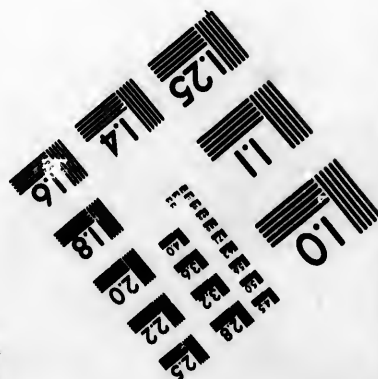
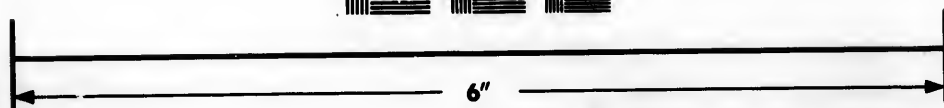
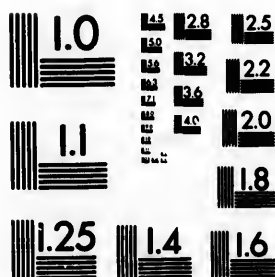


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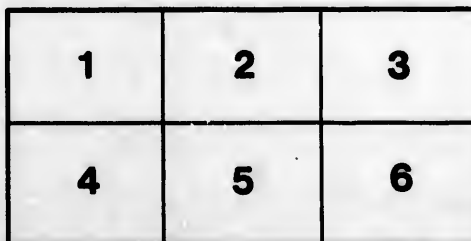
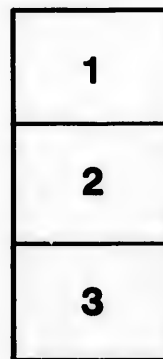
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281 H. de la Cour. Prov. marit-
TWO No 4

LETTERS,

Concerning some farther

ADVANTAGES

AND

IMPROVEMENTS

That may seem necessary to be made on the taking
and keeping of

CAP E BRETON.

Humbly offer'd to public Consideration.



London; Printed in the Year 1746.

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To the Author of the Tradesman's Journal.

S I R,



H A T our Trade is consider'd *absolutely* in itself, and *without Comparison* to that of others, is one useful Point of View in which it ought to be taken.

But what it is *compared* and *relative* to the Trade of our Neighbours, and especially our most dangerous Rivals and Enemies, is still more necessary to be look'd into at this Juncture, with all the Attention we are Masters of.

For however valuable in itself our Trade may be, yet if our Rival Enemies gain upon and exceed us in this Article, so as to make large and hasty Steps to engross all, by swallowing up the inferior part which had been left us, it behoves us to see to this in time, and endeavour to prevent it.

In this respect, a Contest for Trade, and Power, resembles a Race, wherein the Winner bears away the Prize. No Matter how great our Strength or Speed be, if they are to serve as a Foil to our Rivals, when we become their Conquest, or Property; or, at best, while we are in danger of becoming so, by being shamefully thrown behind in Points where we once had the Pre-eminence.

In this Case, the greater Advantages we enjoy'd, the more fatal will the Consequence prove, as contributing only to add more Weight to such an over-balance of Power, and rendering it more difficult for us to regain our former Superiority.

In order to make the Comparison proposed, permit me,
 1. To exhibit a short View of the State of the *British* and *French* Trade to *America*; and from thence, in the second Place, to infer the Expediency, if not the Necessity of keeping *Cape Breton* in our Hands, and improving that most valuable and seasonable Acquisition to all possible Advantages, whether of extending our Trade, our Dominion or Religion, with all their Influences and Benefits among the (now *French*) *Indians*: especially considering that it is the Key of *Canada*, and commands the Conveyance of Supplies to the *Indians*, as also the Fishery, with the Navigation and Commerce of all the neighbouring Settlements of *North America*. What Influence the supplying of the *French* *Indians* with Protestant Missionaries and Instructors may have upon our Power and Trade among them, will be considered in the ensuing Letter. At present I confine myself to the Comparison of our Trade with that of the *French*. And this Part of my Work will be the easier, as I have no more to do than to make an Extract, and give some Hints from a late Pamphlet * on that Subject, written by a Gentleman who seems well versed in it, a Lover of his Country, and zealous for its Prosperity.

