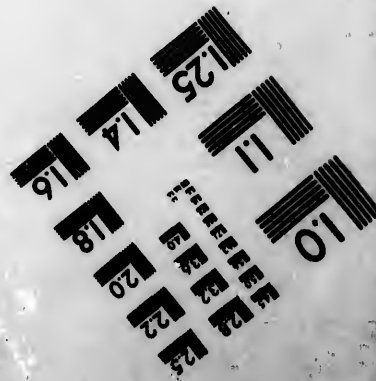
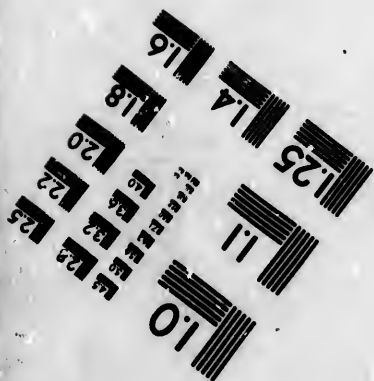
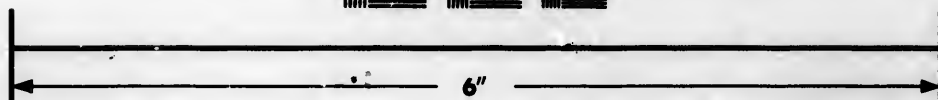
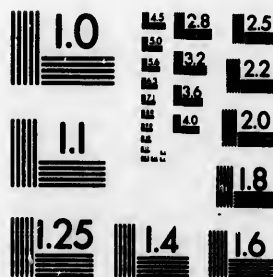


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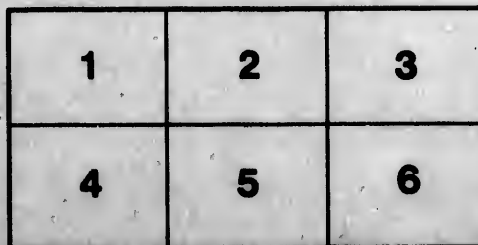
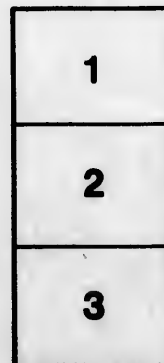
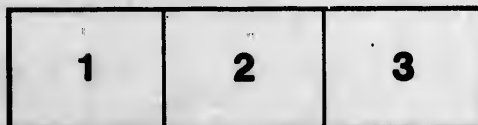
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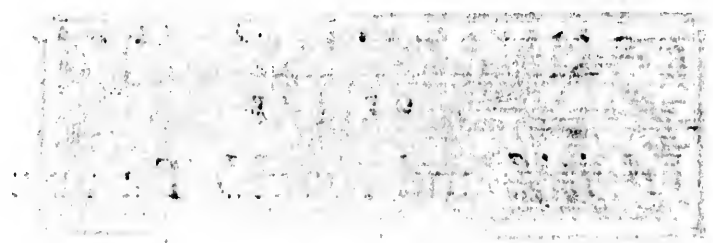
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THE
PRESENT STATE
OF THE
British and French TRADE
TO
AFRICA and AMERICA
Consider'd and Compar'd ;
With some *Propositions* in Favour
OF THE
TRADE of GREAT BRITAIN.



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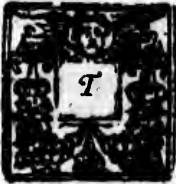
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P R E F A C E.



THE Design of this Treatise is to shew the Advantages the French have gain'd over the English in several Branches of Commerce since the Peace of Utrecht, which is so astonishing as to require the most sericus Attention at this juncture.

WHETHER this rapid Encrease is owing to the Foundation or Policy of a Richlieu, a Colbert, a Fleury, or to the Want of a proper Method of Enquiry, on our Part, into the Nature of our Commercial Interest, or whether to any other Cause, I will not presume to say; but have here given a short State of the Progress and Situation of the Commerce of both Nations.

I have also pointed out several Propositions, or Regulations, with a View to turn the Stream in favour of this Nation, which may all be reduced to the two following Points, viz.

First, To get Labour cheap in our Plantations, and to ease our Manufacturers and *American* Planters of burthensome Taxes and unnecessary Restrictions in Trade, that the Products of their Labour and Soil may be afforded cheaper at Home and Abroad.

A 2

Secondly,

Secondly, To encourage the most extensive Vent of our Home Manufactures and Plantation Products, as well in *British Dominions* as in Foreign Countries.

THESE are Points that every Englishman must admit are worthy the most serious Consideration, as it is certain, That the cheaper we raise and make our own Productions and Manufactures, and the easier we get them to the Consumers at Home and Abroad, the more we shall vend; and that our American Plantations, Commerce and Manufactures, and consequently the National Ballance and Maritime Power of this Kingdom, will increase and grow in Proportion to the Increase of such a Vent or Consumption; and at the same Time it will employ a proportionable Number of our poor People, that may otherwise beg in the Streets or rob on the Highways, or remain a Charge on their respective Parishes.

IT is well known that Trade is the chief Source of Wealth and Power, and that those Governments that embrace it with Chearfulness, and give it the most Encouragement, will have the best Share of it; for it will not flourish in any Country where it meets with Coldness and Neglect. Wherefore it is to be hoped that what is contain'd in this Treatise will answer the Design of it, by inspiring our Councils with generous Resolutions to succour and preserve our Trade and Plantations, so as to support the Reputation of this Nation, and thereby obstruct the long studied Endeavours of the most restless and ambitious Nation in Europe, and the most powerful of our Neighbours, who have nothing so much in View as to wrest from us some of our most valuable Branches of Commerce and Colonies; and, in consequence, to gain the Empire of the Seas and establish Universal Monarchy.



THE
PRESENT STATE
 OF THE
British and French TRADE
 TO
AFRICA and AMERICA

Consider'd and Compar'd ;
 With some *Propositions* in Favour
 OF THE
TRADE of GREAT BRITAIN.



THE *English* Nation are very apt to have too mean an Opinion of the Trade and Navigation of other Nations, particularly the *French*, notwithstanding the Superiority they have *insensibly* gain'd over us in several Branches of Commerce since the Peace of *Utrecht*.

THE Number of Prizes that have been taken from the *French*, and the frequent Arrivals of their numerotis Fleets, have rouz'd and open'd the Eyes of many that would not be convinc'd before: And

since our Indolence is at length awaken'd, our Security alarm'd, and every Breast seems to be fill'd with those Passions, which are enkindled by the Love of our Country, not only from this Instance, but also from many other Proofs, that the *French* have of late Years gain'd very great Advantages over us in Trade, surely no Opportunity ought to be lost to excite every *Briton* to the Exertion of all his Faculties to discover the Cause of such a surprizing Change, and to find out such Expedients as may enable us to bear up against the flourishing State and ambitious Views of the Common Disturbers of *Europe*.

In Order to answer so desirable an End, it will be necessary to search narrowly into the present State, Laws, Establishments, and Rules of Commerce, as well Foreign as Domestick, and to retrench what is superfluous and inconvenient, and to supply what is insufficient by prudent Regulations.

I shall therefore shew the wise Operations of the *French* in Support of their Commerce and Colonies, and the Consequences thereof; and shall then set forth what has been done by the *English* in Behalf of theirs; and, after touching upon the *French* Superiority and the Danger we are in from any further Delay in altering our Measures, I shall point out such Expedients as I humbly apprehend will put a Stop to the late rapid Encrease of *French Trade, Wealth and Power*.

LEWIS XIV. King of *France*, * “ having
 “ at all Times been sensible of what Importance it
 “ was to the Welfare of the State to favour and
 “ protect the Commerce of his People, as well
 “ within the Kingdom as out of it: And being,
 “ in

* *Vide*, The Arret for establishing a Council of Commerce, Done in the King's Council of State, his Majesty present, at *Verailles*, the 29th Day of *June* 1700. Sign'd *Phehypraux* and seal'd.

“ in the Year 1700, more dispos’d than ever to
 “ grant a particular Protection to Commerce, to
 “ shew his Esteem for the good Merchants and
 “ Traders of his Kingdom; and to facilitate to
 “ them the Means of making Trade flourish and
 “ extending it: And judging that nothing could be
 “ more capable of producing this Effect than the
 “ forming a Council of Commerce, to be wholly
 “ attentive to the examining and promoting what-
 “ ever may be most advantageous to Commerce,
 “ and, to the Manufactures of *France* in general,”
 establish’d a Council accordingly, which consists of
 some of the principal * Officers of State, and
 twelve of the principal Merchants of the Kingdom,
 or such *who have been a long Time engag’d in
 Trade*; and of this Number two are of the Town
 of *Paris*, and each of the other ten are of the
 Towns of *Rouen, Bourdeaux, Lyons, Marseilles,
 Rochelle, Nantes, St. Malo, Lisle, Bayonne, and
 Dunkirk*; and they are elected annually by the Cor-
 poration, Magistrates of the Town, and the
 trading Merchants in each of the said Towns, and
 every one of these Towns has a Chamber of
 Commerce within itself, which hear Representa-
 tions concerning Abuses and Difficulties in Trade,
 and also Complaints concerning Impositions in
 Trade by Governors and other publick Officers in
 their Plantations, which are represented by them
 to their respective Deputies elected as aforesaid.

In this Council of Commerce, which sits at least
 once in every Week at *Paris*, or where the Court
 resides, are discuss’d and examin’d all Propositions
 and Memorials which are sent to it, together with
 the Affairs and Difficulties which may arise con-
 cerning Commerce, as well by Land as by Sea,
 within

A 4

* Comptroller-General of the Finances, Secretary of State,
 and other particular Counsellors of State, who communicate
 what passes at this Council to the Royal Council, as Occasion may
 require.

within the Kingdom and out of it, and concerning
Fabricks and Manufactures.

IMMEDIATELY upon the Establishment of this
Council of Commerce, the * Deputies of the said
Council apply'd diligently to the Duty of their
Office; and the ensuing Year presented to the
Royal Council no less than twenty Memorials con-
cerning the Commerce of that Nation to their
American Islands, *Guinea*, the *Levant*, *Spain*,
England, *Holland* and the *North*; the raising no-
minally the Value of Coin, and the Effects that
has upon Commerce; the granting Monopolies;
the erecting of exclusive Companies; and other
chief Points in Trade.

