

0306

68-10



A N

# Appeal to Facts;

Regarding the

## HOME TRADE

A N D

## INLAND MANUFACTURES

O F

*Great Britain and Ireland.*



L O N D O N :

Printed for GEORGE WOODFALL, at the  
*King's-Arms, Charing-Cross. 1751.*

( Price One Shilling. )

14



To the Right Honourable the  
**Earl of HALIFAX,**  
 First Lord of the BOARD of  
**T R A D E.**

**T**HE Knowledge of the more  
 useful Arts and Sciences, to  
 which your Lordship has attained,  
 and the Countenance you shew  
 every Person who aims at improving  
 them, encourage me to beg your  
 Perusal of the following Sheets.

What they contain, as they re-  
 late to Trade, may seem to come  
 properly from the Pen of one, who  
 has passed the thinking Part of his  
 Life in it; and if honoured with  
 your Lordship's Approbation and

( iv )

Indulgence (which I am the more induced to hope, as they are not without some useful Hints and Observations.) Whatever Faults my Readers may find, I flatter myself they will be inclined to excuse them, and some, perhaps, disposed to correct them.

My Endeavours in this Treatise are to shew, from Facts, the Dependence that all Trades have on each other; as in the Parts of a large Machine, any one being broken or disordered, the due Motion of the whole is obstructed.

If I have proved my Point, I think I shall have suggested, what may be not only for the Interest of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* in general, but also for the Support of each Individual in it; than which, surely, nothing can be more worthy every one's Concern.

Your Lordship will permit me to bear Testimony how far a Scheme  
of

( v )

of such beneficial Tendency has been your Concern ----- how condescendingly each Inferior has been heard, who could give you any Information whereby its Success might be promoted, and be a Means to civilize Numbers of idle People, and dispose them to Peace, by accustoming them to Industry.

When I reflect how early and assiduous your Lordship's Application was to the publick Weal of Trade and Commerce, and how capable your Lordship is to *Judge clearly, Conclude readily, and Distinguish accurately*; it is Presumption in me, to attempt to offer any Hints in Trade for your Perusal.

Your Lordship's known Abilities were undoubtedly some Means of your being placed at the Head of that Board which now shines with such Lustre, and, under your Direction, is brought to such a known State of Utility, as to be worthy of  
being

( vi )

being thought a proper Pattern for other Nations to follow †.

From the Practice of your Lordship, Men may correct their Sentiments, and learn, that Greatness has no Charm, except when founded in Goodness: Under which Protection, I hope your Lordship will give me leave to subscribe myself, with all due Submission and Respect, your Lordship's

*Ever most obliged  
and obedient*

*humble Servant,  
J. G.*

† *Vide the Daily Advertiser of Sept. 5, 1750. Hague, Sept. 1.* It is assured, that his Serene Highness, at his Return hither, will establish a Council of Commerce, in the Nature of the Lords Commissioners of Trade in *England*: Such a Council is extremely necessary in a State like this, of which Commerce is the Soul, especially when the Regents are totally ignorant of it.—We are told, that when the famous Mr. *Laws* passed through *Holland*, he said, that he had found there a Council too much, which was that of the Counsellors Deputies; and one too little, which was a Council of Commerce. His Observations, especially in regard to the latter, were very just,

( vii )



## P R E F A C E.

*T*HE following Pages contain such Particulars relating to our Home Trade and Inland Manufactures, as Reading, Conversation, and my own Experience, have made me acquainted with. And I presume, that as great Mischiefs may arise, in having Numbers of idle and unemployed Persons, in low Life among us, all Proposals to remedy that Evil, and find them Work, will certainly be most salutary; and to apply some Remedy must appear worthy the Consideration of the Legislature.

*What*

*What is here offered, if it has  
neither Phrase nor Novelty, has, I  
hope, Truth for its Recommendation.*

*I do not write for Men who wholly  
cultivate Taste and Politeness, but  
for such as either are in Trade, or  
would understand and encourage it.  
If my Meaning be clear, I have all  
I aim at, so far as meer Expression  
is concerned.*

**E R R A T A.**

- P. 10. line 3. dele *do.*
- 8. dele *does.*
- 17. 30. dele *totally.*
- 27. 15. insert *making.*
- 43. 13. instead of *from* read *and.*
- 45. 21. dele *they.*

---

A N

**A P P E A L**

T O

**F A C T S, &c.**

**P**RODUCTION and CONSUMPTION  
are the Beginning and End of all  
Trade.

The Materials produced, whether they are  
the Production of Nature or Art, are the  
Subject thereof.

The passing of those Productions both be-  
fore and after manufactured, through the se-  
veral Branches necessary for their Perfection,  
as also to their several Markets for Sale, may  
properly be called the CIRCULATION of  
Trade.

The admirable Order and Oeconomy  
thereof may furnish Matter of Enquiry not  
unworthy of the greatest Genius, nor un-  
suitable to one of the highest Rank.

The Consequences of it will be found in  
the Nature of the Thing, as also in the  
B Wealth

Wealth and Prosperity of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

How do the meanest Trifles accumulate a Value, as they pass from Hand to Hand

How important, rich, useful, and beautiful they become by the Addition of Time, Industry, and the Improvement of Art and Science; how does the meanest Labourer or Mechanick contribute by unwearied Application, to finish those Beauties in Art, which even he himself does not understand: As in a Piece of the finest Clock-work, where each Man performs his distinct Part to the greatest Nicety; yet neither Beauty nor Use are seen, till the whole Frame is formed by another Agent, who can no more execute the separate Parts, than each separate Workman can the Whole.

Society is founded upon the universal and necessary Dependance that Mankind has upon each other, for their common Safety, mutual Aid and Assistance; social or civil Liberty upon Laws that secure to every Individual, the free Use and Enjoyment of the Fruits of his own Industry or Invention; these ascertain and determine the Power and Authority of the civil Magistrate, as well as the Obedience of the Subject.

But these Laws cannot retain their just Force, unless the People are capable (by useful Industry) to live free from any absolute or customary Dependance.

Neither

Neither can any State support the Charge of a tedious War, or even the necessary Expence of its Government, nor hope long to preserve Peace and Quiet within itself, unless its Inhabitants are usefully employed, which will at once free them from all rebellious Thoughts, and enable the very lowest Class to pay their Proportion of whatever Sum is wanting for the Security or Convenience of the Whole.

If we look into the History of those Nations in which Rebellions are but too frequent, as *Turkey* and *Persia* for Instance, we shall generally find their Beginning to have been in the inland Parts, where the People are almost unacquainted with Trade and Manufactures, and subsist upon the Spoil and Plunder of their Neighbours, who live nearer to the Sea-Ports, where Industry and Trade are encouraged.

The Conveniencies and Comforts which are the Fruits of Industry, naturally recommend it to all who have Opportunity of observing them; and the Man who is once brought to it, has his Mind no more roving and unsettled; he has it prepared for good Principles; Religion and Morality may now be successfully taught him; and whatever his Labour is, he finds much more, even present, Satisfaction in it, than was ever afforded him by his former idle Life, with Hunger and Ease.

( 12 )

The well educated may have their Manners, their Tempers so formed, that no Difficulties to which they can be exposed, no strait Circumstances to which they can be reduced, shall be able to tempt them to a base, dishonest Action; but Scruples of this kind we are not to expect from those in lowest Life, bred from their Cradles to Sloth, and without any, the least, Consideration of their Duty.

To secure ourselves from these Persons we must employ them—they must be busied or they will be hurtful,—provide we must for their Maintainance, or be Sufferers from their Idleness.

By the 23d and 25th of *Edward* the Third of *England*, &c. the Poor are compelled to Work at proper Rates\*.

Civil and National Liberty then depend chiefly on these two Principles; Encouragement to Industry by an absolute Security of Property, and by proper Laws and Rules of Police, to oblige every one, that is able to work, to labour for himself as well as the Publick; and these have been thought sufficient Reasons for very great and able Ministers, to advise and even to promote their  
Prince's

\* Vide the Taylors.

