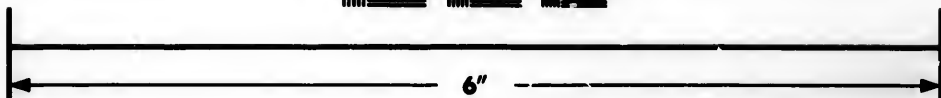
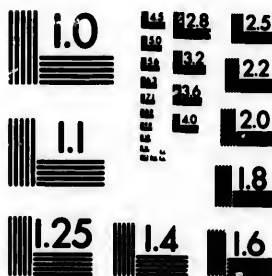


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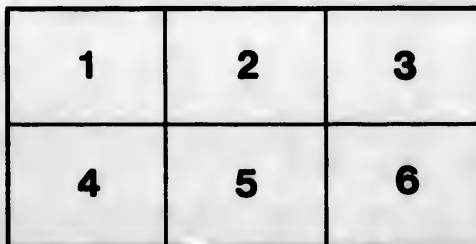
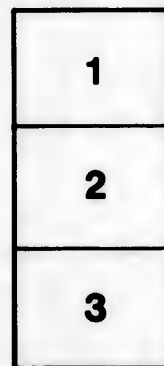
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LETTER

To the Honourable

A---r M---re,

Com---ner of

Trade and Plantation.



168 180

L O N D O N :

Printed for James Roberts, near the Oxford-Arms,
in Warwick Lane, 1714.

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L E T T E R

T O

The Honourable *A---r M---re.*

S I R, *Royal-Exchange, 26 May, 1714.*

I Believe Mankind will agree, that they little thought to see in this Nation private Men obliged to draw their Pens in Defence of the Trade of it: That the fair Merchant, instead of sedately prosecuting his Affairs, to the Welfare of his Family and his Country, would be compelled to turn his Thoughts to the Danger and Misery that threatens him, amazed and helpless to see a Torrent of Woes falling on the Commerce of his Country: And all chiefly owing to the Mistakes or sinister Views of one Man, which have been hitherto uncontroled, or rather acquiesced in. What can the Conduct of this Man proceed from? Is it Contempt of the Merchant, Envy of his Happiness, Stupidity or Treachery, that it must be imputed to? If the first, such (if there are any) who (ignorant of the support of their Luxury and Grandeur) are stupidly contented with the Pleasure of merely spending Life, might soon go to the Woods again, and live in the State of the primitive Inhabitants

tants of our Island, but for the assistance of the Merchant. He is the Support of Empires and of Kingdoms; without his Aid, the attempt of Conquest would be vain: 'Tis he augments the Price of Land, enriches the Tenant to pay his Rent, enables every Subject chearfully to contribute to his Princes Taxes; and who pays a larger Share than the Merchant himself? What Kingdom or State is there, that is not even rais'd by him to their present Grandure? Have any of our Neighbours acquired theirs without his Assistance? He is the very Axis of the Treasure and Power of all Countries whatsoever. They that despise him, (insensibly contemning the Cause of their own Happiness) are Objects of the Pity of all Mankind.

Is it Stupidity and Ignorance? 'Tis certain all Countries are more or less formidable as they ebb or flow in Trade. *Holland* and *Flanders* are notable Examples of this. When Tyranny, loads of Taxes and other Oppressions tossed the Commercial Ball from *Flanders*, by the Destruction of the Trade of *Bruges*, *Sluys*, and *Antwerp*; *Holland* caught it with open Arms, who by carressing it ever since, has made it flourish to so great a Degree, that it has raised the United *Netherlands* to a Power, able, at times, to withstand alone the Shocks of all the most Potent Princes of *Europe*. *France* is another Example; for my Witness, I bring a *French* Author lately published at *Paris*, where speaking of Trade, he says, 'There are few things in Government that deserve more Attention; to be convinced of this, let Men only reflect on the State of *Europe*, and observe the difference between Countries that have Commerce, and those that have not. *England*, and *Holland*, on whom in the present Age all depends, * do (or shou'd) govern their Interest

* Good Advice, had we Honesty enough to follow it.

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Interest abroad with respect ever to their Traffick.
 Husbandry and Commerce nourish and enrich a
 Nation: 'Tis those two Arts that give it Life and
 Strength: *A Truth that ought to be written in Let-
 ters of Gold in all the Cabinets of Princes and Mini-
 sters, to admonish them to consider the Husbandmen
 and Traders as they deserve.* By Commerce, the
 Riches of the most distant Countries are brought
 to a State; 'Tis a Mine that affords the more, the
 more 'tis wrought, and is never to be exhausted. The
 Lord Chancellor Bacon says, *That Merchants and
 Traders are in a State, what the Blood is in the
 Body.* It may be proved by Examples, as ancient
 as the World, that Nations have been powerful
 in proportion to their Application to Commerce;
 witness the *Tyrians, the Athenians, the Carthagi-
 nians*: But without recurring to such distant In-
 stances, it will be sufficient to examine the sur-
 prising Changes which Commerce has made in our
 Times among our Neighbours.

England, by the Protection and Encouragement
 which Queen *Elizabeth*, during her Reign, gave
 to Commerce, has from that time so enlarged her
 Trade and Naval Strength, that she has been able
 to maintain easily those mighty Fleets which have
 render'd her the Terror of the Ocean.

Nothing is comparable to what the *Dutch* have
 done by following this Method: But we have in
 France, and under our own Eyes, convincing Proofs
 of the usefulness of Commerce. * Cardinal Rich-
 lieu,

* No Wonder the Cardinal had no better success in his Attempt of promo-
 ting Commerce, his two Counter-projects were too great to be accomplished,
 in the time he govern'd as prime Minister; his first Attempt (ours most
 certainly can never be the same) was to destroy Commerce; by his Success in it,
 he so impoverish'd the Subjects of France, that they were soon qualified
 for Slavery, by which he gain'd his first Point; and made the Monarchy
 Tyrannical: His Second was, by retrieving and increasing the Commerce,
 so to enrich that Tyrannical Monarchy as to make the rest of Europe soon
 become

' *lieu*, and Monsieur Colbert, those excellent Ministers,
 ' so zealous for aggrandizing the *French* Monarchy,
 ' those Men of great Knowledge and clear Judg-
 ' ment, applied themselves very much to enlarge our
 ' Commerce; they did not take Measures just e-
 ' nough, and their good Intentions had but mode-
 ' rate Success: Yet the Augmentation of Traffick
 ' has enabled France to support three Wars of several
 ' Years continuance against all Europe united. What
 ' wou'd our Nation be then, if this never-failing
 ' Spring of Wealth were as ably manag'd by us as
 ' our Neighbours? My Lord Belafyse used to say,
 ' that if the *Turks* did but know what they might
 ' be capable of doing by Sea, and if the *French*
 ' shou'd come to apprehend rightly to what a Pitch
 ' they might carry their Commerce, the rest of Europe
 ' wou'd soon become their Conquest.

' The Example of *Bruges*, *Sluys*, and *Antwerp*,
 ' proves that Commerce may flourish in a Monar-
 ' chy, as well as in a Common-Wealth, * when
 ' the Prince and his Ministers know thoroughly the
 ' Importance of it, protect it with a high Hand,
 ' follow the true Maxims relating to it, prevent en-
 ' grossing and destructive Companies, leave the Mer-
 ' chant all the Liberty requisite for carrying it on,
 ' do not take upon them to subject it to the interested
 ' Views of their Courtiers, do not load it with too
 ' high Duties, do not prefer (like the Owner of the
 ' Hen that laid Golden Eggs) present Gain, how
 ' great soever, to a long Train of durable and cer-
 ' tain Advantages, which wou'd be a continual Fund
 ' of

become their Conquest, and render it universal. How near this was being
 accomplish'd, is still fresh in our Memories, and the Circumstance they
 are again put in of effecting it, is now the Terror of Europe. The won-
 derful Effects of Commerce!

* Wou'd the Ministers of G. B. but allow one Hour in a Week, to the
 Study of Commerce, 'twou'd be happy for this Nation. A poor Request!

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- of Supplies to them, by the continual Increase
- of the Riches of their People.

If it proceeds from Treachery, scarce any Punishment can be adequate to the Offence.