IN these Memorials are contain'd several Propo-
sitions for Regulations and Remedies in Trade,
many of which have since been thoroughly exe-
cuted, *to the Honour of those Deputies, and to the
great Advantage and Reputation of that Nation*,
as they have, since the Representations of the said
Memorials to the Royal Council, † extended
their Trade 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 exceed-
ed the *French* in this Branch of Trade abundantly.

IN the Article of Sugar only, they have within that
Time increas'd from the Quantity of about || 30,000
English

* These Deputies have 10,000 Livres *per Annum* Salary,
(which is near 500 *l.* Sterling) allow'd them by the respective
Towns that elect them.

† It is computed that before the Year 1720, there was no
more than 30 Sail of Ships annually employ'd in the *American*
Trade from *Bourdeaux*, and that there are now 300 Sail employ'd
annually in that Trade from that City only.

‡ A Hoghead of Sugar, including Freight and other Charges
Home, may be computed, in an Average, at 12 *l.* to 18 *l.* *per*
Hoghead, according to the PLENTY or SCARCITY.

English Hogheads *per Annum* to 120,000 or thereabouts, whereof about two Thirds are shipp'd to *Holland, Hamburg, Spain,* and other foreign Markets; and the *English* have encreas'd from about 45,000 to no more than 70,000 Hogheads within that Time, of which they now send but little to foreign Markets, altho' they had formerly the best Share of that Trade, and even supply'd France with Sugars: This Encrease of the Importation of Sugar into *Europe* from *America*, by the *French* and *English*, is owing to the great Increase of the general Consumption of Sugar in *Europe*, and the Declension of the *Portugucze* Sugar-Trade.

— And moreover the *French* have already engross'd the Indigo-Trade from the *English*, and have greatly encreas'd in their Fisheries, and Beaver and other Fur-Trade in *North-America*, since their Settlement of *Cape Breton*, which they have fortify'd at a † vast Expence; and it is from this last mention'd 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.

THEY have also gain'd a great Superiority over us 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 Deer Skins, and the *English*, from all our *Notbern* Colonies not above § 90,000 *l. Sterling*.

† The Fortifications of *Louisbourg*, in the Island of *Cape Breton*, cost the *French* King some Millions of Livres, besides a vast annual Expence in maintaining them and the Garrisons there.

	In Beaver.	In Deer Skins.	In Furs.	Total.
¶ The <i>French</i> import from <i>Canada</i> .	£. 75,000	20,000	40,000	135,000
§ The <i>English</i> import from <i>North America</i> .	37,000	25,000	28,000	90,000
	£. 112,000	45,000	68,000	225,000

ling: And the *French* are so tender of this Branch of Trade and so sensible of the Advantages that arise from the Manufactory of these *American* Commodities, that no one can re-export Beaver from *France* unmanufactur'd, under the severest Penalties. When these Goods are manufactur'd they exceed the Value upon Importation in some Cases, ten Fold, and they have greatly improv'd this Branch of Trade and supply 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 surpriz'd at it, as they were much beyond what they could have imagin'd.

THE great Advantages gain'd by the *French*, from such a surprizing Encrease in Trade, is conspicuous from the immense Sums they draw annually from other Countries, in return for their *American* Products, as well as for their Cambricks, Tea, Brandy, Wine, and other Home Manufactures.

IT is from hence they chiefly maintain such powerful Armies, and afford such plentiful Subsidies and Pensions to several Powers and People in Europe: It is from hence they build their Ships of War, and nourish and maintain Seamen to supply them.

IT is computed that they draw from two to three Millions of Pounds Sterling per Ann. from foreign Countries in return only for Sugar, Indigo, Coffee, Ginger, Beaver (manufactur'd 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 hop'd, 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, 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 in *America*, where Supplies may be found, and where safe Convoys may be met with upon all Occasions.

WHETHER this great Increase of the *French* Commerce is owing to the Extent and Fertility of their Territories, or to their prudent Regulations and Encouragements at Home and Abroad from the Experience and Vigilance of their Council of Commerce, I will not determine; tho' I believe chiefly to the latter; but be that as it may, I shall proceed with shewing the particular Care the *French* take of their Commerce to *Africa* and their *West-India* Islands, which will appear what follows, viz.

IN one of the said Memorials, the said Deputies of the Council of Trade represent to the Royal Council, That " the Commerce of *Guinea* has
 " such Relation to that of the *French* Islands in the
 " *West Indies*, that the one cannot subsist without
 " the other. By those Trades we have deprived our
 " Competitors in Traffick of the great Profits which
 " they drew from us, and may put ourselves into
 " a Condition, by their Example, to draw Pro-
 " fit in our Turn from them, and especially
 from

“ from the * English. We may encrease those
 “ Trades considerably, seeing that Nation in their
 “ Islands, with less Advantages than we, in Ter-
 “ ritories of less Extent, and in much less Time;
 “ have found Means to employ yearly above 500
 “ Ships, whilst we do not, without great Diffi-
 “ culty, employ 100. — Every-body is sensible
 “ of the Benefit of Navigation, and that the Hap-
 “ piness and Glory of a Staté very much depend
 “ upon it: There can be no Commerce without
 “ it; it governs the Fortunes of the Merchants;
 “ it maintains a great Number of Subjects, Sea-
 “ men and Mechanicks; no one is ignorant, that
 “ *the Navigation of France owes all its Increase and*
 “ *Splendor to the Commerce of its Islands, and that*
 “ *it cannot be kept up and enlarg'd otherwise than by*
 “ *that Commerce.*” Pag. 1. 2.

AND in Page 13, there are the following
 Words, viz. “ High Duties hinder great Con-
 “ sumption, the dearer any Thing is, the more
 “ sparing are People in using it; *this is contrary*
 “ *to the Design of improving Colonies.*” †

IT appears the *French* have strictly observ'd this
 Rule, as they have laid little or no Duties on the
 Importation of their Sugar, or any other of their
American Products, since the Year 1698, however
 pressing the Exigencies of their Government might
 have been since that Time.

THEY pay but $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent on a low Valuation,
 which reduces it to about 2 per Cent. on the Impor-
 tation of their Sugar into *France*, besides an Inland
 Duty of three Livres, or 2 s. 9 d. Sterling per Hun-
 dred

* It is plain from hence, that what the *French* have in View,
 is to crush or secure to themselves the *British* Sugar Colonies in
America, so that the *English*, in Time, may be oblig'd to raise
 Sugars from the *French*, as they did formerly from the *English*.

† It is notorious that whenever the Price of Sugar is High in
Great Britain, the Consumption, and, consequently the Revenue,
 abates in Proportion. Vide Page 43—*. †.

dred Weight; yet Sugars, and other Effects of their *African* Company, are exempted from half the Imposts payable at the Custom-House, and from all local Duties on what is imported or exported by them: And the *French* Planters pay but one *per Cent.* on the Exportation of their Plantation Products from their Islands, whilst the Planters of *Barbados* and the *Leeward Islands* pay $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* on their Exports.

THE *French* King allows his Subjects, that Trade to *Africa*, a Bounty of 10 Livres, or 9s. 2d. Sterling a Head for every Negro, and as much for every Ounce of Gold Dust which they carry from the Coast of *Guinea*, and they are allow'd several other Advantages.

The *French* are permitted to carry their Sugar, and other *American* Products, from their Sugar Islands, directly to *Spain*, and from the commodious Situation of *Dunkirk*, *Ostend*, and *Marseilles*, they have, in Effect, the like Advantage to *Flanders*, *Holland*, *Germany* and *Italy*.

AND although the *French* King's Edicts, or Laws, are as strict as our Acts of Trade and Navigation, as to the Prohibition of Foreigners from trading in their Islands and Colonies in *America*, yet their Great Officers have discretionary Power to dispense with those Laws, where it shall appear for the Benefit of their Colonies, and without Prejudice to the Trade and Navigation of *France*.

THEY often exchange their Surplus Rum and Molasses with the *English*, for Cash, Horses, Shipping, Timber, Provisions and other Plantation Necessaries.

THERE is a considerable Trade carry'd on between the *French* Islands and the *Spanish* Islands of *Margueritta*, *Trinidado*, *Porto-Rico* and other *Spanish* Ports in *America*, whereby the *French* receive from the *Spaniards*, Money, Horses, Mules, Cocoa, Cochineal, Tobacco and other *American* Products,

ducts, in return for *French* Manufactures and Negroes. And the *French* employ between 100. and 150 Sail of Sloops, and other Vessels, in and about the Island of *Martinico*.

THE *French* King grants Lands in his Plantations, *gratis*, to poor industrious People, sent thither from *France*, and gives them other Encouragements to go over and settle there; and moreover, lends Money to his *American* Subjects, in Cases of Hurricanes, or other unavoidable Misfortunes.

THEY check exorbitant Fees, extravagant Port Charges and Extortions, and discountenance Usury and high Interest in their Colonies, and take special Care that none of their Planters Estates are broke up by hasty Creditors, and in such a Manner as tends to the Advantage of all Parties interested, as well as to the Benefit of the Colony.

THE Fortifications in the *French* Sugar Islands are erected and maintain'd at the King's Expence, which, in the *English* Islands, is chiefly done by the Inhabitants, and that exclusive of the said Duty of $4 \frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. And he pays Wages to Marines, that are taken on Board their private Ships, which Ships are at the Expence of Victuals only for such Marines, and they observe the prudentest Regulations with Regard to their Marine, they punish Defaulters and reward the Meritorious according to their Deserts.

THE *French* have lately sent a Governor, with Men and Cannon, to *Sta. Lucia*, with a View of seizing and settling that Island, where there is as good an 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 Marquis *De Champaigne*, General of the *French Windward Islands*, declar'd 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 hop'd 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*.

