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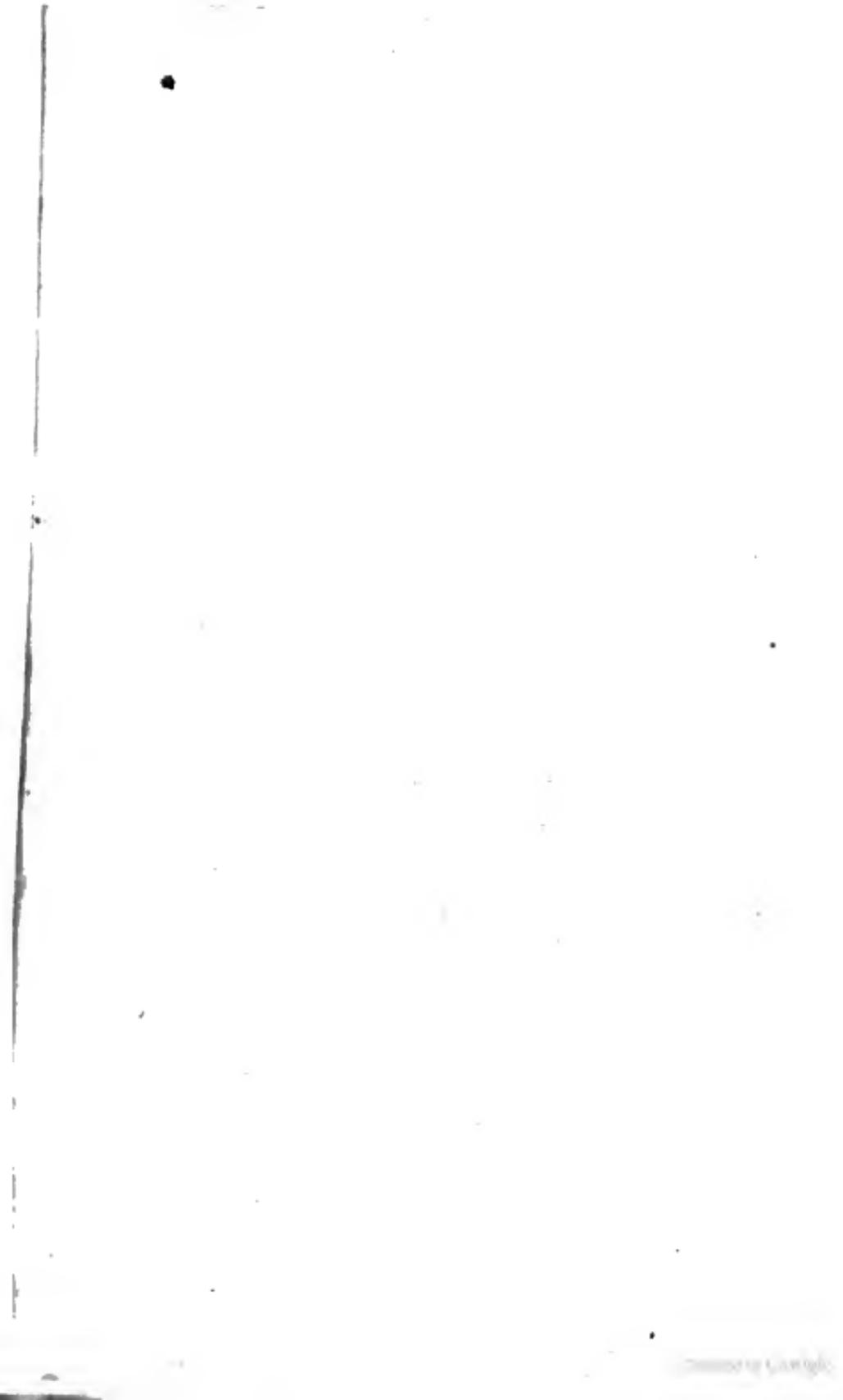
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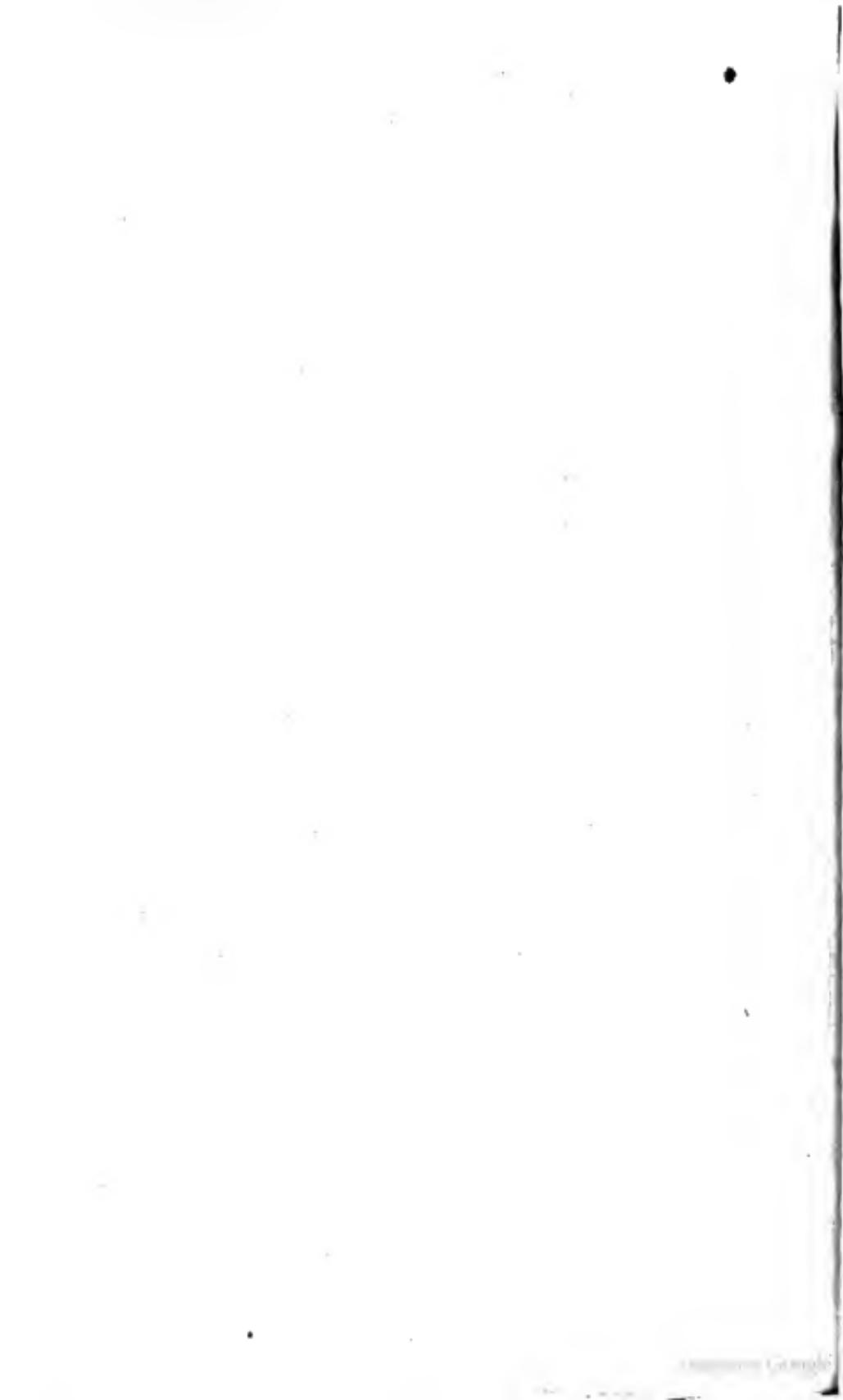


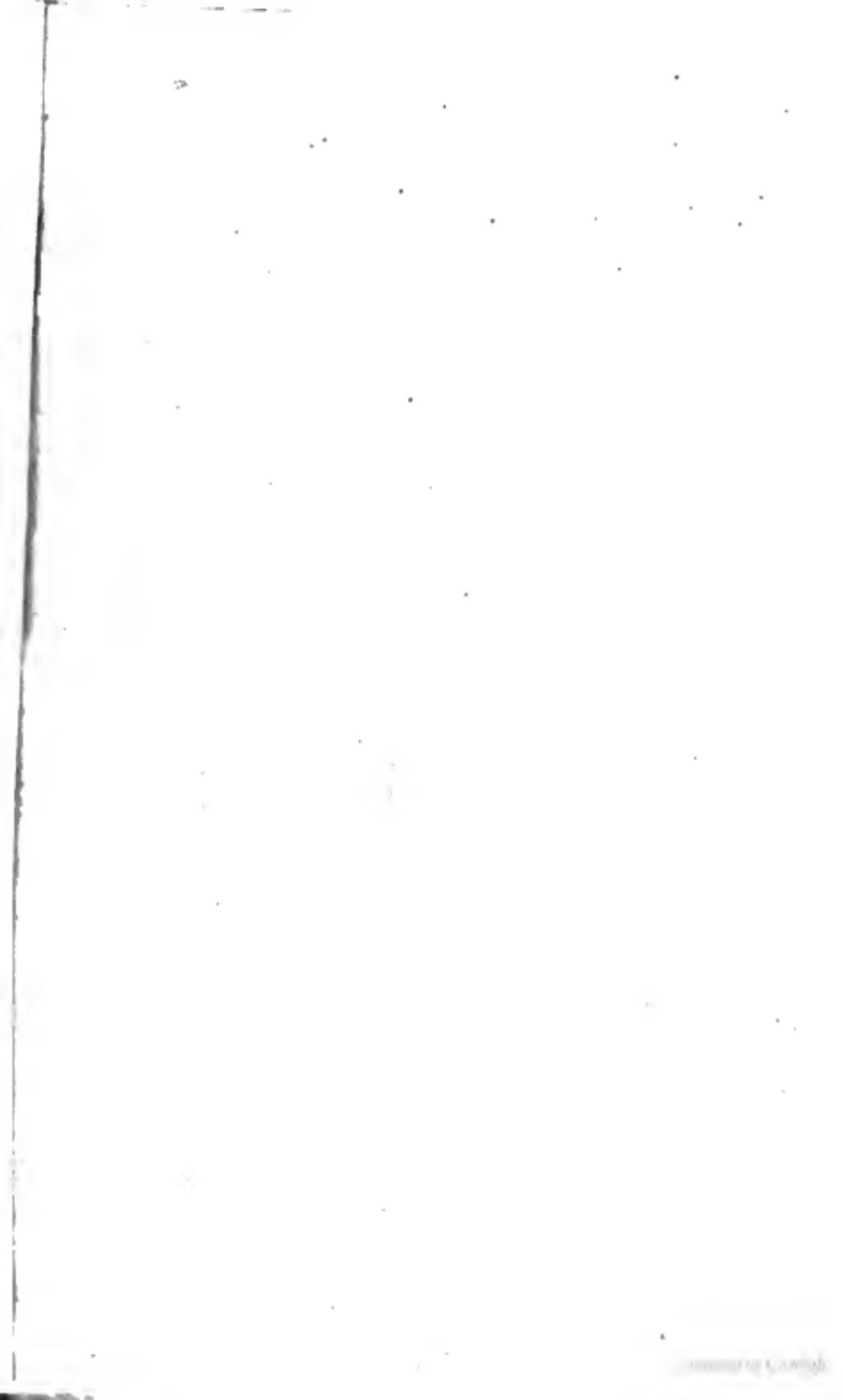
John Thomas Hope













The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to
The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

To be Publish'd every TUESDAY and FRIDAY.

FRIDAY, August 7. 1713.

I Believe if any Man either in *England* or *France* were able to find his Account in setting Fire to our Metropolis, he might hire Advocates in this Kingdom, either to extenuate the Crime, or applaud the Action : We abound in mercenary Writers, who will make no difficulty to sell their native Country for the Profit of a Pamphlet.

I shall make it appear, that if the 8th and 9th Articles of the late Treaty of Commerce between *France* and us had been render'd effectual by a Law, this very thing had been more ruinous to the *British* Nation, than if the City of *London* were to be laid in Ashes. This City has been once burnt to the Ground, but the People were still in being ; they were, notwithstanding this Calamity, a constant Mart for the Product and Manufactures of the Country : But if such a Law, as I have mention'd, had pass'd, *France* would have gone on from that moment to exhaust the Treasures of the Kingdom. We should have presently lost our best Markets both at Home and Abroad, our Gentlemen must have felt a sudden and universal Decay of their Rents, and our common People must have either starv'd for want of Work, or come to the Lands or the Parish for Subsistence.

And yet we have the *Mercator* three times every Week in Print, in the Defence of such a Law, and to make Panegyricks upon the *French* Commerce. A Bill was brought into the House of Commons for rendering effectual the 8th and 9th Articles of the abovemention'd Treaty, and the *Mercator's* first Design seems to have been to furnish Gentlemen with Arguments for passing that Bill. Indeed it was very charitably done of this Author ; for I believe, from the Restoration of King *Charles* the Second, till this last Session of Parliament, no House of Commons had ever heard any Argument for the *French* Trade. And it seems this House would not be convinc'd by the *Mercator's* Arguments ; since after mature Deliberation it was not thought reasonable to pass the Bill, which he insinuates to be so very necessary for the Welfare of the whole Kingdom.

His first Design has miscarry'd ; the next is upon the common People, that they may make choice of better Friends to this Bill for the next Parliament. For this end the *Mercator* travels every Week throughout the Country for the Instruction of the Ignorant, his travelling Charges are all

born by those who are to find their Accounts in this Bill, his Readers have him gratis, they pay nothing at present for their Learning, the whole Price of it is to be paid by a Trade that shall prove their Ruin.

Indeed hitherto I have had that Contempt for this Author, as to think him beneath an Answer. I have not yet met with any one Argument in him, which seem'd likely to gain a single Vote at the next Election : But since I am inform'd that his Papers are every where dispers'd with so much Industry ; since with an Air of Authority he often declares that the Bill of Commerce is not lost, but only suspended till the next Parliament ; and since the Design of renewing that Bill is confess'd and avow'd by much greater Authorities ; I think it my Duty to offer my Service to my Countrymen, and to convince them, by as proper Arguments as I am able, that the Law which is intended can never be for their Advantage.

The Subjects which the *Mercator* has promis'd to insist on, are the several Branches of our Trade, and the Advantages accruing to us by the Treaties of Peace and Commerce lately concluded at *Utrecht*. But in all the Papers that have yet appear'd ; his principal Aim has been to recommend the *French* Commerce, and the necessity of such a Law as I have mention'd ; and this is done by heaps of comparative and superlative words, without any determinate Sense or Meaning. I have resolv'd too, to consider every Branch of our Trade, and every Consequence of those Treaties : But my principal Care shall be to detect the Frauds and Cheats of the *Mercator*, by which he imposes upon the People, and to represent to them the Danger of passing such a Law as is desir'd ; that they may avoid it, if they can, in their choice of the next Parliament, or at least, if they will leap down the Precipice, that they may do it with their Eyes open.

The *Mercator* insinuates, that all Opposition given to this Bill is so Affront to the Administration. Nothing in the World was ever farther from my Thoughts ; but we may, without any Derogation to their Wisdom, deny, that they are so conversant in Trade, as to foresee all the ill Consequences of every particular Branch of it : And how should they ? They have neither by their Education or Employments been let into any such Knowledge ; their Knowledge is of a superior kind. But in this they have given us a Demonstration of their

their Wisdom, that they have not finish'd the Treaty in all its Parts; the 8th and 9th Articles of (which are the principal) are refer'd to the Judgment of the Parliament, and to be made effectual by a Law: so that if we shall be ruin'd, it must be by a Law of our own making.

The *Mercator* is at great pains to have this Controversy about the *French Trade* and the Bill of Commerce thought a Party-Controversy; but his Readers shall be convinc'd that this is not Party against Party, Tory against Whig, Protestant against Papist, Churchman against Dissenter; but Nation against Nation, the Trade of *Britain* against the Trade of *France*. The Questions upon this Bill are, Whether *France*, after all her ill Successes in the late War, shall be suffer'd, during the present Peace, under the colour of a Commerce, to exhaust our Treasure, beggar our Gentlemen, and starve our Common People? And whether the Gentlemen of *Britain*, after all their glorious Victories, will at last be contented to become *Hewers of Woods, and Drawers of Waters*, to the Nation they have so often beaten? Whosoever sees that these are the Consequences of the *Mercator's Law*, and is therefore against the Bill; let his Religion and Politicks be what they will, he is so far an honest Man, and has a Title to my Vote. But he who is for the Bill, tho he cannot chuse but see that it must be attended with so many unhappy Consequences to his Country, he may pretend as much Zeal as he pleases for the Church; but he is, in my Opinion, far worse than a *Mohometan*.

I was thinking a good while what Title I should give my Paper: There is something in a good Title, to invite the Reader to the Work. The Author I am to contend with, has chosen for his, *The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd*. *Mercator* is a foreign Word for Merchant: Now a *British Merchant* is or should be one, that carries out the Product of our Lands and the Labour of our People, and brings back Gold or Silver, or unwrought Materials for their Employment and Subsistence. But since the Merchant which this Person would encourage, is to carry out our Gold and Silver, and return us perishable Commodities in their stead; since he is to make *Britain* the Market for *French Goods*, and to deprive us of many foreign and domestick Markets for our own; since he is to diminish the Value of our Lands, and of the Labour of our People, by raising the Value of both in *France*; since he is to enrich *France*, and impoverish *Great Britain*; he is not a *British Merchant*, and is therefore properly still'd by a foreign Title: The *BRITISH MERCHANT* is just the Reverse of him, and shall therefore be the Title of this Paper.

The second part of his Title, is *Commerce Retriev'd*. *Commerce Retriev'd*! Bless us! what a Thought was that? *Commerce Retriev'd*! When was it lost? Was it lost by the Prohibitions and high Duties upon *French Goods*? And has it been lost to this day? And by what means is it at last retriev'd? Is it retriev'd by the Treaty of Commerce? Or would it have been retriev'd, if that Treaty had been made effectual by a Law? I will venture to say, that by such a Law as was intended, almost all of it had been lost. But this shall be the Subject of future Papers; and it shall appear too, that *Britain* has never had so flourishing a Trade, as since the Prohibitions of *French Goods*, and by means of those Prohibitions. By these our Commerce has been enlarg'd beyond what it ever was in former Ages, and has been the cause of import-

ing such Treasures into this Kingdom, as made her Majesty the most formidable Potentate in *Europe*. Our Commerce is not retriev'd by either of our late Treaties.

Commerce Retriev'd therefore shall be no part of the Title of this Paper. And yet it runs very much in my head, that it ought to set out with a double Title. If *Spain* had remain'd with the House of *Austria*, she had not been able from her whole Dominions to furnish the *West-Indies* with necessary Manufactures. She would have given little Encouragement to those of *France*, both because of the Opposition *France* had given to her Succession, and because she has been her constant Rival: *France* had therefore been excluded from that Trade. *Great Britain* would have chiefly supply'd the *Spanish Indies*, she would have had the greatest share of the *Spanish Treasures*. It cannot be imagin'd, but a Prince of *France* upon the *Spanish Throne* will shew the greatest Favour to his native Country: So that we are to expect very little Gold or Silver from the *Spanish Indies*. This Branch therefore of our Trade will not afford us a Title for this Paper.

Portugal hereafter must stand so much in awe of the Powers of *France* and *Spain*, that *France* must needs be let in for a good share of that Trade. So that the Mines of *Brazil*, which we almost engros'd before, are not likely now to flow in such Streams into this Kingdom. But if the Treaty of Commerce had been made effectual, and the Duties upon *French Wines* had been brought down by a Law to those of *Portugal*, contrary, as shall appear, to a Treaty now subsisting with the latter; *Portugal* would have made Reprisals, by prohibiting our whole Woollen Manufactures. Whatsoever therefore shall be preserv'd of this Trade, we owe to the rejecting of such a Law.

The Case of *Germany* is not very different: We can hardly expect to good a Trade with that Nation when they shall have made their Peace with *France*, as we had before; both because many Commodities will be brought from *France* after the Restoration of their Commerce with that Kingdom, and because many of their own Manufactures will be cultivated in a time of Peace. But what if the Law that was intended, should have pass'd, and the Duties upon *French Linens* should have been reduc'd down to those of *Germany*? Should we then have bought so much Linen from *Germany*, when we could import it cheaper from a nearer Nation? And would *Germany* then have taken such Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures? We might with much more reason have expected that the *Avocateria* would have been publish'd throughout the Empire, or a total Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactures. Whatsoever therefore we shall save of this Trade, we owe to the rejecting of this Law.

Our Trade never was so good before, as it has been since the Prohibition of *French Goods*; and it is not likely it can ever be so good again. But whatsoever of it shall remain, we owe to the not passing of a Law, by which almost all of it had been lost. For this reason, I have determin'd that *Commerce Preserv'd* shall be one of the Titles of this Paper.

Let the *Mercator* endeavour to persuade his Readers that our Commerce was retriev'd by the late Treaty with *France*, or at least would have been, had that Treaty been made effectual by a Law: The *BRITISH MERCHANT* shall prove, that our Commerce was preserv'd by not passing that Law.









The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to the *Mercator*, or *Commerce Retriev'd*.

To be Publish'd every TUESDAY and FRIDAY.

Audiet hæc Genitor qui fœdera fulmine sancit. Virg.

From FRIDAY, August 7. to TUESDAY, August 11. 1713.

MY first Controversy is with the Bill of Commerce (for so hereafter for brevity sake I shall call the Bill for making effectual the 8th and 9th Articles of the Treaty of Commerce lately concluded at Utrecht.) My Controversy with the *Mercator* is for his pursuing the same Ends with that Bill, viz. the Dishonour of her Majesty, and the Ruin of the British Nation. I shall say nothing to the *Mercator* in this Day's

Paper, which shall wholly be made up of an Argument against the Bill it self. And because the *Mercator* often calls for authentick Vouchers, my present Argument shall be founded upon the Treaty of Commerce between her Majesty and the King of Portugal. The Reader therefore has here a Copy of the Original Treaty in one Column, and as exact a Translation as I am able to make of it, in the other.

QUANDOQUEM Fœdus, arctaq; Amicitia, quæ intercedit inter serenissimum ac Potentissimum Principem, Dominam Annam, Magnæ Britannicæ Reginam; & Serenissimum ac Potentissimum Petrum Lusitanicæ Regem possidet, ut utriusq; Gentis Britannicæ & Lusitanicæ Commercium, quam fieri possit, commodissimè promoveantur; & sacra Regia Majestas Magnæ Britannicæ Sacræ Regiæ Majestati Lusitanicæ significandum curavit per Excellentissimum Dominum Johannem Methuen Armigerum, Anglici Parliamenti Senatorum, & in Lusitania Legatum Extraordinarium, pergratum sibi fore, si Lanei Panni, ceteraq; Britannica Lanificia in Lusitania admittentur, eorum interdictioe Tabulâ. Ut ea de re agi & transigi posset, Plenipotentiâ suas & Mandata dederunt, Sacra scilicet Majestas Magnæ Britannicæ, supra memorato Excellentissimo Domino Johanni Methuen; Sacra verò Majestas Lusitanicæ, Excellentissimo Domino Emmanueli Telesio Silvio, Marchioni Alegretensi, Comiti Villamaiorio, in Sodalitio Christi Equitum, Commendatario Sancti Johannis de Alegrete, & Trapedorato de Soure, in Avinionensi verò Collegio Commendatario Sancti Johannis de Moura, & Sandæ Mariæ de Albufera, triumviro Fisci Moderatori, primæ Admissionis Cubiculario, & Statû Consiliario Sacræ Regiæ Majestati Lusitanicæ: qui quidem vi Plenipotentiarii sibi respectivè concessarum, re maturè diligenter; deliberatâ de illâ in sequentes Articulus convenêre.

A R T. I.

Sacra Regia Majestas Lusitanica spondet suo, suorumque Succellorum Nomine admitti iri per omne tempus in Lusitaniam Lancoo Pannos, ceteraq; Britannico Lanificia, non aliter quam fieri solebat, antequam per pragmaticas sanctiones interdicerentur: ea tamen sub conditione,

A R T. II.

Scilicet, ut Sacra Regia Majestas Magnæ Britannicæ suo, suorumque Succellorum nomine teneatur in omne tempus Vina ex Lusitanicâ ditiosis Vinetis collecta, ita in Britanniam admittere, ut nullo unquam tempore, five Pax five Bellum sit inter Britannicæ & Gallicæ Regnâ, quidquam amplius pro hujusmodi Vinis Vestigialis aut Portorii nomine, five quocunq; alio titulo duret vel indirectè exigatur, quam quod deductâ tertâ parte Vestigialis aut Portorii à vini quantitate five Mensurâ Gallicâ Vini exigatur, five ea Vina per Dolia, five per Cados, aut quavis aliâ vasè apportabuntur in Magnam Britanniam. Quod si quando hæc Vestigialis Immunitio prout preferat faciendâ, quovis modo attentabitur, ipsiq; derogabitur, jus salq; erit Sacræ Regiæ Majestati Lusitanicæ rursus Lancoo Pannos, ceteraq; Britannica Lanificia interdiceret.

A R T. III.

Excellentissimi Domini Plenipotentiarii spondent, atque in se recipiunt alitè memoratos Dominos suos hunc Tractatum

WHEREAS the League and strict Friendship which is between the most Serene and most Potent Princess Anne, Queen of Great Britain, and the most Serene and most Potent Peter, King of Portugal, requires that the Commerce of both the British and the Portuguese Nation, should be promoted as much as possible; and our Sacred Royal Majesty of Great Britain in her Majesty's to her Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal, by the most Excellent John Methuen, Esq; Member of the English Parliament, and Ambassador Extraordinary in Portugal, that it would be very acceptable to her, if the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the Woollen Manufactures of Britain, might be admitted into Portugal, the Prohibition of them being taken off: That this Matter may be treated and transacted, they have given their full Powers and Commands; that it is so, by her Sacred Majesty of Great Britain to the above said most Excellent John Methuen, and her Sacred Majesty of Portugal, to the most Excellent Don Emanuel Teles Silvius, Marquis of Alegrete, Conde de Villa Major, in the Society of the Knights of Christ, Commendator of St. John d'Alegrete, and of de Soure, and also in the College of Monca, and of St. Mary de Albuveira, one of the three Directors of the Treasury, and of the first Gentlemen of the Bedchamber, and Counsellor of State to his Sacred Royal Portuguese Majesty: Who by virtue of the full Powers to them respectfully granted, having maturely and diligently consider'd the Matter, have agreed upon the following Articles.

A R T. I.

His Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal promise, both in his own Name, and that of his Successors, to admit, for ever hereafter, into Portugal, the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the Woollen Manufactures of the Britains, as was accustomed, till they were prohibited by the Laws: nevertheless upon this Condition,

A R T. II.

That it is so, That her Sacred Royal Majesty of Great Britain shall, in her own Name, and that of her Successors, be oblig'd, for ever hereafter, to admit the Wines of the Growth of Portugal into Britain; so that at no time, whether there shall be Peace or War between the Kingdoms of Britain and France, any thing more shall be demanded for these Wines by the name of Custom or Duty, or by whatsoever other Title, directly or indirectly, whether they shall be imported into Great Britain in Pipes or Hogsheads, or other Casks, than what shall be demanded from the like Quantity or Measure of French Wine, deducting or abating a third Part of the Custom or Duty: But if at any time this Deduction or Abatement of Customs, which is to be made as aforesaid, shall in any manner be attempted and prejudic'd, it shall be just and lawful for his Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal, again to prohibit the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the British Woollen Manufactures.

A R T. III.

The most excellent Lords the Plenipotentiaries, promise and take upon themselves, that their above said Masters shall

Treatatum ratihabituro; & intra duorum mensium spatium ratihabitioes commendantur.

In quorum omnium fidem & testimonium, ego Sacrae Regiae Majestatis Magnae Britanniae Plenipotentiarius hunc *Treatatum* manus mea Subscriptionem & Sigillo insignita mecum munivi: Excellentissimus vero Dominus Plenipotentiarius Sacrae Regiae Majestatis Lusitaniae, virandi controversiae causa, quae est loci prerogativa inter Coronas Britannicam & Lusitanicam, aliud ejusdem fidei Instrumentum subscripsit, cum motus tantummodo de ejus rei ergo commotanda erat. Dat. Olypione 27 mensis Decembris, 1703.

(L. S.) Johannes Methuen.

What is obvious in this short Treaty, is, That her Majesty made application to the King of Portugal, to have our Woollen Manufactures (that is, not only our Woollen Cloth, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures) admitted into Portugal, and that the Prohibition of them might be taken off: That the King of Portugal promises *thou shall be done, as was accustomed before the Prohibition, upon condition that her Majesty shall be oblig'd to admit the Wines of Portugal into Britain for ever, with an Abatement of one third part of the Duties at all times possible by those of France: That if at any time this Abatement, of Duties shall be prejudic'd, or, in other words, if either by raising the Duties on the Wines of Portugal, or lessening those on France, the Duties upon the Wines of both Countries shall be brought nearer to an Equality; It shall be lawful for Portugal again to forbid not only our Woollen Cloths, but the rest of our Woollen Manufactures: And lastly, That the Plenipotentiaries both of Britain and Portugal severally sign'd this Treaty, and also undertook that it should be ratify'd by their Principals, and that the Ratifications of it should be exchange'd.* All this is plain and obvious in the very words of this Treaty.

We are sure, that from the time the Treaty was made, there has been no Prohibition of any of our Woollen Manufactures in Portugal, and that they have paid nothing more than the old accustomed Duties; so that we are not to question its having been duly ratify'd, by which it is become the AR both of her Majesty and the King of Portugal.

What then are the Obligations of both Countries? And what may either of them expect, as the Consequences of not keeping this Treaty?

The Obligations on the King of Portugal are, That he shall admit our Woollen Manufactures into his Country, as was accusom'd before the Prohibition; that is, not only our Woollen Cloth, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures; upon our performing the Condition to be perform'd on our part.

If therefore we have perform'd our Condition, and the King of Portugal, notwithstanding this, had either prohibited or increas'd the old Duties upon the whole or any part of our Woollen Manufactures since that Treaty; every such Prohibition, every Increase of the old Duties, had in this case been a Violation of the Treaty on the part of Portugal.

And no doubt we should have exclaim'd against that Prince, in such a case, as pernicious, and one that had no regard to his Promises, or to the Faith and Honour of his Treaties. Perhaps too we should not have stop'd here; we might justly have made Reprizals upon him, by prohibiting the Wines and all other Goods of that Country, if this had been for our Interest: and if this had not yet been sufficient to repair us, the Laws of Nature and Nations would even justify us to make War upon him, till our Satisfaction had been complet.

Such are the Obligations of Portugal, and such might justly have been our Reprizals, if that Prince had not perform'd his Treaty. Let us now turn the Tables, and see whether there are any, and what are the Obligations to be perform'd on the part of Britain; what shall be said to be a Breach on our part; and what in justice we ought to expect as the Consequences of such a Breach.

Surely there is some Obligation on Britain: For did we make the first Application to the King of Portugal for this Treaty? And would that Prince bind himself, and leave us at perfect Liberty? From the reason of the thing, one would conclude, that the Obligation must be mutual and reciprocal.

And so we ought to do, from the very words of this Treaty. The King of Portugal [promises] *promises or engages* for himself and his Successors, in the first Article, to admit all our Woollen Manufactures into his Coun-

try, and that within the Space of two months the Ratifications shall be exchange'd.

But the Faith and Testimony of all which things, I, the Plenipotentiary of her Sacred Royal Majesty of Great Britain, have confirm'd this Treaty, by the Subscription of my Hand, and by the Seal of my Coat of Arms. And the most excellent Lord the Plenipotentiary of the Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal, for avoiding the Controversy about Precedence between the Crowns of Britain and Portugal, hath sign'd, or rather Instrument of the same Tenor, changing only what ought to be chang'd for that reason. Given at Lisbon the 27th of the Month of December, 1703.

(L. S.) John Methuen.

try, as was accusom'd before the Prohibition upon Condition; upon what Condition? upon Condition that the Queen of Great Britain [Treasurer] shall be oblig'd in her own Name, and that of her Successors. The word is *Treasurer*, and every Scrivener is able to inform us that *tenet* or *firmiter obligat* are the words that equally oblige, in every Bond, the one as well as the other. So that the King of Portugal promises or engages, upon condition that the Queen of Britain shall be oblig'd. Her Majesty's Ambassador, pursuant to his full Powers, has sign'd this Treaty, the same has been ratify'd; and shall it be said now, that Britain is not oblig'd?

What then are the Obligations on the part of Britain, by virtue of this Treaty? We are oblig'd for ever to admit the Wines of Portugal, and at all times hereafter to abate one third part of the Duty which shall be payable for French Wines.

The next Question is, What shall be said to be a Breach of this Treaty on our part? or when we shall be said not to perform our Obligation? If the King of Portugal shall admit all our Woollen Manufactures, as he engages to do by the first Article, and we on the contrary should favour France as much as we do Portugal, or by raising the Duties on Portugal, or lessening those on France, should bring the Duties upon the Wines of both Countries any nearer to an Equality, than that of two third Parts and the Whole, this would not be to perform our Obligation; No, it would be a direct Violation of our Treaty.

The Bill of Commerce, if it had pass'd into a Law, had favour'd France in every Branch of Trade as much as the Nation the most favour'd; and consequently had reduc'd the Duties upon the Wines of France to those upon the Wines of Portugal: This had been doing the direct contrary of what we are oblig'd to do by the second Article of the above-recited Treaty with Portugal, by which we are oblig'd to favour the Wines of that Nation more than those of France; it had been a direct Violation of that Treaty. And shall I give my Vote for a Law, which will be a Violation of a publick Treaty? Shall I give my Vote for any Man, who has voted for such a Law? If I should ever be brought to that unhappy trial, I hope I shall rather die, than be guilty of giving such a Vote.

For what are the Consequences we ought in justice to expect upon the Violation of a publick Treaty by a Law? Certainly, the very same which the King of Portugal might expect, if he had been guilty of the same Violation.

But lest we should be ignorant what that Prince may do, or we our selves suffer, the last words of the second Article may serve to inform us: the Sense of which is, That if at any time hereafter we should abate less upon the Wines of Portugal than a third part of the Customs we should take from the Wines of France, it shall be just and lawful for his Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal again to prohibit the Woollen Cloths and the rest of the British Woollen Manufactures; not only the Woollen Cloths, but all the Woollen Manufactures of Britain.

Since our Treaty with Portugal, we have exported yearly to that Country prodigious Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures, vastly greater than we ever did before, vastly greater than we ever did to France, as will be made appear by the following Papers. Many thousands of Families are entirely subsist'd by working in the Woollen Manufacture for our Trade to Portugal; what Desolation would be made among those People, if our whole Woollen Manufactures should be prohibited in that Country? And is any thing less to be expected, if we should pass a Law, by which that Treaty should be violat'd?





The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

To be Publish'd every TUESDAY and FRIDAY.

Audiat hæc Genitor qui fœdera fulmine sancit. Virg.

From TUESDAY, August 11. to FRIDAY, August 14. 1713.

AFTER having dispatch'd my first Argument against the *Bill of Commerce*, viz. the *Inconsistency of it with our Portugal Treaty*, I must now have a few words with the *Mercator*. But as I shall have frequent Disputes with this Author, it will be necessary first to settle one great Point, which is the Veracity of the Person, and the Validity of his Evidence: For he tells us in his Introduction, That he relies entirely upon *Truth*, upon *just Authorities faithfully collected from Authentick Papers*, upon *clear Demonstrations*, and *such-like irresistible Weapons*. These are the Materials, he says, he is furnish'd with; and in almost every Paper you find him insisting upon his Matters of Fact, his clear Documents, indisputable Vouchers, and original Records. In the Paper, N^o 18. he challenges all the World to shew *most one thing* in the *Mercator* *has affirm'd, asserted, or made publick as Truth*, which *must so*: and soon after, N^o 24. he remarks with particular Satisfaction, that his Challenge had not been accepted, but that his very Enemies acquiesc'd in every thing he has asserted.

I am so far from acquiescing, that I shall venture to accept this Challenge, and to bring the matter to a fair trial. I will pitch upon a thing of as great consequence as any in all his Papers. What I lay my Hand upon, is *Mercator*, N^o 10. the Subject is the *Portugal Trade*, and the Treaty with *Portugal* about our *Woollen Goods* and their *Wines*. His words are these: "That what is here said may, as it is resolv'd all things in this Paper shall, carry its Evidence along with it, the words of the late Treaty with *Portugal* may be produc'd for proof. In the second Article, after the Proportion between the Customs of *Portugal* Wines and the Customs of *French* Wines is settled, follow these words: *But if the Abatement of Customs, as is presu'm'd to be made, shall be after any manner prejudic'd or abolish'd, it shall be just and lawful for*

his Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal again to forbid the WOOLLEN CLOTHS.

"From hence may be noted also, That this part of the Agreement was not so absolutely and unalterably laid down as an Essential of the Treaty between *England* and *Portugal*, without which the Peace of the two Nations could not subsist; but provision was expressly made in the very Article, that if it should be ABOLISH'D, yet the Peace should remain entire; only the King of *Portugal* would then be at liberty, if he thought fit, to make himself amends upon *England*, by prohibiting the *English* WOOLLEN CLOTHS.

"But to prohibit the whole *Woollen Manufacture* for this, would have been in substance a general Prohibition of Commerce." Thus far the *Mercator*.

The things remarkable in this Quotation, are, 1st, That the *Mercator's* Readers are here made to believe, that tho we should prejudice the Abatement to be made on the *Portugal* Wines, yet the King of *Portugal* by this Treaty would have the liberty to prohibit only our *Woollen Cloths*, but not the rest of our *Woollen Manufactures*.

2^{dy}, That the *Mercator* denies the Abatement of Customs upon *Portugal* Wines, to be a thing absolutely ascertain'd, but mentions it only as a thing as is presu'm'd to be done.

3^{dy}, And lastly, That the *Mercator* affirms that there is express Provision in the second Article of the Treaty, that tho the Abatement of Customs upon the *Portugal* Wines should be abolish'd, yet the Peace between the two Nations should remain entire. I shall consider every one of these Passages in their order.

I have in my last produc'd a Copy of the Original Treaty entire, with the Translation of it into *English*; but to shew the Fidelity of this Author in the above-
recited

recited Passage, I shall not only refer my Readers to the Treaty itself, but I must also beg leave in this to repeat the last Clause of the second Article, with my own Translation of it, and to compare both with the *Amercator's* Translation of it in the above-mention'd Quotation.

TREATY.

Quod si quando hæc Velligation Immunitio prout præferetur factenda, quovis modo attentatum, ipsiq; derogabitur, jus Regis erit Sacre Regie Majestati Lusitanæ rursus Lancos Pannos, catrag; Britannica Lanificia interdiceret.

BRITISH MERCHANT's Translation.

But if at any time this Deduction or Abatement of Customs, which is to be made as is aforesaid, shall in any manner be attempted and prejudic'd, it shall be just and lawful for his Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal, again to prohibit the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the British Woollen Manufactures.

MERCATOR's Translation.

But if this Abatement of Customs, as is presum'd to be made, shall be after any manner prejudic'd or abolish'd, it shall be just and lawful for his Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal again to forbid the Woollen Cloths.

First, it must be observ'd, that the *Mercator* in his Translation has ended with *Woollen Cloths*, and suppress'd the *cætera Britannica Lanificia*, the rest of the British Woollen Manufactures. And for what reason has he done this?

He acknowledges, that to prohibit the whole Woollen Manufactures, would have been in justice a general Prohibition of Commerce: These are his own words.

He knew, that if the Bill of Commerce should pass, by which the Duties on *French Wines* should be reduc'd to those on the *Portugal*, *Portugal* would be at liberty to make her self amends on *England* by this general Prohibition.

He knew that a general Prohibition of our whole Woollen Manufactures in *Portugal*, would have a dreadful Sound in the Ears of *Englishmen*, and raise in them a universal Abhorrence against a Bill, which if it had pass'd into a Law, had enabled *Portugal* to make her self amends on *England*, by prohibiting the whole British Woollen Manufactures.

His Readers therefore were by no means to know all the ill Consequences of this Bill, and that it would give *Portugal* a Liberty to prohibit all our Woollen Manufactures.

It must therefore be for this reason, and can be for no other, that he has suppress'd the *cætera Britannica Lanificia*, the rest of the British Woollen Manufactures, in his Translation of this Clause; that his ignorant Readers might believe, that by the passing of the Bill of Commerce, *Portugal* would be at liberty to prohibit only our *Woolen Cloths*, and not the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.

Nothing certainly can be so wicked, as his diminishing from a Publick Treaty in this Instance; except the End for which it was done, viz. That the People might be more easily brought over to the Bill, by which the very best Trade we now enjoy, would be taken from us.

His Intention, in the second place, being to insinuate, that the said Abatement of Customs was not absolutely ascertain'd, he translates the Latin, viz. *Immunitio Velligation prout præferetur factenda*, wroog; for whereas those Words signify, the Abatement of Customs which is to be made as is aforesaid; he translates them, "But if this Abatement of Customs, AS IS PRESUM'D to be made, &c." Which is directly opposite to the plain meaning of the Treaty; whereby

the Duty on *Portugal Wines* is fix'd and sett'd to be two Thirds only of the Duty on *French Wines*, in the strongest Terms imaginable, and not mention'd as a thing that is *presum'd* may be done at one time or another, or perhaps nor at all.

His last Point being to persuade his Readers, that the Breach of the Treaty of Commerce would have no ill Effect upon the Peace between the two Nations, he ventures to add to the Treaty, as well as to diminish from it; and boldly affirms, That *Provisio* was expressly made in the very Article, that if the said Abatement of Customs should be abolish'd, yet the Peace should remain intire: tho' 'tis most certain, that there is not the least Syllable in the whole Treaty to that purpose.

Now I appeal to the World, whether there ever was a Man of such a Forehead as the *Amercator*: Is this he that is to seduce the Debauch'd, and to open the Eyes of the Blind? Is this his faithful way of Collecting just Authorities from authentick Records? Is this the modest Man that challeng'd all Mankind to detect the least Falshity in any one thing he had alledg'd? I do here venture to challenge all the People in the World, to produce a more gross Falshity or a more notorious Forgery than those of our *Amercator's* above-mention'd.

