

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

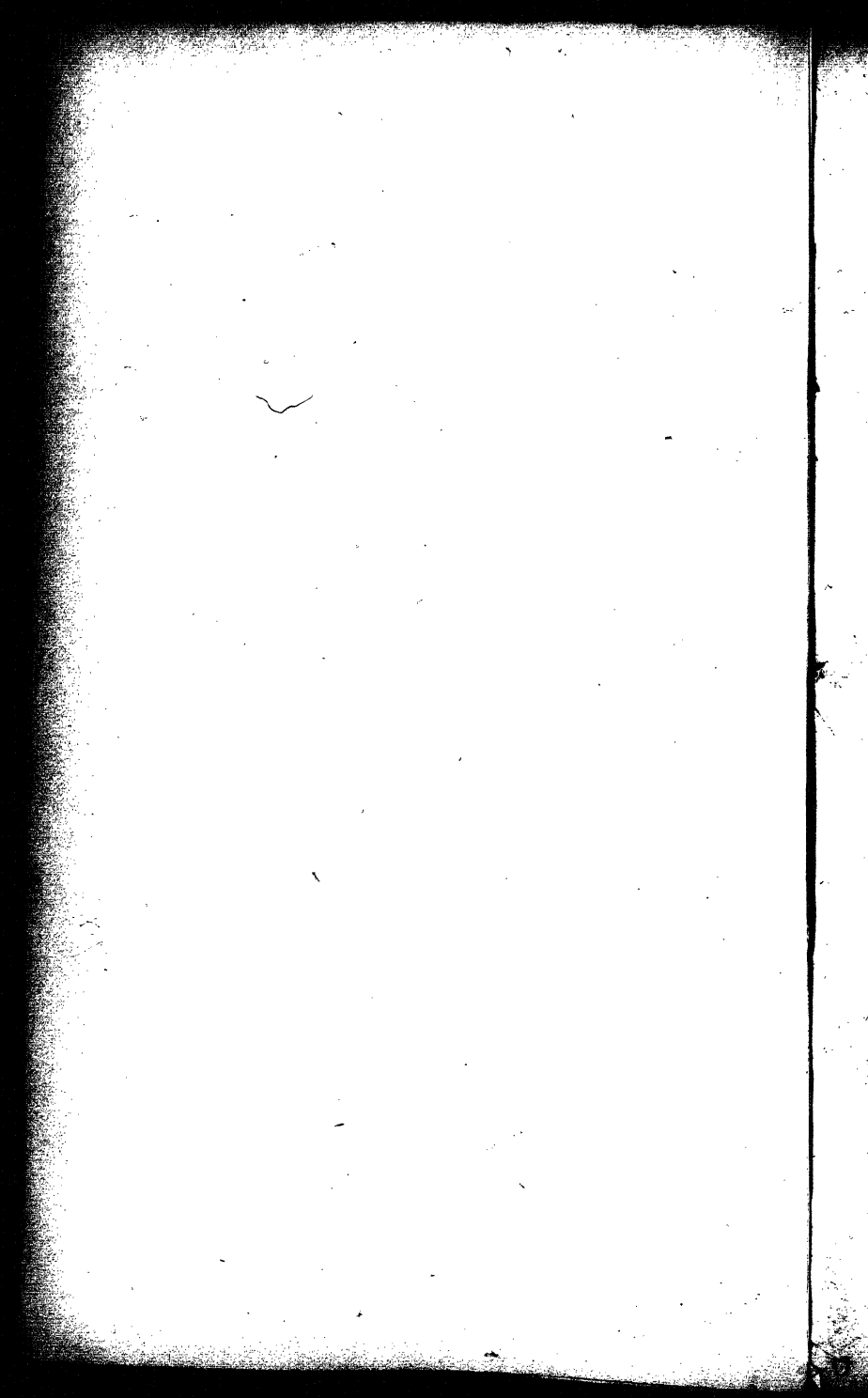
The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coloured covers/
Couverture de couleur | <input type="checkbox"/> Coloured pages/
Pages de couleur |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Covers damaged/
Couverture endommagée | <input type="checkbox"/> Pages damaged/
Pages endommagées |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Covers restored and/or laminated/
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée | <input type="checkbox"/> Pages restored and/or laminated/
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover title missing/
Le titre de couverture manque | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coloured maps/
Cartes géographiques en couleur | <input type="checkbox"/> Pages detached/
Pages détachées |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Showthrough/
Transparence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coloured plates and/or illustrations/
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of print varies/
Qualité inégale de l'impression |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bound with other material/
Relié avec d'autres documents | <input type="checkbox"/> Includes supplementary material/
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion
along interior margin/
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la
distorsion le long de la marge intérieure | <input type="checkbox"/> Only edition available/
Seule édition disponible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blank leaves added during restoration may
appear within the text. Whenever possible, these
have been omitted from filming/
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées
lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte,
mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont
pas été filmées. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata
slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to
ensure the best possible image/
Les pages totalement ou partiellement
obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure,
etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à
obtenir la meilleure image possible. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional comments:/
Commentaires supplémentaires: | |

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	14X	18X	22X	26X	30X
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12X	16X	20X	24X	28X	32X



BRITAIN'S

Golden Mines discover'd :

OR, THE

Fishery Trade considered,

Under these Three Heads,

- I. What Benefit *Britain* may reap by it.
- II. Which is the most probable Way of recovering it.
- III. The Three great Fishing Trades, *viz.* That upon our own Coasts, That upon the Coasts of *Greenland*, and that upon the Coasts of *Newfoundland*, particularly examined.

I N A

L E T T E R

F R O M

Sally Fisher, at *PARIS*,

T O

Mally Loverus, at *LONDON*.

London : Printed for *J. Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*. Price 1 s. 1720.

BRITAIN

London Office of the

Editorial Board

It is the duty of the Editor to select the material which is to be published in the paper. It is also his duty to see that the material is presented in an interesting and readable form.

The Editor is also responsible for the accuracy of the facts and figures given in the paper. It is his duty to see that the facts are correctly stated and that the figures are correctly calculated.

ARTICLE

THE

OF THE

OF THE

OF THE

*To all Honest and Good-natur'd
Readers, and in particular to my
Fellow Sufferers the Ladies and
Spinsters of Great-Britain and
Ireland, Dominion of Wales, and
Town of Berwick upon Tweed,
and Colonies and Plantations
thereto belonging.*

THE following Letter, which
I now communicate to you,
was writ to me some Time ago ; I
used the Freedom with my Com-
rade to shew it to some of our Ac-
quaintance here, both Male and
Female ; they all were of my Opi-
nion, that it ought to be Printed,
because it might, perhaps, give
some People a different Way of
thinking about Trade, from what
they have. I therefore write to *Sal-
ly* the Opinion of her Acquaintance
here, and desired a Liberty from
her to publish it to the World,
A 2 which

which she has had the good Nature to grant me: If any of you therefore learn a new Thought from what she writes, you owe Thanks only to her.

It is not to be presum'd, that the Merchants and other People who have apply'd themselves particularly to the Study of the Theory of Trade, should learn any thing new about it from a Female Pen, but as she says, the Ladies she hopes, will read it, for they are always fond to enquire into the Productions of their own Sex; and if the Ladies do, she is sure all the Beaus will read it, whose Heads are not generally so extremely full of Ideas, but that she conceives Hopes to tell them something they, before, knew Nothing of: From those who learn Nothing she expects good Nature and Forgiveness, and from those who learn, she seeks only a generous Acknowledgement of the Obligation,

igation, and for these only she writes: She values not those four splenatick, ill-natur'd Pedants who can take Notice of nothing in any Performance, but the Faults, tho' she is apt to believe, they will be well enough pleas'd with her Letter; for as the true Criticks Pleasure consists in the Beauties of any Work, so theirs consists in the Blemishes, and when they can find nothing to carp at, they are out of Humour, and cry, there is Nothing in it: It is observ'd, that every Man likes best, what most resembles himself: It is therefore no Wonder these Pedants should be most in Love with the Shades, or as I may call them, the Beauty Spots of any Production of Wit or Judgment; their Minds are full of Shades, and their Understandings always under a Cloud, and for that Reason they cannot look upon any thing that shines with a refulgent Brightness,

[vi.]

it dazzles the weak Eyes of their cloudy Understandings.

Nor will she regard much the envious Reproaches of those People who learn from her but are too proud to acknowledge it; and lest they should be thought to have learned from her what they really gather from her Writings, take all the Pains they can to revile and undervalue their Benefactor.

One Favour my Correspondent particularly begs of you good Ladies and Gentlemen, that you will not sit down to read her Letter when you are oppressed with the Spleen; it may, perhaps, prevent the Spleen, but she dare not pretend that it has Force enough to banish that Tyrant from a Place which he has once got Possession of. She therefore intreats of you, Ladies, that you would sit down to read this Letter in a clear Sun-shine Day, just after you return from the Ring, and
have

have had the Satisfaction to observe your self and your Equipage more taken Notice of than any Liveryman, Coach, or Thing within, that was there ; or in a warm *May Evening*, after you return from having walk'd in *Kensington Gardens* with a new brocade Suit, which turn'd the Eyes of the whole People in the Gardens upon it, while you was pleas'd to think that they all gaz'd at you ; or after coming from a Tea-table, where you first heard the News of *Clarinda* the famous Toast's tying her Apron a little too high, and being neglected by the false, tho' fine Gentleman, who prevail'd with her to do so.

And of you, pretty Fellows, according to your several Ranks and Degrees, she desires you would come rightly prepared to read her Book : She desires the dapper City Apprentice to put on his new Natural Perriwig, his red topt Shoes, or his

new silk Morning Gown, and after some pleasant Views of a fine Gentleman in his Glass, and standing a while at his Shop Door, to kill all the Ladies that have the Misfortune to pass that Way, to sit down and read. She hopes the Beaus about *Will's* or *Tom's* will buy a new Diamond Brilliant, an embroidered Suit, or a Tortoiseshell Cane, before they look upon her Writings: And she entreats those witty Gentlemen who frequent the *Rose-Tavern* and the Brandyshops in *Drury*, who can put an impudent Face upon it, and shew all the Ladies in the Pit and Boxes, that they have Courage enough to speak to a Whore in the second Gallery, to take up her Book just after they have first prevailed upon their Landress or the Kitchen-Wench to grant them a Favour: She desires the Gamester to read it after a lucky Run at Game; the Stock-Jobber who has

fold

fold Refusals after falling of Stocks : The Lawyer after getting a retaining Fee from a rich Client : The Statesman after the Fall of his Rival Favourite ; and the poor Wit, after he hears a great Lord repeat his Pun : In short, She desires every Body to come to her in good Humour, and expressly forbids any Person to touch her Book in a gloomy Day, unless they are at a warm Fire Side, with a Bottle of good Wine on the Table, and Money enough in their Pocket.

I cannot but blame the Custom of our Country which makes it unfashionable for fine Ladies to know any thing about Business : In my Opinion it would much better become a Shopkeeper's Wife to set up for understanding the Trade her Husband deals in, than to set up for a Wit, and a nice Judge of Plays and Opera's. I cannot see any Reason why we have not Girls as well

as Boys bred Apprentices to most sorts of Shop-keeping in and about the City of *London*; it would be a great Help to a young Shop-keeper that his Wife could keep his Shop and Books as well as any Servant he could hire.

Our Women might likewise be made much more useful to the Nation by being bred to several sorts of Mechanick Trades, which, at present, are thought proper only for Men, for no other Reason, but because it's the Custom. I would be glad to hear a good Reason why Women may not be, Taylors, Perriwig-makers, Weavers, &c. as well as Men; for my Part, I think these Employments more proper for Women than Men. I wonder the Men are not ashamed of their Usurpations upon us; what a Scandal is it to see a tall brawny young Fellow, sitting all Day upon a Table with his Legs a-cross, and a Needle

in

in his Hand : Such are more proper to be bred Seamen, Wrights or Smiths, which require Strength as well as Art : I think, indeed, it's no Fault in the Government to make their own Use, sometimes, of these idle legg'd Gentlemen, when there is any Use for Recruits.

