English* Striped broad Cloths rent through into three parts (about 10 s. per yard, price) being put into the form of *French* Druggets, were sold in each part at 8 s. per yard, and so in the whole came to 1 l. 4 s. per yard: So likewise it is certainly true, that many of those Druggets made in *England*, do go for *French*, and in order thereunto, directed to *French Men* in some of our Southern parts (from thence been conveighed into *London*, and there sold for *French Goods*) to have coloured the business with the Custom-house Officers, to save the Custom of *French* Druggets: And this might have continued long, before the Cheat had been discovered; but being once found out by the Clothier (who could not (to his own private advantage) conceal such an apparent injury to his Country) it was soon prevented: This I had an Experimental

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mental knowledg of, for the Merchant bespoke the same Goods of me. When I understood his end, I did refuse to make the said Druggets that he desired me to make; whereby we may come to see (with clearness) the advantage that that people makes upon our *English* fancies, by over-selling us in the same kind of Commodities that they make out of our *English Wools*, joyned (as before-minded) with their own; having also an advantage thereunto, by the cheapness of the Manufactors thereof, beyond what we can do; the *French* being very populous, and living harder than we can in *England*; as is evident by their Linnens, that, paying Frait and Custom, with profit to the Merchant, yet can be afforded cheaper than can be made in *England*.

But so it is, that the advantage we give them, besides in the mixtures of our *Wools* with theirs, is such, that, whereas their *Wool* of it self is not worth 4 l. per Pack; being mixed with ours, becomes so fit for Worsted Stuffs, as that it comes to be worth no less than 12 l. per Pack. So that, all these things considered, it becomes obvious to every Eye, (that doth not (wilfully) close it self) that the exportation of *Wools* from *England* and *Ireland* is of a dangerous and destructive Nature to the very being of the Trade of this Kingdom. What ever Objections have been made thereunto (with respect to the *Graziers* present advantage) whose loss may possibly be supposed (by prohibiting exportation) to be about 20 s. in every Pack of *Wooll* that is so exported: In answer whereunto, I have this to say; That, though it may be granted, it will be so for a time in this particular Commodity; yet such will (thereby) be the spoyl of the General Trade of the Nation, that what is gotten in one, will be lost in every other Commodity, as *Corn*, *Beefs*, and *Muttons*; on each of which with the *Wools*, the *Graziers* and *Farmers* advantage doth much more than equally depend; besides the inevitable danger of the ruine of our Trade, and so consequently, the starving of our Poor, without some extraordinary means for their support; who while the priviledge of our Trade is kept inviolate with other Nations, we have Money plentifully to expend for the advancement of the *Farmers* and the *Graziers*; for that is that which chiefly advanceth the *Farmer* and the *Grazier*, which is *Flesh* and *Corn*, and not the quantity of *Wooll*, as will afterwards more fully appear.

And

And it hath always been observed (informer times) hitherto, that when the Clothiers have had the best Trade at London, the Farmer did not lose his share in the advantage thereof in the Country; according to the dispose of Providence, Who hath ordered Nations, but more especially, the People of every Nation (in matters of this kind) to depend upon each other, and so to rise and fall together, as they are designed, either to Mercy or to Judgment, by the hand of God.

These things considered, with a little deliberation, it will manifestly appear, that the exporting of our English Wooll, will not only prove the spoyle of our Merchants and Clothiers Trade, and so consequently expose the Poor to desperate straits for subsistence, but in short time must of necessity make the Country mens employment (of every kind) to come to little, and so make them incapable of paying Rent.

For if it be so, that, while we have a little Trade, we can hardly live one by another; What may be expected, if our Trade should be taken away? Which is now in more danger by the French, than it hath been this 300 years past. And then we may consider, what the price of Wooll may be in England, when we by our remissness have lost our Trade, by the skill and circumventing practices of Foreigners, and we helping forwards for a supposed profit; For there was not more art and skill in our Ancestors, to bring home the work at first to the Wooll, and prohibiting the exportation thereof, and setting the manufacturing in England, than is now to export the Materials manufactured. The necessary consequence thereof, will be to bring the Price of Wooll (as it was 300 years ago, when most was exported) to be 6 d. a Pound, as appears in a little Piece, called, *The Golden Fleece*, (written by W.S. Gent.) in the Year, -- 56. Although the Cloth then made in Flanders of our Wooll at 6 d. per Pound, was sold here in England at 10 s. per Yard; when at this day Cloth made in England of Wooll at 12 d. per Pound, will hardly yield 7 s. per Yard, which is above 30 per Cent. worse to the English Trade now, than it was to the Flemmings formerly.

And though for the present, the price of Wooll be risen by its exportation, yet if the quantity lately exported (being no less than 20 Thousand Packs) had been kept in England, the quantity

if not Ten thousand Packs more would in time, have been exported in the particular manufactures. For if the Woolls was not exported to those places beyond the Seas, there to be manufactured, they must of necessity have our Woollen manufacture, and then could not have those advantages (as before hinted) by our Woolls, to improve the French Wooll, and short Spanish Wooll, and their fine-spun Linnens.

By all which, it is so obvious, that in time to come, the Wooll in England would be much cheaper, because by the aforesaid means, less Wooll would be used in England, and besides that which would be used, the manufacture would be so low, that it could not bear up any price (as is begun already in France, and will suddenly follow here in England) for it is generally reported, that Wooll is as cheap in France at this Day, as it is in some parts where it is used in England. And if it be so now, what in reason can be expected, as the effects of these two things? viz. The first, when the great quantity that is lately exported to France, with those three Additions before hinted, that the Twenty thousand Packs helps to work out, and especially most making Worsted Stuffs, which goes as far by that means as forty Thousand Packs of Wooll would if used in England, because it would be made more into substantial Cloaths, which consumes more Wooll, than those light and thin Stuffs do: which is a sufficient Answer to that Objection, that the great quantity of any Commodity, that is exported, makes a scarcity, and so consequently raise its price: the which I must confess, if it was a consumptive Commodity, but it is quite contrary in this. For as our experience is, when the Wooll was all used in England, (or very little exported) the Wooll was then at 18 d. per Pound, and when all or the greatest part was exported, it was at 6 d. per Pound.

The wise Man saith, *What is, hath been; and, what hath been, may be again;* and so no new thing.

I shall make a short Review of the Graziers and Farmers present loss: In the greatest Commodity, which pays his Rent, as was formerly hinted. Suppose (through want of Trade) Mutton be sold at 6 d. per Quarter the less, (which is but little) being 2 s. per Sheep, and there being some Sheep that 100. will produce a Pack of Wooll (though some less) that comes to 10 l. which

is the worth of the Pack of *Wooll*, (and so proportionably as to the *Beefs*) which is wholly lost to the *Grazier*.

And for the *Corn* (as I suppose) there may be about 50 *ls.* worth, (as far as I can judge in my Travels, to One Hundred Sheep throughout the Nation, which for want of a Trade, it may not (at some seasons) come to Thirty or Forty at most, and if a good Trade, it may be worth Sixty or Seventy, by which means, it may easily be demonstrated, how the *Farmers* come to be impoverished.

For the advantage of the *Tenant* consists in the advance of the greatest Commodity that payes his *Rent*, which is not in *Wooll*, but in *Corn*, *Mutton* and *Beefs*, and it is a necessary consequence. That there being so many thousand Families depending upon the *Cloathing Trade* (as was before hinted) that was instrumental to advance the price of the *Corn*, &c. That where-ever Trade is, there *People* are most populous, and when those persons are deprived of their Trade, depending wholly upon it, they must unavoidably come to the *Parishes*, which is in many places begun already, and Daily encreased and feared in time, will so increase, that the *Poor* will be expecting more than there will be to contribute to them. Although it be a *Degression*, yet suffer an instance of one *Parish*; that when there was but some obstruction to their Trade, by the *Late Sickness*, and *Dutch War*, the rate came for their *Poor* to Eight Hundred Pound *Sterling* in one Year, and I have been credibly informed, the *Land* to the said *Town*, is not worth one Thousand Pound *per annum*, and hapily one fifth part the dearer, because of the Trade, as it is in all *Cities*, or *Towns* of Trade; than what can reasonably be judged, when the Trade from such a *Town* is wholly lost, as is already in some parts in this Nation.

To return to the *Farmer*, as being the emediate Person in this business, from hence may be concluded, that the *Farmers Loss* for want of Trade, is fourfold greater then can be the advantage of the sale to the transporter of *Wooll*, by (the exportation thereof unmanufactured.)