Besides, I must desire my Readers to observe, of how high a Nature the Evidence is, that he presumes to corrupt; 'tis no less than a Sacred Treaty; for Treaties, formerly, were esteem'd Sacred, even by the very Heathens.

Princes have sometimes taken great Liberties with Treaties made by their Predecessors; but this was a Treaty made by Her present Majesty, very much for the Good of Her People, and well receiv'd by several Parliaments. And has this Writer the Confidence to corrupt and falsify such a Treaty? And does he hope to do this with Impunity?

This is so black a Crime, that no Man can be equal in Wickedness to him that committ'd it, except the Persons that set him about it.

From this flagrant Instance it is easy to determine, how little Credit is to be given to the *Amercator's* meaner Vouchers; such as his *Representations*, and his *Scotch Letters*. Can the Wretch that is capable of corrupting a publick Treaty, stick at any thing? Ought his Word to be taken hereafter on any Account, much less in a Business of so great Importance, as the Trade of this Nation, upon which its Well-being depends?

I will not determine this Matter, but will leave the *Examiner* himself to pronounce Sentence upon this Delinquent: "A deliberate Lye (says that Writer, in his Paper, Vol. IV. Nam. 21.) "when once detect'd, ought, by the Laws of Humanity, to be adjudg'd an Equivalent to a downright Forgery, and bar the guilty Person from being an Evidence in any Cause for the future."

Here is as deliberate a Lye (if such an Expression should be us'd) and as downright a Forgery as the *Examiner* ever met with; and if the Author had his Due, he would not only be debar'd from being an Evidence, but be furnish'd with an Opportunity of obliging the World with a SECOND HYMN.

I hope my Readers will not expect, that after this I should discover all his lesser Prevarications and Falshities, for I am afraid I shall not find time enough for so long and troublesome a Labor: besides there can be no necessity for it; since when a Man has been once convicted of FELONY AND BURGLARY, it would be to little purpose to endeavour to prove him Guilty of PETIT LARCENY. And yet as almost every thing I shall assert in my ensuing Papers, will be a flat Contradiction to some Assertion of the *Amercator*, I shall produce such Evidence on my side, as must convict him of almost numberless Falshoods.





The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

—Totam hic impune per Urbem
Mendaces spargit nugas, dicente Magistro.

Verbes spoken at the Act at Oxford upon the Mercator,

From FRIDAY, August 14. to TUESDAY, August 18. 1713.

THE Mercator, Numb. 35. declares against entering into a Paper War, with the Pamphleteers of the Party who oppose the *Bill of Commerce*, till they shall defend their *Idol call'd* the Scheme, *wh*, says he, *like* Dagon before the Ark, *is fallen down before* Truth and the Mercator, *with his Head and his Hands knock'd off*; and the Philistines of the Party have not taken the least care of it, nor have they offer'd one word in defence of *that hardy Step, unparallel'd in their last Ages* (viz.) of presuming to impose upon a *basefac'd Forgery*, and so easily to be detected, upon the *isle of Commons*, and after upon the *whole Island*. He professes that till they shall wash their Leaders from the *Stain, the Paper shall make no other Reply to all they shall say, than* Scheme, Scheme, justify your Scheme, knock under for your Scheme, acknowledge your selves *Knaves for your Scheme, &c.*

This whole Passage, especially the last words of it, are a strain of Eloquence so peculiar, that one might almost swear to the very Author.

Mr. Daniel Fox may change his Name from REVIEW to MERCHANT, from MERCHANT to any other TITLE, yet still his singular Genius shall be distinguish'd by his admirable way of writing.

He might as well have gone on with the old Title of Review; there could be no other reason for dropping that Paper, than that the Author of it was too well known to make any Profelytes among Churchmen, therefore to new Name was to be assum'd: But his Masters that dictate to him, according to the Motto of my Paper, should have taken care to disguise him a little more. To change the Name was not sufficient, while the Person, the Party, the Voice and Dress are still the very same.

So much for the Language: But the Matter too is extraordinary; he declares against entering into a Paper War, till the Pamphleteers of the Party shall defend their *Idol call'd* the Scheme: This was wisely done of the Mercator, and will save him a great deal of Trouble.

He had read in the second British Merchant the *Foreign Treaty* at full length. He knew very well that he had alter'd and falsify'd the very Sense of that Treaty; and it was but natural for him to believe, that it would be the Work of my next Paper to convict him of this Forgery. It was therefore very prudent of the Mercator to help in between, and to tell his Readers, he would not defend himself till the Promoters of the Scheme should think fit to undertake the Defence of their *Idol*.

I will assure the Mercator, that the Scheme is not an *Idol* of my setting up: It was a Representation made by several Merchants forty years ago to the Lords Commissioners for a Treaty of Commerce with France, and was printed the last Session of Parliament, and all without my Knowledge. I have never yet examin'd the Matters in that Scheme; and whether they agree with the Custom-house Accounts or no, is no Concern of mine. I have certain and undeniable Vouchers by me to prove, that our Trade with France has been detri-

mental to this Nation, and such as the Mercator himself will not dare to contradict.

Till I shall have better study'd the Scheme, he shall have that whole Subject to himself. My present Controversy is with the Mercator and the *Bill of Commerce*; and I shall not fail to expose the Fallhood of the one, and the Danger of the other. And I am very thankful to the Mercator that he has left me full liberty to do this, and that he promises beforehand it shall not break the Peace between us.

But 'tis pleasant that he of all Men in the World should treat the Publishers of the Scheme as guilty of a *hardy Step, and unparallel'd in their last Ages, in presuming to impose upon a basefac'd Forgery, and so easily to be detected, upon the isle of Commons, and after upon the whole Island*. I have shewn a Step as hardy. Admitting all that he can say against the Scheme to be true, I have shewn my Readers in my last that a more hardy Step has been made by the Mercator himself, who has had the Confidence to falsify a Treaty made by her present Majesty, and to impose *so basefac'd a Forgery upon the whole Kingdom of Great Brittain*.

This he is bound to answer, because 'tis a Forgery of his own. But whether the SCHEME be right or wrong, is nothing at all to me, and I am not oblig'd in honour to defend it.

However, I cannot but commend the Art of the Mercator in this, That to save himself, he would put me upon a wrong Scent. He would engage me in the Defence of the SCHEME, that in the mean time he may go on securely to impose upon the People, and that the many dangerous Untruths he has already publish'd, may have their intended Effect at the Election which is just ensuing. But the Mercator is mistaken; this Train will not take, and I begin to think that I have already wasted too much of my time, that I have not yet convicted him of a second Fallhood. To do this, therefore, shall be the Business of the remaining part of this Paper.

The Mercator has no Lock at a Treaty: I have a mind to try him at an Account. In Numb. 26. he has produc'd one, which he has affirm'd was laid before the Parliament by the Commissioners of the Customs. It is a List of the re-exported Goods between Michaelmas 1555, and Michaelmas 1687, from England to France. The Mercator has produc'd only the several Species of Goods, and their Quantities, and from hence has asserted, that the whole amounts to above 500000 l. by a very moderate Calculation.

I am so unhappy as to differ with him. I am very well assur'd, that by the largest Calculation that can be made of the same Goods with any tolerable reason, they cannot amount to two fifth Parts of that Sum.

But that the Reader may better judg who is in the right, the Mercator or my self, he shall have the Mercator's List of every Species of Goods and the Quantities (as the Mercator has given 'em) and against it he shall have my own Valuation of every Species, and the total Value of every Quantity.

A LIST of Foreign Goods exported to France from Michaelmas 1686. to Michaelmas 1687.
as in the Mercator, N^o 26.

Quantities.	Value of the Species of Goods on board.	Value or Sum Total of Parcels.
Bees-Wax.....	8,558 L. at 4 l. per Ct.	305 l. 10 s. 00 d.
Sealing-Wax.....	535 L. 3 s. per Lb.	87 l. 15 s. 00 d.
Cochineale.....	4,767 L. 18 s. per Lb.	4,270 l. 06 s. 00 d.
Gauls.....	297,500 L. 3 l. 10 s. per Ct.	9,399 l. 10 s. 00 d.
Indico.....	35,812 L. 5 s. per Lb.	8,953 l. 00 s. 00 d.
Other Dying Stuffs.....	412,986 L. 6 d. per Lb.	10,324 l. 13 s. 00 d.

How does he oppose his Readers should know how to compute such an Article as this of *Other Dying Stuffs*? Cochineale, Gauls, and Indico he has mention'd already; so their must be Dying-Woods, Copperas, Madders, Argol, and other cheap sorts. However, that he may have no reason to complain, I have computed them at 6 d. per Lb. tho beyond what they really could be worth at a Medium.

Teech Ivory.....	13,128 L. at 9 l. 10 s. per Ct.	1,113 l. 11 s. 00 d.
Pepper.....	164,193 L. 1 s. per Lb.	8,109 l. 12 s. 00 d.
Sugar.....	1,160,515 L. 30 s. per Ct.	15,142 l. 12 s. 00 d.
Tobacco.....	496,231 L. at 3 d. 1/2 per Lb.	7,237 l. 08 s. 07 d.
Ginger.....	121,520 L. at 35 s. per Ct.	2,174 l. 00 s. 00 d.
Spices and Grocery.....	126,924 L. at 1 s. per Lb.	6,846 l. 04 s. 00 d.

This can hardly be presum'd to consist of Cloves, Nutmegs, Mace, and such Spice as we our selves are forc'd to have from *Holland*; from whence the *French* could have them as cheap as we, and therefore it is not probable they would fetch them from hence at seapod head. However, supposing there might be some Spices, and also some Pimento, Dates, Almonds, and Rice; the Value of them one with another can hardly come up to 12 d. per Lb. which nevertheless I allow him.

Drugs.....	35,358 L. at 9 d. per Lb.	1,363 l. 08 s. 06 d.
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This is also too general; but altho there be many more Drugs under 4 d. per Lb. tho there are above 6 d. per Lb. yet to please him, I have valod them at 9 d. per Lb.

Fine Ditto per Ounce.....	249 Ouz. at 30 s. per Ouz.	373 l. 10 s. 00 d.
Cotton Wool and Yarn.....	27,450 L. at 1 s. 2 d. per Lb.	1,501 l. 01 s. 00 d.
Goats and Camels Hair.....	47,816 L. at 3 s. 4 d. per Lb.	7,970 l. 16 s. 00 d.
Hides raw and tann'd per Tale.....	14,594 at 20 s. per Hide	14,594 l. 00 s. 00 d.
Coffee and Tea.....	9,995 L.	

'Till he gives me the Particulars, I shall compute the one half to be Coffee, the other half Tea; and value the Coffee at 2 s. per Lb. and the Tea at 15 s. per Lb.

Spanish Wool.....	167,052 L. at 2 s. per Lb.	16,305 l. 04 s. 00 d.
Skins and Furs per Piece.....	16,873 Ps. at 5 s. per Pec.	4,218 l. 05 s. 00 d.
Callicoes and Mullins.....	38,476 Ps. at 20 s. per Pec.	38,476 l. 00 s. 00 d.

Which at 10 Yards per Pec. as entered at the Custom-House, I value at 20 s. the 10 Yards, from a Long Cloch or Bass, to a Malmul or Dorea.

Indian Wrought Silk.....	816 L. at 40 s. per Lb.	1,632 l. 00 s. 00 d.
Raw Silk.....	1,391 L. at 20 s. per Lb.	1,391 l. 00 s. 00 d.
Pitch and Tar.....	43 Lasts at 15 l. per Last	645 l. 00 s. 00 d.
Oil.....	72 Tun at 35 l. per Tun	2,520 l. 00 s. 00 d.

Besides Tapestry, Hops, Scots Hofs, China and Japan Ware, Stie-lack, Indian Pictures, Cabinets, and other East-India Goods in large quantities; Canary-Wine, Incie, Lattin-Plates, Hard-Soap, Wrought Silks with Gold and Silver, Tortoise-Shell, and abundance of Particu-lars, which he values at 20000 l. And because 'tis but reasonable to suppose he is as much out in his Estimation of these at 20000 l. as he is in the other Goods, which he lumps at above 40,000 l. whereas they amount only to 168,88 l. 18 s. 1 d. and allowing that to be the Pro-portion of his over-raising these last Goods, I compute his last Article at

7,036 l. 17 s. 06 d.
175,921 l. 15 s. 07 d.
324,078 l. 01 s. 05 d.
500,000 l. 00 s. 00 d.

By which it appears the *Mercator* has over-rated the re-exported Goods

I am very sensible that many of these Commodities are here rated higher than they should be; but I had rather exceed Twenty Shillings, than under-rate One Penny, that the *Mercator* may be satisfy'd he has fair play given him.

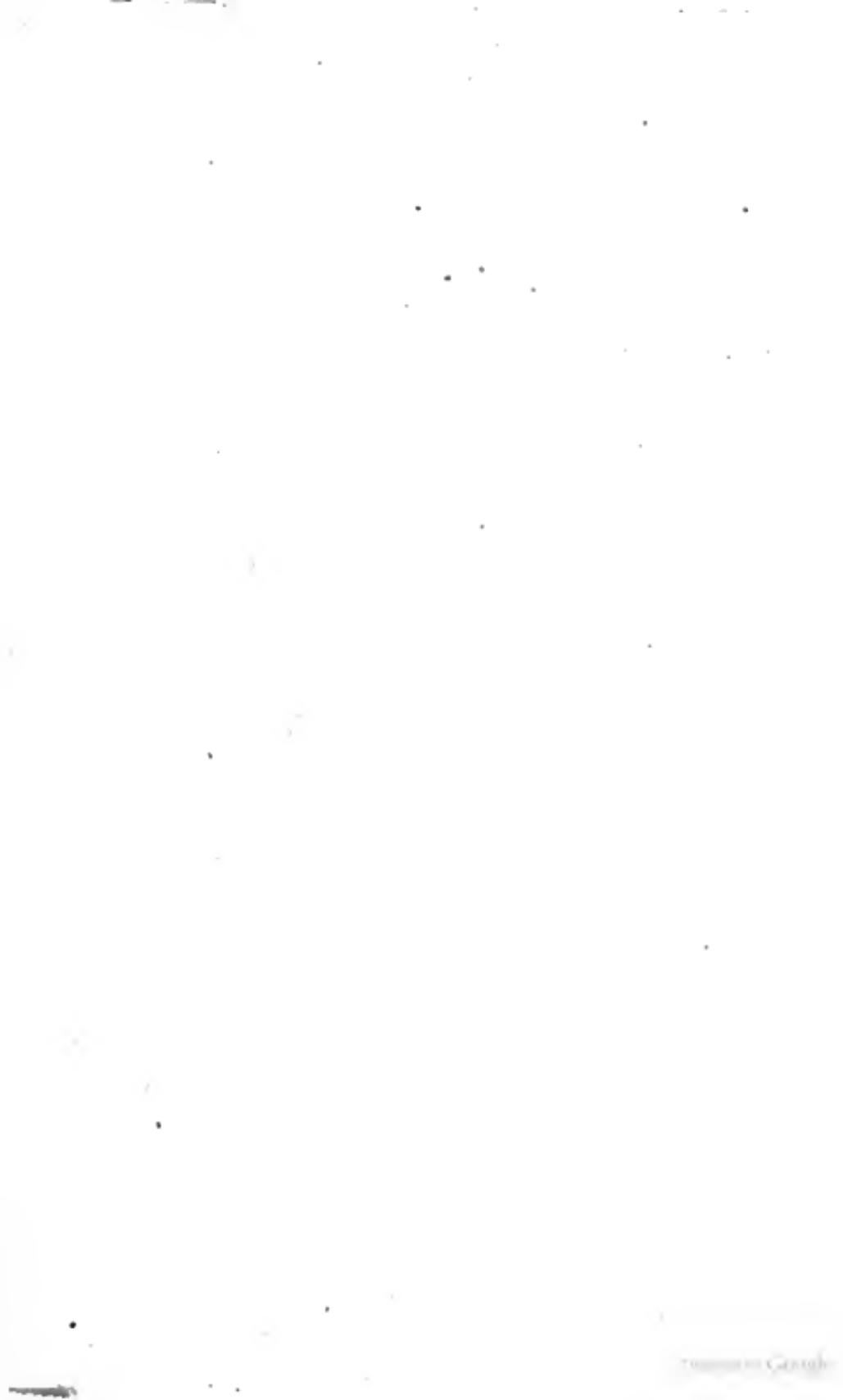
Is this then one of the *Mercator's* indisputable *Frachters*? Is this his way of proving Facts by clear Documents? He affirms that this Account of our re-exported Goods to *France* was laid before the Parliament by the Commis-sioners of the Customs; whether this is true or no, I have not examin'd, I take it upon his own word; But does this Account prove that our re-exported Goods to *France* amounted to half a Million? or to one half of such a Sum?

The *Mercator* has given us nothing more than the several Species of Goods, and the Quantity of every Species, without any Valuation of Particulars; and from thence he has asserted, that they amount to half a Million, I have given as large a Valuation as was reasonable, to every Species of Goods; and if I have not done fairly, I will be corrected by any competent Judge: Upon the whole Account it will appear, that his Five Hundred Thousand Pounds are dwindled into less than Two.

But whether mine or the *Mercator's* were the truest Valuation, does it prove the thing which he promis'd in his

first Paper, viz. That the Value of our Exports to *France* has exceeded the Value of their Imports hither? Or has he yet prov'd any such thing in any one or in all the 36 Papers with which he has already pleas'd the Publick? I desire the *Mercator* will inform us, what is the certain Sum in which our Exports have exceeded our Imports, or that he will give us the Particulars both of Exports and Imports in any one Year between *England* and *France*, with a proper Valuation of those Particulars, that we our selves may be Judges whether we have gain'd upon the Balance.

I expect no such thing from the *Mercator*. It has been his Business hitherto to amuse us with the Names of Goods that we have formerly exported into *France*, and to suppress as much as possible all Accounts of any Imports from that Kingdom. But as I have some Copies of Custom-house Accounts in my hands, and I cho to as have been laid before the Parliament; I shall commu-nicate them to the Publick in some of my following Pa-pers, with as proper Valuations as I am able to make, of every Species and every Quantity of Goods both ex-ported and imported between *England* and *France*; that my Readers may be able to judge for themselves, whe-ther and how much we have gain'd or lost upon the Balance of our Trade with that Kingdom.





The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Infelix ! quæ tanta animum Dementia cepit ?

Mercator, Numb. 37.

From TUESDAY, August 18. to FRIDAY, August 21. 1713.

THE *Mercator* at the Conclusion of N^o 37. declares against taking any notice of the *Cavils or Clamours of the Canaille of Writers who fall in him, and who, he says, stand in need of his Reformation, to make them considerable.*

But he has another Reason for it: he must not give his Readers the Curiosity to enquire after Answers. This is prudently done; for if the *British Merchant* shall come into the same hands, his Readers must needs see by N^o 3. that he stands convicted of Forgery, in falsifying the Treaty between our present Majesty and the King of Portugal; and by N^o 4. that to magnify our Exports to France, he has valu'd a List of re-exported Goods to that Kingdom at 500,000 *l.* which ought not to be valu'd at two fifth parts of that Sum.

For my part, I wonder he has own'd that any Persons have writ against him. He might with as much modesty have deny'd this, as asserted so many untrue things, as he has done, in almost every one of his Papers. It was Madnes in him to own so much; His Keepers should have look'd better after him.

But he declares, That when *the Mercator in the Course of his writing shall come to give the State of our Trade to Portugal, according to its Title, and of the Treaty with Portugal; care will be taken especially in justify every word of what has been said in that Subject, and to make it clear to every unprejudic'd Person.* But why should he delay so necessary a Work? I have charg'd him with Forgery, and can any thing be so necessary, as that he should acquit himself of this Charge? Can his Readers, who shall know he has falsify'd a Treaty to make it an Evidence for himself, believe hereafter any Voucher he shall produce? He knows very well that he can never acquit himself of this Charge. However, it was necessary to amuse them with his Promise, and his Promise is all they are like to have.

It is probable we shall find him affirming in one of his next Papers, that the *Canaille of Writers*, to lessen our

Exports to France, have undervalu'd a List of re-exported Goods, which he himself had valu'd at 500,000 *l.* by a very moderate Calculation: and perhaps too he will promise a right Valuation of all the Parcels in that List, and in the mean time make an Appeal to his Readers, whether they themselves do not know that several of those Goods have been undervalu'd.

In my fourth Paper I have valu'd his List of re-exported Goods as high as I was able with any justice, for the advantage of the *Mercator*; and by a Valuation of all the Parcels, I have reduc'd his total Sum of 500,000 *l.* to less than 176,000 *l.* But to prevent the Reader being impos'd upon, if the *Mercator* should think fit to make any such Appeal as I have mention'd, I think' my self oblig'd before-hand to justify the Valuation I have made of those Goods. The Reader then ought to be inform'd that Goods are re-exported unmanufactur'd, in the same condition they are brought in, and with Re-allowance of Customs, which remain on the Goods bought and render'd here. To instance in the Article of Tobacco, the Reader perhaps will be startled at so low a Price as 3 *d.* 1/2 per *Lib.* but he must be inform'd, that re-exported Tobacco is a much worse sort than what is smok'd in England; that it is re-exported Leaf and Stalk as it was imported, without the Charge of cutting, &c. and that the heavy Load of Customs is drawn back upon the Re-exportation. If this shall be consider'd, 3 *d.* 1/2 per *Lib.* at a Medium will be thought a sufficient Price for Tobacco re-exported. And by the same Rule, my Valuation of all other Merchandizes in the *Mercator's* List of re-exported Goods, will be thought sufficient.

But what does the *Mercator* mean by his List of re-exported Goods to France in the Year 1687? Would he insinuate that we should be able to re-export as many Goods hereafter by the Treaty of Commerce, if the Eighth and Ninth Articles had been made effectual by a Law? Would he have us believe, that that List of re-exported Goods

Goods is to be the Measure of what we may reasonably hope to re-export hereafter, upon our sending that Treaty effectual? If that List is to be our Measure, then I have shewn him at the foot of the Account in my list, that the total Value of our re-exported Goods to France in that Year was not 500,000 *l.* as he asserts; no, nor quite 100,000 *l.*

But can we hope hereafter to re-export any thing like this Value? And of which of the Goods in that List shall we be able to re-export the Quantities as we did formerly?

To begin with Spanish Wool: Shall we be able to send any of that to France? Has the French King been at all this Pains, at all this Cost and Expence to fix his Grandson upon the Spanish Throne? Has he suffer'd the Loss of so many Towns, the Defeat of so many of his Armies upon this Account; that at the last his Subjects should have no nearer way of coming at the Spanish Wool than thro the Kingdom of Great Britain? The very Supposition is ridiculous. Spanish Wool therefore must be deducted from the Goods which are hereafter to be re-exported to that Kingdom.

The Article of Cochineal is govern'd by the same reason: It is imported first into Spain from the Spanish Indies, and it must be presum'd that the Subjects of the French King will have the favour to buy it as cheap as we from the Dominions of his Grandson; and perhaps a great deal cheaper directly from the Spanish Indies, the Fountain-Head of that Commodity. And can it be imagin'd then that France will ever send for Cochineal to Great Britain? This Article therefore must also be deducted from the Goods which we are after to re-export to that Kingdom.

And here I cannot but take notice, That these two Articles of Spanish Wool and Cochineal, re-exported to France in 1687, are sufficient to demonstrate, that the Manufacture of Spanish Cloth, and the finest Dye of that Manufacture, are not so new things in that Kingdom as some would have them thought, and they have been every year since improving. And as long as they shall be able to come at Spanish Wool and Cochineal at the best hand, nothing can hinder their arriving at the utmost Perfection in that Manufacture. They will stand in no need of Spanish Cloth from England, and must certainly be able to furnish other Markets.

If the Merchant should ask me what Voucher I have for this? I answer, my Voucher is the Treaty of Peace, by which Spain and the Spanish Indies belong to the Grandson of the French King: And the Consequence is natural, that the Subjects of the latter can never want Spanish Wool and Cochineal, the Growth of the Dominions of his Grandson, from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

It cannot be deny'd that the French have a very great Trade to Turkey, and even the Letter from Galata, in the Merchant, Numb. 5. shewing, that a French Man of War imported 170 Bales of Cloth to that Place, besides other Goods, is a Demonstration that their Trade there is very great; especially if the Value of their Cloth should be consider'd, which is almost all of the finer Sorts: and certainly if they shall want neither Spanish Wool nor Cochineal at the best hand, they must needs improve in that Trade. And can it be imagin'd then, they can want any Goods of the Growth of Turkey from us? They will be able to import all the Goods of that Country directly from thence to *Marseilles*; and will they chuse then to import them round about by the way of Great Britain? Gauls, Cotton Wool and Yarn, Goats and Camels Hair, Coffee and Raw-Silk, the French can import directly from

Turkey, and cheaper than by the way of England; and therefore every one of these Articles in the Merchant's List of re-exported Goods, must be deducted from our future Re-exportations.

Again, we are sure the French Plantations in *Martinique*, *St. Domingo*, &c. in the *West Indies*, have been such improved since the Year 1687 and are sufficient to supply them with such things as they wanted before from us. Can it be imagin'd then, that any of these Goods are likely to be exported hence to France, which they are now able to supply from their own Plantations? particularly, they have Sugar as cheap from *Martinique* as we from any of our Plantations, and Indigo so much better and cheap than any that is imported from *Jamaica*, that we have not the least hopes of exporting either of those Commodities to that Kingdom. Therefore the Articles of Indigo and Sugar must hereafter be deducted from the Re-exportations we shall make to France. All which shall be further demonstrated, when I come to speak of the several Branches of our Trade.

Let us then deduct the several Articles above-mention'd, and their Values from the Merchant's List of re-exported Goods, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Spanish Wool valu'd at	16,305	04	00
Cochineal	4,190	06	00
Gauls	9,359	10	00
Cotton Wool and Yarn	1,601	01	00
Goats and Camels Hair	7,372	16	00
Coffee	479	19	00
Raw-Silk	1,791	09	00
Sugar	15,542	12	06
Indigo	8,553	00	00
	65,165	03	06

The total Value of re-exported Goods in 1687, as by our former amounted to the Sum of } 175,921 15 07
From which if we deduct, for the Reasons above-mention'd } 65,165 03 06

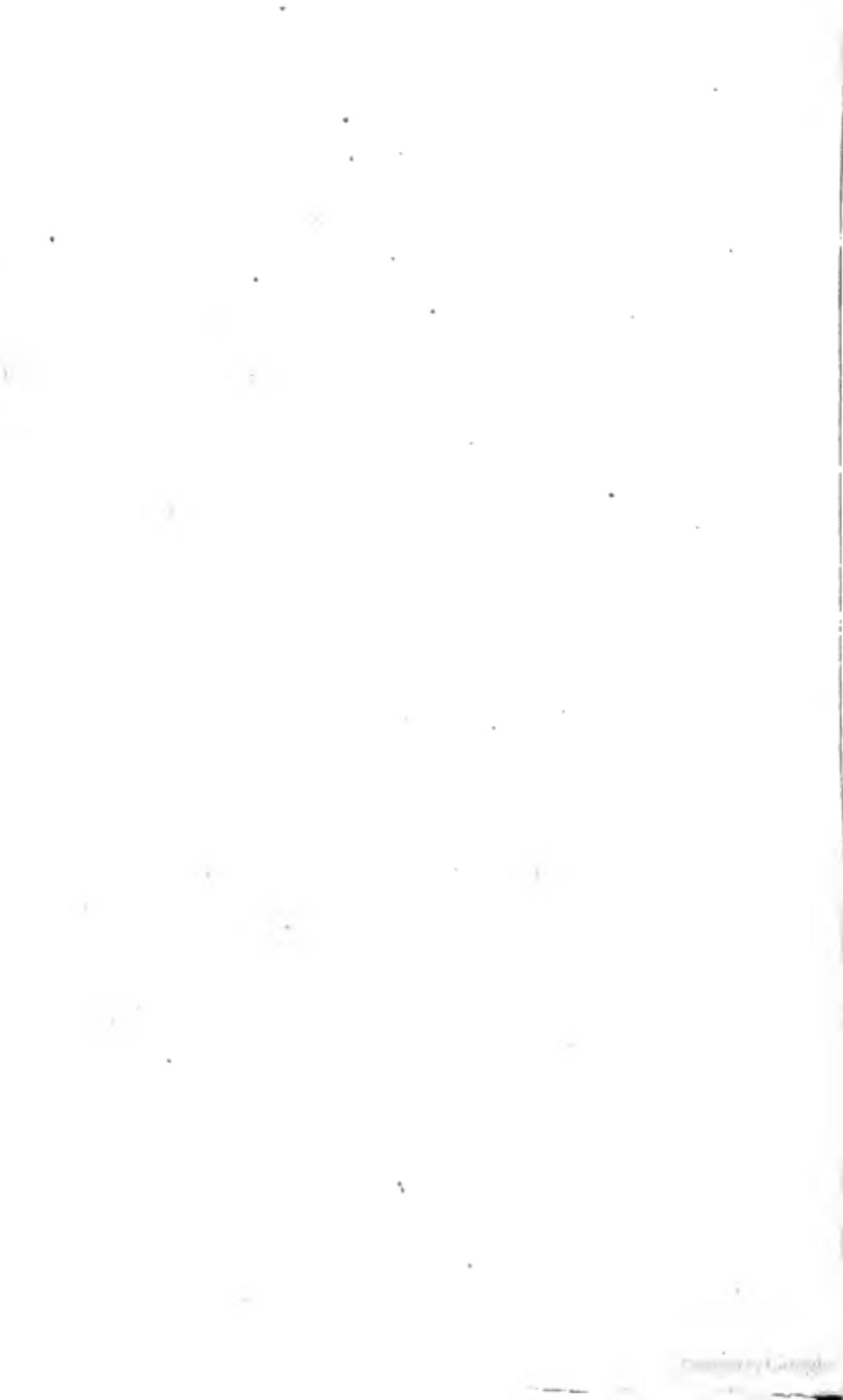
The Total Value of our future Re-exportations will not exceed } 110,756 07 01

So that the year 1687, can be no Rule for what shall be done hereafter. We should not be able to export hereafter any of the above-mention'd things, which are in the Merchant's List of re-exported Goods, and are valu'd by me at above 65000 *l.* thro by the Treaty of Commerce all Prohibitions were to be taken off.

Tho there were no Inhibitions upon any of the above-mention'd Goods in France, yet we could not send any of them thither; since, for the Reasons I have given, the French will import them cheaper from other Countries.

But tho we could make the greatest Profit by re-exporting foreign Goods to France, yet we should send thither but a very small part of these in the above-mention'd List of the Merchant, by reason of the severe Prohibitions upon those Goods, notwithstanding any thing in the late Treaty of Commerce.

For I shall shew the Merchant, that there are such Prohibitions upon our re-exported Goods, that his List which he has valu'd at 500,000 *l.* and I have brought down to less than 170,000 *l.* will be reduc'd to almost nothing.



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From FRIDAY, August 21. to TUESDAY, August 25. 1713.

I Have shewn that the *Mercator's* Lift of re-exported Goods to France in 1687. can be no measure of what we shall export hereafter; since, as I have prov'd in my former Paper, France will be able to furnish themselves with many of those Goods elsewhere cheaper than they can be afforded from Great Britain: therefore the no high Duties or Prohibitions were to remain on them, by virtue of the late Treaty of Commerce, yet our Re-exports would not be so large, for the Reasons already given.

But I will now give another Reason to prove that many of the Goods in the *Mercator's* Lift cannot hereafter be re-exported to that Kingdom, and that is, the high Duties and Prohibitions which are still to remain in their full force, notwithstanding any thing in that Treaty.

To give an Instance of this; by an Edict made in March 1669. a Duty of 20 l. per cent. was impos'd on Goods imported from the Levant, which had been landed in any foreign Country. By an Arrest of Council in France, dated in August, 1685. the strict Execution of that Edict is enjoyn'd. And these Edicts will be still in force, notwithstanding the late Treaty.

The *Mercator* says otherwise in Numb. 4. and produces two Clauses of the 9th Article of the late Treaty, with his own Observations on them. His words in the fourth Paper, are as follow:

1. The Duties payable in France by the Subjects of Great Britain, for Goods imported and exported, shall be paid according to the Tenour of the Tariff of 1664. and shall not exceed. *How this could be perform'd, if the French should demand 20 per cent. for Turkey Goods brought from England, is not easily comprehended: That 20 per cent. being laid on, as the Company's Paper says, in the year 1659. and enforce'd in the year 1685.*

2. The ninth Article adds, And all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations, Decrees, made in France since the said Tariff of 1664. contrary thereto, in respect of the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, shall be repeal'd.—*How then these People can say the Duty of 20 per cent. and the Prohibition of Levant Goods being carry'd into France from England continues, is very hard to be understood.*

To answer this, they object, That it is not said Goods and Merchandizes of the Subjects of Great Britain, but Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain; which implies (say they) the Manufactures of Great Britain only. But the *Affair* here is in question, that it is strange the Wisdom of the Turkey Company should fall into it: For (1.) if it had been meant of the Manufactures of Great Britain only, it would have been said, the GROWTH and PRODUCE, or the Goods and Merchandizes. By Growth and Produce indeed, the Manufactures had been understood, but by Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, must be understood the Goods and Merchandizes which the Subjects of Great Britain TRADE IN. But (2.) it is out of question, That if the taking off the Prohibitions, &c. of the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain was meant ONLY of the Manufactures, then was the whole Levant Trade prohibited still; which the Gentlemen do not pretend is.

The *Mercator*, Numb. 31. has also printed the Bill of Commerce at full length, in which is to be seen the following Clause, viz. Provided always, and it is hereby

declar'd by the Authority aforesaid, That that part of the 9th Article of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation above-recited, whereby it is agreed, that all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations or Decrees, made in France, since the Tariff of the year 1664. and contrary thereto, in respect to the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, shall be repeal'd; is, and shall be intended to extend, not only to the Goods of the Growth, Production and Manufacture of Great Britain, but also to all Goods and Merchandizes which the Subjects of Great Britain did or might import into, or export from France, at any time since the making of the said Tariff of the 18th of September, 1664.

The Inferences the *Mercator* would make from these Passages, are;

1. From these words, The Duties payable in France by the Subjects of Great Britain, for Goods imported and exported, shall be paid according to the Tenour of the Tariff of 1664. and shall not exceed: That all Duties exceeding those of the Tariff of 1664. and laid on since that Tariff, whether upon the Growth or Manufacture of Great Britain, or of any other Country exported from Great Britain, are repeal'd, and consequently that the 20 per cent. cannot be demanded for Turkey Goods, since that Duty exceeds those of the Tariff of 1664. and was laid upon an Edict of 1659, since that Tariff.

2. From these words, And all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations or Decrees made in France, since the Tariff of the year 1664. and contrary thereto, IN RESPECT TO THE GOODS AND MERCHANDIZES OF GREAT BRITAIN, SHALL BE REPEAL'D; his Inference is, That all Prohibitions and Edicts, contrary to that Tariff, are to be repeal'd, as well those made concerning the Growth and Manufactures of foreign Countries exported from Great Britain, as those concerning the Growth and Produce of Great Britain. And his Reason for it, is, that if only the Prohibitions and Edicts concerning the Growth and Produce of Great Britain were intended to be repeal'd, and not those concerning foreign Goods exported from Great Britain, the words would have been, the GROWTH and PRODUCE, not the Goods and Merchandizes, since by Growth and Produce the Manufactures had been understood; but by Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, must be understood the Goods and Merchandizes which the Subjects of Great Britain TRADE IN. And this, says he, must needs be the Construction of Goods and Merchandizes, since otherwise the whole Levant Trade would be still prohibited, which is not pretended by the Turkey Merchants.

The third thing is the Clause cited from the Bill of Commerce (which by the way was an Amendment, and not brought in with the Bill): I believe he would have us infer from hence, that all Edicts and Prohibitions, as well in respect to foreign Goods exported from Great Britain, as to the Growth and Produce of Great Britain, are to be repeal'd in France, because our Legislators would have this to be the Intention of the Treaty.

Now the *Mercator* and I shall not agree in any one of these Inferences.

I must confess, the first words he has cited from the ninth Article, viz. The Duties payable in France by the Subjects of Great Britain, for Goods imported and exported, shall be paid according to the Tenour of the Tariff of 1664. and shall not exceed; would be sufficient of themselves to repeal

peal all the Duties that have been impos'd since that Tariff. It had been well if the Article had ended here; if nothing had follow'd, to limit and refrain the general Sense of those Words, and to shew that by Goods imported and exported, is meant only the Goods which are the Growth or Manufactures of Great Britain.

But the general Sense of that Clause is restrain'd by the words which follow in the same Article, cited also by the *Mercator*, viz. *And all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations, or Decrees, made in France since the said Tariff of the Year 1664, and contrary thereto, to be repeal'd by the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, shall be repeal'd.* By which it is manifest, that the Prohibitions and Edicts which are to be repeal'd, are those which concern the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, and not such Prohibitions or Edicts as have been made concerning Goods, which are not either'd the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain; and therefore if the *Levant* Goods exported from Great Britain are not either'd the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, the Edicts concerning those Goods are not repeal'd by the last mention'd Clause of the ninth Article.

The *Mercator* affirms, that by Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, must be understood not only the Growth and Produce of Great Britain, but the Goods and Merchandizes which the Subjects of Great Britain TRADE IN. By the same rule, by French Goods and Merchandizes must be meant not only the Growth and Produce of France, but the Goods and Merchandizes which the Subjects of France trade in. But 'tis certain, the Legislators of England in the 4 & 5 of W. & M. 1689, were of another opinion: In that Act a Duty is laid in these words, viz. *Upon French Goods and Merchandizes (except Wine, Brandy, Salt, and Sugar) which shall be imported within the said time, 25 l. for every 100 l. value thereof, more than the same are charg'd with in the Book of Rates, &c.* 'Tis plain here, that by French Goods and Merchandizes are meant only the Growth and Produce of France, and not foreign Goods which the Subjects of France trade in. And for the same reason, by the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, must be meant only the Growth and Produce of Great Britain, and not the foreign Goods exported by the British Subjects.

'Tis plain the House of Commons the last Session had the same Sense of this matter, else there had been no need of the above-mention'd Clause in the Bill of Commerce, to extend the Sense of Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain to all Goods and Merchandizes exported from Great Britain.

If by Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain are meant only the Growth and Produce of Great Britain, then by the last mention'd Clause of the ninth Article are repeal'd only the Prohibitions and Edicts concerning the Growth and Produce of Great Britain, not those concerning the Growth and Produce of other Countries exported from Great Britain; and consequently no Prohibition or Edict concerning *Levant* Goods, *East-India* Goods, or any other foreign Goods exported from Great Britain, are repeal'd by that Clause: the Duties and Prohibitions upon foreign Goods, remain still in their full force, notwithstanding those general words in the ninth Article, cited above by the *Mercator*.

But lest there should be any doubt of this, 'tis very remarkable, that all Prohibitions and high Duties in France upon foreign Goods exported from Great Britain, are confirm'd by the fifth Article; the last words of which are, *The Laws and Statutes of each Kingdom shall remain in full force, and shall be duly put in execution, whether they relate to Commerce or Navigation, or to any other Right; those Cases only being excepted, concerning which it is otherwise determin'd by these present Articles.* Whence it follows, that all Laws and Statutes concerning which it is not otherwise determin'd, all Prohibitions and Edicts which are not repeal'd, are confirm'd by this Treaty; and consequently the Edict imposing 20 per Cent. upon *Levant* Goods, tho' made since 1664, and all other Impositions upon foreign Goods exported from Great Britain, which are not repeal'd by any of the above-mention'd words cited from the *Mercator*, are to remain in their full force, notwithstanding our late Treaty of Commerce.

The Treaty demands from us the Repeal of all our Prohibitions since 1664, upon all Goods coming from France; and why should it not grant us in return a Re-

peal of all their Prohibitions since 1664, upon all Goods and Merchandizes of whatsoever Country going from Great Britain? Why should the Prohibition here be taken off from all Goods coming from France? And why should France repeal only her Prohibitions of the Goods of Great Britain, and not of all other Countries exported from Great Britain? The Distinction is very strange: We are to suffer all sorts of Goods, of all Countries whatsoever, to be imported upon us from France, France will suffer such Goods only to be imported hence, as are of our own Growth and Manufacture.

The Treaty at first was being projected on our part; it ran thus: *All Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations or Decrees made in France since the said Tariff of the Year 1664, and contrary thereto, shall be repeal'd and set aside.* France did not like it thus general, and therefore re-fram'd it to be *Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain.* The Addition of these words has made it less general; therefore the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain must mean the Growth and Manufactures of Great Britain, and not of any other Country exported from Great Britain.

This is the natural Construction of the words; and the *Pr. K.* is able to make as much of a Construction, as any Prince in *Christianity*: but here he has both the LETTER and the SPIRIT on his side.

Indeed the Bill of Commerce has endeavour'd to cure this, by an Amendment, viz. the Clause above recited, declaring that the Repeal of Prohibitions in France shall extend as well to foreign Goods exported from Great Britain, as to those of our own Growth and Manufacture. This is just as if we could repeal any Laws in France as easily as any of our own: But can we oblige France to repeal any thing? Did the ever consent to this Amendment? No doubt we should have heard of it if he had.

Upon the whole matter, 'tis manifest, that the Clause above recited from the Bill of Commerce, shews the Sense of our Legislators what should have been done, rather than their Approbation of what has been done. If every thing had been well done on the part of France, there had been no need of any Amendment: But if France has not thought fit to consent to this Amendment, we must expect the self-same Bill the next Session, as it was first offer'd in the last, and without any of the Amendments that were made to it.

To conclude: The Bill of Commerce does not prove, that it ever was the Intent of the Treaty that we should export any foreign Goods to France.

The Clause in the Treaty for repealing the Prohibitions and Edicts concerning the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, do not enable us to export thither any foreign Goods and Merchandizes; the Prohibitions and Edicts concerning these are still in being, and in full force, and are even confirm'd by this Treaty.

And therefore tho' the Duties upon our own Manufactures are reduc'd by this Treaty to the Tariff of 1664, and are not to exceed; yet the Edicts concerning foreign Goods exported hence are still in force, and the Duties by these Edicts may and do exceed those of that Tariff.