Regulation of the City for Hire.

Poor set to Work by Parish Officers.

Labourers limited to Hours and Wages.

Stat. 1st *James* I. Cap. 6th, Sect. 3d.

Stat. 5th *Elizabeth*, Cap. 4th.

( 13 )

Prince's Attention to this grand and inexhaustable Mine, Trade and Commerce. That great Mechanick and Lover of his Country, Monsieur *Colbert*, by whose Advice *Lewis* XIV. made himself the Patron of Trade, and by his own Example encouraging his Subjects to wear home Manufactures, gave his Countrymen by this Means both Employment and Bread; they encreased in Numbers, and all were made useful.

All the Nations in *Europe* seem to strive who shall excel each other in Points of Trade; but they all concur in this Maxim, that the less they consume of Foreign Commodities the better it is for themselves.

The *Dutch*, to obviate too great a Consumption of Foreign Goods amongst themselves, make Use of Excises: viz. on Coals, on which they lay so heavy a Duty in order to oblige their Subjects to burn Turf, which they dig out of their Meres at vast Expence; but as it finds Employment for Part of their Poor they prefer it, altho' they make thereby great Lakes in their Country, having some Years ago cut up almost all that appeared, and now are forced to dig it from under Water; besides as it is not so clean and sweet firing, and in some Particulars not capable of doing the Office as intended; yet they are so fearful of every Thing that tends to turn the Balance of Trade, that they will  
rather

( 14 )

rather put up with ill Conveniencies, than run any Risk of hurting or decreasing that Jewel and Idol of the World, Money.

*France* and *Germany* studied to prevent Foreign Trade by Duties on Importation; Duties on Consumption; Tolls from one Province to another; by strict Visitations, Restraints and Prohibitions; and by the Example of their Courts, in wearing their own Manufactures. Upon a Debate concerning the Improvement of Trade and Commerce in *France*, (the King being present) a Trade to the *East-Indies* was proposed, as well as several other Improvements: And as we are told, Monsieur *Colbert* delivered his Thoughts, that the most speedy Way of encreasing the Riches and Power of the Kingdom was the finding out Manufactures for employing the Poor, and setting the idle People to work: And that as Wool, Silk, and Flax were the most considerable, his Majesty should as much as possible introduce those Commodities in his own Country, which would be the most certain Way of enriching the Kingdom, and abundantly exceed all the Advantage that could be expected from an *Indian* Trade. This accordingly was put in Execution. The *French* King, to set the Example, would wear nothing but what was the Manufacture of *France*; so fond was he of promoting them, that even upon the Death of his Mother, being told they wanted

*English*

( 15 )

*English* Cloth for Mourning, he positively forbade his Court from wearing any other than their own Manufacture; and immediately ordered a Suit to be made for himself, which when put on he desired his Courtiers would come and see how well it fitted, asking at the same Time if any of his Subjects thought it not good enough for them; and seemed to take particular Notice of those who appeared earliest in Cloathing made of their own Manufactures. About the same Time, the late King *William* and the Parliament of *England* made severe Laws against those that dealt in *French* Silks, in order to establish that Manufacture here, which we now by far excel them in as to Quality and Goodness. About the same Time also they gave great Encouragement to *Ireland* to establish the Linen Manufactures there, and took the same Methods of Example to promote the wearing our own Manufacture of Linen here, in order to give Bread to thousands of our own Poor. The *French* consider the Method just mentioned as one of the principal Means of their great Power and Wealth, and date the Æra of it from the putting the above Maxim in Execution; the Honour of which they attribute to that able Minister, Monsieur *Colbert*, who advised the Crown to give its Assistance. This contributed not a little to support that Nation in so long and expensive a War; and perhaps may be some Cause, (together with

with



( 16 )

with the Method they are in of easing the trading Subjects and Manufacturers in their Taxes) of their being able to work for less Wages than their Neighbours, by which their Manufactures come cheaper to Market and thereby fill the Coffers of the Government.

Every Nation, where Industry is thus encouraged, and Idleness, with extravagant Pleasures, in the lower Class restrained, must become rich and powerful; for the Ways to maintain and support Mankind by profitable Labour, are more numerous than are the Demands that arise from Necessity and the real Conveniences of Life: For whatever Luxury, Vanity, Whim or Caprice can suggest, are all so many Branches of Trade as will employ the ingenious, diligent and industrious Poor at the Expence of the Rich.

If the various Traders, both in Town and Country, and the Carriage of their Materials, both forward and backward, were not to assist in employing and supporting the Innkeepers on the different Roads, they would not be able to support themselves, nor to accommodate Gentlemen and Ladies in their passing to their Country Seats without treble the present Expence; and here opens a fresh Scene of Employment to numberless Hands, both as to Servitude and Handicrafts of divers Kinds.

This

( 17 )

This beautiful Scheme of Trade, in all its circulating Meanders, is the essential and vital Part of the Prosperity of our Commerce; and as such it becomes the just Concern of every Lover of his Country: Every Head and every Hand ought to be employed to preserve, support, and encrease it, as the thing on which the Health and Strength of this Nation depends; for no People in the World make greater Improvements in whatever they undertake than the *British* and *Irish*, if you will give them but the least Assistance to cope with those who have been encouraged in the Infancy of their Manufactures, even to the Allotment of several Thousands of Pounds from their Government, by which they have gained Breath and Practice: And it is well known, that the Manufacturer who is put upon new Business To-day will be able to do double the Quantity in the same Time after his Hands are practised and ready therein.

The Manufactures of Buckram, Tilleting, Paper and Sailcloth are Specimens; by having had additional Duties laid on the Foreign in order to set these Manufactures afloat in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*; we are now able, and do sell them cheaper than before the Duties were laid on the foreign Manufactures; by which Means that whole Money is totally saved to the Nation: And this would be the Consequence of any other Manufacture we undertake; for it is

C

to

( 18 )

to be considered, that we pay more Taxes for what we drink, eat and wear, than our neighbouring Nations do; by which Means our Labourer's Wages are obliged to be higher and consequently all Products thereof: Therefore it is hoped our Legislature will think it prudent to give, at least, the same Encouragement as other Nations do. It is true, the Parliament thought it reasonable to prohibit the wearing of printed Callicoes and other *Indian Goods*, in order to promote the Consumption and encourage the Silk and Stuff Manufactures among us; and it is hoped so laudable an Example will prompt them to aid the Linnen Manufacture.

Originally as we took or improved upon the Woollen Manufacture, 'twas thought adviseable in the Progress of that Trade to lay very high Duties on all Species thereof imported here, nay even at last to prohibit them: Therefore it is humbly hoped, that its Sister Manufacture the Linnen, which Nature seems designed should go Hand in Hand, and is as yet in its Infancy, may meet with the same Indulgence and Methods as the

Woollen

† The Pay of a *French Soldier* is five *Sols* a Day which is about Three-pence *English*; and our Soldiers Pay is Five-pence; so consequently they can live cheaper than we, and by the same Rule all Manufactures.

In the Paper Manufacture, in sorting of Rags the *French* give two *Sols* a Day, which is hardly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  *English*; and we pay the same Sort of People here 4d. a Day.

( 19 )

Woollen met with; and if any Housekeeper will but give himself the Trouble to calculate his Expences for himself, Family, and Household on an Average for Seven Years, both for Woollen and Linnen, he will think the Consideration of the latter worthy his Notice, and that by promoting the one he assists the other: This must enable all concerned to sell the Goods cheaper than at present; and by finding Employment for all idle Hands, empowers them to pay their Rents better, and the Produce of Lands to find a ready Market and Consumption; besides encreasing the Strength of the Nation as well as its Wealth, by Numbers of Hands in this Country, and by encouraging the Vent of our own Linnen Manufacture. Was this Regulation to take place it is apprehended the People of *Ireland* would find Employment, and turn all their Hands to the Linnen, and consequently would not be our Rivals at all in the Woollen: This Method the People in *Scotland* have pursued: Thus we might have the working of their surplus Growth of Wool as well as our own\*.

