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A C C O U N T

OF THE LATE

Application to PARLIAMENT,

FROM THE

SUGAR REFINERS, GROCERS, &c.
of the Cities of *London* and *West-*
minster, the Borough of *Southwark*,
and of the City of *Bristol*.



L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BROTHERTON, at the *Bibl.*, next
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(Price Six-pence.)

THE humble Petition of the Sugar Refiners, Grocers, and other Dealers in Sugar in *London, Westminster, &c.* was presented to the Hon. House of Commons, by Sir *William Calvert*, Knt. one of the Representatives of this City, on *Tuesday* the 20th of *March*, 1753, and another from *Bristol* on the same Subject, on the 23d following, which were both ordered to be heard at the Bar of the House, the 4th of *April* following; but the Petitioners could not be heard till the 13th and 17th of *April*, when they went through their Evidence in Support of the several Allegations contained in their Petition.

The 1st of *May* was appointed for the Committee of the whole House, to consider thereof, in order to report their Opinion to the House, several Resolutions were ready to be offered by Gentlemen of great Honour and Knowledge in Trade, whereby it appeared to be their Opinion, that the Petitioners had

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made good the Allegations contained in their Petition, but by Business previously appointed, and some other Causes, the Consideration of this Petition was postponed from Time to Time till the Sessions was finished.

That the Proofs then produced before the Hon. Committee of the whole House may not be forgot, and that the whole Kingdom may be satisfied to what Causes the late high Prices of Sugar were owing, and by what Means they * are, and may be continued, it has been thought proper to publish what was spoke at the Bar by Mr. Lewis on that Occasion.

To

* At the Sale at the *Customhouse* June 21, 1753, the King's Muscovada Sugar sold on an Average at more than 35s. per C. the Sugar Brokers at the Bar of the House of Commons gave it as their Opinion, that the King's Sugars in general are full 3s. per C. lower in Quality and Price than the Medium of the Planters Sugars, so that the present Average Price of Muscovada Sugar is above 38s. per C.

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To the Hon. the COMMONS
of *Great Britain*, in Par-
liament assembled.

The Humble PETITION of the Su-
gar Refiners, Grocers, and other
Dealers in Sugar in the Cities of
London, Westminster and the Bo-
rough of *Southwark*, whose Names
are hereunto subscribed,

Humbly sheweth,

1. **T**HAT the Price of *Muscovada* Sugar is become excessively high, owing to a deficient Importation from our Sugar Colonies in *America*, notwithstanding the Assurances given by the Planters in the Year 1739, of a much greater Supply, when the Legislature indulged them the Liberty of sending their Sugars directly to any foreign Port, South of *Cape Finisterre*.

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2. That ever since *Lady-day* 1749, the Sugar Planters have received for their Sugars a much higher Price than what they did for many Years before the Commencement of the late War, and notwithstanding these Encouragements, instead of increasing their Plantations, and sending home a larger Produce, they have decreased in their Importation ever since the Year 1739, upon an Average, very considerably.

3. That the Planters are greater Gainers by a small Importation than a large one; but the Navigation, the Revenue, your Petitioners, and the Consumers of Sugar are great Sufferers.

4. That the foreign Markets are supplied with Sugar from the *French* at less than half the Price it is here sold for, exclusive of all Duties paid here; and the Price of Sugars at the British Sugar Colonies is more than double the Price of what it is at the *French* Sugar Colonies.

5.

5. That the excessive Gain of the *British* Planters by a deficient Importation (all foreign Sugars being excluded by Duties which amount to a Prohibition) may be a Temptation to them, to forbear breaking up more Land for Sugar Plantations, especially in the Island of *Jamaica*, where your Petitioners are informed large Tracts of Land fit for that Purpose do remain uncultivated.

6. That the common People of *England* are deprived of one of the Conveniences of Life, by the present high Price of Sugars, and your Petitioners of the Benefit of supplying them therewith; and those who can afford it, are obliged to pay double the Price, which the rest of *Europe* do, for the same Commodity.

7. That there is no possibility of exporting either *Muscovada* Sugar or refined, to any Port in *Europe*, not even to *Ireland*, the Prices here being much higher than in any other Part of the World, for which

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Reason, the Traders in *Ireland* have made Use of the Liberty they have of importing Sugar from *Portugal*.

8. That the very great Disparity of the Price of Sugar here, and in *France, Flanders, and Holland*, is a strong Temptation to smuggle Sugar from thence, to the great Injury of the Government and of the fair Trader ; and your Petitioners are credibly informed, that large Quantities of refined Sugar are smuggled into *Scotland*, and that in other Parts of the Kingdom, *French Sugar* Loaves are sold at a much lower Price than they can be afforded by our own Refiners.

9. That the deficient Importation of Sugar is of great Detriment to the Manufacture of refining Sugar, wherein a great Number of Families in almost every Part of the Kingdom are now concerned; and a great Number of Hands employed, and which gives Employment and Maintenance to many other Manufacturers, and pays considerable Taxes to the Government;
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(for by the present Scarcity they are deprived of Sugar to refine, nor can the common People afford to pay for refining a Commodity already so dear) to their great Loss, being obliged to very large Expences, even when they have no Employment, and to the Loss of all those who depend on their Manufacture; and by the present immoderate Price, can have no hopes of exporting any Part of their Produce, which when they were enabled to do, their Labour and Expence was repaid them by Foreigners, and defeats the wise Intentions of the Legislature, in granting a Bounty upon the Export of Sugar refined in *Great-Britain*.