ADVERTISEMENT.

ON Thursday the Third of September comes on the Election for Knights of the Shire for the County of Suffex, at Lawton in the said County; where your Vote and Interest is desired by the JOHN MURLEY TREVOR, Esq. and JAMES BUTLER, Esq. being Men unoppos'd in the present Contention both in Church and State, the Queen, and Protestant Successors in the illustrious House of Hanover; and for the Encouragement of the Woollen Manufacture, and all Trades advantageous to Great Britain.

N. B. Henry Compton, Esq. who opposes these two Worthy Gentlemen, voted for the Bill of Commerce with France, which was rejected by the late Parliament.

On Saturday last was Publish'd, †† General Maxims in Trade, particularly apply'd to the Commerce between Great Britain and France, Printed for Sam. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little-Britain. Price 3 s. 6 d. Just Publish'd.

* * The Trade with France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, consider'd: With some Observations on the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France, The Fifth Edition, Price 3 s. 6 d. The Council of Exchange between London and Paris in before the Revolution: Or, A Demonstration that our Billon was then exported upon the Balance of our Trade with France. Price 4 s. The Consequences of a Law for reducing the Duties on French Wines, Franks, Silk and Linnen, to those of other Nations, With Remarks on the *Mercator*, Price 3 s. 6 d. Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane, and J. Baker in Paternoster-Row.



The British Merchant ;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From TUESDAY, August 25. to FRIDAY, August 28. 1713.

ALL the Laws and Statutes, whether of France or Great Britain, concerning which it is not otherwise determin'd by the Treaty of Commerce, are to remain in their full force by the fifth Article of that Treaty: or, in other words, every Law or Statute concerning which the Treaty has not provided that it should be alter'd or repeal'd, is confirm'd.

The Prohibitions and Edicts of his most Christian Majesty, are the Laws and Statutes of his Kingdom.

By the ninth Article of the Treaty, the Prohibitions and Edicts of the French King made since the Treaty of 1664, and contrary to that Treaty, in respect to the Goods and Merchandises of Great Britain, are to be repeal'd. But neither that Article, nor any other, has provided for the Repeal of any Prohibition or Edict made either

before or since that Treaty, in respect to the Goods and Merchandises of other Countries exported from Great Britain: So that all these last-mention'd Edicts and Prohibitions are to remain in their full force, notwithstanding any thing in that Treaty.

Suppose then there is an Edict in France prohibiting the Importation and Use of East-India Manufactures in that Kingdom, are we permitted to carry any thither? Certainly no: for they are not the Goods and Merchandises of Great Britain, and there is no Provision in the Treaty for the Repeal of such a Prohibition.

Let those who promise themselves Mountains of Gold from France, by Exportations of East-India Manufactures, peruse the following Arret or Edict of his most Christian Majesty.

An ARRET of the King's Council of State, prohibiting the wearing of Gowns and Garments made of stained Cloth, Silks, and India Stuffs, or Trading in them, upon the Penalties therein mention'd.

Extracted from the Registers of the Council of State.

THE King being inform'd, that in prejudice to the Arms and Regulations heretofore made, to prohibit the using in the Kingdom the Stuffs and Cloth of the Indies, of China, and of the Levant, there are daily great quantities of them introduced, that the Manufactures considerably suffer thereby; and his Majesty desiring heartily to put an end to an Evil so prejudicial to his Subjects, having heard the Report of the Sieur Definimus Controller in ordinary of the Royal Council, Comptroller-General of the Finances, HIS MAJESTY IN COUNCIL hath ordain'd, and hath ordain'd, That the preceding Arms and Regulations shall be executed according to their Force and Tenor; and conformably to them, has very expressly prohibited and forbid all Traders, Merchants, and other Persons of what quality or condition soever, to trade, sell, offer to sale, to hawk, vend, or buy, either by Wholesale or Retail, either by themselves or by any other Persons, any Indian, China, or Levant Stuffs, as well those made wholly of Silks, or mix'd with Gold and Silver, and Bark of Trees (Merle) Wood, Thread, or Cotton, and in general all other sort of Stuffs of the Growth and Manufacture of the said Countries, new or old, upon forfeiture of the fine, and Three Thousand Livres Penalty for every Offence, to be levied by Seizure of the Persons, and without delay. His Majesty further wills and ordains, That the said Merchants and Traders who shall have offend'd against the said Prohibitions, shall remain incapable of Trading for ever, and that their Names shall be register'd on Tables, which shall be hung up in the Court within the Consular Jurisdiction of the Place, or the nearest to it, and in the Offices of the respective Companies and Communities; and that their Servants, Apprentices, and others, who shall have been concern'd in the Offence, shall be and remain incapable of being admitted to any Freedom.

II.

HIS MAJESTY also forbids, upon the like Penalties, the said Traders, Merchants, and all other Persons, to trade or traffick in, to sell or buy directly or indirectly, by Wholesale or Retail, any Mullins, Cotton Cloth of the Indies, China, or the Levant, new or old, either white or coloured, wicker, or within the Kingdom: Except notwithstanding, white Cotton Cloth and Mullins, which shall be taken at Prize at Sea: the Sale and Use of which his Majesty permits in his Kingdom during the present War, according to the Arret of His Majesty ordains, That the Proprietors of the said white Cotton Cloth and Mullins, who shall be willing to sell them in the Kingdom, shall be oblig'd before they can take them out of the Warehouse, or other places in which they are deposited, to declare it to the Intendants and Commissaries in the respective Provinces, or their Deputies, to the end that the said Cotton Cloth and Mullins be mark'd on both ends of such pieces, by the particular Marks to be appointed by the said respective Intendants and Commissaries; of which Registering, Information shall be taken by the respective Intendants, and Commissaries: first by the Comptroller-General of the Finances, His Majesty's Will and Intention is, That the Merchants and Traders, and other Persons in whose possession any pieces of white Cotton Cloth and Mullins shall be found not mark'd with the said Marks, be condemn'd to the Penalties mention'd in this present Arret.

III.

HIS MAJESTY likewise forbids the East-India Company, and all other Companies, to import into the Kingdom, under any pretence whatsoever,

ever, even in order to re-export again into foreign Countries, to sell or vend there, any of the Stuffs and Cloth above mention'd, upon forfeiture of the fine, and Three Thousand Livres Penalty.

IV.

HIS MAJESTY also very expressly forbids the Farmers, Distillers, Receivers, Officers, Comptrollers, Braichans, Brigandiers, Guards, and others employ'd in his Farms, to suffer any of the said Cloth and Stuffs to pass thro' their Offices of Duties, upon pain of the like penalty of Three Thousand Livres, and the penalties mention'd in his Declaration of the month of September, 1701, against such as shall offer any Merchandises to enter into his Kingdom contrary to his Prohibition.

V.

HIS MAJESTY forbids further all Persons, of whatsoever Sex, Quality, or Condition soever, from the Day of the publication of the present Arret, to wear, use, or cause to be made any Smocks, Gattinas, or Household Furnishings, of the said Stuffs and Cloth, or to have any of these in their Houses in the piece cut made up, upon forfeiture thereof, and a Thousand Livres Penalty. His Majesty wills and ordains, That the Husbands and Fathers of Families shall be peculiarly answerable for the Penalties to which their Wives, and Children in their power, shall be condemn'd.

VI.

MOREOVER, his Majesty forbids all Pawnbrokers, Tailors for Men or Women, Upholsters, Embroiderers, and other Workmen, to sit at home or in private Houses, or to keep in their Warehouses, Shops, or Chambers, any of the said Stuffs, and Cloths, or any Silk, Gattinas, or Furnishings made thereof, new or old, upon forfeiture of the fine, and Three Thousand Livres Penalty, and perpetual incapacitation to the said Workmen of all Arts and Trades, and incapacity to their Servants, Journeymen, and Apprentices, and others who shall be concern'd in the said Fraud, to pretend to any Freedom. Furthermore, his Majesty ordains, That the Names of the said Pawnbrokers, Tailors, and other Workmen, guilty of any of the said Offences, shall be register'd on a Table to be set up in the Offices of their Communities.

VII.

HIS MAJESTY likewise very expressly forbids all his Subjects to paint, print, or cause to be painted or printed, upon any white Cloth, of Cotton, Hemp, Flax, or Stuff made with Cotton, Tured, Silk, or Flannels, and generally all other sorts of Stuffs and Cloths, new or old, since the same wear of the Growth and Manufacture of the Kingdom, a and to all Ingressors and other Workmen, to make any Mullins or Indiennes serving for the said Printings. His Majesty wills and ordains, That the said Mullins and Indiennes shall be mark'd and stamp'd, the said Cloth and Stuffs confin'd; and that the said Makers, Ingressors, and other Workmen, who shall have assist'd in making the said Mullins, Indiennes, Printings and Impositions, shall suffer personal Imprisonment, and the like penalty of 1000 liv. and remain incapable of following any Trade, Art or Profession for ever.

VIII.

HIS MAJESTY wills and intends, that the Prohibitions contain'd in the foregoing Articles, shall be put in execution, even in printin'd Places. And to put a Stop to the Abuses which have been, and are actually committed in the printin'd Places of the City, Suburbs and Liberties of Paris, such as the Rules of the Temple, of St. John de Laizeran, of the Abby of St. Omer, and other Places; his Majesty permits

permitted the Lieutenant-General of the Police of the said City of Paris to make Search, or cause Search to be made, by such Persons as he shall appoint for that purpose; and gives him power to judge of the Offences therein committed, in such manner, and in the same form, as should then be committed in the other Parts of the said City.

IX.
His Majesty ordains that all Merchants, Traders, and other Persons, of what Quality and Condition soever, to export to any of the French Colonies, any of the said Cloth and Stuffs, and the Inhabitants of the said Colonies to traffic in them, or to use any of them in their Clothing and Furniture, in the like manner, and upon the same Regulations, as are before-mentioned for the Inhabitants of the Kingdom.

X.
His Majesty, desiring to excite those who shall know of any Offences committed against the present Arrêt, to give Information thereof, ordains, That Two Thirds of the Fines that belong to the Informers, that one Moiety only of the Stuffs and Cloth seized and condemned shall be burnt, and the other Moiety shall be paid by the Authority of the Lieutenant-General of the Police at Paris, and by the Intendants and Commissaries in the respective Provinces, on condition to be exported to foreign Countries, and the Moneys arising by such Sales to be paid to the Informers; so which end the said Stuffs and Cloth shall be secured in the Places at Paris, to be appointed by the Lieutenant-General of the Police, and in the Provinces by the Intendants and Commissaries respectively.

XI.
And the Provinces shall be obliged to enter into Engagements to take Certificates from the Officers of the said Custom-house, who shall be by them named, to justify the Exportation of the said Cloth and Stuffs out of the Kingdom; as also to bring a Certificate from the Consul of the French Nation to prove that the same have been unloaded in foreign Countries, and to produce both the said Certificates at the Office of the Place where the said Sales were made, within three Months at furthest, from the Day the said Goods shall be taken out of the Warehouse, upon a penalty, which shall not be less than double the Value of the said Sales.

XII.
His Majesty ordains, That the Lieutenant-General of the Police at Paris, and the Intendants and Commissaries of the respective Provinces, shall take cognizance of the Contraventions to this present Arrêt; and Circumstances of the same, granting them that special full Power, Jurisdiction and Cognizance, which his Majesty intends to all other Judges; and his Majesty wills, that what shall be by them ordained, be executed, notwithstanding any Opposition or Appeal whatsoever; which: if any shall interpose, his Majesty reserves to himself the Cognizance thereof.

XIII.
His Majesty ordains, that in case of Contravention, Informations be brought within the City and Liberties of Paris, by the Lieutenant-General of the Police, and in the respective Provinces by the Intendants and Commissaries, or their Deputies; and that upon such Informations, such Judgments shall be paid by the Commissaries as shall be seen.

XIV.
And if the Offenders do not appear upon such Decrees, they shall be definitively condemned to the Penalties inflicted by the present Arrêt, without other Formality or Process whatsoever.

XV.
But in case of Appearance, the said Lieutenant of the Police, Intendant and Commissaries respectively, after having heard the Offenders, shall condemn them to the steepest Penalties, or change the Informations into acquits, and permit the Parties, if thereunto required, to make proof to the contrary; that upon the Report of the Request, Justice be done in such manner as is ought to be.

XVI.
His Majesty however does not intend by this present Arrêt to derogate from the Arrêts of the 10th of July, 1709, and the 16th of

Behold here the Edict of his most Christian Majesty: Was ever any thing so severe? What? No East-India Manufactures to be bought or sold in his Kingdom or Colonies, or even to be imported, tho' in order to be re-exported? The Penalties too and incapacities are extraordinary, both upon the *Buyers* and the *Sellers*, upon the *Taxpayers*, *Employers*, and other People that shall be found working up those Manufactures; even the poor Journeymen and Apprentices, who only obey the Commands of their Masters, are incapacitated for ever. Yet as if this Punishment were not sufficient, their Names are to be registred in Tables, and enter'd in the Courts of Justice, and their Infamy must be recorded.

What great care too has his Majesty taken that his Edict shall be observ'd! That it shall be publish'd and enter'd twice every year! The Publication whence this very Translation was taken, was made about the time of the signing of our late Treaty.

And what search is to be made every where after Offenders, even privileg'd Places not exempted! How prodigious is the Reward which is given to the Informers? We have all the reason in the World to believe, that the very Names of East-India Manufactures will be forgotten in that Kingdom.

Are any of our People now so fond as to believe, that such an Edict as this shall ever be repeal'd in favour of Great Britain? Will his most Christian Majesty grant us the liberty of importing those Manufactures, which he has refus'd to his own Subjects? And to what end should they be imported, when they are ever to be us'd either in his Kingdom or Colonies?

January, 1706, by the City, Pleas and Territories of Marcellis only.

XVII.
His Majesty wills and requires, that this be published and enter'd twice a year, by virtue of the Orders of the Lieutenant-General of the Police at Paris, and the Intendants and Commissaries of the respective Provinces of Languedoc, Aquitaine, Languedoc and Territories under Administration, whom his Majesty appoints to see the execution of the said Arrêt, and to cause respective Search to be made in the Shops and Warehouses of the Traders, Merchants and others, even of those who live in privileg'd Places. Done in the King's Council of State, held at Paris, the 27th of August, 1709.

Execut'd, Sign'd R. ANCIEN.

L. LEWIS, by the Grace of God, King of France and Navarre, Dauphin of Viennois, Earl of Valentinois and Dauphin, Poitevaux, and Languedoc: To our Beloved and Trusty Counsellors in our Council, which our Council of State, the Sieur de Argenson, Lieutenant-General of the Police of our good City of Paris, and our Beloved and Trusty Counsellors in our Council, Masters of the Arsenal in Ordinary out of Paris, the Intendants and Commissaries respectively, for the execution of our Orders in the Provinces and Generalities of our Kingdom, Greeting. We charge and enjoin you, and every one of you, to see to the execution of the Arrêt; the Tenor of which is herewith annex'd, under the Counter Seal of our Chancery, this Day given in our Council, for the Copies therein contain'd a command, our full Power or Express, thereunto requir'd, to signify the said Arrêt to the Persons therein nam'd, and others to whom it shall appertain, that none be ignorant of it: And furthermore, for the due execution of the said Arrêt, to make all the Commands, Arrests and Prohibitions therein mention'd, upon the Penalties therein contain'd, and all other needful Acts and Deeds, without any other Permission, notwithstanding *Clameur de Haro*, *Chartre de Privilege*, and Letters to the contrary. We will that the said Arrêt be read, publish'd and enter'd twice a year in all Places where said shall be, and that to the Copies thereof, and of these Presents, annex'd by one of our Beloved and Trusty Counsellors Secretaries, regard be had as to the Originals. For such as our Pleas, the 5th of May the 27th day of August, 1709, and of our Reign the 5th by the King, Dauphin, Earl of Provence, in his Council.

Sign'd, R. ANCIEN, and Seal'd.

It is enjoyn'd to Mark Antoine Paquiere, sworn Cryer in Ordinary of the City, Provostship and Vicinity of Paris, to read, publish, and cause to be enter'd, by Sound of Trumpet and publick Centry, the present Arrêt in all publick Places of the City and Suburbs of Paris, to the end that none may pretend Ignorance thereof. Done and given by Messire Mark Rene-ou Voyer de Paulmy, Knight, Marquis of Argenson, Comptroller in State in Ordinary to the King by his Councils, Lieutenant-General of the Police of the City, Provostship and Vicinity of Paris, Deputy Constable by the King in this behalf, the 14th day of March, 1710.

Sign'd, DE VOYER D' ARGENSON.

The above Ordinance hath been read and publish'd with loud and audible Voice, by Sound of Trumpet and publick Centry, in all the usual assemblies thereof, by Mr. Mark Antoine Paquiere, sworn Cryer in Ordinary to the King, in the City, Provostship and Vicinity of Paris, dwelling in the Street Du Millieu des Cordons des Doyens, attended by Louis Andreux, Nicolas Andreux, and Claude Capotain, sworn Tumpeters, the 11th day of March, 1710, to the end that none may pretend Ignorance thereof; and enter'd the said Day in the said Places.

Sign'd, PASQUIER.

We now for the Reason why the Claim for repeating his Arrests and Prohibitions was refrain'd to those only which concern the *Goods* and *Merchandises* of Great Britain; it is because his most Christian Majesty resolves, that the *Manufactures* of the East-Indies, China or the Levant, shall not be imported at all into any part of his Dominions.

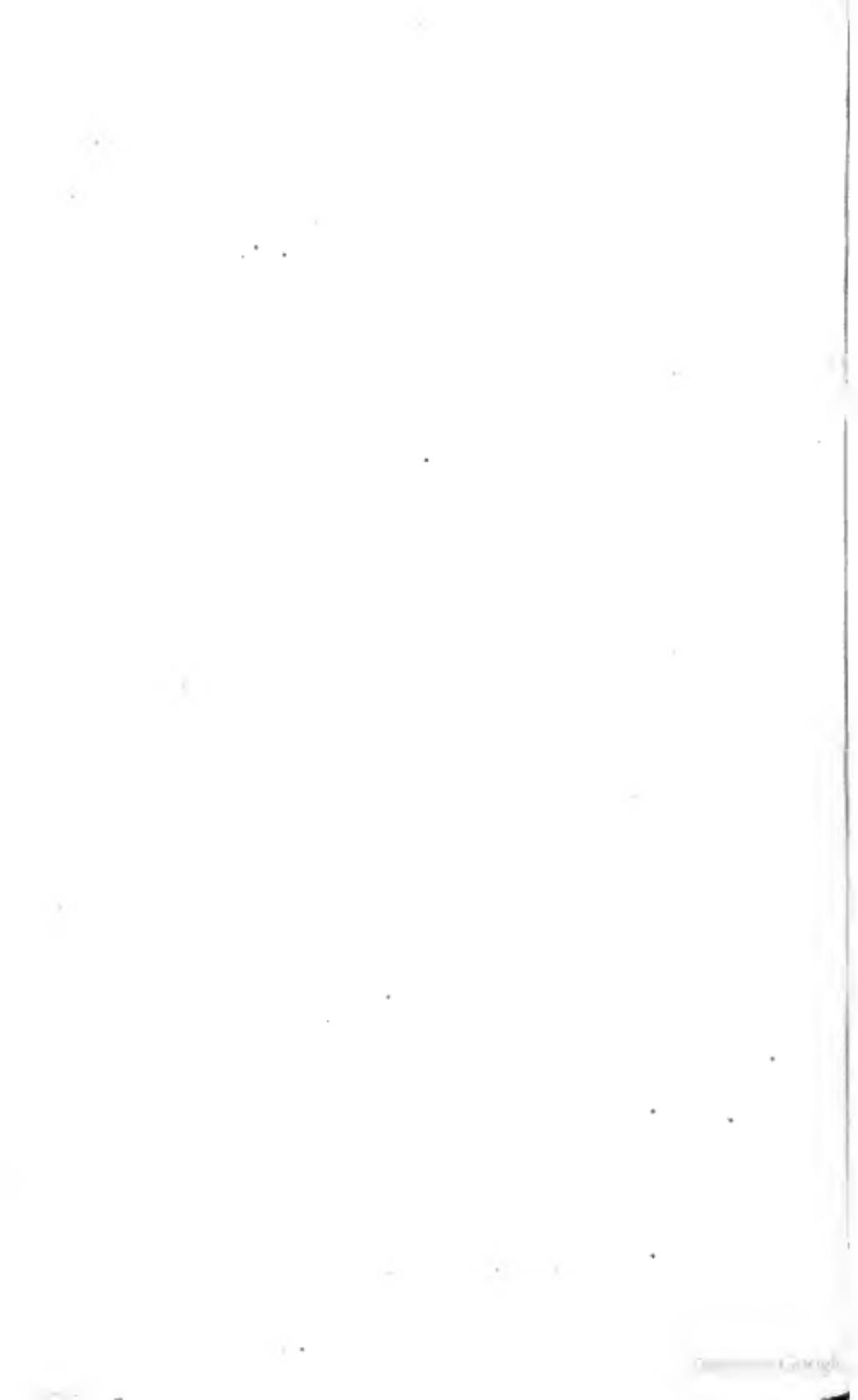
My Argument-stands to this: If East-India Manufactures are to be struck out of the Merchant's List of re-exported Goods; if we shall carry none of them into France, his Valuation of that List at 500,000 l. which he would have us believe to be the Measure of what we shall re-export by this Treaty, and which, in my former Papers, I have reduc'd to very little more than a fifth part of that Sum; will, by striking off East-India Manufactures, be brought down to a very T rifice.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ON Thursday the Third of September comes on the Election for Knights of the Shire for the County of Suffolk, as follows in the said Colony: Where your Vote and Interest is desired for JOHN MORLEY TREVOR, Esq; and JAMES BUTLER, Esq; being Men probably affected to the present Constitution both in Church and State, the Queen, and Protestant Succession in the Churches House of Hanover; and for the Encouragement of the Woollen Manufacture, and all Trades advantageous to Great Britain.

M. R. Henry Capotain, Esq; who opposes these two Worthy Gentlemen, voted for the Bill of Commerce with France, which was rejected by the late Parliament.

This Day is Publish'd, 44 A Seafoote Waroog, by the Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, concerning the Danger of Popery, agreed to August 19. 1713. Printed for A. Bell at the Cross-Keys and Bible in Cornhill, and sold by J. Baker in Pall-mall-Row. Price 2 s.



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to
The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Andiat hæc genitor qui fœdera fulmine sancit. Virg.

From FRIDAY, August 28. to TUESDAY, September 1. 1713.

TH E Mercator, Numb. 39. asserts both Parts of a Contradiction.

First, he inveighs against the *Portugal Treaty*, as an Invasion of the Privileges of Parliament, and inconsistent with *British Liberty*.

His words are : ' By this Treaty with *Portugal*, the Ministers who made or directed it, took upon them, it seems, to limit the Parliament of *England*, and put them down to what Duties they shall or shall not lay upon the Importations of Merchandizes from foreign Parts ; which is a manifest Invasion of the Privileges of Parliament, and destructive of the very Being of the *British Liberty*.'

And again, ' The Person, says he, who made that Treaty is in his Grave, and the Mercator is not inclin'd to disturb the Ashes of the Dead ; but he that directed it is in being, and the Days have not long pass'd since it would have been said, that he ought not to wear his Head that should have put his helping Hand to such a manifest Invasion of *English Liberty*.'

This is inveighing against the Makers of that Treaty with a witness ! And it is also an Affirmation concerning the Treaty, that it was an Invasion of the Privileges of Parliament, and inconsistent with *British Liberty*.

Nevertheless, the direct contrary Sense is imply'd in other words, which I have also transcrib'd from the same Mercator concerning the Treaty, and which are as follow, viz. ' That it was only a Treaty of Commerce, and that as the Parliament might hereafter find it convenient to pass some other Act which might interfere with it, the Consequence of such Infractiõn was provided for in the Treaty, viz. That then the King of *Portugal* was free to prohibit such *English Goods* as were prohibited before : that is, in plain *English*, thus speaking to his Majesty the King of *Portugal*.

Sh, *as this Treaty is made at her Majesty's Desire, that the Prohibitions of English Goods in Portugal may be taken away, as it is in this express Condition, That if the English Nation shall break this Agreement, your Majesty is where you were, and no harm done : All the Prohibitions you laid on before, you are free to lay on again. And this is the Sum of the whole Treaty.*

If this is the Sum of the whole Treaty, it will follow, ' That they who made or directed it, have not taken upon them to limit the Parliament of *England* to what Duties they shall or shall not lay upon the Importations of Merchandizes from foreign Parts ; then the Privilege of Parliament has not been invaded, nor the *British Liberty* destroy'd.' Then the Ambassador who made this Treaty may lie quiet in his Grave, and the Person who directed it may wear his Head upon his Shoulders.

Nay, it would also further follow, that the Treaty itself had provided, that the Breach of it should be no Breach of the Peace with the King of *Portugal*.

It is true, the Mercator affirms, that the above-mention'd Construction of the Treaty, is the Construction of those who made it ; but I shall shew that 'tis his own. ' It is on this Foundation, says he, that in the Mercator, Numb. 10. it was said, that it is expressly provided, that the Breach of this Treaty is no Breach of the Peace with the King of *Portugal* ;

so that what he has there said, he acknowledges to be built upon this Foundation. He defends that Expression of his own by the above-mention'd Construction : ' And if this be not, says he, a just Construction, it is certain they will but ill justify the making of it.'

That Construction therefore is the Mercator's own, and he would persuade his Readers, that *That is the Sum of the whole Treaty* : And it must follow then, from his own Construction of the Treaty, that it does not limit the Parliament to what Duties they shall or shall not lay upon the Importations of Merchandizes from foreign Parts, that is no Invasion of the Privilege of Parliament, nor inconsistent with the *British Liberty* ; directly contrary to what he had before so strenuously asserted.

I really pity the Mercator, that in the very same Paper he should be oblig'd to maintain both Parts of a Contradiction : But the *Portugal Treaty* was to be condemn'd at any rate, to make way for the *French Commerce*. This was a Task assign'd the Mercator by those that set him to work, and was not to be refus'd for the sake of any Consequence to himself. For this reason he was oblig'd to affirm of the Treaty of Commerce with *Portugal*, that it was an Invasion of the Privileges of Parliament, and destructive of the *British Liberty*.

But as his own Reputation was also to be defended, and as it was not possible for him to acquit himself from the Charge of Forgery, without presenting his Readers with such a Construction as he has done ; he has therefore made a Construction, which plainly shews the Treaty could be no Invasion of the Privileges of the Parliament, nor inconsistent with *British Liberty*. And thus he has asserted both the Parts of a Contradiction.

The Mercator, to get rid of the Charge of Forgery, has, in Numb. 39. given such a Construction of the Treaty as implies a Provision, that tho' it should be broken, yet the Peace should remain entire. And,

Numb. 40. He observes, that a Penalty is annex'd to the Breach which is to be made on our part, viz. That the King of *Portugal* shall again prohibit our Goods.

He says farther, ' That when an Article is agreed on, and the Condition of breaking it is express'd, certainly it will be allow'd that no other Consequence shall attend it, but what is so express'd : If a Law is made against any particular Fact, as running Goods at the Custom-house, for example ; when the Penalty is express'd, it is a sufficient Security to the Offender, that he is liable to no other Penalty.'

By his Construction of the Treaty, and by the Penalty annex'd, he insinuates that the Peace neither is, nor can be broken by the Breach of the Treaty ; and that therefore it was no Forgery to affirm, that the Treaty had expressly provided, that the Breach of it should be no Breach of the Peace.

Notwithstanding this fine Reasoning, I shall make good my Charge of Forgery upon the Mercator.

As for his Construction of the *Portugal Treaty*, I must deny it to be right ; *Portugal* and *Britain* are equally and absolutely oblig'd FOR EVER, as I have shewn in my second Paper ; the former to admit all our Woollen Manufactures, the latter to admit the Wines of *Portugal*, and to abate One Third of the Duties payable for the Wines of *France* : and there is not one word that implies, much less that

expresses, as in the above-mention'd Constitution of the *Mercator*, that if the Agreement should be broken on one part, that his Majesty is where he was before, and that no harm is done. *Portugal* is oblig'd to admit our Woollen Manufactures, not upon condition that we shall admit, but that we shall be oblig'd to admit, FOR EVER, their Wines, with such an Abatement of Duties.

It is very true, that a Penalty is annex'd to the Breach to be made on our part, and a very terrible one, it is, viz. That it shall be lawful for that Prince AGAIN to forbid our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures; but if this Penalty had not been annex'd to the Breach, had it not been lawful for the King of *Portugal* to prohibit all our Woollen Manufactures, or to have charg'd them with such Duties as had amounted to Prohibitions? If the Breach of the Treaty on our part had for the King of *Portugal* where he was before, as this Writer says; was it not lawful for him before to prohibit or load any of our Manufactures? By what Treaty was he bound not to do it? Is not the King of *Portugal*, as the same Author says, a Sovereign Prince? Can the Queen of Great Britain limit what shall or shall not be lawful for the King of *Portugal* to do? By what Agreements, Stipulations, Leagues, or Treaties, was he bound? He is indeed bound by the above-mention'd Treaty between the two Nations, and the *Mercator* by the breach of that Treaty on our part would have him set at liberty.

The *Mercator* would have it thought, that the Penalty annex'd for a Breach to be made on our part, is a Restraint upon the King of *Portugal* to proceed any farther than to the Prohibition of our Woollen Cloths; and influences in a Penalty upon running Goods (by which he has the Impudence to make a comparison between the Smugglers and Crown'd Heads.) But the Cases are very different: It was lawful for any Man to run Goods, till he was restrain'd by the Law; and the Law which has made the Restraint, has determin'd the Penalty, which ought not to be exceeded. It was lawful for the King of *Portugal*, before our late Treaty with him, to prohibit every thing of the Growth or Manufacture of this Kingdom, not only all our Woollen Cloths, but all our Woollen Manufactures; he is bound up by that Treaty, that he cannot do it now. And if the Treaty shall be broke on our part, he is no longer bound; if we shall once for him at liberty, every Prohibition or high Duty is at his own will be lawful. Are we restrain'd any otherwise than by our late Treaty with the King of *Portugal*, from prohibiting any of the Goods or Merchandizes of that Kingdom? And then shall it be said, that that Prince as any otherwise restrain'd?

And where shall the King of *Portugal* stop in the Attempts he is to make himself of us, if we should be guilty of the first Breach? I do not say, that the Peace is broke between us: I have never said any such thing. But I will put the *Mercator* a Case: Suppose the King of *Portugal* had enter'd into this Treaty, to get rid of a prodigious Growth of Wines which lay upon the hands of his Subjects, and as soon as ever they had been shipp'd for *England*, had prohibited our whole Woollen Manufactures, before any considerable quantity of them could have been sold; had not this been a mere Cheat? Should we have no further resent'd this Breach of Treaty, than by prohibiting the Wines of *Portugal*? Should we not have been ready to repair our selves by Arms? And are not all Repetitions lawful for *Portugal* as Great Britain? But I never had the least thought, that things were likely to be carry'd thus far by the King of *Portugal*; it will be sufficient for him to prohibit all our Woollen Manufactures; which, upon our taking any more for the Wines of *Portugal* than two Thirds of the Customs which shall be paid for those of *France*, he will be able to do, but by the express words of the Penalty annex'd to the Breach, and even tho no Penalty at all had been annex'd; as I have already shewn in this Paper, and as I shall shew more at large in my next.

But what I have already said, is sufficient to make good every one of the Articles of FORGERY, with which I have charg'd the *Mercator* in my third Paper.

He had said in his sixth, that there was an express Provision in the *Portugal* Treaty, that if the Abatement of Customs should be abolish'd, yet the Peace should remain entire.

I have charg'd him with Forgery, and to make good my Charge, I have printed a Translation of the whole Treaty, in which there is not any such Provision.

To deliver him, if from this Charge, he has given such a Constitution of the Treaty, as would imply such a Provision; and he intimated, that the Penalty annex'd to the Breach on our part do imply it.

I have shewn him, that his Constitution is not right, and that *England* and *Portugal* are equal, and should be oblig'd FOR EVER by this Treaty, the latter, to admit all our Woollen Manufactures; and the former, to abate upon the Wines of *Portugal* one Third of the Duties which shall be paid for those of *France*. I have shewn that the Penalty annex'd to a Breach of the Treaty on our part, does by no means imply a Provision that the Peace shall remain entire, and that, tho the Peace is not actually broken by the Breach of the Treaty, yet a Case might possibly happen, which might make the Breach of this Treaty a Breach of the Peace between the two Crowns.

From all which it follows, That this Provision of the *Mercator's*, That the Peace shall remain entire, is neither express'd nor imply'd in the Treaty; and is consequently an Article of his own forging.

Mac Ambrinus Velligilium proit praefatus signifies his Abatement of Customs which is to be made as aforesaid. This the *Mercator* had translated, in his 17th Paper, *such Abatement of Customs as is to be made*; as if it were not absolutely agreed to be made, but a thing only that was propos'd might be done at one time or other, or perhaps not at all: I have charg'd this also as a Forgery, and he has offer'd one word against this Charge, so that it remains upon him still. But he thought he might take all this liberty with the Treaty, presuming perhaps upon so Man's having a Copy of it besides himself.

I come now, in the last place, to consider the *Mercator's* Reason for leaving out of his Translation the *causa Britannica Lanifera*, the rest of the British Woollen Manufactures.

The Penalty annex'd for the Breach of the *Portugal* Treaty on our part, is, That it should thro be lawful for the King of *Portugal* AGAIN to forbid our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures. I had charg'd the *Mercator* with leaving out the last words, viz. *the rest of the Woollen Manufactures*, because a general Prohibition would have a dreadful Sound in the ears of *Englishmen*, and they were by no means to know the worst of their Condition.

And how does he defend himself from this Charge? He says, that AGAIN to prohibit what was before prohibited; that only *Woolen Cloths* were before prohibited, but not the rest of our Woollen Manufactures; and that therefore upon our Breach of the Treaty, the King of *Portugal* has the liberty to prohibit AGAIN what was before prohibited; and that was only our Woollen Cloths, but not the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.

But what should binder him? Is not the King of *Portugal*, as the *Mercator* says, a Sovereign Prince? Is he any otherwise bound to *Britain* than by his Treaties? And would he not be set at liberty as to this last Treaty, if it should be first broken by our selves? Might he not have prohibited all our Woollen Manufactures before? And has he not reserv'd a liberty to prohibit all AGAIN by the express words of this Treaty?

But I would render this as plain as possible to the *Mercator*, by a very familiar Instance, and such as be must needs understand; Suppose my Lord Chief Justice should caution a scandalous *Witner* after the following manner; "Sir, You have stood once in the Pillory for a scandalous Libel; and if you shall go on still to vent your Scandal, you shall be rewarded AGAIN with the Pillory and a good Whipping." If the Writer should still go on, and my Lord should resolve to make good his Promise to him, would he have the Confidence to tell his Lordship, that he had been only pillory'd before, that he had never yet been whip'd, and his Lordship having promis'd to reward him AGAIN with the Pillory and a good Whipping, could not with any justice pass Sentence for his Whipping, and that he ought to suffer nothing but the Pillory.

ADVERTISEMENT.

ON Thursday the Third of September comes on the Election for Knights of the Shire for the County of Sussex, at Lewes. In the said County: Where your Vote and Interest is desired for JOHN MORLEY TREVOR, Esq; and JAMES BUTLER, Esq; being then and so affected to the perfect Constitution both to Church and State, the Queen, and Protestant Successors in the British House of Hanover; and for the Encouragement of the Woollen Manufacture, and all Trade advantageous to Great Britain.

N. B. Henry Compton, Esq; who opposeth these two Worthy Gentlemen, voted not the bill of Commerce with *France*, which was rejected by the late Parliament.



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From TUESDAY, September 1. to FRIDAY, September 4. 1713.

I Have not yet done with the *Mercator*, for his Omision of the *cetera Britannica Lanipole*, the rest of the *British Woollen Manufactures*; and the many extraordinary things he has said in his Paper, N^o 40. relating to that Subject: the Substance of all which is as follows.

That in the Preamble of the Treaty the Queen desires that our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures, may be admitted into *Portugal*, and that the Prohibition of them might be taken off.

That this ought to be understood only of our Woollen Cloths, and SUCH OTHER Woollen Manufactures as were before prohibited; since it would make the Treaty more Nonseuse, if the Queen should desire the Admission of such as were not before prohibited.

That it was acknowledg'd before the House of Commons by the Merchants, that none of our Goods were refus'd to be admitted into that Country, except the Woollen Medley Cloths: That the rest of our Woollen Manufactures were put into the Treaty, to prevent any advantage to be taken for want of words; but not to imply that any other except Cloth were before prohibited.

That if nothing but Woollen Cloths were prohibited before the making of the Treaty, nothing but the very same can be prohibited upon our Breach of it, by force of the words, *sic, Is shall then be just and lawful for his Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal AGAIN to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.*

That if by this Clause he might prohibit what was not before prohibited, the word AGAIN would be absurd; since AGAIN to prohibit, is to prohibit what had been prohibited before.

That therefore ayles it can be made appear, that there were other of our Woollen Goods prohibited in *Portugal* besides Cloth, they can make nothing of the Omision of the rest of the Woollen Manufactures out of the Translation; and if they were, they cannot make sense of the Treaty.

That since only Woollen Cloths were before prohibited, the Reservatioon of a Liberty, upon our Breach of the Treaty, to the King of *Portugal* AGAIN to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures, could be a Reservatioon of a Liberty only to prohibit the former, but not the latter; since the latter were not before prohibited, and therefore could not be prohibited AGAIN.

And that consequently the Omision of the rest of the Woollen Manufactures, in the Translation of this Treaty, was the Omision of words that could have

no Meaning or Significatioon, and was not to be esteem'd an Omision.

To these Harangues of the *Mercator*, I reply as follows:

That her Majesty's Desire is best explain'd by the Answer of the King of *Portugal*. We have all the reason in the world to believe that Prince would not grant more than was ask'd; whatsoever therefore he has granted, is the very thing which her Majesty had desir'd.

The King of *Portugal*, by the first Article, grants, *promittit et engages, to admit FOR EVER hereafter into his Kingdom our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures, as was accus'd till they were prohibited by the Lawes*; that is, that not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures, should be admitted FOR EVER, and that neither the one nor the other should at any time be prohibited.

Her Majesty's Desire therefore in the Preamble, That all our Woollen Manufactures should be admitted into *Portugal*, the Prohibition of them being taken off, is a Desire that all should be admitted, and that not any of them should be prohibited.

Suppose then that all or any of them had been admitted before, this had been a Request that could should hereafter be prohibited. And is this Request nothing? And if the King of *Portugal*, at the desire of her Majesty, has bound himself by this Treaty to make no future Prohibitions, shall he be said to have granted nothing?

The King of *Portugal* perhaps before this Treaty admitted the greater part of our Growth and Manufactures into his Country: and yet as he is a Sovereign Prince, as the *Mercator* says, could her Majesty oblige him to do this? Might he not lay any Prohibitions or high Duties on our Goods, as he thought fit? But if her Majesty has oblig'd him by Treaty not to do it, has he not obtain'd a very great Advantage for her People?

If all our Woollen Manufactures, our Cloth as well as all the rest, had been suffer'd to go freely into *Portugal* before, had we gain'd no Advantage by this Treaty, by which that Prince is oblig'd not to prohibit any of them hereafter? And if this is the very thing which her Majesty request'd of the King of *Portugal*, and this Prince has granted at her request, will the *Mercator* affirm, as he does, that it was Nonseuse to desire the Admission for ever of such Manufactures as were not prohibited?

But how can the *Mercator* say, as he does, *That it was acknowledg'd before the House of Commons by the Merchants, that there were no Goods refus'd to be admitted in Portugal, but Woollen Medley Cloths?*

The

The Gentleman who spoke before the House of Commons, on the behalf of the *Portugal Trade*, acknowledged so much thing; he knew that Trade too well to make any such Acknowledgment, he knew the Fact was quite otherwise, and acquainted the House, *That Portugal had not only prohibited all sorts of English Cloths and Hats, but that prohibiting the introduction of KERSEYS, and CLOTH SERGES, and CLOTH DAUGGETS, shee they also prohibited, and that the Prohibition continued twenty years, except that a Permission was granted for the Importation of Black Cloth and Hats.*

He also acquainted the House, *That during the twenty years Prohibition, the Portuguese succeeded so well in their Woollen Manufactures, that we brought these no Gold or Silver, but after the taking off those Prohibitions, we brought away so much of their silver, as to leave them very little for their necessary Occasions, and then we began to bring away their Gold.*

To corroborate the Observation of this Gentleman, I think it not improper to shew the *Mercator* what Gold has been coin'd in three years last past at the Mint, of which almost the whole was Moidores of *Portugal*. The Coinage is as follows:

At the Trial of the Pix, Aug. 7. 1713.

The Gold and Silver Monies coin'd in her Majesty's Mint within the Tower of London,

From the 21st day of August, 1710. Exclusive,

To the 7th day of August, 1713. Inclusive.

The Gold Monies at 44 l. 10 s. the Pound Weight, and the Silver Monies at 3 l. 2 s. the Pound Weight, with the Monies in the present Pix.

	Weight.	Tals.	Pix.
	lb. Oz.	l. s. d.	l. s. d.
Gold Monies—	23719 9	105558 17 05	1465 00 0
Silver Monies—	27962 8	36884 05 04	24 12 0
		112413 02 10	1589 12 0

N. B. That this Gold coin'd for these three last years in the Tower, is but a small proportion to what really was imported; for the Gold bearing a Price above the Standard for the greater part of that time, was sent abroad to pay our own Balance, caus'd by the Expence of our Troops and Subsides abroad.

There are few *Portugal* Merchants, of any Experience in that Trade, but can inform the *Mercator*, that *MEDLEY* Cloths were not the only Woollen Manufactures which were prohibited in that Country: And then, was there not sufficient Cause for her Majesty to desire the Admission not only of our Woollen Cloths, but of all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures? Will the *Mercator* affirm that such a Request was Non-sensé?

But he has also given a very good Reason himself, why her Majesty should desire that Princes to admit into his Country, not only Woollen Cloths, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures: It was done, says he, because the Pragmatics (by which is meant the Laws) of the *Portuguese* might be doubtful, and to prevent any Advantage to be taken for want of words.