In that Piece the Author having observed that the *English* Nation is too apt to have a mean Opinion of the Trade and Navigation of its Rivals, especially the *French*, and was not convinced of its Mistake, 'till the Incidents of the present War, the numerous *French* Fleets, and large Prizes open'd our Eyes; he proceeds to shew the Steps by which the *French* Commerce and Colonies, from being inferior to ours, have risen to a dangerous Superiority over us, in less than half a Century.

For this Purpose, a Council of Commerce was established in the Year 1700, consisting of some of the principal Officers of State, and twelve Deputies of the principal

* See the present State of the British and French Trade to Africa and America considered and compared; with some Propositions, &c. London, 1745.

‘ cipal Merchants, or Persons who have been a long time engaged in Trade.’ Two of these were of *Paris*, and each of the other ten of *Rouen, Bourdeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, Rochelle, Nantes, St. Malo, Lisle, Bayonne, and Dunkirk.*

Since this Establishment, and in Consequence of the Memorials presented by them to the Royal Council, containing Propositions for Regulations and Remedies in Trade, being thoroughly executed, ‘ the Trade of France has been extended to the *Levant, the North, Africa, North America, the South Seas, and to the East and West Indies, even so far as to make more than double the Value in Sugar, Indigo, Ginger and Cotton, in their West India Islands than what is now made by the English, who before that Time exceeded the French in this Branch of Trade abundantly.*’

In the Article of Sugar they are increased from 30,000 to 120,000 Hogheads *English* in a Year, [*i. e.* as 3 to 12 or 1 to 4:] Two Thirds of which are shipp’d to *Holland, Hamburg, Spain, and other foreign Markets.*

In the same Time the *English* have encreased from about 45,000 to no more than 70,000 Hogheads, *i. e.* as 9 to 14, not near double, ‘ of which they now send but little to foreign Markets, altho’ they had formerly the best Share of that Trade, and even supplied France with *Sugars.*’ And moreover the *French* have already engrossed the Indigo-Trade from the *English*, and have greatly encreased in their Fisheries, and Beaver and other Fur-Trade in *North America*, since their Settlement of *Cape Breton*, which they have fortified at a vast Expence;—and it is from this last mentioned Trade, and their Fisheries, that they find a Vent for most of their Molasses and Rum, that the *English* do not take off their Hands.

To shew their Superiority in the Fur-Trade, ‘ it is computed they import into France from *Canada* only to the Value of 135,000*l.* Sterling per Annum in Beaver and other Furs, including Dear-skins; and the *English* from all our Northern Colonies not above 90,000*l.* Sterling [*i. e.* the *French* Trade is to the *English* as 3 to 2

2 in this Article;] and this by manufacturing in *France*, which is taken Care to be done under the *severest Penalties*, is increased, in some Cases, *ten fold* in Value; and supplies most Parts of *Europe* and *Spanish America* with Hats.

Since the Commencement of the present War there was a Ship taken, bound from *France* to the *Spanish West-Indies*, in which was a Quantity of white Beaver and other Hats, which were sold in *London*, and were so much superior in Quality to any Thing of the like Sort, that our Manufacturers were surprized at it.

These Advantages gain'd by the *French*, are conspicuous from the immense Sums which They draw annually from other Countries, and which enable them to maintain powerful Armies, and afford such plentiful Subsidies and Pensions to several Powers and People in *Europe*: From hence they build their Ships of War, and maintain Seamen to supply them.