I shall now endeavour to give some particular account how all are concerned; And before I do this, give me leave to insert the Observation of a worthy Author *Sir Walter Rawleigh*, who saith,

saith, That, then which was in *King James's Reign*, about four score thousand undrest and undyed *Cloaths* yearly were Transported: whereby it was evident, that the *Kingdom* hath been yearly deprived of about four Hundred Thousand Pounds, which in fifty five years is near Twenty Millions, that would have been gained by the Labour of *Poor Workmen* in that time, which the *Merchants* gains for bringing in dying *Stuffs*, and returns of *Cloaths* drest and dyed, with other benefits to the *Realm*, besides exceeding enlarging of *Traffick*, and increase of *Ships* and *Mariners*.

There would have been gained in that time, about three Millions by increase of *Customs* upon *Commodities* returned for *Cloaths* drest and dyed, and for dying *Stuffs* which would have been more plentifully brought in and used for the same.

There hath been also transported in that time yearly, by *Bayes*, *Northern* and *Devonshire Kerzyes White*, about Fifty Thousand *Cloaths*, counting three *Kerzyes* to a *Cloath*, whereby hath been lost above Five Millions by those sorts of *Cloaths*, in that time which would have come to *Poor Workmen* for their Labour, with *Customs* for dying *Stuffs*, and the *Peoples* profit for bringing them in with returns of other *Commodities* and *Fraights* for *Shipping*.

Bayes are Transported white into *Amsterdam*, and being there dyed and drest, are shipped into *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other *Kingdoms*, where they are sold in the name of *Flemish Bayes*, setting their own *Town Seals* upon them, so that we lose the very name of our *Home-bred Commodities*, and other *Countries* get the Reputation and *Credit* thereof. Lamentable it is, that this *Land* should be deprived of so many above-mentioned Millions, as that our *Native Commodities* of *Cloath*, ordained of *God* for the natural *Subjects*, being so *Royal* and *Rich* in it self, should be driven to so small advantage of *Reputaeion* and *Profit* to your *Majesty* and *People*, and so much improved and intercepted by *Strangers*; considering that *God* hath enabled and given your *Majesty* power to advance dressing and dying, and Transporting all your *Cloaths* within a year or two: I speak it knowingly, to shew how it may be done laudibly, lawfully, and approved to be honourable, feaseable, and profitable.

He observes also the increase of his *Majesties Customs*, by bringing

ing in and spending of dying Stuffs, as also strength in Shipping, and setting so many thousands of Poor on work; also noting, that in the Low-Countries, where these Cloaths are drest and dyed, they stretch them to such unreasonable length, contrary to our Law, that they prevent and forestale our Markets, and cross the just prohibition of our State and Realm, by their Agents, and Factors, lying in divers places with our own Cloaths, to the great decay of this Kingdome in general, and discredit to our Cloaths in particular. Again, he adds, that if the accounts were truly known, it would be found that they make not clear profit only by Cloth Transported rough, undrest, and undyed, Sixty Thousand Pounds a Year; but it is most apparent your Majesty, in your Customs, your Merchants in their Sales and Prizes,; your Subjects in their Labours, for lack of dressing and dying; your Ships and Mariners in not bringing in of dying Stuffs, spending of Alum (if not Copperas) are hindered yearly near a Million of Pounds: So that Trade is driven to that great hinderance of your Majesty and People, by permitting your Native Commodities to pass rough, undrest and undyed. Thus Sir Walter Rawleigh.

Now if it was thus with England so long agoe, when the Wooll was spun and made here into substantial Cloth; and that for want only of dressing and dying, many Millions were lost to the King and Kingdom: What then hath been the loss by so many thousand Packs of Wooll exported (without any improvement,) especially that to France, the consequence of which, is more prejudicial (as hath been demonstrated) than can be imagined (accounting but one Hundred Pounds dammage by one Pack of Wooll,) of which there are not less than ten thousand yearly, if not much more exported, by which there is dammage a Million of pounds sterling, yearly to this Kingdome, (besides the suffering of the Poor for want of Employment) out of which his Majesties dammage cannot be less than one Hundred thousand Pound yearly: The lessening of Shipping, and discouragement of Mariners; the Walls of this Kingdom hereby deserve also to be considered.

Next then to his Majesties loss, is that of the Merchant and Cloathier; after which must follow detriment to all other persons depending on Trade, there being such a Connexion of Trades

Trades one to another, and the whole of Trade being enlarged by the abounding of Laborious People. Those supply the Farmers and Graziers with money, for to supply the Gentry. They again scatter it amongst the Tradesmen, as may be witnessed by the building of the City of London, how Provision and all Consumptive goods are advanced by it: by which circulation all degrees are either employed, enriched, or both; and hence naturally comes Content, Harmony, and Pleasure, one in another; the Poor being by Employment delivered from fear of want, the Gentry, Merchant, and Tradesmen, by the establishment of Trade therein. This rationally is the strength of any People, Poverty and Idleness bring their Shame and Ruine, which would unavoidably follow want of Trade. And so much the more where the greatest Trade hath been; if it fails, the greater Poverty is and will be. And to instance, as here, in London, the Trade in Provision is the more, so by Consequence it must be dear, and so best for all; so of the other hand, if the City should be forced to keep so many thousands, when all their work is done, as is now in the Building, it would be a great burden: so the case is in England in this particular, where great Trade have been formerly kept, and drawn several Families thither, and have raised Commodities there; but when it fails, it is a miserable state and condition those places are in. To return, in short there is such Connexion and Dependency one upon another in England, that if one fail, all the rest more or less, either more near, or remotely are concerned; as in the natural body, when any Member fails, the whole suffers thereby; and as all Trades and Degrees of men may suffer by one failing in Trades, and in none more probably. I will say then this of Wooll, as Merchants, Artificers, Farmers, Sea-men, Fisher-men, being the people, which by their study and labour do principally, if not only bring in, or give occasion to the bringing in of Wealth to the Nation, and other kind of people (viz.) Nobility, Gentry, Lawyers, Physicians, Schollars of all sorts; Shop-keepers are they that receive from these, and distribute it again, and all are consequently concerned in this rich Treasure of Wooll, because this being a Manufacture at home, sets more hands at work than half the Nation.

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May I not with modesty and within Compass, say three parts of Laborious and Industrious People? Considering that most of the Shipping is employed in this Affair, and also so many Trades that depend immediately upon this of Cloathing, that most of other Trades are but for Provision, either in Food or Conveniences for Cloathing: and so from his Majesty to the meanest, all are more or less concerned, *The King mostly*; not only in that his People are by that most employed and provided for, (nor in that such a Staple Trade, the like whereunto the World hath not maintained with so good Advantage;) but because so great a Revenue comes directly into him upon the Trade, occasioned thereby: Thus as the King gains, or suffers most, so the persons that have the greatest Estates or Trades, and so all proportionable to the Beggar. And also considering that an accustomed thing begets such an habit that is hard to reduce; as in our rough and undrest Cloath to *Holland*, so it will be with all our Manufactures in *France*; nay I am informed that the *French* hath not only imposed a great Tax upon our Woollen Manufactures, from twenty to forty *per cent*, but have also (as is affirmed, besides that their Imposition) absolutely prohibited our Cloaths coming there. I am the more large in the Demonstration of this affair, not only because this hath cost me many years labour and study to consult all sorts of concerned persons, besides mine own experience about it; nor because it is so hard to convince people of the meanest capacity, but some of the wiser sort, how to cure this dismal malady: which some despairing of, have rather thoughts of setting up some other Manufacture (in Lieu of endeavours to prevent the exportation of Wooll and Manufacturing of that at home, looking thereon as a thing not to be overcome,) as that of Linnens in some capable parts of *England*, and a better improvement in the product of Forreign Plantations, which may also be set upon together herewith as an Addition; so as several sorts of Persons maybe set better on work, not capable of this employment, and yet no prejudice to this of Cloathing: For all other Countries have the Advantage of *England*, or are equal to us in other Manufactures proper to their Countries, but not in this of Cloathing: and it will be found that all Trades in *England*, wholly distinct from this of Cloathing, bring not the tythe of Advantage that this doth.

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Since men cannot rationally believe the effects to be greater than the cause, the most of other Manufactures either is in being, or brought to use, by the Manufactures of Wooll; even from the Farmer to the Merchant, all are concerned in this of Wooll; as may hereafter more appear. It now remains that we sum up *Englands* Loss by the Exportation of our Wooll to Forreign Parts; not only in the Advantage we might have by the Manufacturing thereof, here in *England*, as formerly noted; but also in the importing of *Dutch* Cloath, and more in *French* Manufactures, because *England* improves not their own Wools; and of the humour of *English* people, in putting such a value upon *French* Fancies, when themselves are in a better capacity, if improved, to produce the like, or better, and save the following Sums.