But the Reason which I have given, is still better: That which was desired by her Majesty, was not only that all our Woollen Manufactures might be admitted into *Portugal*, but that none of them hereafter should be prohibited. For tho the King of *Portugal* had admitted all, yet by the Power of a Sovereign Prince, he could have prohibited all before this Treaty. To oblige him not to prohibit any, was the thing desired by her Majesty; and this had not been done, if she had stood at Woollen Cloths, if she had not also desired, that all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures should be forever admitted.

The Advisers of this Treaty have shewn a great deal of Wisdom in this very thing. They could not but foresee, that by the Admission of all our Woollen Manufactures into *Portugal*, *England* must draw from that People the greatest part of their Gold and Silver (which has happen'd to be the very Cause) they could not but foresee, that the Court of *Portugal* would soon become sensible of their Mistake, in entering into such a Treaty; that they would prevent the ill Consequences of it, by prohibiting so many of our Woollen Manufactures as they were not bound to admit; and that if they had been oblig'd only to admit our Woollen Cloths, they might never have, without any Breach of the Treaty, prohibit all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures. The Treaty guards against this: *Portugal* is bound to admit for ever not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.

The *Mercator* would far persuade us, that only our Woollen Cloths were prohibited before the Treaty, and that only they can be again prohibited upon our Breach of it, by force of the Clause, *It shall be just and lawful for his Majesty of Portugal AGAIN to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.*

But why may not the word *AGAIN* be confin'd to the first part of the Clause as well as to the latter? And then the sense of it will be, That it shall be *AGAIN* lawful for that Prince to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures. The Construction is no false Grammar; and who shall hinder the King of *Portugal* from making it, if it shall be found for his Advantage? Who shall tell him that 'tis contrary to the meaning of the Treaty? But we are very sure, that unless the Treaty be broken first by us, it will not be *AGAIN* lawful for that Prince to prohibit ANY of our Woollen Manufactures.

I think it sufficiently appears, that *other* of our Woollen Manufactures, besides *Cloth*, were prohibited before the Treaty; so that if to prohibit *AGAIN*, were to prohibit only what was before prohibited, there would be no Absurdity in the Clause, that it shall be lawful for the King of *Portugal* to prohibit *AGAIN* our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures: And therefore in the Translation of this Clause, the *Mercator* could have no Pretence for the Omission of the last words.

To conclude: By the natural Construction of the words, and also by his Sovereign Power, upon the Breach of the Treaty on our part, it would be lawful for the King of *Portugal* to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures: And therefore the Omission was not the Omission of words, which had neither Meaning or Signification; it was an Omission made to conceal from the People their whole Danger, if they should be so foolish as to break the Treaty; and is therefore equal to his other *FORGERIES*.

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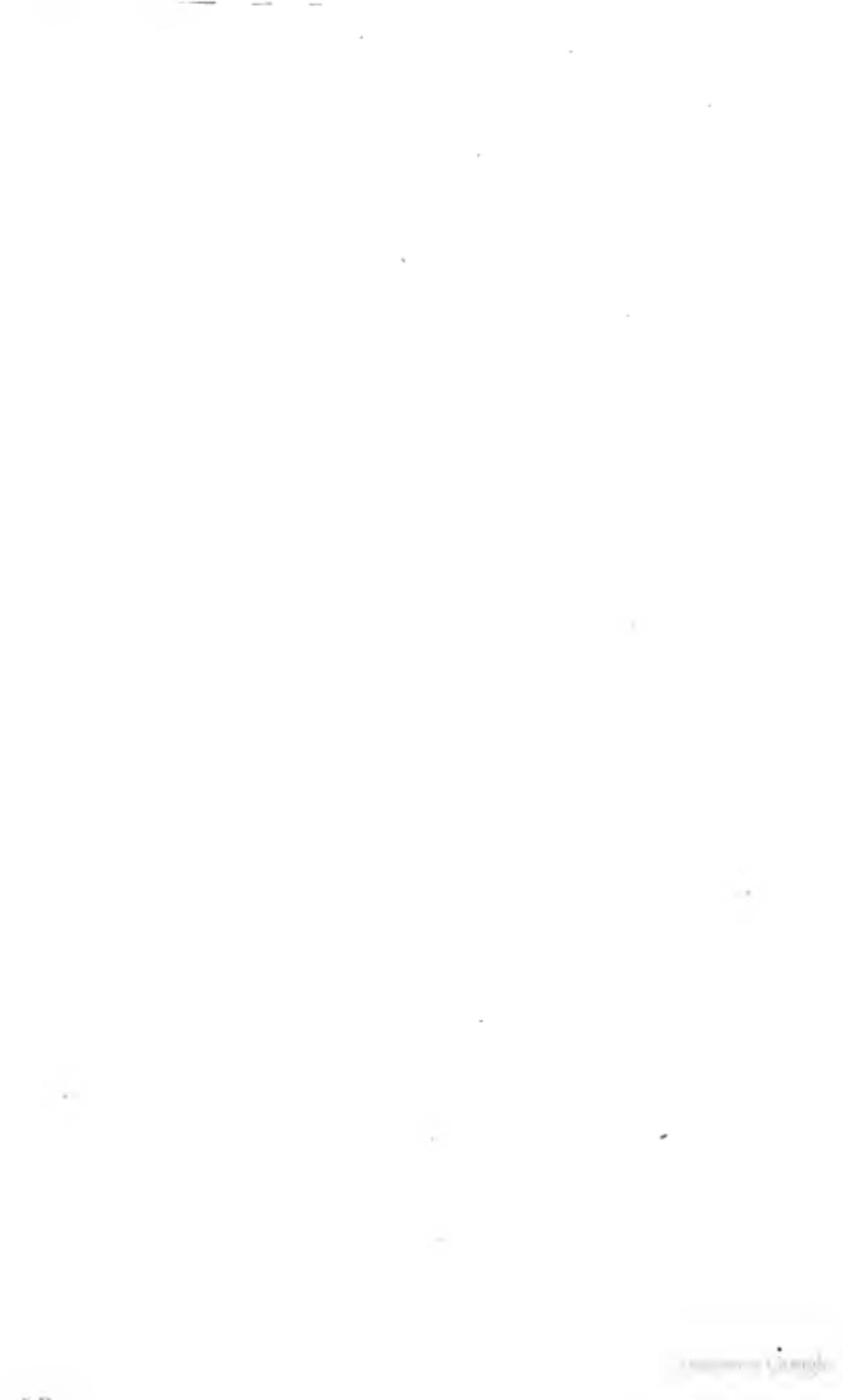
W^Hereas John Baker, late Apprentice to James West, Farmer with Richard Rich at the Indian Green near the Cloisters, West-minster, has taken up several Goods in their Name, the same time since he hath discharged from their Service: If the said John Baker assumes the Name again, he desired that he may be secured, and Notice given to the said James West.

Next Week will be Publish'd.

* * Mr. Le Clerc's Affidavit and Judgment of Dr. Clark's (of St. James's) Willing, &c. Particularly that of his bill against the Bank of the Scripures-Debitors of the Treaty. Translated from the French, &c. And also Le Clerc's Judgment and Sentence of Dr. Bentley's Horace. Printed for J. Baker in Pall-mall-Road, just Publish'd.

* * The Trade with France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, consider'd: With some Observations on the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France. The Fifth Edition, Price 3 s. The Commerce and Balance between London and Paris before the Revolution: Or, A Demonstration that our Balance was then export'd upon the Balance of our Trade with France, Price 4 s. The Consequences of a Law for raising the Duties on French Wine, Brandy, Silk and Laces, to those of other Nations. With Remarks on the Mercator. Price 3 s. Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane, and J. Baker in Pall-mall-Road.







The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From FRIDAY, September 4. to TUESDAY, September 8. 1713.

SINCE the *Mercator*, Numh. 39, and 40. has brought me back to the *Portugal* TREATY, I must not dismiss it, till I shall have answer'd his Grand Charge; against it, *viz.*

That it limits the Parliament to what Duties they shall or shall not lay upon the Importations of Merchandizes from foreign Parts; entirely divests them of the Liberty of determining how, upon what, and by what measure Taxes shall be rais'd; and is therefore a manifest Invasion of the Privileges of Parliament, and destructive of the *British* Liberty.

In order to do this, I shall suppose two things for the present, which shall hereafter be demonstrated.

The first is, That the *French* Trade was always detrimental to this Nation, before our Prohibitions and high Duties upon their Goods and Merchandizes, and would be more so than ever, if, according to the late Treaty of Commerce between us, we should pass a Law for repealing our Prohibitions, and favouring *France* with respect to Duties, as much as the Nations the most favour'd. The Proof of this I shall begin to make good in my next.

The second thing is, That our Trade with *Portugal* is very beneficial to this Nation, and become much more so than it was before, by means of our above-mention'd TREATY with that Kingdom.

Tho the full Proof of this must be defer'd to a longer time, because it never has been deny'd by the *Mercator*, yet thus much may be said of it at the present.

That by an Account of our Exports of Woollen Manufactures to *Portugal* before that TREATY, subscrib'd *Cha. Davenant*, and laid before the House of Commons, there is no room to believe that our whole Exports of those Goods to that Nation exceeded 330,000 *l. per ann.* and probably not 20,000 *l. per ann.* of all other Goods.

But it was affirm'd before the House, of Commons by the Gentleman mention'd in my last, that our Exports to *Portugal* since that Treaty have amounted to 1,300,000 *l. per ann.* and perhaps to a much greater Sum.

This will be credible to every Man who shall consider the vast Quantities of Gold imported, as appears by the Coinage mention'd in my last, as also by that exported to *Madrid*, and other Places, to pay our Armies, Subsidies, &c. And from whence, but from *Portugal*, could all this Gold be brought? Besides that, 'tis notorious that our Armies have been paid in that Country, without sending any Money thither; and even our Garrisons in *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon* have been paid by Bills of Exchange upon *Portugal*. All this makes it very credible, that our late annual Exports to that Kingdom are as great as have been mention'd, by means of that very TREATY.

This being premis'd, I must deny that that Treaty was any Invasion of the Privileges of Parliament, or inconsistent with *British* Liberty.

I do not believe it possible that a Treaty should be made between two Potentates, unless each of them will be contented to part with something that was his natural Right.

But that which every Potentate in this Case will expect, is to have an Equivalent for the Right.

Before the late Treaty of Commerce between us and *France*, his most Christian Majesty had an undoubted Right to lay what Duties and Prohibitions he thought fit upon the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*.

By that Treaty he has departed from this Right, *he has given'd himself down*, as the *Mercator* says, *Numh. 44. to take off his high Duties, and not to lay any more on*, than are to remain by that Treaty.

And what is the Equivalent he expects for so doing? The Equivalent is to be a LAW made here for repealing all our Prohibitions of the Goods and Merchandizes COMING FROM *France*, made since the year 1664. and for favouring *France* with respect to Duties, as much as the Nations the most favour'd.

If all sorts of Labours are so much cheaper in *France* than in *Great Britain*, as is admirably well demonstrated in a late Treatise, entitled, *GENERAL MAXIMS of TRADE, particularly apply'd to the COMMERCE between GREAT BRITAIN and FRANCE*, that few of our Goods can be sent thither, with the Duties still remaining by that Treaty; will not his most Christian Majesty's Power of increasing those Duties be very useful? Can he be said to lose any thing by parting with such a Power?

But if by means of such a LAW, as is mention'd, *France* will be enabled to poor in upon us such an Inundation of Manufactures, that we shall pay her every year above a Million Sterling upon the Balance of our Trade, as shall hereafter be demonstrated; will not this LAW be more than an Equivalent for a Power that is worth nothing?

If his most Christian Majesty, in this case, had authoris'd his Plenipotentiaries to conclude a Treaty of Commerce between himself and *Great Britain*, with general Instructions to take care of his Rights; would those Gentlemen have made any scruple to give up such a Part of their Master's useful Power, for the Profit of a Million Sterling every year to his Kingdom? Would they have been afraid of dressing his Majesty of the Privilege of laying on or continuing necessary Duties upon the Goods and Merchandizes of foreign Parts, if a Law, which was so much more than an Equivalent, had been offer'd for it? Would he not think very meanly of those Gentlemen, if they had not understood that Power and the Equivalent were one and the same thing? Would he have treated their Conclusion of such a Treaty as an Invasion of his Sovereignty? Would he not have been very glad to ratify such a Treaty?

To bring the Reason of this Case home to our TREATY with the King of Portugal:

It is the undoubted Privilege of Parliament, by and with the Consent of THE SOVEREIGN, to lay on or take off, as they shall think fit, the Duties upon the Importations of Merchandises from foreign Parts, and also to adjust and settle the Proportion to be observ'd between the Customs upon the Goods of one foreign Nation and another.

Suppose now that the Duties upon the Wines of France and Portugal had been equal, and that we lost a Million every year by our Trade to France, and gain'd but very little by our Trade to Portugal; whether true or false, yet for Argument sake all this may be suppos'd.

If in this case Portugal would oblige her self FOREVER to admit all our Woollen Manufactures, upon condition that England should be oblig'd not to require from the Wines of Portugal above two Thirds of the Duties lev'd upon those of France; if the Consequence of such a TREATY would be, that we should lose the Million which we lost every year to the latter, and gain as much upon the Balance of our Trade with the former; if the cancelling such a TREATY as this, before it was made, in the House of Commons, would in all probability prove the means to prevent it, by making the Portuguese sensible that they should suffer to great an annual Loss, by an Inundation of British Woollen Manufactures: where would be the mischief, if the Queen should first make such a TREATY? Would the Parliament be oblig'd to settle the Proportion of Duties according to the Terms of it? But could it be imagin'd they would refuse to settle that Proportion, if the Consequence should be as I have mention'd? Would they complain that the Settlement of this Proportion of Duties between the Wines of both Countries restrain'd them from losing a Million every year to the one, and help'd them to the gaining as much from the other? Would they not think the Advantages of such a TREATY an Equivalent for the Privilege of losing or not gaining such a Sum? Would such a Treaty be call'd an Invasion of the Privileges of Parliament, or inconsistent with British Liberty? Would they not have it in their power to agree or not to agree to this Proportion.

But the Advantages of the present TREATY with Portugal are as great as of that which I have suppos'd, tho there is not so much to be object'd against it. And has not this TREATY been laid several times before the Parliament?

It is not suppos'd that any higher Duties should be laid on the Wines of France, or any lower upon the Wines of Portugal, than were laid upon them before, and were therefore to continue till they should expire, or be otherwise determin'd by the Sovereign and the Parliament. So that it could not be said, that the Treaty was inconsistent with the Laws that were in being: And shall a Treaty, which is not contrary to any Laws in being, be said to be inconsistent with the Privileges of Parliament, or destructive of British Liberty?

Indeed a great part of the Duties upon French Wines are to determine four years hence, and then without a new Act of Parliament for their Continuance, the Proportion will not be the same as is settled by this TREATY; whereas the Proportion, according to the Terms of this TREATY, is to be continu'd forever. And what if the Parliament should not think fit to settle this Proportion?

Why, then I must affirm, that the King of Portugal is at liberty: and if he will exert his Sovereign Authority to prohibit all our Woollen Manufactures, who shall hinder him? As for us, we must contentedly sit down by so prodigious and apparent a Loss.

But if by the Expiration of the Duties upon France the Penalty is to come upon us, if we are then to suffer the Loss of our Portugal Trade, of the Exportation of so many of our Woollen Manufactures, and of getting a Million every year; surely no British Parliament, for the sake of gratifying the Palates of our Gentlemen, will suffer the Duties upon the Wines of France to expire; especially when they are to be had already so

very cheap, in so many parts of the Kingdom?

Thus I have sufficiently shewn, both by the Equivalent which is given for the Proportion settled between the Wines of France and Portugal by this TREATY, and also by the Penalty annex'd for the Breach of it on our part,

That the TREATY it self is NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE PRIVILEGES OF PARLIAMENT, NOR DESTRUCTIVE OF BRITISH LIBERTY.

The Mercator had asserted, N^o 10, that it is EXPRESSLY provided by the TREATY, that tho it should be broken, yet the Peace should remain entire: I have shewn in mine, N^o 2, that there are no such express words in the TREATY; and N^o 8, that no such Meaning is imply'd; and that even a Case might possibly happen, which might make a War the Consequence of a Breach: so that it remains upon him still, that he is guilty of a FORGERY.

Again, the Mercator, N^o 11, had transferr'd a Clause in the TREATY, *Jack-Baronet's Duties as is propos'd to be made*, that it might be thought the Agreement was not absolutely agreed to be made; whereas I have shewn that the Agreement, by the plain Construction of the words, is to be absolute: He has offer'd nothing in his defence, so that this too remains upon him as a FORGERY.

Lastly, The Penalty annex'd to the Breach of the TREATY, is, That it shall be just and lawful for his Majesty of Portugal AGAIN to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures. The Mercator has left out the rest of our Woollen Manufactures, that his Readers should think we can suffer nothing but the Prohibition of our Woollen Cloths, by our Breach of this Treaty: I have shewn in mine, N^o 9, both by the Construction of the word AGAIN, and without any such Construction, Portugal may prohibit not only our Woollen Cloths, but also the rest of our Woollen Manufactures; so that his Omission of these last words, is a gross Falsification of the Treaty, and equivalent to a FORGERY.

And I believe I shall never hear more from him, concerning any of these Charges.

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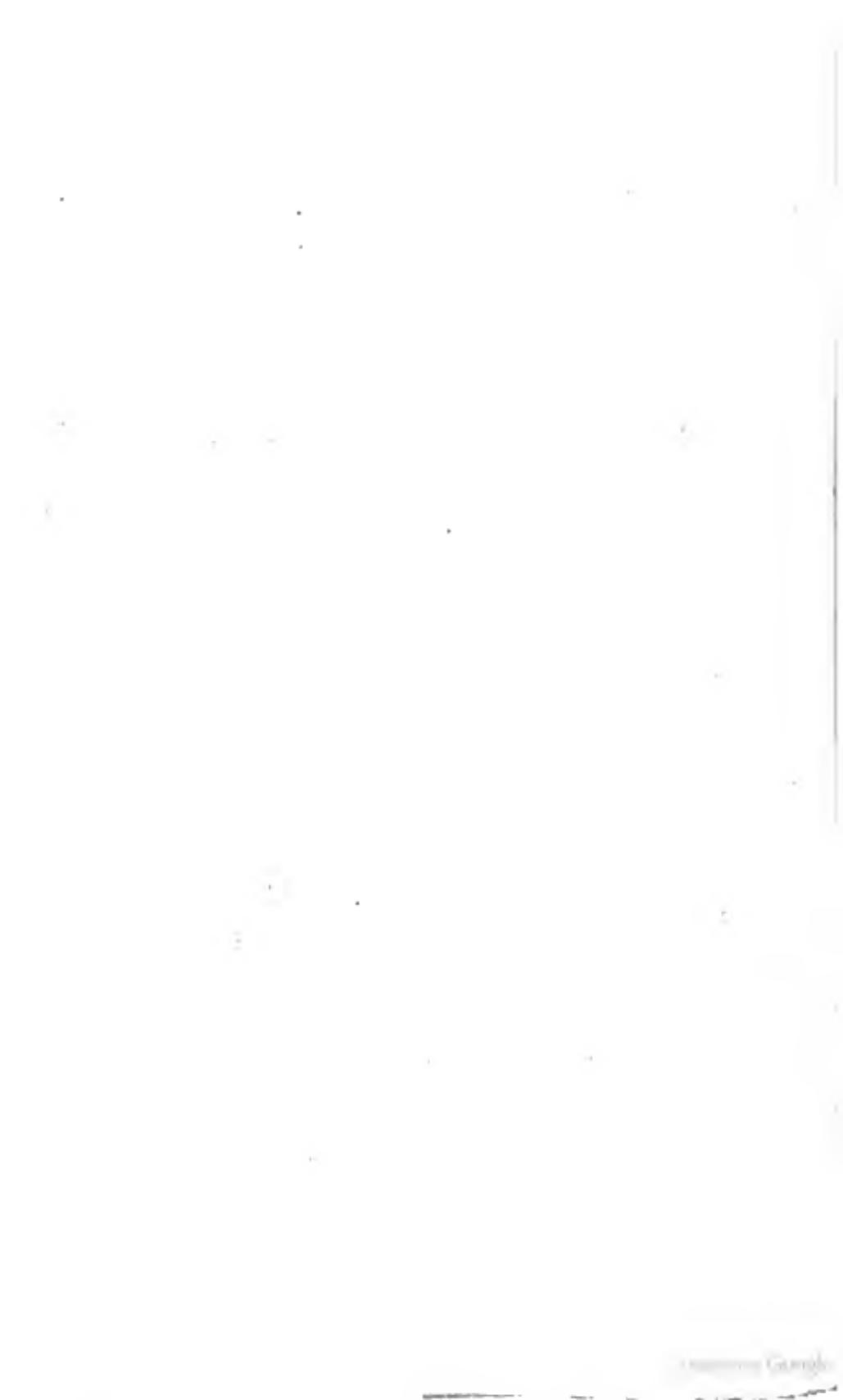
Shortly will be Publish'd,

†† A Complete System, or Body of Divinity, both Sacramental and Practical, founded on Scripture and Reason. Written originally in Latin, by PHILIP LIMBORCH, Professor of Divinity, Wash Improvement from Bishop WILKIN, Archbishop Tillotson, Dr. Smeat, and several other Divines of the Church of England. In two Volumes. By WILLIAM JONES, a Professor of the same Church. The Second Edition Corrected. To which is prefix'd, Mr. Le Clerc's General Overview on Mr. Limborch. Printed by John Dashi in Bath-stones-Clack.

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The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator incorrigible.
His most dangerous Doctrines, not prov'd in any one, nor in all his Papers.
His Arguments against the Scheme not sufficient to prove his Doctrines.
His Scotch Letters, if true, make nothing for his purpose.
His Account of Exports for the Year 1687. trifling.
He has not try'd the French Trade by his own Rule.

The British Merchant undertakes to prove the French Trade detrimental, by the Mercator's Rule, viz. by Accounts of the whole Exports and Imports between both Countries.
And that hereafter it must be more Detrimental than ever.
An Account promised of a whole Year's Exports and Imports, fit to be preserv'd in the Closet of every Englishman.

From TUESDAY, September 8. to FRIDAY, September 11. 1713.

I Have convicted the *Mercator* of imposing upon his Readers by FORGERY and a FALSE ACCOUNT of the Value of re-exported Goods; I have plac'd both in so clear a View, that if he were to undergo a SECOND publick Punishment, he could hardly be more expos'd. But neither *Considion* nor *Punishment* are able to make the least Impression upon this Writer.

However, for the sake of his Readers, I must go on, to impeach the most dangerous Doctrines of his Paper; of which this which follows is the principal, viz.

That the Trade between England and France not only MAY BE, but always HAS BEEN, a beneficial Trade to this Nation.

This is laid down as a Fundamental in his first Paper; and he explains his Meaning thus:

• That notwithstanding the several Tariffs and additional Customs and Prohibitions laid on our Goods by the *French*, it has always been carry'd on to the Gain and Advantage of *England*.

• That take a Medium of any three Years for above forty Years past, and calculate the Exports and Imports to and from *France*; and it shall appear the Balance of Trade was always on the *English* side, to the Loss and Disadvantage of the *French*.

Now would not any Man have believ'd, from the Confidence of this Writer at his first setting out, that he was very sure of the Ground upon which he stood? Would any Man believe that the several Tariffs or Prohibitions of *France* had hinder'd our Exports to that Kingdom? Or that the Imports of any one Year had exceeded our Exports? Or if in any one Year they could be said to exceed, would not every Man naturally conclude, that upon a Calculation of that and any two other Years, the Balance was on the *English* side? Or that *France* was to pay us more for our Exports, than we were to pay in *France* for the Goods and Merchandizes of that Country? Would not every

one of his Readers have expected to have seen a particular Account both of Exports and Imports, with a Valuation of all the Parcels; and at the foot of the Account a Balance in Money to be receiv'd from *France*, for the Overplus of Goods exported thither?

Seven and forty of his Papers are come abroad, and neither in any one, nor in all of them, is to be found an Account both of Exports and Imports between *England* and *France* for any one Year, or for several Years added together. I here challenge the *Mercator*, or any of his Admirers, to shew me any such Account.

Instead of this, the *Mercator* thinks it sufficient to give us Arguments against the SCHEME, or some anonymous *Settle* Letters concerning Exportations of Fish, WOOL, and other Goods from *North-Britain*; or Lists of exported Goods without any Valuation of Particulars, and without any Counter-List of the Goods imported into this Kingdom.

But what tho the SCHEME could not be justify'd? Is this an Argument that the Trade with *France* was ALWAYS, or indeed AT ANY TIME, beneficial to this Nation? If the SCHEME should not be sufficient to prove that our Trade with *France* was detrimental, will it therefore follow that it was beneficial? If we should be oblig'd to part with the SCHEME, it would be the Loss only of a single Argument, by which is prov'd the Opinion of our Ancestors against that Trade: But still I have the *Mercator* on my side, that this is no new Opinion; it has for, says he, N^o 1. *so deep into the Minds of the People, and has been so riveted there by the Length of Time.* And yet a much better Argument, that the Opinion of our Ancestors was against the *French* Trade, are the very words of our Legislators in the Prohibition-Act, in the thirtieth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second: *Provis'd as it hath been by long Experience found that the importing of French Wines, Beers, Lices, Silks, and Paper, and other Commodities of the Growth, Produce, or Manufactures of the Territories*

ries and Dominions of the French King, hath much exalted the Treasure of this Nation, less'n'd the Value of the native Commodities and Manufactures thereof, and caus'd great Detriment to this Kingdom in general: Be it enacted, &c. But tho' it could be affirm'd, that our Legislators themselves had had no Evidence for what is asserted in the Preamble of this Act, would it follow from hence that the French Trade had been always beneficial to this Nation? We may therefore leave the Mercator to combat the SCHEME, and, if he pleases, this very Act of Parliament; yet it is not the Demonstration he has promis'd.

As for his anonymous Scotch Letters, he has given us one, *Numb. 27.* and two days after another, *Numb. 38.* which he there says comes from the same Persons, and which begins thus; *Sir, as you have given me last a room in your Mercator, be pleas'd to admit the following, which we hope, &c.* This is a wonderful nimble Correspondence between the Mercator and his Scotch Friend, and would almost tempt one to suspect, that his Scotch Correspondent is no farther off than *Leatherhead from London*. But let all his Scotch Letters be as genuine as he would have them, they are not the Demonstration he has promis'd; at the best they give us only an imperfect Account of Exportations from *North Britain into France*, they give us no *Counter-List of Goods imported from France into this Kingdom.*

And this is the most that can be said of any List of Goods, in the whole Bundle of *Mercators.* *Numb. 25, & 26.* we have indeed an Account of Goods exported from *England into France* for the Year 1687. without any Valuation of the Particulars; so that this Writer might swell the total Value, at the foot of the Account, to as great a Sum as he thought fit. There are very few of his Readers who have sufficient Skill to contradict him: But let the Sum Total be either 10000, or 500000 *l.* what is all this to his purpose, if he has given us no Account at all of our Imports from that Country? How shall we be able to judge whether we were Gainers or Losers by that Trade? Or to which of the two Countries a Balance was to be paid in Money? Is it possible for any Man to know whether our Imports or Exports have exceeded, by an Account only of those Goods which have been exported from this Kingdom?

Suppose any private Gentleman, who is not very exact in keeping his own Accounts (which very often happens to be the Case) should require his Steward to inform him, whether his Income or Expences have exceeded; And the Steward should tell him, that his clear Rents, besides Taxes and Reprises, amounted to 5000 *l. per annum*; would he be satisfy'd with such an Answer? Would he think it any more than half an Answer to his Question? Could he be inform'd by this of the State of his Expences? Or whether his Income or Expences had exceeded? Would he not immediately conclude, that such a Fellow as this had a mind to be dipping into his Estate, and to take Advantage of his Negligence?

What then must we think of the Mercator? He knows very well, that the way to judge of our Income or Expence by Trade, is by a just Account of both our Exports and our Imports; and that whenever the former shall exceed, there will be coming to us a Balance in Money, over and above what shall be expended for the latter; and that, on the contrary, if our Imports shall exceed in Value, there will be going a Balance in Money from this Kingdom. It is the Mercator's own Rule; he has laid it down as his Foundation in the first of all his Papers: Then why has he not thought fit to let us judge by this Rule? Why has he not given us an exact List as well of our Imports as our Exports? Why have we heard of almost nothing else in seven and forty Papers, than of Goods exported from this Kingdom? Was it that he had the Misfortune to promise more in his first Paper, than he has been able to perform in all that follow'd? Or has he found out since, that our Imports have exceeded, and that con-

sequently a Balance in Money has been always going from Great Britain? And is he in Pay, to throw Dust in the Eyes of the People, that they may not be able to see the Danger of such a Trade?

But I expect nothing like a fair Account from the Mercator; I resolve therefore to give such Accounts myself as will be not dare to contradict, and such as shall demonstrate, beyond all possibility of Contradiction,

That the Trade between England and France, before our high Duties and Prohibitions upon *Foreign Goods*, was been always detrimental to this Nation.

And I will challenge the Mercator, and every one of his Abettors, to produce an Account of any one Year before that time, by which the Fact shall appear otherwise.

In the next place I will have a regard to this Writer's Maxim, *Numb. 43.* That Cheapness and Dearness of any Commodity, not absolutely necessary to Life, increases or decreases the Consumption of it. And yet if the Duties upon *Foreign Goods* here, shall be no more than by the eighth and ninth Articles of the late Treaty of Commerce, and the Duties and Prohibitions upon our Goods in *France* are to continue according to the Terms of that Treaty, I shall make it very probable,

That we shall export a great deal *less*, and import a great deal *more* than we ever did before; and that consequently the French Trade must be more detrimental than ever to this Nation.

And since the Mercator has propos'd a Rule for trying the Value of the French Trade, viz. the Exports and Imports between both Countries, I will be contented to join Issue with him, and try his Trade by his own Rule.

And tho' I believe a worse Year cannot be produc'd for my purpose than that of 1685, when the above-mention'd Prohibition of King Charles the Second was repeal'd by King James the Second; I shall present my Readers, in my next, with the very Account of all the Exports and Imports of that Year, which was laid before the last House of Commons, with a Valuation of all the Particulars. It will be easily seen, at the foot of that Account, how much was gain'd or lost by that Trade.

I will not pretend to very much Merit by my Papers, but such an Accuser as this which I have mention'd, will deserve to be laid up in the Closet of every Englishman, who has any Love for his native Country. From hence every one will be able to make a true Judgment, not only how much Money was gain'd or lost to *England* by that Trade, but also what Consequences it must have produc'd to the Lands and Manufactures of this Kingdom.

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†† A Discourse concerning the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Three Parts. Wherein, I. The Consequences of the Doctrine are Rais'd Hypothetically. II. The Nature and Obligations of Moral Evidence, are explain'd at large. III. The Proof of the Fact of our Saviour's Resurrection, are propos'd, examin'd and fully demonstrated, to be conclusive. Together with an Appendix concerning the impossible Production of Thought, from Matter and Motion: The Nature of Human Souls, and of Brutes: The Anima Mortal, and the Hypothesis of the TO HAN; as also, concerning Divine Providence, the Origin of Evil, and the Unwork it generateth. By Humphry DUNN, Master of the New Mathematical School in Christ's Hospital. The second Edition. Printed by J. Darby in Bartholomew-Classe, and Sold by A. Bell in Cornhill, and A. Lisbet near the Temple-Gate in Fleet-Street.

Shortly will be Publish'd,

†† A Complete System, or Body of Divinity, both Speculative and Practical, founded on Scripture and Reason. Written originally in Latin, by PHILIP LIMBORCH, Professor of Divinity, With Improvements from Bishop Wilkins, Archbishop Tillotson, Dr. Socot, and several other Divines of the Church of England, in two Volumes. By WILLIAM JONES, a Prebendary of the same Church. The second Edition Corrected. To which is prefix'd, Mr. Le Clerc's Funeral Oration on Mr. Limborch. Printed by John Darby in Bartholomew-Classe.





The British Merchant ;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A Reason for deferring the Account, promis'd in my last.

The Mercator afraid to try the French Trade by his own Rule.

His strange Reasons for proving, that our Imports may exceed our Exports in the Sum of 400,000 l. and that yet we may gain by that Trade.

The Advance upon the Sale of 400,000 l. Value of our Goods in France, cannot reasonably be more than one half of that upon double the Value of French Goods sold in England.

The Freight to France for our Exports of 400,000 l.

Value thither, cannot be 50,000 l. nor above 6500 l. Neither the Advance upon the Sale of our Goods, nor the Freight paid for them, are sufficient to render the Account even between us and France.

The Nation gains nothing more by 50,000 l. paid for Freight, than by such a Sum paid for Manufactures, and as much by the one as the other. As many of our People subsist by 50,000 l. Value of Manufactures, as by so much Value of Freight.

An Account of Exports and Imports, an infallible way of trying the Value of the French Trade.

From FRIDAY, September 11. to TUESDAY, September 15. 1713.

I shall defer giving the Account of Exports and Imports between France and England, which I promis'd in my last, till I shall have settled one great Point between the Mercator and myself; which is, that such an Account is the most certain way of trying the Value of the French Trade.

For tho' this was a Rule, as I thought, establish'd by himself in his first Paper, he now seems to fly off from it in his 48th. His words upon this occasion are very remarkable: "Suppose, says he, we sold 400,000 l. a year to France in English Manufactures, and took back from France 800,000 l. Value in the Produce and Manufacture of that Kingdom, yet may we be Gainers by this Trade." The Reason he gives for it are, "1. That the making and venting of 400,000 l. in Manufactures, is the Employ and Subsistence of a prodigious multitude of Poor; whereas the Import of the foreign Goods being a superfluous Expence, goes out of the hands of but a few.

"2. That it were better to abate 100,000 l. a year in the publick Balance, than not export 400,000 l. a year in Manufactures." But how is it he would prove that we may export 400,000 l. in Manufactures, and import double that Value, and yet be Gainers by that Trade? He says,

"3. That we gain either 5 per Cent. or 10 per Cent. or 15 per Cent. upon the Sale of our Goods to France, over and above the 400,000 l. paid for the Goods in England.

"2. In the next place he supposes, that the Freight of such a Value of Goods exported cannot be less than 50,000 l. which must be also paid by France to this Nation. But because the Gain he supposes may be made upon the Sale, and the Freight to be paid for our Shipping are not sufficient, with the 400,000 l. of Exports, to ballance the Imports of the Value of 800,000 l. his third Reason for his Assertion is certainly the most mysterious that ever was: that I may not wrong him, I give it in his very words.

"3. If you allow, says he, 10 per Cent. gain'd by what we send to France, then this 50,000 l. paid on the Freight of our Ships, is equal to 50,000 l. exported in Goods: If 10 per Cent. is too much, and you think we gain but 5 per Cent. then it is equal to a

"Million exported: " And so the Account gains either way. And he says farther,

"4. That he has heard the French Trade employs a thousand Sail of our Ships, which he does not think improbable; however, he supposes that half the Number have been employ'd in that Trade.

Now against this extraordinary way of Reasoning, I must insist upon it, that the Account of Exports and Imports of Goods between both Nations, is a certain and infallible way of trying whether the French Trade is as beneficial to this Kingdom.

I believe the Mercator is very right, that the making and venting 400,000 l. in Manufactures is the Employ and Subsistence of a prodigious multitude of Poor. I have not know any where in the Country, that a Husband, his Wife, and three or four Children, have ask'd any Relief from the Parish, if the whole Labour of such a Family could procure 200 l. per Ann. So that 4 l. per head is the common annual Subsistence of working People in the Country, and consequently the making and venting such a Quantity of Manufactures, to the Value of 400,000 l. is the Employ and Subsistence of a hundred thousand People.

And yet this Employment and Subsistence of so many Poor may be purchas'd a great deal too dear, if double the Numbers shall by this means be depriv'd of their Employment and Subsistence.

For what can this Writer mean, when he says, that the Import of foreign Goods being a superfluous Expence, goes out of the hands of but a few? I suppose he means, the Money that is carry'd out to purchase these Superfluities. It is very true, the Money goes out of the hands of but very few; but the Superfluities introduc'd for it, cannot chuse but deprive Multitudes here of their Employment and Subsistence.

I would ask the Mercator (the Nature of the French Trade consider'd, and that it consists in Manufactures) what Goods he thinks can be purchas'd for this Money, that shall not interfere with any of our own Manufactures? that shall not hinder our own People from making the like or the very same? It will follow then, that we cannot introduce the Value of 800,000 l. in foreign Manufactures, without putting 55 many of our own to a stand, and depriving as many People of their Employments

ployments as can be subsist'd for so great a Sum. If he says we may buy Wines, we pay other Nations for them with our Manufactures; so that 'tis the same thing as if they were of our making.

It is true, we have the Employment of as many People, as can be subsist'd, by making and venting the Value of 400,000 *l.* in Manufactures for the French Trade, according to his Supposition, as a Recompence for giving up the Employment and Subsistence of as many as can be maintain'd by twice as great a Value. But what kind of Equivalent is this? To subsist a hundred thousand, we shall starve double the Number.

I have that Charity for the poor People, that I would, as the *Mercator* says, *what 100,000 l. in the publick Balance, rather than not export 400,000 l. a year in Manufactures.* But how shall this be done? How is it possible for us by Trade to abate this or any other part of the publick Balance, without starving greater numbers than shall be employ'd in exporting those Manufactures? I don't see any such thing is possible.

But he puts a Case, That we may export 400,000 *l.* and import 800,000 *l.* (he must mean both in Manufactures) and yet be Gainers by the Trade.

He thinks it very certain, that we shall gain either 5, or 10, or 15 per Cent. upon the Sale of our Goods in France. But where is that Merchant that depends upon 10 per Cent. in an Average upon the Sale of Goods to Leghorn? And then can such Profit be expected from so near a Country as France? or from a Voyage that can be perform'd in a third part of the time?

But let the Advance upon the Sale of our Goods in France be as much beyond the 400,000 *l.* (either 5, or 10, or 15 per Cent.) as he shall please to make it, will not the Sale of French Goods here at least as much per Cent. beyond his suppos'd Value of 400,000 *l.*? It is notorious, that all the French Silks and most of their Linens were sold here by Commission (I have heard this from the very Gentlemen who were their Factors) so that the Property was never out of the French Merchants, till after the Sale of them in England; and by consequence whatsoever was advanc'd upon the French Goods here, beyond the Value of them clear on board in France, was still adding to the Balance which was due to that Kingdom, in his own way of accounting: And if our Imports were as great again as our Exports, the Advance to France upon 800,000 *l.* was as much again as the Advance to England upon 400,000 *l.* The *Mercator* had better take the Account both of Exports and Imports clear on board from both Countries, than pretend to any Advance upon the Sale of our Goods in France. The Balance against England would be so much the greater, by a greater Advance upon their Goods than ours.

Another thing the *Mercator* imagines, which is, that 50,000 *l.* more ought to be added to our Goods upon account of Freight; and shall nothing be added to the French Goods upon the same account? Had we nothing to pay to France for the Freight of their Ships? However, to gratify this Writer, I will suppose for once, that the whole Trade between England and France was carry'd on in English Bottoms: Yet why 10,000 *l.* Increase upon our 400,000 *l.* for Freight? The Freight for Goods imported from the Plantations, Turkey, and the East-Indies, is already reckon'd in the Value of them at the time of their Re-exportation; so that all former Freight is part of that Value which makes up the 400,000 *l.* and can therefore add no Increase beyond that Sum. The Freight therefore can be nothing else than the Payment of the Carriage from England into France; and can the Carriage of 400,000 *l.* value in Goods; such as we usually sent to France, amount to 50,000 *l.*

What can be the Freight to France? And what quantity of Tonnage must be necessary for the Carriage of such a Value of our Goods? So many of our Ships have heretofore gone with empty Holds for the Back-carriage of Wines and other heavy Goods, that 20 *l.* per Ton will be thought very great Freight for so short a Voyage as to any part of France in the Ocean. And certainly 150,000 *l.* value of East-India and Turkey Goods will lie in 200 Tons of Shipping; and 800 Tons of Shipping must needs be sufficient for 200,000 *l.* value of our Woollen Manufactures. A million of pounds weight of Sugar or Tobacco are not above 500 Tons, and 5000 Tons of Shipping are sufficient for about

40,000 *l.* value in Corn. Then of what Goods would the *Mercator* have his 400,000 *l.* to consist, to make the Freight or Carriage to France amount to 50,000 *l.* or to any more than 4000 *l.*? Can it be imagin'd that 6000 Tons of Shipping are not sufficient for the Carriage of all the above-mention'd 400,000 *l.* in Goods?

And will not this Sum be abundantly recompens'd by the Advance to France upon the Sale of 400,000 *l.* value of our Goods in England, when there can be an Advance to the latter only upon the Sale of half that value? I am oblig'd to the *Mercator* for this Argument.

But if 40,000 *l.* could be gain'd to us over and above the Value of 400,000 *l.* upon the Sale of these Goods in France; and if also 50,000 *l.* were to be paid to us for Freight; would this make the Account even? Would there not be still against us 310,000 *l.* upon the Balance?

To make good this Difference, he has recourse to the most extraordinary Argument I ever read. He supposes that what is gain'd by Freight is all Profit, and that 10, or perhaps 5 per Cent. is the Profit we receive for Goods sold to France: If you allow *five* *per* *cent.* gain'd by what we send to France, then this 50,000 *l.* paid on the Freight of our Ships is equal to 500,000 *l.* exported in Goods: If 10 per Cent. is too much, and you think we gain but 5 per Cent. then it is equal to a Million.

What he means seems to be this, That Freight is all Profit; and that 5 or 10 per Cent. being gain'd to the Nation by exporting Manufactures, this Freight is equal to the Gain upon 500,000 *l.* or a Million.

Now I ask this Writer, Will this 50,000 *l.* (whether given us, or, as he wittily expresses it, *paid for freight, all neat Money without any Equivalent*) prevent our losing 310,000 *l.* upon the Balance? The having it without without an Equivalent, makes nothing to his purpose. If 50,000 *l.* should be paid to England either *grain* or for Freight, will it make the Poor amends for depriving them of Employment and Subsistence of more than six times as great a Value?