THEY coin small Pieces of Silver in *France*, for the particular Uses of their Sugar Colonies, and send it there to pay off their Governors, and other publick Officers, and to ease their Trade: On the other Hand, the *British* Sugar Planters raise Money to pay, not only their own Governors and other publick Officers, but also the Governors of *Bermuda* and the *Babama* Islands in *America* as well as the Governor of the Island of *Jersey* in *Europe*.

THE tender Care the *French* take of their Trade, is further evident from the following Extract taken from the beforemention'd Memorial, presented by the Deputies of the Council of Commerce to the Royal Council in 1701, viz.

“ THE Deputies are oblig'd to observe further
 “ to the Council, that for three or four Years past,
 “ a Duty is levy'd at *St Domingo* of * two Sols
 “ per Livre or Pound Weight on Indigo shipp'd
 “ off there. This Novelty is the more pernicious,
 “ because that Drug serves for dying our Manu-
 “ factures into Blews or Blacks, and because we
 “ make a considerable Traffick of it to the *North*.
 “ 'Tis of great Importance for the Council to be
 “ pleas'd to take off this Duty, which is capable
 “ of ruining the Cultivation of this Drug.” Pag. 15.

THIS

* Two Sols is about 1 s. $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling.

THIS Council of Trade is so wisely establish'd, that the Royal Council form their Resolutions, chiefly, upon the Informations they receive from it; and this Establishment seems more agreeable to the Intention of improving Commerce, as this Council is chiefly elected by Merchants, and other Persons experienced in Trade; and, besides, the Elected must be Men that have been a long Time engag'd in Commerce.

IN short, The *French* Ministers seem to set their Hearts upon regulating Commerce, and to turn every Article of it to the national Advantage.

THE *French* are far from following the Rules of the *Medes* and *Persians*, whose Laws are unalterable; for they do at all Times change their Laws when they find it for the Advantage of the State. There is one very recent Instance of this; they permit *Dutch* Ships, during the present War, to load Sugar and other Commodities at their *West India* Islands, and carry them directly to *Holland*, or to any other Port of *Europe*.

THE Damage that this particular Step of the *French* will do to our *West India* Trade and Plantations, and otherwise, is inconceivable, should it continue without our Interruption, unless we follow their Example in this Instance, and at this Juncture, and during the Continuance of it, or fall on some other Measures to prevent it: For they will thereby encourage and EXTEND their Colonies by easy Insurances and low Freights, * besides getting early with their Plantation Products to foreign Markets: And they will also greatly increase their Marine during the War, by having a greater Plenty of Seamen, and still more plentiful Resources from such Plantation Products.

* They would save from 10 to 20 per Cent by Insurance; and from 3 to 5 s. per Hundred Weighe in Freight on Sugar, which is from 15 to 25 per Cent. more, as our Ships may sail with or without Convoy, or according to their Force.

I SHALL now shew what the *English* have done in Support of their *African* and *American* Trade.

ABOUT the Time that the said Memorial concerning Indigo was presented, there was three Pence, and two Tenths of a Penny *per* Pound Weight, payable on the Importation of Indigo, of the Growth of the *British* Plantations, into *Great Britain*, and somewhat more on Indigo of foreign Growth; and soon afterwards six Tenths of a Penny more was impos'd; all which Duties continu'd *until the Cultivation of this Drug was near ruin'd*, and until the 8th of *George I.* when all Duties on Indigo were taken off; and by the 7th of *George II.* Indigo, as well of foreign Growth as *British* Growth, was permitted to be imported in any Ship belonging to *Great Britain*, or to any Kingdom or State in Amity with his Majesty; but Experience shews, in this Instance, that it is not easy to regain a lost Trade: And is it not natural to fear that the same Cause may produce the same Effect in regard to Sugar, or any other Commodity?

HOWEVER, since the Genius of this Nation seems now to be rouz'd, I will no longer entertain such melancholy Thoughts, but will hope for better Things; and will proceed to shew the several Encouragements and Regulations on our Part, which are as follow, *viz.*

1730. THE Royal *African* Company of *England* have had an *annual* Aid from Parliament ever since the Year 1730; but not sufficient to support the Forts and Castles on the Coast of *Africa* as they ought to be*.

1732. Liberty hath been granted to import Rum, with other enumerated Goods of our Plantation Produce directly into *Ireland*, 4. and 5, *George II.*

B

THIS

* *Vide* Appendix A Page. 1 to 4

*This has answer'd the Intention *, and bath been of great Use.*

FOR the Encouragement of the Growth of Coffee in our Plantations, the Duty on the Importation of that Commodity into Great Britain is 6 d. per Pound less than for Coffee of foreign Growth. 5 Geo. II. Cap. 24.

This Trade is still in its Infancy, and seems to want more Succour until it shall gather more Strength.

1733. FOREIGN Sugar, Rum and Molasses, are totally prohibited from being imported into Ireland; but with . . . Exception as to what shall be shipp'd in Great Britain, in Ships legally navigated. 6 Geo. II. Cap. 13. Sec. 4.

This has also prov'd very beneficial; but by Virtue of the said Exception Prize-Sugars are permitted to be shipp'd from Great Britain to Ireland, which should be regulated †.

HIGH Duties are laid on all FOREIGN Sugars, Rum and Molasses, imported into any of our Colonies in America. 6 Geo. II. Cap. 13. Sec. 4.

This is evaded † and vast Quantities of those Commodities, especially Molasses, are smuggled, and therefore ought to be prohibited. §

THE Duty of 9 d. per Hundred Weight, or one Moiety of the old Subsidy, left to the Crown upon Re-exportation of Sugar, is given up and all drawn back; and 2 s. per Hundred Weight is added to the 4 s. which makes in all 6 s. per Hundred

* Vide Appendix. — Ea. b. Page 52, 53.

† — Ditto ——— c. ——— 53.

‡ — Ditto ——— d. ——— 53, 54.

§ — Ditto ——— e. ——— 54, 55.

dred Weight upon the Re-exportation of
refin'd Sugar from Great Britain. 6 Geo. II.
Cap. 13. Sec. 10.

*This has been found of great Use, as it
has at many Times encourag'd a Re-ex-
portation of Sugar: An additional Bounty
on ALL Sugars exported will be still
more encouraging, and of great Ad-
vantage to this Nation †.*

1739. LIBERTY is granted to carry all *British*
Sugars § directly from our Sugar Islands to
all foreign Ports of Europe. 12 Geo. II.

*This is clogg'd with too many unnecessary
Restrictions and Limitations; but one of
them is since taken off, and is as follows:*

1742. PLANTATION-BUILT Ships are permitted
to carry Sugars from our Sugar-Islands
directly to all foreign Ports of Europe.
15 and 16 Geo. II.

*This will encourage the Exportation of
Sugars, when the other Restrictions are
* remov'd.*

RUM is permitted to be landed without pay-
ing the Duty of Excise until sold, or
within six Months after Landing. 15 and
16 Geo. II.

*This begins to operate to Advantage; but
there are some Difficulties with regard to the
Confinement of Warehouses on the Custom-
House-Keys, which should be regulated.*

1743. BUT the very burthensome || Duties on
Molasses Spirits prove a considerable Draw-
back from all these Advantages, and also
turn out to the Prejudice of the publick
Revenue.

B 2

FROM

† Vide Appendix B. * D. | C.

§ Such Ships as go to the Northern Ports are compelled to touch
in Great Britain, only to deliver in a Manifest of the Cargo.

FROM hence it will appear what Advantages have been granted in Favour of our *West India* and *African* Trade, and how they have operated; and it is too evident, that what has hitherto been done hath not effectually answer'd the good Intention of the Legislature, seeing the *French* have still a great Superiority over us in the *West-Indies*, and in other Branches of Commerce.

THIS is a Matter of the utmost Importance to this Nation, and therefore every Thing ought to be done, that can * be done, to change the Scene.

FOR we find by Experience, that the same Causes which streighten 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 gathers or loses Strength; and we are now convinc'd 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 should 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: Should 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 nobody can be ignorant how many Opportunities may be lost

by

* It was a Saying of one of the ablest Men of the *Roman* Empire, that we ought never to felicitate ourselves on having done any Thing, while there is yet any Thing that remains to be done.

by a short Delay, *which no Degree of Diligence can afterwards regain.*

THERE is nothing that will streighten Commerce more than *high Duties* on Trade and Plantations, which are generally attended with many mischievous Consequences, especially where there is a strong Competition, *as Discouragements on one Hand always give Advantages to the Competitor;* and there is one Mischief among the many that ought never to be forgot, which is that of *Smuggling*; because such Goods, although of foreign Growth and Manufacture, pay no Duty to the publick Revenue, and at the same Time interfere with our || Home Manufactures and Plantation Products, highly to the Prejudice of the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom. Is not this notoriously the Case with regard to *French Brandy*; on Account of * *high Duties* on Rum and Spirits extracted from Molasses of the Produce of our Plantations? And may it not be the Case of Sugar, if the Duties shall still be advanc'd; or, is it not already the Case in some Parts of *Great Britain*?

THE *Dutch* pay but 3 *per Cent.* Duty on their Sugar and other Plantation Products, and that in their Plantations, or upon Importation, at the Option of the Proprietor; and this upon such a low Valuation as reduces it to about 2 *per Cent.* and they are very attentive to their *African Trade*; and afford it considerable Subsidies and Immunities: This evinces that this trading Nation well know the true Value of their Trade to *Africa* and their Plantations in *America*; and although the present Exigencies of their Government press hard for Money, they avoid taxing Trade, but raise very large Sums of Money on Houses and

B 3 Families,

|| *Vide Page 43.*

* Duty and Excise on Rum 4 s. *per Gallon*; and on Molasses Spirits 2 s *per Gallon*.—*Vide Appendix C. No. I.*

Families, according to Appearance of Expences or Circumstances; and they have lately rais'd in this Manner to the Value of about three Millions Sterling towards answering the Emergencies of the present Year, *without running in Debt on long Mortgages, secur'd by Taxes on Trade or Plantation Products.*

It has been already observ'd that the *French* have laid little or no Duty on the Importation of their Sugar since the Year 1698, however pressing the Exigencies of their Government might have been since that Time: But the *English* who paid 18 *d.* per Hundred Weight on the Importation of Sugar into *Great Britain*, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent in *Barbados* and the *Leeward* Islands before that Time, have since been charg'd with an additional Duty of 18 *d.* per Hundred Weight in 1699, and 6 *d.* per Hundred more in 1703-4, besides an additional Duty on Spirits extracted from Molasses of the Growth of our Plantations, in the Year 1732; and * this Duty was doubled in 1743, which is equal at least to 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per Hundred Weight on the whole Importation of Sugar into *Great Britain*: This makes in all, *five or six several Duties that still remain on this § valuable Commodity to this Nation.*

SURELY then no one can so much as think of another Duty on this Commodity; but lest it should be so, I have stated the following Queries, in order to shew THE DANGER OF SUCH AN EXPERIMENT, and the Necessity there is for immediate Succours in regard to our Plantations, rather than additional Hardships.