10. That the Inhabitants and Proprietors of *Jamaica*, though they have many hundred thousand Acres of Land fit for Sugar Plantations, which as they have publicly declared are sufficient to supply all *Europe* with Sugar, and are exempt from the Tax of $4 \frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. to which our other Sugar Islands are subject, have notwithstanding forbore to cultivate them, but instead thereof, have practised the Trade
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of refining Sugar there; and to encourage it have imposed a Duty of no less than 6d. per Pound on all refined Sugar imported from *Great-Britain*, to the great Detri- ment of the Navigation and Revenue of this Kingdom, as well as of your Petitioners.

II. That in some of the other *British* Sugar Islands, Refineries are likewise set up; which Practice is injurious to the Naviga- tion and Revenue, by diminishing the Quan- tity of *Muscovada* Sugar, which would otherwise be imported, and interferes with the Manufacture of refining Sugar here.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, that this Hon. House will take the Premises into their Consideration, and will be pleased to make it the Interest of the *British* Sugar Colonies, to produce and send home a larger Quantity of Sugar to *Great Britain*, in order to become more useful to their Mother Country, its Trade, Navigation and Revenue; or to grant any other Relief, as to their great Wisdom shall seem meet.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

S I R,

BY the Appointment of this Hon. House, we appear at this Bar to sup- port the Allegations contained in the Peti- tion of the Sugar Refiners, Grocers, and other Dealers in Sugar, presented to this House on *Tuesday* the 20th of *March*: Happy if we can do Justice to some plain Facts of great Importance to the Improve- ment of the *British* Sugar Colonies, and rendring them more useful to the Trade, Ma- nufactures, Navigation, and Revenue of this Kingdom.

We will not pretend that the public Service was our only Motive to this Appli- cation, for your Petitioners themselves are very great Sufferers from the Circumstances We mention in our Petition, but I can as- sure this Hon. House, We do not expect or desire any Relief, that may be incon- sistent with the public Welfare.

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It behoves me to beg the Indulgence of this Hon. Committee with Regard to myself, unaccustomed as I am to behave before this august Assembly, and deeply impress'd with the utmost Veneration, which I fear may disqualify me from using to the best Advantage the small Talents that have been allotted me, and that a good Cause may suffer by my Inability,

But I will rely on the known Goodness of this Hon. House upon such Occasions, and trespass no longer on your valuable Time by any further Apology.

If you please, Sir, we will begin to support our Allegations; the first is,

That the Price of *Muscovada* Sugar is become excessively high, owing to a deficient Importation from our Sugar Colonies in *America*, notwithstanding the Assurances given by the Planters in the Year 1739 of a much greater Supply when the Legislature indulged them the Liberty of sending

ing their Sugars directly to any foreign Port South of *Cape Finisterre*.

To support our first Assertion, we shall prove by the Refiners Book-keepers, by the Sugar Brokers, and by the Sales of his Majesty's Sugars, sold by Auction at the *Custom-house*, that the Price of *Muscovada* Sugars from the 1st of *December* last, to the 1st of *March*, was about 44s. per C. We do not desire to conceal the Price of any other Time, for we shall shew to this Hon. House all the Prices for twenty-five Years past, in supporting our other Allegations; but we fix upon these three Months, because, though the Price has been very high all the Year, this was the time when many of your Petitioners began to despair not only of a living Profit, but of saving their Charges, and to prefer the certain Expence of standing still, to the Risk of losing great Part of their Capital, if they should fill their Houses with Sugar at these monstrous Prices; and seeing that even at the same time they could not sell their wrought Sugars in Proportion to the Prices they must give for
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Muscovada, for the common People cannot afford to pay for refining a Commodity already so dear.

This was the Time when his Majesty's Sugars, generally deemed the lowest in Quality at Market, were sold at the *Custom-house* for near 42s. per C. upon a Medium, and some fine *St. Kitts* and *Jamaica's* for upwards of 50s. per C. This was the Time when an Application to Parliament was first thought of, and during this Time, the Petition was drawn and resolved on, and every Allegation I doubt not, will be proved to have been exactly true at this Time. Since the beginning of *March* there has been some Abatement in the Price of *Muscovada* Sugar, if I am rightly informed, of about 4s. per C. which may possibly be owing to this Application to Parliament; for the Planters and Merchants may not think it unlikely or unreasonable, that we should obtain some speedy Relief; if we do not, it is my Opinion that Sugars will continue at a very high Price for many Months longer; for though we are flattered with a very large Im-

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Importation the approaching Summer, yet preparatory Excuses are made for a Continuance of the present high Prices by assuring us that the Crop will be late; and as the Quantities now in Hand cannot be large, they will not be sufficient to supply the Demand, usual at this Time of the Year, and the first Sugars which arrive will come to so bare a Market, that they will soon be bought up at high Prices; unless the *French* and *Dutch*, lured by such high Prices here, should find Means to supply the Deficiency by smuggling Sugar upon our Coast.