But how comes Money paid for Freight to be all clear Profit? Does the Builder or the Owner grow so much richer than the Merchant or the Manufacturer? Is not Shipping as much a Manufacture as Woolen, Silk, Linen, &c? And should not all be equally promoted, in proportion to the Employment they give the People? And the more Manufactures shall be made in England, will there not be so much more Encouragement for our Shipping? And if the Introduction of 800,000 *l.* value in French Manufactures, should so interfere with our own, that we should make our selves the Value of 400,000 *l.* less than we did before; should we not have less Employment for our Shipping? I conclude therefore, that the *Mercator* understands nothing of the Subject upon which he is employ'd to write.

He would suggest, that the French Trade has employ'd a thousand Sail of Shipping, or at least the one half; 500 or 1000 Sail! Bless'd art! what a Trade is this!

The *Mercator*, for a good reason I know, would not willingly have it thought that we ever imported so much as 16000 Tons of Wine and Brandy, and I should be glad he would show, that we ever imported in any one Year above 10000 Tons of all other Goods. Then 6000 Tons, at four Voyages in a Year, will be sufficient both to carry our Exports to France, and perform all the Back-carriage. 6000 Tons at 80 Tons to a Ship, make about 80 Ships in the whole; but then they are such as hardly deserve the name of Ships. Is this his 500 or 1000 Sail of Shipping?

Upon the whole matter, I think, an exact Account of Exports and Imports is the only infallible way to show whether we have gain'd or lost by our Trade with France. It is undeniable, that the French advance more upon the Sale of 800,000 *l.* value in Goods sold here, than we can upon the Sale of half that value of our Goods in France; that we gain very little by the Freight of Goods thither; and that notwithstanding our Gain this way, the Balance against us is still the same, or greater. And since neither our Advance upon the Sale of Goods in France, nor the Freight we are to receive from thence, is capable of making any Alteration in this Balance; I must conclude, that the Advantages or Disadvantages of that Trade must be try'd by an Account of Exports and Imports between both Kingdoms.





The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to the *Mercator*, or *Commerce Retriev'd*.

Reasons for farther deferring the Account of Exports and Imports between England and France. The Cautions given by the Mercator, for drawing a fair Account, consider'd.

The Account promis'd was presented to the Parliament by the present Commissioners of the Customs. The same shall be fair, both as to the Quantity and as to the Valuation of the Goods.

If 10 per Cent. to be added to the Exports, for Sale of them in France, so much ought to be added to the Imports, for the Sale of them in England. The Freight to be added to the Value of the Ex-

ports, is very inconsiderable.

The Freight for foreign Goods imported, ought not to be twice reckon'd.

Both the Quantities and Value of the Imports shall be just.

The Shipping employ'd to France for Importation, tends to the Destruction of our Navigation.

The Exportation of Corn in one Year, no Rule for any other.

The Readers of the Custom-house Accounts laid before the last Parliament, instructed what use to make of them.

From TUESDAY, September 15. to FRIDAY, September 18. 1713.

I MUST still keep back the Account of a Year's Exports and Imports between France and England, to consider the several Cautions prescrib'd to me by the *Mercator*, N^o 49. and also to instruct my Readers how they ought to judg of the French Trade by the help of such an Account.

The *Mercator*, as confident as he was at his first setting out, of proving the Trade advantageous to us by the Exports and Imports between both Countries, seems to have laid aside all thoughts of that Argument, and to be afraid of nothing so much as of the Accounts which were laid before the last Parliament by the present Commissioners of the Customs, and which I have promis'd to publish, with a Valuation of the Particulars.

He pleies me therefore with several Cautions concerning the first Account which is to come abroad, the Substance of all of them is as follows:

- * That it may be such an Account, as the Commissioners of the Customs will own to be true.
- * That it may take in not only the Exports of London, but of all the Out-Ports; and not only of English Goods, but of all foreign Goods re-exported.
- * That to the Valuation of all these Goods, at the time of their Exportation, 10 per Cent. may be added for the Profit of their Sale in France.
- * That to this may be added the Freight for exporting those Goods from hence to France; and not only this, but also the Freight for the Importation of such of them as were foreign, and not of our own Growth and Manufacture.

Thus much concerning our Exports: theo for the Imports from that Kingdom, I am desir'd,

- * That the Quantities of them may by no means exceed those of the Custom-house Accounts, neither for London nor the Out-Ports.
- * That the Valuation of them may not exceed the Rates given in France, and such as are to be seen in the Books of the Custom-house.
- * That the Employment of our own Shipping in bringing home these Goods may be justly estimat'd; and which tho paid by our selves, he says, is infinitely our Advantage.
- * And lastly, That a reasonable Allowance may be made for the Melium of Corn exported, when a dear Year happens; which he thinks is one in seven, or at least one in ten.

I am for making all reasonable Allowances, even to this Writer: I shall therefore grant him every thing he desires, or give him a Reason why I refuse it.

And first, as I have promis'd to begin with the Account of Exports and Imports from *Michaelmas* 1688; to *Michaelmas* 1686. I shall give my Readers that very Ac-

count of both, which was laid before the last Parliament by the present Commissioners of the Customs, and which they must therefore own to be a true one. The *Mercator* himself, upon the sight of it, shall be convinc'd that I have not diminish'd the Exports of any kind of Goods, or increas'd the Quantities of any Goods imported, either for the Port of London, or any of the Out-Ports of this Kingdom.

And for the Valuation of all these Goods, at that time, I believe I shall be thought, in the Opinion of every skillful Merchant, not to undervalue our own Exports: but I despair of the *Mercator's* good Opinion; let him, if he is able, give a truer Valuation.

But why is it that he will not be contented with the Value of our Goods clear on board? Why must 10 per Cent. be advanc'd upon the Value here, by the Sale of them in France? There will be the same justice in advancing 10 per Cent. beyond the Value of French Goods clear on board, upon the Sale of them in England. This will very much aggravate the Account, to the disadvantage of the French Trade. However, if the *Mercator* will insist upon it, it shall be done.

The *Mercator* will object here, that we bought the French Goods clear on board in France, brought them home in our own Shipping, and could therefore have no Price to pay to France for these Goods beyond their first Value: That, on the other hand, we sold no Goods to France clear on board in England, nor before their Arrival at that Kingdom; so that the Risque of the Sea was to be paid for by France to this Nation, as well as the Value of the Goods in England.

Both these Points I must deny: Vast quantities of French Goods were sold in England by Commission, so that the Property of these Goods was over our of the French Merchants before the Sale of them in this Kingdom, as was observ'd in my former; and therefore we were oblig'd to pay to France not only the Value of the Goods in that Country, but the Adventure of them into England. This is known to have been the Case of all their wrought Silks, and great part of their Licens; they were sold in England by Commission, and the French Nation was paid out only for the Value of them there, but for the Adventure of them hither. On the other hand, I must deny that all the English Goods were sold in France by Commission, and the *Mercator* will never be able to prove it. But be this as it will, a much greater Value of French Goods was sold in England by Commission, than of English Goods in France; so that if any thing is to be advanc'd upon the Sale beyond the Value clear on board, for the Adventure of the Sea, as much in proportion ought to be advanc'd beyond the Value of the Goods of the one Nation as the other. And if

this

this Rule ought in Justice to be observ'd, the *Mercator* must be very well contented with the Value of our Goods clear on board in *England*, without any Allowance to be made for the Risque or Advantage of the Sea.

But why to *per Cent.* Profit upon the Sale of either *English* or *French* Goods? Are the Countries at so great Distance? Is the Voyage to very dangerous? Is not the Risque of the Sea to be recompens'd with less Profit? What Merchant is there in *England*, who would not think a one or two *per Cent.* sufficient Profit for a Voyage from one of these Countries to the other? However, if he will demand to *per Cent.* Profit in the one Case, in Justice I ought to insist upon it in the other.

I come, in the next place, to the Freight, which the *Mercator* desires may be allow'd to the Value of *English* Goods exported into *France*. For my own part I think nothing more reasonable, than that *France* should pay the Carriage of all Goods which she consumes; and if the Carriage must be perform'd in *English* Bottoms, the Money must be paid to *England*. If this has been the Case formerly, we have little reason to imagine it will be so hereafter; they are so much of late improv'd in Shipping, that they will certainly be Carriers for themselves, if that shall be accounted any thing.

But indeed with respect to the Goods exported to that Country, it ought to be accounted very little. Every Master here was ready, as is very well known, to take on board in *England* the Goods of every *English* Merchant *gratis*, for the sake of Freight for the Back-carriage; which seldom exceeded 20 *s.* per Tun, from every part of *France* in the Ocean. Yet to allow the *Mercator* 5 or 10 *s.* per Tun for the Freight of all our Exports into *France*, it will amount to a very inconsiderable Sum, and such as hardly deserves the mention. But I will be sure not to forget this Caution of the *Mercator*, at the foot of our Exports to that Kingdom.

The last Demand of this Writer, in behalf of our exported Goods, is, that the Freight for the Importation of such of them as were foreign, shall be added to the value of them at the time of their Exportation. In the Valuation of our Goods clear on board onwards, the Freight for the Importation of such as were brought hither from our Plantations, *Turkey* or the *East-Indies*, is always reckon'd as part of their Value at their Exportation. That which the *Mercator* wants, is, that the Freight for them into *England* should be reckon'd twice over: I commend him for this Conceit, and I persuade my self he will never lose any thing for want of asking for it.

As for the Quantity and Valuation of all the Goods imported, the *Mercator* will find by the Account it self, that I do not exceed the Quantities return'd to the last Parliament by the present Commissioners of the Customs; and as to their Values, I shall take the best Advice I am able, and I will allow the *Mercator*, and every other Person in the World, to correct every one of my Mistakes; and as I shall have occasion to produce other Accounts hereafter, I will allow every reasonable Correction.

The *Mercator* proceeds, in the next place, to the vast Article of Shipping employ'd for the Importation of Goods from *France*, which he paid by our selves, he thinks the Value of this Advantage ought to be estimated at the foot of the Account, and reckon'd as part of our Profit by the *French* Trade. And in *Numb.* 49. and his yesterday's Paper, a great many comparative and superlative words are made use of, to harangue his Readers into a Belief of this Advantage.

For my own part, I shall not dispute with him at present, whether the Nation is a Gainer by employing her own Ships in the *French* Trade, and paying nothing to *France* for the Importation of Goods from that Country. I shall take it for granted, if he pleases, that the thing is *Fact*, and that the Employment of our own Shipping, even to import Goods for our selves, is our Advantage.

Yet what shall be accounted the Extent of this Advantage? It can certainly be no greater than the Freight we are to pay for the Goods we import into this Kingdom.

And what is the Value of all this Freight? 30000 Tuns of Shipping are certainly sufficient in one single Voyage to carry all the Goods that ever were exported to *France*, or imported thence in any one Year. If the *Mercator* thinks this not sufficient, I desire he will inform his Readers what Goods were ever imported

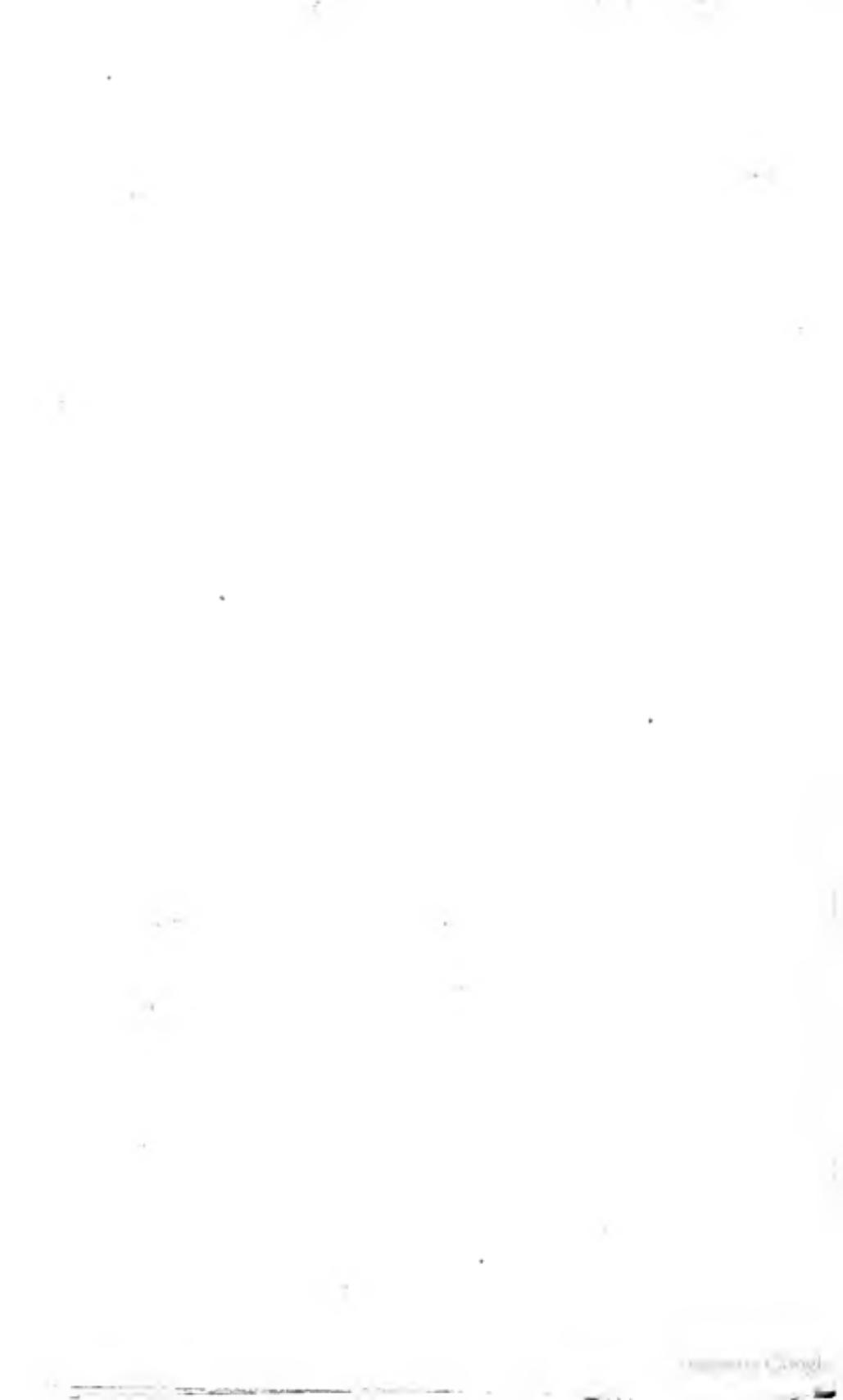
from that Kingdom, that requir'd a greater Quantity of Shipping. The Freight, as I have said before, cannot exceed 20 *s.* per Tun, and from any Part of *France* upon the Ocean; so that the whole Value of this Advantage cannot exceed 30000 *L.* per annum.

But are we able to import such Quantities of Wines, and other Goods, from *France*, without lessening in proportion the Importation of the like Goods from *Portugal*, *Italy*, and other Countries? And are not our own Ships also employ'd in these Trades as well as that of *France*? And what is the Freight to *Italy*, *Portugal*, &c? 4 *L.* per Tun out and home at a Medium; and consequently for 30000 Tuns, 120,000 *L.* per ann. So that for the employing our own Shipping in the *French* Trade, to the Value of 30,000 *L.* per ann. we are to lay by our Shipping in the *Portugal* and *Italian* Trades, of the Value of 120,000 *L.* per ann. Certainly the *Mercator* will no more insist upon the great Advantage of employing our own Shipping in the Importation of Goods from *France*; instead of increasing the Employment of our Shipping, he must needs be sensible that it tends to the Destruction of our Navigation.

Lastly, for the *Mercator's* dear Year of Corn, I shall make him no Allowance; Let him produce at any time his dear Year, with the whole Exports and Imports of that Year, and it shall be allow'd. But he is very much mistaken, if he thinks our Exportation of Corn for this Year can be any Rule for the time to come. We had, by the Superiority of our Troops in the late War, forc'd almost all the hands of the *French* King's Subjects from the Plough into his Armies, and made a Dearth in his Dominions; at other times *France* is able to supply her self with Corn, and even other Countries when they want it; and she would very seldom buy from us, without the Bounty we give the Buyers. And whosoever they are almost starving for want of Bread, they will buy from every Country, whether Enemies or Friends, without a Treaty of Commerce; as appears by what they have done in this very Year, when the late Treaty is not yet made effectual by a Law.

Thus I think I have consider'd every one of the *Mercator's* Cautions, I have resolv'd to take every one of them that can be thought reasonable, and I have given him Reasons for rejecting all the rest: And this is what I had to say to the Writer. The remaining part of this Paper shall be a few short Instructions to my Readers, how to judge of the *French* Trade by the Account which I have promis'd.

1. Every one of them will be able to see, that if we have imported more Goods than we have exported, to the Value of 800,000 *L.* that we had so much Money to pay to that Kingdom.
2. If there are not above 16 Millions of current Silver in this Kingdom, every Farmer who has Corn to sell at Market, every Gentleman who has Rent to receive from his Tenant, will be sensible of the Inconvenience, if a sixth part of all our current Money should be yearly exported by our Trade to *France*, and not repaid by that with any other Country; and if it should be repaid from any other Country, it would be no Thanks at all to *France*.
3. Every Reader will perceive that this Balance must be paid for Wines or Manufactures, and that an equal Value of both must be hinder'd from being made at Home, or from being imported from other foreign Countries.
4. We purchase Wines and Manufactures from other Countries, with Manufactures of our own making; so that 'tis the same thing as if we made them all our selves. Whence it follows, that if Wines or Manufactures, equal to such a Balance as I have mention'd, should be imported from *France*, it must prevent the making in *England* Manufactures of like Value.
5. And Lastly, if of every Manufacture at a Medium, four fifth Parts of the Price are given to the Labour bestow'd upon it, and one fifth to the Rents, for the Wool, Leather or other Product of the Lands; and if the Manufactures, imported from *France* equal to the Balance of 800,000 *L.* as above-mention'd, prevent the making of others of like Value in *England*, every one of my Readers will perceive, that the Landed Interest must lose 160,000 *L.* per ann. of their Rents, and as many People must be depriv'd of their Employments, as are sufficient for 640,000 *L.* per ann. who must therefore come to the Lands for a Maintenance.



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to the *Mercator*, or *Commerce Retriev'd*.

From FRIDAY, September 18. to TUESDAY, September 22. 1713.

An ACCOUNT of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS to and from ENGLAND and FRANCE,

From Michaelmas 1685. to Michaelmas 1686.

Which was laid before the LAST PARLIAMENT by the PRESENT
COMMISSIONERS of the CUSTOMS,

With a just Valuation of all the PARCELS,

Shewing the Loss that *England* sustain'd by our TRADE with *France* that Year.

An ACCOUNT of Goods Imported into the Port of London from France, from Michaelmas 1685, to Michaelmas 1686.

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
A nchovies	94 Double Barrels	at 00	15	00	per Barrel	70	10	00
Ditto	354 Single Barrels	00	07	06	per Barrel	132	15	00
Annotto	2100 <i>lib.</i>	00	02	06	per <i>lib.</i>	202	10	00
Bagles Great	1241 <i>lib.</i>	00	04	00	per <i>lib.</i>	248	04	00
Small	100 <i>lib.</i>	00	06	08	per <i>lib.</i>	33	06	08
Lace	166 <i>lib.</i>	00	08	00	per <i>lib.</i>	66	08	00
Books Unbound	229 <i>Cr.</i>	01	00	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	229	00	00
Brandy	1568 Tuns	20	00	00	per Tun	31277	01	03
	215 Gallons							
Basket Rofs	921 Bundles	00	06	08	per Bundle	307	00	00
Bracelets or Necklaces of Glass	37 Small Groce	01	04	00	per Groce	44	08	00
Boutteel Raines	368 Pieces	00	10	00	per Piece	184	00	00
Bockrams	842 Pieces	02	10	00	per 12 Pieces	175	08	04
Cheefe	47 1/2 <i>Cr.</i> weight	01	03	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	59	07	06
Cork	5104 1/2 <i>Cr.</i> weight	00	16	08	per <i>Cr.</i>	4253	15	00
Capers	8647 1/2 <i>lib.</i>	00	00	06	per <i>lib.</i>	2161	17	00
Dornix with Caddas	932 1/2 Pieces	01	10	00	per Piece	1398	15	00
Ditto with Silk	19 Pieces	02	00	00	per Piece	38	00	00
Fleams to let Blood	3876 Pieces	00	00	02	per Piece	32	06	00
Flax Undress'd	112 1/2 <i>Cr.</i> weight	01	00	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	112	05	00
Feathers for Beds	761 1/2 <i>Cr.</i> weight	06	00	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	4570	10	00
Martins Skins	3 1/2 Timber	10	00	00	per Timber	38	15	00
Fans for Corn	360 Pieces	00	06	08	per Piece	120	00	00
Fans for Women	162 Dozens	02	00	00	per Dozen	324	00	00
Glass for Windows	1487 Cases	01	10	00	per Case	2230	10	00
Glass-Pipes Great	92 1/2 <i>Cr.</i>	07	10	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	691	17	06
Rains Solis	81 1/2 <i>Cr.</i>	01	05	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	102	03	09
Louing-Glasses	2 Dozen	45	00	00	per Dozen	90	00	00
Glass Sights for Ditto	6 Dozen	30	00	00	per Dozen	180	00	00
Goods unrated					Value	13558	04	06
Gauls	100 <i>Cr.</i> 1/2	03	10	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	350	17	06
Almonds Sweet	309 1/2 <i>Cr.</i>	04	10	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	1391	12	06
Anniseeds	18 1/2 <i>Cr.</i>	02	00	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	37	00	00
Pepper	530 <i>lib.</i>	00	00	09	per <i>lib.</i>	19	17	06
Prunes	17256 1/2 <i>Cr.</i>	00	15	00	per <i>Cr.</i>	12942	11	02
Iron	260 <i>Cr.</i>	12	00	00	per Tun	96	00	00
Inle unwrought	932 <i>lib.</i>	00	02	06	per <i>lib.</i>	116	10	00
British Linen	200 Single Ells	06	13	04	per hundred Ells	12	06	08
Canvas Vitzry	6145 1/2 hundred	05	00	00	per hundred of 120 Ells	30726	05	00

CARRY OVER — 308786 17 12

		<i>L. A. d.</i>	Brought over	<i>L. A. d.</i>
Canvas <i>Normandy</i> narrow	1370 $\frac{1}{2}$ hundred		108786	17 14
Ditto Broad	1 hundred	at 66 00 00 per hundred	8221	00 00
Cambricks	2631 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pieces	02 00 00 per Piece	15	00 00
Diaper Napkin	41097 Yards	00 01 04 per Yard	4263	00 00
Ditto Tabling	7437 Yards	00 04 00 per Yard	2737	02 06
Damask Napkin	384 Yards	00 01 04 per Yard	1487	02 00
Ditto Tabling	147 Yards	00 04 00 per Yard	25	16 00
Dowls	57 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pieces	05 00 00 per Piece	28	12 00
<i>Germany</i> Broad	$\frac{1}{2}$ hundred	10 00 00 per hundred	288	15 00
Ditto Narrow	14 hundred	04 00 00 per hundred	7	10 00
Linen	15183 Ells	00 01 08 per Ell	16	00 00
Lockrams	20035 Pieces	05 00 00 per Piece	10065	05 00
Gentins	2021 Pieces	08 10 00 per Piece	160175	60 00
Latefrings Catlings	124 Small Groce	00 02 08 per Groce	2037	10 00
Minikings	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ Small Groce	01 06 08 per Groce	16	10 00
Ordinary Oil	18 Tuns	30 00 00 per Tun	59	06 00
Sallet Oil	1 Tun 206 Gallons	65 00 00 per Tun	340	00 00
Trajo Oil	2 Tuns	170 00 00 per Tun	115	00 00
Olives	113 Hogheads	08 00 00 per Hoghead	919	00 00
Blue Paper	20 Reams	00 10 00 per Ream	514	00 00
Ditto Cap	20 Reams	00 07 06 per Ream	10	00 00
Ditto Copy	7236 Reams	00 05 00 per Ream	7	10 00
Ditto Demy	1670 Reams	00 15 00 per Ream	2924	00 00
Ditto Royal and Larger Paper	1559 Reams	02 00 00 per Ream	1250	10 00
Plaster of Paris	32 Mounis	02 00 00 per Mount	318	00 00
Plate Silver White	1423 Ounces	00 06 06 per Ounce	84	00 00
Ditto Gilt	1567 Ounces	00 07 06 per Ounce	426	18 00
Quails	515 Dozen	00 04 00 per Dozen	512	12 00
Rufen	7048 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ct. weight	00 06 08 per Ct.	183	00 00
Rape of Grapes	5 Tuns	03 05 00 per Tun	2349	08 04
Throun Silk	1628 lb.	01 00 00 per lb.	16	05 00
Wrought Silk	5506 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	02 10 00 per lb.	16256	05 00
Raw Silk	51 lb.	00 15 00 per lb.	3	05 00
Salt	892 Wcys	02 00 00 per Wey	178	10 00
Saffron	280 lb.	01 10 00 per lb.	400	00 00
Steel	42 Ct. weight	01 10 00 per Ct.	63	00 00
Succads	9047 lb.	02 03 00 per lb.	157	01 00
Soup	3279 Ct. weight	02 10 00 per Ct.	5197	10 00
Seaholly Roots	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ct. weight	01 00 00 per Ct.	31	10 00
Cyder	7 Tuns 168 Gallons	08 00 00 per Tun	61	06 00
Caen Stones	70 Tuns	00 15 00 per Tun	52	10 00
Thred Sifters	178 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	00 15 00 per lb.	133	17 00
Ditto Whited Brown	5395 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dozen lb.	01 04 00 per Dozen lb.	6474	12 00
Ditto Piecing	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dozen lb.	01 04 00 per Dozen lb.	53	16 00
Ditto Brudges	20347 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dozen lb.	01 00 00 per Dozen lb.	20347	06 00
Ticks for Beds	30 Pieces	01 10 00 per Piece	45	00 00
Tapestry with Caddas	1188 Ells	00 08 00 per Ell	475	04 00
Ditto with Silk	162 Ells	00 13 06 per Ell	108	00 00
Steel Wire	3500 lb.	00 03 00 per lb.	525	00 00
Wine-Lees	127 Tuns	04 00 00 per Tun	508	00 00
Sheeps Wool	9 Bags	10 00 00 per Bag	90	00 00
Lambs Wool	2 Bags	20 00 00 per Bag	20	00 00
Spanish Wool	2 Bags	20 00 00 per Bag	40	00 00
Walnuts	493 $\frac{1}{2}$ Barrels	00 06 08 per Barrel	164	10 00
Wine	12760 Tuns	17 10 00 per Tun	21700	00 00
Yarn Worsted	200 Pounds	00 03 00 per lb.	30	00 00
Yarn Mohair	282 lb.	00 03 00 per lb.	42	06 00
Yarn Raw-Linen	676 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	33	16 00
Skins Kid dres'd	600	03 10 00 per hundred	31	00 00
Kid in the Hair	560124	03 00 00 per hundred	16803	14 00
Seal	4000	00 01 08 per Skin	353	06 00
Buck dres'd	34	00 05 00 per Skine	8	10 00
Calf	5470	01 00 00 per Dozen	461	02 04
Huff	9314	00 00 00 per Skin	328	07 00
Sheep and Lamb Skins	15650	01 05 00 per hundred	196	00 00
Millhones	400	10 00 00 per Piece	4000	00 00
Hemp Rough	608 Ct.	01 00 00 per Ct.	608	00 00

D R U G S.

Coral in Fragments	302 lb.	88 00 03 06 per lb.	50	06 00
Myrrh	173 lb.	00 03 00 per lb.	35	19 00
Tamarinds	490 lb.	00 00 10 per lb.	20	08 04
Turbit	35 lb.	00 05 00 per lb.	8	15 00
Oil of Turpentine	9000 lb.	00 00 06 per lb.	236	00 00
Hermodactils	340 lb.	00 02 00 per lb.	34	00 00
Edellium	1149 lb.	00 02 06 per lb.	143	12 00
Alkemers Syrup	1137 lb.	00 06 08 per lb.	379	00 00
Ciceres	1740 lb.	00 00 06 per lb.	43	10 00
Cantharides	684 lb.	00 05 00 per lb.	172	00 00
Garden Seeds	4266 lb.	00 00 08 per lb.	142	04 00
Oil of Spike	460 lb.	00 01 05 per lb.	38	06 08
Fenpel seeds	3000 lb.	00 00 06 per lb.	71	00 00

Carry over — 56535 17 00



		Brought over		l.	s.	d.
		l.	s.	56	335	17 00
Pranchoes	2488 lb.	at 00	01 00 per lb.	24	08	00
Verdigrease	11825 lb.	00	01 08 per lb.	127	01	08
Labdum	725 lb.	00	01 00 per lb.	7	05	00
Fennegreek	95 1/2 Ct.	00	15 00 per Ct.	71	14	00
Orange-Flower Water	208 Gallons	00	05 00 per Gallon	09	00	00
Rose Leaves	400 lb.	00	01 00 per lb.	4	00	00
Cortex Caspium	230 lb.	00	01 00 per lb.	2	10	00
Animonista Crudum	203 1/2 Ct.	01	00 00 per Ct.	2	10	00
Benjamin	69 lb.	00	05 00 per lb.	3	05	00
Cummin-Seed	14 Ct.	01	13 00 per Ct.	17	05	00
Almonds/Bitter	61 Ct.	02	00 00 per Ct.	23	05	08
Lemites	1550 lb.	00	00 02 per lb.	143	00	00
Sal Armoniac	184 lb.	00	01 08 per lb.	19	07	00
Turpentine Common	2023 Ct.	00	10 00 per Ct.	15	05	08
				1011	10	00

Total of the Imports into the Port of London 56915 00 00

Besides several other Drugs, Pomegranates, Apples, Cherries, Dry'd Plums and Pears, Onions, Rices, Beans, Oranges and Lemons, Limes, Mulcovin and Polonia Linen, Sugar, Honey, Hops, Teazles, Budge and Goss-Skins, Gloves, Jett, Oaker, Oakham, Hoops, Bricks, Orchard, Twine, Quills, Rackets, Rings of Wire, Cases, Rosa Soils, Washballs, Glass Vials, Ink-horns, Ink for Printers, Batts for Milkstones, Table-Books and Pass-boards for Books, Timber-boxes, Rubbing and Comb-Brushes, Cases for Needles, Beaver-Well, Frieze, Knit Waistcoats, Stuffs and Cloth of Woolen, Spruce Canvas, and Canvas tufted with Thread.

An Account of Goods imported from France into all the Out-Ports of England, from Michaelmas 1685. to Michaelmas 1686. (except Deal, Dartmouth, Whitby and Millford, for Mich. Quarter 1686.)

		l. s. d.		l.	s.	d.
		at 00	12 00 per Ct.	14	08	00
Aloni	24 Ct.	00	07 00 per Ct.	15	15	00
Aeschovies	42 barrels	04	10 00 per Ct.	149	15	00
Almonds	35 1/2 Ct.	02	10 00 per hundred	49	10	00
Batts for Milkstones	2300	20	00 00 per tun	11995	00	00
Brandy	599 1/2 tun	01	05 00 per Ct.	1000	00	00
Cheese	800 Ct.	00	05 08 per Ct.	40	00	00
Corn/Fans	19 dozen	00	16 08 per Ct.	298	02	00
Cork	857 1/2 Ct.	01	05 00 per Ct.	50	18	00
Cordage	16 1/2 Ct.	01	00 00 per dozen	2660	03	00
Calve-Skins in the Hair	31922	00	16 00 per Ct.	60	16	00
Figs	421 Ct.	00	00 00 per Ct.	2161	10	00
Feathers	360 1/2 Ct.	00	15 00 per hundred	27	00	00
Drinking-Glasses	3000	01	05 00 per Ct.	7023	15	00
Goods ad Valorem	260 Ct.	00	12 00 per pound	325	00	00
Mulcovado Sugar	11 Ct. 1 q. 15 lb.	30	00 00 per tun	761	00	00
Mace	191 tun	01	00 00 per Ct.	5730	00	00
Honey	670 Ct.	01	00 00 per tun	670	00	00
Hemp rough	147 tun, 7 Ct.	03	00 00 per hundred	1768	04	00
Iron	28731	01	00 00 per bolt	841	18	00
Kid-Skins	2078 bolts	00	01 00 per lb.	2078	00	00
Poplars	4506 lb.	00	04 00 per ell	215	06	00
Linen Yarn	309 ells	05	00 00 per piece	77	16	00
Linen Holland	37245 pieces	00	10 00 per piece	180225	00	00
Lothrams	30 pieces	06	13 04 per hundred	433	09	00
Laws Silezia	6502 ells	02	10 00 per dozen pieces	31	09	00
British Cloth	151 pieces	00	04 00 per ell	32	00	00
Buckrams	160 ells	00	01 04 per yard	300	00	00
Flanders Linen	11543 pieces	05	00 00 per piece	57705	00	00
Dipper Napking	4900 yards	01	10 00 per piece	448	10	00
Douglas	499 pieces	00	13 04 per Ct.	573	00	00
Genting	854 1/2 Ct.	01	00 00 per Ct.	5250	00	00
Molofus	2520 Ct.	00	10 00 per Ct.	687	00	00
Match	1374 Ct.	00	15 00 per Ct.	22311	11	00
Oakham	29748 1/2 Ct.	30	00 00 per tun	225	00	00
Prunes	7 tun, 2 hogheads	00	05 00 per ream	2904	05	00
Oil	11617 reams	00	06 08 per Ct.	1664	00	00
Paper	4992 Ct.	02	00 00 per wye	31642	00	00
Rolin	15822 wyes	02	10 00 per Ct.	6226	17	00
Salt	2520 1/2 Ct.	04	10 00 per lb.	283977	10	00
Soap	115591 lb.	01	00 00 per Ct.	728	05	00
Silk Wrought	728 1/2 Ct.	06	10 00 per Ct.	40	00	00
Tallow	80 Ct.	01	10 00 per dozen	29	00	00
Tow	22 dozen	05	00 00 per piece	1520	00	00
Thred Bridges	306 pieces	00	01 08 per lb.	27	05	00
Tregar	327 lb.	17	10 00 per tun	28053	02	00
Verdigrease	247 lb.	00	05 08 per barrel	1109	06	00
Wine	2888 1/2 tun					
Walnuts	3328 barrels					

Total of the Imports into the Out-Ports 715293 10 00

Besides Apples, Chestnuts, Lemons, Olives, Barley, Mustard-Seed, Onions, Pease, Oatmeal, Wheat, Catlings, Earlings, Oatmeal Thred, Ticking, Copperas, Gunpowder, Twine, Flax, Hops, Succads, Vinegar, Wine-Less, Laths, Plaster of Paris, empty Casks, Parchment, Seal-Skins.

An ACCOUNT of Goods Exported to France from the Port of London, from Michaelmas 1685, to Michaelmas 1686.

	L	s	d		L	s	d
LONG Cloths	424			at 10 00 00 per cloth	4240	00	00
Short Cloths	164			08 00 00 per cloth	1312	00	00
Spanish Cloths	4190			15 00 00 per cloth	62850	00	00
Kerseys	3298 pieces			01 15 00 per piece	5771	10	00
Double Dozens	152 pieces			05 00 00 per piece	760	00	00
Single Dozens	1239			02 10 00 per piece	3222	10	00
Cloth Ruffles	2 pieces			05 00 00 per piece	10	00	00
Perrets and Serges	7672 pieces			02 00 00 per piece	15344	00	00
Stuffs and Says	778 pieces			02 00 00 per piece	1476	00	00
Woolen Cloth in Remnants	1657 lib.			valu'd at	300	00	00
Flannels	28230 yards			00 01 00 per yard	3411	10	00
Freises	21737 yards			00 03 00 per yard	3260	11	00
Single Bays	1153 pieces			02 10 00 per piece	2882	10	00
Double Bays	712 pieces			04 00 00 per piece	2848	00	00
Minikin Bays	58 pieces			06 00 00 per piece	348	00	00
Pennifons fringed	182			03 00 00 per piece	129	00	00
Pennifons unfrired	25543 pieces						
Wadmole <i>alias</i> Wadding	830 yards			00 00 06 per yard	20	15	00
Cottons and Plains	90885 gouds			02 00 00 per 100 gouds	8161	13	00
Cambles Hair and Worsted	439 lib.			00 10 00 per lib.	219	10	00
Hats, Castors and Felts	22 dozen			02 10 00 per dozen	55	00	00
Fuffians	124 ends			01 00 00 per piece	124	00	00
Mens Worsted Hofs	2139 dozen			02 00 00 per dozen	4278	00	00
Childrens Worsted Hofs	472 dozen			00 08 00 per dozen	188	36	00
Mens Woolen Hofs	4364 1/2 dozen			00 15 00 per dozen	3293	07	06
Childrens Woolen Hofs	1130 dozen			00 04 00 per dozen	226	00	00
Garments	141			01 00 00 per garment	141	00	00
Woolen Caps	8 dozen			00 03 00 per dozen	1	04	00
Silk wrought, and Stuffs mix'd with Silk	7014 lib.			00 15 00 per lib.	5260	10	00
Buttons, hair	77 groce			00 02 06 per groce	9	12	06
Glass and Earthen Ware	9245 pieces			00 00 02 per piece	77	01	04
Haberdasherly Ware	9 1/2 Cr.			10 00 00 per Cr.	95	00	00
Tann'd Leather	7646 1/2 Cr.			03 00 00 per Cr.	22938	15	00
Leather wrought	619 lib.			00 01 06 per lib.	46	08	06
Old Shoes	1075 dozen			00 10 00 per dozen	517	10	00
Saddles	3			01 00 00 per fiddle	3	00	00
Coach-Harnes	1 pair				5	00	00
Tobacco Pipes	226 groce			00 01 00 per groce	11	06	00
Virginals	3 pair			05 00 00 per pair	15	00	00
Plain Leather Gloves	86 dozen			00 12 00 per dozen	51	12	00
Duck Leather Gloves	6 pair			00 02 00 per pair	11	12	00
Bellows	12 dozen			01 00 00 per dozen	12	00	00
Books printed and Maps	49 1/2 Cr.			01 00 00 per Cr.	49	05	00
Butter	934 1/2 firkins			01 00 00 per firkin	934	10	00
Glue	1023 1/2 Cr.			01 05 00 per Cr.	1265	17	06
Gunpowder	502 Cr.			02 15 00 per Cr.	5180	10	00
Starch	18 1/2 Cr.			01 00 00 per Cr.	18	10	00
Allom	295 Cr.			01 04 00 per Cr.	354	00	00
Beef	3 1/2 barrel			01 10 00 per barrel	4	13	09
Beer	10 tun			04 00 00 per tun	40	00	00
Cheese	8 1/2 Cr.			01 05 00 per Cr.	10	06	03
Hoops	800				2	00	00
Pidraes	3				6	00	00
Wheat	701 quarters			01 04 00 per quarter	841	04	00
Rye	673 quarters			00 16 00 per quarter	538	08	00
Oats	35 quarters			00 10 00 per quarter	17	10	00
Oatmeal	48 bulhels			00 03 00 per bulhel	7	04	00
Herrings	1324 barrels			00 15 00 per barrel	993	00	00
Salmon	49 barrels			04 00 00 per barrel	196	00	00
Bees-Wax	18 1/2 Cr.			06 00 00 per Cr.	109	10	00
Coals	20 chaldron			01 00 00 per chaldron	20	00	00
Cony-Wooll	1900 lib.			00 07 00 per lib.	665	00	00
Tin	2417 Cr.			00 03 10 per Cr.	8459	10	00
Pewter	81 Cr.			00 01 00 per lib.	453	12	00
Lead	2799 fodder			12 00 00 per fodder	33564	00	00
Lead Shot	2248 Cr.			00 14 00 per Cr.	880	12	00
Wrought Brass and Copper	28 1/2 Cr.			08 00 00 per Cr.	228	00	00
Iron Ordnance	31 Cr.			00 12 00 per Cr.	18	12	00
Iron wrought and Clockwork	400 1/2 Cr.			02 00 00 per Cr.	800	10	00
Lanthern Leaves	336900			00 20 00 per hundred	1684	10	00
Rams-horns	750				5	00	00
Stags-horns	100						
Ox-bones	30400			00 06 08 per mill.	10	02	08
Linfeeds	214 1/2 quarters			02 00 00 per quarter	429	00	00
Sugar refined	2 Cr.			03 00 00 per Cr.	6	00	00
Sealing-Wax	30 lib.			00 05 00 per lib.	7	10	00
Horfes	11			10 00 00 each	110	00	00
Unrated Goods					7148	16	00
Skins, Hare	80508			00 02 00 per dozen	1006	07	00
Sage and Grey Cony	103930			02 10 00 per 120 skins	2155	04	02

Carry, over 216349 18 02

			Brought over		4	7	6
			l.	s.	d.	18	02
Cats	50		2c				
Dogs	141 1/2 dozen		00	06	00	42	09
Bucks	20		00	04	00	4	00
Sheep dres'd	225		00	00	05	4	13

FOREIGN GOODS.