Sir, 'tis to you I thus speak, who Patronize our Trade, and am convinced you'll agree to the Truth of what I say. We all know that it was to your Ability the Care of our Trade was left at the late Treaties, and to your discerning Judgment the Care of the Crown's Property in *America* was recommended. The Fatigues you underwent in your Journey to *Paris*, the indefatigable Industry and Skill you have shew'd in your Management of the late Treaties, and your *disinterested* Aims through the whole Course of them, are evident Proofs how *zealous* you are for the Welfare of our Country. To whom then must I complain, but to you, of any Attempts to the Prejudice of our Commerce, or of any Aspersions thrown on those who zealously oppose them? Give me then leave to bemoan our living in an Age among Cotemporaries, who not being contented to calumniate the living Patriots of our Trade and Welfare, even unjustly asperse and rake in the Ashes of the Dead. I say, in the Ashes of one, who has done more for the Trade of this Island than ever was done by any one Man: I mean the late *Mr. Metbuen*. The Experience of the past and present Age justifies the excellent Treaty he made with *Portugal*. I am sure you *intirely agree* in these Sentiments, and did I not know the *Zeal* you have for the Justification of it to the Publick, I shou'd wave the producing any Vouchers to manifest this notorious Truth.

The last time I had the Honour of being with you, you may remember you reached from your Shelf, a Book call'd, *Salt and Fishery*, by *John Collins*, Accountant to the Royal Fishery Company, printed *Anno 1682*. I was not a little surprized when
you

you turn'd to that Part wherein he speaks of *Canary* and *Portugal* Wine, to find the following Remonstrance, which he says was delivered by the Merchants of *London*, to the Last Long Parliament.

Whereas the *Portugal* Trade is very advantageous to this Nation, because it does annually consume a great quantity of our Manufactures, Fish, &c. and of late declines, because the Sugar and other Commodities of that Country, are either so fallen in Price here, or grown so scarce there, as that the Merchants trading thither cannot procure wherein to have returns, nor the People of that Country wherein to make Satisfaction for the Goods they take, which hath occasion'd the setting up of Fabricks of their own, and the prohibiting of our Commodities; to prevent the said Inconveniency, being that Country abounds with several sorts of good Wine, and is capable to afford great Quantities thereof, which are in a manner totally prohibited from being brought into this Kingdom, by the great Custom charged thereon, of 16 l. 18 s. 11 d. per Ton, as on *Spanisb* Wine, whereas their Use, nor Goodness, doth not render them capable of paying more than the *French*.

It is humbly conceived, it may be the Interest of this Nation, that by Act of Parliament, the Custom of the said Wines may be abated, and that seeing the Freight from *Portugal* is 40 s. per Ton more than from *France*, that the Custom may be less than what is charged on *French* Wine, for the Reasons following.

First, The abating of the Customs would certainly introduce the Expence of the said Wines, and make them serve to supply the great want of Returns, at present experimented in that Trade, and consequently be a great Means to increase the consumption of our Manufactory in that Country.

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Secondly, It would diminish the Importation of
French Wines, which it is well known, are pur-
chased with Monies; whereas it is probable, these
will always be purchased with our Manufactory; and
it may be convenient, to encourage the growth of
Wines in Portugal, thereby to lessen the French
Trade.

Thirdly, Whereas the Prince of Portugal did, a-
bout a Year since, make a Law to prevent the
wearing of Foreign Cloth, Gold and Silver Lace,
and some other Commodities, and did also set up
Fabricks of Bays, and Serges in that Country, be-
cause they have not Effects to Ballance their Im-
portations, which hath already proved of great
Prejudice to the said Trade, and may prove very
fatal if pursued: It may be hoped, that by thus
introducing the Expence of their Commodities,
and the taking of them in Exchange of our Ma-
nufactures, they may be brought to neglect the
Observation of the said Law, and the said Fa-
bricks, because the Occasion of them will be thus
taken away.

Fourthly, It may advance his Majesty's Revenue,
for the present: extraordinary Custom is little less
than a total Prohibition, so that the said Wines
yield at present very little to his Majesty; where-
as if the Custom be abated, they may yield a con-
siderable Sum, and whatsoever may be received
less on the French Wines, will be advanced on
these, and probably more, because of their Vari-
ety and Goodness, and also because a great quanti-
ty of the Wines of that Country are not so strong
as the French.

The Remark you made is very just, that the
Merchants in those Days who made the Remon-
strance, and Mr. Collins, who many Years after gave
us this Copy, cannot be said by any one to have
foreseen the Controversie now in dispute about the

B

Trade

Trade of *Great Britain*, and therefore it must be allow'd by every body to be an Impartial Account of our Trade to *Portugal* and *France*; the World will certainly be pleas'd with this Copy, especially if I let them know that a Person of your *long Experience*, and *excellent Judgment* in Trade, *studied* and *stuck close* to the Hints of it, in the late T——ty of Commerce; otherwise, how is 't possible the excellent T——ty you made with *France*, could so *exactly agree* with it in *each Particular*.

I am of Opinion, that Mr. *Metbuen* had a sight of this Paper, if not, I do affirm, that he understood the Advantage of the *Portugal* Trade, and the Perniciousness of the *French*, as well as any Man in *England*, *except your self*.

We may observe, that in those Days the *Portugal* Trade was (even before their Gold Mines were discover'd) extremely advantagious to this Nation. That it declined, because those People had not wherewithal to pay us o'r Ballance, and the Duties on their Wines being equal or higher than those on the *French*: These were also the Causes of the Prohibition of our Commodities; but by the Discovery of their Mines, and the making the *Portugal* Treaty, these Obstructions are now removed; Experience shews us how good Judges our Merchants were in those Days of proper Remedies to continue the Advantages of that Trade, and prevent the damage we sustain'd by that of *France*.

We find that they gain'd 40 s. *per* Ton, more by the Freight of our Ships from thence, than they did from *France*.

We may observe, that the raising of the Duties on *French* Wines higher, than on those of *Portugal*, (which is an Equivalent to what they desired) has brought the Wines of that Country into use in *Great Britain*, and that it occasions a great Consumption of our Manufactures.

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It should be particularly regarded, that the *French Wines in those Days were purchased with Money*: And as the *French* have extremely increased their Manufactures of Wool, must be again purchased with our Money, if the Wines of each Country are charged with an equal Duty: Nay, should the Duties on the Wines of each Country be lower'd, so as to sink that of the *French* considerably from the present Rate, and bring it near as Low as the Duty on *Portugal* and other Wines, the small Difference there would then be between them, would have still the same Effect. As for Example:

Suppose the Duty on *Portugal* Wines was sunk to 18*l.* per Ton, and that on *French* Wine to 27*l.* per Ton, (by which we should still keep up to the *Portugal* Treaty) yet the Difference then, between one and the other, being so little, would encourage the Consumption of *French* Wines, and abate that of other Wines. *French* Wines pay now about 30*l.* per Ton more than other Wines, but if the Duty should be fix'd on this Foot, the Difference would be but 9*l.* per Ton, and of Course but nine Farthings per Bottle, out of which is to be deducted three Farthings per Bottle as an Equivalent for the dearer Freight of other Wine, *France* being so very nigh, so that *French* Wine will pay but three half Pence per Bottle more than *Portugal* and other Wines.

I appeal to all the World, especially to you, Sir, if it is to be imagin'd, that any Body that can afford to drink Wine, will not sooner be at the extraordinary Expence of three half Pence for a Bottle of *French* Wine, than confine themselves to drink *Portugal* Wine, for the sake of saving three half Pence, especially when *French* Wine is so much more coveted than the other.

'Tis plain, by Experience, since Mr. *Methuen's* Treaty, that the Importation and Consumption of *French* Wines has been diminished, and that prejudicial Trade lessen'd.

And that the Wines and GOLD of *Portugal* has been wholly purchased by our Manufactures, Fish, and other Products. By our Fish, our *Newfoundland* Trade has been in some Measure supported, as well as that Nursery of Seamen maintain'd.