The next thing to be proved is, that this high Price is owing to a deficient Importation. By the Accounts from the *Custom-house* the last Year's Importation amounts to about 820,000 C. or 41,000 Ton, which I own is a much larger Quantity than I expected, but however is something short of the Average Quantity imported in the twelve Years preceding the *Spanish* War, which was 865,908 C. *i. e.* by somewhat more than 2000 Ton; this indeed is no great Deficiency; but in the Year 1739, a large Increase

crease was promised, and with Regard to the Home Consumption, or at least the Demand for Home Consumption, the Quantity is greatly deficient; for by the Use of refined Sugar, and the Increase of refining Houses, the Consumption is greatly increased; for *Muscovada* Sugar by being refined, is rendered more wholesome as well as palatable, and greatly diminished in Quantity, all the Melasses being separated from it, and all the Filth contained in it when brought from the Plantations; but these unhappy Manufacturers, the Refiners (tho' hurtful to themselves by the Increase of their Numbers, so that unless a much larger Quantity of *Muscovada* Sugar can be obtained, they cannot be supported) have been to the utmost Degree Benefactors to our Sugar Colonies, as will strongly appear by the Price of Sugar since the Peace of *Aix-la-Chapelle*, compared with the Prices before the Proclamation of War with *Spain*.

But we shall prove, Sir, that in the Year 1739, when the Planters obtained the Liberty of sending their Sugars directly to the South

South of *Cape Finisterre*, that they then gave strong Assurances of a much larger Supply, not only sufficient for the Home Consumption, but to contend with our Rivals the *French* for foreign Markets. This will be proved by the Testimony of two very worthy Gentlemen, well known at the Bar of this Hon. House, who were of Opinion with the Planters in that Application, hoping those Assurances would be fulfilled; and will prove likewise that 24s. or 25s. per C. upon an Average for *Muscovada* Sugar was then thought a sufficient Price in Time of Peace, and I myself can testify, that in the Year 1740 a worthy Planter of *Jamaica* proposed to agree with me for a Term of Years, I think it was seven Years, to sell me the Produce of his Plantation, which was esteemed to produce Sugar of very good Quality at 25s. per C. which Proposal I did not accept, for the Medium Price of good Sugars had been under 24s. per C. for many Years before the War with *Spain*; and I could not then foresee the War with *France*, much less could I imagine that Sugars would have born the Price they have done since the
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the Peace. The former Part of this Testimony will be confirmed by Cases then delivered at the Door, and known by these Gentlemen to be published by the Direction of the Planters, and with the Names of some of them, and by the Preamble itself to that Act of Parliament, nor has the Importation to *Great-Britain* been much diminished by the Exportation of Sugar to the South of *Cape Finisterre*; for in thirteen Years since that Liberty was granted, there have been only 5 Ships sent thither, containing something more than 777 Hogheads of Sugar, as appears by the Account from the *Custom-house*.

The Refiners Book-keepers, and the Sugar Brokers were then brought to the Bar and examined, and Mr. *Hyam* and Mr. *Coope*, which filled up the Remainder of that Day, it being late when the Petitioners were called in, and the further Hearing was adjourned to the 17th of *April*, when the Petitioners were called in, and Mr. *Lewis* proceeded as follows:

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S I R,

YOUR Petitioners we hope have made good their first Allegation: The Refiners Book-keepers, and Sugar-Brokers have proved, that the Prices of *Muscovada* Sugar have been excessively high, viz. upwards of 44s. per C. upon an Average, from the 1st of *Dec.* to the 1st of *March*, and that it is owing to a deficient Importation, though not greatly deficient when compared with the Average of former Years, yet greatly so with Regard to the Demand for home Consumption, as appeared from what the Brokers testified at your Bar, viz. that they believed there were not more than 300 Hogheads left unfold in the Market, whereas they have known 10,000 remaining unfold at this Time of Year: They believed indeed there was a large Quantity in the Refiners Hands, though they admitted that several of the Refiners had stood still for a considerable Time.

We have shewn likewise by the Testimony of two worthy Gentlemen, and by
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the Planters Cases published in the Year 1739, that they did then give Assurances of sending Home a much larger Supply, and we have shewn that this has not been prevented by any Exportation to the South of *Cape Finisterre*; for by the Accounts from the *Customhouse* it appears, that only five Ships have been sent to those Parts of the World since that Liberty was granted them, containing only about 777 Hogsheads of Sugar, and it has been proved that from 23s. to 25 per C. was allowed to be by the Planters, a sufficient Price for *Muscovada* Sugar in Time of Peace.

2d Allegation. That ever since *Lady-day* 1749, the Sugar Planters have received for their Sugars a much higher Price than what they did many Years before the Commencement of the late War, and notwithstanding these Encouragements, instead of encreasing their Plantations, and sending Home a larger Produce, they have decreased in their Importation ever since the Year 1739, upon an Average, very considerably.

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The 2d Allegation makes the Comparison of the Prices of Sugars since *Lady-day* 1749, with the Prices for many Years before the Commencement of the War with *Spain*, which was proclaimed in 1739. Your Petitioners imagining at the Time the Petition was drawn, from the Complaints of the Planters, that in 1748 the Price of *Muscovada* Sugar had been very low, but by the Information gained since,

The King's Sugars were sold that Year at 31s. 7d. $\frac{3}{4}$ per C. on an Average.

we find, that if the Planters were Losers that Year, it was not owing to the Lowness of the Price, but to other Causes, perhaps to having made their

Contracts for Freight and Insurance before the Peace was known, a Circumstance which was equally in their Favour at the Commencement of the War, by making the like Contracts before that could be known; We are willing therefore to state the Comparison between the Prices of Sugar ever since the Peace of *Aix-la-Chapelle* in 1748, and the eleven Years immediately preceding the Proclamation of War with