But as to the Question in Hand, some may say that the Linnen Countries take our Wool in Barter: And suppose some small Matter is taken, it is not out of Compliment, but because they cannot get it so good and so cheap any where else: For so soon as *Germany*

C 2

\* See the Wool Scheme annexed.

( 20 )

many could have Sugars from the *French* Plantations, they left us, and took from the *French*.

When *Lewis* XIV. was at War with us, Necessity obliged the *French* to have some of our Products, as Lead, Tin, Leather, Hardware, Copperas, Coals, Allom, &c. which they got by the Way of *Holland*, *Flanders*, and even *Italy*; perhaps it stood them in more Money, yet being absolutely necessary, they were obliged to have some of our Products; for Trade will always work itself a Channel to be supplied with Necessaries, and where cheapest and best will always make a Market; and if I am rightly informed *France* and *Spain* have this present Year 1750, prohibited all Species of our Hardware from being entered in both Countries; being fully determined to encourage that Manufacture in their own Kingdom, partly to find Employment for their idle Hands, &c. This surely requires a reciprocal Return from us.

The Countries we import such vast Quantities of Linnen from, are principally *Silesia*, *Prussia*, *Saxony*, and the brown Linnens from towards *Westphalia*, which Goods are solely navigated in *Hamburgh* and *Bremen* Bottoms, a Practice no Country but our own admits of; and some are brought from *Holland* and *Russia*. All these Countries have set up Manufactures of Woollen: Some prohibit entirely, and others lay such high Taxes on the *English* Woollen

( 21 )

Woollen Goods, as prevent the Importation of every particular Species they can as yet possibly serve themselves with, taking nothing from us, but what they cannot get any where else so good and so cheap: For the Commonality are so well apprized of that valuable Jewel the encouraging their Home Manufactures, that the Nobles and Gentry in *Bobemia* and *Saxony*, who have the Indulgence only for themselves to wear *English* Broadcloth, for the Sake of its Perfection and Preference as yet to their own, are obliged to have a Mark or Signet of the late Emperor's Permission to wear it, otherwise the Populace would tear it off their Backs: As to the Quantities, the Part of Exchange being against *England* plainly shews how the Balance of Trade is; and as for Materials, Nature or Providence has allotted us both Climate and Soil in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, for producing Hemp and Flax as good as any Part of *Europe*: And it were to be wished our Fore-fathers, when the *French* were flung out of our Linnen Trade, had then taken it up instead of the *Germans*. By this we should find our Trade, and the Number of the People usefully employed, would very much encrease; our Lands would be improved; our Rents better paid; our Poor's Rates diminished; our Woollen and every other Manufacture in this Kingdom encreased, and a great Addition made to our publick

( 22 )

publick Revenue, by augmenting the Number of our taxable People.

Almost every Thing that is sold, whether it be the Product of Nature or Art, passes thro' great Numbers of Hands and Variety of Operations before it comes to be fit for the Consumer: Tho' our Provisions may be said to pass thro' the fewest Hands, yet upon examining the flesh Meat only, the Cattle are first bred, then fed, then driven to Market, and then sold to the Butcher, and by him to the Eater; and in every one of those Removes, the Breeder, Feeder, Grazier, Drover, Butcher, with their Horses, Servants, and Families are maintained, and subsist by the Profits that arise from the Creature sold.

As to the Corn, let us instance in Wheat; (not to mention the landed Men) the Farmer raises the Crop by plowing, sowing, and harvesting; then carrying to Market employs his Horses, Servants, and Carriages, with several other Utensils in Husbandry; to support which, divers other Trades are concerned, as Smiths, Wheelwrights, and Collar-makers, and many other Artificers thereby subsist themselves and Families; and before the whole circulating Race is finished, the Factor, Miller, and all their Dependants, with the Consumption of Timber, and all other Materials, &c. may stand to the Account of Husbandry, and gain their

( 23 )

their Maintainance out of the encreasing Value.

When we come to speak of the Productions of Art, that is to say Manufactures, here we find an innumerable Multitude of Families concerned in or maintained by them; the several Kinds of their manual Operations are numberless, and their Works much more so; the Produce of Nature is indeed the *Materia* of all Manufactures, but the Improvements of Art give a new Face to the very Species itself.

The Wool which bears every where the same Denomination at first, after it has passed the Card or Comb comes to the Spinner, and is then no more called Wool but Yarn; from thence to the Weaver, and takes the Name Cloth, &c. And a numberless Catalogue of Denominations which the fancy of the several Manufacturers pleases to coin for it.

It is not possible in this Treatise to give a Detail of all the different Operations of Engines, Mills, Looms, and other Utensils, which the Woollen Manufacture employs, before 'tis brought to Market and fit for Sale; all the several Workmen, as well as the Makers of all the Engines, Looms and Mills, &c. with their Dependants and Families are maintained, fed, cloathed, nay enriched by the said Manufacture out of the advanced Value which they bear at Market. The  
Variety

( 24 )

Variety is such, that some will undertake to tell us, there is not a Broadcloth that goes to *Blackwell Hall* but upwards of one hundred different People have something to do therein.

It is the same with the Silk Manufacture, with this Difference only, that there are Multitudes of People employed in the Silk before it comes to us; several Trades are maintained by those particular Articles of Commerce it goes through, before it arrives here as Raw or thrown Silk. It employs many Hands; loads many a Camel; travels many a Desert; freights many a Ship; and at last comes here in Return for other Manufactures, or else in exchange for our Money, which is also of itself a Merchandize, in Return for other Parts of Trade, and employs Numbers in that Apparatus before it is turned to Specie, which is a Barter for other Commodities.

It is likewise the same in our Hardware Manufactures, whether Iron, Tin, Lead, Copper, Gold or Silver, some of which Metals are found in our own Mines.

There is also another Produce of the Earth, which by Nature seems inclined to offer its Service to us in *Great-Britain*, tho' it has hitherto exhausted yearly immense Riches out of this Nation by our foreign Neighbours, and of late Years chiefly Specie: Each different Country having cultivated, and, by  
their

( 25 )

their Monarchs assiduous Example promoted their own Manufacture, I therefore think it high Time to look about us and turn the Tables on them, Providence having designed and adapted the Linnen Manufacture as much for the Use of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* as any other Part of the Globe: This if once heartily propagated will quickly turn the Course of Exchange in our Favour, Which is the true Touchstone and Barometer of the Trade of each Country.

Lint or Flax Seed, when sowed, greatly pays the Husbandman for his Trouble, much more than some Grain does; the Average that one Acre yields in Quantity of Flax is about thirty Stone, sixteen Pounds to the Stone, the Value of which at a Medium may be reckoned at 5s. per Stone, therefore one Acre will be worth 7l. 10s. and consequently if the whole Quantity of Acres hereafter mentioned was to be employed, it would produce 439,447l. 10s. to the landed Interest, and be a new Fund to employ our surplus Lands withal: This is not the 10th Part of the Value of the Flax when totally manufactured into some of the different Kinds of Linnen Cloth, &c. The Flax after being very carefully plucked retains its Name but a little while, and its Form less; being watered and dried it is sent to the Flax-Dresser who beetles and swingles it, and by the scutching Board and Knife  
D prepares

( 26 )

prepares it for the Hackle and the Brush, which is used to the very fine only ; the Hackle to the coarse or first Sort, that is to Hemp. Afterwards it is sent to the Spinner, and is then no more called Flax but Yarn; from thence to the Weaver, and there assumes as many Shapes and Names as the several Manufacturers please to give it. The usual Method is the Name of the Maker or the Town where any distinct Species is first made.