France by insupportable Duties, has prohibited our Fish, in order to discourage that Trade, but with a greater View to destroy our Nursery of Seamen. *Are they not in the right on't?*

We see that by Mr. *Metbuen's* Treaty with *Portugal*, our Manufactures are re-admitted, and their Fabricks neglected. But by the present Treaty with *France*, there is nothing stipulated that can have that Consequence there, but on the contrary, the *French* Manufacturers working 7 *d.* in a 1 *s.* cheaper than ours, the vast Quantities of their Silks, Linnens, and Paper, that will continually glut our Markets, must effectually destroy all those Manufactures here.

We cannot but be sensible of the Advantages this Nation has receiv'd by Mr. *Metbuen's* Treaty; that the beneficial Trade of *Portugal* in those Days declining, has not only been retrieved and most considerably improved, but we have been saved by it from Ruin, by the destructive Trade of *France*. 'Tis to be hoped these things will be so well weigh'd, that we shall never venture to put those two Trades on the ancient Foot, only to Experience what we know already has been fatal; if we shou'd, we are sure to lose by one most considerably, and being depriv'd of the vast Advantages we make by the other, shall be able to gain nothing by it to support our Loss: How long we shall be able to pay out of the Bag without putting in, I leave the World to judge.

Thus much as to that Remonstrance, which, no doubt, arose from the Experience of that Age, agreeable to the Observations which Mr. *Samuel Foretrey* made, amongst other Trades, on that of *France*,
and

Portugal has
Wines, Fish,
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Woods, as well

prohibited
Wine, but with
the Consent of Seamen.

Trade with Por-
tugal, and their
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The Wine, which, no
at that Age, a-
gainst Mr. Samuel For-
ster's Account of France,
and

and presented to King *Charles II.* in the Year 1663
by which it appears we lost to *France* above One
Million six hundred thousand Pounds a Year, by
the Account the *French* themselves made of the An-
nual Gain they got by *England*. I give it in his own
Words.

1. ' In the next Place, our Manufactures are to
' be consider'd, on which chiefly depends both the
' Wealth and Prosperity of this Kingdom; for by the
' Encrease and Encouragement thereof, the Subjects
' are employ'd in honest and industrious Callings,
' maintain'd and preserv'd from Want, and those
' Mischiefs which commonly effect Idleness: The
' People furnish'd at Home with all things both of
' Necessity and Pleasure, and by the Overplus pro-
' cure from Abroad, whatever for Use or Delight is
' wanting.

2. ' The chief Manufactures amongst us at this
' Day, are only woollen Clothes, woollen Stuffs
' of all sorts, Stockings, Ribandings, and perhaps
' some few Silk Stuffs, and some other small things,
' scarce worth the Naming; and these already na-
' med, so decay'd and adulterated, *that they are al-
' most out of Esteem both at Home and Abroad.*

3. ' And this, because Foreign Commodities are
' grown into so great Esteem amongst us, *as we
' wholly undervalue and neglect the Use of our own;*
' whereby that great Expence of Treasure, that is
' yearly wasted in Clothing, Furnitures, and the like,
' redounds chiefly to the Profit of Strangers, and to
' the Ruin of his Majesty's Subjects.

4. ' And this will more plainly appear, if we ex-
' amine the vast Sums of Money *the French yearly
' delude us of;* either by such Commodities as
' we may as well have of our own, or else by such
' others, as we might as well in great part be with-
' out: *Whereby no doubt our Treasure will soon be ex-
' hausted, and the People ruin'd, as this Particular may
' make*

‘ make appear, which not long since was delivered
 ‘ in to the King of *France*, upon a Design he had
 ‘ to have forbidden the Trade between *France* and
 ‘ *England*; supposing the Value of *English* Commo-
 ‘ dities sent into *France*, did surmount the Value of
 ‘ those that were transported hither.

1. ‘ There is transported out of *France* into *Eng-
 ‘ land*, great Quantities of Velvets plain and wrought,
 ‘ Sattins plain and wrought, Cloth of Gold and
 ‘ Silver, Armoysins, and other Merchandizes of
 ‘ Silk, which are made at *Lions*, and are valued to
 ‘ be yearly worth One hundred and fifty thou-
 ‘ sand Pounds.

2. ‘ In Silk, Stuffs, Taffaties, Poudusoyes, Ar-
 ‘ moysins, Cloths of Gold and Silver, Tabbies plain
 ‘ and wrought, Silk-ribbands, and other such like
 ‘ Silk Stuffs as are made at *Tours*, valued to be
 ‘ worth by the Year above Three hundred thou-
 ‘ sand Pounds.

3. ‘ In Silk-ribbands, Galloons, Laces, and But-
 ‘ tons of Silk, which are made at *Paris*, *Roven*,
 ‘ *Chaimont*, *St. Estienes* in *Forrests*, by the Year a-
 ‘ bout One hundred and fifty thousand Pounds.

4. ‘ A great Quantity of Serges, which are made
 ‘ at *Chalons*, *Chartres*, *Estamines*, and *Rheimes*, and
 ‘ great Quantities of Serges made at *Amiens*, *Cre-
 ‘ vecoeur*, *Blicourt*, and other Towns in *Picardy*, by
 ‘ the Year above One hundred and fifty thousand
 ‘ Pounds.

5. ‘ In Beaver, Demicastor and Felt Hats, made
 ‘ in the City and Suburbs of *Paris*; besides many
 ‘ others made at *Roven*, *Lions*, and other Places,
 ‘ by the Year about One hundred and twenty thou-
 ‘ sand Pounds.

6. ‘ In Feathers, Belts, Girdles, Hatbands, Fans,
 ‘ Hoods, Masks, gilt and wrought Looking-Glasses,
 ‘ Cabinets, Watches, Pictures, Cases, Medals, Ta-
 ‘ blets, Bracelets, and other such like Mercery

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Ware, by the Year above One hundred and fifty
 thousand Pounds.

7. In Pins, Needles, Box-combs, Tortois-shell-
 combs, and such like, by the Year about Twenty
 thousand Pounds.

8. In perfumed and trimmed Gloves, that are
 made at *Paris, Rouen, Vendosme, Clermont*, and
 other Places, by the Year about Ten thousand
 Pounds.

9. In Papers of all Sorts, which are made at
Auvergne, Poitou, Limosin, Champaigne, and Nor-
mandy, by the Year above One hundred thousand
 Pounds.

10. In all Sorts of Iron-mongers Wares, that
 are made in *Forrests, Auvergne*, and other Places,
 by the Year about Forty thousand Pounds.

11. In Linnen Cloth that is made in *Britainy*
 and *Normandy*, as well coarse as fine, there is
 transported into *England*, by the Year above Four
 hundred thousand Pounds.

12. In Household-Stuff, consisting of Beds, Ma-
 tresses, Coverlids, Hangings, Fringes of Silk, and
 other Furniture, by the Year above One hundred
 thousand Pounds.

13. In Wines from *Gascoigne, Nantois*, and o-
 ther Places on the River of *Loire*, and also from
Bordeaux, Rochelle, Nantes, Rouen, and other
 Places, are transported into *England*, by the Year,
 above Six hundred thousand Pounds.

14. In *Aqua Vita*, Cider, Vinegar, Verjuice,
 and such like, by the Year about One hundred
 thousand Pounds.

15. In Saffron, Castle-Soap, Honey, Almonds,
 Olives, Capers, Prunes, and such like, by the
 Year about One hundred and fifty thousand Pounds:

16. Besides five or six hundred Vessels of Salt,
 loaded at *Maron, Rochelle, Bouage*, the Isle of *Ole-*
ron, and Isle of *Rbes*, transported into *England*
 and

‘ and *Holland*, of a very great Value. So as by this
 ‘ Calculation, it doth appear, that the yearly Value
 ‘ of such Commodities as are transported from
 ‘ *France* to *England* amounts to above Six and twenty
 ‘ hundred thousand Pounds.

‘ And the Commodities exported out of *Eng-*
 ‘ *land* into *France*, consisting chiefly of Woollen
 ‘ Cloths, Serges, Knit Stockings, Lead, Pewter,
 ‘ Allom, Coals, and all else, do not amount to a-
 ‘ bove Ten hundred thousand Pounds a Year. By
 ‘ which it appears, that our Trade with *France* is
 ‘ at least Sixteen hundred thousand Pounds a Year
 ‘ clear Loss to this Kingdom.