1. One Million of Pounds *Sterling* yearly, in the Exportation of our Wooll.
2. Five Hundred Thousand Pounds in Rough Cloath, which is but half what Sir *Walter Rawleigh* observes in his time.
3. Many Thousands of Pounds by the Importing of *Dutch* and *French* Woollen Manufacturies.

And lastly, the evil consequences thereof in loosing our Shipping, which would be encouraged thereby, and are the strength or Walls of our Kingdom, as more particularly doth appear hereafter.

Having now discovered the Dammage it is to *England*, in the transportation of *Wooll* from the King to the meanest, I shall endeavour also to discover the methods how it is done; before I shall prescribe a Remedy (for it is not enough to know Distempers, especially such that are so Consumptive,) it is requisite to know the Cause of these Distempers; or else the supposed Remedies will in time come to be a disease, as it is too much in this case at this day in *England*: Where the Causes are mistaken, the Remedies are consequently misapplied, whereby a

Disease

disease in supposition becomes one in *Fact*; the methods or ways of this evils are---First, in *Rummy-Marsh* in *Kent*, where the greatest part of rough *Wooll* is exported from *England*, put aboard *French* Shallops by night, ten or twenty men well Armed to guard it; some other parts there are, as in *Sussex*, *Hampshire*, and *Essex*, the same methods may be used, but not so conveniently. The same for Combed *Wooll* from *Canterbury*, they will carry it ten or fifteen miles at Night towards the Sea, with the like Guard as before; but for other parts it must be done partly by the Remisness of the Officers of his Majesties Customs, and easie Composition for the Forfeitures of the Bonds, as more shall appear anon.

And then for Combed *Wooll* in other Parts, some is Shipped off from *London* for Bales of Drapery; nay some at *Lime*, and also at *Exon*, where there is ten thousand Pounds *Sterling* weekly laid out in the woollen Manufactory, which is most for Workmens Wages: I know no place clear; and then another reason, why persons are not detected, is, because all the *Wools* that have been taken in those Parts, where most hath been exported, have been suffered to go off at the same place after Judgments past, and by the Officers, to the same Persons at a low rate, being under rated to those very men that intended to Ship it at first: so that the evil is never like to be avoyded that way; only that which is taken, happily may be a little the dearer, to keep the Trade going; for I have enquired, and cannot understand, but of two parcels of *Wooll* that have been seased on in *Kent*, that have been used in *England*, but all sent away, and so his Majesties providence is cheated, who keeps Servants at great Wages to prevent such abuses.

And then another Cheat is under a pretence of *Wooll* from *Hampton*, to the Islands of *Fersey* and *Gernsey*, and sometimes from other Parts which is against the Law; for there is no *Wooll* to be exported to those Islands, but only from *Hampton*, and that by Law should be by weight; but now it goes by gross, by the Pack when it should be weighed, but I believe not one Pack in Ten is weighed, for three Packs is put into one. Then from *Ireland*,

Ireland, which is the greatest mischief of all to *England*, and much increased since the Act was in force against *Cattel*, the *Irish* *Wooll* can be sold as cheap in *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders*, as it is in those Places where *Wooll* is used in *England*, which is a great augmentation to us of prejudice for Foreigners to have our *Wooll* so cheap as we in *England*, having other Conveniencies to under-work us, as formerly hinted. The ways there must be by the carelessness of the Officers, in not taking solvant security and exactness in the weight of *Wooll*, and true examination of the returns of their Certificates, and partly by easie Compositions, if not before Bonds are forfeited, and happily much Combed *Wooll* there packt up as before, as Bales of Cloath, or Barrels of Beef, and Shiped as *Irish* Cloath; and in all points so cunningly carried, as they are seldom discovered, and never Sealed, as the Statutes in that case made and provided, do strictly require.

Here see what *W. S.* saith: Now to shew you more particularly these abuses, how the Laws are crossed and daily obstructed to such as endeavour to serve their Country, by such as ought to encourage the Persecutors; sure there will be very many practises of evil consequences discovered; for first in the Custom-House, where Bonds are taken, to the intent that these prohibited Commodities pass not by means of Mariners out of the Nation, but only from Port to Port for accomodation of such Parts as want such Commodities; they are very Remise and careless in taking of the Sea-mens discharge of their Obligatory Conditions; where also it is usual with the Seamen to bring fraudulent Certificates, and so to cheat the Kings Providence, who keeps Servants at great wages purposely to prevent such abuses; or if there be a regular return of their Bonds, yet there is commonly a fraudulency in giving them, for the Masters of Ships will so continue their designe, as he who is Master at giving the Bonds, and is legally bound, shall immediately pass his Interest to another man, who taking charge of the Vessel and Voyage, is notwithstanding not engaged in the Poart Bond; and therefore, neither is he accountable for breach of their condition; Again, when the Port-Bonds are justly taken, and as justly returned; yet to prevent the true and real detection of the Offender, and to dishear-

ten the legal Prosecutor, some Friends of the Offender will clap an Information against him, purposely to hinder and divert others, and soon after will let the Prosecution fall at his pleasure; nay, it hath been said, and peradventure not unjustly, that such preventing Informations have been antedated to the over-throw of the real Information; but when all is granted, and a full and formal hearing, and decree passed to the just condemnation of the Offender: Yet when judgments and inquiries are granted, and do without Errors of the Clerks, (which is not always,) empower the Sheriffs and their Bailiffs to see Execution thereof made; it is familiar with those Officers to return a Non est inventus, or a Mortuus est, viz. Not to be found, or dead, even then when the Offenders and the Officers have been known to have been drinking together, at that very time when the Writ should have been executed.

After all this, one step farther will shew how Charity it self abuseth Justice; for let all the former Proceedings be granted, and be candid, and clear, and that the Law be indeed justly and legally executed; the Offender in custody, and nothing remaining; but that he honestly discharge himself with money, seeing Bail will not be admitted; nevertheless upon a lamentable Petition, and urging a great charge of Children to the Bench, the Offender is usually admitted to compound for Ten in the Hundred, or less, when by his offence he hath gained a Hundred for Ten, or more, and peradventure hath undone a hundred Families or more in so doing: Yet all this while the honest Prosecutor, the only man that appears for the good of his Country, who ought by the Law to have the full benefit and advantage of the Law gratis, it being enough that he spend his time for the promotion of the publick Wealth, after it hath cost him several great sums of money, and large expence of time, to bring the Offender to Tryal and Conviction, is dismissed with little or no satisfaction, unless he be rewarded with the brand of an Informing Knave: Surely they who made these Laws for the benefit of themselves and their own Country, did intend a more current and just passage towards them, than thus to be obstructed and baffled. Such abuses as these made Theodosius say, as it is Recorded, that a wise man did himself

self Injustice by hazarding his Wisdome and Estate for the benefit of his Nation; And therefore some have not spared to urge, that Customs and Impost, and Toles and Taxes might be taken away from honest laborious hazardous Trad-s and Adventurers, and be put upon litigious Suits at Law, and such as make benefit of their corrupt breath, that is to say, upon such Lawyers as abuse their Clyants, and such malicious Clyants as abuse the name of a just innocent Defendent. Nor is the Loss in these by their Transportation all the injury, but when honest men well affected to the good of their Country, do detect these Caterpillars of the Common-wealth, who make so vast gain, as hath been denoted upon the materials so carefully prohibited, when they do endeavour by due course of Law to make stoppage thereof, and to have the Offenders punished; so many are the evasions, such combinations and interest in the Officers, who ought to punish the Offenders; such favour have they in Courts of Justice, and deceptions in the Return of Writs, and in general such affronts and discouragements as the dearest Lover of his Country, or most intrusted in Trade, dares not attempt to prevent that mischief which his eyes behold to fall upon his Nation, or which his own person feels to pick his Pocket. Thus far Mr. W. Smith. not to mention the very same things above asserted that I have met withall.

From hence its to be lamented, to see what the consequence of those things are, I did think to have propounded some things for Remedy, but time not permitting, must beg the Readers excuse, only this by the way, that if therè was never such effectual ways propounded, yet if those wayes and means was never made use of, it is but beating the Aire. For the Life of the Law lies in the practick part; For if there was more care in this business when less Law, then hath been since more, are extant; the Fault then cannot be for want of Law, but only the want of Faithfulness in impartiality, in the Execution of those Laws: And this in short is the principal Cause of the continuance of this evil practice of Transportation of Wooll, and was very engenuously confest to me by some of the Transporters of Wooll within this few

few Dayes in these very words, viz. That if we had been prosecuted at first according to Law, we should not have acted the second time : For if the Transportors did but rightly consider the danger they are in, they would desist; for I dare say, although some may escape for a time, you may be met withal first or last, and then are exposed to ruine.