Manufactures which turn to the greatest Account, are those for Exportation, and those which are of the greatest Benefit and Advantage to the Nations who make them, are called Bale Goods, their Carriage easy, their Value high ; and are chiefly the Purchase of Labour : The richest Piece of Silk or Stuff, or the finest Piece of Linen are (except the Mulberry Leaves that feed the Worms, or the Rent of the Ground on which the Flax grows) all the Fruits of Ingenuity, Skill and Labour. By a Trade of this Kind the Merchants are enriched, the People multiplied and usefully employed, comfortably maintained, and the public Wealth and Strength of the Nation greatly advanced. These Goods are used in wearing Apparel and Household Furniture, and made of Wool, Silk or Flax, the latter of which is the least regarded by us, but by our Neighbours the most : But I still hope we shall find the present Age promote the Linen Manufacture of *Great-Britain* and

( 27 )

and *Ireland*, as it is the greatest Nursery for employing Numbers of useless Hands (even Women and Children) preferable to any other; and if once taught or helped by the Legislature to stand or walk, it will afterwards find Means of itself to run, and will be the great Preservative of our Bullion when maturely nourished and encouraged by the Government.

By the Act of the 10th of *Queen Ann* an additional Duty of 15 *per Cent.* was laid upon foreign brown Linen, used for making of Buckrams and all checked and striped Linens, which put the Manufacturers of Linen upon Tilleting and Buckrams; and the said Act was repealed in the 12th Year of the same Reign, yet this small Interval of Time of two Years only introduced them into that Branch of Manufacture, and they have so much improved therein that we not only serve ourselves totally, but are capable of serving those from whence we used to import: The same may be also said about the *Venetian* Glass, and now we by far excel them therein; so much is the Genius and Industry of the *English* capable of Improvements in general.

The House of Commons on the 19th of *April*, 1738, having taken the then Linen Report into Consideration, came to a Resolution, that the Manufactures of Linen, Thread, wrought Inle and Tapes made in

D 2

*Great-*

*Great-Britain* and *Ireland* were of late Years greatly improved and encreased, whereby the Price of all such Manufactures of foreign and home Fabricks had been considerably reduced, and that the farther Extention of such Manufactures would be attended with several national Advantages, and that all proper Support and Encouragement ought to be given towards the Extention thereof.

It is generally supposed by Persons who deal in Political Arithmetick, that there are in *England* eight Millions of People, two in *Scotland*, two in *Ireland*, and two in the Plantations: It may fairly be presumed, that one with another, these fourteen Millions of People, consume  $7\frac{1}{2}$  Yards each, which makes annually 105,000,000 Yards. The Oeconomy and Conduct of *Greenwich* Hospital is arrived to as great a Length in prudent Savings as possible, and the Pensioners are old and infirm, and consequently don't destroy equal to a laborious, robust Man; and yet they on an Average, including Body, Bed, Table and Household Linen, consume at least ten Yards to each Pensioner, therefore *England* may judge (by the under Calculation) how it stands both conjunctively and separately.

Fourteen Millions of People	} 105,000,000	Yards.
consume annually at $7\frac{1}{2}$ Yards to each Person.		
<i>England</i>		

England consumes	—	60,000,000	
Scotland,	—	15,000,000	
Ireland,	—	15,000,000	
Plantations,	—	15,000,000	
		105,000,000	
Therefore, to make out where the above Quantity is manufactured, we will begin our Calculations from the Custom or Inspectors Books of Imports at an Average.			
Imported at a Medium for ten Years from Abroad, about Forty Millions of Yards, which in Procefs of Time might be made in <i>Great Britain</i> and <i>Ireland</i> , and would employ almost all our idle Hands, when thoroughly introduced in the Manufacture; but till then we must continue to import the deficient Quantity from Foreigners,	—	—	40,000,000
Imported from <i>Scotland</i> annually into <i>England</i> ,	—	—	5,000,000
Supported to be consumed there,	—	—	15,000,000
Imported from <i>Ireland</i> ,	—	—	6,000,000
Supported to be consumed there,	—	—	15,000,000
Supported to be manufactured in <i>England</i> for private Consumption,	—	—	24,000,000
Thus			105,000,000

Thus it appears, that the Encouragement of the Linen Manufacture is as much (if not more) the immediate Concern of *England*, than either of *Scotland* or *Ireland* separate, but vastly the Interest of the whole three Kingdoms, now happily united under our most illustrious King, and the best of Governments; and as our Trade encreased, the Number of our People usefully employed would greatly encrease, our Lands would be improved, our Rents raised, our Pours Rates diminished, our Woollen and every other Manufacture increased, and a great Addition made to our Publick Revenue, by augmenting the Number of our taxable People.

It is computed that the Forty Millions of Yards of Foreign Linen imported yearly is worth upwards of Two Millions of Pounds Sterling.

If we made no Linens, we must import 105,000,000 of Yards yearly, which would cost us above Five Millions Sterling; therefore, by our Home Manufactures of Linen we already save to the Nation yearly above Three Millions Sterling, besides employing and giving Bread to many Thousands of our People.

But this is not all. Ten Years ago the Foreign Linens we purchased, cost us 10 *per Cent.* dearer than now, which, upon Two Millions, amounts to 200,000*l.* yearly. This Reduction in the Price of Foreign Linens has been occasioned by the

( 30 )

late Increase of our Home Manufactures, and is an additional Saving to the Nation of that Sum; but as we still pay Two Millions a Year to Foreigners, if we could save this, by a proper Encouragement of our own Manufactures, what an Addition would it be to our general Balance of Trade? how greatly would it add to our national Stock of Gold and Silver?

N. B. The subsequent Method of Calculating aims to explain and ascertain the Numbers referred to, but is humbly submitted to the Correction of a more able Artist.

Suppose,	8,000,000	People in <i>England</i> .
	2,000,000	People in <i>Scotland</i> .
	<hr/>	
	10,000,000	People in <i>Great Britain</i> .
	7½	Yards allowed for each to consume at an Average.
	<hr/>	
	70,000,000	
	5,000,000	
	<hr/>	

N. B. 12|00)75,000,0|00 of Yards consumed in a Year.  
62,500 Weavers or Looms annually employed.

( 31 )



N.B. The Average that a Weaver can do in a Day is about 4 Yards betwixt coarse and fine.  
300 Working Days in a Year.

N.B. We will suppose the Average of the Consumption to be worked in Reed 8 Hundred  
or Sett. 1200 Yards by one Weaver.

One Woman can spin 12 Cutts in a Day.  
One Quill Winder can attend three Looms:

4(8 Reeds.

2

10 Spinals required to make 40 Yards.

4

40 Hanks.

6

240 Hairs.

249

( 32 )

240 Hairs.

2

4(0)48|0 Cutts.

12 Cutts in one Yard.

4 Yards the Weaver works in a Day.

12)48

4 Cutts wove in a Day.

4 Women employed in spinning so much Yarn.

Looms.

3)62,500

20,833 Quill Winders and Sorters.

Looms.

62,500

4

Women.

250,000 Spinners.

( 33 )

12 Cuts, or 1 Hank, will weigh about 6 oz. at least.  
4 Women to one Weaver.

48 Cuts, or 4 Hanks, the Weaver uses in a Day.  
6 oz. each Hank weighs, or better.

24 oz. of Flax in the Weaver's one Day's Work.  
62,500 Looms employed in the Year.

250,000

125,000

1,500,000 oz. Flax.

Oz.

Oz. 16 ) 1,500,000 ( ——— 93750 lb. of Flax used in a Day.  
144 300 Working Days.

. . 60 lb. 48 | 0 28,125,00 | 0 ( 58,593 Acres employed.  
48 240 7 l. 10 s. Value 1 Acre.

. 120 . 412 410151

112 384 29296 : 10

. . 80

. 285

£ 439,447 : 10 Total Value to the Land.