‘ Whereby the King of *France*, finding it would
 ‘ prove to his Loss, to forbid the Trade with *Eng-*
 ‘ *land*, soon laid aside the Design; however, raised
 ‘ the Custom of some of our *English* Commodities,
 ‘ by which means the *Vent* of those Commodities is
 ‘ very much lessen’d and bindred.

‘ Hereby it may appear how insensibly our Trea-
 ‘ sure will be exhausted, and the Nation beggar’d,
 ‘ whilst we carelessly neglect our own Interest, and
 ‘ Strangers abroad are diligent to make their Advan-
 ‘ rages by us.

In the second Paragraph, where Mr. *Fortrey* men-
 tions the different sorts of Manufactures we had
 then in *England*, he does not so much as Name
 those of Silk, Linnen and Paper, from whence we
 may infer that they were, either so inconsiderable
 as not to be worth Notice, or that we had then
 none at all, and that they have been since that time
 brought to the great Perfection they are now in.
Must they for the sake of France be destroy’d?

From the fourth, I must beg leave to observe,
 that it was the Intention of the *French* King, for
 his Country’s Good, to have forbid the Trade be-
 tween *France* and *England*, had he, upon this Exa-
 mination, found it prejudicial to his Kingdom, as
 he

he suspected it was. Yet, notwithstanding he found it, upon this view, so extremely Advantageous to *France*, and so greatly Prejudicial to *England*, he was so far from being satisfied with the great Gain he made, that he loaded our Commodities with farther Duties, to prevent the Consumption of them in *France*, and to encourage his own Manufactures.

We have the same reason on our side, at least, to continue the high Duties and Prohibitions on all his Commodities, that are prejudicial to our Manufactures: Especially since, we seem to have lost an Opportunity of settling that Trade upon an advantageous Foot. What can we now expect from *France*? Is it to be supposed that *France* will do any thing in mere favour of our Trade, to the Prejudice of its own, that once intended wholly to have prohibited it, had it been the least detrimental thereto?

Mr. *Fortrey* has shew'd us, how detrimental the Trade of *France* was in the Year 1663, he gives it from the State the *French* themselves took of it, and that State must, by all impartial Men, be allow'd to be true. If this is to be contradicted by the *Mercator*, what must we believe? It is probable that the *French* at that time took an Account of the State of their Trade with all Nations. They were then considering, how to lay their Duties on Importations and Exportations equally over all Parts of their Country, and to Establish a general Tariffe: At this time the Duties were various in sundry, nay in most Parts of *France*, some Provinces paid more, and others less, for the same Commodities; and the Confusion was so great, that the Merchants in *France* hardly knew what Duties they were to pay, and the King's Collectors General unable to State any exact Account of that part of the Revenue arising from the Customs. This occasion'd the

settling the Tariffe of 1664, which was the first general Tariffe that ever was settled in *France*. I hope from hence, no body will think it improbable, that the *French* in or before the Year 1663, should take a true State of their Trade.

The confident Authors of the *Mercator*, notwithstanding, in their very first Paper, they say, it is hard to contend with a General receiv'd Notion, that the Trade to *France* was always Prejudicial, yet undertake to make the contrary appear, and that it always was, and always will be beneficial. Why would they have Mankind (contrary to all known Facts) believe that that Trade always was beneficial? I am sure I have Reason on my side to affirm directly otherwise, that the Trade to *France* always was prejudicial, and will be so again, whenever their Commodities are re-admitted by taking off the high Duties and Prohibitions.

From the State of our Trade in or about the Year 1663, I come to the Year 1674, when a Scheme of the Trade with *France* was drawn out of the *Custom-House* Books from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelms* 1669. By this Scheme (hereto annexed) it appears that the Ballance *France* gain'd from us by Trade was reduced to about a Million.

A SCHEME

[Here place the Scheme.]

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SCHEME

A S C H E M E of the T R A D E,

As it is at present Carried on

Between England and France,

In the Commodities of the Native Product and Manufacture of each Country; Calculated as exactly as possible, in Obedience to the Command of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for the Treaty of Commerce with France: And humbly tender'd to their Lordships.

	Commodities Exported from England into France.	Amount of Exports.	Total Amount of Exports.	Commodities Imported into England from France.	Amount of Imports.	Total Amount of Imports.
Woolen and Silk Manufactures.				Linnen and Silk Manufactures.		
	<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>		<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>
574	Pieces of Norwich Stuffs, at 3 00 <i>per</i> Pe	7 28 0 0		60000	Pieces of Lockram and Dowlas, at 6 00 <i>per</i> Pe	360000 00 0
404	Pieces of Sergees and Peppinians, at 2 10 0 0	13100 0 0		1000	Hundred of Vandy and Nuyals Canvas, at 6 00 <i>per</i> Hand	6000 00 0
1250	Pieces of fine's Bayes, at 3 10 0 0	1764 0 0		1000	Hundred of Normandy Canvas, at 7 00 0 0	7000 00 0
1050	Small Muslin Bayes, at 6 00 0 0	6300 0 0		1000	Pieces of Quants, at 1 00 0 0	1000 00 0
400	Small double Bayes, at 4 00 0 0	1864 0 0		1000	Pieces of dyed Linnen, at 1 00 0 0	1000 00 0
314	Dozen Mens Worked Hofs, at 2 00 0 0	420 0 0		754	Yards of Daper Tableing, at 0 03 0 0	750 08 0
224	Dozen Mens Worked Hofs, at 1 00 0 0	140 0 0		1175	Yards of Daper Napking, at 0 01 0 0	1694 16 0
1100	Dozen of Childrens Hofs, at 0 08 0 0	462 0 0		1175	Dozen of Backrams, at 1 10 0 0	3440 00 0
	Dozen of Finches, at 0 00 0 0	0 00 0 0		1800	Bolts of Foldings, at 0 10 0 0	900 00 0
120	Dozen of Cotton, at 0 00 0 0	1,800 0 0		1800	Pair of Old Sheets, at 0 07 0 0	702 00 0
114	Dozen of Cloth, at 10 00 <i>per</i> Cl.	1140 0 0		17000	Pound of wrought Silks, at 1 00 0 0	300000 00 0
41	Short Cloths, at 8 00 0 0	328 0 0				
210	Spanish Cloths, at 12 00 0 0	1440 0 0				
50	Double Northern Duckets, at 8 00 0 0	400 0 0				
60	Single Northern Duckets, at 8 00 0 0	480 0 0				
13	Dozen Duckets, at 3 00 0 0	36 0 0				
170	Dozen Ribbons, at 2 00 0 0	340 0 0				
6	Dozen Ribbons, at 3 00 0 0	18 0 0				
208	Dozen Ribbons, at 1 10 0 0	657 0 0				
90	Dozen English wrought Silks, at 1 00 0 0	150 0 0				
		6345 0 0				
This is the full of what was Exported, according to the Custom House Books in the Port of London, from <i>March</i> 1685, to <i>March</i> 1689. And for <i>England</i> we calculate one Third Part more. Amounts in all - - - - -				8421 06 08		
Since 1689, the Exports, as we conceive, are diminished, and not increased.						
3700	Fodder of Lead, at 12 00 <i>per</i> Fd.	37000 0 0		10000	Tons of French Wine one Year with another cut - 12 10 <i>per</i> Ton.	132700 00 0
6000	Hundred of Tin, at 4 00 <i>per</i> C.	24000 0 0		4000	Tons of Brandy, one Year with another, at 20 00 <i>per</i> Ton.	80000 00 0
100	Tons of Alum, at 14 00 <i>per</i> Ton.	1400 0 0				117000 00 0
	Calves Skins and Leather - - - - -	10.00 0 0				
	Several Sorts of Skins, Glaws, Lanthorn Leases, Butter, Coppars, Old Shoes, Sea Coals, Tobaccoes, Pipes, Glasses, Red Lead, Linfeed, Candles, Iron-Ware, Hattershery Ware, and other trivial Commodities, which may amount <i>per</i> Annum to	10000 0 0				
Balance gained by the French from us Yearly, besides the Toys, Gloves, Laces, &c.				86400 00 00		
				171021 06 08		
				951128 17 04		
				1136110 04 00		
				807150 04 00		
				11400 00 00		
				113610 04 00		

Note, That this Year, 1689, there hath been received at the Port of Dover only, as we are informed, 15000 *lb* for Custom of Wrought Silks: So that considering what may be conveyed away privately, and that great Quantity of Wools from *Spain*, to *Italy*, and *France*, may amount to much more in Value than what is above.