Since my former Papers went to the Press, several other Methods, and Wayes, of this Evil, of Transportation of Wool hath been Discovered, which I humbly conceive requisite to Insert.

That since his Majesty, by the right understanding of the Cause, hath given such strict Orders, to use all the means that may be, to prevent the said Mischief; the said Transportors have been put to their Shifts, there being much taken, they have changed their Stations: Yet if they should be met withal, such things as these are concluded on betwixt the said Transportors, near the Sea-side (there being many Planted along by the Sea in many Ports) and those that are far off. As for Instance, Last Summer there being a Parcel of Wool, about twenty Packs, sold to a French Comber of Callice, ten of which was brought from the place where it lay, about twelve Mile towards the Sea-side, and Lodged within two Miles of the Sea, there to lie until Wind did serve, and a Vessel ready to carry it; some Information being given to a Person near the place, that did wait for the motion of such things, went and Seised it: As soon as ever the Person that had Sold it to the French Merchant, had heard of the Seisure of it, he presently went to Dover to a Notorious Transporter, that he had at other times furnished with Wool, that he might own the Parcel that it might not be Lost, although there was little reason to think it for Dover, because its not usual for Wool to be carried ten Miles from the place it lies at, to a place two Miles farther off from Dover than at first, and a far worse way, and there to lie several dayes: It cannot be supposed that this was intended for Dover, but rather for Transportation, and do appear in Fact, Affidavits are produceable: yet this Wool was by some underhand Dealing, taken away out of the first Seisers hands, and carried back again to the place where at first it was Seised, which was 2 Miles farther off from Dover; and afterwards Seised by the Agent of that Person, that got it out of the first Seisers hands. This Cheat being discovered, it is now Condemned and brought

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up to *London*, and sold for the Kings use. This Passage being discourf'd betwixt the Party that Sold the Wool, and the Party at *Dover* that was to Own it, and did Own it for the other; a third Person standing by (and he a Transporter) told his Neighbour, not knowing whether the Wool would be Re-delivered (it being then in the Seifors hands) and knowing of the Knack, told him, If the Wool should be Lost (he owning of it, before Witness he must stand to it) to which he Replied; *That then he would presently get an Acquittance from that Person that was the true Owner, to save himself harmless*: This is the general way of Cheating.

And there was also the like in *Michaelmas Term, 69.* for nine Packs, that I saw where it was Seifed, yet this Method carryed it for the Defendant (both alike) and since it appears, that neither of the Parcels of Wool was really Bought; because when it was cleared from the Seifer, it was carried quite contrary from the place the Persons pretended it was for.

One Instance more I will give; That a parcel of Wool was carried by such another person from *Maidstone*, to a place near the Sea-side, nigh unto *Dungeones*, and this person was willing to be a Merchant himself, and to go over with his Wool (though but a Carryer betwixt *Maidstone* and *London*) but I suppose one used to *Smuckle* (as tis called) from the Sea-side to *London*, else could not know the wayes: But so it fell out, that the Shallop not being come, he Lodged his Wool on the *Beach*, expecting the Shallop might come before any person should see it, being out of any Rode, and deep places in the said *Beach*; but by chance it was found and Seifed.

Again, A parcel of Wool (I think Combed) was carried from *Coventry* in *Warwick-shire*, to *Portsmouth*, being far distant each from other, pretending for *Jersey*, but designed for *France*; and in Discourse with a person (as he thought, like himself) confest the Business.

And farther, As to my former Discovery of the Methods, it doth most apparently appear in Fact; As from *Ireland*, I have discovered no less than Ten Thousand Stone of Wool shipt in five Vessels (in less than three months) from one
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Town in *Ireland* (*Viz. Gallaway*), and all Entred for *London* and *Plymouth*; and Bonds given, but the Bondsmen not Responsible, and the Ships most *Flemens*: three of which said Five Vessels, Landed their Wool in *Flushing*, and one in *Amsterdam*, and the fifth in *St. Males* in *France*. To the truth of which I have *Affadavits*; and here is Witness come on purpose from *Ireland*, to make good the *Affadavits*.

Before I propound Remedies for the prevention of the aforesaid Cheats, I think it convenient to lay before you an Abridgment of some Acts, by this present Parliament now in force.

An Abridgment of those Acts in force, made by this present Parliament.

1. ENacted 12. Car. 2 No Person or Persons whatsoever, after the 14th. of *January 1660.* Shall directly or indirectly, Export, Transport, or procure to be Exported, &c. out of, or from the Kingdoms of *England, Ireland, Wales, Barwick upon Twede, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, and Alderney*, being under the Government of *Guernsey*, or any of them, or to any Parts, or out of the said, Kingdoms, or Dominions thereof, any Sheep, or Wool, whatsoever of the Breed or Growth of the Kingdoms, &c. Woolfels, Mortlings, or Shorlings, or any Yarn made of Wool, or any Woolflocks, Fullers-Earth, or Fulling-Clay whatsoever; or Pack, Load, or cause to be Packed, or Loaded upon any Horse, or laid Aboard any Ship, or Vessel, within the Kingdoms, Isles, or Dominion aforesaid, to the Intent or Purpose to Export, or Convey, or to cause to be Exported, or Conveyed out of the Kingdoms, Isles, &c. Or with intent that any person should carry the same into any parts or places out of the Kingdoms of *England, Ireland, &c.* into the Kingdom of *Scotland*, or Forraign parts.

2. No Wool, Woolfels, Mortlings, Shorlings, Yarn made
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of Woolflocks, Fullers-Earth, or Fulling-Clay, after January 14. 1660. shall be Exported out of the Kingdoms of England, Ireland, Wales, Barwick, or any place of the said Kingdoms respectively; unto the Isles of Jersey, and Alderney, except as by the Act appointed.

3. All the Offenders aforesaid, shall be lyable to the Penalties and Forfeitures following, Viz. 1. The Sheep, Wools, Mortlings, Yarn, Fullers-Earth, and Clay so Exported, Conveyed, Packed or Loaden contrary to the Act, shall be Forfeited. 2. The Offender shall Forfeit twenty Shillings for every Sheep, and three Shillings, for every pound of Wool, Fullers-Earth, or Fulling-Clay so Exported, &c. 3. The Owner of the Ships, or Vessels, knowing such Offence, shall Forfeit their Interest in the Ships, &c. with their Apparel, and Furniture. 4. The Masters and Marriners, knowing thereof, or assisting thereunto, shall Forfeit all their Goods, and Chateles, and have Imprisonment for three Months without Bail, &c. One Moity of the Forfeitures, or Penalties to the King, the other to the Informer; who will Sue for the same in the Kings Court of Record, or before Justices of Assize, on the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

4. If any Merchant or other Person, after the said 14th. of January, shall Transport, or cause to be Transported any Sheep, Wool, Woolfels, Wollen-Yarn, Fullers-Earth, &c. contrary to the Act, and be thereof Convicted, he shall be disabled to require any Accompt of any Factor, or others, for, or concerning any Debt, or Estate, properly belonging to the Offender.

5. Every Offence done contrary to the Act, shall be enquired of in the Countrey where such Sheep, Wool, &c. shall be Packed, &c. Or else in the Countrey where the Parties shall be Apprehended, as if the Offence had been wholly and altogether done at and in such County; and no Person shall be Impeached for any Offence aforesaid, unless he be Prosecuted within one Year next after the Offence committed.

6. Any Person, &c. may lawfully Seize, Take, or Challenge to his own use, or to the use of the King, his Heirs, &c.

&c. all manner of such Sheep, Wool, Woolfels, Yarns, &c. as he shall find, know, or discover to be laid on Board any Ship, Vessel, &c. Or layed on Shoar, at, or near Shoar of any Navigable River, to the intent to be Transported out of the Kingdoms of England, Ireland, or Dominions thereof; or to be packed upon any Horse, or other Carriage, to the intent to be Conveyed into the Kingdom of Scotland; and such Person, &c. as shall Seize, &c. the same, shall have the full Moity thereof, provided such Person as shall make such Seizure, shall not be allowed to give in Evidence upon his Oath, against any person which shall be Indicted or Questioned, by Vertue of this Act.