1st. Q. Whether an additional Duty on a Commodity, which is already over-loaded with Duties, can be thought *just* or *reasonable*?

2^d Q.

* *Vide* Appendix. C. — No. I.

§ *Vide* Page 43. * 145.

2d. Q. Whether it is not the Interest of *Great Britain* to encourage and promote her Colonies in *America*, instead of subjecting them to great Inconveniences and Hardships, since it will in consequence increase our Trade and Navigation, as well as the Consumption of our Manufactures?

3d. Q. When large Crops of Sugar are made in *America*, and more Sugars shall be imported into *Europe* than is sufficient for the *European* Demand; will it not lower the Price in the same Degree as such Surplus shall amount to, without the least Regard to high Duties, or any other increas'd Charges whatsoever?

4th. Q. Whether the Quantity of Sugar, which depends on Weather and other Casualties, and is of so long a Growth as not to be brought to Market in much less than two Years after the Time of preparing the Land for planting the Sugar-Cane, can be ascertain'd or proportion'd according to the *European* Demand, as in the Case of most other Commodities that are not subject to such Casualties or Delays, or where the Quantity may be enlarg'd or abated at the Discretion of the Merchant, or as he shall find it for his Advantage, let the Duties and other Charges be more or less?

5th. Q. Whether upon due Consideration of the two foregoing Queries, it will not evidently appear that the Duties on Sugar, of the Produce of our Plantations, * lie on the Planter or Manufacturer, and not on the Consumer?

6th. Q. Whether the continuing the high Duties on the Product of the *British* Plantations, may not be accounted one of the principal Causes of the flourishing Condition of the *French* Trade and Co-

B 4 colonies

* Vide, Supplement to Mr. *Abley's* Memoirs on the *American* Trade, to be had at Mr. *Comys's* at the South Entrance of the Royal-Exchange.

lonies over and above ours? ——— If so, what will be the Consequence of additional Duties?

7th. Q. Whether it is not an evident Discouragement to the Settlements in the *British* Sugar Islands, to be *annually* apprehensive of any further Incumbrances to be laid on the Products of such Settlements, although they may not be actually laid, since it may baulk our Planters from buying more Negroes, and settling more new Plantations in Colonies that may upon all Exigencies of Government be under such Apprehensions, whilst their Rival Neighbours meet with better Fare?

8th. Q. Since the *French* as well as the *Dutch* grant Subsidies, Bounties and other Immunities to encourage their *African* and *American* Trade, Will it not be consistent with the true Interest of this Nation to do so too?

9th. Q. If the Commerce of the *English* and *French* shall continue in the same Course, without any Alteration of Measures on either Side, is it not natural to fear that their Increase, or at least that of the *French*, will continue in the same Degree or Progression for the Time to come, as it has done for the Time past?

THE Alteration of Measures on our Side, or the Expedients necessary to be taken, is the next Point to be consider'd: Wherefore I shall offer the following Propositions, in Hopes they may meet with the Approbation of those in whose Power it is to put them in Execution.

PROPOSALS.

1st. To establish a *proper Method of Enquiry* into the State of our Commerce, Colonies and Manufactures.

2d. To *revive, secure and extend the African Trade*, by a sufficient Parliamentary Aid, in such a Manner as to make the Interest of an *African Company*

Company and separate Traders *mutually advantageous* to each other, as well as to our *American Planters*.

3d. To encourage a Consumption or Vent of the *Products of our own Plantations*, by * granting Bounties, † easing Duties and removing all pernicious and unnecessary Obstructions and Restrictions that lie on such Produce, before it shall come to the Consumers, as well at Home as Abroad †.

4th. To ease the Manufacturers of this Kingdom of burthenfome Taxes, that our Home Manufactures may become cheaper, and thereby enable us not only to vie with other Nations at foreign Markets, but also to supply our Colonies at cheaper Rates; and to establish a FUND to answer the Premises, and what else may from Time to Time appear necessary for securing and extending our Commerce, Colonies and Manufactures.

As to the Method of Enquiry into our Commerce, Colonies and Manufactures, mention'd in the first Article, there is nothing, in my humble Opinion, that will answer this End better than to follow the Example of the *French*, by establishing a special Board or COUNCIL OF COMMERCE, to consist of a competent Number of experienc'd Merchants, or such as have been a long while engag'd in *Commerce and Colonies*, to be properly elected by the principal trading Cities and Towns of *Great Britain and Ireland*, together with our Colonies in *America*, as the Interest of those Colonies is intimately interwoven with that of *England*; and such a Board to be authoriz'd and enjoin'd to sit at least once in every Week in *London*, throughout the Year,

* *Vide Appendix B.* ————— *E. f. Page 56.*

§ ————— *C. — No. I. 11.*

† ————— *D. — No. I. 11. E.*

Year, to receive, discuss and examine all Propositions and Memorials relating to Colonies, Commerce and Manufactures that shall be sent to it, and to consider of adequate Encouragements to such as shall send them in, and also to be wholly attentive to the examining and promoting whatever may be most advantageous to Commerce, as well by Land as by Sea, within the Kingdom and out of it, and concerning Works or Fabricks, and Manufactures.

THE Reports of such a Board may, from Time to Time, be made to his Majesty in Council, and be *referr'd to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations in the usual Course*; and the Parliament will, when they please, call for such Informations and Proceedings as they shall think proper: Matters thus previously examin'd, discuss'd and reported, will carry more Weight, and be receiv'd with more Attention, than the Applications of any private Man, or any particular Set of Men in the usual Manner, which are commonly attended with tedious Delays, artful Oppositions, or Imperfections in some Shape or other.

The Advantages of the *African Trade* to this Nation, and a Scheme *to revive, secure and extend that Trade*, according to the second Article of Proposals, may be seen at large in the Appendix mark'd A.

THE third Article of Proposals, *to encourage a Consumption or Vent of the Products of our Plantations*, is divided into four Parts or Appendixes, mark'd B. C. D. E. under the following Heads, viz.

B. *A Proposal for an additional Bounty on the Exportation of all British Sugars to foreign Markets, with Observations thereon.*

C. Pro-

- C. *Proposals to ease the Duty of Excise on Spirits extracted from MOLASSES of the Growth or Produce of the British Plantations; and to abolish the Duty of 4 ½ per Cent. paid in Barbados and the Leeward Islands.*
- D. *Proposals for removing all the unnecessary Obstructions and Restrictions that lie on SUGAR and RUM, of the Growth of the British Sugar Islands in America; which may be done without any Expence to the Publick, and without Prejudice to any Body except our Rivals in Trade.*
- E. *Proposals for preventing the Consumption of foreign Sugar, Rum, Molasses and Brandy, in any of his Majesty's British Dominions.*

IN regard to the fourth Article of Proposals, *to ease the Manufacturers of this Kingdom of burthensome Taxes, by raising a new Fund,* * it may be alledg'd that the Exigencies of the Government cannot at present admit of easing Taxes and granting all these Aids and Bounties, however necessary it may appear to be for the Security and Preservation of our Trade and Plantations; and as Works that require great Applications are little agreeable to the Humour and natural Disposition of many, so it can't be expected that they can be propos'd and ALL executed at the same Time.

HOWEVER, it seems necessary at this critical Juncture, to propose something that may be put in Execution as Opportunity offers, or as the Necessity of State may require; and as there are many of the present Taxes, besides what is already mention'd, that lie very heavy on the Manufacturers and landed Interest of this Kingdom, there is nothing that seems more eligible to answer all these Purposes, and many more, than a general Fund to be rais'd according to the following Scheme, *viz.*

The SCHEME,

* *Vide Page 30, 31.*

The SCHEME, commonly call'd Sir MATTHEW DECKER's, in a Treatise entitled, Serious Considerations on the several High Duties which the Nation in general (as well as its Trade in particular) now labours under.

It is therein computed, That the Houses in *England* amount to 1,200,000. In *Scotland* to 250,000. And in *Wales* to 150,000.

It is supposed,

100,000 in *England* may be empty, and so }
pay nothing. }
500,000 to be inhabited by the Poor and }
lower Sort, and to pay nothing }

Then it is proposed,

That 600,000 of the richer Sort pay 6*l.* per }
House, or Family; in an Ave- }
rage, which is computed from }
3*l.* to 60*l.* per House, or Fa- } 3,600,000
mily, including the Lands or }
real Estates }

It is proposed, That *Scotland* and *Wales* pay one Half of the Proportion that *England* may pay.

200,000 of the richer Sort to pay 3*l.* per }
House, or Family, in an Ave- }
rage, which is computed from }
30*s.* to 30*l.* per House or Fa- } 600,000
mily, including the Lands or }
real Estates. }

£. 4,200,000

THIS Tax may be rated by the Vestry of every Parish, according to the Rents of Houses and the Value of Personal Estates; or according to the Appearance, or Proof, of the Circumstances of the several Families, in regard to Coaches, Servants, Wine, and other voluntary Expence of Luxuries, or otherwise, as shall be found most expedient upon trying the Experiment; and to be return'd to proper Commissioners, to be appointed in

in

in each County, (who may also determine all Disputes) then to be ascertain'd by Parliament; and to be collected by the Churchwardens of every Parish, and be paid in by them to the Receiver-General of the County.