By the Account above, your Lordships may perceive, that the Linnen and Silk Manufactures only, Imported from France, amount to upwards of Eight Hundred Thousand Pounds, and the Manufactures of Wool and Silk Exported from England thither, do not amount to Eighty Five Thousand Pounds. As also all other Commodities of the Product and Manufacture of England Exported into France, do not amount to Ninety Thoufand Pounds more: Whereas the Wines, Brandies, and other Commodities of the Product and Manufacture of France Imported into England, amount to upwards of Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds; besides an incredible Value of Toys rich Apparel, Point-Lace, &c. So that it is apparent, that the Exports of our Native Commodities and Manufactures to France, are less in Value by at least One Million of Pounds Sterling, than the Native Commodities and Manufactures of France, which we receive from thence: And if it please your Lordships to reflect thereupon, your Lordships will easily discern the great Prejudice the English Nation hath sustained, and the great Advantage the French have, and do daily make, by holding this Treaty in Suspencc; this Nation being upon the Matter excluded Trade thither, while in the mean Time the French enjoy all and as great Advantages as they can reasonably expect by any Treaty.

Patience Ward,
George Torriano,
John Dubois,
Tomas Papillon,
John Houlton,
Benj. Godfrey,
James Houlton,
John Hough,
Edm. Harrison,
William Bellamy,
John Meruin,
Benj. Delanne,
Michael Godfrey,
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This SCHEME of TRADE, the *MERCATOR* treats with Contempt, calls it a horrid Roguery, and many other hard Names, such as are the best Product of the Brain of his Prompter, who flew at first to the *Custom-House* Accounts that were laid before the last Parliament, to crush this SCHEME; but since he has found that those Accounts reduced the Loss by *France* but 62103*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* a mere Trifle, from what the SCHEME makes it, he is grown sick of *Custom-House* Accounts, and now says, that the Entries of Exports and Imports in the *Custom-House* Books, can give no true Account of the Matter, and that the Judgment made from them is all Fallacy and Cheat: Very fine! those Books are one Day his Refuge, another not Authentick; any thing to serve his Turn. The Truth of this SCHEME (which was sign'd about forty Years ago, by fourteen of the most eminent *French* Traders in *London*, all of them being required (by the Commissioners for making a Treaty of Commerce with *France* at that time) to give their Opinions on the State of the *French* Trade) is Evidently made out by the *British Merchant*, N^o 80 and 82, beyond the Contradiction of any but such whose Labours are employed in the Service of the *French* Trade, however detrimental to that of their own Country.

I shall only observe, that the Price of our Exports mention'd in the Scheme are put at much higher Rates than they are now worth. Lead over-valued above three Pounds *per* Fodder, Allom eight Pounds *per* Tun, and other things in Proportion. *Norwich* Stuffs, Serges, Perpetuanaes, and most of the Woollen-Goods, are rated one fourth Part more than they will now yield. On the other hand, the Imports are as much under valued, as Wine at 12*l.* 10*s.* *per* Tun, which is now worth 25*l.* Brandy at 20*l.* which is now sold in *France* for 25*l.* the value

value of *French* wrought Silks ought at least to be doubled, in the first Place they are very much under-rated, in the next, more were clandestinely Imported, than paid Duty. Had this Scheme been exactly calculated, 'twould have fallen very little short of Mr. *Fortrey's* Account, which must be exact, because the *French* could better come at the Quantity and Value of the Goods exported from thence hither, by their *Custom-House* Books, than we possibly can at the Quantity of our Importations from thence by ours, by reason of the many clandestine Importations.

I will therefore, upon a modest Calculation, add to the Ballance of	}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Said to be lost to <i>France</i> by this Scheme, but a fourth part of the value of the Exports, tho' some of them are over-rated near half the value,		965128	17	4
To the Wine 12 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per Ton,	}	137500	0	0
To the Brandy 5 <i>l.</i> per Tun,		20000	0	0
To the Silks only,		300000	0	0
tho' it ought to be a great deal more, and the whole comes to		1465384	4	0

This Sum, besides all the Goods at the Foot of the Scheme not rated, and said to be of an *incredible* Value, we are yearly to pay to *France* upon ratifying the Treaty of Commerce in *Parliament*, the whole will be about the Sum Mr. *Fortrey* mentions. A Free-gift of 2*s.* in the Pound by a Voluntary Assesment on Stock in Trade, or otherwise, to be paid by the *British Merchants* to the *French Monarch* instead of Commerce on such a Foot, would be a saving of above 50000*l.* a Year to the Nation.

The King of *France* judged right, when he consider'd that if *France* took more Goods from *England*

land than *England* took from *France*, his Nation must lose by ours, and his Intentions to prohibit the Trade were calculated for his Interest.

As this Nation has found by long Experience, that considerably greater Quantities of Goods have been imported from *France*, than ever were exported thither, and that we lose most considerably by *France*, 'tis our Interest to continue that Trade upon the present Establishment: For the Consequence to *us* would be more fatal than to *France*, if they lost by *us*, it would not be only the loss of a Million and a half in Money, but greatly Impair, if not totally Ruin most of our other foreign Trades. For Example:

We Import and Consume annually a certain quantity of Wines, suppose it be 20000 Tons, or any other quantity; if we import from *France* 14000 Tons additional to this quantity, we yet shall be able to consume no more, than now we do. As we shall certainly covet to drink the best Wine, we must import so much the less from other Nations, which is now purchased by our Manufactures, our Manufactures must then lye on our Hands; when the Vent is stopt, our Looms must stand still, and our Manufacturers starve, come upon the Parishes for a Maintenance, or go to *France* to find Work, as many did from *Ireland*, when their Woollen Manufactures were prohibited to be exported to foreign Parts, we not having work for them here; to that Act of Parliament the Woollen Manufacture of *France* is extremely obliged. I hope we shall not now oblige them with such another.

I am very apt to think that when the Authors of the *Mercator* threaten'd to prove that the Trade to *France* was always beneficial, they imagin'd, after poring on this Scheme, that the 965128 *l.* 17 *s.* 4 *d.* ballance, was our Gain, because it stands in the

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Column of the Exports : And this may be as well supposed, as that such an one should venture at T—ties of Commerce, who has not Brains enough to distinguish between the Gain of a private Merchant, and the Gain of a Nation. This Creature says, that we cannot gain above 20 *per Cent.* of the Value of the Woollen Manufactures we export to *Portugal*; that to gain a Million yearly by our Trade to *Portugal*, we must export thither five Millions yearly in Woollen Manufactures.

If *Portugal* pays to *England* for the Value of a thousand Pound in Woollen Manufacture, a thousand Pound in Money; does not *Portugal* pay for the Wooll and Labour of all the People concern'd in the working up of this Manufacture? And is not the whole Sum clear Gains to the Nation?

If *England* pays to *Portugal* a thousand Pound for a quantity of Wine, does not *England* pay for the Product of the Vineyard, and to the Labourers of *Portugal*, concern'd in making of the Wine, their Wages? And is not this Sum clear Gains to *Portugal*?

But, Sir, to set this matter in a light that you will perfectly understand, Suppose that the King of *France* should pay to a Subject of *Great Britain* fifty or one hundred thousand Pounds for any good Service, is not this Sum clear Gains to that Subject, for his *bonest* Industry and Labour?

It is just the same thing between Nation and Nation, whatever one Nation vends in another, of its own Product and Manufacture, the Sum it is vendd for is clear Gains to the Vending Nation.

A Merchant may gain one thousand Pounds to his Country, and yet get nothing, nay even lose, by the Adventure himself.

What

What can we say of the *French Trade*, if we may not believe the Experience of former Times? What Judgment can be made? There has been no open Trade between us for about twenty or thirty Years. I hope we shall rely on what is Evident, and not on the Judgment, Computations, and Prophecies of the Authors of the *Mercator*.