For the Ladies of Quality and Estates, they will find Business enough, if they look narrowly to the Management and Conduct of their Family : If they understood Book-keeping, and had a Servant for that End, they would know much better than they do, how the Rents of their Estates are consum'd : If they can spare any leisure Hours, they ought rather to employ them in reading some good Book, than in sitting over a Tea-table, speaking and hearing Scandal of all their Friends and Acquaintance.

The natural Love I have for my own Sex forces me to wish, that
 a 2 they

they were all bred to some Business or other, and not allow'd to depend entirely upon the Fortune and Industry of their Husbands. It would prevent the Misery of a great many of the poorer Sort. I am perswaded that many of those poor abandon'd Wretches, who walk the Streets and expose themselves to the vilest sort of Men, do it meerly for Want of Bread: Tho' their own Mismanagement or Wickedness may, at first, lead them into that Way of Living, or rather Starving; yet I have the Charity to think, that few or none of them continue long in it without being sensible of their Wickedness and Misfortune, but then they cannot get out of it; being generally bred to no Business, they cannot live by their own handy Work, and no honest Body will take them into their House as a Servant, so that for Want of Bread to their Teeth, they are forc'd to continue in their
Lewd-

Lewdness. Many Parents have the Misfortunes of their Children to answer for, by breeding them up in Idleness they expose them to all the Temptations of the World; for Idleness is always the Mother of Wick- edness.

Some little Business is necessary even to Ladies of Estates, they often fall into an Intrigue for Want of other Employment, which generally ends in the Ruin of at least their Character and Reputation. And their having something to do would prevent, in a great Measure, that fashionable Disease the Spleen or Vapours: It is rather a Disease of the Mind than of the Body, and is more ready to seize one of a sanguine and lively Constitution, than those of a dull and heavy Spirit. To talk like a Doctor, the animal Spirits of the Sanguine are always in a Ferment, and if they are not directed to some certain End, they run in-

to an irregular and confus'd Motion, which disturbs all the Faculties of the Mind, and makes the Person affected uneasie, without knowing at what : Even that sort of Spleen which is the Effect of what we call a dull or foggy Day, proceeds from the same Cause, *viz.* the not knowing what to do with our selves : The busie Part of the World are little more subject to the Spleen in this sort of Weather, than in any other, but the idle are quickly sensible of a dull or rainy Day ; they are at some Loss how to pass away a fair Day, and at a much greater how to dispose of themselves in rainy Weather, so that if they fall not upon some House Divertisement, they loiter idly in a Coffee-house or in their own Rooms, till they sink deep into the Spleen.

It is impossible for any Body to give a satisfactory Description of this Disease, it is never the same in

two Persons, yea, it has often different Effects upon the same Man or Woman: It may be call'd a Kind of Anger, or, if you will, a Disposition to be angry; it may likewise be esteem'd a Degree of Grief, whose Cause is so trivial, that it's not to be perceiv'd. Whatever it is, it's now a most fashionable Disease, and is of an old standing, for it seems to have been in Being in the Days of *Augustus* first Emperor of *Rome*, tho' for what I remember, they had no particular Name for it, the Reason of which I believe is, that it was not then become a Custom for Ladies in this Distemper to employ Physicians, the worthy Godfathers of all Diseases. However *Horace* gives us an Account of his being infected with it, as appears by the Description of his Disease in the the eighth Epistle of his first Book, which *Creech* so translates:

Tet

*Yet say, what ill, unpleasant Life I live :
 Not 'cause the Hail doth break my Vines, or Heat
 My Corn, nor cause my Olives shrink with Beat ;
 Or Herbs grow sickly in my foreign Plain ;
 No, but because my Soul is vex'd with Pain,
 (The Body sound) it is a sharp Disease,
 And yet I can't endure to hear of Ease :
 I storm at my Physician, hate my Friend,
 Because they strive to wake my drowsy Mind :
 What's good I hate, and what will hurt approve,
 Unsettled still, and as wild Fancies rove,
 At Tyber, Rome, at Rome, I, Tyber love.*

The Expression is much stronger in the *La-
tine* ; they who understand it, may look to
it in the Original.

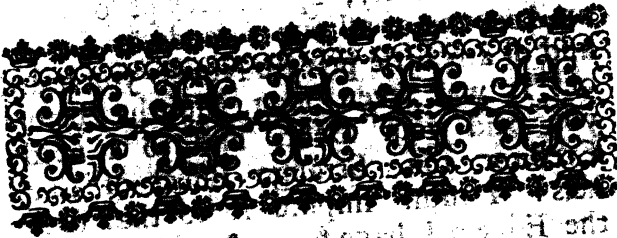
Tho' there are none of my Sex loves
 their own Ease better than I do, yet I have
 always kept my self-employed about some-
 thing or another, and still before one thing
 is done, I contrive some new Business for
 my self, so that there is never an Hour of
 my Life, but I have some set Work to do.
 This I tell you, my dear Splenatick Ladies
 by Way of Advice, for if you follow my
 Example, your Husbands, Servants, and
 yourselves will lead a much pleasanter
 Life than you do ; which are the hearty
 Wishes of,

Good, Gentlemen and Ladies,

Your most sincere Friend,

MALLY LOVERUS.

(1)



BRITAIN'S

Golden Mines Discover'd :

OR THE

Fisbery Trade Confer'd, &c.

M A D A M,



OUR Friendship has, at
last, got the better of your
Indolence: You have, at
last, fulfill'd your Promise
to me; you may remem-
ber our mutual Engage-
gements at Parting: I
promised, that as soon as I was at *Paris*
I would send you my Address; I did it
accordingly: You oblig'd your self to send
me

B

me immediately, upon Receipt of mine, an Account of all our Friends at *London*, and of any little private Novels you heard of. It was seven long Months before you paid your Debt, and to a needy Creditor too. Strange Effect of Laziness! I must impute it to that only; the Esteem I have for you will not allow me to impute it to any thing else; nay, upon my own Account I dare not impute it to your Neglect of me, the very Thought would torment me. For God's-sake consider the Longings of an absent Friend, take Courage and be a little more active, then shall I frequently hear from you.

I have often told you, that you allow that natural Inclination you have to Study and Retirement to prevail too much upon you; when it gets the better of either Man or Woman, it renders them entirely useless for Society, and unfit for the Business of this Life. I think we were both much obliged to our Fathers for giving us an Education far beyond what is ordinarily given to the Ladies of our Country. It is good Policy in the Men to debar Women from the Qualification of Learning; most of the Beaus among them would look like what they really are, in the Eyes of our Sex, if we had all the Advantages of Edu-

Education they have ; we could admire the Perriwig-Maker or the Taylor without admiring the empty Creature, who seeks Esteem only from their Performances. Many of the fine Fops who now a Days pass for what the Men call good Womens Men, and are esteem'd great Wits among the Ignorant and Thoughtless Things of our Sex, would soon be discover'd to be mere trifling Coxcombs, if our Parents would teach us how to adorn our Minds as well as they teach us how to adorn our Bodies : A gold Snuff-box, a clouded Cane, or a Diamond Brilliant would not then make such Havock of poor Female Hearts as at present they do ; we could distinguish betwixt the Wit of a Man's Head, and that of his Heels, and put a Difference betwixt the fine Gentleman and the Dancing-Master.

I shall never enough admire my Father's Fortitude, who stood the Shock of a laughing World, who dared to get out of the common Road, and teach his Daughter to understand Latine. I learn'd it when other Girls were drinking Tea, or diverting themselvs with some such idle Amusement. It never retarded my acquiring any of the ordinary Accomplishments of my Sex ; but how often has it since diverted me from the Spleen :

That modish Disease called the Vapours is quite a Stranger to me; a Page in *Virgil* or an Ode of *Horace* I have always found a sovereign Remedy against all Attacks of that constant Plague and troublesome Attendant of idle Mortals, call'd the Spleen. The little Insight I have got into that Language has given me such a Desire of Knowledge, that I have always something to do, I have not Time for the Vapours. Knowledge is like Wine, the more one has of it, the more he desires, and of both one may suck in too great a Quantity. But above all, the Advantages I have got by my Education, I prize its making you my Friend. The mutual Esteem our Fathers bore to each other, first began our Acquaintance, and the Conformity of our Age, Education and Inclinations rooted and increased our Friendship: The only Difference I can find betwixt us is, that I apply my Education towards the Business of this Life, and the Advancement of my Fortune in the World, whereas you apply all yours towards the Learning how to be busie without Business, and how to be diverted without Company.

You desire a Character of the Regent, Mr. *Laws*, and the French Nation. The Regent, you know, is a Prince, a Man of
great

great Power, therefore his Character ought not to be medled with while he is alive. If a Prince's Character is bad, no Man for his own Sake ought describe it, and if the Character is good, one runs the Risque of being esteem'd a Flatterer, and of offending a wise Prince if he gives his Character while he is alive. I shall therefore say nothing of the Regent; I cannot say what I ought, and I am afraid you would not believe what I could. I am perswaded his Character will be transmitted by Fame to Posterity, much more to his Advantage than People will at present believe.

You know I was in *France* before the late King died, and was then much in Love with the French Genius, tho' I did not much admire the Use they at that Time made of it: They had a King upon the Throne, who as every Body must confess, was a great Man; yet he was too much given to Gallantry, publick Show and Divertisment to be King of that People; their lively Spirit is easily influenc'd, and the Genius of their King during his long Reign, spread and rooted it self so in the Country, that one may almost say, *France* was a Nation of Lovers. That great Country was a Kind of *Opera-Stage*, where every French Man and Wo-

man

man acted their Part, every Body sung and danc'd every where, even along the Streets: Altho' their King in the midst of his Gallantry always minded his Business, yet the Subjects for the most Part minded Nothing but Gallantry: They, like all other Imitators, unluckily neglected the principal Part of that Character, they affected to imitate.

In the Midst of this their Distraction, I observed that frugal, active, enterprising and alert Spirit which is the most proper for Business, and is more universal in this Country than in any other I ever travelled in. I saw that if ever they got a King, whose Head turn'd entirely upon Trade and Projects of that Kind, we would have more to fear from the Power of *France* growing by Trade, than ever we had to fear from the Power of *France* growing by Conquest. Conquest in a long Tract of Time may make the conquering Nation powerful, but as long as the least Glimpse of Liberty can touch the Hearts of the Conquer'd, the Conquests will be a Burthen upon the Conquerors.

What the French Nation wanted they have now got; they have a Prince at their Head whose chief Study is not to divert them, but to employ them; not to make
them

them glorious Slaves, but to make them rich Subjects : And this Prince is so lucky and so well knows Mankind, that he has found and pick'd out a Man so fit for being his prime Minister, that by the Projects of the one, and unlimited Power of the other, *France* has already done beyond what the World can conceive, and if they two live awhile together, it will yet do beyond what any one can at present imagine.

I say the unlimited Power of the other, for if the Regent had been subject to a Parliament, or his Power any Ways limited, he could never have brought his Projects to bear so well as they have done. Tho' in general it's an Advantage to a People to have their Monarchy limited, yet when a wise and prudent Man comes to reign over them, the less limited his Power is, the better for the Nation. But since there are always more weak Men than wise Men in the World, therefore I think a limited Monarchy, to take it in the General, more convenient than an absolute and arbitrary Sovereign

As for Mr. *Laws*, I shall say nothing of him, because I am not able to say what he deserves; but as the Painter cover'd with a Veil what his Pencil could not ex-

press, so shall I cover with the Cloud of Silence, that Character which is too sublime for my Pen to describe.