It is computed that they draw from two to three Millions of Pounds Sterling *per annum* from foreign Countries, in return only for Sugar, Indigo, Coffee, Ginger, Beaver manufactured into Hats, Salt-Fish and other *American* Products, and near one Million more from *Great Britain* and *Ireland* only, in *Wool* and *Cash*, in return for Cambricks, Tea, Brandy and Wine, and thereby fight us in Trade, as well as at War, with our own Weapons. But it is to be hoped that the Measures lately taken by the *British* Legislature to prevent the Importation of foreign Cambricks and Tea, and the taking and keeping of *Cape-Breton* will be attended with considerable national Advantages.

This last Article will greatly interrupt their Trade to *Canada*, as well as their Fisheries in *North America*; and consequently the Vent of their Rum, Sugar, and Molasses; and it divests them of a most useful Middle Port, or Harbour, between both the *Indies* and *Old France*; and, to speak it in other Words, it affords us a most commodious Middle Port, or Harbour, between *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and the *East-Indies*, and our Colonies.

* nies in *America*; where Supplies may be found, and where safe Convoys may be met with on all Occasions.' "

The same Writer, after touching on other Methods by which the *French* Commerce and Colonies have been cherish'd and encouraged, such as, by laying less Imposts and Duties on the Products of the *French* Islands than are laid on those of the *English*; and even by granting Bounties on them; and also by the King's granting Lands *Gratis*; to industrious Poor; by lending them Money in Case of Misfortunes; by moderating Fees and Port-Charges; by long Forbearance of Creditors with Planters in Debt; by maintaining Forts and Garrisons, and Marines in private Ships; by good Regulations of the Marine, &c. I say, after these Matters, he gives us fair Warning lest another *Cape-Breton*, which may prove more dangerous to our Sugar Islands than the former has been to our Fishery, shou'd be rais'd in *Santa Lucia*. *ibid.* p. 14. 15.

' The *French* have lately sent a Governor with Men and Cannon to *Santa Lucia*, with a View of seizing and settling that Island, where there is as good a Harbour as that in the Island of *Cape Breton*, in sight of *Martinico*, and another not much inferior to it; and they are determin'd to hold it at all Events, well knowing that the Power that holds that Island will keep their Enemies in Awe in that Part of the World, and distress them in Time of War, if not totally overthrow them. For this Reason, as the *Marquess de Champaigne*, General of the *French* Windward Islands declared long since to the Author, it has always been thought good Policy in both Crowns, to let this important Island remain Neutral; and it is to be hoped, that timely Care will be taken that it may be so, or that it may be ours, lest the *French* should fortify this Harbour in like Manner as they did that in the said Island of *Cape-Breton*.'

And p. 20. He adds — ' We find by Experience that the same Causes which straiten the *British* Commerce will naturally enlarge the *French*; and it must be allowed that the Naval Force of either Nation, will at one Time or other, thrive or languish in the same Degree as their Commerce

Commerce gathers or loses Strength; and we are now convinced that the Seas are spread with *French Ships* to and from all Parts of the World, and that their Power as well by Sea as by Land, is growing more and more with their Colonies and Commerce, and all Europe are jealous of their ambitious Views: And shou'd they continue this Course of improving their Trade and Colonies, without our taking suitable Measures to encourage ours, and that without Delay, they must in the End become superior to us by Sea: shou'd this ever be the Case, they will doubtless engross the *African* and *American* Trade, and in Consequence become Masters of the most valuable Part of the Territories that border on the Western Ocean; Territories that abound in People and commodious Sea-ports.—Then—What will be the Fate of *Great Britain*! How will it stand with *Old England*!—I say, without Delay, since no body can be ignorant how many Opportunities may be lost by a short Delay, which no Degree of Diligence can afterwards regain.

And now let any Man reflect whether the Consequence of this Comparison be not just and necessary, that we should keep *Cape-Breton*.