Pot-Ashes	23594 lib.		2c	01	10	317	06
Almonds	19 1/2 Ct.		04	10	00	85	12
Amber-Beads	42 lib.		01	00	00	42	00
Brazilletta Wood	183 tun 16 Ct.		00	10	00	1838	00
Barrilla	350 Ct.		01	05	00	450	00
Bees-Wax	1135 Ct.		04	00	00	4140	00
Brimstone	544 Ct.		01	05	00	676	00
Checks	1 piece					2	00
Capeis	290 ells		00	01	02	16	18
Currants	565 1/2 Ct.		01	10	00	845	05
Canary	122 gallons		00	05	00	30	10
Cow-Hides	9655		00	05	00	2421	05
Cinnamon	4200 lib.		00	04	06	945	00
Cochineal	8870 lib.		00	18	00	7929	00
Diaper	900 yards		00	01	03	60	00
Elephants Teeth	204 Ct.		09	00	00	1836	00
Figs	48 Ct.		00	16	00	38	08
Guinea Grains	50 lib.		00	00	08	1	13
Germany Linnen Bread	10 1/2 hundred ells		10	00	00	101	13
Ditto Narrow	34 1/2 hundred ells		04	00	00	136	13
Gloves	11 dozen		00	12	00	6	12
Hemp	22 Ct.		01	00	00	22	00
Horn Plates	6300		00	13	00	40	19
Hole	533 1/2 dozen		01	00	00	531	10
Honey	19 1/2 Ct.		30	00	00	29	05
Hops	32 1/2 Ct.		01	10	00	49	02
Indico rich	2610 lib.		00	05	00	652	10
Iron	1 tun					12	00
Inkie wrought	1250 lib.		00	13	04	833	06
Lockrams	3 pieces		05	00	00	15	00
Lemons	150000		00	05	00	375	00
Linseed	150 bushels		02	00	00	37	10
Lawns Sulfia	4 pieces		00	10	00	2	00
Linen	179 ells		01	01	08	14	18
Logwood	26 1/2 tons		12	00	00	318	00
Oil ordinary	481 1/2 tons		30	00	00	13852	10
Ozenbrigs	3700 ells		00	00	08	123	06
Pitch	15 hafs		15	00	00	225	00
Prunelloes	25 lib.		00	01	00	1	05
Raiins Solis	508 1/2 Ct.		01	05	00	615	18
Ditto Malaga	37 1/2 Ct.		01	00	00	37	10
Soap hard	26 Ct.		02	10	00	65	00
Italian wrought Silk	181 lib.		02	10	00	452	10
Silk wrought with Gold & Silver	134 1/2 ells		00	10	00	67	05
Silk Stockings fitch'd with Gold	2 pair					2	00
Safflower	524 lib.		00	01	00	20	04
Siamach	64 1/2 Ct.		00	09	00	29	09
Salmon	211 barrels		02	10	00	527	10
Steel	80 Ct.		01	10	00	120	00
Skins, Beaver	800		00	03	00	420	00
Ditto Coney	27170		02	10	00	566	00
Ditto Otters	200		00	06	00	60	00
Tallow Irish	114 Ct.		01	02	00	123	04
Tortoise-shell	625 lib.		10	00	00	55	16
Twine	3 1/2 Ct.		02	10	00	6	15
Spanish Wool	603 Ct. & 83 bags		00	02	00	8247	12
Wheat	213 quarters		01	04	00	261	12

PLANTATION GOODS.

Ginger	18 1/2 Ct.		00	16	00	14	12
Indico Plant.	700 lib.		00	03	06	122	10
Sugar brown	6092 1/2 Ct.		01	05	00	7614	07
Sugar white	114 1/2 Ct.		02	05	00	257	12
Tobacco	131783 lib.		00	00	03 1/2	1921	06

TURKEY GOODS.

Anniseeds	24 Ct.		02	00	00	48	00
Coffee	27 1/2 Ct.		08	00	00	218	00
Cotton	12517 lib.		00	00	06	312	18
Cotton Yarn	113401 lib.		00	01	00	5670	01
Carpets	12		01	10	00	18	00

Carry over 283466 19 01

Fuflick	360 Ct.	Brought over	283466	19	01
Goats	2454 Ct.	00 07 00 per Ct. weight	126	00	00
Goat's Hair	32787 and 9040 lb.	00 02 00 per lb.	7362	00	00
Rice	31 Ct.	01 10 00 per Ct.	4182	14	00
Sponges	4944 lb.	00 01 05 per lb.	48	00	00
Cordevant Skins	275	00 04 05 per Skin.	970	16	00
Silk Raw 11732 lb.	whereof compute	00 09 00 per lb.	61	17	06
{ Ardash	7822 lb.	00 09 00 per lb.	3519	18	00
{ Sherbafice and Belandine	3910 lb.	00 16 00 per lb.	3128	00	00

EAST-INDIA GOODS.

Attalies	19 pieces	at 01 04 00 per piece	22	16	00
Boxes Japan'd	12	00 05 00 per box	3	00	00
Canes	10000	04 00 00 per hundred	400	00	00
Chirts	25 pieces	00 10 00 per piece	12	10	00
Chucklers	15 06 pieces	00 12 00 per piece	903	12	00
China Ware	60 pieces and 3 rubs	05 00 00	6	00	00
Cabinets	2	05 00 00 each	10	00	00
Cups Japan'd	15	00 01 00 per piece	00	15	00
Cravats with Gold and Silver	7	00 05 06 per Cravat	1	15	00
Custaners with Gold	43 pieces	01 10 00 per piece	64	10	00
Calicoes	134545 pieces	00 10 00 per piece	67323	00	00
Dressing-Boxes	2	00 10 00 per piece	1	00	00
Neckcloths	1537 pieces	00 18 00 per piece	1383	05	00
Ditto Single	8045 pieces	00 00 05 per neckcloth	201	07	06
Nillars	4510 pieces	00 17 00 per piece	3833	10	00
Needle-Cafe	1	00 05 00	00	05	00
Pepper	524589 lb.	00 00 09 per lb.	19672	01	09
Pepper Doft	4500 lb.	00 00 03 per lb.	56	05	00
Palempores	8 pieces	00 16 00 per piece	6	03	00
Romals	4543 1/2 pieces	00 12 00 per piece	2726	05	00
Ditto Cotton	3174 pieces	00 08 00 per piece	1269	12	00
Ditto with Silk	10 1/2 pieces	01 04 00 per piece	12	12	00
Red Earth	5 1/4 Tun	10 00 00 per Tun	52	10	00
Silk wrought India	2413 1/2 lb.	01 05 00 per lb.	3016	17	06
Salempores	40 pieces	00 16 00 per piece	32	00	00
Trunks Lacquer'd	15	01 10 00 each	22	10	00
Tea-Tables Japan'd	41	00 05 00 each	10	05	00
Tea	563 lb.	00 10 00 per lb.	260	10	00
Guinea Stuffs	56 pieces	00 02 06 per piece	7	00	00
Ginghams	375 pieces	00 12 00 per piece	225	00	00
Jam Warra	10 pieces	00 10 00 per piece	5	00	00
Wood red	40 Ct.	01 10 00 per Ct.	60	00	00

D R U G S.

Olibanum	56 Ct.	at 05 00 00 per Ct.	280	00	00
Aloes Epatica	3907 lb.	00 02 00 per lb.	390	14	00
Seed Pearl	6500 un.	00 03 04 per ounce	108	06	08
Castoreo	22 lb.	00 10 00 per lb.	11	00	00
Saquin Draconis	50 lb.	00 03 04 per lb.	8	06	08
Mirabulane	8224 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	411	04	00
China Roots	3500 lb.	00 06 08 per lb.	1200	00	00
Balfam Natural	3 1/2 lb.	00 10 00 per lb.	1	15	00
Tamarinds	1179 lb.	00 00 10 per lb.	49	03	06
Wormseeds	388 lb.	00 03 04 per lb.	64	13	04
Senna	2409 lb.	00 02 06 per lb.	301	02	06
Seamouy	30 lb.	01 00 00 per lb.	30	00	00
Affa Extida	488 lb.	00 01 02 per lb.	28	09	04
Manna	2748 lb.	00 02 05 per lb.	343	10	00
Liquorish Juice	3 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	00	03	00
Long Pepper	1204 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	60	04	00
Rhubarb	292 lb.	01 00 00 per lb.	292	00	00
Jesuits Bark or Cascarilla	65 lb.	00 10 00 per lb.	31	10	00
Caffia Fiftula	560 lb.	00 01 05 per lb.	42	00	00
Caffia Ligna	335 lb.	00 01 05 per lb.	28	00	00
Stucklack	56 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	2	16	00
Aloes Cicotrina	920 lb.	00 05 00 per lb.	230	00	00
Roman Vitruol	165 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	8	05	00
Opium	10 lb.	00 10 00 per lb.	5	00	00
Gum Elemini	35 lb.	00 00 10 per lb.	1	09	02
Argelica	40 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	3	00	00
Cortex	404 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	20	04	00
Nux Vomica	757 lb.	00 00 05 per lb.	26	11	04
Gum Dragants	670 lb.	00 01 00 per lb.	33	10	00
Srorax Calimata	427 lb.	00 05 00 per lb.	106	15	00
Ciculus Indha	700 lb.	00 02 00 per lb.	70	00	00
Gilbanum	300 lb.	00 01 05 per lb.	22	10	00
Cardamomis	6 lb.	00 03 00 per lb.	00	18	00
St. Armonaq.	240 lb.	00 01 08 per lb.	20	16	05
C. de Bay	500 lb.	02 00 00 per Ct.	7	02	10
Musk	492 gr.	02 00 00 per ounce	384	00	00
Musk Cods	38 1/2 dr.	02 00 00 per dozen	77	00	00

Total of the Exports from the Port of London 408589 06 04

Beſides 3 India Hemocks, 14 dozen of Staff-Bones, 3 Tonnes, 20 Pieces of
 20 lb. Muscovy, 200 lb. Cloves, 215 lb. Cambray, 200 lb. Red Orize, 7
 weight of Oaker, and 4 Trunks of Wearing Apparell
 2 Barbary Aprons
 100 Clippings

An ACCOUNT of Goods Exported to France from all the Out-Ports of England, (except Deal, Dartmouth, Whitby and Milford, for Michaelmas Quarter 1686.) from Michaelmas 1685. to Michaelmas 1686.

		l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
Bays	1858 pieces	at 02	10	00	per piece	4645	00	00
Cottons	123555 goods	09	00	00	per hundred goods	11119	19	00
Dof.t. Dozens	2747	01	05	00	per piece	3433	15	00
Flannel	1077 yards	00	01	00	per yard	53	17	00
Frisee	110 yards	00	03	00	per yard	16	10	00
Cloth Rashes	209 pieces	05	00	00	per piece	1045	00	00
Coverlets	1456 lib.	00	01	00	per lib.	72	16	00
Kerseys	1631 pieces	01	15	00	per piece	2854	09	00
Serges	81557 Ells	00	01	10	per ell	7476	01	02
Stuffs Woolen	40800 lib.	00	02	00	per lib.	4080	00	00
Diene Worsted	386 lib.	00	02	06	per lib.	48	05	00
Perpets	79723 lib.	00	02	06	per lib.	9964	07	06
Woolen Cloth	1793 lib.	00	02	06	per lib.	224	02	05
Wafcoats knit	25	00	10	00	each	12	10	00
Hofe Worsted	959 dozen	01	10	00	per dozen	1428	10	00
Hans, Pels	6 dozen							
Ditto Caffors	23 dozen	02	10	00	per dozen	72	10	00
Gloves Leather	27 dozen	00	12	00	per dozen	16	04	00
Haberdabery Ware	1 Cr. 7 lib.	10	00	00	per Cr.	10	12	06
Leather	880 1/2 Cr.	03	00	00	per Cr.	2641	10	00
Linnos	13767 Ells	00	01	08	per ell	1147	05	00
Silk wrought	218 lib.	02	10	00	per lib.	545	00	00
Malt	250 quarters	00	14	00	per quarter	175	00	00
Wheat	9568 quarters	01	04	00	per quarter	11601	12	00
Oats	277 quarters	00	10	00	per quarter	13	17	00
Barley	368 quarters	00	14	00	per quarter	257	12	00
Pease	102 quarters	01	00	00	per quarter	102	00	00
Rye	758 quarters	00	16	00	per quarter	605	08	00
Allom	2554 Cr.	01	04	00	per Cr.	3182	08	00
Copperas	40 Cr.	00	05	00	per Cr.	10	00	00
Giew	50 Cr.	01	05	00	per Cr.	62	10	00
Gunpowder	1500 Cr.	02	15	00	per Cr.	4125	00	00
Bunter	20 1/2 Barrels	01	00	00	per barrel	2012	00	00
Beer	26 tun and 2 hogh.	04	00	00	per tun	106	00	00
Bread	15280 lib.	00	07	00	per Cr.	47	15	00
Ox Bones	17000	00	06	08	per m.	5	13	04
Candles	4 dozen	00	03	06	per dozen	0	14	00
Coals (J Nonaghtic)	557 chaldron	00	10	00	per chaldron	278	10	00
Cheefe	1 1/2 Cr.	01	05	00	per Cr.	22	10	00
Clapholt	10 1/2 hundred	00	15	00	per hundred	7	17	06
Deals	900 hundred	04	00	00	per hundred	3600	00	00
Flax undreit	22 1/2 lib.	01	00	00	per Cr.	22	05	00
Window Glafs	100 chefts	01	10	00	per cheft	150	00	00
Glafs Bottles	14750	06	05	00	per m.	98	08	00
Figs	195 Cr.	00	16	00	per Cr.	156	00	00
Grindstones	3 chaldron	00	13	00	per chaldron	1	19	00
Seaves Hogheads	360	14	00	00	per m.	72	00	00
Ditto Pipe	4300							
Herrings white	922 barrels	00	15	00	per barrel	880	10	00
Ditto Red	1065 1/2 barrels							
Pilchards	308 Tuns	10	00	00	per tun	3080	00	00
Hilling Stones	287236	00	05	00	per m.	71	16	02
Copper	16 Cr.	08	00	00	per Cr.	556	00	00
Brass	53 1/2 Cr.							
Iron	13 1/2 Cr.	12	00	00	per tun	8	04	00
Old Iron	25 Cr.	00	10	00	per Cr.	12	10	00
Lead	126 tun 19 Cr.	12	00	00	per fudder	1562	09	08
Nails	483 1/2 Cr.	01	15	00	per Cr.	246	02	05
Steel	6 Cr.	01	10	00	per Cr.	9	00	00
Tin	592 Cr.	03	10	00	per Cr.	2072	00	00
Pewter	5 1/2 Cr.	00	01	00	per lib.	29	08	00
Hops	15 1/2 Cr.	01	01	00	per Cr.	32	17	05
Horfes	65	10	00	00	per horfe	650	00	00
Cow Hides	683	00	05	00	per hide	170	25	00
Linfeed Oil	40 Tuns 2 Cr.	20	00	00	per tun	802	00	00
Pitch	80 barrels	15	00	00	per laft	100	00	00
Tar	80 lafts	15	00	00	per laft	1200	00	00
Calf Skins	1397 1/2 Cr. and 7 lib.	00	00	09	per lib.	5870	11	00
Beaver Skins	5	00	03	00	per skin.	0	15	00
Tobacco	59769 lib.	00	00	03	1/2 per lib.	871	12	07
Bees Wax	158 1/2 Cr.	04	00	00	per Cr.	635	00	00
Tobacco Pipes	366 groce	00	02	00	per groce	18	26	00
Wool Cards	4 dozen	00	10	00	per dozen	2	00	00
Goods ad Valorem						638	11	00

Total of the Exports from the Out-Ports—105447 11 11

Besides Coins Foreign 6400 Pieces, 2 Pieces of Blanketting, 400 Yards of Rugs, 6 Fitches of Bacon, 150 Codfish, 1 Hoghead of Vinegar, and 7 1/2 Chaldron of Lime.

By this Account our Imports for the afore-mention'd Year are, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
Into the Port of London	569126	00	00
Into the Out-Ports (except Deal, Dartmouth, Whitey, and Milford, for Michaelmas Quarter,	715293	10	03
Total Imports	1284419	10	03

On the other side, our Exports for the same Year are, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From the Port of London	408589	06	04
From the Out-Ports (except Michaelmas Quarter at the places above-mention'd)	105547	11	11
Total Exports	514136	18	03



So our IMPORTS exceeded our EXPORTS

Or in other words, this Nation lost by the French Trade that Year, even by such Goods as were entered at the Custom-house

But this is not likely to be the Case of our exported Goods, if the late Treaty of Commerce should be made effectual by a Law. Our Exports cannot be greater: For my own part, I believe our whole Woollen Manufactures are as good as prohibited in France, by the Cheapness and Perfection of their own. But not to insist upon this Argument; we are very sure we can send no Goods to France, which are prohibited by any Edict in that Country, and for the Repeal of which there is no Provision in that Treaty: And this is the Case of all foreign Goods, or Goods wrought with foreign Materials, by the Edict of 1701.

Our Spanish Cloth therefore, our Drugs of foreign Growth, our East-India, Turkey, and other foreign Goods (not to mention those of our own Plantations) are all in this condition. These very Goods, in the above-mention'd Account of our Exports, amount to 245046 l. 19 s. 4 d.

We ought therefore to deduct from the Exports, viz. For the above-mention'd foreign Goods, the Sum of

And then our future Exports are not likely to exceed the Value of Our Imports hereafter are likely to be as great as ever, viz. Our future Exports are not likely to exceed

So that the future Balance against England will in all probability amount to the Sum of

This were Loss sufficient, if annually repeated, to ruin this Kingdom in a very few Years: and yet I believe I shall make appear hereafter, that from that time to the Act for prohibiting our French Commerce in the Reign of King William and Queen Mary, our Loss was rather increas'd than diminish'd.

But can it be imagin'd that this was all our Loss? Our Exports could not be greater than they appear in the Accounts from the Custom-house: But the Merchant himself will not deny, that besides the Goods which are entered in those Accounts, great Quantities are every day clandestinely imported. The Gentlemen who live upon the Coast, will very readily give their Assent to this. I shall therefore suppose for the present, and I believe I shall make it probable in the progress of this Argument, that there are generally imported in this clandestine manner, Wines, Silks, and other Goods and Manufactures of France, equal in Value to a third part of all those that are enter'd at the Custom-house; and then the Account will stand thus:

	l.	s.	d.
Goods enter'd at the Custom-house as above,	1284419	10	03
Goods clandestinely imported,	428119	16	09
The Total Imports	1712539	07	00
Deduct the Exports as above-mention'd,	514136	18	03

Thus we may very well suppose the French over-balance'd us in the Trade of that Year in the Sum of

I never had any thing left in my Thoughts, than to charge my self with the Defence of the SCHEME, which has been so often mention'd by the Merchant. But how much sooner those worthy Gentlemen, who (as is known to be of different Parties in other Matters, yet agreed there ought to be no Party in Trade, and therefore) subscribed their Names to the SCHEME, might be mistaken in some Particulars, it is highly probable they were not much mistaken in the Conclusion, and that the Balance even in 1669, against England was almost a Million Sterling.

Now in what manner ought we to reason from our past Trade to that which is to come? I see no reason to believe that our Imports will be less, and I believe I shall hereafter offer many probable Arguments that they will be greater.

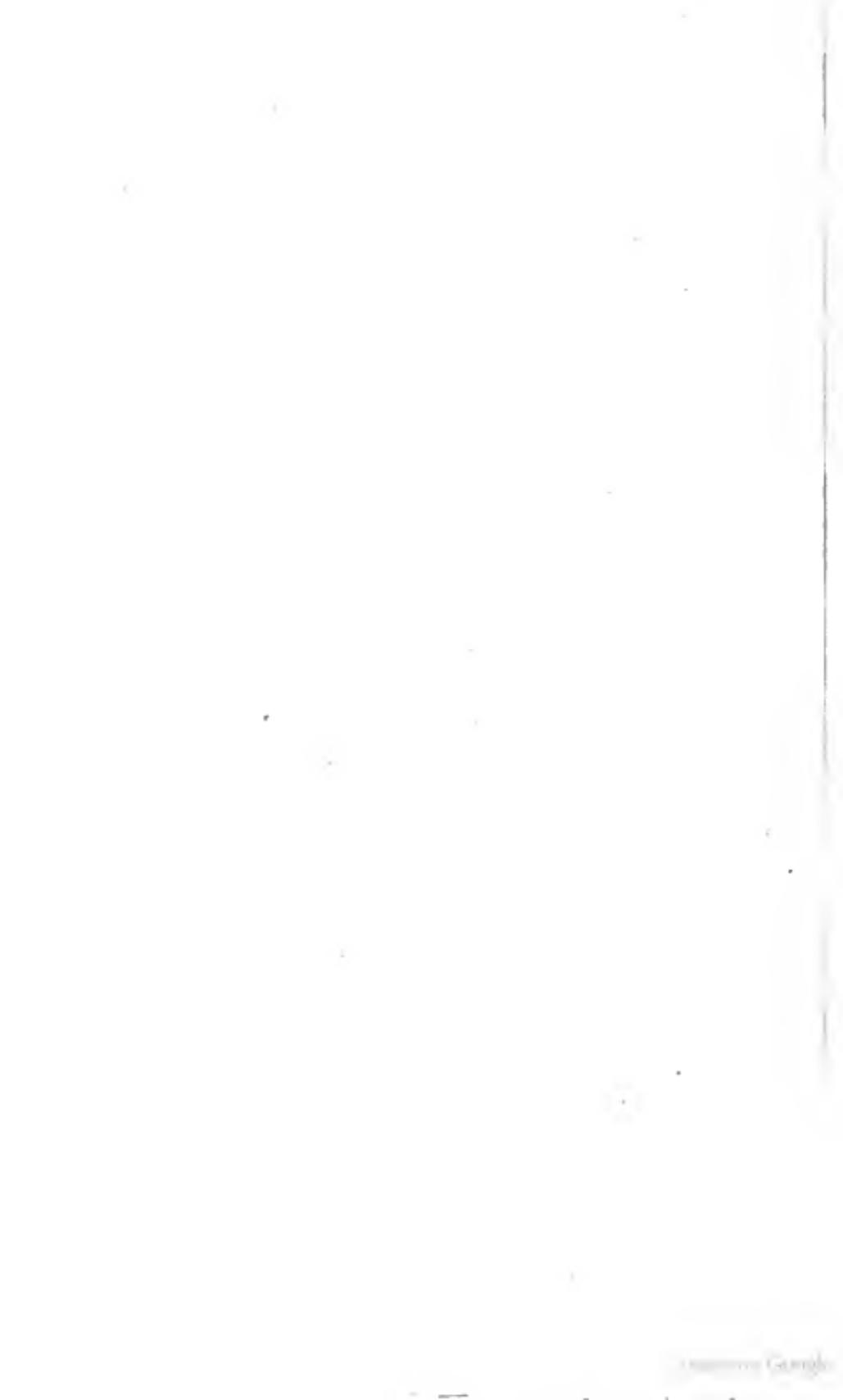
And what has England done, that she must pay such a Tribute as this to the French Nation? But it were better for us to pay so much actual Tribute to that People, than pay so great a Balance for their Manufactures. The Disturbance that must be made, by such a Commerce, in the Shipping and Manufactures of our own Country, and among the Landed and the Trading Interest, must needs be very lamentable; but this shall be the Subject of many of my future Papers.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

This Day is publish'd the Fourth Edition of The Consequences of a Law for reducing the Dutys on French Wines, Brandy, Silk and Linnen, to those of other Nations. With Remarks on the Mercator, Price 3d. * * * The Trade with France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, consider'd: With some Observations on the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France, The Fifth Edition, Price 3d. ††† The Course of Exchange between London and Paris before the Revolution: Or, A Demonstration that our Billions was then exported upon the Balance of our Trade with France, Price 4d. Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane, and J. Baker in Paternoster-Row.

In a few Days will be Publish'd, ††† A Discourse concerning the Referr'd ion of Jesus Christ, In Three Parts. Whence, I. The Consequences of the Doctrine are deriv'd Hypothetically. II. The Nature and Obligation of Moral Evidence, are explain'd at large. III. The Proof of the Faith of our Saviour's Resurrection, are propos'd, examin'd and fully demonstrat'd; to be conclusive. Together with an Appendix concerning the impossible Production of Thought, from Matter and Motion: The Nature of Human Souls, and of Devils: The Aethiopian's, and the Hypothesis of the YONAN; as also, concerning Divine Providence, the Origin of Evil, and the Universe in general. By Humphrey Dineen, Master of the New Mathematical School in Christ's Hospital, The Second Edition. Printed by J. Darby in Bartholomew-Cloze, and Sold by A. Bell in Cornhill, and E. Lincoll near the Temple-Gate in Fleetstreet.

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The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The British Merchant resolves to maintain his Conclusions, from the Account of Imports and Exports between France and England in his last, viz.

1. That the Balance against us in 1685. was 770,282 L. 12 s.
2. That we probably lost above 428,000 l. more, by the French Trade that Year:
3. That we shall probably lose near 1500,000 l. per ann. by our future Commerce with that Nation.

The first Proposition shall be made good by a Defence of the Valuation of the Particulars in the Account, whenever it shall be attack'd.

The Mercator convicted of an impudent Falshood, Calicoes, in the above-mention'd Account, ought not to be valu'd at more than 1 s. per Piece. The Mercator guilty of gross Perjurication in the Valuation of Calicoes.

From TUESDAY, September 22. to FRIDAY, September 25. 1713.

IN my last I exhibited an Account of Goods imported and exported between England and France, from Michaelmas 1685, to Michaelmas 1686. which was laid before the last Parliament by the present Officers of the Customs.

These Gentlemen know very well by what Tenure they hold their Places, and it will not easily be presumed that they would produce a false Account, to the Disadvantage of the French Commerce.

I have given the Valuation of all the Particulars of that Account. If I am right in my Valuation and Arithmetick, it is certain that our Trade with France that very Year stood thus:

Our Imports	_____	_____	_____	_____
Our Exports	_____	_____	_____	_____

And consequently the Balance against us was } 770282 12 00

I have said also, That it was probable, that besides the Goods fairly imported, and enter'd at the Custom-house, of the above-mention'd Value of 1234419 l. 10 s. the clandestine Imports of that Year were equal to one third part of that Value, or of the Value of 428239 l. 16 s. 9 d. And then this last being added to the former Sum, the Account will stand thus:

Our Imports	_____	_____	_____	_____
Our Exports, as before,	_____	_____	_____	_____

And consequently our total Loss that Year was } 1198422 08 09

In the last place, I asserted that all foreign Goods imported into England, and all English Manufactures made up of foreign Materials, stand prohibited in France, and that the Prohibition of them is not taken off by the late Treaty of Commerce; and that with respect therefore to our future Exportations to France, these ought to be deducted from our former Exports, of the Value of 514136 l. 18 s. 3 d. foreign Goods, or Goods made up of foreign Materials, of the Value of 245046 l. 19 s. 4 d. So that tho we could still send as many of

our other Goods to France as we did before, yet the Value of all these would not exceed 269089 l. 18 s. 11 d. On the other hand, I shall render it probable that our Imports from that Country will be as great as ever. And then our Trade with that Nation will hereafter stand thus:

Our Imports	_____	_____	_____	_____
Our Exports on more than	_____	_____	_____	_____

And consequently the annual Balance against us will be } 144369 09 00

I think my self oblig'd in my ensuing Papers to make good every one of these Propositions, or at least to give up every one which the Mercator or any other Person shall convince me is not to be maintain'd.

To defend the first, viz. that our Loss by the very Custom-house Account in the Year 1685, was 770282 l. 12 s. I have nothing else to do, but to defend my Valuation of the Particulars. It will be time enough to do this, when my Adversary shall think fit to impeach any of my Valuations.

But first I ought to acknowledge, that my Valuation of the Particulars differs something from that which I gave before in some Instances in my British Merchant, N^o 4. For this, I own my self oblig'd, to the Mercator, N^o 42. who insults me upon Calicoes, and calls upon my Readers to judge of the Modesty of my Valuation, by my having estimated 3876 Pieces at TEN SHILLINGS per Piece.

Were such Men, says this Writer, to be convinc'd by Demonstration, it might be prov'd that of that Quantity of Calicoes, many thousand Pieces were Betwixt us and the Indies, and the like, besides Chairs, Carpets, &c. which ought rather to have been rated from 3 l. to 6 l. per Piece, than at 10 s. and that even the Long-Cloths, which make near 10000 Pieces, were not then bought under 20 to 30 s. per Piece; and that few, if any, of the Calicoes ordinarily exported to France, were of the low coarse sorts. This, says he, is need only to show the Integrity of the Treatment which is to be expected from these Men rating of things.

This is a most extraordinary Passage, and almost every word in it is false.

I am charg'd with valuing Calicoes at only TEN SHILLINGS per Piece; I must confess I was at first astonish'd at this Charge.

As soon as I came to my self, I presently took up the before-mention'd *British Merchant*, who read in plain legible English Characters:

" Calicoes and Mullins, 38476 Pieces, at TWENTY SHILLINGS per Piece, 38476 l.

I could scarce at first believe my own Eyes; I read it over and over at least ten times, and every time I read TWENTY SHILLINGS per Piece. And that which demonstrates I meant TWENTY SHILLINGS per Piece, is, that the Number of Pounds is just equal to the Number of Pieces. He has publish'd many Papers since the before-mention'd, and has never once corrected this Error. This is a glaring Evidence of the Impudence of this Writer, and that he will never stick at a Lye, to gain any Advantage over his Adversary.

And yet if I had valu'd Calicoes at Ten Shillings per Piece, I should not be indicted, by anything which the *Mercator* has offer'd, to alter my Opinion.

On the contrary, I am really oblig'd to him for the above-mention'd Passage, it has render'd me so much the more careful in my Valuation of all the Particulars in my last Account; it has made me search out for the best Evidence of every Valuation, and instead of raising the Price of Calicoes above 20 s. per Piece, as the *Mercator* would have had me done, I have brought them down to TEN, which is the very Crime of which I am accus'd.

To justify this Alteration, I have caus'd the Sales of *East-India Goods* for the Year 1685, to be search'd, and I find that 10 s. per Piece is a sufficient Price for all the Calicoes at a Medium. My first Valuation at 20 s. per Piece, was made by the Opinion of some Merchants and Officers of the Customs; but the Company's Sales are a Demonstration. I might therefore very well at first have valu'd these Goods as the *Mercator* fully charges me to have done; but I insist now upon 10 s. per Piece as a sufficient Price, till I shall be better inform'd, which I never expect to be from this Person's Writings.

He has thought fit to give us a fine Discourse upon Betwees and Mullins, and says, that they ought rather to be rated from 3 l. to 6 l. per Piece, than at 10 s. It is possible that the finest Betwee or Mullin, the very finest sorts of them, may have been sold at the *Mercator's* Price; but such a thing is to be consider'd as a Curiosity, and there are very few of this price at a publick Sale: The common Price, at a Medium for whole Pieces, was 24 s. for the ordinary Sorts, and 32 s. for the finest. But Betwees and fine Mullins are seldom half the Calicoes at a publick Sale.

But here the *Mercator* imposes a Fallacy upon his Readers; they are made to believe, that whole Betwees and Mullins are estimat'd as single Pieces, when according to the Custom-house Account, both at Importation and Exportation, there are two Pieces in every one; which reduces the Price of the finest Sorts, at a Medium, to 16 s. for every Piece of ten Yards, and of those not so fine to 12 s.

His Fraud is yet greater in his Valuation of the *Long-Cloths*, which he says are from 25 to 30 s. but in that Year they were not above 25 s. at a Medium. But then, it ought to be observ'd, that every *Long-Cloth* is almost four Pieces of Calico, and the Price of 25 s. for the whole, is very little more than 6 s. for every Piece.

The *Mercator* affirms, that the *Long-Cloths* exported in that Year make 10000 of the Pieces; if he designs his Readers should understand, that 10000 whole *Long-Cloths* were exported in the Year 1687, as only 10000 Pieces, he is guilty of abominable Prevarication; since 10000 *Long-Cloths* was equal to all the 38476 Pieces of Calicoes exported in that Year. But if he would have us understand, that every such Cloth contains almost four Pieces, according to the Custom-house Account, and that only 10000 of these

Pieces of ten Yards to a Piece were exported, he has himself reduc'd his *Long-Cloths*, according to his own Valuation, to a great deal less than 20 s. for every Piece.

And upon the whole matter, I am very well satisfied, by the Sales of the Company in 1685, that 10 s. per Piece is a sufficient Valuation for every Piece of Calico which is exported in that Year; which is the very reason of reducing my former Price of 20 s. to the one half upon the Calicoes exported by this last Account.

The Calicoes, in the Account of my last, amount to 38476 Pieces, and the Difference between valuing them at 20 s. and 10 s. per Piece, is 60320 l. I thought I ought not to Arise-off, so great a sum from the Value of our Exports, without giving a reason for my so doing. But since, by the Company's Sales, I was not able to make them rise higher than 10 s. per Piece, I thought it my Duty to make that my Valuation. And whensoever the *Mercator* shall think it worth his while to impropria any of my other Prices, I shall either defend my self, or yield that I was in the wrong.

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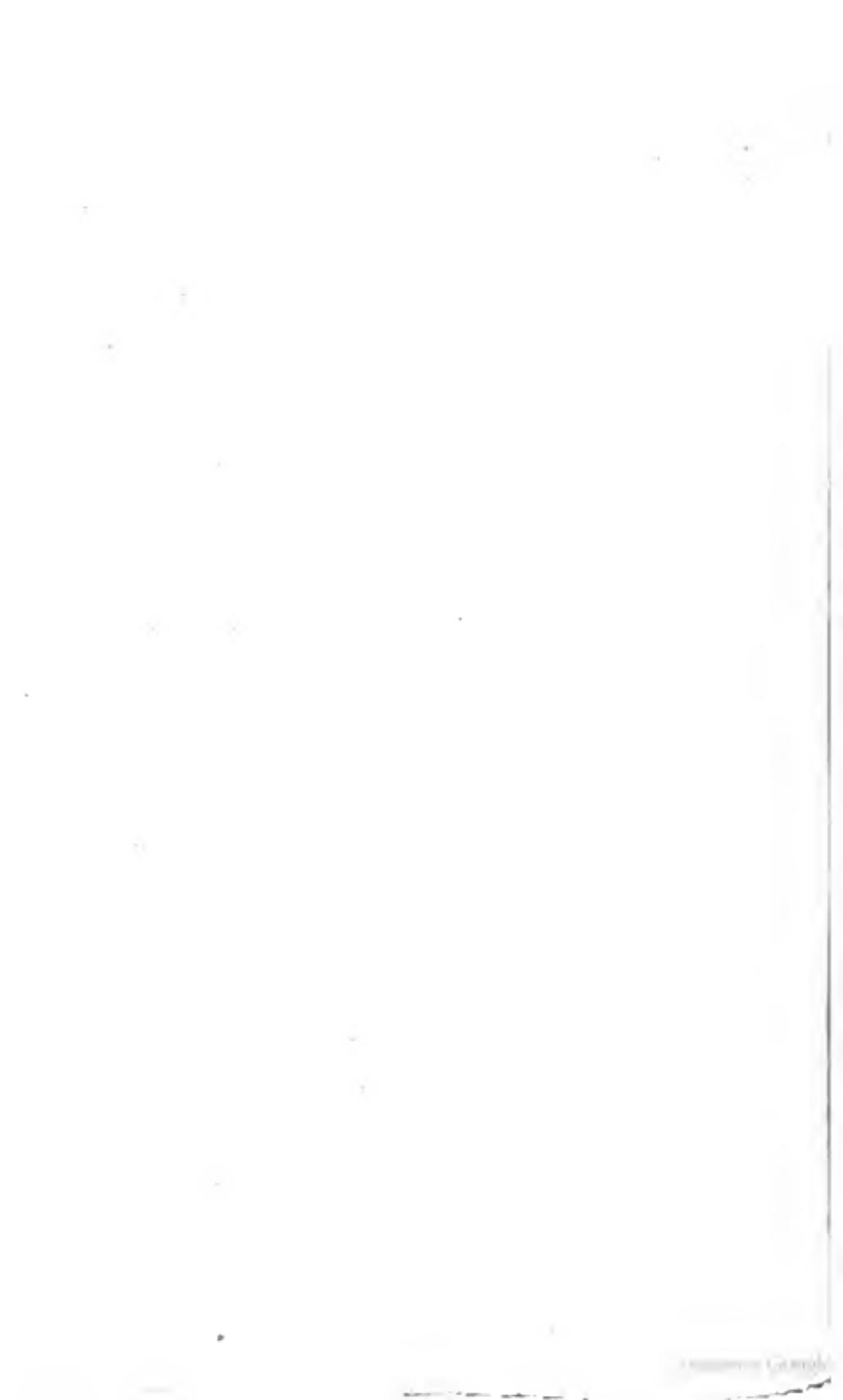
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The Consequences of a Law for reducing the Duty on French Wines, Brandy, Silk and Laces, to those of other Nations. With Remarks on the *Mercator's* Price 4d. * * * The Trade with France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, consider'd. With some Observations on the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France. The Fifth Edition. Price 3 d. [H] The Course of Exchanges between London and Paris since the Revolution; Or, A Demonstration that our Balance was then exported upon the Balance of our Trade with France. Price 4 s. Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane, and J. Baker in Poultry-Row.

Just Publish'd,
††† A Discourse concerning the Reformation of Jewish-Laws, in Three Parts. Wherein, 1. The Consequences of the Doctrine are first hypothetically, 2. The Nature and Obligation of Moral Divinity, are explain'd at large. 3. The Proof of the Law's our Saviour's Reformation's proper, is examin'd and fully demonstrat'd, to be conclusive. Together with an Appendix containing the impulsive Production of Thought, from Matter and Motion; The Nature of Human Souls, and of Brutes. The *Angels* Moral, and the Hypothesis of the TOBIAN; as also, concerning Divine Providence, the Origin of Evil, and the Universe in general. By Humphrey Ditton, Master of the New Mathematical School in Christ's Hospital. The Second Edition. Printed by J. Dury in Bishopsgate-Street, and Sold by A. Bell in Cornhill, and S. Lisner at the Temple-Gate in Westminster.

Shortly will be Publish'd,
††† A Compleat System, or Body of Divinity, both Speculative and Practical, founded on Scripture and Reason. Written originally in Latin, by PHILIP LIMBORCH, Professor of Divinity with Improvements from Bishop Wilkins, Archbishop Tillotson, Dr. Saurin, and several other Learned of the Church of England, into Volumes, by WILLIAM JONES, a Professor of the same Church. The Second Edition Corrected. To which is prefix'd, Mr. Le Clerc's General Opinion on Mr. Limborch. Printed by John Dury in Bishopsgate-Street.

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The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A Paragraph in the Mercator, Numb. 54. concerning the British Merchant.

The Mercator has never once corrected his Error concerning my Valuation of Callicoes, and his Charge upon me of want of Modesty and Integrity, with respect to that Valuation.

Errata, mention'd in a subsequent Paper, not suf-

ficient to remove the wrong Impressions made by a former, prov'd by several Instances.

The Mercator call'd on to answer several Charges of the British Merchant.

The Mercator not willing to try the French Trade by post Facts, but by Facts to come.

A Passage in my Lord Clarendon's History.

From FRIDAY, September 25. to TUESDAY, September 29. 1713.

THE *Mercator*, before his Numb. 54. had never thought fit once to own that there was any such Person as the *British Merchant* that writes against him: But in that Paper he taxes me by that very Name with Rudeness and Indecency of Expression, and also with giving him the Lye.

The Case was this:

I had in mine, Numb. 2. val'd Callicoes and Muslins at TWENTY SHILLINGS per Piece; the *Mercator*, Numb. 42. taxes me with want of Modesty and Integrity, in having estimated them so low as TEN Shillings per Piece.

This I affirm'd was a glaring Evidence of the Impudence of this Writer, and that he would not stick at a LYE to gain an Advantage over his Adversary, and that he had never once corrected this Error.

He defends himself, Numb. 54. by affirming that this was a Mistake of the Printer, and that in his Numb. 43. he had corrected the Mistake thus;

Errata in the Last,

Col. 2. Lin. 27. for ten read twenty. Ibid. lin. 35. for ten read twenty.

Now I must still insist upon it, that this is so far from being a Correction of his Error, that it is a great Aggravation of his Guilt.

He thinks, when he has said any thing that is very false in any of his Papers, his publishing an *Erratum* in the next, in the above-mention'd manner, is a sufficient Correction of his Error, and will at any time clear his Reputation to his Readers. And this indeed is sufficient, where the Error amounts to no more than a Mistake of the Printer, and neither tends to the Scandal or Defamation of any Person, nor to the strengthening of the Writer's Argument; but where by this Error he either defames his Adversary, or adds weight to his own Argument, the Publication of his *Errata* in any subsequent Paper, simply and without any Observation, will never be allow'd to be a sufficient Correction of his Error.

A few Years since a certain Person writ and pub-

lish'd a very scandalous Libel against a Man of Honour, 'till before the Publication, he consider'd very prudently, he might be subject to an Action of *Scandalum Magnatum* for what he had said in the Body of his Work, and therefore soiled in at the latter end his *Errata*, in such a manner as is done by the *Mercator*, in which there was a *Defe* against some of the scandalous Passages, and before others read not, how contrary to ever it was to his main Argument. I appeal now to the *Mercator*, whether he believes this Writer acquitted himself by his *Errata*? Whether he thinks the wrong Impressions made upon his Readers by the Book, were likely to be taken off by the Corrections? And whether they deserv'd the Name of Corrections? Certainly every one of the *Mercator's* impartial Readers will think this Writer ought to have made a better Recantation of his Errors, and at the least to have besought his Readers to give no Credit to those Passages as they stand in his Book, and to declare that nothing in the World was ever more contrary to the Sense and Meaning of the Author.

The Author of the *British Merchant* does not pretend to be a Person of that Quality; but every Man who has not been convicted of any infamous Action, nor branded with a publick Punishment, will have some regard to his Reputation. Now I had val'd Callicoes and Muslins at Twenty Shillings per Piece; if I had been guilty of too low a Valuation in this, the *Mercator* might very well accuse me, as he did, of want of Modesty and Integrity, for valuing them at 90 more than TEN, as in his Numb. 42. he says I had done. This is false, and therefore in the *Errata* at the end of the next, he says, for ten read twenty; but will this be esteem'd a sufficient Correction of his Error? I am charg'd with want of Modesty and Integrity in my Valuation at Ten Shillings, and will his *Errata* at the end of his next Paper set me right with all his Readers? Had he not first made the wrong Impression upon them? Must not every one of them believe that I have still the same want of Modesty and Integrity? Does he imagine that one tenth part of his Readers are at the trouble of looking back upon his former Papers, and correcting all his Errors? Ought he not therefore to have hugg'd my

My pardon in the next Paper for his Printer's Mistake, in charging me with so low a Valuation? And then, if he had thought fit, he might still have insisted upon want of Modesty and Integrity, even in my Valuation of 20s.