80

. . 0

. 450

432

. 180

144

36

E 2

N. B.

One Man may dress 20 lb. of Flax in a Day.  
30 Stone of Flax on an Average, 16 Pound Averdupois to the Stone, in 1 Acre.

180  
30

480 Pound of Flax on 1 Acre of Land.

21093,750 Pounds of Flax.  
4,687 Flax Dressers.

62,500 Weavers or Looms annually employed.  
250,000 Spinners to supply those Looms.  
20,833 Quill Winders and Sorters.  
4,687 Flax Dressers, Schutchers, and Hacklers.

338,020 People employed in the above Quantity.

58,593 Acres employed in raising the Flax.

Besides

And we may add to this Account the Makers of all the Looms, and other Utensils; with the Bleachers, Carriers, Dyers, Calenders, Ripplers, and Husbandmen in Tillage, &c.

As the Consumption in *Great Britain*, is judged to require 75,000,000 Yards in one Year, which in Procefs of Time, may be chiefly made at Home, such a Quantity will find Employment for 338,020 of our stragglng Poor both in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, agreeable to the prior Method of calculating. These by Means of their natural and slothful Disposition, are easily decoyed by fair Speeches, and Promise of Pay, to assist in the Disturbance and Broils of the Nation; but whenever Industry is thoroughly propagated, and they find the Sweets of Labour, they will be tied by Interest, to remain quiet at Home, as their Wives and Children may be employed in spinning, &c. as well as the Men in weaving; both which may be followed without going into the Inclemency of the Weather in the Winter Season, and would bring them Specie to supply their Family's Wants withal, as well as Money to pay their Rent: Nor need this interfere over-much in their producing and preserving their Cattle, and the Grain and Produce from the Earth, which may be done by Intervals in the Day-time, and the Number of Hours be encreased in their Labour in the Winter Season, by working in the House by Candle or Lamp Light: This when thoroughly

( 38 )

roughly inculcated into the Minds of the *Highlanders* in *Scotland*, and in the North of *Ireland*, will render them a most useful Set to Society, and enable them to support, and faithfully to assist the Government in Time of War; and by Interest, their Inclinations will be tied never to assist a foreign Enemy, as no Man will quit a Certainty for an Uncertainty\*.

No Nation can serve itself with every Thing it uses, and unless we are able to sell to Foreigners Goods to as great Value, as those we buy from them, our national Wealth, and of Consequence our People must daily decrease.

With what admirable Skill and Industry, do the proper Artists apply to the differing Shares or Tasks allotted them by the Nature of their several Employments, in forming all the beautiful Things which are produced from those differing Principles? Through how many Hands does every Species pass? What Variety of Figures do they form? even the least brass-wire Pin contributes its nameless Proportion to the Maintenance, Profit, and Support of every Hand and every Family concerned in those Operations.

## Provisions

\* By the Stat. the 4th of *Geo. I.* Cap. viii. Sect. 32: After the Rebellion in 1715, in *Scotland*, Workhouses, Schools, &c. were ordered to be set up in the *Highlands*, undoubtedly with an Intention, to civilize that Part of *Great Britain*; and the Expences to be defrayed out of the Produce of the forfeited Estates.

( 39 )

Provisions are too bulky, and their Price at foreign Markets too precarious and uncertain to be relied on as an Article in foreign Trade; nevertheless the practical Knowledge of Agriculture ought to be universally improved to the greatest Perfection, preferable to all other Business whatever, for the Price of Labour must in every Country, be in Proportion to the Price of Provisions.

There are large Spots of Land, Part of the Fens, and other Parts of *Lincolnshire*, *Norfolk*, *Yorkshire*, and all the North Side of the *Trent*, of a Soil proper, especially when first drained, for producing any Quantity of Flax or Hemp.

The best Way to preserve our Commerce, is to recommend the Preservation of the best Market for the Product and Manufacture of our native Country.

The first and best Market in *Great Britain*, I take to be *the Natives and Inhabitants thereof*. It is computed as before, that we may have ten Millions of People in *Great Britain*, and that Great and Small, Rich and Poor, one with another, are not lodged, fed, and cloathed for less than seven Pounds *per Head, per Annum*; so that the Expence or Consumption of our whole People must amount to seventy Millions Sterling.

This whole Sum is chiefly paid for the Product and Manufactures of *Great Britain*, except

( 40 )

cept twenty Shillings for their Lodging annually

Then consequently allowing ten Millions for the Lodging, the remaining sixty Millions Expence of our own People must almost all of it be paid for the Product and Manufacture of our native Country, provided we were prudent enough to supply ourselves with Necessaries, which we might do, if rightly encouraged; and then our own People are a constant and certain Market for our own Product and Manufactures of so great a Value, in Linen and Woollen, &c. for our own cloathing.

Some Gentlemen and Landlords perhaps fondly imagine, that they receive the Rent solely from their Tenants; and the Weaver, that he is also paid his Wages by his Master; but it is the Consumer that pays both; he pays the Price of the Flax and Wool, &c. and the Charge of manufacturing; neither the one nor the other can be paid but by the Consumption of the People.

Therefore I consider every Person in the Kingdom, at an Average for what he eats, drinks, and wears, and uses as a Tenant to the Lands, and a Paymaster to our Labourers: and if ten Millions of People consume the yearly Value of sixty Millions of our native Product and Manufactures, every Individual at a Medium, pays six Pounds yearly to the Lands and Labour of this Kingdom, and e-

very

( 41 )

very one is a Market of that Value to his Country, the Preservation and Encrease of which ought to be principally regarded.

Consequently the next Care to that of encouraging our own Product and Manufactures will be that of engaging our own Natives to stay at home; for should any Number of them be drove to seek Employment abroad, it must in Course sink great Part of our sixty Millions paid yearly to the Rents of our Lands, and the Labour of our Inhabitants.

As I have allowed twenty Shillings for Lodging, I would endeavour to allot the remaining six Pounds to its different Proportions; the first of which shall be the Corn, and what Part of that is paid to the Rents: It has been known that instead of Cash every third Sheaf (after taking out the Parsons Dues) has been allotted to the Landlord; it being a received Opinion that the Occupier of arable or plowed Lands, ought to make three Rents in a Year, to pay one; if so, one third Part of the Value of Corn is paid to the Landlord.

But as to Meat, Milk, Butter and Cheese, more is paid than one Third of the Rents; for graising and dairy Lands are managed with less Charge, and the Cattle fed with little Labour.

F

And

( 42 )

And as to the Produce of Wool and Flax, &c. one third Part at least is paid to the Landlord for Rent.

As for all Kinds of Fuel, they grow of themselves; the Charge of cutting, digging or Carriage must not be reckoned at two Thirds of the Value of the whole Consumption, so that one Third of that is paid to the Rent.

The Fruits of Trees grow with very little Labour and almost wholly to the Profit of the Land-owner.

Thus by enumerating the several Necessaries of Life one would believe that one Third of their whole Value is paid to the Rents of the Lands, and not above two Thirds to the Labour and Manufacture of the People.

Bread is justly esteemed the Staff of Life, and of all Food common to the human Species, is what is generally eat in its nearest or first primitive State, that is with the least Cookery; as such we may calculate that the Quantity consumed in a Day, considered in the various Station betwixt the Young and Old, Sickly and Healthy, Idle and Laborious, from a Pound to Half a Pound one with another, the Medium of which is three Quarters of a Pound; and as we will suppose betwixt the coarse and fine, allowing for the different Consumption, Bread is worth  
about

( 43 )

about One-penny *per* Pound weight; therefore three Quarters of a Pound is worth three Farthings, which amounts in the Year to *1l. 2s. 10d.* therefore take off the *2s.* and *10d.* for the Profits in Mealing and Baking, and the remaining *20s.* will be paid to the landed Interest. This is the sixth of the supposed Persons Support; and the Variety of other Food, as Flesh, Fowls, Roots, and Herbs, will fully make up in Conjunction the other sixth Part of the supposed Interest, which has been estimated before at one third to the Land; from those also arise or are produced by the Earth.