I must trouble you with one Voucher more, to prove the Disadvantage of the *French Trade* to this Nation, and that it was acknowledged so at a Time, when every thing that was *French* was generally favour'd amongst us; 'tis the Sense of King, Lords and Commons, about three or four Years after this Scheme last mention'd was made, and when nothing but a Prospect of the Ruin of our own Trade could have occasion'd it.

Prohibition Act, *Anno 30, Car. 2.*

‘ *Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the Importing of French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silk, Salt and Paper, and other Commodities of the Growth, Product, or Manufactures of the Territories and Dominions of the French King, hath much exhausted the Treasure of this Nation, lessened the Value of the Native Commodities, and Manufactures thereof, and caused great detriment to this Kingdom in general: Be it Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament assembled, and by Authority of the same, &c.*

These Vouchers will easily find Pardon at your Hands, they are so exactly conformable to your Opinion; you would lay your Country under an extream Obligation, if you would be pleased to give us such farther Remarks on 'em, in behalf of the Trade

Trade of *Great Britain*, as a Person of your Abilities, and *unsuspected Integrity* is capable of; and I doubt not, but with a very little of your help, all such will easily be confuted, who dare presume to write against the Trade of our Country. I point in particular at the *MERCATOR* and his *Prompter*, and since I have mention'd them, I must with humble Submission, give you the best Information of them that I am able, and leave the World to judge, if the Assertions of two such Wretches merit any Credit: They being both the Off-spring of the Pillo-ry, no doubt are naturally endow'd with a large Portion of Sincerity. One of 'em, I must acquaint you, is so insolent as to interfere in your Province, and to assume the Management of our Commerce to himself, he says he is Prime Minister of Trade, and has the Assurance to stand at the Door of the M—try, and forbids Entrance to any who offer to Adventure with any Informations for the Benefit of our Trade; he is a huge Fellow, and has a Face that strikes Terror into all who approach him, he has kept this Post so long, and scared so many, that none of late dare go nigh 'em. You know, Sir, he has assumed your Province, and will do unspeakable Damage to our Country, if you don't take care to get him turn'd out. Such an Impostor as this ought to be sent to *Newgate*, and from thence—

The Man has good Understanding, and talks well, but makes a base Use of all his Talents; he has however rais'd himself by his Genius, from a mean Native of the Town of *Monaghan* in *Ireland*, to the Titles of *Don Arturio*, *le Comte de Tariffe*, *Marquis d'Assento*. The first and last of his Family that ever was upon Record, had a Post of publick Trust in the Town, and the *Marquis d'Assento* was born at the Paternal Seat of his Family, the Tap-house at the Prison-gate.

As

As I am unwilling to eclipse the Ambition of any great Man, I must assure you, this Affair was told me as a very great Secret; however, I venture to impart it to a Person of your *Integrity*, being Confident you'll let it go no further.

As to his Secretary *Daniel*, I believe he must make a second Entry, and another Hymn, before he can have any Pretences to vie Merits with the Family.

Having given some Account of the *Mercator*, and his *Dictator*, 'twon't be amiss to shew the Method of their Writings. They go on; without confusing or answering any Objection made against their Assertions, as a Lawyer at the Bar pleading a bad Cause: *Having proved this Point, my Lord, I proceed to shew your Lordship, &c.*

So Don Arturio.

Having confuted the *general received Notion*, that the Trade to *France* was always prejudicial to this Nation, notwithstanding it appears to have been so by the Experience of many Ages, and the Opinion of Parliaments long before the Revolution, and of the late *House of Commons*; and proved that that Trade was always Beneficial, and that the Opinions of those Parliaments, and of the late *House of Commons*, are the Clamours of the present Faction: I proceed to shew, that by destroying the *Portugal* and other Trades, and *England's* losing above a Million a Year to *France*, we shall be greater Gainers, than ever we were before.

He will much sooner be believed, if he should say,

Having proved that *Daniel D — F —* comes every Night to my House in *Bl — — — y Sq — — — re*, I proceed to shew, *that Birds of a Feather flock together.*

D

That

As

That there is not one Whig or Tory in G. B. that can say either of us is an honest Man; I proceed to shew *both Parties speak Truth.*

That, when I was an Arbitrator between Sir T. C——ke, Sir B—— F——b——, and the E. I. Company, I extorted of the said Gentlemen a Bribe of above Ten thousand Pounds in I——a Stock, for awarding and Procuring them a *general Release*; I proceed to shew *that I am no Fcol.*

That the chief Value of a Man centers in his Honesty and Integrity; I proceed to shew that I am not of that Opinion.

That I order'd Captain M——rs to leave his Remonstrance of the Importance of the Island of B——n at my House, it being referr'd to me, and sunk it from the M——ry; I proceed to shew that *Monsieur de T——y is a generous Man.*

That all my Transactions in the publick Affairs are with a View to Stock-jobbing; I proceed to shew, that when ever I am Bit, my Broad-brim'd *Jesuitical Lyon* in Sheeps Cloathing at *Jonatban's Bawls* out, *What! does the Wind blow in your Face?*

That it is for the Honour of the Nation to prostitute the Dignity of the Cr——n, to the little Tricks and Arts of Stock-jobbing: I proceed to shew, *That by misleading the M——y, I am a Man of Integrity.*

That at settling the T——ty of Commerce, Monsieur de T——cy shaked me by the Hand, I proceed to shew *he was a wise Minister in so doing.*

That the Trade of the Nation is neither Whig or Tory: I proceed to shew, *'tis a very WHIMSICAL thing to be an honest Man.*

That my Countryman Don M——uel M——ses Gil ——n, an Irish Papist, was the only fit Person to make the *Ass-nto T——ty*: I proceed to shew,

shew, I imposed him on the M——ry for a true Protestant.

That by my Mountainous Water-works of Le——d, I vie with the French King: I proceed to shew, 'tis with his own Money.

That as a Reward for my Honesty, I }
 enjoy as C——r of Tr—— per Ann. } l. 1000
 As the K. of Sp——n's Agent for the Aff——nto, } 3000
 As Ditto, by Gil——an, my Deputy, } 3000
 As Pay-master, } 6000

And I proceed to shew, I pay out of it to my two Deputies, my Brother M——re, and G——an, but 500l. per Annum each.

That by the Ruin of the Tr——de of the Nation, I hazard the Fall of the present M——y: I proceed to shew, I am hired by the Whigs for that Purpose.

Instead of proving the above FACTS, or any thing else, that has the least Tendency to Truth, he goes on thus:

Having proved that thirty Shillings per Ton Freight from France, brings a larger Gain to the Nation than four Pounds per Ton Freight from Portugal, &c. I proceed to shew that thirty Shillings is a larger Sum than four Pounds.

That the French Weavers have nine Sols, or five Pence English, per Ell, for weaving of Lutestring, and the English Weavers twelve Pence per Ell, and each work in Proportion in all other Manufactures; I proceed to shew that Lutestrings and all other Manufactures are made cheaper in England, than in France.

That the more Lutestrings and other Silks are imported into England, the fewer Weavers will be employ'd in France; I proceed to shew that the more will be employ'd in England.

That the larger Quantities of Silk, Linnen, and Paper that we import, the more will be made here; I proceed to shew that the less will be made in *France*.

That the greater the Woollen Manufacture is in *France*, the larger Quantities they will take from us; I proceed to shew that the higher the Duties are they lay on ours, the more it will *facilitate* our Trade.

That *France* has no Commodities that we can take from them, without Prejudice to our own Manufactures; I proceed to shew that therefore we ought to pass a Bill of Commerce on the Foot of the present Treaty.

That two Woollen Drapers, two Mercers, two Linnen Drapers, and two Stationers, vying for Customers, in their distinct Trades, ought only to trade with each other; I proceed to shew that we shou'd only trade with *France*.

That forasmuch as our Acts of Parliament say, No Alien whatsoever shall have Liberty to Fish at *Newfoundland*; I proceed to shew that Acts of Parliament contrary to the *French* Interest are not in Force.

That the more the *French* and *Spaniards* fish in our *American* Seas, the greater Number of Seamen we shall raise; I proceed to shew that a Prohibition of our Fish in *France*, is the only way to increase that Trade.