What strange Things happen in One's Life time? I who came here to Dance, Sing, and be Merry, to frequent Opera's, Balls, Masquerades, and to spend my Money, never had so much as the least Thought of either: You know I am always for observing that Precept, *Cum fueris Roma, Romano vivito more*: The time I was here formerly, the People were all Dancers and Singers, I danc'd and sung with them; when I last arriv'd I found their Heads all turn'd upon Trade and Stock-jobbing: I turn'd my Head likewise that Way, I jobb'd a little, and so have made my self Rich: Having pickt up as much Money as I think I have use for, I now begin to long for a little Dancing and Mirth, you know I like it much, I do not know the Reason of it; but there is something so agreeable in the Company of sprightly young Fellows of Sense, that I must confess I am pleas'd to see them, and delight in their Conversation. I hope you are perswaded that I keep as close a Watch over all the Minutes of my Life, and have as great a Regard for my Honour as any other of my Sex; but I do not desire to be thought such a Prude,

Prude, as not to have the least Pleasure in the Company of a real fine Gentleman: No, Nature is not quite extinguish'd in me, Modesty and Religion are equal in this, that neither of them exclude the innocent Pleasures of Life. I never saw a Man who made a great Noise with his Religion, but design'd to cover the Knave with that Cloak: Nor did I ever see a Lady who bragg'd much of her Modesty and storm'd at a Gentleman's stealing a Kiss, or taking her by the Hand in Publick, but who could patiently take a pretty Gentleman in private under her bashful Petticoat; all these great Pretenders either to Religion or Modesty, are like Dr. Garth's Pretender to Business.

*In Haste he Strides along to Recompence
The want of Business with its vain Pretence.*

It gives me much Joy to hear that my Countrymen are beginning to have some Thought about the Fishing Trade. The Seas belonging to *Britain* conceal in their Bosoms, Treasures much more advantageous, and more convenient for *Britain*, (if we would but search for them) than all the golden Mines of *Peru* and *Mexico*. If People consider right, even Gold is but a Commodity, a kind of Manufacture,

C

and

and has this Disadvantage attending it, that the Workmen there employ'd are but few, and generally Slaves, not Subjects, whereas all other Manufactures employ and maintain great Numbers of natural Subjects. If I had time, I could shew you that Gold and Silver Mines are generally the Ruin of the Country that has them; and I believe could easily demonstrate that Money may be over plenty in a Country, as well as too scarce, but of this another time.

Of all Manufactures or Trades, certainly that of the Fishing is of the greatest Consequence to *Britain*, whose Safety depends upon its Number of Seamen. Since you desire it, I shall write you my Thoughts of the *British Fishery*, and how it may be most easily and most probably recover'd.

It is perhaps a little arrogant in me to pretend to know any thing about Trade, and I would rather chuse to be silent than expote my self to the Censure of the World, if I thought they were to know what I am to say upon that Head. But I presume as I have always done, to tell you my Thoughts freely, some of them may be right, they cannot all be so; there is nothing perfect under the Sun. It makes me the more forward,
that

(II)

that I have always observ'd, that when Women do think, their Thoughts are generally as well receiv'd by the World, as the Thoughts of Men, and the World is the truest Touchstone of every Thought that proceeds, either from Man or Woman, which makes me ready to believe that it's our own Merit, not the Worlds good Breeding, that makes them give such a favourable Reception to the Productions of the Fair.

What is most surprizing to me is, that in this Particular, we have often the Ladies upon our Side; they are not so ready to reproach us for being beneficial to the World in this Way, as for being beneficial to it by Productions of another Kind. This makes me think, that there are not so many Ladies who covet to be Authors, as there are that covet to be Mistresses; they do not envy us the Joys we receive from being agreeable to the World as an Author, but if a poor young Creature happen to seem agreeable to a fine Gentleman, and to receive a Favour from him, the rest are all in an Uproar, they envy her the Joy of being a Mistress, and therefore their Malice is let loose against her.

But now to the Fishing Business, I must for a little lay aside the Epistolary
C 2 Strain,

Strain, and take up that of the Declaimer. That you may take the better along with you what I say, I shall follow some sort of Method.

I shall first shew what Advantages *Britain* may reap by the Fishery.

Then I shall tell you, which in my Opinion is the most probable Way of recovering it.

And last, I shall take a short View of each of the three great Fishing Trades, *viz.* That upon our own Coasts, that upon the Coasts of *Greenland* and *Iceland*, and that upon the Coasts of *Newfoundland*,

In treating of these Three particularly, I shall endeavour to make plain, that *Britain* has by Nature, the Advantage of all other Nations, in every one of the Three, and that we might easily turn every other Nation in the World out of them, if we made the right Use of those Advantages Nature has bestow'd upon Us.

As to the Advantage *Britain* may reap by the Fishing Trade.

Every Body must allow that the Strength and Riches of a Country depends upon the Multiplicity of Inhabitants; every one at work and contributing

ing something to the general Account of Profit of their Country.

Every Man who earns more by the honest Labour, either of his Hands or Head, than he spends Yearly, is in so far a profitable Subject; and that Man who makes less, ought to be thrown out of the Republick, unless by his Services towards it, he deserves the Maintenance his Countrymen are oblig'd to give him. This consider'd, it will be granted, that poor Tradesmen are the most profitable Members of a Republick, and rich idle Gentlemen the Bane of Society.

That Trade then which maintains most of the poorer sort of our People, is of most Advantage to the Country in general: But of all Sorts of poor People, these are of the greatest Consequence who can serve their Country, either by Land or Sea, who are bred up in Dangers, and enur'd from their Cradle to Hardships: Horace's Advice about the Education of Boys is good.

*And let him live and lie abroad,
Midst Dangers, Slaughters, Fears and Blood,
Be tost with all the Storms of Fate
And harden'd up to prop the State.*

Seamen,

Seamen, therefore of all Subjects are the most useful to their Country in time of Danger, and in time of Peace they contribute a great deal towards its Trade and Riches.

If Seamen be necessary to every Country, they must be much more so to *Britain*, whose greatest Strength and Safety consists in their Fleet of Warlike Ships. We by our happy Constitution can have no great standing Army within our selves to defend us from any invading Enemy: Nor have we any fortify'd Towns to protect us, or to put a Stop to their Career. If a powerful invading Enemy once get to Land, we are lost and undone; our raw Soldiers cannot stand against their disciplin'd Troops; we must submit and receive the Yoke of the Invader.

But bountiful Nature has surrounded us with the Ocean, and our wise Forefathers have planted it with an invincible Fleet, which, as long as we possess, will cover us from all Danger. If we wander from the Steps of our Predecessors, and allow our Trade and Shipping to decay, the Numbers of our Seamen will decrease, and the Strength of our Fleet must diminish in Proportion, and we become a Prey to every Invader.

I a
of al
Trac
espe
Fish
Ship
that
fore
rope
Tra
ow
Sea
lige
jost
Du
the
wa
do

by
is
C
th
th
pu
d
S

h
M
h

I am persuaded no Body will deny that of all Trades in the World, the Fishing Trade is the greatest Nursery for Seamen, especially, if one considers, that of the Fishermen employ'd aboard the Fishing Ships, one third, at least, are green Men, that is, such as never were at Sea before. We were the first People in Europe that made any great Figure in that Trade, to which I am apt to believe, we owe the Foundation of our Strength at Sea. We have been of late, by our Negligence and ill Conduct, almost entirely jostled out of it by our Neighbours the Dutch and French, which has increas'd their maritime Strength, far beyond what was possible for them otherwise to have done.

Besides the Advantage this Trade brings by encreasing the Number of Seamen, it is likewise a most profitable Trade to a Country: Whatever Sum they make by their Fish exported, is all clear Gain to the Nation; the Country is at little or no prime Cost; the whole Profit is the Produce of the Labour and Pains of the Subject.

As I pass'd thro' *Holland* in my Way hither, I made some Enquiries into the Nature of their Fishery; the Profit they made by it, and the Number of Ships
and

and Seamen employ'd by them in that Trade; But I had not Time to make them so compleat as that I can communicate them to you or any Body else. The Discoveries I have made into the French Fishery, are as yet in the same Condition, so I shall not trouble you, at this Time, with either: But by the Observations made by other People, it will appear of what vast Consequence the Fishing Trade is, and how much it would redound to the Interest of *England* to prosecute it.

Mr. *Smith*, in his Calculations, computes, that the Profit made in the Fishery Trade by the several Nations of *Europe* engag'd therein, amounts to ten Millions Sterling yearly, and that at least, a half of that Gain belongs to the Dutch. Sir *Walter Raleigh*, indeed, alledges, that the Dutch alone make ten Millions yearly by it; but that is certainly more than it's possible for them to do; tho' I believe the other Calculation of the Dutch Profit is rather too low, for I doubt not but the Dutch make more Profit by their Fishing, than all the other Nations together. I think Mr. *Mun* says, that in his Time, the Value of the Fish exported by our Nation amounted to but 140000 *l.* per *Annus*, and I dare affirm it is not much augmented since. What a small Part
then

then of the ten Millions Profit falls to our Share.

And yet, if we would apply ourselves in good Earnest, to that Trade, it's very certain that we might turn all other Nations out of the most Part of it; at least, we might turn all other Nations so far out of it, that none of them would be able to serve any Country but their own, so that the Profit made by serving all the other Nations of *Europe*, except the *French, Dutch and Dane*, would accrue to us; and I do not reckon that these Nations destroy above one Third Part of the Fish that is destroy'd in *Europe*, so that in a short Time we would export Fish to the Value of at least six Millions yearly more than we do at present: And if our general Ballance of Trade be now at *Par*, this whole Sum must come Home to us in ready Money, which would soon make all the Gold and Silver in *Europe*, centre in this happy Island.

Another Advantage I shall reckon, which I believe few take Notice of, and that is, the Difference of maintaining a Fisherman at Land and at Sea. When they are at Sea, they live most partly upon the Fish they take, and all that they save by lessening the daily Expence

D

of

of their Living, is so much clear Gain to their Country. If a Fisher eats and drinks, when at Land, to the Value of four Pence half-penny *per Day*, which I suppose he will, and when he is at Sea, besides the Fish he eats, he spends not above two Pence half-penny, he then saves two Pence a Day to his Country. If we were in full Possession of the whole Fishing Trade, as we might be, we would have one Day with another, at least thirty thousand Men Aboard our Fishing Ships the whole Year round, upon every Man the Country would save two Pence a Day which they would have spent if they had been at Land, so that upon maintaining these 30000 Men our Country would save 250 *l.* a Day, which in a Year amounts 91250. This is an Advantage reap'd by the Country in no other Trade except that of the Fishing.

It's computed that we import from the *Baltick*, Naval Stores to the Value of four or five hundred thousand Pounds yearly, for most of which we send out ready Money. The Dutch carry Fish there to the Value of one Million Sterling Yearly, from which it's plain, that if we made the best we could of the Fishery, our general Ballance of Trade in that one Branch would gain 5 or 600000 *l.* yearly, instead of losing 400000 *l.* And

And our Merchants who import naval Stores from the *Baltick* could sell them cheaper than it's possible for them now to do, when they must send ready Money for what they are to buy. For Example, let us suppose a Merchant designs now to send for a thousand Pounds worth of naval Stores, for which he expects 8 per Cent Profit, when he gets them Home. If we reckon eighty Pounds to him for Profit, and a hundred Pounds for all Charges, he cannot sell the Cargo of naval Stores he gets Home, under one thousand one hundred and eighty Pounds: But if he can send a Cargo of Fish for what he wants, he may readily get as many Fish here for nine hundred Pounds, as will yield him a thousand Pounds at the Port he sends them to, when he gets Home his Return of Naval Stores, he desires no more but 8 per Cent Profit of the first Stock he paid out for the Fish; so counting a hundred Pounds as before for Charges, and seventy two Pounds for Profit, he may now sell for one thousand seventy two Pounds, as much naval Stores as he formerly could have sold for one thousand one hundred and eighty Pounds. If he is at a little more Expences in sending Fish than he would have been, by sending Money, he saves the Risque of

exporting Money, or which is the same Thing the Exchange, which to the Eastern Country must of Necessity be at present against us.

Besides the vast Advantage this Trade would be to the general Ballance of our Trade, it would bring another great Advantage to the Nation in augmenting to an incredible Degree the Number of our Seamen.