If this Proposal to raise 4,200,000*l.* annually shall be thought extravagant, perhaps one Moiety of the whole, or a less Proportion, may answer the Purpose or try the Experiment: But when it is consider'd how easy it will come from every Individual, and what Benefit will accrue thereby from EASING the many weighty and dangerous † Loads on our *Commerce, Colonies and * Manufactures*, and also on our Landholders, on Account of the Land-Tax, as well as *the Taxes on what they expend*, surely no one that will duly and impartially consider this Part of the Scheme, and the Consequences of it, can say one Word against it; especially as there will be sufficient to answer the Debts of the Navy; and other Exigencies of Government, without borrowing more Money on long Mortgages, to be secur'd by burthensome if not ruinous Taxes; it will afford Bounties, where necessary, for the National Welfare, and ease Taxes where it shall, from Time to Time, be found of national Advantage. *It will enable us to beat our Rivals in Trade in our Turn, and terrify our Enemies, by letting them see that we can raise our annual Supplies without running further in Debt*; besides many other Conveniences and Advantages enumerated in the said Treatise, especially those of removing all Temptations to Smuggling, and of *gradually lowering the national Debt.*

THE

† The present Duties on Coals, Candles, Soap, Salt, Leather, Beer, Ale, Sugar, Rum, Molasses and Malt, &c. &c. &c.

* A Man's Labour in *France* in many Manufactories costs but 4*d.* to 5*d.* Sterling per Day, and in *England* the like Labour with the *English* Manufacturer costs from 10*d.* to 12*d.* per Day.

THE following Paragraph, taken from the said Treatise, [Page 28] is worthy of the most serious Attention.

“ THAT something like a Scheme of this Nature is expedient, or rather absolutely necessary, I am more convinc'd than I care to express, for I would not willingly give a Handle to our Enemies to entertain a mean Opinion of us. I know we are a rich and wealthy Nation, and have great Resources; but consider what the sacred History reports of the Riches of *Solomon*: His Treasure was immense, such as enabled him to build a Temple at *Jerusalem* (according to the Computation of learned Men) of almost incredible Value. Yet his Riches have long since vanish'd, the Place where the Temple stood, and even *Jerusalem* that contain'd it, is scarcely now to be found. God forbid that this should ever chance to be our Case, by going beyond our Strength.”

BUT how expedient or necessary soever the Execution of such a Scheme may really be, yet it may, in all likelihood, be attended with some Difficulty, from what has been already mention'd †; besides, as the famous *De Witt* * observes, “ If Enquiry be made into the Polity of all establish'd Governments, we shall always find, that there are ever an incredible Number of *ignorant and malevolent People, Enemies to Speculation and Remedies, how good soever, which they conceive, or really foresee, will be prejudicial in any wise to themselves; and rather than admit them, they will press hard and embroil the State more than it was before*, Besides, there are an endless Number of political Maxims, which have so deep a Root, that it is a great Folly to think any Man should

“ be

† *Vide* Page 27. *

* *De Witt, Cap. 2. Page 16*

“ be able to root them out all at once : So true is
 “ that good and ancient political Maxim, that in
 “ Polity many bad Things are indulg’d with less
 “ Inconveniency than remov’d ; and that we
 “ ought never in Polity (as in playing at Tennis)
 “ to set the Ball fair, but must strike as it lies ;
 “ it being also true, that on every Occurrence a
 “ good Politician is bound to shew his Art and
 “ Love to his native Country, that by such Con-
 “ stancy the Commonwealth may, by Degrees, be
 “ brought to a better Condition.”

I AM aware of the many Objections that will
 be started against this Fund, as well as the Reme-
 dies and Council of Commerce herein propos’d,
 and that by malevolent People of such a Disposi-
 tion as is just mention’d, as well as others : But
 I am still so sanguine as to believe, from the dan-
 gerous Situation we are now in with regard to our
 natural and implacable Enemies, and from the
 great Advantages that will attend such a Scheme,
 that some such political Game will, in due Time,
 be fairly play’d out, *to the Glory and Reputation of
 this Nation, and to the Confusion of its Enemies.*

AND since it must naturally take up Time to
 bring about such a Scheme, may not the Sinking
 Fund, in the mean Time, answer the Exigencies
 of the Government, by Mortgage or otherwise,
 and thereby avoid raising any more Taxes on the
 Productions of *British* Soil, be it in *Europe* or
America ? and it is humbly apprehended that the
 Scheme may be put in Execution before the End
 of the next Session of Parliament.

APPENDIX (A.)

PROPOSALS to revive, secure and extend the African Trade.

THE *African* Trade is of great Importance to the Trade and Navigation of *Great Britain*. and therefore ought to be reviv'd and supported at all Events.

THIS Nation will gain great Advantages by effectually supporting this Trade: *First*, By defeating their greatest Rivals, who have struggled hard, and not in vain, to gain Advantages over us in this particular Branch of Trade: And, *Secondly*, By securing a Trade that may, in Time, take off, directly to *Africa*, much larger Quantities of *British* Manufactures than ever, in exchange for Gold-Dust, Ivory, Gum, Wood and Bees-Wax, and *Negro-Labourers* for the Support of our Plantations; besides Bullion for Negroes they may sell to the *Spaniards*, *French* and *Portuguese*.

SINCE therefore this Trade to *Africa* is of such Consequence, and as it is impracticable to support the same without Forts and Settlements on the Coast of *Africa*, and as the Trade is open and free to all his Majesty's Subjects, it seems necessary that the Legislature should interpose, and settle such an annual Allowance, for a certain Term of Years, as shall be judg'd sufficient to maintain the Forts and Garrisons on that Coast, and to be fairly accounted for to the Publick.

THEN new Adventurers will be encourag'd to come into and support this Trade, under the
Name

Name of the *Royal African Company of England*, or the *West India Company*, or any other Name, by taking an Assignment of the present Company's Property, and raising a new Stock to carry on the Trade effectually; and this may be done without any Prejudice, but rather with Advantage to the present Company, and to all his Majesty's Subjects trading to *Africa* and to our *American Plantations*.

A COMPANY to be thus establish'd, will be able to secure the *British* Interest in the Inland Countries of *Africa*, and thereby support a Competition in that Inland Trade with foreign Nations, which separate Traders, without a Company secur'd by Forts and Garrisons, cannot do.

BECAUSE such a trading Company, so secur'd, can make strong Alliances, (by means of their constant Residence, and extensive Trade) with the *African* Princes, which cannot be done by separate or temporary Traders, or by Government Officers.

As to the Allowance propos'd to be granted to such a new Company, that must be submitted to the Wisdom of the Legislature.

BUT Duties on this Trade, in any Shape, will not answer; because foreign Nations exempt their Subjects trading to *Africa* from Taxes, and grant their Companies Bounties and Subsidies to enable and encourage them to secure and carry on this Trade: The *Dutch* to the Amount of about 25,000 *l. per Annum*, and the *French* to the Amount of 40,000 *l. per Annum* and upwards: And therefore any Tax on *British* Traders to *Africa*, would give such an Advantage to Foreigners as need not be any further explain'd: and the ill Consequences that would naturally follow would not end in *Africa*, but would also reach all our Plantations in *America*.

AND here it is to be observ'd, that the Honourable

rable the House of Commons, in the Year 1730, resolv'd that the Trade and Navigation to *Africa* should never be charg'd with any Duty for the Maintainance of the *British* Forts and Settlements there; and they have granted an Allowance every Year since that Time to the Royal *African* Company of *England* for that Purpose; but Experience hath shewn that this Allowance has not by any Means prov'd sufficient.

THE Allowance of 10,000*l.* Sterling lately granted to the present Company, will not enable them to keep their Forts and Castles in Repair, and much less in a proper defensible Condition: It will take more than twice as much *per Annum* to enable any Company to keep them as they ought to be; and above 100,000*l.* *per Annum*, were they in the Hands of the Government without a trading Company to make Alliances by means of their Residence and Trade as aforesaid: For as such Alliances will procure more Friends, there will of Consequence be a better Strength and fewer Enemies; and besides, the Company's Governors, Factors and other Servants, may also officiate as military Officers, and thereby save large Sums to the Publick.

IN order to render such a Company, and the rest of his Majesty's Subjects, serviceable to each other as well as to the *American* Planters, the Company's Factors should be always authoriz'd by the Company, to sell Negroes to separate Traders for Goods, Money or Bills of Exchange; a Credit, as to Bills, to be first obtain'd from the Company. By this Means the separate Traders may be furnish'd with their full Complement of Negroes of the Company, if they please, and be dispatch'd from the Coast in three or four Weeks, instead of three or four Months, whereby there will be great Savings in Demurrage and Mortality; and besides, the
Scamen

Seamen may have a much better Chance of going their Voyage round in good Health.

THE Planters in *America* will be supply'd cheaper, and with healthier Negroes, by means of such Dispatch and short Voyages, as the Negroes can be *afforded cheaper*, and will not be so subject to Distempers contracted in long Voyages, which often carry them off after they are purchas'd by the Planters.

It is to be observ'd, that Negroes from the *Gold Coast* and *Wydab*, by far exceed those of *Calabar*, *Angola*, or even *Gambia*; as the former are robust and hardy, and are used to work and live hard in their own Country; and the others are lazy and of a tender Constitution: which is the great Reason why the *French* are so particularly solicitous to get a Settlement at *Anamaboe*, and, by Degrees, to engross all the best Negroes on the *Gold-Coast*, which contains the greater Part of the *British* Forts and Settlements.

THE greatest Difficulty that now seems to lie in the Way of reviving this Trade, is the present Situation of the *Royal African Company of England* as to their Debts and Incumbrances, and the Uncertainty of the Value of their Charter and other Property.

FOR to compute such a Property in a national Way, and according to the Estimation that has been heretofore made between one Nation and another, and one Company and another, for Forts and Settlements in *Africa*, it should be first consider'd, What a Value this Nation would put upon such a Property, to get it out of the Hands of the *French*, or *Dutch*, should any unexpected Event ever put it upon a Tryal? Surely not less than the better Part of a Million of Pounds Sterling.