The rich Man is not able to carry a greater Burthen of Cloaths upon his Back, nor to consume a greater Quantity of Provisions than the Day-Labourer, (he has very seldom Health and Strength to do as much) so that there is no Reason to believe that he pays any more for the meer Products of the Lands, or to the Rents upon this Account. But then both the Diet and Apparel of the rich Man are procured or wrought with so much greater Cost and Labour, that it is reasonable to think he pays ten or twelve Times as much to the Labour of the People as he does to the Product of the Lands.

There are in all Probability ten Times as many Poor as Rich, or ten that are cloathed with the cheapest Apparel and fed with the cheapest Diet, for every one that lives in a

F 2

better

( 44 )

better Manner ; if so, one with another, over and above twenty Shillings *per* Head for Lodging, pays six Pounds *per* Annum for our Product and Manufactures ; and we may then judge that about one fourth Part at least is paid to the Rents and three Fourths to Labour, so that by this Account the Lodging and Consumption of our own People pay about fifty Shillings *per* Annum to our Rents at a Medium, or every Individual is to be reckoned as a Tenant of that Value to the landed Interest.

By encouraging our own Linens, the foreign Manufacturers may probably grow poorer, and be obliged to contract their Expence ; but that Saving will not affect us, but those only who furnish them with the Luxuries of Life : They would continue to send that Addition of Money to *Great Britain* yearly, for Necessaries and Conveniences, which they now send to *France, Italy, and Holland* for Luxuries.

As long as *England* exported Woollen Goods to a greater Value than all the Linen and other foreign Manufactures that were imported amounted to, it might have been the Interest of *England* to discourage the Linen Manufacture ; since all the *English* Poor were profitably employed otherwise, and the Nation a Gainer in the Course of its Trade ; but now that the Woollen Manufactures are established in every Country, which we  
used

( 45 )

used to have our Linen from, and that they began first to encourage their Home Trade, surely, we may be justified in retaliating upon them, and following their Example : For will *Great Britain* and *Ireland* tamely set down, and see the Manufacturers turned a starving for Want of Employment ? And can we think that the Work of our Rivals in the Woollen Trade will not lessen our sending over Woollens to them ? As to the Quantities, they are become so very considerable, as to enable them to supply foreign Markets which we used to supply ; and some Countries have made so great a Progress in the Woollen Trade, as to be capable to vie with the *English*, in the Sale of several Species of Woollen Goods in *Turkey, Russia,* and other foreign Markets. If those Nations that were formerly served with *English* Woollen Goods, and now serve themselves with those Commodities of their own Manufacture, could they be brought into any Treaties, that might compel them to take our Woollen Manufactures, whereby we could employ our Poor in that Trade, then we might stop our promoting the Linen Manufacture ; but let every Advocate for Export only, lay aside little, narrow Interest of any particular Town or Fabrick, and ask themselves coolly, why the Foreigners should employ their idle Hands, and we see ours daily starving, or else drove to Extremities,

( 46 )

ties, to Drunkenness, Rapine, Murder, and Theft.

The best Way to retrieve the great Loss which the *English* Nation must suffer by so great a Diminution of the Sale of their Woollen Manufactures in foreign Parts, is to extend the Manufacture of *British* and *Irish* Linen, whereby a new Fund of Business will be created, for employing and maintaining the Poor. Thus might we retaliate on the Methods of other Countries and supply the Deficiency of those Manufactures that are now decaying; a Decay which cannot possibly be prevented by the wisest Nation in the Universe, in the same Circumstances.

When the *Italians* and *Portuguese* Nations were flourishing in Trade, they wanted naval Stores for their encreasing Shipping, and therefore endeavoured to settle a Correspondence with the more Northern Climates, and to barter their *Arabian* and *Indian* Commodities together with their own, for Hemp, Flax, Tar, Timber, &c. for which these cold Climates were glad to have their strong Wines and warm Spices in Return; by this Means, the *Hans* Towns in lower *Germany*, as *Bruges* and *Sluys* by their Situation, as well as by the Immunities and Freedoms granted them by their Earls, became possessed of the Staple of *English* Wool; and the Country round about abounding in Hemp and Flax, the Manufactures of Wool and Linen, by mutually assisting each other, flourished

( 47 )

rished in *Flanders* to the utmost Degree; and would still have remained there, had not Differences arose amongst themselves, that is, their Governors and Traffiquans, by their Governors laying many and too great Hardships and Duties on their Trade, and indolently thinking it impossible to be rivalled in these two Sister Trades and others, which they thought to have totally monopolized to themselves; but when too late to recover, they found their Mistake in having obliged and driven their Manufacturers by excessive Tolls and Burthens and Want of Employment, to other Governments for a more free Enjoyment of their Labour. As we have compleatly managed the first of these great and glorious Manufactures, why shall we not attempt to accomplish the other, which will in Time be of equal Service to this Nation? The Traders in the home-made Linen, having shewn so great a Disposition thereto, as to venture their Fortunes to attain a perfect Knowledge of the different Branches; this they have done, and only require the publick Assistance in first setting out. For a Weaver who now sits down to his Loom, will be able after a few Months, having exercised and brought his Hands in, to weave two Yards of Cloth in the same Time as when he at first setting down did weave but one.

*Lewis* XIV. gave great Encouragement to the first establishing of any new Manufacture



( 48 )

facture in his Kingdom; all other Nations have done the same; nay even *Scotland* and *Ireland* have given very large Premiums and Allotments of some thousand Pounds to different Branches of the Linen Manufacture, which has encouraged Traders to undertake and prosecute it with Spirit, and enabled them greatly to succeed in the Attempt. But by what political Maxim, *England* alone acts in a contrary Shape, I believe will puzzle the wisest Head that ever wished well to the Strength and Support of this Nation to account for.

*Every Body's Business is said to be Nobody's*; but I would fain see it Somebody's Business and Interest to attend this one Point only; that is, to remove all idle, drunken Vagabonds or sturdy Beggars, to their proper Place of legal Settlement; there they should be found Employ and compelled, agreeable to our Laws, to work according to their Ability; if Stubborn, they should be properly corrected; and if that will not do, shorten their Allowance of Victuals, and suffer no Manner of Spirits to be drank in the Workhouse, unless medicinally.

In order to enforce this Method I would propose that every Parish in *England* and *Wales*; should, by the Majority of their Vestry, annually chuse a *special Constable*, only to attend the intruding and unemployed Poor in each District. If it be thought that

( 49 )

that some Districts be too large or too numerous for one to attend, he may then have a Deputy, I mean at first only; for by a due Execution of the Office, the Business of it will soon be so lessened as to need no more than one: And let such Officer be allowed a sufficient Support or Maintenance, proportioned to the Ability of the Parish.

This Constable should be obliged to carry all idle and begging Poor, found in his District, to the nearest Magistrate, who shall after Examination give the Officer an Order for removing them to the proper legal Settlement; with Directions for that Constable to deliver them to the next Parish Constable, and so on in the right Road to the Parish affixed by the said Magistrate.

For Encouragement of this Officer's assiduous Application to clear every Parish from this Nuisance, I would allow him one Shilling for every Person so removed; and to prevent or punish Neglect, if, at the End of three Months after such Act takes place, Proof be made that any common Beggar ask Relief in any publick Street or Highway, the Officer, in such Case, should be fined 3s. to be paid by the Overseers, and stopt out of his Pay. For I would have the Expence of this Office defrayed out of the Poor's Rates, which in two or three Years Time will be sufficiently reimbursed, as the Rates in each Parish must necessarily be reduced

G

by

by the idle Hands in it being all set to work.