Some compute that the Dutch employ in the Fishing for Herring and Cod upon the Coasts of *Britain* eight thousand Ships, aboard of which they have two hundred thousand Seamen and Fishers.

That they and the *Hamburgers* have yearly at *Greenland* five hundred Ships which will employ at least ten thousand Seamen.

And that the *French*, *Portuguese* and *Spanish Biscayers* send every Year for Fish to *Newfoundland* four hundred Sail of Ships, aboard of which, we may reckon Men and Boys eight thousand: Besides great Numbers of Fishermen that live in the French Plantations about *Cape-Breton*, and assist them in their Fishing.

If our own Countrymen had but any tolerable Conduct and made the best Use of our own Rights and Properties, and of the

the natural Advantages of their Country, they might easily wind themselves into the most Part of every one of these Fishings, and if they did, it's plain from these Calculations, that we might employ upwards of eight thousand Ships, and at least two hundred thousand Seamen more than we do upon this Trade alone, Allowance being made to the Dutch and other Nations of nine hundred Ships for serving their own particuar Countries.

The building of Ships, the making of Nets and other Materials for Fishing, and the curing, ordering and preparing our Fish would employ thirty thousand more People ashoar; and the providing our Seamen and other People employ'd about the Fishery, in Meat, Drink, Cloaths and other Necessaries, would give Bread and Business to sixty or seventy thousand more of our People at Land; so that if we were so lucky as to succeed in our Fishery Business, and turn all those People who now carry it on, out of the Ufurpations they have made upon us, we would add at least two hundred thousand Seamen and a hundred thousand Landmen to the Stock of our People; and the Fish we exported would bring in to us yearly six Millions Sterling, all in ready Cash, if the general Ballance of Trade

be

be now at *Par* or upon our Side, as I believe it is.

Every little fishing Village upon our Coasts, would then increase, and all become rich and populous Cities, and the furnishing of them with Cloaths and other Necessaries for Life, would enrich and augment all our inland Towns. Every Acre of Land in *Britain* would be improved and laid out to the best Advantage, which would encrease the yearly Value of the whole Lands of *Britain*, I may say to at least three or four Times as much as they are at present. Every Gentleman of one thousand a Year Land Estate now, would then become a Man of three or four thousand a Year,

Nor let any Man say that it's impossible to encrease the yearly Value of the Lands of *Britain* so much, one may be easily convince'd of the contrary, by comparing the yearly Value of the Lands in the Province of *Holland*, with the yearly Value of the Lands in *Britain* and *Ireland*. It will be found that in Proportion to the Extent, or Acres contain'd, the yearly Value of the Lands in *Holland* is twenty Times as much as the yearly Value of the Land in *Britain* and *Ireland*. They may therefore bear very well to be encreas'd to triple or quadruple the yearly Value

Value they are now at. I would have our landed Gentlemen consider this, and refuse no Burthen, which at present may be necessary to be laid upon them for setting up and encouraging a Trade which may conduce so much to the Advantage of their Posterity.

Our thriving in this Trade would likewise encourage all the other Branches of our Trade. It would so increase the Number of our Seamen, that our Shipping of all Kinds would be better serv'd and at a cheaper Rate than the Shipping of any other Country, which would enable us to sell all our other Sort of Commodities cheaper than we can do at present, and a Merchant of a small Stock who had a mind to fetch from abroad any Commodities necessary for his Country, would much easilier get a Cargo of Fish upon his Credit to send for these Commodities, than he could get a Sum equal to the foreign Value of these Fish, to send for what he wanted from abroad.

As for the Recovery of the British Fishery, I shall tell you, that in my humble Opinion, it is impossible to recover it without establishing a Fishing Company. If the Nations now in Possession of it should become as remis and
neg-

negligent of it as we have been, for these hundred Years by past, we might come to recover it by Degrees even by the Adventures of private Men: But this Way is very uncertain and tedious. The only sure and speedy Way of recovering it, is by a publick Company.

I do not mean an exclusive Company, that is to say, that all the Subjects of *Britain*, except those concern'd in the Company should be excluded from Fishing in any Part of the World. Freedom of Trade I take to be a Priviledge belonging to every Subject, by his Birth, and it was never as yet incroached upon or taken away, but what it has been attended with bad Consequences to the Trade of *Britain*.

The granting of any Trade to a Company exclusive of all others, is (besides the Prejudice done to the Birth-right of the Subject) of dangerous Consequence to that Trade in particular. It is the trusting one of the Branches of our Trade entirely to a particular Set of Men. They by enjoying it, exclusive of all others, for but a very few Years, make all the rest of our Subjects turn their Thoughts off from that Trade: And if at any Time afterwards that Company do fall under the Management of weak or villainous Men, there may such

such a Stop be put to their Trade, that other Nations may easily take it up, and secure themselves so in it, that neither our Company nor any other of our Subjects will ever be able to recover it again; for neighbouring Nations are always ready to take Advantage of our Mismanagements, and to fix themselves in a Trade which we lose by our ill Conduct: And here the Misery is, that let the Company's Mismanagement be how great it will, our own Subjects cannot take Advantage of it, because of the Exclusion they lie under, which Foreigners do not.

We ought to take the more Notice of this because the losing of any one Branch of our Trade does Harm to our Trade in general, and to every Branch thereof in particular; as the losing of any one Member of a natural Body incommodes the whole, and adds a new Burthen to every particular Member.

But when the Company has no exclusive Priviledge, their Mal-Administration is of no dangerous Consequence to the Trade of their Country; for private People of our own Subjects will still be in a way of exercising that Way of trading, and will be more ready and better capacitated to make Advantage of the Company's Mis-government than any Foreigner. In

this Case the Company may be ruin'd, but the Trade is not lost to the Country, it is still carry'd on by our own Fellow Subjects.

I know People will object against this, and say, that Companies can never carry on a Trade at so easie a Rate as private Men, because they are obliged to maintain Forts and Garrisons in foreign Parts, to make Presents to foreign Princes for their Favour, and to give Salaries to Directors, Governors, &c. and therefore, unless their Trade be exclusive of all others, it will be impossible for them to carry it on, because private Men who are not at these extraordinary Charges will be able to under-sell them, and so to turn them entirely out of their Trade.

My Answer to this is, That if it were certain, that Companies could not carry on their Trade as cheap as private Men; it would be a good Reason against setting up Companies of any Kind; for a Nation, if it looks to its own Advantage, will always encourage most that Way of trading, or those Merchants who can sell their Commodities cheapest, because they who sell cheapest in foreign Markets, are most likely to improve the Trade by under-selling all Foreigners, and so to turn them out of it, or to keep it to themselves

felves by selling cheaper than any Foreigner can propose to do.

If a Company could not sell cheaper, or at least as cheap as any private Merchant, the giving them an exclusive Privilege would be one of the maddest Things in the World, unless we could make our Exclusion reach the Subjects of all other Countries as well as those of our own. If we cannot do this, the Company's Privilege would, indeed, prevent their being turn'd out of their Trade by the private Adventures of our own Subjects; but it would certainly be an establishing by Act of Parliament, a Way by which Foreigners could turn, both our Company and all the rest of our Subjects out of that Trade; For, if the private Merchants, our own Subjects, can trade cheaper in that Way than the Company can do, Foreigners, no doubt, can do the same; our Act of Parliament will not exclude them, and they who trade cheapest can sell cheapest, and they who sell cheapest will carry the whole Trade at last. Indeed, if our Company, by their Forts and Garrisons can exclude all other People from interfering with them in their Trade, they have something more to say; but this no Company can pretend to, and tho' they could, it would be more profitable

for the Nation in general that these Forts and Garrisons should be maintain'd at the publick Expence, and a free Trade allowed to all Subjects as well as to the regular Company.

I believe the Champions for publick Companies, after they consider this, will begin to be of my Opinion, and to think that Companies established by Act of Parliament can always carry on their Trade at a less Profit than private Men can do, and can sell their Commodities cheaper if their Administrators are honest and understand their Business. I could shew many Reasons, but I shall content my self with one.

That if we suppose the Trade carried on by private Men in Opposition to a Company, we must suppose it all carried on by private Merchants, each trading by himself and upon his own particular Account, and each must have such a Profit as Merchants generally expect in the ordinary Course of Merchandizing; for, if we suppose the Trade carried on by a rich and numerous private Company, that Company will be subject to all the necessary Charges a publick Company is subject to, without having any of the Advantages acquired by being erected into a publick Company.

I shall

I shall suppose therefore, a Stock of 500000 *l.* employ'd by private Men, (each upon his own Account) in the Fishing Trade, or any other: We may readily suppose that no Merchant will carry on a Trade, as Interest goes now, at Five *per Cent.* without making Eight *per Cent.* at least of Profit, free of Insurance and all Charges, by this Trade they altogether will make 400000 *l.* Yearly.

Upon the other Hand, let us suppose this Trade carry'd on by a publick Company, with a joint Stock of 500000 *l.* This Stock of theirs is made up by taking in Subscriptions from every Body that has a Mind to venture any thing in that Trade; so that the Proprietors of it are few, or perhaps, none of them Merchants, at least if they be, they are such, who are engag'd in other Trades upon their own private Adventures, and put into the Fishery-Stock their own Over-grown Stock. I call a Merchant's Stock Over-grown, when he has got more Money than he can employ in his own private Way of Trading. If they had not such a publick Stock to put it into, they behov'd to let it out upon Interest, or buy Land with it, so that none of the Proprietors of the Fishery-Stock, being at any Pains about the Trade, unless

less they be Directors or Managers, and having in that Stock only what Sums they would otherways have out in private Hands upon Interest. If the Company can divide but a little more than the ordinary Interest, their Proprietors will be very well content, and the Stock will sell at least at *Par*.

If then the Company can divide six *per Cent.* to their Subscribers, they will certainly be well satisfy'd, as Interest of Money goes at present, at five *per Cent.* and every Man in the Kingdom, who has ready Money, will rather put it into the Company's Stock, than put it in private Hands at the legal Interest. By dividing Profit at six *per Cent.* a Company with 500000 *l.* Stock divides yearly 30000 *l.* among the Proprietors; and if the Company is under any tolerable Management, 5000 *l.* a Year may pay all their extraordinary Expences, such as Sallaries to Directors, Clerks, Accomptants, and the like. This Company then may sell one Eighth *per Cent.* cheaper than private Men will, or can do: For the Company may contentedly carry on their Trade at seven *per Cent.* neat Profit. They who are at any Trouble have good Sallaries for their Pains, and all the rest have one *per Cent.*

Cen
wit
Buf
7
the
be
Sou
put
not
gre
is,
cha
pri
abl
for
no
ch
fig
fiv
po
fel
In
is
ro
fe
to
ex
of
or

Cent. more than the common Interest, without any Disturbance to their other Business.

The greater the Company's Stock is, the less will their extraordinary Charge be in Proportion to their Stock; for the *South-Sea Company* whose Stock is computed at Eleven Millions and above, is not at 10000 *l.* yearly of Expence. The greater therefore any Company's Stock is, the cheaper they can sell their Merchandize, and the more under what private Men trading by themselves are able to do.

It's a selfish and interested Pretence for Company's to allege that they are not able to sell as cheap as private Merchants may do: There is no other Design in it but that they by their exclusive Privilege, may make a Monopoly of the Trade they deal in, and sell their Commodities, both Export and Import at what Rate they please, which is most dangerous, and a sure Way both to encourage and enable Foreigners, to sell cheaper than our Company does, and to turn us entirely out of the Trade.

Others may think what they will, and extol the good Sense and Management of a Company when they divide twelve or fifteen *per Cent* Profit yearly. I have

the

the Misfortune to differ from the World in this, as well as in many other Ways of thinking; for in my Opinion, the Trade of that Company is going to Ruin, and the Managers ought to be punish'd as Enemies to the common Good of their Country. This perhaps may seem a little strange, I must therefore be the more particular in explaining of it.