What would this Person think of me, if I should affirm in any of my Papers, That

The Author of the *Mercator* stood in the Pillory for an infamous Libel against the Church of England? And if after I should be made sensible that the Author was not *Daniel Fox*, nor had ever stood in the Pillory, I should publish in my very next,

Errata in the last, After Mercator read never.



Would he think that this was doing him justice? Would he not presently cry out, that I had call'd him Rogue at the publick Cross, and that I only whisper'd my Mistake in a Corner? Would he accept of this as a Correction of my Error? Would he not affirm that I had made a false Impression against him upon all my Readers, and that I had taken it off from very few?

But this is the way of the *Mercator*, to let the Error go ahead, first to make a wrong Impression upon his Readers, and then to publish his *Errata*, only to save himself, but not to remove any part of that Impression, nor to abate the force of his former Argument. This is not the only Instance in which he has been guilty of this Practice.

Mercator, N^o 9. to make his Readers believe we should be in very little danger of having any wrought Silks from France, affirm'd that raw Silk pays upon the first Importation into that Kingdom sixteen Livres per pound, Dury: for my own part, I readily believ'd then there could not be an Ounce of it re-exported. And this, I believe, was the Case of many hundreds of his Readers. The thing is absolutely false, and the *Mercator* knew it to be so; therefore at the latter end of his next, his Reader is desir'd to correct the Mistakes in the last Paper thus, For 16 Livres per pound, read 16 Livres per hundred: the difference is no more than of Three-pence and Four and Twenty Shillings. But does he think that every one of his Readers was at the pains of correcting this Mistake? No, certainly it was his desire to make the wrong Impression, and not to take it off by his Correction. His very *Errata* shew that he knew of the Falshood, and since he has not made sufficient Reparation, it is an Aggravation of Guilt.

Since this Writer therefore has so publicly and so fallily accus'd me of want of Modesty and Integrity by so low a Valuation as Ten Shillings upon Callicoes and Mullins in one of my former Papers, when I had valn'd them as high again, and has done so little towards the Reparation of this Injury does he imagine that I am to use any Decency with him? But I desire his Readers to look back, and see with what Decency he has treated all People, who cannot agree with him that the French Trade is beneficial; that is, the greatest part of the Nation, and even of our Representatives in the last Parliament: and does such a Man expect to be us'd with Decency? But for my own part, I am as willing he should give me the LYE, as contrit me of a Falshood: which, for the reasons I have given, I cannot believe he has done in the Passage above-mention'd.

I am glad, however, the *Mercator* has thought fit to own to all his Readers, that there is such a Writer against him as the *British Accountant*. I hope now he will endeavour to clear himself from all the Falshoods I have charg'd upon him. N^o 3, 8, 9. I have charg'd and re-inforc'd the Charge of Forgery upon the *Mercator*, with respect to a Sacred Treaty I hope he will now think it necessary to acquit himself of this Charge. The *Mercator*, N^o 10. asserts that the passing the Bill of Commerce cannot be attended with any other Consequence than of a Prohibition of our *Woolen Cloths in Portugal*: I have prov'd N^o 10. that in that case the King of Portugal may prohibit not only our *Woolen Cloths*, but all

the rest of our *Woolen Manufactures*. It will be expected now he should make good his first Assertion, that all our *Woolen Manufactures* are in no danger of being prohibited in that Kingdom. But the grand Point which the *Mercator* promis'd, N^o 1. was to prove that the French Trade not only MAY BE, but always HAS BEEN, beneficial to this Nation; and that by a Calculation of the Exports and Imports, the former have exceeded. In mine, N^o 14. I have produc'd an Account which was laid before the last Parliament, in which our Imports exceeded our Exports in 770,000 l. by means whereof we had to great a Balance to pay to that Nation. It is time now for the *Mercator* either to falsify that Account, or to produce one of other Years which is sufficient to balance to great a Loss. But instead of trying the Trade by Facts which are past, N^o 54. he would now try it by those which are to come: He hopes every Man will come into this, That the Treaty of Commerce ought to be render'd effectual for three Years, that at the end we may be able to judg whether that Trade will be beneficial to this Nation.

This Proposition of the *Mercator* puts me in mind of a Passage in my Lord *Clarendon's* History, Vol. I. fol. 353. the large Edition, concerning King *Charles I.* who long ask'd by the *Earl of Pembroke* whether the *Militia* might not be granted, as was desir'd by the Parliament, for a time! He answer'd, By God— not for an Hour. So extravagant a Demand was enough to make a Martyr swear. And if he were now alive, and to be ask'd whether the Treaty of Commerce might not be render'd effectual for three Years, he could hardly forbear answering upon Oath, That his People should not lose a Million per ann. for three Years to France, and by that means also lose the gaining another Million every Year from Portugal FOR EVER.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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A Poem to the Memory of the late Reverend Mr. Joseph Stennet, Printed by J. Dury in *Bartholomew-Close*, and Sold by A. Bell at the *Clock-Kays* and *Bills in Cornhill*, and J. Baker at *Mercers-Chappel in Cheshide*: Where may be had Mr. *Fielding's* Funerall Sermon on Mr. Stennet, and Mr. *Quincy's* Pains upon him.

Mr. ASGILL'S Tracts, intitled,

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Lately Publish'd,

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Just publish'd the Fourth Edition of

The Consequences of a Law for reducing the Duties on French Wines, Brandy, Silk and Linnen, to those of other Nations. With Remarks on the *Mercator*, Price 3d. * * * The Trade with France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, consider'd: With some Observations on the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France. The Fifth Edition. Price 3d. ††† The Course of Exchange between London and Paris before the Revolution: Or, A Demonstration that our Bullion was then expor'd upon the Balance of our Trade with France. Price 4d. Sold by A. Baldwin in *Warwick-Lane*, and J. Baker in *Parrot-street-Road*.



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator not able to produce any Year before our Prohibitions, when the Balance of the French Trade was to the Advantage of England.

The Mercator wrong in his Account of the Quantity and Price of French Wines imported into England.

The just Medium of French Wines annually imported into England.

The several Prices of Wine in the SCHEME, the BRITISH MERCHANT, and the GUARDIAN, justify'd.

The Mercator has profited his Pen in the Defence of such a Commerce as must needs be ruinous to his Country.

From TUESDAY, September 29. to FRIDAY, October 2. 1713.

THE *Mercator* at his first setting out assur'd us that the *French Trade* has been always beneficial to this Nation: He promis'd then to make good this Proposition, by a Calculation of the Exports and Imports between both Countries; his few Admirers begin now to be out of countenance for him; he has not yet, in eighteen Weeks, been able to produce any one Year on his side; and till this shall be done, his Readers ought to give him over.

In his first, he was not at all afraid of the *Tariffs* and *Prohibitions* in *France*; he had the Confidence then to tell us, that notwithstanding all their *Prohibitions* and additional *Customs* upon our Goods, we still traded with them to advantage.

An Account of the Exports and Imports of one Year has been produc'd against this Assertion, in the *British Merchant*, N^o 14. an Account which was laid before the last Parliament from the *Custom-house*, and which even this *Writer* has not the Impudence to deny. Upon a just Valuation of all the Particulars in that Account, it appears we paid a Balance to *France* of 77000*l*.

What is become now of his Trade which was always beneficial, in spite of *Tariffs* and *Prohibitions*?

But he has still the face to say, N^o 53. he believes he has sufficiently prov'd already that that Trade has been beneficial to the Kingdom, and that he is therefore unconcern'd at the *Dish* that has been rais'd against him.

Good God! already prov'd! Where is the Account he has ever yet produc'd? In what Year, before our *Prohibition* and high Duties, was the Balance paid to *England*? And then can any Man read with patience, that he has already prov'd, and sufficiently too, that the *French Trade* has been beneficial to this Nation?

But we are assur'd by him, N^o 53. 'That as soon as an exact Account of the Exports and Imports of any of those Years, before the Addition of high Duties in *France* upon our Manufactures, can be obtain'd; a more perfect SCHEME of the *French Trade* shall be made out, than ever has been offer'd yet.'

What! Were we at first told that the *French Trade* was always beneficial? and are we now put off to Accounts, as soon as they can be obtain'd? Was the Trade beneficial, in spite of Duties and Prohibitions? and are we now sent back to Years before those Duties and Prohibitions? But I will be contented his Readers shall believe any thing, whensoever he shall produce a Year before our own Prohibitions, in which the Trade was to our Advantage. All I desire, is, they should believe, upon the Account I have given, that we lost 77000*l*. in one Year, by our Commerce with that Nation.

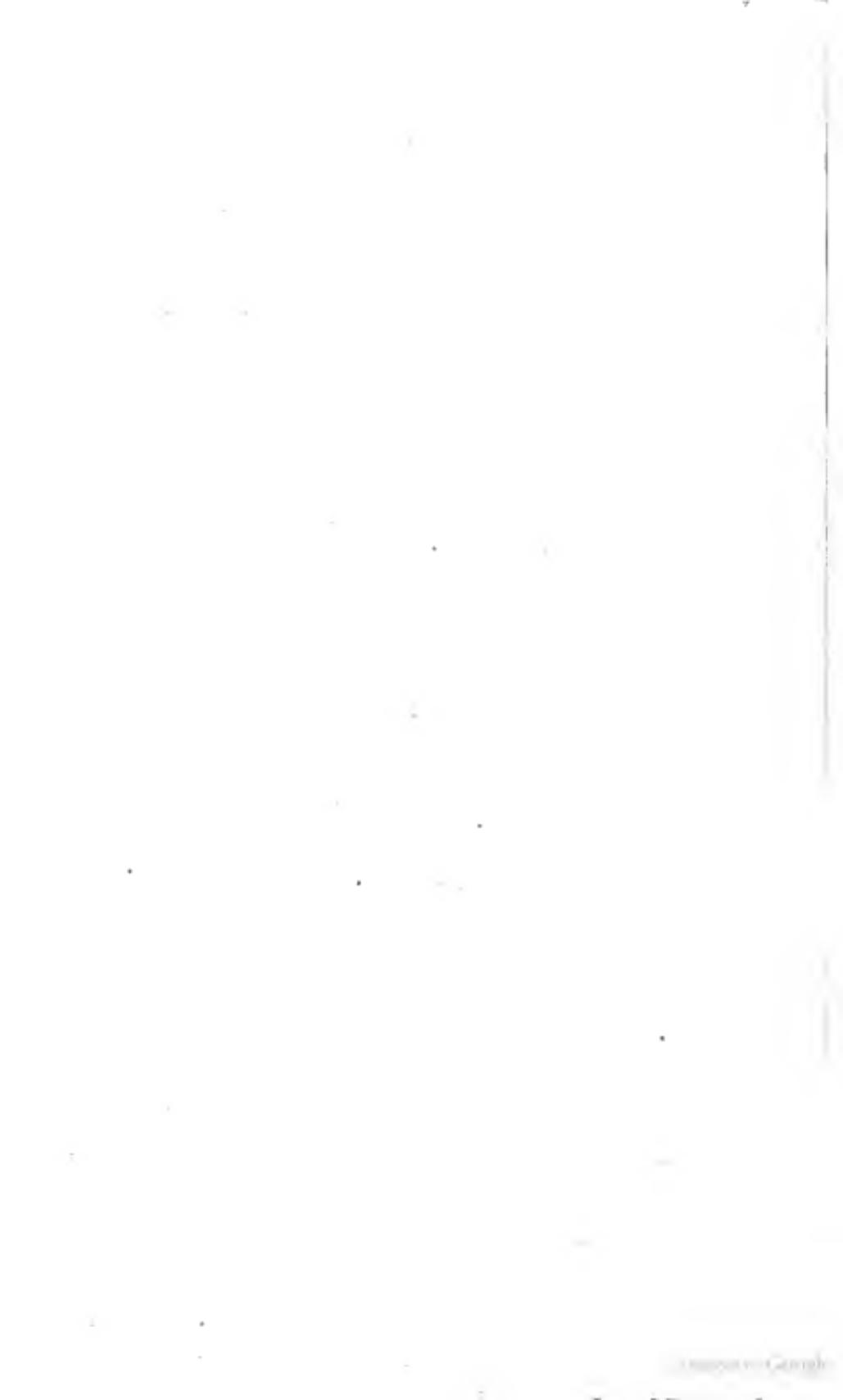
But he would persuade us, N^o 54. to address the Parliament to make the Articles effectual provisionally, to be void again if the Trade does not prove to our Advantage. By this, as I have shewn, we shall lose that advantageous Trade for ever. What Provision, in any of our Acts of Parliament, will be able to restore us to that Trade, when it shall be once lost? Or what Amends will the *Mercator* make us, for the Loss of so advantageous a Commerce as we now enjoy with that Nation?

No: I shall give my Consent for trying the *French Trade* no otherwise than by the *Mercator's* own Rule.

One way, says he, N^o 55. to judge of what may be import'd for time to come, is to examine what has been import'd for time past. Let him produce an exact Account of what has been import'd thence in past Years, and then I will tell him what we are to expect for Years to come. But I despair of any such Account from the *Mercator*. In this very Paper he has given me reason why I ought never to expect it from him.

But I desire every one of his impartial Readers to observe what use he would now make of this Rule.

In the Account produc'd by the *British Merchant*, the *French Wines* import'd from *Michelinne* 1684, to *Michelinne* 1686. into *London* and the *Out-Ports*, were 6648 Tuns: and the *Guardian*, N^o 170. has cited from



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator has not ONCE corrected the Error in Numb. 42. as it charges the British Merchant with want of Modesty and Integrity.

No Scotch Linnen imported from France into England.

The Mercator will not be able to reduce the Value of Linnen, Silks, Wine, Brandy or Paper, lower than they are in the Account of Imports between

Michaelmas 1685. and Michaelmas 1686.

Our Imports likely to be as great from France as ever :

But not our Exports.

An Extract of the Edict of 1701. shewing, that the Prohibition of foreign Goods is not repeal'd by the Treaty of Commerce.

From FRIDAY, October 2. to TUESDAY, October 6. 1713.

THE Mercator, Numb. 47. ends with these words :

' The Error of the Press, Numb. 42. was

' ONCE corrected, MERCATOR, Numb.

' 43. therefore he that said it was not

' ONCE corrected, said out true.

' The MERCATOR thinks directing the Reader to read a thing right, when it was printed wrong, is a sufficient Correction.'

In the above-mention'd Error, which the Mercator imputes to the Printer, I am charg'd with want of Modesty and Integrity, for having valu'd Calicoes and Mullins at 10 s. per Piece, when I had valu'd them at 20; and therefore in the Errata, Numb. 43. the Correction is, for TEN read TWENTY, twice. It is not very likely the Printer should be twice guilty of this Error, it is much more probable he was led into it by the Manuscript; and then it will be thought the Error of the Author.

But this is but one half of the Error; the greatest part of it is, That I am charg'd with want of Modesty and Integrity, by so low a Valuation. And this Charge is no otherwise to be supported, than by that very Error; and therefore at the same time that he thought fit to correct this half of the Error, he ought to have beg'd my Pardon, for having wrongfully charg'd me with the want of Modesty and Integrity.

The Author of the Mercator, if he is indeed the very Person who is pointed out by common Fame, may think it a very trivial thing to be charg'd with the want of Modesty and Integrity: But for my own part, I shall always think it my Duty, if by Mistake I have wrongfully charg'd any Man with such a Crime, to make him publick Reparation.

I must therefore repeat what I have said in mine, Numb. 16. that where the Error, whether of the Author or the Printer, either tends to the Defamation of Persons, or adds weight to the Writer's Argument, it ought to be retraced in as solemn a manner as possible, that it may not leave any false Impression upon his Readers.

The Mercator, Numb. 57. has given us a Sample of

what ought to be done in this Case. In his Numb. 56. he insisted, that great Quantities of Linnen, imported from France to England, were first exported thither from Scotland, because among the Parcels of Linnen imported from France, he reads 5700 Ells of British Linnen. He is convinc'd since that this was the Manufacture of Britain in France; and therefore in the very beginning of his Paper, Numb. 57. he very justly cautions his Readers against relying upon that Argument. Yet still he insists upon it, that great Quantities of the Linnen imported from that Kingdom, were first exported thither from North Britain: And his Readers, no doubt, will as easily believe, that great Quantities of Coals are carry'd every Year from London to Newcastle.

The Mercator, Numb. 54. is very angry with the Account of Exports and Imports lately publish'd, and promises his Readers very elegantly, that he will take *that SCHEMÉ to pieces, and hang it in the Sun a drying, when it shall shew like a Red Herring, to a Size no bigger than the true Substance of it.*

But what is it this terrible Writer intends to do?

First, Will he be able to reduce the Attitude of Linnen? Will he reduce either the Quantities, or the Price? The Quantities are the very same which were laid before the last Parliament by the present Officers of the Customs; and I am very well assur'd, he will never be able to object against the Prices. And I must observe to him, that the very Articles of Linnen imported thither from France, between Michaelmas 1685. and Michaelmas 1686. even by the Custom-house Accounts, besides the clandestine Importations, amount to 398512 L. 14 s. 10 d.

Will he object then against the wrought Silk? The Quantity, in the above-mention'd Account of imported Goods, is 121497 1/2 lbs. weight: So that that Quantity at least was fairly imported, and enter'd in the Books of the Custom-house. But the last Mercator objects against the Price of 50 s. per lb. and would reduce it to 28 s. If French Silk was purchas'd in that Country for 28 s. per lb. what prodigious Quantities of those Silks must have been clandestinely import'd! If they can be bought in France so very cheap as 28 s. per lb.

fib. how many Looms are likely to be left in *Cambray* or *Spintfelds*? This must needs be very fine News for all our Weavers. But such as have been conversant in the Silk Trade, know very well, that 50 s. per Pound is the Price then clear on Board in that Country at a Medium; and then the 121497; *lib.* in that Account, amounted to 303743 *l.* 10 s.

The Wines in that Account are 15548½ Tuns, and at 17 *l.* 10 s. per Tun, amount to 291253 *l.* 2 s. 6 d. And is this Sum too, to shrink like a Red-Herring in the Sun? He objects against the Quantity, N^o 55, as being imported in the Year immediately following the Interruption of the French Trade; and so oo Rule for other Years. But I must inform him, that the Importation of the following Years was still greater; and therefore nothing is to be objected against the Quantity of that Year. And as for the Price of 17 *l.* 10 s. per Tun, I am able to justify it by the Invoices of the Merchants at that time: so that the Value of Wines imported there is still 291253 *l.* 2 s. 6 d.

He has not yet objected against the Quantity or the Price of Broad in that Year; that Article therefore remains still as in the above-mention'd Account, 43372 *l.* 1 s. 3 d.

The same must be said of Paper, which is, notwithstanding any thing said by the *Mercator*, 25225 *l.* 5 s.

The above-mention'd Articles amount to 1055905 *l.* 13 s. 7 d. And will the *Mercator* be able to sink this Sum to the size of a Red-Herring? But I am well assur'd that the above-mention'd Articles, and all the rest of the Goods imported between *Michaelmas* 1685, and *Michaelmas* 1686, and enter'd at the Custom-house, will still appear to be about the Value of 1284419 *l.* 10 s. 3 d.

And then will the *Mercator* allow nothing to be added to this Account for clandestine Importations? But I have oo need to insist at present upon clandestine Importations. By the Account of Goods fairly imported and exported, and enter'd at the Custom-house, it appears, that

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Our Imports were	1294419	10	3
Our Exports so more than	514136	18	3
So that our Loss was	770282	12	0

And was this to be accounted oo Loss at all? Does he mean that it will be no Rule for our future Loss by the French Trade, if the Bill of Commerce should pass into a Law?

First, for our Imports: Are we likely to import less Linen than we did before, when the Duties shall be equal to those of *German* Linens, as by the late Treaty of Commerce? Shall we import less wrought Silk than we did before, when the Duties shall be no higher than on the wrought Silks of *Italy*, and much less than on those from other Countries? Especially if, as the *Mercator* says, the French sell their wrought Silk for 28 s. per pound, and the same Manufacture cannot be made at any thing like the Price in *England*. It is true, the Duties upon French Wines are higher than they were formerly, and so they are upon all other Wines; but then either our Luxury or our Substance is so much increased, that near as much of all sorts of Wines appears to be imported of late years, and enter'd at the Custom-house, notwithstanding these Duties, as was in former years. And are we less fond of Clarets now than heretofore? (since we have Gentlemen who are ready to sacrifice the interest of their Country to their Palates.) And ought we not then to expect as great a Quantity of them, if the Duties upon them shall be reduc'd as low as those upon *Portugal* Wines, and much lower than on the Wines from other Countries? So that I must take it for granted, if the Treaty of Commerce shall be made effectual, that our Imports from France will be near as great as ever?

And then for our Exports, can we hope they will be as great as formerly? Has France been practising in the Woollen Manufactures for so many years, that they

should stand in need of the same Quantities from *England*? Has the been selling Woollen Manufactures to *Italy* and *Turkey*, for twenty Years last past, of her own, and even to under-sell us at those Markets, that the must now be forc'd hence with those very Manufactures? Has the yet arriv'd at no perfection in all this time? And is not Labour far cheaper there than in *Great Britain*? The *Mercator* may as well argue that we are now in danger of buying Cloth from the *Flemings*, because we did in the time of the *Dukes of Burgundy*, before we had any Looms of our own.

But let it be suppos'd that we were still able to export our Woollen Manufactures into France, which however I do; can we still export as much of all other Goods? I will desire the *Mercator* only to read over the French King's Edict of 1701, and to consider it, in the following words.

Ordonne pareillement sa Majesté que les Négocians Anglois, soit qu'ils viennent sur des Vaisseaux d'Angleterre, ou sur des Vaisseaux d'autres Nations à eux appartenans; & les Vaisseaux Anglois, soit qu'ils appartiennent ou soient commandez par des Anglois, ou qu'ils appartiennent à des Négocians d'autres Nations, ou soient commandez par d'autres étrangers; ne pourront apporter dans le Royaume d'autres Marchandises que celles de crû, & ces celles fabriquées avec des matières de crû d'Angleterre, autres que celles dont l'entrée est expressément prohibée; & si les dits Vaisseaux se trouvent chargés d'autres Marchandises, il ne pourront en faire aucun débarquement dans les Ports du Royaume, à peine de confiscation de la Marchandise & du Vaisseau, & de trois mille Livres d'amende contre le Marchand qui les recevoit dans le Royaume.

In English.

His Majesty likewise orders, that the English Traders, whether they come upon Ships belonging to England, or upon Ships of other Nations to them belonging; and English Ships, whether they belong to, or are commanded by English, or whether they belong to Traders of other Nations, or commanded by Foreigners; shall not bring into the Kingdom other Merchandize, than such as are of the Growth, or manufactur'd with the Materials of the Growth of England; over and above those of which the Entrance is herein before prohibited. And if the said Ships shall be laden with other Merchandize, they shall not be permitted to make any discharge thereof in the Ports of this Kingdom, upon pain of forfeiting Ship and Goods, and three thousand Livres penalty upon the Importer.

This is an absolute Prohibition of all foreign Goods exported from England, or of Goods made up of or mix'd with foreign Materials. These, as by the above-mention'd Account, from *Michaelmas* 1685, to *Michaelmas* 1686, amounted to 269089 *l.* 18 s. 11 d. This Edict is not provided to be repeal'd by the ninth Article of the Treaty of Commerce, which provides only for the Repeal of all Prohibitions, &c. IN RESPECT TO THE GOODS AND MERCHANTIZES OF GREAT BRITAIN; but not of those imported into Great Britain from foreign Countries, or made or mix'd with the Materials of foreign Countries. And if neither foreign Goods nor Woollen Manufactures can be exported hence hereafter into France, we must abate the Value of our former Exports above 300000 *l.* and then our Imports being as above, almost 1300000 *l.* our Exports very little more than 300000 *l.* we shall lose above a Million Sterling by our future Trade with France.

ERRATA in the Last.

Col. 7. lin. 6. after 1674. read exclusive. Ibid. L 28. after 76. read 77. dele 79. Ibid. l. 31. for fourth, read third.







The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Britain able to consume, and France to supply us with 18000 Tuns of Wine.
 The Account of French Wine imported for three Years into England only.
 Britain able to consume, and France to export hither 3000 Tuns of Brandy, and 600000 l. Value in Linen (which are the Quantities propos'd

by the GUARDIAN for our future Imports) also the Value of 30000 l. in Paper, and 500000 l. in Wrought Silk.
 Britain able to consume, and France to export as great Quantities of Goods hither, as propos'd by the GUARDIAN for our future Imports.

From TUESDAY, October 6. to FRIDAY, October 9. 1713.

THE MERCATOR fancy'd himself very safe upon the unexpected Silence of the GUARDIAN, and thought it the easiest thing in the world to combat a dead Adversary. But tho' the GUARDIAN is no more, I shall think it my Duty to confute his false Assertions in Trade; which is the Province I have undertaken.
 The MERCATOR, N^o 58. insults the Late GUARDIAN, as he is pleas'd to call him, upon his Scheme of our future Trade with France, and his stating the Quantity of Goods to be hereafter annually imported from that Country, as follows; viz.

- 18000 Tuns of Wine,
- 4000 Tuns of Brandy,
- The Value of 700000 l. in Linen,
- The Value of 500000 l. in Wrought Silk,
- And the Value of 300000 l. in Paper.

* This, says the MERCATOR, is to suppose we shall import more Goods than it is possible for this Nation to consume, or indeed for those parts of France, with which we traded, to produce for Exportation.
 First then, by the Account publish'd by the BRITISH MERCHANTS, N^o 14. it appears that the Wine imported into England only, from Michaelmas 1684, to Michaelmas 1686, amounted to 16648 1/2 Tuns. How little does this want of 18000? And will it be propos'd that none at all was imported into Scotland? or not enough to make up the whole Quantity of 18000 Tuns for the whole united Kingdom of Great Britain.
 The MERCATOR says, we pick out the first Year after the Interruption of the French Trade, as most for our purpose: But to convince my Readers of the

Folly and Knavery of his Assertion, I shall subjoin the following Account of the Imports of Wine into England from France, which was laid before the last House of Commons.

	Tuns.	Gal.
From Michaelmas 1686 to Mich. 1687.	15518	97
----- 1687 ----- 1688.	14214	171
----- 1688 ----- 1689.	11109	92
	40841	108
To which must be added the Imports into all the Out-Ports, which is computed to be one Third of the Imports of the Port of London	13514	36
	54355	144

So that in a Medium of these three Years, the annual Import is 18152 Tuns, 48 Gallons; which is beyond the Calculation mention'd in the GUARDIAN; and this ONLY for England.

But I must desire my Reader to take notice, that the Imports above-mention'd of the Year 1689, are but the Imports from Michaelmas 1688, to the Declaration of War in 1689. After which, there could hardly be any more imported that Year, which otherwise would undoubtedly have amounted to as much as any of the former Years.

My Reader is further to observe, that in the Accounts above-mention'd there is no notice taken of the Importation of French Wines to Scotland; which is generally thought to be 3 or 4000 Tuns per ann. And will the MERCATOR now affirm, against so plain a Matter of

of Faſt, That all Great Britain cannot conſume 18000 Tuns of French Wine? or that the Parts of France with which we uſually traded, are not able to produce ſo great a Quantity for Exportation? France has annually produc'd heretofore above 18000 Tuns for this Kingdom, and this Kingdom has annually conſum'd ſo great a Quantity of that Wine: and what then becomes of the *MERCATOR*'s Assertion, That France cannot produce, nor Great Britain conſume 18000 Tuns of Wine?

The next Article is that of Brandy: The *Guardian*, Num. 570. ſuppoſes we may import hereafter 3000 Tuns, tho' the *Mercator*, according to his Cuſtom, charges him with ſaying 4000 Tuns, or thereabouts; and cannot France produce, or Great Britain conſume ſuch a Quantity? It is certain, England only conſumes a much greater Quantity of Maſk-Spirits, and 'tis ridiculous to ſay, that this is a great Quantity for France to produce.

The Linnen hereafter to be import'd, is ſaid by the *Mercator* to be ſtated in the *Guardian* at 700000 *l.* per ann. tho' the *Guardian* ſuppoſes no more than 600000 *l.* when he comes to caſt up his Account of Particulars of what ſhall hereafter be imported; (of which, if the *Mercator* intended to have acted fairly, he could not but have taken notice.) By the Account in the *British Merchant*, Num. 14. it appears, the Value of 39861 *l.* 15 s. 10 d. was fairly imported in one Year; this is Two Thirds of the whole Quantity ſuppos'd hereafter to be imported into this Kingdom. It is generally believ'd there are ſeven Millions of People in Great Britain, and will the Value of 600000 *l.* in Linnen (not above 1 s. and 3 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ for every Head in England, for Shirts, Sheets and all ſorts of Linnen) be thought extravagant?

'Tis alſo notorious, that little other than French Linnen was us'd in England; whence 'tis natural to infer, that very great Quantities were clandestinely run upon the Coast. As for France not being able to produce ſo much Linnen for Exportations, it is ſo aſurd, that I ſhall not vouchſafe it any other Answer.

Is the Value of 30000 *l.* in Paper too much for Great Britain to conſume, or France to make for Exportation? By the very Account, which I have publiſh'd from the Parliament, it appears that the Paper fairly imported into England only, from that Country, in one Year, was of the Value of 26225 *l.* 5 s.

And, Laſtly, for wrought Silk, is 500000 *l.* a Sum ſo very extravagant? It will hardly be thought ſufficient to buy Hoods for the whole Female Sex in the United Kingdoms of Great Britain, allowing nothing at all for Scarfs, Gowns and Petticoats. By the abovemention'd Account, the Value entered in one Year at the Port of London, and the Out-ports, amounted to 30747 *l.* 10 s. and ſhall nothing at all be allow'd for clandestine Importations? Shall it be ſaid too that no French Silks were ever worn in Scotland? The Value of 500000 *l.* in wrought Silk is a very conſiderable Quantity for the annual Conſumption of Great Britain: And 'tis but a Trifle for ſo great a People as the French Nation to make for Exportation. 'Tis notorious that wrought Silk is at leaſt the ſecond greateſt Manufacture of that Country: Will the *Mercator* then pretend that 500000 *l.* Value of wrought Silk, is too great a Quantity for France to make, or Great Britain to conſume?

Thus by an Enumeration of the Particulars in the *Guardian*'s Account, I have ſhew'd that 'tis neither ſtrange nor miſtreat; on the contrary, the *MERCATOR* is the moſt monſtrous Creature in the World, who has had the Confidence to aſſert, againſt Faſts and Reaſon, That neither Britain is able to conſume, nor France to export hither ſo great a Quantity of Goods, as are ſtated in that Account, for our future Imports from that Country.

The *MERCATOR* is very facetious upon the *GUARDIAN*, for his furniſhing Gentlemen with an Argu-

ment for the *Bill of Commerce*; for, ſays he, if our Imports from France are likely to be ſo great, our Cuſtoms will be more than doubled, and Gentlemen will ſoon get rid of all their Taxes. But this ſhall be the Subject of another Paper.

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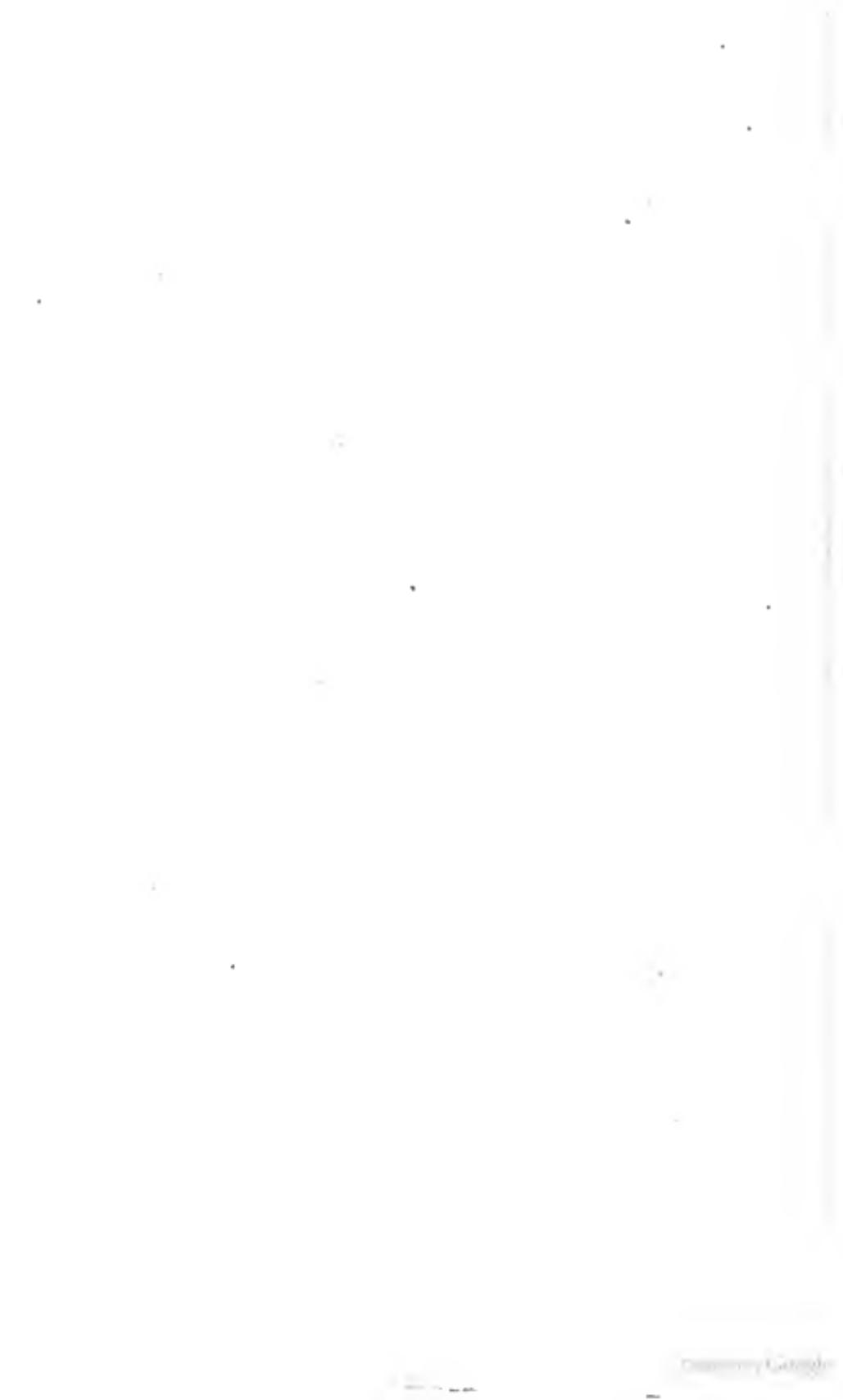
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The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator vents more Falshoods in one Paper, than the British Merchant can prove to be such in many.

Several Instances of this.

The Mercator's Craft in deferring his Impeachment of any Particulars, in the Account publish'd by the British Merchant.

The Mercator's Account of Customs upon the French Imports false, tho' as many Goods should

be imported as the Guardian supposes.

Our Customs upon the Goods of other Countries must decrease, in proportion to the increase of those of France.

Reasons why many of our Imports from France shall be smuggled, and pay no Customs.

Reasons why an Increase of Imports is INTOLERABLY detrimental to a Nation, tho' they may increase the Customs.

From FRIDAY, October 9. to TUESDAY, October 13. 1713.

I Am very unfortunate, in having unwarily engag'd my self with an Adversary, to whom I find by experience that I am not at all equal; for he shall deliver more absurd Falshoods to half a Sheet of Paper, than can be prov'd to be such in half a Quire.

To give a few Instances of this: Numb. 10. in a very few Lines the Mercator had forg'd and falsifi'd some Parts of the Portugal Treaty, to make it serve his own purpose; it was the Work of four of my Papers to convict him of this Crime, which I have done in so clear a manner, that he, *swm he*, has not had the assurance to reply to my Arguments upon that Subject.

I might reasonably have expected he should have lost all Credit with his Readers, till he had acquitted himself of this Charge. But I find I am mistaken, he is still believ'd by some of them for his confident Assertions, till I produce Vouchers for every thing I alledge against him; which many times obliges me to spend a Sheet or two of Paper in confuting an Untruth, which he has deliver'd in not so many Lines. This is a very great hardship upon the British Merchant.

I will give my Readers another Instance of this: The Mercator, at his first setting out, affirm'd, That the Trade between England and France was ALWAYS beneficial to this Kingdom, and that this should be prov'd by a CALCULATION of the Exports and Imports between both Countries, in which it would appear the Balance was always on the English side, to the Loss and Disadvantage of the French. Tho' his Paper comes out thrice every Week, and has done so for five Months together, has he ever yet produc'd the Account of any one Year? And till this is done, ought not all his Readers to throw him aside for an Impostor? But he still affirms, and some of them still believe him.

It has cost me several Half-Sheets to make up his Defect: I have publish'd an Account of the Imports and Exports between the two Nations, in which the Balance against England in one Year was about 770000 L. It is the very same Account that was laid before the last Parliament by the present Officers of the Customs; and for the Valuation of the Particulars, I must inform this Writer, that it was made by 25 eminent Merchants as are in this City, and after the maturest Deliberation. The Mercator may undervalue my want of Experience in Trade, as he does in Numb. 60; but 'tis sufficient for me that I have been assisted by Gentlemen of as great Skill and Experience as are to be found in this Kingdom.

But now the very last Saturday, eighteen days after the Publication of the above-mention'd Account, comes this Writer, and by his own Authority impeaches the Valuation of about thirty Particulars. There was some Craft in this: He singled out his very last Day before the Election for the City, and when he knew that I could not be ready, in the Course of my Papers, to give any Answer to his many Mistakes; and without doubt he had the vanity to hope, that his own Authority might influence this wise City to chuse Members, who would be for promoting the French Commerce, so ruinous to this Kingdom. The City of London make their Choice by the Influence of the Mercator! He has certainly a very mean Opinion of the Understanding of the Citizens!

I will produce one Instance more, how hard it is for me to keep up with the Mercator, and to answer a single Paper of his with a single one of mine; and that is from his Assertions, Numb. 58.

1. That it is not possible for this Nation to consume, or France to export hither so great Quantities of Goods, as the Guardian, Numb. 170. supposes may hereafter be imported from that Country.

2. That the Guardian's Account being suppos'd to be true, the Customs of Great Britain must be as onerous as the Trade.

My last was taken up in demonstrating the Falshood of his first Assertion, which I have done both by Reason and Fact, to the everlasting Shame of this Writer, if that were not a thing that he had long since abandon'd.

His second Assertion still remains to be consider'd, and this shall be the Work of the remaining Part of this Paper.

If the Guardian's Account of our Intrese Imports were true, the Mercator pretends that our Customs upon French Goods must be as follows:

For 18000 Tuns of French Wine, at 27 L. per Tun	485000
For 4000 Tuns of Brandy at 51 L. per Tun	204000
For 200000 L. Value of Lincos at 15 L. per Ck.	305000
For 125000 Pounds weight of Lustrings at 18 L. per lb.	225000
For 125000 Pounds weight of other Silk, at 10 L. 6 s. per lb.	65625
And for all other Goods the Customs would be	100000

In all—1173125



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to
The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator's Objection against our Account, That we have pick'd out the first Year after the Prohibition, answer'd.

A Recapitulation of the chief Heads in the former British Merchants. An Answer to the Mercator's Cavil upon one of the Valuations in the Account.

From TUESDAY, October 13. to FRIDAY, October 16. 1713.

THE *Mercator*, as I have said, propos'd the Exports and Imports between *France* and *England*, as the Rule for trying the Advantages of the *French Trade*; I have try'd it by his own Rule, and it appears at the Foot of the Account, that by the Trade of only one Year we were very great Losers.

If I have undervalu'd our Exports to that Country, or overvalu'd their Imports hither in any of the Particulars, I shall be very ready to acknowledg my Mistake, and even to make publick Satisfaction, as soon as I shall be convinc'd; but this Writer is deceiv'd, if he imagines I am to be convinc'd by his Authority. No, I have convinc'd him of so many FORGERIES and ALSHOODS, that I am ready to believe my self in the right, whensoever he says I am in the wrong.

And yet if even this Person shall offer any thing against me, which has the face either of Argument or Soucher, I will either yield to the force of it, or live my Reasons why I cannot. This is as much as he can expect.

First then, he has object'd against my Account, that we have pick'd out a Year immediately after a prohibition of the *French Commerce*, and when there ad been a long want of *French Goods* in this Nation. And this was likely to increase the Imports of that Year beyond those of any other. He instances particularly in their Wines, as if we were more than ordinarily greedy of them, so soon after a long Prohibition.

But I must refer my Reader to the Table of imputed Wines in my last, where he will see that much greater Quantities of *French Wines* were imported the so following Years into the Port of *London*: so that it is very unobscure in that Instance.

Again, I must tell this Writer, that we were so far from picking out a Year for our purpose, that we have taken the only whole Year of the Exports and Imports between the two Nations, which was laid before the last Parliament. Indeed the two following Years were order'd into the House of Commons, but were

never brought in by the Officers of the Customs. They were made ready, as I have heard, for the House; but by whose Interest they were kept out, whether by those who were for the Bill or against it, the Reader will be able to judg. But I believe every one will imagine, that the Gentlemen who were for promoting that Bill, had sufficient Power to bring those Years before the Parliament, if they would have made any thing for their purpose. As for the Merchants without doors, they were so far from picking out a Year for their purpose, that they had only *His Majesty's Choice*, and no other.

The *Mercator* has said somewhere, that the Account of the Exports and Imports from *Michalmas 1686*, to *Michalmas 1687*, between *France* and *England*, were laid before the Parliament. But this I must deny; and it remains upon him as one of the many Untruths of which he stands convinc'd, till he shall acquit himself of it by proper Evidence.

This Writer has cited several Passages from the last-mention'd Account. If his Citations are just, he has been let into more Knowledge than the Parliament. But let him publish the whole Account, that his Readers may be able to judg whether our Loss by the Year I have publish'd, was ballanc'd by the Profit of any other Year. There is no way of judging but by whole Years: his Provisions are very much to be suspect'd, and at the best are nothing to his purpose. But he owes his long-promis'd Account to the Publick, and till he has paid this Debt, by the Account which I have publish'd the *French Trade* is convinc'd of being disadvantageous to this Nation.