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Spain, by the Sales of the King's Sugars at the *Customhouse*, an Account of which has been lately delivered, and is now upon your Table, which are always sold by Auction, and though of the lowest Quality, yet generally equal in that Respect, and for that Reason the fittest Standard of the Difference of Markets at different Times, as well as because it contains a larger Number of Years than most of the other Accounts do, and to which the Accounts of the Book-keepers and Brokers are conformable: it appears that from *Christmas* 1727 to *Christmas* 1738, the Average Price was 21 s. 5 d. $\frac{1}{4}$ and from *Christmas* 1747, to *Christmas* 1752, the Average Price was 31 s. 6d. and as there is no Reason to doubt that the Planters have sold their better Sugars in Proportion, and consequently for 10s. the C. Weight more these five last Years than before the Commencement of the *Spanish* War. deducting only the 1s. 6d. per C. additional Duty, enacted in 1747; there has been an amazing Increase of Gain to the Planters since the Peace of *Aix-la-Chapelle*, of 8s. 6d. per C. or 8l. 10s. per Ton, on about

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about 44,000 Ton per *Annum*, the annual Importation upon an Average since the Peace, which amounts to no less than 374,000l. Sterling per *Annum*. Such is the distressed Condition of the Sugar Colonies! As to the other Assertion, of a Decrease in the Importation since 1739. By the Accounts from the *Customhouse* it appears that the Importation of *Muscovada* Sugar, from 1728 to 1739, both inclusive, being twelve Years, amounts to 10,390,901 C. and from 1740 to 1751 both inclusive, being likewise twelve Years, amounts to 9,562,635 C. so that the Importation in the latter Period, is less than in the former, by 828,265 C. or 69,022 C. each Year upon a Medium, notwithstanding a large Increase was promised; and if the Years of the War be set aside, and the Year 1739 only (the Year when the Planters gave Assurances of a larger Supply) be compared with the five Years since the Peace of *Aix-la-Chapelle*, the Importation of the Year 1739, was 949,644 C. and the Average of these last five Years was only 892,036 C. which is a Deficiency of 57,608 C. per *Annum* in the latter, and there is Reason

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son to believe, that the high Price of Sugar here may have caused a larger Quantity of *French* Sugar to be imported by the Way of the northern Colonies, since the Peace of *Aix-la-Chapelle*, than in the Years preceding the War with *Spain*, which has passed at the *Customhouse* as *British* Sugar *: An Entry very much to be suspected to be of this kind will be laid before you, nor was the Intervention of the War a sufficient Excuse for not increasing their Plantations,

Kings Sugars 33s. 1d. upon an Average, during the War, and the Brokers agreed in judging the King's Sugar 3s. per C. inferior in Quality to the Planter's Sugars upon an Average.

for during the War, our Sugar Planters received such good Prices for their Sugar, viz. above 35s. per C, upon an Average, as did not only indemnify them for the extraordinary Price of Freight and Insurance, and some other Charges occasioned by it, but might have enabled them to have encreased their Plantations; and I doubt not but upon proper Encouragement they might have

* Mr. *Frewin* of the *Customhouse* was examined concerning an Entry of 25 Casks of Sugar from *New York*, which had many Circumstances denoting them to be *French* Sugars, such as Cask, Nails and Package.

have found a Number of honest and industrious *German* Protestants, as willing to assist them in planting Sugars, as they are to assist us in refining them. As to the Exports of *Muscovada* Sugars in the two Periods before mentioned, the Exports from 1727 to 1739 are 1,183,826 C. and from 1739 to 1751 are 1,014,307 C. the Surplus in the former is 169,519 C. which amounts to 14,126 C. per *Annum*.

3d Allegation. That the Planters are greater Gainers by a small Importation than a large one; but the Navigation, the Revenue, your Petitioners, and the Consumers of Sugar, are great Sufferers.

The 3d Allegation is no groundless Hypothesis; for if any Gentleman will cast his Eye on the Accounts of the annual Importation of *Muscovada* Sugar from the *Customhouse*, he may observe that the Importations of the four Years 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751 amount to 3,635,059 C. or upon a Medium about 900,000 C. or 45,000 Ton per *Annum*, which at 30s. per C. Weight or 30l.

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per Ton, the Price which has been proved to have been rather less than the Medium Price for those four Years, (and a very lucrative Price it is to the Planter) amounts to 1,350,000*l.* Sterling, whereas the Importation of the Year 1752 by the Account just received from the *Customhouse*, amounts to something more than 820,000 C. I shall call it 41,000 Ton, for we are not considering trifling Differences of 6d or 1s. per C. computed at 40 s. per C. or 40*l.* per Ton; the Price which is proved to be the medium Price of this Year amounts to 1,640,000*l.* Sterling, which is an additional Gain of 290,000*l.* into the Planter's Pocket, besides the Duty on 4000 Ton of Sugar, which he saves and is lost to the Revenue, and the Freight of as many Tons which is lost to the Navigation, besides Warehouse-room, Leakage, Cooperage and some other Charges upon the deficient Quantity. The Merchants indeed are paid their Commission, and the Brokers their Brokerage on the Sums which the Sugars amount to, and not upon the Quantity of Sugars sold, so that they are

The first 4 Years according to King's Sale 29s. 8d. $\frac{3}{4}$ per C. the last Year 38s. 7d. $\frac{3}{4}$.

no Enemies to short Crops and high Prices. But your Petitioners and the Consumers pay to the Planters 290,000*l.* more for 4000 Ton less of Sugar, so great is the Demand for home Consumption; and by this it appears, that a Hurricane is no Misfortune to our Sugar Colonies, though it is a very great one to *Great Britain* and your Petitioners. In these Circumstances what uncommon Virtue and Self Denial must be found in the *British* Sugar Planters if they are zealous to encrease their Plantations, when a Deficiency is so advantageous to them. I mention it with great Submission, would it not be charitable if this Hon. House should assist their labouring Virtue, by prescribing speedily, some Limits to their immoderate Gain, arising from their present exclusive Privilege, and from want of Cultivation in *Jamaica*; whether that be owing to Design, Neglect, or Misfortune, we cannot pretend to determine, but are very certain your Petitioners and the whole Kingdom are great Sufferers by it.