The Profit of a Merchant depends upon selling the Commodities he deals in at a dearer Price, than what they cost him: The dearer he sells, the more Profit he has. No Merchant can sell long at an extravagant Price, because other People will take Notice of the great Profit he makes, and will enter into the same Trade, and then every one will endeavour to sell cheaper than another, thereby to enhance the Trade to himself, and to exclude all the rest. If indeed, a Company, or a Merchant has an exclusive Privilege, that is to say, a Monopoly by Law establish'd, he may sell at what Rate he pleases, for any Danger he is in from his fellow Subjects; they cannot take up the same Trade, because they are excluded by Law: But if the Company, or Merchant, by Virtue of this legal Monopoly makes an extravagant Profit, Foreigners will take

Notice

Not
to d
excl
at fi
Exp
wit
as o
offe
wel
the
five
it i
the
can
He
leat
in t
Dis
by
Pro
to
wo
ha
ed
the
dis
fac
Ch
fac
an

Notice of it, and will immediately begin to drive the same Trade they cannot be excluded by Act of Parliament; and tho' at first they must be at an extraordinary Expence, yet if they content themselves with a small Profit, they may sell as Cheap as our monopoly Merchant: They never offer to sell Cheaper till they get themselves well Establish'd in the Trade, then indeed they will begin to undersell our Exclusive Company or Merchant; but then it is too late for him to take Notice of it, they being well Establish'd in the Trade, can sell as Cheap as he can do for his Heart, and therefore they must be, at least, Sharers with him in the Business, in spite of what he can do. This is one Disadvantage then accrues to a Country by an Exclusive Company's taking a great Profit; it invites, and enables Foreigners to set up the same Trade, which they would never have done, or been able to have done, if the Company had contented themselves with a small Profit.

Another Disadvantage is, that it hurts the general Trade of the Country, and diminishes the Consumpt of its Manufactures: It's a certain Rule, that the Cheaper any Commodity, or any Manufacture is sold, the more of it is consumed; and it's as certain a Maxim, that it's bet-

ter for a Country to have a great Deal of their Manufactures consumed, tho' they be sold Cheap, than to have little consumed, tho' sold Dear. It's better for a Country to have a hundred Pieces of Cloth consumed, which sold at 2000 l. than to have but fifty Pieces of the same Cloth consumed, tho' they sold at the same Value, *viz.* 2000 l. The same Sum is indeed gained, but the making of one hundred Pieces of Cloth, will employ double the Number of People that the making of fifty Pieces of the same Cloth will maintain. If any English Merchant exports three hundred Pieces of English Cloth; for Example to *Muscovy*, and sells them there for 20 l. per Piece, which amounts to 6000 l. the making of these three hundred Pieces of Cloth employed, and maintained perhaps three hundred of our poor People. The Merchant finding that he has a Monopoly of this Trade, raises the Price of his Cloth to 30 l. per Piece: This Cloth, by this Means, becoming very Dear in that Country, none but the richest Sort of People will wear it; the inferiour Rank will content themselves with some other sort of Cloth, which they either make themselves, or get from other Countries; and the richest Sort of People being few in Number, the

Consumpt

Consumpt of that Cloth must diminish one Third at least; so the Merchant, instead of three hundred, sells but two hundred Pieces of that Cloth. The same Sum indeed is returned to the Country, and the Merchant makes more Profit than he did; but then the making of these two hundred Pieces, will maintain but two hundred of our poor People; so that one hundred of them who lived formerly by that Trade, must either go Abroad, and settle the Trade in another Country, or must starve at Home, or be maintained Idle by the Publick. A Merchant then, by taking great Profit, does a certain and visible Prejudice to his Country. One may object, and say, that the Merchant makes his great Profit upon the Returns he makes from that Country, to which he Trades, exclusive of all our other Subjects; and this Way he does no harm to his Country, but upon the Contrary, does good to it, by preventing the great Consumption of Foreign Commodities in our own Country. Let us examin him in this Subterfuge.

The Returns he makes, he either re-exports, and sells them to an Advantage in Foreign Countries, or they are all consumed in our own. If he re-exports them the cheaper he sells them Abroad, the more of them are consumed, which en-

courages the Country from whence he fetches them, to take many of our Commodities, and encreases our Shipping in that Trade, and so if the Merchant sells his re-exported Goods dear, he does a Prejudice to his Country.

If they are all consumed at Home, they are either Commodities which we have necessary Use for, or Commodities for Luxury; if they be such as we have necessary Use for, he does a great Harm to his Country by selling them dear, because it enhances the Price of all our Manufactures in which they are necessarily employed, and so hinders their Consumpt, or it raises the Wages of Workmen, who must use them for their Subsistence.

If they are Commodities which are only necessary for our Luxury, he is an arrogant Merchant who pretends to judge about it: It is the Government's Part to judge in that, and it's they only who ought to endeavour to prevent it, by laying a heavy Excise upon the Use of these Commodities. I would have People, when they read this, reflect a little upon the Value of our *East-India* Stock at present, and the great Trade, we hear, the Ostenders now begin to drive to that Country: The only Way a Company can raise the Value of their Stock, without prejudicing

judicing their own Trade, or the common Good of their Country, is by settling Colonies, and acquiring Territories in the Countries they trade to; and this is the Way the Dutch *East-India* Company has so raised the Price of their Stock.

When a Company is established in a Country for setting up any new Branch of Trade, they are then obliged to be at such a great Expence in hiring and bringing Workmen from other Countries, in providing Ships and Materials, and in building Forts, that neither they nor private Men can well support it by the Advantage to be made by any Trade at its first Beginning, especially where Merchants of other Countries are already in Possession of it: Therefore in these Circumstances the Government ought to lend a helping Hand. We ought to follow the Example of our wise Neighbours the *Dutch*. At the first Erection of their *East-India* Company, the States not only lent them their Credit, but built Forts for them, and enter'd into Treaties with the *Asiatick* Powers upon their Account, which small Expence their Government has had no Occasion to repent of.

So likewise at the first setting up of a new Trade our Government ought to be at all the extraordinary Charges. If there-
by

by the Country gains a new Branch of Trade, it is Seed sown by the Government in good Ground, they will, in Time, reap twenty, thirty, perhaps a hundred Fold.

In my poor Opinion, the Government ought always to be at the Charge of all Forts, Garrisons and publick Treaties with foreign Princes. The Advantage of any Trade carry'd on by a publick Company, not exclusive, redounds as much to the Improvement and Profit of our Country in General, as the Advantage of a Trade carried on by private Merchants: It's just therefore the Country in general, that is, the Government, should bear the Expence of it: It's the broad Way to the Ruin of any Trade, to oblige the Merchants who carry it on, to be at a great Expence about it; The Merchants indeed, or a trading Company, are the best Judges where Forts are necessary, what Sort of Forts, and who ought to be Governors; and therefore the building of Forts and naming of Governors ought to be by the Advice of the Company or Merchants concerned, and the Government ought to take special Care that these Governors give equal Encouragement to the Company, and to all private Men of our own Subjects trading to these
Places

Places, so as that the Company, by the partial Administration of these Governors be not able to discourage other Subjects from carrying on that Trade upon their own private Accounts, and thereby to make a Monopoly of it to themselves ; for all Monopolies are destructive to Trade, except that founded upon under-selling every Body else.

For these Reasons, as I think, exclusive Companies in any Branch of Trade, of most dangerous Consequence, so I think publick Companies not exclusive, advantageous to every Branch of Trade in which they are established, and absolutely necessary for setting up any new Branch of Trade.

The Stock employed in Trade by publick Companies, generally belongs to People who do not understand Trade, or who are otherways employed ; which Stock would lie dead, or be only laid out upon Interest, if there were no publick Companies ; they may sell cheaper than a private Man will do, and they are abler to bear the Loss, which is almost inevitable at the first setting up of any Trade, which other People are already in Possession of.

They being provided with a considerable Stock, and great Credit can be at
the

the extraordinary Charges necessary for beginning any new Trade, where Workmen are to be brought from other Countries and allow'd extravagant Wages to entice them to leave their Native Homes.

Private Men may project very well, but their Projects always stand in Need of some Assistance from the Government, if they be about setting up any new and extensive Trade: A Company may have the Benefit of the Projects of several private Men, and will be abler to judge which is the best, than any single Man, because they judge with less Prejudice; and they will be much more capable to procure the Assistance necessary from the Government, than any private Merchant can pretend to.

All this will appear more plain by examining the several Branches of the Fishing Trade in particular, which is the next Thing to be done.

The three great and profitable Fishings in the World we have a better Title to than any Country whatsoever, and yet we have almost no Part of either. These three, as I have said are, The Fishing for Cod upon the Coasts *Newfoundland*; The Whale and Cod Fishing at *Greenland* and *Iceland*, And the great Fishing upon our own Coasts for Cod, Herrings and many other

other sorts of Fish. If I am not misinform'd, there might be a great many Whales taken about our own *Northern* and *Western* Coasts and Isles; a plain Proof of it I think is, that there are large Whales often come ashoar upon the Coasts of *Scotland*; and are kill'd there by the Country People.

We have been so hospitable, as to admit Strangers, either to a full Possession, or to a good Share of every Part of our Fishing-Trade, except that of Salmon, Pilchards, and Red-Herrings, which they cannot possibly come at; yea, even our Salmon Trade, we have by our Mismanagement render'd much worse and less profitable to the Country than it might be: One may say, we have lost every Thing but our Ears, and them we would have lost too, if they had been loose.

I shall first examin the Fishing upon our own Coasts, where I shall endeavour to discover the Means whereby we have lost it: The Natural Advantages we have beyond others for carrying it on: And the most profitable Way of recovering it.

The principal Reason why the *Dutch* have prevail'd over us in this Trade, and squeez'd us entirely out of it, is in my
G Opinion,

Opinion, The Lowness of the Interest of Money in their Country, and the extravagant Height of it in ours. The Dutch Merchants for many Years past, paid but three or four *per Cent.* for the Money they borrowed to trade with, and our Merchants paid eight, or at least six *per Cent.* for any Money they borrow'd to employ upon Trade.

Before I go further, I shall take Notice that it's the same thing, whether a Merchant employs his own Stock, or borrows a Stock from another Man to be employ'd upon Trade: When he borrows from another Man, his neat Profit is no more than what he makes over and above the Interest he pays for the Money borrow'd; and when he makes use of his own Stock, he counts his Profit after the same Way: He deduces all Charges, and the Interest he might have had by putting his Money out to Loan. If he can make little or no more by his Trade, than he could make by laying his Stock out upon Usury, he cannot, (if his Stock is small) live upon the Profit he makes in that Trade, he must turn himself to another; and if his Stock is great, he chooses rather to live idly upon the Interest of his Money, than be at the Pains to carry

on a Trade, whereby he makes no greater Advantage.

I shall likeways tell you, that the higher the Interest is in a Country, the more the money'd People in that Country value their Pains and Trouble; and the fewer Artificers there are in the Country. Where Money is at four *per Cent.* Interest, a Merchant will think himself well Rewarded for his Pains, if he can make six *per Cent.* Profit by Trade: But in a Country where Money pays eight *per Cent.* Interest, no Merchant will be content with ten *per Cent.* Profit upon Trade. He makes as much real Profit as the other; but he considers that in the other Country, the Creditor, or he who lends the Money, has but two Thirds of the Profit, and the Merchant one Third: Whereas in his Country the Lender has four Fifths, and he but one Fifth. The Lender's great Advantage in proportion to his, gives him the Spleen, and makes him so dissatisfy'd with his Trade, that if he can live idle without it, he will do it, which makes the Number of Merchants in a Country very small, and of inconsiderable Stocks.

It likeways makes few and poor Workmen, or Artificers; for in a Country where Interest is at eight *per Cent.* and the

Trade generally runs at twelve *per Cent.* Profit, a Man of 200 *l.* Stock may live by being a Merchant, he may by his Stock and Credit for as much, make Thirty-two Pound of neat Profit Yearly: Whereas in a Country where the Money pays but four *per Cent.* Interest, and the Trade is generally carry'd on at six *per Cent.* Profit, a Man of two Hundred Pound Stock, and Credit for as much, cannot live as a Merchant, seeing the most he can make, is but sixteen Pound Profit Yearly, which will not maintain him in a Country where Provisions are dear, as they always are, where the Interest of Money is low. He must therefore breed himself to some mechanick Employment, this augments the Number of Artificers, and makes them richer and better Tradesmen in this Country, than in the other.