Shall we retain and employ an Opportunity which the divine Providence has manifestly once more put into our Hands, of bringing our Commerce and Colonies nearer to a Rallance, or even of recovering that Superiority in both, which we once possess'd, over our Rivals? Or shall we again give it up to them to be turned against us, to our Destruction in both? The Indignation of every *Englishman*, and of every Well-wisher to *England* will rise at the thought: especially when it is considered how much the keeping of *Cape-Breton* may be farther improved to the Promoting of our Safety, the strengthening of our Interest, and laying the Foundation of an inviolable Amity and good Understanding with the *Indians* (as our Enemies the *French* prudently foresaw, and sensibly experienced) by Methods which to the Reproach of our Lukewarmness in the best Cause, have hitherto been too little thought of, and less cultivated, by us, and our Colonies in the Plantations.

I remain, Sir, Your Humble Servant,

PHILOLAGOS.

S I R,

A GREABLE to what was promised in my last, I send you my present Thoughts how *Cape Breton* may be farther improved, in a Way, wherein the Honour, the Interest, the Safety, and therefore the Duty of the Nation seem concerned. And this is chosen to be done in the humble Form of *Queries*; both, because it befits the Subject, and that the Hints therein given may be either rejected, or admitted and encouraged as the Matter may deserve.

Should it be here asked what Connection the propagation of our Religion has with the extending of our Commerce and Power, and the maintaining our Safety; I answer, this will in some Degree appear from the *Queries* themselves: And farther let it be considered, that honest Industry is the Daughter of true Religion and the Mother of fair Trade, and well gotten Wealth; and such Objects only are worthy of a national Care and Regard.

I may add, that Unity in Religion; Soundness of Faith and Integrity in holding and observing it when given in any Matter, are the strongest Bonds and Cements of Society, and Supports of Credit, among Members of the same Community; or, of Alliance and Friendship among Members of different Communities, as the *English* and *Indians* are at present.

And, on the other hand, let it be remember'd, that we can scarce ever expect the Hearts of the *Indians* to be towards us, or any Faith to be kept by them with their *American* Neighbours of our Nation, whenever it may be in their Power or Interest to break it, while they are under the Influence of *Romish* Principles and Missionaries, as too many of the *Indians* bordering on our Settlements are, and as our Colonies have felt to their Cost.

I am aware of several Objections that may be raised from the Difficulties and other Circumstances attending a Design of this Nature.

But let us once think right, resolve well, and set about our good Purposes heartily, and I am not without Hope, that all Objections and Difficulties will vanish before us.

Let

Let us in this Respect submit to be taught Wisdom and Policy by our Enemies, let us look on the Progress they have made in gaining over both *Indians* and *Negroes* to their Way, and let us blush, not only blush but grieve to see the best Cause outdone in Zeal by the worst.

Fas est & ab Hoste doceri.

I am, Sir, Your humble Servant.

PHILOLAOS.

The following Queries are humbly proposed and submitted to the Publick.

1. **W**HETHER the late happy Success at *Cape Breton* should not be considered by the *English* Nation I mean the whole Body of the *British* Empire both in *Europe* and *America*, as a Door opened not only to enlarge their Trade and Power, but also to disseminate our most pure and excellent Religion among the *Indians* (especially those in the *French* Interest) and to supply the Outsettlers of our own Nation in the adjacent Parts with the Ordinances of the Gospel, in Order to revive it among themselves, and spread it among their Neighbours.

2. Whether in particular those *Indian* Tribes and Nations, which are deprived of a Supply of Popish Missionaries, by the taking of *Cape-Breton*, should not now be supplied with Protestant Missionaries in their Place; chiefly indeed, for Reasons, and upon Principles truly Religious; but partly also, to win them over and firmly attach them to the English Interest; an Effect which the English Americans know to be highly desirable for their Safety and Advantage, and consequently for that of their Mother Country; by these Means, true Religion and Virtue may gradually succeed in the Place of Superstition and Idolatry; and Humanity, Faith and good Morals, instead of Cruelty, Ignorance and Jesuitical Principles, destructive of all the former.