In Case of farther Negligence in this Officer, two neighbouring Justices to order his Staff and Authority of Power to be taken from him, and another chosen in his room.

But to return to our first Design; *Great-Britain* may now be considered as united in all its Parts, and inhabited by People speaking almost all the same Language, all governed by the same Laws, which secure to them equally their Properties, their civil Liberties and sacred Rights; and all subject to the same Taxes, by Consent of Parliament for their common Safety; the whole making the same Tie of Society in one People and under one Government.

Before the Union, and several Years since, considerable Quantities of Broadcloth, Camblets, Callimancoes and other Woollen Goods, of various Sorts, made of *Spanish*, *English* and *Scotch* Wool were manufactured in *Scotland*, some of those Goods were exported to *Denmark*, *Norway* and *Sweden*, but for the most Part used for the home Consumption of *Scotland*.

Ever since the Year 1727, that the People of that Country have turned their Attention to the Improvement and Extention of their Linen Manufacture, few Woollen Goods have been made there, except coarse Serges and low-priced Kind of Kerseys called *Gallowshields-Greys* which are sold from Sixpence

pence to Eight-pence *per* Yard, three Quarters wide, and other such like Goods, coarser in Kind and meaner in Value than any Woollen Goods made in *England*. All these are for the Home Consumption, and made of those Kinds of *Scotch* Wool, for which there is no Demand at any *English* Market.

At this Time *Scotland* is entirely served with Broadcloths of all Kinds, from the first Superfines to the lowest priced *Yorkshires*, with Camblets, Callimancoes and other Woollen Stuffs of all Sorts, (except the coarse low-priced Goods abovementioned which are not made in *England*) all of *English* Manufacture. The Consumption of *Scotland* is also supplied with Silk Stuffs, Silk and worsted Stuffs, Hair Stuffs, fine Hose, both Silk and Worsted, with Hats, all Sorts of Ironmongers and Cutlery Ware, Glass of all Sorts, and several other Commodities all of the Manufacture of *England*. Moreover a great many *India* and other foreign Goods, and Grocery Wares of several Kinds, that pay Duties at the Port of *London*, and are afterwards carried Coastways to *Scotland* and there consumed.

Besides, there will be an Intercourse of Trade created by one Part of the Kingdom supplying the other with their distinct Manufactures.

To answer all these Demands, they have but two Articles worth naming, first, small

( 52 )

Highland Cattle and Sheep bred in the Southern Counties adjoining to *England*, Commodities of a very uncertain Value; secondly, Linen Cloths of all Sorts, Linen Yarn and Linen Thread.

Every Shilling paid in *England* for *Scotch* Linen Goods must remain there, to answer the Demands of *England* for their Manufactures sold for the Consumption of *Scotland*; and these Demands always have been and ever will be encreased in Proportion to the Increase of the Value of *Scotch* Linen sold in *England*; so that every Encouragement whereby the Manufacture of *Scotch* Linen is extended, is really and in effect granted to enlarge the Demands for the Manufactures of *England*. In much the same State are the Manufactures of *Ireland*.

The Materials used in bleaching in *Ireland* are chargeable with no Duties, and unless *British* Linen is put upon the same Footing, with regard to this Article of Whitening with the *Irish*, it cannot be sold so cheap at the *London* Markets as those are; whereby the Increase of those Species of Linen that interfere with the Manufactures of *France* and *French Flanders* is greatly discouraged, and those publick Fields where the Art and Mystery of Whitening is already improved to great Perfection, fine Linen Lawn, and fine sowing Thread and Tape are whitened; and if this growing Manufacture should be discouraged in its Infancy, by denying so small

a

( 53 )

a Pittance of an Encouragement that is not extended (if the Yarn and Thread be taken into the Account) to one fortieth Part of the Linen Goods made in *Great Britain*, and not to one twentieth Part of the Linen Goods made there, for Sale at the *English* Market. The throwing cold Water upon a favourite Branch of Business that has so promising an Aspect, to be in Time, of great Benefit and Advantage to this Nation in general, may be attended with a national Loss, infinitely greater than is at first View perceived.

Therefore why should not *England* have a Linen Board, with Power to give suitable Premiums, as well as both *Scotland* and *Ireland*?

In several Counties of *England* considerable Quantities of Linen are now made, and this Manufacture is daily encreasing, although hitherto the Linen Manufacture in *England*, is mostly for private Use and very little made for Sale; but national Encouragements for the Improvement and Extention of Manufactures have been, for the most Part, limited to Goods made for Sale.

The People of *Scotland* were induced to drop the Woollen, and to prosecute the Linen Manufacture, chiefly upon this Motive, that all the ordinary Women employ all their Time in spinning Flax, and from several Experiments they found, that their own Linen Yarn could be purchased cheaper than

Yarn

( 54 )

Yarn of the same Quality and Goodness in any other Country of *Europe* could be sold for; and as great Quantities of foreign Linnen were consumed in *England*, if all the Poor of *Ireland* and *Scotland* could be employed in the Linnen Manufacture, it was more for the general Good of the united Kingdoms, for them to follow the Linnen only than to employ their People in a Manufacture that was already carried to the greatest Degree of Perfection in all its Parts in *England*, where they could purchase those Goods in Exchange for their Linnen.

But if they are discouraged from carrying on the Linnen Trade in all its Parts, their Linnen Yarn, and especially their fine Yarn must be exported to those very Countries where the Ballance of Trade is already against *England*, to be worked up into fine Linnen, Cambricks, and fine Thread, and brought over to be consumed in *England*; whereas, if the Linnen Manufacture is properly encouraged, all the Improvements made in *Ireland* and *Scotland*, will be quickly communicated to *England*, and spread there; and were the Manufactures of *British* Linnen so far extended, as that we should be capable of furnishing the Consumption of *England*, and our Plantations with *British* and *Irish* Linnen, all our Hands that could be spared from other useful Branches of Business, might be employed in the Linnen Manufacture; and some Millions

of

( 55 )

of Money that are now sent Abroad, to maintain and employ the Poor of other Nations in making Linnen for our Use, would then be saved to the Nation, to maintain and employ our own Poor at Home.

The Linnen Manufacture has been attempted at different Times and Places in *Great Britain*, as well as most of the Counties in *England*, on the North Side of *Trent*, where they make Linnen for their own Consumption, besides a Species to export in Imitation of *Osenburgh*, but with small Success, as it never was pushed with Vigour, or cherished with proper Care and Encouragement from the Publick, or those in Power, by giving Premiums as is done in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and other Places that have granted large Immunities to the first Person that perfected any new Manufacture among them. An Act passed in the 16th Year of his present Majesty, for granting an additional Duty on foreign Cambricks, which recites, that the Manufactures of Linnen made in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, are greatly improved and encreased, whereby the Price of Linnen, as well foreign as home Fabrick, hath been considerably reduced, and that the further Extention of the said Manufactures of Linnen will be a great Advantage to these Kingdoms.

Besides the Number of People in *Great Britain*, there is reckoned two Millions in our Plantations, which when we have thoroughly

( 56 )

roughly perfected the Manufacture of Linen fit for them, opens another Market for one fifth Part of the above Quantity to be made in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

*A Copy of the RESOLUTIONS a COMMITTEE of the WHOLE HOUSE, came into in 1743-4.*

**T**HAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Importation of Linen manufactured in *Germany*, and entered from *Holland*, and paying Duty as *German* Linen only, is a Detriment to the Publick Revenue, and prejudicial to the Manufactures of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

That the Importation of Lawns manufactured in *Germany*, under the Denomination of narrow *Germany*, in order to evade the Payment of the Duty chargeable by Law upon Lawns called *Sileſia*, is a Detriment to the Publick Revenue, and a Discouragement to the Manufactures of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

That the Importation of Foreign-made Sail-cloth, or Canvas for Sails or Tarpaulins, under the Denomination of narrow *Germany*, is an Evasion to the Law, and destructive to the Manufacture of *British* Sail-Cloth.