7. Every Ship, Vessel, Boat, &c. Whereof any Alien-born, or whereof any Natural-born Subjects not Inhabiting within England, shall be Owner or Part-owner, and wherein any Sheep, Wool, Yarn made of Wool, &c. shall happen to be Shipped, or Layed on Board, shall be Forfeited to the King, &c.

1. Provided, This Act not extend to any Lamb-skin ready Dress, fit and useful for Fur or Linings; nor to the Carrying or Conveying away any Woolfels, or Pelts with such Wool upon them; or to any Beds stuffed with Flocks, which shall be carried into any Ship, or Vessel, for necessary use, onely in or concerning the Ship, &c. Or for the necessary use of the persons passing in such Ships, &c. And which shall not be Sold in any Forraign parts; or to the Conveying any Weather-sheep, or the Wool growing upon them to be carried alive in any Ship, &c. for the onely necessary Food or Diet, of, or for the Company or Passengers, or other persons therein.

2. Not to Extend to any such Wool to be Exported out of, or from the Port of Southampton, onely to the Isles of Jersey, or Guernsey, by, or for the use of any the Inhabitants there; so as such person that shall Ship, or lay Aboard such Vessel, do, before the Shipping thereof, deliver to the Customer, Surveyor, or Searcher of the said Ports, a Writing under the Seals of the respective Governours of the said Isles, to which the Wool is to be Transported, or their Deputies; which Writing shall express the party Named therein, as authorized to

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to Export out of the Port aforesaid so much Wool, expressing the number of the Tods to be Used, or Manufactured in the said Isles; and that the parties so Authorized, hath before the making of such Writing, entred Bond to the King, for the Landing of the said Wool in that Isle; and the Wool Exported out of the said Port of Southampton, shall not exceed this quantity, viz. To Jersey, 2000 Tods uncombed: Guernsey, 1000 Tods: Alderney, 200 Tods: Sark, 100 Tods and no more; every Tod not exceeding 32 pound.

8. That the Governour of the respective Isles of Jersey, and Guernsey, or his Deputy, for whom he will answer; shall not make any Writing, or Writings, to any Person or Persons to Appoint or Authorise such person or persons, to Fetch or Export out of the said Port of Southampton, unto the respective Isles in one Year, accounting the Year from January 14. 1660. aforesaid; any greater quantity of Wool unto the said respective Isles, and places, than is by the true meaning of the Act Limited, and Appointed; upon pain the Respective Governour, or Governours, of such Isles, shall Forfeit and Pay to the King Twenty pound, for every Tod of Wool which shall be so Licensed to be Exported, over and above the Rate and Proportion by the Act Limited, and appointed.

9. That the Costomer of the Port of Southampton, shall keep a true Accompt of the Quantity of Wools so by him permitted to be Loaden; and shall not permit any greater Quantity of Wools, than in the Act is prescribed to be Loaden, in any one Year to either of the said Islands, under any pretence whatsoever; upon penalty of Forfeiting his place, and the Sum of 100 pound, one Moiety to the King, the other Moiety to him who will Sue for the same, in any Court of Record wherein no Effoim, &c. shall be Allowed.

10. That the Respective Governours, or their Deputies, or any of their Clerks, Officers, or Servants, for the Making, Granting, or Sealing of every such Writing of License, and for the Entering of a Remembrance of the same, into some Book which they shall keep for that purpose; shall take twelve pence, and no more, upon pain of Forfeiture to the party grieved

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grieved, five Shilings for every penny shall be taken above the said twelve pence; the penalty to be Recovered by Bill, or Information in any Court of Record at Westminster, wherein no Injunction, Effoim, &c. shall be Allowed.

First, Another Act Enacted 14. Car. 2d. Ch. 18. If any Person or Persons, from and after the first of August, 62. shall directly, or indirectly Export, &c. from the Kingdoms of England, and Ireland, &c. into any parts out of the said Kingdoms, any Sheep, &c. To the intent to Export, or cause to be Exported into any Forraign parts; every such Offence shall be adjudged Felony, and the Offender being Convicted, shall Forfeit and suffer as in case of Felony.

2. Every Owner of any such Ship, or Vessel, and every Owner of every Horse, Cart, or Carriages, upon which any Sheep, Wool, Woolfels, Yarn made of Wool, Woolflocks, Fullers-Earth, or Fulling-Clay, so to be Exported, Transported, &c. to any such intent as aforesaid; knowing hereof, and hereof being wilfully and willingly Aiding, Assisting, or Consenting thereunto; and the Master of such Ship, or Vessel, wherein any such Sheep, Wool, &c. shall be so Exported, or Transported, or Loaden, or laid on Board as aforesaid, to any such purpose as aforesaid; and Aiding, Assisting, or Consenting thereunto: And every Factor, and Servant whatsoever, Customer, Controler, Waiter, Searcher, or other Officer, or Person whatsoever, knowing hereof, and willingly Assisting, or Consenting thereunto, shall be Adjudged and taken to be a Felon; and every Offender therein duly Convicted, shall Suffer or Forfeit, as in case of Felony.

3. Every Offence done, or Committed contrary to this Act, shall be Enquired of, Heard, Tried, and Condemned, in the County where such Sheep, Wool, Woolfels, &c. respectively, shall be Packed, Laden, or laid on Board, as aforesaid; or else in the County where such Offenders shall happen, to be Apprehended or Arrested for such Offence, or in such manner, or to such effect, to all intents and purposes, as if the said Offence had been wholly done, and committed in the same County.

4. From and after the 1st. of August, 1662. No person, &c. shall

shall press together with any Screws, Presses, or other Engine, into any Sack, Pack, Bag, or shal Steam any woollen cloth, Yarn made of Wool, into any But, Pipe, Hoghead, or other Cask, or Vessel, upon any pretence; or shall carry, or lay at, or near the Shoar, Coasts of the Sea, or Navigable River, or any place near adjoining thereunto; any such Wool, Woolflocks, or Yarn made of Wool, to Export, Transport, or carry away the same out of the Kingdom of *England*, or *Ireland*, into *Scotland*, or any other Forraign parts, upon penalty of Loss of all such Wool, Woolflocks, Yarn made of Wool, so Packed, Pressed, Layed into any Cask, or Carried on Land near the Sea-shoar, or the value thereof.

5. No Tobacco-Pipe-Clay, shall after the 1st. of *August*, 1662. be Exported, Transported, or Conveyed out of the Kingdom of *England*, &c. Or after the 1st. of *January*, 1662. out of, or from *Ireland*, or *Wales*, into the Kingdom of *Scotland*, or into any Forraign parts, under the penalty of three shillings for every pound of Tobacco-Pipe-Clay, Exported or Transported.

6. After the 1st. of *August*, 1662. No Packs, Sacks, Bags, or Casks of Wool, Woolfels, Mortlings, Shorlings, Yarn made of Wool, Fullers-Earth, Fulling Clay, Tobacco-Pipe-Clay, shall be Laden on any Horse, Cart, or Carriage; or shall be Conveyed by Land from any of the places within the Kingdom of *England*. Nor after the 1st. of *January*, 1662. in *Ireland*, but in the Day time; and from and after the 1st. of *March*, to the 29th. of *September* Yearly, between the hours of four of the Clock in the Morning, and eight of the Clock in the Evening; upon pain of Forfeiture of all such Goods, or the Value thereof. One Moiety to the King, his Heirs, &c. the other to him or them, that will Sue for the same, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, &c.

1. Provided this Act not to be Construed, to Repeal and make Void any the Penalties in an Act of this Parliament made against Transportation of Wool, Woolfels, Fullers-Earth; or to the Prohibiting of the Lading on Board of any Ship, &c. of any Weather-sheep, VVool, or other Goods that

that by the said Act is permitted to be Laden on Board any Ship, &c. for the necessary use of such Ships, &c.

1. If any Owner, Master, or Mariner of any Ship, &c. knowing of such Transportation of such Sheep, Wool, Woolfels, (or any of the Goods mentioned) shall within three Months next, after the Knowledg thereof, or after he return into the Kingdom of *England*, *Ireland*, or *Wales*, &c. give the first Information, *Bona fide*, before the Barons of either of the Courts of Exchequer in *England*, or *Ireland*; or before the Head Officer of any port, where he shall first arrive, of the number and quantity of the Goods so Carried or Transported; and by whom, where, and in what Ship, &c. And shall be ready to justifie and prove the same: Such Owner, Master, or Mariner, shall not be punished for Felony, but yet be subject to all other Penalties contained in the Act, for the offence aforesaid. And all such Exportations, and Conveying of any Goods, or Commodities, in the Act mentioned, is declared to be a common and publick Nufance.