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4th Allegation. That the foreign Markets are supply'd with Sugar from the *French* at less than half the Price it is here, sold for, exclusive of all Duties paid here and the Price of Sugars at the *British* Sugar Colonies is more than double the Price of what it is at the *French* Sugar Colonies.

To support our 4th Allegation we have already proved the Price of Sugar at *London*, from *December* 1 last, to the 1st of *March* to have been 44s. per C. we shall now prove from Letters and Prices current from *Bordeaux*, *Rochelle* and *Dunkirk*, that Sugars there have not been sold during the same 3 Months, for more upon an Average than 19s. per C. *English* Weight and *English* Money, which is no more than half the Price which *English* Sugars as above mentioned have been sold for, exclusive of the *English* Duty, of 4s. 10d. per C. Nor should I forget to mention, that the *French* Plantations of *St. Domingo* did suffer by the Hurricane in the Year 1751, and by an Earthquake soon after, very considerably;

considerably; and though it is difficult to produce demonstrative Proof of what happened in a *French* Island, yet we have some to offer extremely credible and agreeable to the Accounts given in the publick Papers, not long after those Calamities happened to them, and near the same Time with those at *Jamaica*, and some of the Leeward Islands. It will be likewise proved by the Prices current from *Amsterdam*, and by Mr. *Hyam*, that Sugars there have been sold in Proportion to those in *France*, allowing for Freight, Commission and Duties payable in *Holland*, and the Profits of the *French* and *Dutch* Merchants; and Mr. *Hardman* has proved the Prices at *St. Kitts* and *Antigua* from 32s. to 36s. per C. that Currency, and Mr. *Coope* will prove that the Prices of Sugar in the *British* Sugar Islands were much lower before the Year 1739; so that if the *British* Sugar Planters have paid any thing more for any Article of their Necessaries than formerly, if they have paid for it in Sugars, as most probably they did, at the above mentioned Prices, they cannot have been Losers by the Bargain.

That

5th Allegation. That the excessive Gain of the *British* Planters by a deficient Importation (all foreign Sugars being excluded by Duties which amount to a Prohibition) may be a Temptation to them to forbear breaking up more Land for Sugar Plantations, especially in the Island of *Jamaica*, where your Petitioners are informed large Tracts of Land fit for that Purpose do remain uncultivated.

Upon this Subject I beg leave of this Hon. Committee to state what our Suspicions are. Gentlemen may think it ridiculous to suppose that the high Price of Sugar ever since the Peace of *Aix-la-Chapelle*, has been supported by a Combination between the Planters of the several distant Sugar-Islands, for doubtless it is so, and we do not imagine it; they may likewise think it absurd to believe that the Planters should forbear to cultivate their Plantations already formed and provided with Negroes, Buildings, and other Necessaries for planting and producing Sugar: We do not mean
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to suggest it. *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Islands* are fully cultivated, as we are assured by Gentlemen of the greatest Probity and Veracity, and we firmly believe them; But, Sir, with Regard to *Jamaica*, the Fact is otherwise and confirmed to be so. By the Report from the Hon. Board of Trade now lying upon your Table it appears, that there are upwards of 1,600,000 Acres of Land in that Island; which remain uncultivated, though allowed to be fit for Cultivation; of these, upwards of 600,000 remain unappropriated, 1,500,000 have been granted to Patentees, of which only 500,000 are cultivated, and a Million remains uncultivated, which Million of Acres may belong principally to the Gentlemen who are Owners of the 500,000 which are cultivated, or by their Situation be extremely in the Power of those Gentlemen. This Hon. Committee has been informed by Mr. *Hardman*, a Gentleman whose Testimony at your Bar is deservedly regarded, that it is his Opinion, that Plantations cannot be greatly increased in *Jamaica* without a proportionable Increase of white Inhabitants:

bitants: We are inform'd that at present in *Jamaica* there are near thirteen Negroes to one white Inhabitant, now, Sir, I shall endeavour to make it appear, that an Increase of Plantations and of Planters must greatly abate the present exorbitant Gains of the present Planters by the following Calculation. By the Accounts from the *Custom-house* it appears, that the total Importation from all the *British* Sugar Colonies for the first four Years since the Peace of *Aix-la-Chapelle*, excluding the Year 1752, the Importation of which Year is supposed to be diminished by the Hurricanes in the Autumn preceding; I say the Importation of the Years 1748, 49, 50, and 51 amounts to about 900,000 C. or 45,000 Ton per *Annum*; the Average Prices of those four Years have been proved to be upwards of 30s. per C. or 30l. per Ton, a very exorbitant Price compared with the Prices of *French* Sugars, or the Prices in *England* before the War with *Spain*. By which it appears the Importation in the most plentiful Years, is not sufficient to supply the Demands of *Great Britain* for home Consumption,

sumption, much less to contend with our Rivals the *French* for foreign Markets; the Amount I say of these 45,000 Ton at 30l. per Ton, is 1,350,000l. Sterling, this Sum and these Prices, the *British* Colonies in their present Circumstances of an exclusive Privilege are pretty secure of.