That the *French* have ever had as much right to *Newfoundland*, and other Parts of *America*, as the *English*; I proceed to shew that they have also a Right to the Industry, Labour, and Gain made by the People of *G. B.* in all other Trades.

That by our Entries to be made only at *St. Valery* upon the *Somme*, *Rouen*, *Nantes*, *Libourne*, and *Bordeaux*, with a Prohibition in the *Mediterranean*,

is meant, *at all Places of Entrance in the Kingdom, Countries and Territories under the Dominion of the French King*; I proceed to shew that the *May-Pole in the Strand*, is the *Pike of Teneriff*.

Such are his Arguments, as if his Readers had the same Motives to believe them, as he has to write them, and took for granted all he asserts to be true. This sort of proceeding may do with such as understand nothing of Trade, and read only his Papers; but they who read all, and such who have been bred to Merchandizing, and know what Trade is, must have other sort of Proofs than his Papers, to convince 'em that the *French Trade*, on the Foundation he would have it, can ever be otherwise than ruinous and destructive. Trade can only be cultivated by Experience, and never supported in Opposition to it, by any SHIM SHAM Projects, tho' form'd in the refined Air of *Bl———y Sq--re*.

The Pusillanimity of Mankind must be exreamly great, if among so many worthy Gentlemen who walk the *Exchange of London*, and are sincere Lovers of their Country, most loyal and dutiful Subjects to Her Majesty, and hearty Well-wishers of her M———rs, there are not a Number to be found, who out of Respect and Service to the M——y will commit to writing their sincere Thoughts on the present T——ty of C——mm--rce, and subscribe their Names, that we may see who are for preserving the Trade of *G. Britain*, and who are for yielding it to *France*. For my Part, I shall readily make one of the former, but do not care alone to be the single Butt: Tho' if I shou'd, I am certain I can incur the Displeasure of no M——r, nor can I conceive it to be any blot in a M——r of S——te, according to the unfortunate Fashion of *G——t B——n*, not to be a perfect Master

ster of its Trade: I will be bold to say, but with Sorrow, no Man in this Island is, tho' particular Branches are extreamly well understood by those concern'd in them. I believe in all T——tics of C——rce, as well as the present, it has been the Custom of M——rs to pitch upon some one Person or Persons, who they thought Judges of Trade, to consult with. A M——r in such a Case may easily be mistaken in the Person he chuses, especially if he on whom the Choice falls has a good *Affurance*; a Man that has but a small Portion of Knowledge in Trade, or a few general Notions, may easily shine before another who is no way Master of it, or pretends to it. If such is our Case, whoever the Person is, he ought to acknowledge the Mistakes he has made, and the M——ry be informed of the Truth, by such as understand it: And not endeavour by persisting in his Errors to bring Reflections on the well-meaning M——ry, Destruction on the Trade of the Nation, and on our Country, by using Arts and Tricks to get it past. The owning his Ignorance will merit Forgiveness, and it would be too severe even to think he understood it.

I am of the Opinion so good a M——ry as ours, will think themselves obliged to any Gentlemen, who shall endeavour to set them right in the Affair of our Commerce, and make 'em sensible how much they have been impos'd upon, by the Person they rely on, who stands between them and the World, and Brow-beats all Mankind that endeavour to approach them with Zeal for theirs and their Country's Service. When the M——ry is sensible of this, no doubt but they will discountenance such a Procedure. Had we a bad and destructive M——ry, as *England* has too often had, they would for their own sakes, as their Interest, rectifie such
notorious

notorious Abuses: What then is there that may not be expected from a wise, just, and prudent M——ry?

I say again, had we the worst M——ry that ever were at the Head of Affairs, can they deter the Gentlemen of the *Exchange* of *London* and other Parts, from speaking up for the Trade of our Country? What dependance can they have on a M——ry? what do they, or can they expect from them? nothing, but what they may demand; the just Protection of our Trade: And can any M——ry refuse it? Why should we then be afraid to defend our Trade? The Expectation of Posts and Places is sordid and despicable, when compar'd with the more noble Profession of the Merchant. How many have on this Foundation raised themselves to grace the present Age, and will leave a Race to grace Posterity? Must they then be Silent, when their Estates, the Product of their Industry, lyes at stake, and this prospect of their Posterity may not only be precarious, but they themselves deprived even of the Means whereby their Ancestors obtain'd them? No! they will defend their Cause. Sir, if you should be asked who speaks this, say 'tis a Merchant, say 'tis a *Briton*, say 'tis one that like a *Roman* dares defend his Country's Good, that detests the Name of Faction, of Whig and Tory, of Parties contending for Posts and Places, 'tis one that regards no Country under Heaven, whose Interest interferences with that of his own, say 'tis one *that will never sell the Trade of his Country.*

You'll pardon this Warmth, a Man of your *Virtue* and *Zeal* I am sure can't do otherwise.

I have another Secret to impart to you. I am just now informed that our *Don* has lately furnish'd his
Man

Man *Daniel* with Materials for a Pamphlet. The *Dun*, notwithstanding his Love for Money, has been so Zealous in communicating it, that he has disperst many thousands by the *Penny-Post*. Amongst the Aspersions on many worthy Gentlemen, the *Don* chiefly aims at Her Majesty's ablest and best M——r.

He Taxes him with *Trimming*, and with *Cowardice*, he calls him a *Waxen L. L.* and pronounces him *Contemprible*. What! Is this great and experienced Statesman, to be taxed with *Trimming*, because he does not implicitly follow the Dictates of a Little *Tricking Politician*, a M——r of Yesterday? Is the Descendant of that noble Family, from whose Valour our Sovereign bears the Title of *France*, to be taxed with *Cowardice*, because he was the first who offered to the P. of O—— his Sword and his Purse, to rescue the Liberty of his Country? Is he a *Waxen L. L.* because he did not receive *Impressions* destructive to the Interest of the Kingdom which he governs? Is he *Contemprible*, who will not give into those Measures which can only make him so? Must all the ancient Nobility of this Kingdom be render'd *Despicable*, by *Upstarts*? Must the illustrious Name of *T——t*, which for many hundred Years has been the *Terror* of *France*, be now branded with *Cowardice* because it *was so*? and because the present great Owner of it cannot degenerate from his noble Ancestors, and dare not (if that be *Cowardice*) comply with Schemes which may in the end give up his Country to *Tyranny*, and a *French Power*.

But to return to the *Mercator*. Says *Don Arturio*, *First*, The *Dutch* are our Rivals, and have robb'd us of many of our best *Trades*, therefore 'tis our Interest

Interest to give the Benefit of *those we have left to France.*

Secondly, The *Dutch* have robb'd us of our *Spice*, therefore the *French* thou'd have our *Sugar*.

Thirdly, The *Dutch* wholly reap the Benefit of our *Herrings*, therefore we should give our *Cod* to *France*.

Fourthly, The *Dutch* by bubbling of us have rais'd a great *Naval Power*, therefore the *French* thou'd have our *Nursery of Seamen* to raise such another.

Fifthly, The *Dutch* embrace the *French Trade*, therefore we should do the same.

Sixthly, The *Dutch* are our *Rivals* more than the *French*.

It must be from Ignorance, or a baser Motive, which makes any one assert that the *Dutch* rivaling and interfering with us in Trade, can sufficiently justify any of the *Don's* late Concessions in Favour of *France*. If we are Sufferers by the *Dutch* in our Trade, as we most certainly are, must we likewise be greater Sufferers by the *French*, tho' in our Power to avoid it? Must every Body be afraid to open his Mouth against a T——ty injurious to our Country, for fear the *Don* and *Daniel* shou'd call him a clamorous fictitious Party-Man? have they not had the Insolence to call the Gentlemen of the late *House of Commons* such, who wisely rejected that T——ty? When all the *Gentlemen* of *G. B.* are abused by those Wretches, you may be assured, it is for their good Actions; *They can rail at nothing that is Base.*

'Tis no new thing, and I believe will not sooner be forgotten than the Injuries we have receiv'd from *France*, that the *Dutch* robb'd us of our *Spice Islands* in the *East-Indies*, an inestimable Treasure? Are we therefore to agree that the *French* shall prohibit our *West-India* Commodities?