Remedies is humbly offered as a farther Addition to the former Act.

1. TO Revive some former Acts of Parliament, as in the 4th. of *Hen. 7th.* As also 23. and 27. *Hen. 8. 5. Edw. 6th.* For this very Reason to Regulate the Buyers of Wool, especially by the Sea-side, where there can be no pretence of a Conveniency for any thing, but only for Forreigners. For instance: I do know a person scarce worth any thing (at least so reputed) living near the Sea-side, that I believe, hath bought some hundreds Packs of Wool for *French* Merchants, as formerly hinted; and sometimes goes over himself to *France*: And this person I found to be Compounded with two or three times by the Officers aforesaid, for four or five pound a time; which way is now prevented by the Lord Chief Baron *Hales*, and a Rule is given in Court and entred

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2. For all persons in *England* to be accountable to whom they Sell their Wool, and so to follow it until it shall be known to be in such hands, as shall of the said Wool convert to a Manufacture, here in *England*; because both Combed and Raw Wool is now Seised, some in *London*, 5 or 6 hundred, and entred as a Bale of *Spanish* Cloathes, and it lies now in the *Custom* House in *London*. So that it is impossible to prevent it without persons be Accountable, though not all, nor the twentieth part of Wool Growers may be lookt after, nor troubled, but where it is needful for some particular persons (that are suspected) And for such persons so near to the *Sea-side*, to make an Entry of their Wool, and to take Bond as it is in the Ports when entred *per Cockquet*, from Port to Port; there being as much danger from those places (and too much experienced) as is in the Port Towns; and therefore the same Reason to be given, and no reason for any person that means honesty, to be offended.

3. That there may be Store-houses in those Countries near the *Sea-side*, and where is no Manufacture in some convenient places as formerly there was, for Transportation of Wool by Staple Towns, for the conveniency of some poor men, that cannot stay for their Money.

4. For *Ireland*, that there be convenient Ports out of which it shall be Exported from thence.

From *Ireland*, *Draughdab*, *Dublin*, *Waterford*, *Youghal*, *Cork*, for the danger lieth in the *Northwest* ports; for I am humbly of opinion, that there is very little Wool that is Landed in *England*, shipt from those places: As for Instance, *Galloway*, whereas five Ships discovered pretending to be for *England*, and none came here, as at large before appeareth: And considering the Length and Hazard from those Ports (especially *Lymbrick*, and *Galloway*, &c.) Which increase the Freight almost equally to the Land Carriage to the *Eastern* ports next Adjacent; it is equal to the Merchants that means honestly. And it is supposed that the *Staples* in *Ireland* as above, is yet in force, only want reviving: And also it doth appear in fact, that a person that doth Export Wool only from *Ire-*

Ireland to *England*, brings it by Land from *Galloway* to *Dublin*, there to be Shipt.

That no Certificate be vallyd, the discharge of Bonds given, unless the Mayor, or Civil Officer of the Port certify with the Officer of the *Customs*, that the Wool is actually Landed and Weighed.

5. That there may be a shorter and quick way for Trials, and in such places as the Offender may have least opportunity for Evasions; and not so as the Judge may be Counsel for such Malefactors, as I have observed; and this is the cause that many have forbore to bring persons upon the Stage for Trials; and it has been my own case, that I have observed in the *Sin* ports, where the greatest mischief is done.

6. To have those Statutes made known by publick Reading in every Parish Church, as also by the Sheriff in proper person, four times a Year in every Hundred, and by his Bayliffs in every Market; and Proclamation at every Quarter Sessions, by all Mayors, Sheriffs, Bayliffs, and other Officers, as formerly it was for publick Statutes in several Kings Reigns.

Touehing the Manufacturing of Wool.

I N General, all States and Common-wealths, are supported by two Providential works (viz.) Reward and Punishment; for as no Law can compel men to be Corporally Laborious, or studious in Knowledg and Literature, unless Rewards be annexed to all such Compulsion; so no Providence can attend the preservation of profitable Designs, either in Learning or Trade, unless such punishments be enjoyned: And this is the weak and frail estate of Men and Nations, that unless they be as well encouraged in their endeavours, as punished in their misdemeanors, they will speedily become Libertines, and ruine all as is too too much feared in this case in England at this day; and as before about the Wool, so the working for the greatest part hath been confined to England, this three hundred Years, and until these late Years has been so preserved, by the diligence of such Officers as have been ordained and impowered, carefully to see the Manufactures kept under those rules which the Laws have provided for their perfection; and seeing this Nation is by God peculiarised in these two blessings (viz.) Wools, and Manufactors; and through the Vigilancy of its Monarchs safe guarded by Laws, that the native Manufactures might not be undermined by the practices of Forreigners; their ancient providence exacts from the present Age, the same preservation (as before in the Wool) that the Dutch do not undermine us out of all. Again, we may be taught by their diligence, who though they have few or no native Commodities, yet are rich and thriving; who spare no attendance in over-

overseeing and searching the true making of their Manufactures as above; for their exactness, giving therefore power and Commissions to persons of more than ordinary worth amongst them (whom they call Cure or Care-Masters) to see every thing according to the Law; and where ever they find a defect, they make a default upon the Cloath, which first is recompensed by a Fine to the State for abusing the Laws, and afterward remains to admonish the Buyer, who thereby may guard his Purse. And in case the Clothier be abused by any of his Work-folks, he Checks his Damage upon the true offender in his Wages. Now in England there is so much the contrary, that many persons take liberty for want of a regular or Legal course followed, either for time or form in working; there is few of the Relations to Cloathing, which doth observe such an exact rule of Apprentiship (which is not the least cause that the Manufactures of Wool are so abusively and deceptiously made in England) notwithstanding it is enjoyned in very strict and penal manner by the Statute Laws of the old Draperies; the chief inconveniences of which, is, that the Trade so general in Use, and maintenance of even numberless Families, doth by its own vast exorbancie convert into Corruptions; and so those great multitudes of people become discredited, beggered, and finally ruined, to the destruction of themselves and the Nation, which gave them so great a Blessing. Another prejudice, and not the least, is, that the Nation which hath given them Being, and Invested them with such Materials for Cloathing, is dishonoured by false and abusive works: And it is not a little scandal to that Nation which God hath particularly endowed with those blessings which others want, when its people shall divert those good things which God hath bestowed upon it to evil and deceptions practices. In this consideration it is observable (by some) how little comparitively is the Drunkenness of those Countries which produce Wines, and wherein lies their personal Riches, and their Nations Honour, though their other sins may sufficiently swell their ultimate Account; yet doubtless it strengthens their

their last Apologie, in that they abuse not that endowment which God hath made the original of their Being and Subsistence.

Another consideration is, the Cheat it puts upon all the world, for though every Country hath not the benefit of the Manufacture in themselves, yet are there few of them condemned to such ignorance as not to discern the Conzenage which false Cloathing puts upon them.

And further, great may be the thought of heart, when the sins of false Lucre and Covetousness (which is Idolatry) are in full pursuance of such as have the full Plenty to make weight and measure, yet make it the Art of their practises as well as the practise of their Art, to Cozen both the Wise and Weak: It can be no great wonder, nor without abundance of presidents, if God for sins of such wilfulness remove his Blessings (with which this Nation is peculiarly enriched and dignified) and give them to a people which will render Him a better, more just, and more profitable account of his Talent; and its no news, that though England be by the Almighty, chiefly ordained to produce the Materials; yet the Manufactures be given to a people, which will render him a better Account; all this and much more is expected, if the Native people continue to abuse the Native Commodity, (as of necessity they must, when they know not how to use it.) The Wisdom of our Ancestors hath been liberally manifested in this particular. First, That the Manufactors be constantly made Apprentices for seven years at least, the contrary is one great reason, that by ignorance so many abuses are, that are unremediable. Another reason, why Apprentices are generally confined to seven years Servitude, is to the end, that Professors (in each Art) multiply not beyond the support of their Trade, which were not to increase good Subjects, but Vagabonds, which doubtless was not the intention of King Edward the 3d. (ever to be remembered by an English-man, when in his design in bringing Cloathing to England, a chief part was to multiply his people, as by his Native and Alleageant Subjects (such as by and by you will understand) he might securely possess the Conquests wherewith God here blessed him, which were beyond any Christian Prince's in his time. It is utterly against reason that

that a Nation can be poor, whose people are numerous, if their Industry be compelled and encouraged, and their Idleness be punished and reformed. It is the opinion of some, that its not the barrenness of a Country which can forbid this Maxim. Now a great increase (at least) of good people (as afore hinted in King Edward) rests upon the regulation of Trade; for its not the number of Workmen, but number of good Workmen which increaseth Families, and its Families which increaseth and spreadeth good people; the other for want of Knowledge and Skill, being fixed no where, because their Labours will not maintain themselves, much less Families: For who will use a Workman, who hath neither Skill nor Credit, when he can employ one that hath both?