BUT since it can't be suppos'd that the *British* Nation will ever submit to such an Event, or

grant such a Sum to the present Company for their Privileges and Property, but that they will rather encourage the future Prosperity of this valuable Trade, by interposing in some such Manner as is herein propos'd, and giving all due Encouragements to all Parties interested therein; and that the present Company will gladly come into reasonable Terms, rather than to lie in the uncertain State they are now in; I will offer some Thoughts for the Consideration of those who may be inclin'd to become Adventurers, or are otherwise interested in the Security and Preservation of the *African Trade*.

SUPPOSE then a Stock, or Capital, of 300,000 *l.* should be raised by Subscription, by new Adventurers, or a new Company, and that 12 *per Cent.* may be clear'd *per Annum*, one Year with another, upon so much thereof as may be employ'd in Trade, which I allow to be a high Reckoning, and yet scarcely sufficient to answer the Expence of maintaining the Forts and Garrisons, so as to preserve the *African Trade* to this Nation.

THEN suppose the present Royal *African* Company shall agree to take, in Cash, 100,000 *l.* in full for their whole Property and Charter, and to execute Assignments to, or enter into some proper Agreement with the new Company accordingly.

£. 100,000	}	
		200,000
		£. 300,000

Thus the whole Stock will amount to 300,000 *l.* and the Trading Stock to 200,000 *l.* which may be computed, from the Benefits of a constant Residence, the Influence over the Natives, and other Advantages, to yield 12 *per Cent.* clear of all Charges and Risque, one Year with another, or

24,000 *l.*

24,000 *l.*—— That will bear a Dividend of * 8 *per Cent. per Annum* on the whole 300,000 *l.* Stock. And the old Company will receive 100,000 *l.* whereof 75,000 *l.* will go in discharge of their Debts, and the remaining 25,000 *l.* will be 10 *l. per Share* on 2500 Shares, which their present Stock consists of.

As soon as the Subscription is full, and the present Company shall signify their Consent, the Subscribers may chuse a Court of Assistants, or Directors, according to the usual Form, and the true Intent and Meaning of the old Charter.

The new Company must be secured, by the old Company, against all Debts and Demands of the Creditors of the said old Company, before the Money shall be paid.

THE said Sum of 300,000 *l.* may be paid by the respective Subscribers into the *Bank*, or as the new Company shall direct, in two equal Payments, the first within one Month after the Parliament shall have settled such an *annual Allowance* as shall be judged sufficient by the Majority, in Number and Value, of the said new Adventurers, to maintain the Forts and Garrisons on the Coast of *Africa* for some certain Term of Years, and the other Payment within three Months after; and in case of failure of Payment by any Subscriber or Subscribers, such Defaulter to forfeit at the Rate of 20 *per Cent.* on what shall be subscrib'd by him, her or them, for the Use and Benefit of such of the said new Adventurers as shall duly pay in their respective Proportions.

IF the Inland Trade and the Demand for Negroes shall increase, there may be an additional trading Stock rais'd in proportion to such Increase.

C 3

BUT

* A certain *annual Dividend* of 8 *l.* for every 100 *l.* is equal to 5 *l. per Cent. per Annum* on 160 *l.*

BUT special Care must be taken that such a Stock be extended no further than to what may be necessary to carry on the Trade effectually : Then every Proprietor will feel the Profits that may arise, which will naturally encourage them to be watchful that the Trade be carry'd on agreeable to the Intention of the Legislature, and for the common Good of all Parties interested.

FOR if this Trade is put into the Hands of an opulent Company, whose Stock on which the Profits of Trade is divided shall amount to Millions, then such Profits will be so insignificant to every Individual as not to be felt, which may prove a Temptation to those in the Direction to make the *Africa*. Coast a Receptacle for such as may be altogether unfit for the Trust that may be repos'd in them; and besides, the Competition will be too powerful for the separate Traders, which may, in Time, weary them out, and leave the whole Trade a Monopoly, to the Prejudice of the *American* Plantations, and consequently to the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom.

APPENDIX



APPENDIX (B.)

A PROPOSAL for an additional Bounty on the Exportation of all British Sugars to foreign Markets, with Observations thereon.

IT will be impossible to regain the supplying of foreign Markets with Sugar, a Trade that the French have insensibly gain'd from us, without falling on some extraordinary Measures; and therefore, it is propos'd, That a Bounty be granted on all Sugars, of the Growth of our Islands, that shall be carry'd to foreign Markets from Great Britain, or the Sugar Islands, to the Amount of 18,000 *l.* Sterling per Annum (as an Experiment) to be paid in Course, as attested Copies of the several Debentures shall be lodg'd at the Custom-House at London.

OBSERVATIONS.

N. B. The one Third Subsidy on Sugar amounts to about this Sum.

Suppose then the Bounty should be 2 *s.* 6 *d.* Sterling per Hundred Weight, and that 12,000 Hogheads, at 12 Hundred Weight each, should be sent to foreign Markets, one Year with another, the Bounty will be no more per Annum than } 18,000

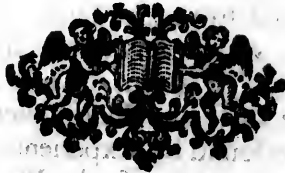
The Value of these 12,000 Hogheads, at 25 *s.* per Hundred Weight, will amount to 180,000 *l.* Sterling, which will be return'd to Great Britain; and, according to the common Course of the Sugar Trade, may be computed as follows, viz:

	It will pay,	
For Freight to <i>British</i> Seamen and Shipping	_____	30,000
To Factors, Insurers, and Custom-House Officers	_____	18,000
	For Charges in making it,	
Merchandize from <i>Great Britain</i>	_____	36,000
Negroes from <i>Guinea</i> , bought chiefly with <i>British</i> and <i>East-India</i> Goods	_____	24,000
		108,000
Remains to the Sugar Planters and Merchants	_____	72,000
		180,000
		THIS

THIS Sum of 180,000*l.* that may be thus saved to this Nation by the Exportation of 12,000 Hogheads of Sugar only, amounts to ten times the propos'd Bounty; and the same Proportion will hold good for any larger Quantity, as it is in the Case of the *French*, who export six times that Quantity to foreign Markets: Surely then so small a Proportion, to be thus advanced by the Publick towards obtaining such an Addition to the national Ballance, and also *to regain a lost Trade from our natural Enemy*, besides many other national Advantages, will be readily granted without Hesitation, unless the running of foreign Sugar into our Sugar Islands should be thought an Objection; but this may be easily avoided, by putting *the foreign Produce of America* upon * the same Footing with *the foreign Proûce of Europe* that shall not be first landed in *Great Britain*, as to Prohibition, Seizure and Forfeiture.

* *Vide Appendix E. c. Page 54.*

APPENDIX



APPENDIX (C.)

PROPOSALS *to ease the Duty of Excise on Spirits extracted from Molasses of the Growth or Produce of the British Plantations; and to abolish the Duty of 4 ½ per Cent. paid in Barbados and the Leeward Islands.*

N^o I.

THAT the Duty on Molasses Spirits be lower'd so far as to enable the Distiller to afford such Spirits so much cheaper than run *French Brandy*, as may prevent the Smuggling of that Commodity without bringing Molasses down to an uncommon low Rate,

OBSERVATIONS.

BEFORE the 25th Day of *March 1743*, Sixpence *per* Gallon was charg'd upon the Distiller for the Duty of Excise on Low Wines, and Threepence *per* Gallon on Spirits extracted from Molasses or foreign Materials, so called, although of the Produce of *British* Plantations, which Duties amount to one Shilling *per* Gallon on such Spirits so charg'd: and from that Time these Duties have been doubled, which amount to much more than the Distillers have given, or can afford, for the Molasses since these new Duties were imposed.

It has been found by Experience, that these additional Duties cannot raise the Price of Spirits in proportion to the Tax; because *French* run Brandy is oftentimes sold at 3 s. to 4 s. *per* Gallon on our Sea Coasts; but, on the contrary, it has lower'd
the

the Price of Molasses from about 16*s.* to about 10*s.* per Hundred Weight; and Molasses of our Plantation Produce usually sold in *England* at 20*s.* per Hundred and upwards, before it was overburthen'd with Duties of Excise. This Imposition therefore must prove highly prejudicial to our Sugar Planters as well as the Revenue; because it baulks the distilling of Molasses, and brings the Price to a very low Ebb; without any Advantage to any Body but our Rivals in the Sugar Plantations; and it discourages our Refiners, who are a useful Set of People, as middle Men between the Planters and Consumers.

It is computed, that before the passing this Law the Quantity of Molasses-Spirits made, was about one 8th Part of the Quantity of Malt-Spirits made, and now it is only one 18th Part; notwithstanding the Quantity of Malt-Spirits now made, is near the same as it was before the said Law pass'd: Whereby it will appear that the Revenue on Molasses-Spirits is abated considerably, notwithstanding the Duty is doubled: And the Quantity of Malt-Spirits now made, keeping near the Quantity made before, can be no ways attributed to the Abatement of the Quantity of Molasses-Spirits, but the Loss falls altogether on the Sugar-Trade, without the least Advantage to the Landholder of *Great Britain*.

It is not to be admitted that the Quantity of Malt-Spirits can increase on Account of the Failure of the Quantity of Molasses-Spirits; whatever may be the Case with regard to *French* smuggled Brandy; for Molasses-Spirits are of a different Kind from Malt-Spirits, and sell for a better Price: This, indeed, may be the Cause why the Duty on the one is double what it is on the other; but when the Freight and Insurance from our Plantations, and

the

the Duty upon Exportation and Importation, and other Charges on our Molasses are consider'd, it will appear that the *British Sugar-Planters* do not get as much clear for the Quantity of Molasses that makes a Gallon of fine Spirits, as the *British Landholders* get for the Quantity of Corn that makes a Gallon of Malt-Spirits. Since this is apparently the Case, I see no Cause why there should be any Difference in the Duty, especially as * it is evident that this Duty on Molasses lies on the Planter and not on the Consumer; and so it is in the Case of Sugar. — And besides, too high Duties, in any Shape whatsoever, on any Part of the † Produce of the *British Sugar-Cane*, are inconsistent with the true Interest of this Nation, as we have dangerous Rivals and Competitors to struggle with; and *the Sugar-Cane is, in Effect, the Produce of Great Britain as much as our Corn, Flax or Wool*; since our Sugar-Plantations are cultivated, maintain'd and supported with *British* Produce and Manufactures, either directly or by a Circulation of Trade: And the Supplies and Products of our Plantations are transported in Ships built in the *British* Dominions, and navigated by *British* Seamen.

|| FROM hence it also appears, that the Consumption of Molasses, Sugar and Rum, of the Produce of our Plantations, is a Means of paying for the Labour of great Numbers of *British* Manufacturers, Artificers and Seamen; which evinces, that the *Navigation, Wealth and Strength of Great Britain*, must increase in proportion to the Consumption of the Products of its *West-India* Islands.

