

have indeed taxed Leather, but not, I presume, as a Point of Policy. Nine Parts in ten of the Articles of Luxury are important Branches of Trade and Manufacture, and the taxing these Species of Luxury is taxing Trade and Manufactures. But Luxury which is prejudicial to the Publick ought to be taxed.

Is then the keeping Silver Plate in our Houses a Species of Luxury prejudicial to the Publick? Since this Measure has been agitated I have heard that it is, and the Opinion has been founded on this Maxim, that nothing ought to be hoarded, but that every Thing should be brought into Circulation. The Maxim may be true to a Degree, but the applying it to wrought Silver is extraordinary. If the keeping in our Houses wrought Plate is to be restrained, the buying it for that Purpose will of Course be restrained. What then becomes of that considerable and gainful Article of Manufacture? No Matter what becomes of it, since it must certainly be very detrimental to the Publick, by tempting People to hoard, what, it seems, it is for the good of the Publick to have brought into Circulation.

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