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Can any *Briton* think it reasonable, that because our *Supinets* has given up the *Herring-Fishery* to the Industry of the *Dutch*, and because our *Greenland Fishery* is shared by the *Dutch* and *French*; that we should give that of our *Cod in America* to France, which is our best Nursery of Seamen? We have establish'd and confirm'd the *French* in the largest and best Part of that Fishery, to which before they never had any manner of Title, as will be made appear at a proper time.

Are we just to our Country, in establishing to the *French* Nation a Nursery of Seamen (who thirst after a Naval Power, and whose Fleet, entirely raised in the latter Years of her present Monarch by this Fishery, has singly contended against the united Naval Power of *G. B.* and *Holland*;) because the *Dutch* have through our Indolence and Stupidity, raised to themselves, in our Fisheries, a greater Number of Ships and Seamen than the rest of *Europe* is Master of?

Is it a Reason that we should embrace the *French* Trade on the Foot of that T——ty, because the *Dutch* Trade to *France*? The *French* Trade, considering the different Circumstances of the *Dutch* and *Ours*, may be Beneficial to them, tho' it is destructive to us. *Holland* is to be look'd upon as a Sea-port to a vast Country on the Continent, they consume but a trifle of the Goods they import from *France*; after receiving a very good Toll of them, they are sent to other inland Countries to be consumed; *Great Britain* must consume all her Imports, by which she would prevent the Consumption of those from such Countries, whose Goods she has in Exchange for her Manufactures, and such Goods of *France* as interfere with her Manufactures must in time, by the cheapness of the *French* Labour, destroy such Manufactures. Can any Goods of *France*
pass

pass through *Great Britain* or its Dominions, as they do through *Holland*, to other Countries, that cannot be carried much cheaper to those Countries, directly from *France*? If not, she must consume them herself.

As to our Manufactures of Wool, we know the *French King* wears his own, nor dare his People appear in his Presence clad in any other. Who then can suppose he will ever encourage ours? But to come closer to the Point, the Manufacturers and Labourers of *France* work seven Pence in a Shilling cheaper than ours, they have Sheep all over *France*, and of course have Wool: Their Wool indeed is not so good as ours, but they have *Spanish* to mix with it much cheaper than we can have; *France* and *Spain* join; with their own, and *Spanish* Wool, they make very good Manufactures, with which they content themselves. Their Gentlemen of Estates may now and then fancy a Suit of *English* Cloth, if they do, they'll have it as the Trade now stands, and if the Bill of Commerce were past, they'll not take a Picce the more. The great Consumption of Wool does not lye amongst these Sort of People, 'tis amongst the inferiour Sort, and the Manufactures they consume are made much cheaper in *France* than any we can send them. What View can we then have of encreasing our Woolen-Manufacture by this T——ty?

Besides, our finest *Spanish* Cloaths have no mixture of *English* Wool; others have, as from one Pound of *Spanish* in twelve Pounds of *English*, to all Degrees, 'till the major Part is *English*; they are Coarser or Finer according to the Sorts of *Spanish* Wool, and in Proportion to the Quantity of *English*; by the first Sort we Vend only the Labour of our People, not the Product of our Country. Thus we see the *French* want not Wool, only the Art to make as fine Cloth as we.

Great Britain and France, are like two Woollen-drapers struggling to get off their Commodities, with this distinction that France makes her Goods above 50 per Cent. cheaper than Great Britain; will you confine these two Drapers to deal together?

Their Manufactures of Silk, Linnen and Paper, are made still much cheaper in proportion than those of Wool: Their Silks are better fancied, and our Ladies fond of them; our Silk Manufacture is wonderfully encreased and improved within these twenty Years, and may still improve, if not discouraged by this T——ty, even to excel those of *France*. Improvement is peculiar to the Genius of the *British* Nation, we excel all Nations in most Arts we learn from them: 'Tis pity we should then destroy those Manufactures, that are already brought to so great Perfection.

'Tis very plain that their Silks, Linnen, Paper; Wines and Brandies, admitted on the Foot of the T——ty of Commerce, will Ruin the Woollen, and all other Manufactures of this Island.

The Cost and Freight of *French* Wines and Brandies, being cheaper than those of other Countries, will prevent the Consumption of such as we now have from those Countries, of course; if we do not take the Wines of *Portugal, &c.* and they cannot pay us for our Manufactures otherwise, and will therefore take none, who will be our Chapmen? We have already proved how very inconsiderable Quantities the *French* can take.

Their Silks, Linnens, and Paper, will more immediately destroy those Manufactures in our Country, by being cheaper imported than we can make them; as also prevent the Importation of such from other Countries, as we have in Exchange for our Woollen-Manufactures.

I would willingly ask an honest Country Gentleman, that loves to drink a Glas of Claret, and to see

see his Wife and Daughter in *French Silks*; whether it would be more welcome to him, to hear that the labouring People of *France* are well employ'd, their Wines and Silk very cheap; and that his own Tenants are come upon the Parish; or that *French Silks* and Wines are dear, and his Tenants thrive; and pay their Rents?

Those that are for the former may be for the Treaty of Commerce.

I take this to be our present Case, there are no Commodities in *France* but will in some Measure be prejudicial to our Manufactures.

We have many Commodities in *G. B.* that *France* must and will have.

For these latter they must pay us ready Money, and did in the last Interval of Peace, when we gain'd on our Ballance between 300000 and 400000 *l. per An.* by them; and *French Pistoles* were almost as plenty as Guineas. I say we now gain by them in the same Manner, and are paid in Gold for our Commodities; I appeal to the Gentlemen of the Mint in the Tower, if they have not had since the Treaty of Peace considerably above half a Million of *French Money* sent in to be recoin'd.

If the Trade is open'd on the Foot of the Treaty, they will not only pay for our Commodities, in Commodities, but by an Inundation of them, prevent not only the Consumption of our own, as well as the Commodities of other Foreign Nations, and hinder the Exportation of ours, but require above a Million *per An.* in ready Money, and they must be paid it.

Since this Affair of our Commerce appears to be so prejudicial, 'tis our wisest way to keep upon the Foot we now are. I would not be understood to mean that Commerce with *France* could not have been settled upon an advantageous Foot to us; it most

most certainly might, but as the time is past, I shall only ask you a few Questions.

If we had been as much in the Power of the *French*, as they lately were in ours, what Treaty of Commerce should we have been compell'd to have accepted from them?

Would they have suffer'd us to have continued the least Prohibition on any of their Commodities or Manufactures?

Would they have allow'd Imports at a few particular Ports, to be a proper way to facilitate their Trade?

Would they have permitted us and the *Dutch* to have fish'd at *Newfoundland*, as we do them and the *Spaniards*?

Would they have yielded the Isle of *Breton* to us, as we have affectionately done to them?

Sir, These Questions you can easily answer. But pray, what does *Don Arturio* mean, by saying the *Dutch* are our *Rivals* more than the *French*; he allows both to be our *Rivals*, but how are they so?

Are the *Dutch* such, because they industriously reap those Blessings which Providence and Nature design'd for us, and which from our Indolence and Stupidity we refuse?

Are the *French* so, because they are grown sensible of the Importance of Commerce to a Nation, zealous to propagate their Naval Force by the Treasure of our *American Seas*? Which Naval Force, for many Years the Terror of this Island, has now a Foundation laid to become the Terror not only of *Europe*, but even of the World, and all owing to their Masters, industriously Wise, and studious in the Affairs of Commerce, the chief concern of Nations; which with ours are Trifles, beneath the Care of the Great; the Business of Footmen.

Or

Or are they both our Rivals! because their M———ters and Managers of their Commerce are too hard for ours, and shew as much Skill and Care of their Trade, as we can Ignorance and Negligence of our own?

These, Sir, I suppose are the *Don's* Reasons, for calling them Rivals, but you and I cannot call them so, for laying hold of those Advantages, despised and neglected by those they are said to Rival, but on the contrary each of them a wise, an industrious, and a great People. What Opinion the World will have of us, I leave you to judge, who am,

S I R,

Your Humble Servant.

F I N I S.

Errata. In Title Page, *lege,*
Vendidit HIC Auro Patriam— Virg.