It's the Interest of every Country, to force their mody'd People to value their own Trouble at the lowest Rate possible, which can only be done by causing them give their Money at an easie Interest; the less Value they put upon their Trouble and Pains, the less Profit they will be content with, and the less Profit they demand, the greater will be the Export of Manufactures, and the more of the rich People

ple engaged in Trade, which will greatly increase the Numbers of Inhabitants, for one rich Man's applying himself to business, will employ many of the poor People, who otherwise must starve or go to other Countries to earn their Bread; and since the Strength, Power and Riches of a Country consists in the multitude of its Inhabitants, it is therefore the Advantage certainly of every Country to have their Money go at low Interest.

But to return to the fishing Business, the Dutch Merchant who pay'd but three or four *per Cent.* Interest, thought he drove a profitable Trade; if he made six or eight *per Cent.* Profit by the fishing Trade. When he sent a Ship out to the Fishing, he considered what Stock of Money he thereby employ'd, when the Ship returned loaded with Fish, he made up his Accounts of Money laid out, and of Fish returned; he exported the Fish again, and after counting all Costs upon curing and export, he found he could sell his Fish in the Foreign Market at such a Price, and have six or eight *per Cent.* clear Gain to himself: By such a Profit he thought he was well-rewarded for his Pains, and therefore he desired no greater Price than what would yield him that Profit.

Upon

Upon the other Hand, the *English* Merchant who pay'd six or eight *per Cent.* Interest, was not satisfied with his Trade, unless he could make 12 or 16 *per Cent.* Profit, that is as much in Proportion to the Interest Paid, as the *Dutchman* made by the same Trade; but the *English* Merchant saw, that if he employ'd any Stock upon the fishing Trade, he could demand no more for his Fish in the Foreign Market, than the *Dutch* demanded for the same sort of Fish; and altho' he was at less prime Cost upon his Fishing than the *Dutch* Merchant, yet he found by Computation, that if he sold his Fish at the same Price the *Dutch* did, he would make but eight or ten *per Cent.* Profit: This he did not think worth his Pains, and therefore he either applied himself to some other Trade by which he could make more Profit, or he resolv'd to lay out his Stock upon Interest, and live easily upon the returns it made him that way. For this Reason all our Merchants gave up the fishing Trade upon our own Coasts to the *Dutch*, as a Trade not worth the keeping.

What makes it more plain that this lowness of Interest is the chief Reason why the *Dutch* have beat us out of the Fishing, is, That tho' we have never endeavoured

deavoured to fit out Ships for Fishing; yet we have always had such a Trade upon our own Coasts by small Boats, that we have not only served our selves, but even have sent sometimes large Cargoes beyond Seas. The Reason of which is, That our poor Fishermen who go out in their little Boats and catch Fish for us, have no Stock of Money at all employ'd in the Trade, they employ nothing but their own Labour and Pains; the small Rent they pay Yearly to the Master for the Liberty of Fishing, and the Expence they are at upon their little Boat and fishing Tackle is so inconsiderable, that its not to be reckoned on. These Men being extremely Poor; they desire no more by their Trade but their daily Bread, and having no Interest at all to pay or discount; they demand so little Profit, that we get our Fish from them at a much easier Rate than its possible, even for the frugal *Dutch* to sell at. If our own Countrymen were obliged to send out Ships for catching these Fish as the *Dutch* are necessitate to do, we would soon have no Fishing at all, or such a Thing as a Fisherman; the *Dutch* would undersell us at our own very Ports, as well as they do at others; but for this we have God and good Nature to thank, and not our own good Conduct.

Our

Our Merchants who send our Fish beyond Seas, buy not their Fish till the end of the Season, that they have Occasion to send their Ships to *France, Italy, or Spain,* for Wines and other Commodities, or to the *Baltick* for Iron or Naval Stores; then rather than send their Ships with Ballast, they buy what Fish they can get from our poor Fishers and send them, trusting to their returns for the most of their Profit; Besides, by buying late they save near half a Years Interest of their Money which the *Dutch* fishing Merchant who sends out his Ships the beginning of the Season, is obliged to pay. This enables them to sell their Fish as cheap as the *Dutch* do in Foreign Markets, especially now our Interest being brought so near to what it is in *Holland.*

If the Fishing by these little Boats were certain we could carry on by their means a much greater fishing Trade than we do, notwithstanding the Advantage the *Dutch* have of us by their low Interest: But the Fishing this way is so uncertain, that a Merchant cannot depend upon the Fish taken by these small Boats as a sure way to employ his Stock. This uncertainty is the Reason that few or none of our Merchants follow this Trade principally, it's only by the bye, when they can get no
other

other Commodities fit to be exported to the Place he is to send his Ship to. And this Scarcity of Merchants is again the Reason that our Coast Towns have never more Fishermen than what are able to live by the Vent of their Fish in the Country about; If they catch more than serves the Country, their Fish are often a Drag upon their Hands; they cannot get a Merchant to carry them to a Foreign Market, and they are not able to do it themselves.

The Want of Merchants of good Stocks to take our Manufactures off of the Hands of our poor Manufacturers, and to carry them to foreign Markets, is perhaps the Reason of the Decay of our Woollen Manufacture and Complaints of our Weavers. But of this no more at present.

What further confirms what I say about the Lowness of Interest is, That since our Interest was reduced to 5 per Cent. there has been more Fish exported in one Year than was for many Years before in two. For tho' our Interest is not as yet brought near to that in *Holland*, yet the Difference is less than it was; so that the Cheapness of our prime Cost in the Fishing almost makes it up.

The many Discouragements the North Parts of *Britain*, which lie most convenient for the Fishing Trade) met with before the Union, and the natural Pride and Laziness of that People, contributed much likewise towards the Advantage of the *Dutch*. But now the Government will find it the Interest of the Nation to encourage these People in their Trade, as much as any other of their Subjects, and their continual Intercourse with the trading People of *England*, will I hope, reach them, that its no ways below a Gentleman to be a Merchant, and that its a Crime for any Man to live idly upon what his Father's Industry has procur'd him.

At our first settling in the *West-Indies*, and beginning the Plantation Trade, our Merchants made such a vast Profit, that most of them turn'd their Stocks that Way, and the great Advantage we made by it, added to the Disdain we naturally have of Trades, where we can expect but a small Profit, which is another Reason for our neglecting so much the Fishing Trade; but the Profit of that Trade coming now to a more moderate Standard, I hope we will again begin to think that the Fishing Trade is worth our Pains, and apply to it accordingly.

The

The Interest of Money has already been lower'd by Act of Parliament, and I hope if it can be demonstrate, that it is necessary for augmenting the Trade of the Nation, to bring it yet lower, the Parliament will readily go in to it, which gives me the Joy to think that not only our Fishing Trade, but likewise all our other Branches of Trade, are in a fair Way of Improvement.

I think I need not take up much Time to shew you the natural Advantages we have above all others, for carrying on the Fishing upon our Coasts: They are evident to every Body: We have certainly the only Property in this Fishing, and may with Justice exclude all other People from it, even by Force of Arms, if they offer to come upon our Coasts against our Will. I know no Reason why we have not done so, unless it be, that we do not think the Trade worth the keeping: But it seems the *Dutch* do not think so, for they were always at the Pains to procure a Licence under the Great Seal of *England*, for Fishing upon our Coasts, till the Civil Wars came on in King *Charles* the First's Time. They have likewise paid to our Kings a good Tribute for this Liberty, and in many of their Edicts, they

call it, *The Golden Mine of their Common Wealth*. If my Country-men have a Mind to vindicate their Property by Force of Arms, they know best how to do it; but I do not wish they would take that Way, I have too great an Esteem for the Men in general, to desire they should knock out one another's Brains; I am for softer and easier Methods.

By our Situation, we are much nearer, both to the Places of Fishing, and the Places of Sale, than the *Dutch*, or any other Nation: A great part of our Fishing Trade for white Herrings may be carry'd on by large Boats, which may go out in the Morning from our Ports, and return at Night, by which means we can get our Fish much sooner cur'd, and made ready for Export than the *Dutch* can do, who must return to their own Country with their Fish, before they can pack and export them, so that we may be eight Days sooner at every Market with our Fish, than the *Dutch* can be.

By computing the *Dutch* Expence of fitting out, the Wear and Tear of their Ships and Tackle, and the Provisions and Wages of their Seamen, it's reckon'd that every Barrel of Herrings, as they
are

are taken out of the Net, costs them six Shillings per Barrel: Whereas our Seamen upon the Coasts will deliver such Herrings at one Shilling per Barrel, and very often will be glad to get it. But suppose we should be at a little more Expence than we are, in making our Ships or Boats better, and providing better Nets, yet the most we can reckon, that the Herrings as they fall from the Net will cost us, cannot be above eighteen Pence per Barrel; and since we have Cask and Salt as cheap as the *Dutch*, and may provide our Ships cheaper, we cannot but under sell them in Foreign Markets, unless we demand an extravagant Profit.

We have all these Advantages likewise in our Cod-Fishing, and this more, that we may easily fetch our Cod ashore, and dry them after the manner of the Poor-Jack of *Newfoundland*, which it's impossible the *Dutch* can do.

Let us now examin which is the most probable Way of recovering this Fishery Trade. We must certainly in the first Place, correct the Faults I have taken Notice of, which made the *Dutch* get the better of us in this Trade; particularly we must bring the Interest of Money, at least, one *per Cent.* lower than it is. The
next

next Question is, whether it be best to trust the setting up of this Trade to private Merchants entirely, or to set up a publick Company; in my Opinion, a publick Company is absolutely necessary.

The *Dutch* are so well provided of every thing necessary, and so expert in this Trade, and we by our long Want of any Trade of this Kind, are so destitute of every thing useful, and so ignorant, that we must at first be at an extraordinary Expence, and at a great Risque, which, I believe no private Man will venture. Let us suppose, that a private Merchant were to set out only one Ship for the Cod Fishing, he must send to *Holland* to buy a Dogger, which are ordinarily about eighty Tun, or perhaps one hundred and twenty; such Ships are seldom to be got in *England*, at least at so easie a Rate as in *Holland*; and if she is provided as the *Dutch* Doggers ordinarily are, she must have a hundred Lines aboard, of a hundred and fifty Fathom or thereby each, and at every one of these Lines, so many small Lines or Nossels, to which the Hooks are fix'd. All this will cost a pretty round Sum of Money for a private Man to venture upon an unknown Trade. Then for Servants aboard, he must have a Skipper who

who can manage the Ship, and direct where the best Fishings are probably to be found; he must have a Carpenter for cutting open the Fish, a Splitter for taking out the Bones, a Salter, and at least two Layers for salting and drying the Fish right; and one, at least, of these Men must understand how to barrel up, and order the Layers for making Oil.

Here are five Men he must have aboard his Ship besides the ordinary Boatmen, and I am afraid he would be forced to go to *Holland* to find every one of the five: There are not many of our Countrymen who understand much about this Business; and it will be hard to get Dutchmen to take on with him, he must entice them by Force of Money and high Wages.

When he has been at all this Advance, he is not sure if he gets a good Season for Fishing, and tho' he do, he knows not but the Dutchmen may be ignorant of their Trade and spoil his Fish; or, perhaps, they may be knavish a little, and cheat him for the Sake of their own Country. It's not the first Time the Dutch have served us so. But let none of these cross Accidents happen, yet he is at an Expence so far above what the Dutch are at upon this Trade, that

I am

I am afraid he will make but a sorry Account of his Profit.

A wary Merchant, who considers all this great Advance and Hazard, will not readily venture upon it, for all the Profit he can possibly expect by this Trade, which by its Nature yields no great Profit to the Merchant, but an extraordinary Advantage to the Republick.