It is well known that notwithstanding the great Assurances and Encouragements given by the Societies at Home, both the *Indians* and *Negroes* are generally neglected (except in a very few Cases) in our Provinces and Plantations, on point of Religious Instruction. No effectual Method has yet been found and practised to train them up to Industry

dustry and true Religion: While, on the other Hand, the *French* and *Spaniards* have made them *Profelytes* to their Way, and thereby rendered them more faithful and firm to themselves, and more averse and dangerous to us. We have treated them as if they had no Souls to be saved, no Passions to be governed, no Affections to be gained or lost by religious Obligations; while our Enemies have improv'd all these Considerations to their own Advantage, and our Prejudice. These Matters are known to be true by a Course of some Experience among them.

3. Whether the Foundation of a School for instructing Youth (as a Nursery both for Sea and Land) in the Elements of Learning (not only Grammatical but Mathematical for those who are proper Subjects of such Instruction) and also in the Principles of Religion will not be a necessary Beginning for the aforesaid good Purposes, at *Cape Breton*, especially in Hope that the Benefit and Example may in Time be extended to other Places.

4. Whether the Sound and plain Instructions delivered in the excellent Catechism and Liturgy of the Church of *England*, and the Method of our daily Prayers and Reading the Holy Scriptures be not the purest and surest Way of propagating the Gospel, free from any Mixture or Corruption, to which an extemporary Service, without Regard to a sound Form of Words, is known to be liable. And this Method, if approved, will be much assisted by the many good, pious and practical Tracts distributed by the *Societies for propagating the Gospel, and for promoting Christian Knowledge*.

5. Whether a School or Seminary founded on these Principles and for such Purposes will not be truly useful and hopeful?

6. Whether a convenient Number of the Scholars may not be designed and allotted to go and trade among the *Indians* both by Land and Water, and at the same Time to take proper Opportunities to settle *Store Houses* and *Schools* among them under due Regulations, the former of which will draw them to the latter, and so lay a Foundation for instructing them, and gaining their Affections.

It is humbly proposed and submitted to his Excellency the Governor of *Cape Breton* to begin a Foundation, and set on Foot a Subscription among the worthy Officers and others for the aforesaid Purposes; which by giving them an Opportunity of dedicating a Part of those Spoils which the only Giver of all Victory hath delivered into their Hands, to his Honour, and the Service of Religion, will be a Testimony of their Gratitude, and bring down the Blessings of Heaven on them, and their Enterprizes.

It is also submitted to be considered whether in case there be some publick Building already raised by the *French* at *Louisbourg*, originally designed for some such Purpose, or at least for some Religious Use; it may not most properly be turned to the Uses proposed in our Way: And therefore whether it be not in the Governor's Power to begin and encourage such a Foundation, to his immortal Honour and Reward?

It is also submitted to Consideration, whether the Method and Rules of the *Charter Schools* in *Ireland*, (the great Use and Success of which has been found by Experience and are known to their liberal Benefactor * the Governor of *Cape Breton*) will not afford a proper Scheme for Schools in *America*, in several Cases, as tending to train up the Children of the lower Class of People, both free-born, Slaves and *Indians*, at once in the profitable Labours of this Life, and in the necessary Knowledge in Order to a better. And upon Reflection it will be found, that the same Reasons are equally prevalent and conclusive in both Cases, *viz.* that of the *Indians* and *Negroes* abroad, as of the *Popish* Natives in *Ireland*.

P. S. It is obvious to see, that however the Lot of War, or the Necessity of our Affairs may dispose of *Cape Breton*, the proposed Method of Instruction may be practised in all our other *American* Plantations; and the sooner the better; since by the last Accounts from thence, of the renew'd Cruelties of the *Indians*, under *French* Influence, against our People and Settlements, the Expediency and Benefits of humanizing and converting them to our Religion appear stronger.

* Admiral Warren.

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