SHOULD it be found expedient to reduce this Duty on Molasses-Spirits, the *British* Planter will

* || Vide Page 22, 51, 52. † Sugar, Molasses and Rums

receive the Advantage in the Price of his Sugar before the Molasses is separated from it by the Refiner; because the Spirits extracted from the Molasses would keep up its Price, according to its Fineness and nearness in Quality to *French Brandy*; and thereby stand in Competition with smuggled *French Brandy*, to the Prejudice of the *French Nation*, and without interfering in the least with *British Malt-Spirits*, as the Price of these fine Molasses-Spirits will be far beyond that of Malt-Spirits, and consequently beyond the Reach of the lower Sort of People.

N^o II.

THAT the $4 \frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Duty paid in *Barbados* and the *Leeward Islands* be abolish'd, and that the Uses of that Duty be paid out of some other Fund.

OBSERVATIONS.

THE Planters of *Barbados* and the *Leeward Islands* labour under great Hardships from the Duty of $4 \frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. paid there on the Exportation of all their dead Products, since the Planters pay it all, whilst a great Proportion of their rich Inhabitants do not pay a Shilling towards this publick Tax, notwithstanding it is apply'd chiefly towards the publick Expence, for the Use of the Inhabitants in general: Besides, the annual Sum paid into his Majesty's Exchequer in *London*, from this Duty, is but a * Trifle in proportion to the Burthen that lies on those laborious and indefatigable Sugar-Planters who pay it.

It was propos'd a few Years since, by a noble Lord in one House, and by a worthy Member in the other, that this burthensome Duty should be taken off; and it was further propos'd, that a

Sum

* From 6000 l. to 9000 l. Sterling per Annum.

Sum of Money be paid by the Government as an Equivalent to all those who have a Right in or to the said Duty : This, no doubt, would be a great Encouragement to the Planters of those Carribbee Islands, and, in some Measure, enable them to vie with their *French* Neighbours in the Sugar Trade, and they may raise Money in a more EQUAL Manner, to answer the Expences of their respective Governments.

THESE Islands, who pay this Duty, are commodiously situated for Trade or War, insomuch that they can protect or molest all Trade that is carried on in that Part of the World. And although they are of small Extent, they are built and stock'd at a vast Expence, and they are populous, and usually make about three Fifths of the Sugar and about three Fourths of the Rum that is made in all his Majesty's Sugar Islands, besides Ginger, Cotton and Aloes, and they take off *British* Manufactures in proportion, and maintain a considerable Branch of the *British* Navigation.

THE Value of these Carribbee Islands to their Mother-Country is not mention'd at all in Derogation of the Island of *Jamaica*, which does not pay this Duty ; for this Island is also well situated for Trade with all the *Spanish* Territories bordering on the Gulf of *Mexico*, and Experience hath shewn how it can annoy its Enemies in Time of War, and besides, if the Measures now propos'd in this Treatise are put in Execution, this Island will soon increase their Productions in proportion to all future Demands, and thereby become a most valuable Jewel to its Mother-Country : Then surely too much can't be done for the Security and Preservation of all and every Part of the *British* Sugar Islands in *America*.

APPENDIX (D.)

PROPOSALS for removing all the unnecessary Obstructions and Restrictions that lie on SUGAR and RUM, of the Growth of the British Sugar Islands in America; which may be done without any Expence to the Publick, and without any Prejudice to any Body except our Rivals in Trade.

N^o I. As to Sugar.

THAT the Act for granting Liberty to carry Sugar directly from the *British* Sugar Islands to foreign Ports, be amended in the following Particulars, *viz.*

1st, THAT Licences for the Exportation of *British* Sugar from the Sugar Islands directly to foreign Markets, be taken out in the Sugar Islands, as well as in *London* and *Edinburgh*, upon proper Security being given to the respective Governors to perform the Requisites of the Law that granted that Liberty.

This may oftentimes save in this Trade from 2 s. to 4 s. per Hundred Weight of Sugar, or from 12 to 24 per Cent. by the Markets and Freights, accounting the nett Value of the Sugar, after all Charges are deducted, at 16 s. 8 d. Sterling per Hundred Weight.

2^d, THAT such Ships as go into that Trade may be owned by such of his Majesty's Subjects as are permitted

permitted to own Ships in other Trades to and from *Great Britain* and the *British Plantations* in *America*.

This may save, in this Trade, from 1 s. to 2 s. per Hundred Weight of Sugar, or from 6 to 12 per Cent. by a Sufficiency of Ships, and consequently in Freight and Dispatch.

3d, THAT such Ships may proceed directly to the Northern, as well as Southern Ports, without touching in *Great Britain* before the Delivery of the Cargo, but to come to *Great Britain* within eight Months afterwards, as directed by Law.

This may save in the Northern Trade, in some Instances, from 6 d. to 1 s. per Hundred Weight of Sugar, or from 3 to 6 per Cent. in Freight. accounting the Price of Sugar as above.

Further Observations on the three foregoing Articles.

As to the first Article concerning *Licences*, it is to be observ'd, that before the shipping of any Sugar, or other * enumerated Goods of our Plantation Growth, Production or Manufacture, it has been usual, in pursuance of the † Acts of Trade, to give Bonds in the Plantations or in *Great Britain*, not to carry such Goods to any other Places, than to such as are by those Acts limited and appointed: The like to be done in regard to these *Licences*, as to their being granted in the Plantations as well as in *Great Britain*, cannot be attended with any Manner of Inconvenience;

* Tobacco, Molasses, Ginger, Cotton-Wool, Indigo, Fustick, and other dying Wood, Tar, Pitch, Turpentine, Hemp, Malts, Yards, Bowsprits, Copper-Ore, Beaver-Skins and other Furs.

† 12 Car. II. Cap. 18. Sect. 19.

22 Car. II. Cap. 26. Sect. 11.

The first of these Acts limited the Bonds to be taken in *Great Britain* only. The last permitted them to be taken in the Plantations by the Governors there.

veniency; but, on the other Hand, it would give the *British* Planters and Merchants a better Opportunity to send their Sugar to the best Markets, as soon as they hear they may gain an Advantage, as there would then generally be in the Plantations a Choice of Ships of all Sizes, suitable to the Quantity that may, from Time to Time, be wanted at foreign Markets; and quick Intelligence and Dispatch is the Life of Trade: And besides, the Freight by means of taking out Licences as here proposed, could be afforded at least one or two Shillings *per* Hundred Weight cheaper than by any Ship that is oblig'd to take out a Licence in, and to proceed directly from *Great Britain*; and as Cargoes of Sugars are usually made up by sundry Merchants and Planters, some on one Side of the Water and some on the other, it has been found difficult to get Ships of a proper Size to go into this Exportation-Trade, for Fear of Disappointments, which have often happen'd since this Liberty was granted, from many unforeseen Accidents, particularly in losing Time and missing good Markets.

In regard to the second Article, concerning Owners of Ships, it is to be observ'd, that all Owners of Ships are to reside in *Great Britain* or the Sugar-Islands; so that any of his Majesty's Subjects that reside in *Ireland*, the Northern Colonies, *Africa* or any *British* Factory abroad, are debarr'd from lending a helping Hand to regain a lost Trade that has turn'd out so much, in Favour of the French Nation: Surely then this Trade requires as much Encouragement, in this Case, (as well as all other Cases) as any Trade whatsoever, since the principal Part of our Shipping-Trade is usually carried on in Partnership, by Persons who have other Views of Gain than barely the Profits of Shipping, which is often a losing Trade: A *British* Factor at *Hamburg*, *Amsterdam*,

Amsterdam, Leghorn, or any other Port of *Europe*, would join with Merchants and Planters in *Great Britain, Ireland* and our Colonies, and become Joint-Owners of Ships with a View of Dispatch; which is the greatest Advantage that attends the Shipping-Trade. The Merchants would be concern'd with a View of Commissions, and other Advantages, and the Planters View would be to encourage a foreign Consumption, and to avoid a glutted Market at Home; and all this would be attended with lower Freights, and a Choice of Markets, besides an Increase of *British* Merchants at several foreign Ports, and, consequently, of the *British* Interest in several foreign Countries.

As touching the 3d Point, *which restrains all Ships bound to the Northern Part of Europe, to touch and enter at some Port in Great Britain in their Way to such foreign Ports.*

THIS at first View appears to be convenient from the Situation of *Great Britain* in the direct Way to all the Northern Ports, where we may probably send Sugar; and, no doubt, many Ships will touch without any Compulsion, especially in the Summer Months, and in peaceable Times, to try the Market, and for Intelligence and Orders. And some People may think it necessary to guard against carrying on an illicit Trade; but certainly sufficient Care is taken to prevent that in this Act, as well as in other Acts of Trade: And since every Ship is oblig'd within eight Months after the Delivery of her Cargoe at foreign Markets to return to *Great Britain*, and there unload what she shall have on Board, there seems to be no Cause why the like Liberty may not be given to Ships bound to the Northern, as well as Southern Ports of *Europe*. And Instances may happen to make this Restriction of very ill Consequence, especially in the Cases of War, bad Weather, and contrary Winds.

IN War, Ships must run into some Port to deliver a Manifest, and perhaps up the Channel, and be in Danger of being taken by their Enemies; which may be avoided by going North about *Scotland*, and keeping at a Distance in their Way to the *Baltick, Hamburgh, or Holland.*

In bad Weather, the Ships may proceed to foreign Ports with a fair Wind that may be contrary as to their touching, and prove dangerous while they are beating up and endeavouring to get into a *British* Port, only to deliver a Manifest of her Cargoe.