If we look into the Herring Trade, we shall find it labours under much the same Difficulties: We may, indeed, carry on a little of this Trade by our open Boats near the Shoar, but how uncertain this Way is, our Merchants, Dealers in this Way, have experienc'd these two Years by gone. These little Boats cannot go in Search of the Shoals of Herring, they succeed not unless the Shoals come near the Shoar to them, which never happens if the Wind chances to blow hard from the Sea, for the Shoals of Herring, (as has been often remark'd) generally go against the Wind.

Our only Recourse then is to a fishing Company established by Act of Parliament, and encouraged and protected by the Government. It will be no great Loss to such a Company to bestow a thousand Pounds or two the first Year upon Dutch Sailors to teach their own Men

Men the Trade. Suppose they sent out the first Year ten Sail of Doggers to the Cod Fishing, and as many to the Fishing for white Herrings, a hundred, or a hundred and ten Dutch Seamen, expert in that Business, would serve them sufficiently, that is, Five Dutch-men in every one of their Cod-Fishers, and six Gippers and Packers in every one of their Herring Fishers; they might put ten or twelve of our own Countrymen aboard every Ship for learning the Trade, which they would do in one Season, the Art not being difficult: By this Means they might send out thirty Sail to each Fishing the Year following, and would never stand in need of more Dutch Artists; so that the third or fourth Year, they would be able to vye with the *Dutch*, and soon after would prevent, and undersell them in all Foreign Markets, and so engross the whole Trade to our own Country.

The Fishing Ships sent out by this Company, would be in no Danger of being master'd by the *Dutch*, if they happen'd to fall in with their Fleet, which any private Ship would be; for the *Dutch* are now turn'd so saucy, that even in our own Seas, they disturb the Fishing of our own Ships, if they happen to meet with them; but they would have a little

more Regard to the Company's Ships, they know that the Government would be easily engag'd in the Company's Quarrel, and would Revenge the least Indignity offer'd to them; by which, they would run the Hazard of being entirely beat out of that Golden Mine of Theirs, The Fishing upon our Coasts.

As to our *Greenland* and *Iceland* Trade, People who have any Knowledge of the History of our Trade, know, that we had once the whole *Greenland* Trade in our Possession, and that it is now so entirely lost to the *Dutch*, that we buy from *Holland*, at very dear Rates, Whalebone and other Commodities brought by them from *Greenland*.

The *Dutch* have jostled us out of this Trade, by the same Way by which they stole into the Fishing Trade, upon our Coasts, *viz.* By reducing the Interest of Money, which enabled their Merchants to carry on this Trade at such a small Profit, that our Merchants would not be at the Pains to Trade any longer this Way, since they could propose to make no greater Profit than what the *Dutch* made by it.

But if we have a Mind to recover this Trade, we want not Encouragement, from the Advantages, we by Nature

ture enjoy ; many of our Ports and Harbours lie nearer to *Greenland*, by at least three Days sailing, than any of the Ports of *Holland*, which makes the *Greenland* and *Iceland* Trade, much easier and cheaper to us, than to them. We can Victual our Ships much easier in the North of *Scotland*, than they can do in *Holland* ; and the most part of the Inhabitants of our Northern Islands being bred to the Sea, and ready to serve for a small Hire, we can never want Seamen for that Trade, at less Wages than the Dutch Merchant can have them : Then we need to have the most of them, no longer than the very Time of our Fishing, for we can take them up upon the North Coasts of *Scotland*, and the Isles, as we go out, and as soon as we return there again we may pay them off, and set them a-shoar, whereas the *Dutch* are oblig'd to bring all their Men from Home with them, and carry them back there again, which obliges their Merchants to pay the Seamen at least six Days Wages, perhaps a Months Wages, more than we need pay the most of ours. All these Advantages, must certainly enable us to carry on this Trade much cheaper than the *Dutch* can do.

But if we cannot propose to set up the Fishing upon our own Coasts, without establishing a Fishing Company, we much less can propose to set up this Trade, which requires greater Ships, more Materials, and more Men than our Home Fishings; nor can one Ship do any good at all in this Trade, unless by great Chance. For recovering of this Trade therefore, it is necessary to establish a publick Company with a large Stock to enable them to send out a good Fleet, and to bear a little Loss the first Year. In a few Years our own Seamen will get such an Insight in the Trade, that we can carry it on always after at a much easier prime Cost, than the *Dutch* or any other Nation can do, by which we must, at last, engross this whole Trade likewise to ourselves.

I must now turn to the other side of the Globe, and enquire a little into the fishing Trade upon the Coasts of *Newfoundland*.

This Island was first discover'd at the Charges of *Henry VII.* King of *England*, and afterwards in the Year 1583, if I right remember, one *Gilberts* took Possession of it in Name of *Queen Elizabeth*, about which Time we began our fishing upon that Coast, which encreas'd so prodigiously, that about the Year 1600, or
a little

a little after, it's computed that there were sent from the *West of England*, two hundred and fifty Sail of Ships yearly to the fishing Trade upon the Coasts of that Island, where it's said, the Fish are so plentiful, that three Men in a Boat at Sea to take Fish, and as many ashoar to dress and dry them, may in thirty Days Time, kill and prepare for Export, thirty thousand Fish, and maintain themselves all the while, which, at a Penny a Fish, with the Train Oil at five Pounds, comes to a hundred and thirty Pounds all clear Profit, brought in to their Country by these six poor Fishermen; and if they continued to work the whole Year at this Rate, their Country would be enrich'd by their Labour one thousand five hundred and sixty Pounds. Can the Government then refuse any Encouragement or Reward to these Fishers, or those who employ them? I am afraid they seldom have many Ministers of State who so well deserve to be rewarded, for if the Fish taken by them, in a Year's Time, were worth one thousand five hundred and sixty Pounds upon the Island, we may expect that our Countrymen, by exporting them, would return at least double that Sum, *viz.* three thousand one hundred and twenty Pounds to our Country;

try; tho' it's not to be supposed that any six Men would succeed so well the whole Year round; yet it's very certain that we might have a rich fishing upon these Coasts, every Month of the Year, and our Fishermen would be always thriving extraordinarily in some Place or other. I only mention what's above, to give People some Idea of the vast Riches might be made by this Trade.

And besides this Fishing upon the Coasts for dry Fish, or *Poor-John*, as they call them, there is a most lucrative Fishing for Green Fish upon the great Sand Bank towards the South of this Island, where they say the Cod-fish are sometimes so plenty, that one Man may catch a hundred of them in an Hour, which, when cured, is reckoned worth five or six Pounds.

What a profitable Trade we have lost by neglecting this *Newfoundland* Fishing, the Petition and Remonstrance of the Merchants in 1659, will clearly evince, I shall give you a Part of it Word for Word.

We have many hundreds of English Ships, and many thousands of Seamen that had their constant yearly Employment for Newfoundland,

foundland, and being laden with Fish the most of them sailed from thence for several Ports of Spain. — Hereby (well considered) we had great Advantage, for that clearly there was added to the Stock of the Nation at least 500000 l. per Annum, and so much got out of the Sea by the Labour and Industry of our People, and the Shipping maintained. And it was also a Nursery for Seamen, breeding more than all other Trades whatsoever: They carry not out so much Beef and Bread as they would have eaten in England, the most of their Food being Fish; and if they had not been thus employed, perchance they might have liv'd idly at Home, and so have been unprofitable Members of the Common-Wealth, and to have had their Subsistence from other industrious Persons.

Since then it appears, that we had a great Fishing Trade at Newfoundland, and it's plain that now we have very little, let us search a little after the Ways and Means by which we came to lose it. That some Facts I have to insist on may have the more Authority, I shall give the Words of an Act of Parliament in King Charles the Second's Time, for regulating this Fishery, By which it is enacted,

That

That no Person whatsoever do collect, or levy, or take, or cause to be collected, lewyed, or taken in Newfoundland, any Toll or other Duty of, or for, any Cod or Poor-John, or other Fish of English catching, under Pain of the Loss of double the Value of what shall be by them lewyed, collected, or taken, or caused to be lewyed, collected, or taken; And, that no Planter, or other Person, or Persons whatsoever, do lay any Seynes or Nets in or near any Harbour in Newfoundland, whereby to take the Spawn or young Fry of the Poor-John, or for any other Use or Uses, except for the taking of Bait only, upon Pain of the Loss of all such Seynes or Nets, and of the Fish taken in them, or of the Value thereof, to be recover'd in any of His Majesty's Courts in Newfoundland, or in any Court of Record in England or Wales, by Bill, Plaint, or other Action, wherein no Essoigne, Protection, or Wager in Law shall be allowed.

And it is hereby further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, that no other Planter or Person or Persons whatsoever, shall burn, destroy or steal any Boat, Cask, Salt, Nets or other Urensilis for fishing or making of Oil or other Goods or Merchandize left in any Harbour in Newfoundland or Greenland by English; or burn, pull down, or destroy any
House

House built by English in Newfoundland or Greenland to live in during the Fishery Season, or Stage built by them in either of the said Places, for the saving or ordering of Fish, or making of Oil, upon Pain of the Loss of double the Value of what shall be by them stolen, burnt or destroyed, to be recovered in any of His Majesty's Courts in Newfoundland or Greenland respectively, or in any other Court of Record in England, by Bill, Plaint, or other Action wherein no Essoign, Protection or Wager in Law shall be allowed.

From this Act you may gather the Abuses our Fishing in *Newfoundland* were subject to. Let me examine a little into their Original.

When our Countrymen first set up this Trade, there was no Body at all liv'd in the Island, but a few Natives among the Hills and remote Places of the inland Country; our Fleet went out every Year from the West of *England*, with Men, Provisions, and every Thing necessary: When they arrived at the Island, if they came to a Place where they had been before, they had their Houses and Stages a-shoar, which they had left the Year before ready to go into, so they went a-shoar, and immedi-

ately began their Fishing. If they came to a new Place, they immediately built the Houses and Stages necessary, and then fell to their Business. As soon as the Fishing was over, they return'd to *England*, leaving all these Houses and Stages behind them to be in Readiness against next Year, and very often too they left Boats, Casks, Nets, Pans for Boiling Oil and such other Things behind them, because they had no Use for them, but only upon that Island. After this manner did they manage, till the Year 1623, when King *James* the sixth gave by Patent a Part of that Island to the Lord *Baltimore*, who made a Settlement there without any Sort of Government or Governors being settled by the King in the Island. The most Part of the Planters belonging to this Settlement were dissolute, vagrant sort of People who had fled their Country for some Crime, or had run away from our Fishing Ships; and they living without any Government, not only lived a debauch'd Life themselves, but seduced a great many of our Sailors to desert and live debauchedly with them. By these means there came soon to be a good Number of Seamen living upon the Island, which made some People of Stocks resolve to live there,
and

and carry on a fishing Trade by themselves, thinking that they could manage it cheaper than our *English* Fishers who came with their Ships every Year from *England*; but they soon found themselves mistaken, for the Expences of Living and providing their Ships there, was so great and so much above what it is in *England*, that they saw our *English* Merchants could carry on the Trade cheaper than they could do. This made the Planters and Fishers in *Newfoundland* fall upon all Ways in the World to discourage the sending of Ships from *England*: They thought if they could prevent the Ships coming from *England*, that they would engross the whole Trade to themselves, and so sell their Fish at what Rate they pleased.

The ways they fell upon to discourage the sending of fishing Ships from *England* were; they destroy'd the Houses and Stages our Ships left behind them when they went away, that they might be obliged to build them up new again next Year when they returned, and so be put to a great deal of new Trouble and Expence every Year, and their fishing very much retarded. If the fishing Vessels happened to leave behind them any boats, Casks, Salt, Nets, or Pans for boiling of

Oyl, the Planters were sure to destroy or carry off every one of them: They encouraged and assisted the *French* much more than they did their own Countrymen, both because the *French* gave them greater Wages and greater Price for the Fish they had catched; and because they thought if they could turn their own Countrymen out of that Trade, the *French* would do them but little harm, since they sent so few Ships to Fish there. By these our Mismanagements the *French* first settled their Fishing in *Newfoundland*.