But, Sir, if by an Encrease of Planters and of Plantations in *Jamaica*, their Produce and the general Importation of Sugar from our Sugar Islands should amount to one Million of hundred Weight or 50,000 Ton, a Quantity still insufficient even for the present home Consumption, such an Increase would undoubtedly lower the Price, according to Mr. *Locke's* unfailing Maxim, 'the Value of every thing upon Earth arises from its Quantity in Proportion to its Vent, and that alone regulates the Price.' Supposing it should lower the Price in Proportion to the additional Quantity, that would be to 27s. per C. a Price by which they would still be great Gainers: 50,000 Ton, at 27l. per Ton amounts to 1,350,000l. Sterling, exactly the same Sum with 45,000 Ton

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Ton, at 30l. per Ton : But, Sir, the following Deductions must be made from the Planters Profits, the additional Labour and Expence necessary to produce 5000 Ton more of Sugar, the Freight and Duty on the same Quantity and some other Charges before mentioned ; all these together must amount to a very considerable Abatement, besides, that the remaining Profits of the whole must be divided among a greater Number of Planters. This Computation, I believe, will convince this Committee, that an Increase of Plantations and of Planters in *Jamaica* must greatly abate the exorbitant Gains of all the present *British* Planters of Sugar, and I beg it may be remembered, that the Interest of Planters is extremely different, and very often contrary to the Interest of planting. In these Circumstances, Sir, is it blameable to suppose that the Planters of *Jamaica* may be Men, and as Men, may be influenced by their apparent immediate Interest, and be rather backward or not zealous to encrease Planters and Plantations ; it is not necessary to suppose private Combinations ? Is it criminal
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to suppose that even the Assembly of *Jamaica*, who are Planters, may prefer the apparent Interest of themselves and of their Island to that of *Great Britain*, as I flatter myself this Hon. House will in a proper Degree prefer the Interest of *Great Britain* to that of *Jamaica*. All Encouragements necessary for increasing the Number of Planters, have as yet been enacted by the Assembly of *Jamaica*, where, as in most others, I suppose the Majority determines, and Subjects cheerfully submit to what is their apparent immediate Interest ; a larger Number of Inhabitants indeed, would render the Island more secure, but Mankind in general prefer present Profit to future Security.

This Hon. House has resolv'd, ' that the
' Endeavours hitherto used by the Legislature
' of the Island of *Jamaica* to increase the
' Number of white Inhabitants, and to en-
' force the Cultivation of Lands in the Man-
' ner which may conduce best to the Secu-
' rity and Defence of that Island, have not
' been effectual for these Purposes ;' may we

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be allowed, Sir, to suspect that they have been in some Measure insincere; for without Breach of Charity, Mankind in general may be supposed not to be over zealous to put themselves to Expence in promoting that which may be prejudicial to their Interest, such Instances of Self-Denial are uncommon, and I think we have some Circumstances to produce, if this Hon. Committee chuses to hear them, which greatly confirm such a Supposition.

I beg pardon for being so long, but I thought it necessary to explain to this Committee what our Suspicions were, as well as what they were not.

The Planters of *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Islands* are equal Sharers in the Advantages of this Neglect of Cultivation in *Jamaica*, and have undoubtedly the same Regard to their Interest, and for that Reason seem desirous to misunderstand or to misrepresent us upon this Subject.

That

6th Allegation That the common People of *England* are deprived of one of the Conveniencies of Life, by the present high Price of Sugar, and your Petitioners of the Benefit of supplying them therewith, and those who can afford it are obliged to pay double the Price which the rest of *Europe* do for the same Commodity.

The 6th Allegation consists only of Inferences from the former.

7th Allegation That there is no possibility of exporting either *Muscovada* Sugar or refined to any Part in *Europe*, not even to *Ireland*, the Prices here being much higher than in any other Part of the World, for which Reason, the Traders in *Ireland* have made Use of the Liberty they have of importing Sugar from *Portugal*.

To prove the 7th Allegation, it may be sufficient to take Notice, that in the Prices current from *Amsterdam*, there are Articles of *Antigua* and *Barbadoes* Sugar printed,

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but for many Months past no Prices have been set against them, there being no such Commodity in the Country, nor is there any mention made of Sugar from any other of the *British* Sugar Colonies, nor of any Price of *British* refined Sugar, and to remark that about 200 Hogsheads of Sugar from the *British* Sugar Colonies, which had been exported in former Years to *Holland*, were reimported last Summer from thence when Sugars here were much cheaper than they have been since.

And that though some Sugars have been exported to *Ireland* many Months since, before the *Bahia* Fleet came Home, and before they could be supplied from *Portugal*, that since they have been supplied from thence, it would be absurd to suppose they would order any from hence at much higher Prices.

In looking back on the Account of the annual Exports of *Muscovada* Sugar for five Years past, since the Peace of *Aix-la-Chapelle*, I was greatly surprized, that in
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some of those Years the Exports appear very considerable, it would have been miraculous if the *Hamburgers*, the *Flemings*, or even our good Friends the *Dutch*, had discovered the same Partiality to the *British* Planters, as they meet with from a fond Mother, by giving them a Price much superior to what they may buy for of the *French*.