Of principal Importance therefore is the Regulation of Apprentiships, both to the best increase of people, and to the Honest, Creditable, and Wealthy Manufactures of Wool, for want of which not only the former denoted faults are daily found in their works, but good workmen are under sold and ruined (as formerly hinted) by bad, and the whole Nation involved in great dishonour.

Nor is this all the Abuse; for in such parts of the World as the Buyers are not in ability of knowledg, like the Dutch, who make Cloaths themselves, and especially those parts where the difference in Religion is so great, as it is between Christians and Turks; there the corrupt Merchant causeth the Name of God to be Blasphemed. For when those people (whose Eye and Judgment gives them not so good information as doth their proof and wearing) do find themselves cheated in their Garments, they presently conclude that there is no fear of God in that place, nor obedience to their Rulers; which must fluently procure much scandal to Christian Religion.

It hath been noted, that the Original of Money, was from Sheep, affirming that the Antient Signature upon Money, was a Sheep; and its further observed, that Merchandises were the cause of Money; and there being no greater Merchandise then are from the Sheep, it is evident, that there is nothing more

more requisite towards the enriching this Nation (whose peculiar blessing rests in Sheep) then strictly to hold the Manufactures to the Letter and Rule provided for their just making; and that the Laws be unpartially executed; and it being apparent that this Nation cannot be Rich without a constant uttering of Cloathing, nor can that be done without a perfect reformation in the particulars of the works.

It doth undeniably follow, that Cloathing must be purged from its Corruption, or *England* must be poor. It is therefore the Manufacturers which abuse the Wool, and thereby improvidently give advantage to the *Dutch*: whereas a perfection in the making of Cloaths in *England*, will capacitate the *English* to undersell the *Dutch*.

1. And whereas it is objected, that there is no need for persons to serve as an Apprentice to such an Employment, that can be Learned in three Months.

2. That it will be a hindrance to the encrease of Trade, and so consequently narrow it.

Answ. 1. As to the first, there is no sort of Woollen-Manufactory, that can be so Learned in such a short time, but a person may still be to Learn if he live four times seven Years; it must be Experience in all Trades, or Callings (as well as the Notional part) that must make a person Master of his Trade. Again, If there were such strict care taken for Youth to be Apprentice to every petty Employment, and Husbandry it self, its much more reason for an Apprentice in such a Manufactory, as it's the Foundation of the Riches and Splendor of this Kingdom.

Answ. 2. As to the hinderance of Trade, I have this to say, and it is Obvious to the whole world: Where ever Rules are given, and duly observed, there Trade doth encrease; witness, *Norwich*, and *Colchester*, that hath the Reputation, and doth wonderfully increase; and the quite contrary when ever its wilde, and without Rule, and Order, it doth much decay. Which if my time would permit to give a particular account of my own Knowledge, and Experience, in this thing, I do presume it might be more satisfactory to the Reader, but must humbly beg his Excuse at present.

A Supplement.

I Thought not to have Written any thing more at present but seeing such a necessity provokes me thereto; (and being already upon the Stage, and a Spectacle to many; and though I must Write *Folly* as to all my Actions, with Respect unto my Self; yet in it, I shall rest content; whilst others Reap the Advantage;) and principally a necessity for some, that otherwise would perish; and that not a few, but many Thousands in this Kingdom, as appears at large in this small (foregoing) Tract. And notwithstanding the Dis-couragements I have met withal, I have and am resolved to persist (and the more necessity there is of a double diligence) I may alude to that saying, *Pf. 119. v. 126.* That the more general Digression from, or rather Transgression of the Laws of God, so much more need was there then for the *Psalmist* to love it above Gold, because the necessary Consequence is by the said Breach, to bring National Judgments upon a People, or Kingdom, which must unavoidably follow, were there not some to stand in the Gap; witness of which are plentiful, both Moral, and Divine. To return to our purpose, the Breach of the Laws of this Kingdom, in this particuler we are upon, if not Punished according to the Demerit of the cause, as hitherto it hath not, a little time will make it Irrecoverable: Therefore pray bear with me, if I am more than ordinarily Solicitous in this Business, as seeing before-hand whether we are going, by what hath past; which we say cannot be helpt; but this in time may be, if we will not be wanting to our selves, and say a Lyon is in the way, when no such thing, and so Create difficulties.

My Observation upon these Two things, is, 1st. The Undrest and Undied Cloath. 2^d. The Fishing Trade, as Sir *Walter Rawley* notes.

1. From the great loss to *England* past recovery, so many Millions in the Transportation of our English Cloath to *Holland*,
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Undrest, and Undied, which without doubt at first, was by little and little Connived at (as our Wool is) till at length came to be Masters of that, and would not have our other Wollen Manufacturies without it, as experience with those Merchants may witness; so in time, both the *Dutch*, and especially the *French*, will refuse our Manufacturies without we will allow them so much Wool with it; and so by little and little shall we be Beat out of our Trade, and our Wools carried from us, and our Merchants transport themselves after, as it was at first before King *Edward* the Third, and leave a poor Populous Kingdom ready to Eat up one another, and so fall to Robbing and Stealing, which hath been formerly complained of.

2. The second as about the Fishing: In my Travels, I have observed many Sea-coast Towns much decayed, unless some few little Parishes, and great *Yarmouth*; nay, many antient Towns utterly consumed, hardly one stone left upon another, which is Reported, and may by History be found true, that was Populous and Strong, which to an Island is not only an Ornament, but of absolute Necessity: Witness our late Wars with the *Dutch*, and *French*, and doubtless was Upheld and Enriched by Fishing, as Sir *Walter Rawley* accounts to be gained in his time by the *Dutch*, about One Million, Three Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Pound, besides what was carried to *Spain*, and *France* (except *Roan*) and into the *Streights*, besides what they consumed amongst themselves; which doubtless was and is now very considerable. Yet, were all those Fish caught upon our Coasts, and no question if things had been well managed to encourage hands (in *England*) we might much better, and cheaper have maintained them, and Caught and Cured them, having many more and much better convenient Ports than they; but we are slack and careless, as it was in King *Henry* the seventh's time; he desirous to make his Kingdom Powerful and Rich by encrease of Ships and Mariners, and Employment of his People, sent unto his Sea-coast Towns, moving them to set up the great and rich Fishing, with promise to give them needful Priviledges, and furnish them with Loans of Money if need were, to encourage them; yet his people were slack. Notwithstanding many Noble men, and Merchants, and others (who had set
down

down under their hands for more assurance) promised to disburse large Sums of Money for the perfecting the said Kingdom, and given such comfort, and do such good to all Cities and Towns, having fit and needful Priviledges for the upholding and strengthening of so weighty and needful a business.

Observations upon the Dutch Policies, that having nothing Comparatively to England, yet to Exceed us in many things.

Considering the Multitude, Excellency, and Conveniency of our Ports in *England*, and the abundance of our Native Commodities, which may any wayes conduce to the supplying the necessities, or adorning the conveniency of Humane Life, the Inhabitants Stout and Valiant, accompanied with a lively Wit, and healthful Constitution; one would think it strange (I might say Monstrous) that the *Dutch* Nation who are denied those Advantages, and are of a more dull and heavy Constitution than the *English*, should out-wit us in that God (and Nature) hath given us all the Prerogative we our selves can desire.

The true Ground-course and form doth appear how other Countries (*viz.*) *Holland* make themselves Rich and Powerful in all kind of Merchandises, and Manufacturies, in and by fullness of Trade, having no Commodities (comparatively) in their own Countrey growing to do it withal; and that their never dried Fountains of Wealth, by which they raise their Estate to such an Admirable height, as that they are at this day even a wonder to the World, proceedeth from his Majesties Sea and Land; and by the depth of their Policies (and exercising themselves constantly in it) and the Circumventing practices, they draw and still cover to Exhaust the Wealth and Coyn of this Kingdom, and so with our own Commodities to weaken us, and finally beat us out of Trade in other Countries.

They more fully obtained these their purposes, by their convenient Priviledges, and settled Constitutions, than England with all the Law (which if Practised would be otherwise) and superabundance of Home-bred Commodities, which God hath vouchsafed this Kingdom by Sea and Land.