THE Ship may be no sooner in Port but the Wind may prove as contrary as it was fair before, and thereby detain her many Weeks for a Wind at a large Expence, and perhaps to the Loss of a good Market, in case the Ship should be preserv'd.

THESE three propos'd Amendments in the Act would infallibly answer the Intention of the Legislature, by encreasing the Exportation of Sugar to foreign Markets abundantly, *and thereby encrease the national Ballance as well as our West India Colonies in Proportion to the Encrease of such an Exportation.*

N^o II. *As to Rum.*

THAT Rum may be re-exported from *Great Britain* without paying the Duty of Excise, provided it is done before landing, or within six Months after landing, which is the Time now allow'd by Law for the Payment of this Duty.

OBSERVATIONS.

THE Duty of Excise on Rum is 3s. 8d. per Gallon, and no Drawback is allow'd on the Re-exportation, as in the Case of other Goods, so that no Rum can be re-exported, whereby most of the outward-bound Shipping continue to take *French* smuggled Brandy.

ONE of the Objections made to such an Encouragement for the Re-exportation of Rum, is from some Gentlemen who may apprehend it may interfere with Malt-Spirits, in regard to supplying the outward-bound Shipping, and our Trade to *Africa*; but I may venture to say, that *French Brandy* and *Dutch Spirits* now interfere most in this Instance, and that very little Advantages accrue to this Nation by the *British Malt Spirits* that are exported: Or that nothing near the Advantages that would otherwise accrue to *Great Britain*, by permitting Rum to be re-exported before landing, or from the King's Warehouses, at any Time before the Duty of Excise becomes payable, as the Law now stands, without paying that Duty; since it will appear from the Custom-house Books, that there has scarcely been exported from *Great Britain*, for many Years together, of *British-made Spirits*, upon which the Bounty is granted, above the Value of 400*l.* on a Medium, *per Annum*.

THIS Indulgence will, in Time, add greatly to
 * Consumption of our Rum, as great Quantities would be thereby consum'd up the *Baltick*, in *Germany* and elsewhere, and every Ship would probably carry some for Sale, where no *British Malt-Spirits* will sell at all; the Produce of which will return and centre in this Nation. Small Quantities will do best at first, until they take a Liking to our Rum to the same Degree as the People of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* have of late Years done: Then whole Cargoes of Rum and Sugar too would be sent to those foreign Ports, directly from our Sugar Plantations, which our Laws, even as they now stand, permit: This will still add to our Plantation Strength, and national Wealth, and without Prejudice to the Revenue, as the Quantity to be imported into *Great Britain* will always be sufficient to answer the Demand.

APPENDIX (E.)

PROPOSALS for preventing the Consumption of foreign Sugar, Rum, Molasses and Brandy, in any of his Majesty's British Dominions.

a. **B**EFORE the Year 1732. Sugar, Rum and Molasses, of the Growth of foreign Plantations, were imported directly from such foreign Plantations into *Ireland*, and also into our Northern Colonies, upon paying little or no Duties; but those Commodities of the Growth of *British* Plantations could not be carry'd to *Ireland* without being first carry'd to *Great Britain*, and leaving large Duties there, besides the Charge of a double Voyage; nor could they be carry'd to our own Northern Colonies without paying much more Duties than the *French* paid on the like Voyage: This was the Situation of this Branch of Trade for many Years together, which made a considerable Alteration in Favour of the *French* Colonies.

(1732.) **B**UT by an Act pass'd in the 4th and 5th Years of his present Majesty King *George* the 2d. *British* Rum was, amongst other unenumerated Goods of Plantation Growth, permitted to be imported into (b.) *Ireland* directly from the Plantations, whereby great Quantities of *British* Rum have since been imported and consum'd there, instead of *French* Rum and *French* Brandy; and surely this last Article of Brandy should be totally prohibited from being imported into any of his Majesty's

Majesty's *British* Dominions, whilst it *interferes with British Rum and other British Spirits.*

(1733.) AND in the 6th Year of his present Majesty all Sugar, Rum and Molasses, of foreign Growth, were prohibited from being imported into *Ireland*, unless loaden and shipp'd in *Great Britain*, in Ships legally navigated. This Exception or Permission, however, has prov'd prejudicial to our Sugar-Trade since the present War with *France*, infomuch that great Quantities of foreign Prize-Sugar have been loaden and shipp'd from *Great Britain* to *Ireland* by Virtue thereof; which Practice may, in future, in case of large Crops of Sugar, prove of very ill Consequence to our Sugar Plantations unless a (c.) speedy Stop be put to the sending such Sugar into *Ireland*; which should be look'd upon, in this Instance, as a home Market.

(d.) By the said Act of the 6th Geo. II. a Duty of 5 s. per Hundred was laid on Sugar or Penneles, 9d. per Gallon on Rum or Spirits, and 6d. per Gallon on Molasses and Syrups of the Product of any Plantation in *America* not in the Possession of his Majesty, imported into any of the *British* Plantations in *America*, which Duties are to be paid down before landing. But as there is Liberty to carry those foreign Commodities into Port without being liable to Seizure before landing, there are great Quantities *smuggled without paying any Duties at all*; which is contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of the Legislature not only in regard to the Duties, but also as it gives a Vent, by a *British* Consumption, to the Products of foreign *American* Soil, raised chiefly from the Produce, Manufactures and Navigation of our foreign Rivals; to the Prejudice of the Vent of the Products of *British* *American* Soil, raised chiefly by the Produce, Manufactures and Navigation of *Great Britain*.

(e.) As

(e.) As a Remedy for this great Mischief, It is propos'd, That our *American* Colonies be put upon the same Foot with *Ireland*, in regard to the Importation of those *foreign Commodities of the Growth of America*, and be under the Penalty of forfeiting the same, together with the Ship or Vessel in which they shall be imported, with all her Guns, Tackle, Furniture, Ammunition and Apparel.

THIS has been the Practice in the Plantations in regard to *foreign Goods of the Growth of Europe* (except in some few Instances) ever since the 15th Car. II. when it was enacted, that no Commodity of the Growth of *Europe*, (except as is just mention'd) shall be imported into the Plantations, but from *Great Britain*, under Penalty of forfeiting such Goods, together with the Ship, Guns, Tackle, Furniture, Ammunition and Apparel.

AND the several Penalties and Forfeitures on Masters of Ships, Officers and other Persons, assisting in the unlawful landing or receiving into their Custody any of the aforesaid Goods, may be enlarg'd; or, at least, made payable in Money of *Great Britain*, according to the Value of five Shillings and six Pence *per Ounce* in Silver, the same being now evaded and paid in some of the Northern Provinces, in Province-Money, not worth one Quarter of such Money of *Great Britain*.

SUCH a Prohibition would be of the utmost Consequence to our Plantations in *America*, as it would distress the *French* Colonies and Commerce to a great Degree, since they can find but a small Vent for their Rum and Molasses any where but in *British* Dominions, and they would then be compell'd to sling away most of their Molasses, from which they make their Rum, or give it to their Hogs and Horses as they us'd to do, before the *English* took it off their Hands, more especially as we have now taken from them, *Louisbourg* and the

the Island of *Cape Breton*, before which Time there was a large Trade carry'd on there, between the *French* and some of our Northern Provinces in *America*, whereby the *French* got a considerable Vent for their Molasses, Sugar and Rum, and other Merchandize of foreign Growth and Manufacture, in Exchange for Cash, Fish and other Merchandize carried thither by the *English*.

It has been objected, that *Jamaica*, and all the *British* Carribbee Islands, cannot make Rum and Molasses sufficient to answer the necessary Demands of our Northern Colonies in *America*, and that they cannot take off their Surplus of Horses, Lumber and other Products: But certain it is, that there is Land enough in all those Islands, with proper Encouragements, to raise as much Sugar, Rum and Molasses, as will answer the Demands of all *Europe* and *America*. And if they should have a Surplus of Horses, Lumber and other Products, after our Islands have their necessary Supplies, they may sell them to Foreigners for Cash, Cocoa, Coffee, Logwood, Cochineal or any Thing else, except for SUGAR, RUM and MOLASSES, which Commodities are the Staple and main Support of our Sugar Colonies: The Vent therefore of such *British* Produce cannot be too much encourag'd, as every Branch of the *British* Dominions will feel the Advantages of it.

THERE is at this Time another Objection, that is, That we are at War with *France*, and therefore there is no Occasion for any such Prohibition; but if it is not granted in Time of War, can it be expected in Time of Peace? Or, is it to be expected that the same Amity and Friendship will not subsist between the two Rival Powers after the War shall cease, as it did during the last Peace.

No doubt there will be an Opposition to this Proposition from some particular Persons interested
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in some of the Northern *American Colonies*, and perhaps from some illicit Traders in the Southern Colonies; but if such a Prohibition shall be found expedient, and approv'd by the Legislature, the Prospect on all Sides would certainly be much more agreeable than it is now; for we now see some of his Majesty's Subjects in North *America*, put themselves under an uncertain and precarious Dependance on Foreigners in regard to this Trade, who may, and probably will, when they find it for their Advantage, sling off that Dependance in one Day: But on the other Hand, we shall see all his Majesty's Colonies in *America* dependant on each other, and every one working for the mutual Advantage and Improvement of the whole, under the Succour and Support of their Mother-Country; which will be a more certain and lasting Dependance, as it will hold as long as the *British Empire* shall stand.

(f.) To countervail any Disadvantage that may, for a short Time, attend some of his Majesty's Subjects in the Northern Provinces of *America*, proper Bounties, and other Encouragements, may be given for raising Hemp, Flax, Silk, Pot-Ash and Iron in those Provinces, Part of which may be sent Home rough and raw, in such Proportions as shall be found advantageous to their Mother-Country, in order to be manufactur'd in this Kingdom. Then these Commodities, which are now purchas'd chiefly with Cash, will be purchas'd with our home Manufactures, carry'd thither by *British Navigation*.

F I N I S.