But, Sir, the Mystery was easily explain'd, by enquiring to what Part of the World these Sugars were exported? Why, Sir, to a very near Relation, the Kingdom of *Ireland*, who being debarred as we are from *French* Sugars, and not being always able to supply themselves from *Portugal*, are frequently obliged to comply with the exorbitant Prices of our Market, besides that, when they have Sugars from *England*, the Duty paid here is entirely drawn back, and they pay in *Ireland* a Duty only of 1s. 7d. Sterl. per C. whereas *Portugal* Sugars upon their Importation into *Ireland* pay a Duty there of 3s. 5d. Sterling per C. And here again the Planters are indebted to a Manufacture,
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which I am told some of them affect to despise, *i. e.* the refining of Sugar, for as I am credibly informed, the Home Consumption of *Ireland* is greatly increased of late Years by the Increase of Refiners and Refining Houses, and the Consumption of *Ireland* may I think properly be called Home Consumption, the Exports of *Muscovada* Sugar the last five Years, appear to be greatly reduced by deducting those to *Ireland*.

	C.	C.	C.	Ton.
From Christmas 1747, to Christmas 1748.	116447	48936	67511	3375
1749.	127958	67285	60673	3033
1750.	107873	101668	62058	310
1751.	43769	41383	2386	119
1752.	34727	34063	664	33

I shall only remark that for the three last Years there have not been exported to any other Part of *Europe*, (excepting *Ireland*) above 363 Ton, and of that about 200 Hogheads or 100 Ton were reimported last Summer.

I must admit likewise that some few refined Sugars have been exported last Summer,

mer, a considerable Proportion of them to *Ireland*, and some double refined Loaves, which is a Sort that the *French* do not generally make, to very distant Parts of the World, where the State of *European* Markets are not speedily known, and in this the Drawback on refined Sugar of 9s. per C. wisely and kindly allowed by the Government, has just enabled us to export, a very few, Part of which were as Stores for *East-India* and some other long Voyages.

8th Allegation That the very great Disparity of the Price of Sugar here and in *France*, *Flanders* and *Holland*, is as strong Temptation to smuggle Sugar from thence to the great Injury of the Government, and of the fair Trader; and your Petitioners are credibly informed, that large Quantities of refined Sugar, are smuggled into *Scotland*, and that in other Parts of the Kingdom, *French* Sugar Loaves are sold at a much lower Price than they can be afforded by our own Refiners.

To prove the 8th Allegation, a Letter to Messrs. *Smiths* and *Nash* from *Aberdeen*, was produced, mentioning 140,000 lb. of *Dutch* Loaf Sugar, and 30,000 lb. of powder Sugar smuggled into *Scotland* within six Months past, and Mr. *Coope* proved Quantities of *Dutch* Loaf Sugar smuggled into *Sunderland*, besides Mr. *Frewin's* Evidence mentioned before.

9th Allegation That the deficient Importation of Sugar is of great Detriment to the Manufacture of refining Sugar, wherein a great Number of Families in almost every Part of the Kingdom, are now concerned, and a great Number of Hands employed, and which gives Employment and Maintenance to many other Manufacturers, and pays considerable Taxes to the Government; for by the present Scarcity they are deprived of Sugar to refine (nor can the common People afford to pay for refining a Commodity already so dear) to their great Loss, being obliged to very large Expences, even when they have no Employment, and to the Loss
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of all those who depend on their Manufacture, and by the present immoderate Price can have no Hopes of exporting any Part of their Produce, which when they were enabled to do their Labour, and Expence was repaid them by Foreigners, and defeats the wise Intentions of the Legislature, in granting a Bounty upon the Export of Sugar refined in *Great Britain*.

One very good Proof that we are Sufferers by the present deficient Importation of Sugars is, that we have signed this Petition; for in general we are not addicted to complain, and we can appeal to this Hon. House, that we have seldom troubled them with Petitions. But our Book-keepers can prove how little many of us have refined this Year, in Comparison of what we have done, or could do; some of the Sugar Brokers have confirmed the same. Our Book-keepers will prove likewise, that we must be at great Expences even when unemployed; as to those who have been employed, it is difficult for them as yet to judge of their Success; but if I may judge,
they

they will be glad to find themselves at the Years End without Los of some Part of their Capital.

We shall prove that our Numbers are not inconsiderable. I have not made an exact Computation, but it is the general Opinion that there are about eighty refining Houses in and about *London*, and twenty at least at *Bristol*; it is very well known that there are likewise refining Houses at *Chester*, *Liverpool*, *Lancaster* and *Whitehaven*, at *Newcastle*, *Hull* and *Southampton*, and some in *Scotland*; I think there can hardly be fewer than 120 in all. If we reckon six to each Family and nine yearly working Servants employed in each Manufacture, the Number of People immediately concerned will amount to 1800, besides the Manufacturers depending upon us, which it is not necessary now to number, but there will be a List of them produced, and the vast Quantities of Coals consumed by us will likewise be mentioned, which pay a very high Tax to the Government. But, upon this Occasion we are joined by the Grocers and other Dealers

Dealers in Sugar, who throughout the Kingdom with their Families and Dependants, are no inconsiderable Body, so that if our joint Numbers were fairly computed, we might in Number at least equal all the white Inhabitants of *Jamaica* though not in Wealth, for we have no exclusive Privilege, and our Numbers are an Impediment to our Wealth.