That

( 57 )

That the affixing of counterfeit Stamps to foreign Linens, in order to vend them as Linens of the Manufacture of *Scotland* or *Ireland*, is a gross Imposition and Deceit, tending to the Discredit of the said Manufactures, and ought to be remedied by a Law.

That an additional Duty upon certain Species of Linen, imported into *Great Britain* from Foreign Parts, will greatly contribute to encourage and extend the Linen Manufactures of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

Now, as the above Resolutions, after being maturely debated, and Evidence heard on both Sides, were reported to the whole House, I need not have Recourse to any farther Proofs, and consequently take them for undeniable Facts; and I apprehend the admitting such Manufactures to be entered from *Holland*, and pay only *German* Duty, is also flatly against the Act of Navigation, which obliges the Produce and Manufactures of each Country to be imported by those Ships only which enter directly from the proper Port of each separate Nation, which should be from *Hamburgh*; and as we find by the Bills of Entry from the Customhouse, that betwixt *Midsummer* and *Christmas* 1745, there was entered from *Holland*, paying only the *Hamburgh* Duty, the astonishing Quantity of near upon 600,000

H                      Yards,

( 58 )

Yards, both broad and narrow; therefore, to calculate fairly, we will divide the Quantity, and from thence see what they did pay as *Hamburgh*, and also how much they ought to have paid as *Holland* Linen; this I find to amount to about 10,000 *l.* Loss to the Revenue in those six Months only. And as those very Linens hinder so much of the Consumption of our own Manufacture, by being frequently (I am afraid) sold for real *Holland* Linen to the Consumer, it consequently hinders the Employment of so many of our own poor helpless Hands; besides the Probability there is of some real Linens, manufactured in *Holland*, being entered amongst them.

The Parliament of *Ireland* has thought the Encouragement of their own Manufactures so very essential, as to give, by Direction of the Board of Trustees, very great Bounties, both for this and the succeeding Years; for they wisely foresee, that by promoting Employment for their own Poor, it would most certainly, in a short Time, reward their Government, and relieve their future Poor's Rates.

Though the Design of the foregoing Sheets is only to shew the Practicability of extending the Linen Manufacture in these Kingdoms, and the great Advantage it would be to the Publick; I hope I shall be pardoned, if I here subjoin what has occurred to my Thoughts,

( 59 )

Thoughts, as a Remedy for an Evil of a less general Nature, I mean that of Traders giving too long Credit. The ill Consequences of this are perhaps more extensive than at first View appears; and, under proper Improvements, may not be thought unworthy the Consideration of the Legislature.

The Remedy I would suggest for this Evil, is, to reduce the Statute of Limitation from six Years to one or two at most. By this Means all Traders and Creditors alike would be obliged to collect in a short Time their Book-Debts, Simple Contracts, or Loans without Specialty. Thus might many Bankruptcies and Law-Suits, now occasioned by allowing too long Credit, be prevented. By this Means also many a lavish or unwary Buyer, Borrower, or Trickster, would be induced to consider well what Engagements he entered into: This might save many an Estate, and, perhaps, prevent the Luxury and extravagant Pleasures that encrease so fast among us; and, in part, might supply the Place of a sumptuary Law.

As I do not foresee any ill Consequences that can attend such a Regulation, I have presumed to offer this cursory Suggestion to the Publick, in Hopes some abler Hand will enlarge and improve upon it.

We need but have Recourse to our Weekly News-Papers, to shew how every

Nation is encouraged and assisted with Premiums and Bounties from their Governments, in order to introduce all Species of Manufactures amongst themselves; their Reasons for so doing have been hinted before in this Treatise, as an Example for *England* to follow, which Method is big with good Policy, and all Christian Principles.

Then rouse great Genius of *England*, and let thy Sons exert their natural Faculties of Improvement, that our Foreign Neighbours may see we dare encourage and bring to Perfection our *Inland Trade* and *Home Manufactures*, as well as they.



---

*A SCHEME to prevent the  
RUNNING of WOOL.*

**T**HE very great Necessity the *French* and other Foreigners are under to procure our long combing Wool, without which they cannot possibly make any merchantable Goods to vie with ours at Foreign Markets, shews the Importance of any Scheme that can make it the Interest (which is the Rudder to Trade) of every different Grower and Hand in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, through which it passes, to sell it at the next Market Town; and from thence through the various Operations, till it shall at last arrive to the finishing Manufacturer.

By this a Chain of progressive Interest (for Profits will make Markets) will, directly from the Sheep's Back to the Consumer, effectually secure the grand Point which the Parliament of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* have been so long endeavouring at, viz. To keep our own Growth of Wool at Home, and thereby prevent other Nations from rivalling us abroad, which will consequently

( 62 )

occasion a full Demand for the whole Quantity, be it never so great, that we can possibly grow and manufacture ourselves, (especially as ours has the Preference in Quality): But in Case the Foreigners urgent Necessity should oblige them to get it at the advanced Price, then our own Manufacturer and Merchant will be enabled to export our own Goods cheaper than the *French* can possibly do theirs, with our Wool mixt; and at the same Time it will not enhance the present Price to the *English* Exporter or Consumer; for the intended Return of the Duty can't possibly be paid to any body whatever, but to our own Manufacturer, upon producing the Piece of Goods; and by the Rules and Methods ready to be produced, the Manufacturer cannot possibly get the Bounty twice paid; consequently the Foreign Agent is totally excluded, or at least the Foreign Goods, worked with *British* Wool, must absolutely come so much dearer to Foreign Markets.

### The S C H E M E.

**L**AY a Duty of Two-pence *per* Pound Weight (or One Third of the supposed Value) at the Grower's in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*,

( 63 )

*land*, on all fresh raw Wool, when shorn, clipt, shear'd, pull'd, &c. and give a Drawback of Three-pence *per* Pound Weight (or Half the supposed Value) to the Manufacturer, when the Goods are quite made and finished, and unalterable.

*N. B.* In case Two-pence *per lb.* be not thought sufficient, then double it; for if you still return one Third more than the Duty laid on, it will not affect the *English* Manufacturer.

This Duty will consequently so much advance the current Price of raw Wool in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; and at the same Time make it dearer than *France* can afford to give: And by reason of our returning the Drawback to our own Manufacturer only, the Foreign Goods, if they will have our Wool, must be advanced 20 *per Cent.* at least, both at their Domestick and Foreign Markets, and ours in *Great Britain* and *Ireland* will remain as they now are.

Even the Smugglers themselves will not sell the Wool to the *French* or *Dutch* for less than our Staplers at the next Market Town will give them for it; not to mention the Risque or Danger of Running. By this Means we shall keep the Manufacturing of our whole Growth at Home.

*N. B.*



( 64 )

N. B. The Owner or Grower of Wool to have the Option of either paying the Duty in Money, or the Value in Wool, or in Kind.

I don't at present apprehend but two Objections than can be made to this effectual Method; both of which I think may be fully answered.

The first is, Creating a new Set of Officers.

The second is, That it will take present Money out of the Farmers Pockets, which ought to pay their Rents.

In answer to the first, I would propose, that the Land-Tax Collectors and Officers should conduct this; and if more be wanted, such others to be appointed by the Method of the Land-Tax Commissioners: But very few will be wanted above two Months in the Year, *i. e.* in Sheep-Shearing Time.

The second is answered above, by paying in Kind, which will effectually relieve the Farmer from any Inconvenience in raising of Money.

Example, as not to affect the Farmer by raising of Money:

Suppose the Farmer has 4 *lb.* Weight of Wool in a Fleece, which, at the present Average Price of about 6 *d.* *per lb.* will produce him 2 *s.* then he pays one Pound of Wool for his Duty, upon the advanced Price of 2 *d.* the remaining 3 *lb.* of Wool at 8 *d.* will produce 2 *s.* likewise.

F I N I S.