To prevent the Abuses committed by our own Planters, and to keep the *French* and other Nations out of that Trade, there was a Governor settled there in the Year 1638: And to prevent Foreigners interfering with us, there was a Power granted to this Governor of levying Taxes and Impositions for Liberty of Fishing in those Parts. By vertue of this Power he not only laid Taxes upon Foreigners, but he likewise made our own People pay Taxes for their Liberty of Fishing; so that what was designed for an Encouragement to our fishing, proved a Disadvantage.

Unluckily for us we had taken up our Settlement, and begun our Fishing in the Northern Parts of this Island, which are the
 most

most Mountainous, the most Barren, and the worst situated for Fishing, because of their Distance from the great Sand Bank, which lies upon the *South Coast*. Our Countrymen are certainly something tainted with *Don Quixotism*: If we attack a Country, we always attack it upon the side where it can make the best Defence, and we the least Profit; if we besiege a Town, we make our Approaches upon the side where the Town is strongest and best fortified; and if we offer to Plant a waste Country, we begin first in the Place where we see Nature declare most against us.

The cunning *French* when they saw themselves heavily taxed by us upon the *North Side* of the Island, where they then used to Fish, because they had no Settlement of their own, retired immediately to the *South side* of the Island, and there built two Forts, and set up a Fishing of their own.

Our Civil Wars in *England* came on immediately after, and filled the Heads of our Countrymen so much with Faction and Religion, that no Body applied the least Thought to Trade, by which we were rendered incapable of vindicating our Property in *Newfoundland*, and chasing the *French* out of it: And the Abuses
among

among our Planters every Day encreasing, our Merchants met with so many Hardships and Discouragements in their Fishing, while the *French* carry'd on theirs easily and calmy, that most of our *West* Countrymen gave over sending any Ships from *England*; and soon after they gave it over, the Price of our Fish rose in that Country at least one third above what it formerly was, which rivited the *French* in that Trade.

When *Oliver Cromwel* came to the peaceable Possession of our Government, he was so taken up with planting and improving *Jamaica*, his own new Purchase, that he never thought of *Newfoundland*; and after the Restoration, King *Charles* met with so many Discouragements from his own People in the War he had undertaken against the *Dutch*, upon Account of their barbarous Massacrees of our Countrymen at *Amboyna* and other Parts of the *East-Indies*, and upon account of their illegal Incroachments upon us in almost every branch of our Trade, that he gave over all Thoughts of getting the *French* banished out of *Newfoundland*, which could not then be done without an open Rupture.

After the Revolution, when we were actually engaged in a War against *France*
upon

upon other Accounts; one would have expected, that then we would have thought upon the advantagious Trade we once had in *Newfoundland*, and would have endeavoured to retrieve it, by turning a small Part of our Arms that Way to beat the *French* out of the Island. But we were so much taken up with our Conquests in *Flanders*, that we never once thought upon the poor Island of *Newfoundland*; yea, we neglected it so much, that the *French* beat us entirely out of it, instead of our beating them; and they kept Possession both of the Island and of the whole Fishing upon its Coasts, till the last general Treaty of Peace concluded at *Utrecht*, when we got the Island restored to us; but the *French* got the Priviledge of Fishing upon its Coasts confirmed to them, by the Sanction of a publick Treaty of Peace, a Priviledge they never before made the least pretence to, nor indeed had they ever before any sort of title to it.

The giving them this Privilege, we may likewise attribute to our unhappy Home Divisions: While they last we may be assured, that no Ministry will look so much to the Welfare of the Nation, either in Peace or War, as to the securing themselves in the Administration. One Ministry

stry will make an unnecessary War because they see their Security and Advantage in it; and another will conclude an ill-timed Peace because they cannot otherwise secure themselves.

Even tho' one Minister should be so generous as to be disinterested and publick minded, yet he will certainly meet with a Faction either in the Ministry or in the Parliament, to thwart all his generous Desigs. The Spirit of such a Man is too high to stoop to all those little Pieces of Cunning, that are necessary for managing a factious People; his Heart is free and open, he cannot flatter a Scoundrel, nor conceal the Crimes of a Villain; the Generosity of his Nature forces him to tell the great designing Man he hates him, with as much Freedom as he can tell the poor Man of Merit, he loves him.

As to this Fishing upon the Coasts of *Newfoundland*, the State we are now in is, We have the Possession of the Island, and the *French* are in Possession of the Fishing, notwithstanding the many natural Advantages we have for carrying it on in Exclusion of them.

We are much better provided of Harbours, Ships, Seamen, and Fishermen of all sorts than the *French* are, except only,
as

as to those Seamen who are skill'd in this Trade, in which the *French* have of late got the Better of Us: But if we apply'd our selves to this Trade, or to the Fishing upon our own Coasts, we would soon exceed them, considering that we have now Possession of the Island it self, and that all our Ports upon the West of *Ireland*, lie much nearer to it than any of the *French* Ports.

There are two very contrary Ways for improving the Fishing about this Island propos'd; One is, To make great Plantations of all Sorts of People in the Island it self, and to carry on our Trade by Means of them. People think that they must certainly Fish at a much less prime Cost, than the *French* do, who send most of their Fishing Ships yearly from *France*; but I believe they will find themselves mistaken. In all new Settlements or Colonies in Waste, and Uncultivated Countries, Living is at first, extremely dear, they must either bring their Provisions from other well inhabited Countries, and the Fraught and other Charges makes it cost them dear, or they must raise their Provisions, that is, their Meat, Drink, and Cloathing, from their own waste Country, and there Workmen being scarce, Wages are high, which likewise

L heightens

heightens the Price of what the Country produces. The Way all Colonies have generally made up this Loss is, by selling some of the Natural Productions of their Plantation at very dear Rates, which they can do, if these Productions can be brought from no other Country. In most of our Settlements in the *West Indies*, our Colonies made, immediately upon their Settling, a great Profit, by raising Sugar and Tobacco Plantations; if their Commodities cost them dear, they sold them dear, because they had no Rival. But all the immediate Advantage to be made by our Settlements in *Newfoundland*, is to be made only by Fishing, and this other People can make as well as those settled upon the Island; so that our Colonies there, cannot pretend to greater Prices than other People demand for these Commodities; and unless they can live as cheap at their first Settlement, as People can do in plentiful and well inhabited Countries, they cannot pretend to sell so cheap. Therefore, one must conclude, that the *French*, by living there, only the Fishing Season, and even then, eating only the Provisions they brought along with them from *France*, will carry on this Trade at a cheaper prime Cost, than our Planters can do.

If

If there were great Numbers of People sent to *Nesoundland*, they might increase so much in a hundred Years or two, and might cultivate the Country, (which is naturally of a rich and fertile Soil) so well, that they then perhaps would be able to carry on the Fishing Trade by themselves. But this is a long Term, and many Accidents may intervene.

The other Proposal is, to make no Settlements there at all, but upon the contrary, to keep People from Settling there, and to carry on the whole Trade, by sending Ships yearly from *Britain* and *Ireland*. This Method I likewise think impracticable, and of dangerous Consequence, for we would have then little more Advantage than other People, and we could exclude no Body from Fishing where they pleas'd upon that Coast. Then in our absence the *French*, or some other People might take Possession of the Island privately, and before we return'd, secure themselves in it by Ports and Garrisons, and so we lose the Possession of it a second Time.

The only best Way to recover this Fishing Trade, is to encourage as much as we can, Plantations in that Island, and to build Forts and Harbours, and to maintain Garrisons there for their Government

and Protection, they will in Time become a rich and numerous People, and will be very beneficial to their Mother Country.

I think Nothing of that great Objection that is made to our *New-England* and *Newfoundland* Plantations, that they produce the same Commodities that *England* produces, and so obstructs the Sale of our Home Commodities. We may as well say, that People ought not to be allow'd to live in *Kent* and cultivate the Ground there, because it produces the same Commodities that *Middlesex* does. The more cultivated Ground belongs to a Kingdom, it is certainly the richer: When People acquire great Estates in *New-England* or *Newfoundland*, they will return Home and live in *England*, which will greatly contribute to the Riches and Value of Lands in *England*, in the same manner as all the rest of the Island contributes to the Riches and Value of Land in and about the City of *London*. We ought certainly to encourage the Import of Bread, Beef, Pork and all such Commodities necessary for the Maintenance of our poor People from all Countries, and more especially from our own Plantations. I could easily shew, that this would tend to the general Profit of the Country, and that the giving Premiums upon the Export of any such Com-

Commodities is a certain Loss to a Country; but this is foreign to my present Purpose.

Tho' I am for encouraging Plantations as much as possible, yet I think it would be foolish to trust the Improvement of our Fishery to them only, they cannot do it for at least a hundred Years to come. We must therefore begin again to send Fleets of Fishing Ships thither from *England*.

And if we consider that the *French* are now in full Possession of it, and well provided of Ships, Seamen, and every thing necessary for the Purpose, and that we are now quite ignorant of it, and destitute of every thing needful, we will conclude, that private Merchants will not readily undertake this Trade, they must expect to be prevented and undersold by the *French* at every Market. Who then can do it?

A Fishing Company, established by Act of Parliament, many thousands of People in *England* will venture a small Sum in the Hands of a Company to be employed upon this Trade, that will not venture a Farthing by themselves alone. The establishing of a Company is the only Way to raise such a Sum as is necessary for beginning this Trade again. A Company with a good Stock can bear a small Loss for the first Year or two, and can send at first, twenty or thirty
Fishing

Fishing Ships to *Newfoundland*, with four or five Runners to take in the first Fish that are taken, and carry them to the best Markets, before the *French* or any other People not trading in Company can load and sail from *Newfoundland*.

A publick Company will likewise prevail more with the Government to maintain the necessary Forts and Garrisons, and to give all other Assistances requisite, than any private Man, or Set of private Men can do; and if the Government at any time happen'd to fall under any Jumble or Mismanagement, the Company could protect their Trade from any foreign Usurpations for a little, till the Government got it self extricate out of Danger and restored to the Power of protecting the Subject. In all our publick Wars and publick Treaties, a regular Company would lay before the Ministers or Parliament what they thought necessary to be done for the Protection or Encouragement of their Trade; whereas, when the Trade is entirely managed by private Men, no Body ever offers to do so; what is every Man's Business is no Man's Business, and tho' a private Man should do so, he would not be much regarded. If we look narrowly back into the History of our Trade, we will see many
Ad-

Advantages we have neglected, and many Inconveniences our Trade has fallen into, meerly for want of a timely and powerful Representation.

I think I have now fulfill'd what I undertook, I have shewn some of the Advantages *Britain* may reap by the Fishery Trade.

I have shewn you what in my Opinion, is the most probable Way of recovering it.

And I have examin'd a little into each of the three great Fisheries of the World, *viz.* That upon our own Coasts; That upon the Coasts of *Greenland* and *Iceland*; And that upon the Coasts of *Newfoundland*.

I believe my dear *Maly*, you are now yawning, or fast asleep: If so, you know what Physician to apply to: If ever these malicious Scissars, which cut the Thread of Poor *St. Evremont's* Life, should threaten Yours, I will be better natur'd, and more charitable than the Presbyterian Teacher he sent for; I will not refuse you a Dose of the powerful Opium of Nonsense, in a Spoonful of the cold Julep of Monotony, when ever you stand in Need of it. But if what I have told you, has improv'd and employ'd your Understanding, I will be much better satisfy'd,

Satisfy'd, and will judge of it by your writing to me. If what I have said has led you into a soft Slumber, you will not write to me, but when you stand in Need of Soporificks, which is not often. But if you have learn'd any Thing new, I know your Curiosity is always awake, and will force you to write to me often.

I had lately the Pleasure, to receive a signal Mark of Fidelity from

which shall ever be the constant Wishes of,

Dear Mally,

Your most Loving,

And Faithful Comrade,

Sally Fisher.