It has been proved that 3-4ths at least of the *Muscovada* Sugar imported from our Plantations, are bought for refining, so that we are to the Planters their principal Benefactors, and it would be unkind, it would be ungrateful to treat us with Contempt, for we are almost their only Customers, now that they have lost all the foreign Markets by their exorbitant Prices, and depend entirely on Home Consumption; but, Sir, we do not mean to set ourselves in Competition with the Inhabitants of all the Sugar Colonies, either for Numbers, Wealth, or Consequence to the Public. We wish well to the Sugar Colonies, we have shewn it to the best of our Power, our Interest ought to be

be united, but give me leave to say their present exclusive Privilege, and the Use that has been made of it, is not only inconsistent with our Interest, but with that of the whole Kingdom. It is a heavy Tax on all the People of *Great Britain*, for by some Computations already made, and that will be made, it amounts to more than 1s. in the Pound Land Tax; give me leave to put this Hon. House in Mind of the Prices in *France* compared with ours, exclusive of the Duty. Our Planters have said, and have printed, that they can produce Sugars as cheap as the *French*, I believe they are able though not willing. It has been proved at your Bar, that they buy Negroes 50 per Cent. cheaper than the *French* do, that they buy Provisions cheaper, and that they pay less Freight, and have Money at lower Interest than the *French* Planters. If their Planters can subsist, how vast must the Gains of ours be?

Computing therefore the Average Price of *British* Sugars this last Year to have been 49s. per C. which has been proved, and deducting

deducting 5s. per C. for the Duty paid here, and 1s. per C. for the Duty paid in *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Islands*, which is more than it can amount to paid on the Spot, and free from Freight and other Charges, and twice as much as it would amount to in the *French* Islands, and to which *Jamaica* is not subject, these Deductions will reduce the Price to 34s. per C. net Money.

The *French* Sugars are sold at 19s. per C. on an Average not absolutely clear of Duty, for there is a Duty of 3 per Ct. on the Value continued to the domain'd Occident, even after Exportation; but small Matters are not worth mentioning; I say then the Surplus to the *British* Planter is 15s. per C. or 15l. per Ton upon 41000 Ton the Quantity imported this Year, which amounts to 615000l. Sterling a Gain of 75 per C. Money on the *French* Planters Capital and Profits, or three entire Parts in seven of the whole Price Sugar is here sold for.

This speedy Accumulation of Wealth, I fear, may prove pernicious even to our Planters

ers themselves, by promoting Idleness and Extravagance, and by encouraging still more of them to quit their Plantations for the Pleasures of this Capital, and to leave their Estates in the *West-Indies* to the Care, or rather to the Neglect, of Stewards or Slaves. *Jamaica* is already allowed to be insecure through the small Number of its white Inhabitants, and it is represented as extremely difficult to procure more: What must become of it if still more deserted by its present Owners? Should a War, happen will it not be exposed an easy Prey to the first Invader? which Heaven avert!

I cannot help thinking it would be very good Policy for Gentlemen of large Estates to abate considerably of their present exorbitant Gains, in order to render their great Possessions there more secure.

The Policy of the Court of *France*, which has been often mentioned by our Planters as an Example in Sugar Affairs, has caused that Government to treat our Manufacture with great Tenderness, as will appear

appear to any Gentleman who will consult the Arrêts du Conseil, particularly the Arrêt of 1698, where, after establishing several Regulations which regard the Duties on Sugar, one of which is the Reduction of the Duty on *Muscovada* Sugar, from four Livres to three, this very Reason is assigned for it: 'A n'en point laisser manquer les Rafineries du Royaume,' that the Refineries of the Kingdom may not fail of a Supply, by which it appears that they consider our Manufacture worthy of Protection and Encouragement. And further to shew that we are not quite contemptible, the King of *Prussia* has lately set up a refining House at *Berlin*, and I am credibly inform'd that he has put it under the Direction of a Person of the first Distinction: Nay more, some of the principal Planters of *Jamaica*, as we can prove to this Hon. Committee, have not disdained to concern themselves in this Manufacture in *Jamaica*.

But I will no longer tire this Hon. House with Circumstances relating to our own Importance, but will humbly implore your Protection

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Protection from impending Ruin, as dutiful Subjects and industrious Manufacturers, and we will rely upon it, for it is the Character of a great and good Government.

Parcere subjēctis et debellare superbos.

10th Allegation. That the Inhabitants and Proprietors of *Jamaica*, though they have many hundred thousand Acres of Land fit for Sugar Plantations, which, as they have publicly declared, are sufficient to supply all *Europe* with Sugar, and are exempt from the Tax of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per C. to which our other Sugar Islands are subject, have notwithstanding forbore to cultivate them, but instead thereof have practised the Trade of refining Sugar there, and to encourage it have imposed a Duty of no less than 6d. per Pound on all refined Sugar imported from *Great Britain*, to the great Detriment of the Navigation and Revenue of this Kingdom as well as of your Petitioners.

To prove this Allegation, Evidence was produced that there were two Years ago seven refining Houses in *Jamaica*,
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containing sixteen Pans; that it is computed four Negroes are employed to each Pan, which amounts to sixty four Negroes, who might have been employed in increasing their Plantations; and to prove the laying a Duty of 6d. per Pound on refined Sugar imported into *Jamaica* from *England*, part of an Act of Assembly made in *Jamaica* in the Year 1728 was read.

11th Allegation. That in some of the other *British* Sugar Islands Refineries are likewise set up, which Practice is injurious to the Navigation and Revenue, by diminishing the Quantity of *Muscovada* Sugar, which would otherwise be imported, and interferes with the Manufactures of refining Sugar here.

To prove this Allegation, Evidence was likewise produced of five Refining Houses at *Antigua*, two at *St. Kitts*, and one at *Montserrat*, and of several in the *North Colonies*.

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