By which Priviledges they draw multitudes of Merchants to Trade with them, and many other Nations to Inhabit amongst them, which makes them Populous; and thereby they make Store-houses of all forreign Commodities, wherewith upon every occasion of Scarcety and Dearth, they are able to furnish forreign Countries with plenty of those Commodities, which before in time of Plenty, they engrossed and brought Home from the same places; which doth greatly Augment Power and Treasure to their State, besides the Common good in setting poor people on work: Which maketh them Flourish, and their Countrey so plentiful of all kind of Coyn and Commodities, where little or nothing Groweth; and their Merchants so Flourish, that when a Loss cometh, they scarce feel it: To bring this to pass, they have many Advantages of us, that We might have if we would give up our selves unto it, which many have Writ of at Large.

Sir Walter Rawleigh Notes, that the smalness of the Customs, inward and outward, was a great encouragement, and yet by the greatness of Commerce by it, the Customes comes to as much in one year, to the States of Holland, then in two years in England, which maketh all the Countrey-Merchants to buy and sell, and increase Ships and Marriners to Transport much again: And he farther Notes, the Merchandizes of France, Portugal, Spaine, Italy, Turkey, East and West-Indies, are Transported most by the Hollanders, and other petty States, into the East and North-West Kingdoms of Pomerland, Spruceland, &c.

And the Merchandize brought from the last mentioned Kingdoms, being wonderful many, are by them Transported into the Southern and Western Dominions; and yet the Scituation of England lyeth far better for Store-houses to serve the aforesaid Countreys and Regions, than theirs doth, and hath far better means to do it, if we would bend our course for it.

It hath been observed, that when a Dearth of Fish, Wine, or
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Corn, and other Merchandises here, that forthwith the Emde-ners, and Hamburgers, and Holland, out of their Store-houses, Lade fifty or an hundred Ships, or more, dispersing themselves round about this Kingdom, and carry away great store of Coyn, and Wealth, for little Commodities in those times of Dearth; by which means they suck out our Riches, cut down our Merchants, and decay our Navigation: And particularly, he farther Notes, That from the said three places above, out of their Store-houses, furnished this Kingdom with Corn, and from Southampton, Exeter, and Bristol, in a Year and a Halfe time, carried away near two hundred Thousand Pounds, besides from London and other parts, could not be less than Two Millions, to the great decay of this Kingdom, and discredit to the Company of Merchants; that any Nation that have no Corn in their own Country growing, should serve this famous Kingdom, by all which they draw the Wealth and Strength of Christendom to themselves: Whereby also it appeareth, though the Duty be but small, yet the Customs for going out and coming in, do so abound as before, that they Increase their Revenews greatly, and make Profit, plenty, and Employment of all sorts by Sea and Land, to serve themselves and other Nations, as is admirable to behold. And likewise, the great Commerce which Groweth by the same means, enableth the Common-people to bear their burden laid upon them, and yet they grow Rich by reason of the great Commerce and Trade, occasioned by their convenient Priviledges, and commodious constitutions.

These things being in time considered, and necessary to be remembred; and that the stream may be turned to the good of this Kingdom, to whom God hath given those great blessings, and multitude of Riches, or at least means for it (however it hath been neglected to the hurt of this Kingdom) Let us all as English-men, as the good Spyes did in saying, That we are able to keep Our Trade; and not say with the Evil Spyes, We shall never be able, and so weaken one anothers hands, and give up Our Trade into the hands of those that thirst for it, and that can live without it; and we, if lost, cannot possibly live one by another; and although now through Idleness we are Poor in many places, for want of Employment; and though many Land, and Sea-Coast Townes much Ruined; yet, notwithstanding there

there is hope; first, considering the Encouragement his Majesty hath given to promote Trade, in giving free access to any propofals, and forwarding of those that are Good, though all cannot as yet be accomplished; and let us remember that it is more easie to keep Our Trade, then it was to get it, as in *K. E. 3d. That we follow on, and do every one his duty in his place, to enrich our selves, and encrease the Navigation, Shipping, and Marriners, so as it would make all Nations to vaile the Bonnet to England, if we would not be still wanting to our selves, in employing of our people, and to allure them all for their own private Gain; to be all Workers and Errectors of so rich a Manufacture, to vent our home-bred Commodities to far more Reputation, and much more Profit to the King, the Merchant, and the Kingdom, to return the Merchandizes of other Countreys at far cheaper Rates than now they are, to the great benefit of the Kingdom in General, in making it powerful by increasing of Ships and Marriners; and to make the peoples takings in General, to be much more every day, then now they are, which by Gods help, will grow continually more and more, by the great Concourse and Commerce that will come by settled constitutions, and convenient Priviledges, as in other Parts they do by their great freedom of Trade.*

All this, and much more is done in other Countreys, where nothing groweth; so that of nothing, they make great things; Then how much more mighty things might we make, where are so great abundance and Variety of home-bred Commodities, and Rich Materials grows for a people to work upon, and other plentiful means to do that withal, which other Nations neither have, nor cannot want, but of necessity must be furnished from hence? And now, whereas our Merchandizing, and Manufactury is wilde, utterly confused, and out of frame, it would be all put in frame, and fill our Havens with Ships, those Ships with Marriners, the Kingdom full of Merchants, their houses full of Out-landish Commodities, and his Majesties Revenues wonderfully encrease, &c.

IT is not only a common saying, but an experimental truth, that, *Interest will not Lye*; I have therefore (although confused) endeavoured to discover, how all Persons in *England* (*viz.*) the Body of this Kingdom are concerned in these Lines, and although as clear as any thing visible, yet such a stupified frame, hath possessed so many Persons in *England*, (ten times more concerned than my self) that instead of having any Help or Assitance from them, gives me all the discouragement imaginable. If this of Self-Interett were rightly weighed together, with what is our duty to be helpful to our Neighbours, and no wayes prejudicial to our selves, how happy might *England* be: But alas! How contrary, how few are the Persons that are Cordial in promoting of anothers good, when no wayes prejudicial to himself. Nay, I am too much experienced in this Knowledg, that many persons hinders themselves (consequently) of much Gains, when another may be Advantaged with it, and will be better pleased with the Tythe of that profit, if he can have it alone; how far short of some Brutes, that are more Unaminous for each others Advantage? how far short we are of those we account as base, (*viz.*) *The Turks, Jews, &c.*? It was a complaint for many Hundred Years ago, by a great Doctor, that most sought themselves, with the neglect of others; when it was, and is, a Duty incumbent upon all, not only to minde our selves, but also the good of others. I have read of a great Ambassador that had been long in *England*, when leaving it, and being under Sail towards his own Countrey, lookt back and spake of the Excellency of this Island in its Clymate and Situation, but the great defect was, the want of Publick Spirits. Should I write only my Observation on this Subject, I might Write a large Volumn; not only of the want of such a Spirit, but that which is worse, (*viz.*) the Oppositions, Reflections, Derisions, and the like. I shall only alude to that saying, *He that departs from such evils, and so consequently endeavour to follow the contrary, he becomes a Prey.* But the main and principal Inducement as to my present work at first, and still is, I do not think it seasonable for several reasons to Insert at present; hoping when I am off the Stage, it may be more proper; for Vain man would be
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Wife, (*viZ.*) esteemed so. I will only Insert what two Authors gives me an account of: Two Persons somewhat contrary in their Opinions, speaking about Merchants to be a principal Renown to themselves, and their Countrey, with what great hazards both of Person, and Estate, they do so Faithfully and profitably serve.

The first Author saith thus; *We have a Record which doth worthily recite the ingenious expressions of a young Florentine Gentleman, called Cossimo Ruchelli, who dyed about the age of 22 years, who bewailed not his departure from his Kindred and Friends, nor from the Riches of his Family, or pleasures of the World; but because he was summoned by Death before he had done his Country that Tributary service, which to it was due for his being, or had gratified his Friends by reciprocal benefits, for that they had bestowed upon him nourishment and Education.*

The second Author gives us a contrary opinion, of one *Theodosius*, who thought, and taught it to be great injustice that a wise man should in any case hazard himself for the good or benefit of his Country, which he said was to endanger his *Wisdom* for *Fools*. Now though each of these mens' fancies had a rational Foundation upon their respective principles, one to gratifie and serve the World, the other to despise and reject its Vanities; yet Natures positive Doctrine to all her Children is, *We are not born for our selves only.*

I shall say as to this, although in reasoning betwixt two, notwithstanding my discouragement; yet my resolutions have been strong, nothing have been thought too dear, so that something may be done, if but as a Mite, it being my all. I therefore do humbly beg a kind reception, seeing the business is not a disputable thing, &c.

Wm. King
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