In the next place, he has begun to cavil at the Valuation of several of the Particulars in my Account. Every one of his Objections shall be consider'd, and allow'd its due weight; yet so as not very much to interrupt the Course of my future Papers.

Yet first I must take leave to recapitulate the chief Matters of my former *British Merchants*.

I have presented my Readers with the *Portugal Treaty* at full length, by which it appears that that Prince



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator has deny'd a Custom-house Account, He has thereby convicted himself of an egregious Falshood. He has cured the old Scheme of the mortal Stabs

he has given to it, by Custom-house Accounts. The Valuation of Wines in the British Merchant justify'd. The Duties in 1686. sufficient Temptation to the Smuggler.

From FRIDAY, October 16. to TUESDAY, October 20. 1713.

THE Mercator, Numb. 62. thinks he has an infallible Demonstration of my Ignorance and Stupidity, upon my Table of Wines imported into the Port of London, which I produc'd in the *British Merchant*, Numb. 20. and my Conclusions from it, that during the French Trade we imported annually about 14000 Tuns of Wines extraordinary from Spain, Portugal and the Rhine; and that immediately upon the taking off that Prohibition, we imported about 13400 Tuns of French Wines per ann. and ceas'd importing that extraordinary Quantity of 14000 Tuns per ann. from those other Countries. The Mercator says, that the extraordinary Quantities of Wines, which appear by the Custom-house Account to be imported from Spain and Portugal being the Years of the French Prohibition, were indeed French Wines, but enter'd as the Wines of Spain and Portugal, paying Spanish Duties; that this was done by the Direction of the Court, and by the Connivance of the Officers of the Customs, because during the Prohibition they could not be enter'd directly from France. He infers from hence, that both my self and the Merchants who assist me, are the most stupid and ignorant People in the World, for but imagining that those extraordinary Quantities of Wines, which are then enter'd as from Spain and Portugal, were any other than French Wines.

But I do assure the Mercator, that I was not so stupid ignorant as he imagines. When this very Table was first into my hands, I had a violent Suspicion that this was the very Fact: But Custom-house Accounts with him have been so sacred till this last Paper of his, that I had not the Confidence to contradict them; tho I believe it very possible for Spain and Portugal, at any time, to spare us more than those extraordinary Quantities of Wine in any one Year, without my Injury to themselves. But that which I meant by publishing this Table, was either to gain an Acknowledgment from the Mercator, that those extraordinary Quantities of Wine were really imported from Spain and Portugal, or his Confession, that the very Custom-

house Accounts were false. He has very frankly made this last Confession, and he shall presently see what use I intend to make of it.

First, the Mercator, Numb. 55. objects, that from 1674 exclusive, to 1690 inclusive, the Quantity of Wines imported from France, one Year with another, in the Port of London, was 5572 Tuns $\frac{1}{2}$ a Year. This he did, because no more appears in the Custom-house Accounts for the whole time; when one half was a time of Prohibition, wherein no Entries were made at all from France. But if 13 or 14000 Tuns of Wine were really imported, tho not enter'd from France in the Port of London, then the whole Quantity annually imported into the Port of London, was not 5572 Tuns $\frac{1}{2}$, as he nicely calculates, but 12 or 13000 Tuns per ann.

The Mercator acknowledges he had this Table of imported Wines by him (and indeed he must have had it by him when he wrote his last mention'd Paper.) He accuses my self and my Assistants of the greatest Ignorance and Stupidity, for imagining that the extraordinary Quantities of Wine enter'd from Spain and Portugal, during the French Prohibition, were any other than French Wines; so that 'tis clear, he could not be so grossly ignorant or stupid himself. It remains then, that he has maliciously impos'd upon his Readers so small a Quantity as 5572 Tuns and $\frac{1}{2}$, for the whole annual Importation into the Port of London, when he knew that 13 or 14000 Tuns were annually imported. What will the Mercator be able to say to this, but that I have laid a Bait before him, and that he has been so great a Fool as to swallow it?

But this is not the worst Consequence that attends his Confession. 'To what purpose, says he, N^o 26. do these Men beat the Bush, and dance in a Circle? The Custom-house is a Record of these things. Let them join issue with us, and take a just fair attested Account.' I have produc'd here a Custom-house Account of the Wines imported into London, an Account which he himself acknowledges to be a true one; and now he tells me, and I believe very truly, and indeed I was always of this opinion ever since it

first come into my hands, That the French Wines, during the Prohibition, were enter'd as Spanish and Portugal Wines, by the Direction of the Court, and the Concurrence of the Officers of the Customs. So that it seems the Officers have conniv'd at false Entries, directly contrary to an Act of Parliament, and the Court has directed their so doing. What a mortal Sin has this Fellow given to the Records he has presented so much to value? Does he not here inflict us never to expect a true Account from the Custom-house, when it shall be the Interest of a Court to give a false one? It was no doubt the Inclination of the Court heretofore to falsify the Old SCHEME, by falsifying the Accounts of the Custom-house; and can we believe they did not do so? The Merchant has found out a Cure for all the mortal Stabs he has given to that SCHEME, and will the Patrons of this Man employ him any longer?

Since we are upon the Article of Wines, and the Merchant has begun to undervalue the Goods imported from France in our Account, and to over-value our Exports; I think it not improper to justify the Price we have given of Wines in this very Paper.

The *Inspector-General's* words, says he, N^o 61. are these: "In fixing the Balance between two Countries, the prime Cost only in the said respective Countries should be calculated. Now 'tis notorious, the prime Cost of Wine was about 8*l*. per Tun; in which Valuation I appeal to all the old experienc'd Merchants who formerly dealt to France."

Well then, with the Merchant and his *Inspector-General*, I appeal to the old experienc'd Merchants. One of them has been so kind, as to transcribe from his Books, at my request, an Account of the Wines he imported from France in 1685, which is the very Year I have publish'd. The Account of his whole Quantity of Wines, one with another, amounts to 17*l*. 8*s*. per Tun, at a Medium; and I must observe to him, that in his whole Quantity there are none of the Wines of *St. Lawrence*, *Compaigne*, or *Burgundy*, and no more than five Tuns of *Hermitage*, or 107 Tuns of Wine; and yet they all amount to, at a Medium, the Price last above-mention'd, far different from the Value of the Merchant and his *Inspector-General*. So that I must take 17*l*. 10*s*. per Tun to have been the current Price of that Year, till the Merchant shall produce the Invoices of Merchants to the contrary; for as for himself and his *Inspector-General*, they are no manner of Authority.

There is no doubt, but a British Parliament will consult the Invoices of the old experienc'd Merchants, before they will pass a Law, by which this Nation will have almost 300000*l*. per ann. to pay to France for the single Article of Wines.

I do not intend yet to dismiss the Merchant upon the head of Wines, till I have consider'd another of his Observations upon this Subject; which is, that no Wines could be run in the above-mention'd Year: Was it possible, says he, N^o 62. that any Wine could be run, when it paid but 35*s*. per Hoghead? By which, his Readers are made to believe that 35*s*. per Hoghead, or 7*l*. per Tun, was the whole Duty between *Netherlands* 1685, and *Netherlands* 1686.

But what if the Duty at that time upon French Wines was 70 per Cent. of the whole Value, had not this been sufficient Encouragement for the Smuggler? Could any fair Trader hope to make so much?

Behold here then the Duties, as they stood from the 24th of June 1685.

	<i>l</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
Till the 23d of June, 1685	6	08	1
On the 24th of June, more for the new Imposition	6	03	1
Coinage	0	10	0
	13	01	2 per tun.



Thirteen Pounds, one Shilling, and two Pence, per Tun, is not 35*s*. but 3*l*. 5*s*. 2*d*. per Hoghead, and above 70 per Cent. of the whole Value of Wines; which in the Account is estimated at 17*l*. 10*s*. per Tun. Was it not worth the Smuggler's while, to run the risk of 17*l*. 10*s*. to gain 13*l*. 1*s*. 2*d*. by saving the Duties? Was it not worth his while, to hazard the Principal, for the clear Gain of 70 per Cent. besides all the Advantages which the Smuggler has in command with the fair Trader? But I have done expecting either Truth or Ingenuity from this Writer.

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Mr. Le Clerc's Judgment and Censure of Dr. Bentley's Horace, and of the Amsterdam Edition compar'd with that of Cambridge, Price 3*d*. 44 An Abstract and Judgment of Dr. Clark's (Rector of St. James's) Political or Controversial Writings, against 1. The Archdeacon. II. The Deists. III. His Concomerity with Mr. Dowe and Mr. Collins, about the Spirituality and Ecclesiastical Immortality of Human Souls. Together with his former attacks, Answers and Replies to Mr. Collins. IV. And lastly, His Epitaph and Judgment on the Doctor's last Book, concerning the Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity. By Mr. Le Clerc, Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Amsterdam, Translated from the French. Printed for William Taylor at the Ship, and J. Baker in the Brick Bay in Pall-mall-Row. Price 1*s*. 6*d*.

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Just publish'd the Fourth Edition of

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The Pretender's Declaration abstracted from two anonymous Pamphlets: the one intitled, *Jo Sacrum*; the other, *Memoirs of the Chevalier St. George*. With some Memoirs of two other Chevaliers St. George in the Reign of K. Henry VII. Price 6*d*. His June Divorce of the House of Hannover, proving that the Title of the Family to the Succession of the British Monarchy is Hereditary, and of Divine Institution. Price 6*d*. His Arguments about Transferring, Price 12*d*. His Defence upon his Expulsion from the House of Commons of Great Britain in 1707. With an Introduction and a Preface. Price 2*s*. His Apology for an Omission in his last Publication; with an Abstract of the Laws now in force for securing the House of Hannover, and excluding the Pretender, Price 6*d*. His Essay for the Press, Price 1*s*. All sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane either single, or bound up together.

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44 A Discourse concerning the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Three Parts, Wherein, I. The Certainty of the Doctrine is shew'd Hypothetically. II. The Nature and Obligation of Moral Evidence, are explain'd at large. III. The Proofs of the Fact of our Saviour's Resurrection, are propos'd, examin'd and fully demonstrat'd, to be conclusive. Together with an Appendix concerning the irreconcilable Friendship of Torquato, from Mezzano and Modona? The Nature of James Soth's, and of Bruns? The Antis Modon's, and the Hypothesis of the TORAN; as also, concerning Divine Providence, the Origin of Evil, and the Universe in general. By Humphry Ditton, Master of the New Mathematical School in Christ's Hospital, The Second Edition, Printed by J. Durbey in Bartholomew-Close, and sold by A. Bell in Cornhill, and B. Lintock near the Temple-Gate in Fleetstreet.



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

That the Importation and Customs of the Wines of other Countries must decrease as those from France shall increase, prov'd not only by Vouchers from the Custom-house, but from Reason.

French Wines, tho' bought in that Country at the Valuation in the British Merchant, will yet be cheaper than those of Spain, Portugal, and the Rhine.

French Wines, tho' they should be bought at the Guardian's Valuation, will yet be prefer'd and used in England, rather than those from other Countries.

The Mercator very fancy upon the Portugal Treasury.

From TUESDAY, October 20. to FRIDAY, October 23. 1713.

THE *Guardian*, N^o 170. supposes, if the Bill of Commerce shall pass, that the whole Quantity of French Wines which shall hereafter be imported into the whole Kingdom of Great Britain, will amount to 18000 Tuns per ann. The *British Merchant* has prov'd from Custom-house Accounts, that almost that whole Quantity has been annually imported, when the Trade was open between both Countries, into South-Britain only; without craving any Allowance for clandestine Importations.

The *Mercator*, N^o 58. insults the *Guardian* for his extravagant Supposition, and says, That if so great a Quantity shall hereafter be imported, then at 27*l.* per Tun, which will be the Duty even by the late Treaty of Commerce, the Customs upon the French Wines only will amount to 486000 *l.* per ann. He is very merry with the *Guardian* for projecting so large an Addition to the Revenue, and furnishing Gentlemen with so good an Argument for the Bill of Commerce: tho' I have prov'd, and shall further prove, that it would be the Ruin of our Manufactures.

But has the *Guardian* any where suppos'd, that all this Wine shall be fairly imported? Has not the *British Merchant* affirm'd, That to save the Duty of 27*l.* per Tun, above *Cent. per Cent.* of the *Guardian's* Value, must be a sufficient Encouragement for the Smuggler? And do the Goods which are clandestinely imported pay any Customs at all? Has not the *British Merchant* ask'd every one of these Questions? And has the *Mercator* vouchsaf'd to give an Answer to any one?

Again, Of all the Wines that shall be fairly imported and enter'd at the Custom-house, why must those from France make any Addition to the Customs? Why may there not be an Abatement in proportion of the Wines from other Countries, which must pay as great Customs, if the Treaty should be made effectual? I have in the *British Merchant*, N^o 20. exhibited a Custom-house Account of the Wines imported for eight Years together into the Port of London; by which it appears, that during the first four Years, while French Wines

were prohibited, so much the greater Quantity was imported from other Countries; and that after the taking off that Prohibition, 13 or 14000 Tuns were annually imported from France, and so much less in proportion from Portugal, Spain, and the Rhine. If this had not been a false Entry, it had been a Demonstration, that we have abated as much or more of the Wines and Customs of other Countries, as we gain'd by those of France. But allowing that the Wines from France were enter'd from other places, 'tis still a Demonstration that what came from one place supply'd the Want from any other.

The *Mercator* upon this, N^o 62. is in a fury, and says, the Wines of the first four Years were wrong enter'd by the Direction of the Court, and by the Connivance of the Officers of the Customs. Rather than be prevail'd by the Argument, he has chosen to fall foul upon an Account which he acknowledges to be truly return'd from the Custom-house; tho, as I have shewn in my last, this very Acknowledgment is attended with very fatal Consequences both to the Cause and to himself.

But let the Consequences be what they will, he has given up a Custom-house Account: and I am very well contented he should do so, not only for the sake of those Consequences, but because I do not stand in need of the Argument. For I think nothing can be more certain, if the Bill of Commerce should pass, than that our Wines hereafter will be imported chiefly from France, and that we shall abate in proportion for the Wines and Customs from other Countries.

We now pay 43*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* Customs for French Wine unstill'd, yet still we are fond of this beloved Liqueur. And if the Customs shall be reduc'd to less than half, to 21*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* will not the Consumption be increas'd? Which is the Wine that every *Englishman* will chuse, Portugal or French Wine, if the Price of both should be the same? But what if, by the Reduction of the Customs on both to an Equality, by the Bill of Commerce, the latter should be the cheapest? Then 'tis certain,

certain, so much of our Customs from Portugal must be abated.

The Mercator, N^o 50. finds fault with my Valuation of French Wines at 17 l. 10 s. per Tun, and fancies he has me here in a Dilemma; either that I cannot prove my Valuation, or if I do, that Portugal Wines will be full cheapest, and consequently the common Draught of this Kingdom.

In the first place, I see no reason to be offended with my Valuation of French Wines at 17 l. 10 s. clear on board in that Country. I expect his Proofs to the contrary; and whatsoever they shall be produc'd, they will bear so much the stronger against the second part of his Dilemma, viz. that then the Wines of Portugal will be the cheapest.

For, secondly, I shall shew him, that French Wines will still be cheapest, even with the Valuation of 17 l. 10 s. per Tun: Since 'tis computed by those Merchants who have ship'd off the greatest quantity of Port O Port Wines, that they have cost clear on board, for these ten Years last past, 20 Millrees per Pipe, at a Medium, (without including one Year, in which the Price was much higher) which at 6 s. per Millree, is 53 l. 4 s. per Tun.

But the Lisbon Wines are always dearer, viz. one with another about 38 Millrees per Pipe; which also, at 6 s. per Millree, is 22 l. 16 s. per Tun.

	l.	s.	d.
Now allowing that, <i>communibus annis</i> , our Importation is as great of the one as of the other, the Price of Portugal Wines at a Medium, was	13	00	00
To which ought to be added for Freight at that time	6	00	00
For Leakage and Insurance then	3	00	00
And for Customs unfill'd	24	01	01
In all	46	01	01

If any Man doubts this Account, let him ask any Portugal Merchant, whether, allowing all other Charges, and for bad Debts, he has been able to make Great Profit of his Lisbon and Portugal Wines together, at 30 l. per Pipe, or 60 l. per Tun, one with another; or whether he has been able to do any more than five himself: whence it must follow, that 18 l. per Tun in that Country is a very common Price.

But if the Mercator should object, that this was in time of War, and that I ought not to value the Wines to be imported thence, in time of Peace, at the Price of a time of War:

To this I answer, either we shall buy as great a Quantity from Portugal as before, or we shall not; if we shall, the same Demand will still keep up the same Price; if not, then he gives up his Argument, and that our Importations from Portugal will not be lessen'd, and that the Customs upon French Wines will prove so much Addition to the Revenue: therefore to please the Mercator, I must insist that the Price of Wines clear aboard in Portugal, will be the same in Peace as War.

I will allow indeed that an Abatement must be made of the above-mention'd Price of 51 l. 5 s. 1 d. in a time of Peace, viz. 4 l. upon the Freight, and 1 l. on the Leakage and Insurance, 5 l. in the whole upon these Accounts; and then it will remain, that the Wines of Portugal must stand the Merchant here in 45 l. 1 s. 1 d.

Let us see now what French Wines will stand the Merchant in here in England, according to the late Treaty of Commerce.

	l.	s.	d.
The Price in France, at my Valuation per Tun	17	50	00
Freight	01	00	00
Leakage and Insurance	01	10	00
Customs	24	01	01
In all	44	01	01



The Price of Portugal Wines, as before, is— 46 01 01
The Price of French Wines will be ——— 44 01 01

So that the latter will be cheapest, per Tun 02 00 00

As for the Spanish and Italian Wines, not only the Duties upon these are higher, but the Leakage, Freight and Insurance must needs be a great deal more than from France; so that with the Mercator's good leave, the Case is not quite so plain as he says it is, *Numb. 55. That the Portuguese Trade will always have the Preference in England, or that French Wines will not hereafter be the common Draught in this Kingdom.* For my own part I think they would be the common Draught, even tho they should be bought in France at the Guardian's Price of 25 l. per Tun; the Wines are so much preferable in themselves, and even that Price would not make an Addition of above Two Pence in a Quart. And where is the Gentleman who would not be at this Expence, for the Gratification of his Palate?

How then has the Mercator made good the Inequality between the Wines of France and Portugal, to the Advantage of the latter; which he says, in his aforesaid Paper, is the thing insisted upon by the Portugal Treaty, which he impudently calls a FELONIOUS TREATY: Words which I would not give to the late Treaty of Commerce!

The Mercator asks, which is likely to be the common Draught, Portugal or French Wine? I answer, French Wine. Not to insist upon the general Inclination towards every thing that is French, these Wines will be the cheapest; but they are so preferable in themselves, that I believe, at a third part greater Price, they would be the common Draught in England.

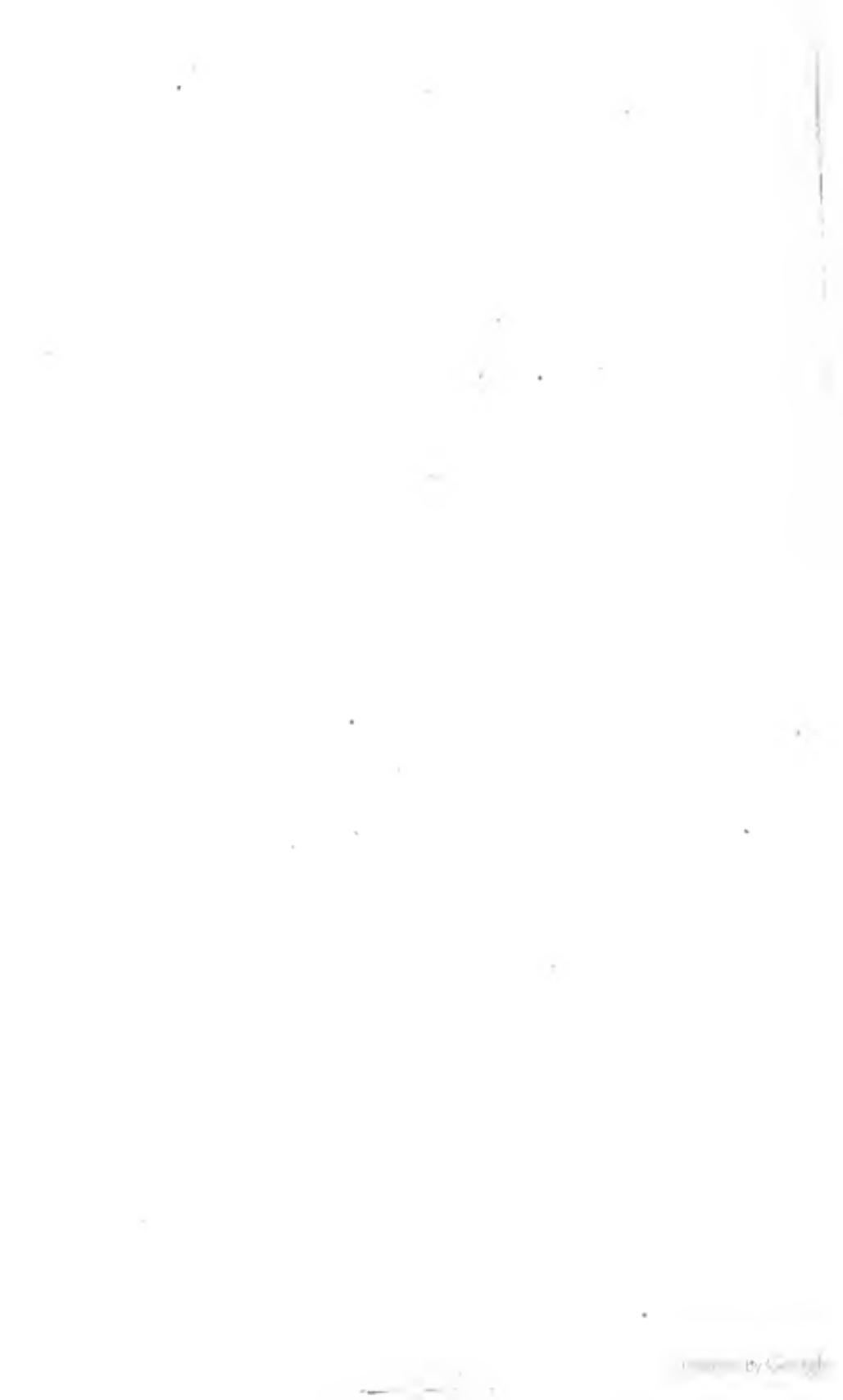
I think I have said enough to demonstrate, that our Importation of Wine from Portugal, and other Countries, must abate, as that from France shall increase; and consequently that the Importation of French Wines will make no addition to the Customs. But I cannot end this Paper, without one further Observation upon the Mercator.

He says, *The Treaty with Portugal ought to go for nothing at all.* What! That Treaty go for nothing, by which we have been enabled to pay such Armies in Portugal, without remitting any Sums from England! By which we have also paid such Sums to our Armies in other Countries! That Treaty go for nothing, by which we have coin'd above a Million of Gold in the Tower, as has been shewn in one of my former Papers! This is downright Madness. Nothing can be equal to it, except the Mercator's Imagination, that our Importation of French Wines may be increas'd, without abating that from other Countries, or that the Customs on French Goods will be a new Fund to pay the Nations Debts, without abating in proportion the Customs on Goods, of the like kind, from other Countries.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

This Day is Publish'd, finely Engraven on Copper; A True and Exact List of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, with the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, chosen to serve in the Parliament of Great Britain, as now returned to the Clerk of the Crown, Sold by R. Smith at the Royal Exchange, W. Brand and J. Kent at the Middle-Temple-Gate in Fleetstreet, J. George in Westminster-Hall, and J. Baker in Pater-noster-Row, Price 2 d.

This Day is Publish'd, A Project for the more effectual compleating the New Reformation, or Expurgation of the Passion mentioned in the Examiner, *Numb. 36* Price 6 d. Just Publish'd, A Letter from an English Tory to his Friend in Town, briefly occasioned by the several Resolutions on Mr. Swin's Garrison of August 7. To which is added the said Guardian, by way of Appendix, Price 1 d. Sold by R. Smith in Cornhill, and the Booksellers.



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator's Account of our Gain by the French Trade.

His last Article, of our gaining 500000 L. by exporting our Goods in our own Shipping, consider'd.

30000 Tuns of Shipping sufficient for all our Exports, between Michaelmas 1685, and Michaelmas 1686. prov'd by an Enumeration of Particulars.

The Mercator's Dissertation concerning the Advantage of employing our own Shipping.

The Gain by exporting our own Goods to France in Thirteen Thousand Tuns of Shipping, not above 6500 L.

The Sum of 493500 L. struck off from the Mercator's Gain of 500000 L. by the Article of Shipping.

From FRIDAY, October 23. to TUESDAY, October 27. 1713.

OF all the Mercators that have yet come abroad, that of *Numb. 65.* is, in my opinion, the most extraordinary. It is an Account of the Trade between France and England, from *Michaelmas 1685,* to *Michaelmas 1685,* by which France, on one Side, is made Debtor to us, for

	l.	s.	d.
The Value of Goods exported directly hence to France	742077	04	02½
Ditto to France, via Holland	300000	00	00
Ditto, via Flanders	100000	00	00
For Corn exported in dear Years	500000	00	00
For Advance on Sale of Goods there	64200	00	00
For Profit, by use of 50000 Tuns of our Shipping, in exporting our Goods to that Countrey	500000	00	00
Total Value	1756277	04	02½

Well! this Writer is the most compleat Accountant in the World, that's certain. There is some Policy in swelling an Account, for then a Man will hardly have the confidence to strike off so much, as not to leave him still enough for his purpose. He must be a very bold Man indeed, that shall presume to strike off above 1200000 l, from 1750000 l. But let the danger be what it will, I resolve to try my Fortune; and I begin with his Article of Shipping.

Fifty Thousand Tuns of Shipping employ'd to export our Goods to France l. and 500000 L. Profit to us for the use of those Ships!

First, let me consider his Quantity of Tunnage, what were the Goods we sent to France between *Michaelmas 1685,* and *Michaelmas 1685,* that could fill up all the room in 50000 Tuns of Shipping.

The Weight or Bulk of the Woollen Manufacture we sent to France in that Year, must be the same, whether with my Valuation, or with that of the Mercators. The Tonnage of those Goods is still the same, whether as I have valu'd them, or at any higher Price. By the best Information I can get, all the Woolleo Goods mention'd in the Account, according to the manner of computing the Tunnage for those sorts of Goods, cannot exceed 500 Tuns; and if

the Mercator will value them at higher Prices than I have done, yet still the Bulk will be the same.

The next heavy Article is Corn: The Corn which was exported in that Year to France, according to the Custom-house Account, was 13156 Quarters; this, at five Quarters to a Tun, is 2631 Tuns.

Another heavy Article is Tin, Pewter, Lead, Lead-shot, wrought Brals and Copper, Iron Ordnance, Iron wrought and Clock-work, Nails and Steel; but of all these things, no more was exported in that Year than 285; Tuns in weight, the extremely short of that is Bulk.

The next great Article is Coals; 20 Chaldron from the Port of London, and 1557 Chaldron from the Outports, which in the whole is 2658 Tuns. But here I must do my self the Justice to acknowledge, that by a mistake of the Copy, instead of 1557 Chaldrons from the Out-Ports, it is set down in the Account only 557 Chaldrons, which makes but little difference, viz. 500 L. to the Account, but a very great one in the Tunnage.

All the Plantation-Goods, exported in that Year, did not exceed 360 Tuns.

All our *Indy Goods,* exported thither in that Year, did not require 114 Tuns of Shipping.

Neither did our *East-India Goods* amount to 530 Tuns.

The Drugs, exported in that Year, were not above 20 Tuns.

The Quantities of Beer, Braziletta-wool, Logwood, Oil ordinary, Linseed Oil, Pitch, Tar, Hatherdathery Ware, Tann'd Leather, Butter, Ghee, Gunpowder, Starch, Allom, Cheefe, Bees-Wax, Coney-Wool, Skins, Fat-albes, Almonds, Berills, Brimstone, Carrants, Cinnamon, Cochineal, Elephants Teeth, Figs, Hemp, Honey, Hops, wrought Iron, Raisins, Soap, Tallow, Spanish Wool, Cappones, Bread, Hitting-Rones and Calves-skins, mention'd in the Account return'd from the Custom-house, do not amount quite to 2000 Tuns.

The whole Number of Tuns above-mention'd, are but 12666. the rest of the Goods, exported in that Year, were but inconsiderable as to their Weight or Bulk. And I will defy the Mercator, or his Patrons, to shew, that all our Exports of that Year might not be flow'd at once, with all the convenience in the World, in 13000 Tuns; a little more than a fourth Part of his 50000 Tuns of Shipping.

The

The *Mercator* says, *Book 43 and 52*, he has heard that the *French Trade* imports 1000 Sail of our Ships, however he thinks 500 may be well allow'd in this Account; but he might as well have cover'd the *Spaniards* as big as that of *France*. We are sure our *Imports* will be little less than 1000 Sail of our Ships, and will make no more than 150 Sail of Ships of 100 Tons each. But if it shall be consider'd too, that every Ship may make for near a Voyage three or four times in a Year, 30 or 35 of these Vessels, or about 3500 Tons, were sufficient to carry out our annual Exports thither.

But the most extravagant Part of the *Job* is still behind; and that is, that the Profit we make, by exporting our Goods to *France* in our own Shipping, is 500000 *l.* to this Kingdom: And this is the next thing to be consider'd.

We are so unfortunate as to have lost already about three fourth Parts of the *Mercator's* Profit of 500000 *l.* by Shipping, by the Reduction of near the three fourth Parts of his Tonnage: And I am now determin'd to leave him little more than the fourth part of this Profit, even upon the supposition, that all the Goods were carry'd out in our own Shipping, which no body can or will pretend was the Case.

The *Mercator*, *Book 52*, has given us one of his wonderful Disquisitions upon the vast Advantages of Shipping to a Nation; * That 'tis a Livelihood to the Master-Builder, his Servants, his hired Carpenters, Caulkers, Joiners, Carvers, Painters, Smiths, and other Trade-men, &c. And then he runs on to the Rope-makers, Powder-men, Chandlers, Seamen, Stowellers, to *Wapping, Rotherhithe, Ratcliff, Limehouse, Deptford, and Blackwall*; all in the true Spirit of *Daniel Fox*, who has very lately publish'd a Treatise of his *Thoughts upon the Subject of Commerce with France*; where he acknowledges that the *Mercator's* Argument of Shipping has thoroughly convinc'd him of the vast Advantage of the *French Trade*. By what easy Arguments, with a little other help, are Men convinc'd in this Age!

The *Influence*, says the *Mercator* in his last-mention'd Paper, *take it from the Stocks to the setting sail, is hardly to be imagin'd, and with great difficulty to be call'd up.*

Not with so great difficulty as he imagines: I shall set it up for him with a very great deal of ease; and not only this, but the Advantage the Nation made by exporting all the Goods in my Account, N^o 24, supposing it to be all in her own shipping: and I believe I shall convince every one, except the *Mercator*, that it was worth of half a Million.

Whatever is the Price of building an fitting a Ship to Sea, is the Measure of her Value; and whatsoever annual Freight shall be given for the Use of this Ship, is the Measure of the annual Profit. The Money that is put in gives the *Builder* and his *Servants*; the *Landed Interest* for *Timber, Plank, and Iron*; the *Wages, Sps. 100, Sawyers, and Carvers*; the *West-India and Norway* *Merchants* for their *Planks, Masts, and Yards*, for their *Tar and Oil*, for their *Tallow, Ropes, and Brimston*; and all other People that bestow either Labour or Materials upon this Ship, whereof were they *live; at Wapping or Rotherhithe, or Ratcliff, or Limehouse, or Deptford, or Blackwall*. Whatever it is they sell, whether of Labour or Materials, to this Ship, is all paid for by the first Cost, or the annual Freight. The Price of building and fitting out therefore is the Measure of her first Value, and the annual Freight, of her annual Value, and yearly Repairs: for if her Repairs, her Wear and Tear, amount to more than her yearly Profit, she will soon be laid up.

To what purpose then all that heap of words which the *Mercator* has huddled together? When it is said that can be said upon this Subject, the thing is only this: If a Man will give no more for a Ship at home and ready, and fitted for the Sea, than a thousand Pounds; then a thousand Pounds is the Value of all that has been done to this Ship, whether by the *Builder* or his *Servants*, by the *Artificer* or the *Labourer*, or any body else.

Again, if I buy this Ship, and can let it out for no more Freight than 500 *l. per ann.* this annual Sum must answer every year part of my first Costs, the Wages and Victuals of the Seamen, and the Wear and Tear

of the Ship: This annual Freight therefore must be the Value of all the annual Charges of the Ship. So that what the *Mercator* says is really to be imagin'd, he says by this, that the Value of a Ship may be call'd up within 1000 *l.* of first Cost.

But that Question still remains: What it is we gain from *France* by employing our own Shipping?

First, it is certain we gain nothing of the first Cost; but what we gain in the annual Freight. *France* does not buy the Ship; all that she does, is paying us some thing every year for the Use.

In the next place, we gain nothing from *France* the Freight of Goods we import from thence.

We pay the Value of the Goods to *France*, and we pay the Freight for them among our selves. Indeed in this case we do not lose, as we should do if the Goods were to be imported in *French Bottoms*; for then *France* would be paid not only for the Goods, but for the Carriage of them too. By importing them in our own Ships, the Charge of Carriage is laid on us, but it can never be said that any thing is gain'd. It is in itself a great Advantage to us, but no increase of Wealth. Nor is it such Advantage, for the sake of which we ought to hinder any Nation from taking our *Manufacturers* in their Ships, if they cannot be persuaded to do it in ours. The importing Goods from *France*, notwithstanding what he says, N^o 29, in our own Ships, is so far from being Profit, that, as I have said in a former Essay, it must be a Loss to us, by stopping the Importation of an equal Quantity of Goods from *Portugal, Italy, &c.* And these Places, the Balance being consider'd, must employ a greater Number of Ships, at a much higher Freight.

It remains therefore, in the last place, that what we may properly be said to gain by employing our own Ships in the *French Trade*, is the Freight for the Goods we find to that Country: and how much this is, is the Question to be answer'd.

I have shewn already, that our whole Exports in one Year did not exceed 12000 or 13000 Tons; but if any Man will be at the trouble of looking back to the Custom-house Account, N^o 14, by perusing that whole Account he will easily be convinc'd, that the whole Imports were more than double the Tonnage of our Exports. Whence it will follow, that above half the Tonnage of our Ships went empty, to come home again.

And what must needs be the Consequence of this Difference? What else, but that all the Ships owners contended with Emulation one against another, to conceive as low Freight as possible, rather than go empty; which could not but have this effect, to reduce the Freight outwards a great deal below that upon the Returns.

Every one knows that the Goods of our Merchants at home were often taken in for little or nothing, upon condition of their making them amends by the Back-loading; that Lead, Tin, Pewter, Iron, and Coals, were taken on board gratis, or for a very trifle, only to save the Charge of Ballast; that Corn has been often carry'd to *France* for 100 *l. per Ton*, nay, for nothing, in consideration of Back-Tonnage. All these things render it very credible, that the Freight outwards was, at a Medium, not above one half of the Freight home. But unless the Bill of Commerce shall pass, we shall be under no necessity of finding any empty Ships to that Country for the sake of Back-charge.

At this very day we fetch home Goods from *France* for 200 *l. per Ton*, the Wages are as great now as at that time. It follows then, that we sent our Goods to that Country for 100 *l. per Ton*, and consequently the whole 12000 Tons above-mention'd for 6000 *l.* and that this was the whole Sum we gain'd from *France*, by exporting our Goods in our own Shipping.

'Twas pretty well done of the *Mercator*, to raise our Gain, by trading with *France* in our own Shipping, at 500000 *l. per ann.* I think I have made it evident, that it could not exceed 5000 *l.* and this only by striking off 495000 *l.* from an Account of 500000 *l.* Tho' at the first, I must confess, I was so flatter'd at the Greatness of the Sum, deliver'd too with such an Air of Assurance, that I had hardly the Confidence for some time to look into it.







The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator's Article of 64200l. Advances, upon the Sale of our Goods in France, struck off from his Account.

More ought to be advanc'd on the Sale of French Goods in England, the Quantity being greater ; than on English Goods in France.

The only certain Rule for trying the French Trade, cited from the Mercator and the Inspector-General.

A Passage in a Discourse written by Dr. Davenant the Inspector-General.

From TUESDAY, October 27. to FRIDAY, October 30. 1713.

IN my last I have ent off 493500 l. from our Gain by exporting Goods to France in our own Shipping ; this was enough in conscience to strike off from one single Article, which the Mercator had valu'd at 500000 l. instead of which Sum, I have left him no more than 6500 l.

This was our whole Gain, even tho it should be suppos'd that all our Exports to that Country were sent thither in our own Ships. But this, I believe, will not be suppos'd even by this Writer : he will never pretend that no French Ships were ever seen in our Ports, or that they carry'd off none of our Merchandizes. And whatsoever of them was exported in French Bottoms, paid Freight to that Nation ; and so much of our Gain must be deducted upon that account.

But whatever was the Case heretofore, we have very little reason to imagine it will be the same hereafter. France has been this thirty Years improving in Shipping ; she has several times met us at Sea, with Fleets as great as those of England and Holland in conjunction. And can it be imagin'd she will want Ships of her own, either for carrying out her own Goods, or for bringing home those of other Countries ? The Wages of Seamen there, are so much cheaper than here ; besides, I will inform this Writer, there are Pitch, Tar, Rosin, and many other Materials for Shipping, made in that Country cheaper than we can import them thither ; and consequently the Freight of Ships are so much less : that to save Charges, our Merchants here in all probability will make them the common Carriers. If this should be the Case, then, as I have shewn in my last, the Tonnage of our imported Goods was so much greater than our Exports, that instead of gaining by exporting Goods in our own Shipping, we shall be likely to pay France a much greater annual Sum for Freight thither. So that the Mercator's Article of Shipping for the time to come, gives us very small Encouragement to pass the Bill of Commerce.

Thus I have deducted 493500 l. from his 500000 l. Article of Shipping ; but I shall strike off a much greater Sum from his other Articles.

He makes France Debtor to us for Goods and Merchandizes exported directly to that Country between Michaelmas 1684, and Michaelmas 1685. In 742,077 l. 4 s. 2 d. ½. And not contented with this own extravagant Valuation of these Goods, he makes her also Debtor for the Advance upon the Sale of six seventh parts on

English Account and Risque at 10 per Cent. in 64200 l.

I shall very much reduce his 742,077 l. Article, in some of my following Papers ; but 64200 l. Article shall be my present Subject.

And why is it that France is made Debtor to us in 64200 l. ? 'Tis not worth while to take notice that he is mistaken in his Calculation ; for his whole Argument is wrong.

For I must ask this Writer, why we are to reckon France Debtor to us in 10 per Cent. Advance upon the Sale of our Goods in France, and not to esteem our selves Debtors to France in 10 per Cent. Advance upon the Sale of their Goods in England ? This Question has been ask'd before, and the Mercator has turn'd us off with this trifling Answer, That we send our Goods to France, and sell them there upon our own account ; and that we buy all we want from France in that Country, and have therefore nothing to advance to her here, upon the Sale of those Goods in England. But it is by no means sufficient to say this without a Voucher.

For, as I have observ'd before, it is notorious that their wrought Silks were imported and sold in England, by Commission and upon Account of the French Owners. Their Factors liv'd among us, some of them are still living, and their Books do demonstrate the vast Quantities that were imported and sold in England upon French Accounts.

So that here I have produc'd an Instance of Goods sold by French Merchants upon their own Account ; and several others, as Linen, Paper, &c. might be produc'd : whereas the Mercator has not instanc'd in any sort of Goods, which he can be sure were all sold in France upon the Account and Risque of English Merchants. And there is no reason to imagine, that in proportion to the Goods France shall send thither, there is not as much to be advanc'd to her upon the Sale of these Goods here, as must be advanc'd to us upon the Sale of our Goods in France. By the Mercator's Valuation, supposing it true, (which I shall shew is wrong) our Goods exported to that Country amount to 855,004 l. 10 s. 3 d. at 10 per Cent. advanc'd to us beyond the Price of them in that Country, for six seventh parts sent upon our own Account and Risque, is 729,711. 10 s. 2 d. which is a great deal more than he makes France Creditor for : But this he did not think fit to do ; it would have made against him. I must therefore insist upon it, if an Advance of 10 per Cent. is to be made upon the Goods

Goods of the one Country, by the Sale of them in the other; that the same thing may be done in both: and then even the *Mercator* himself being Judge, France gain'd from us this way, 700,000 *l.* whereas by its own shipping, we gain'd no more than 200,000 *l.* But rather than do thus, I am persuaded that he himself will give up this whole Article.

But indeed it is ridiculous and absurd, to advance any thing beyond the Valuation of Goods in one Country, upon the Sale of them in the other; and for this, I have the *Mercator's* own Opinion, and the Opinion of a much greater Author than himself, The *Agreeable*, which 6. cites the Authority of the *Inspector-General* to this purpose: *The Inspector-General's Words, say he, are these:*

'In stating the Balance between two Countries, the prime Cost only in the said respective Countries should be calculated.'

And indeed there can be no other Rule; for the Merchant of each Country asks and takes Advice from his Correspondent in the other, what Goods are likely to come to the best Market; and accordingly receives Orders to buy for him, or send to him such Goods as are most demanded; and if this should not be reciprocally observ'd on both sides; if any Merchant shall venture over his Goods, without such previous Advice, instead of advancing any thing upon the Sale of his Goods in the other Country, he may send them to a Market where they are a Drug, and lose a very great part of his Principal. But if the Trade is carry'd on by reciprocal Advices between both Countries, it cannot reasonably be pretens'd that the *French* Merchants did not send as much more of their Goods to England upon their own Account and Risk, as their Imports exceeded our Exports. So that the *Mercator* has all the reason in the World to be contented with the Rule of the *Inspector-General*; which, without giving us any advantage, strikes off the whole 62000 *l.* Advance upon the Sale of our Goods in France.

But since I have had occasion here to cite Dr. Davenant, the *Inspector-General*, I cannot end better than with a Passage of that Author, which will be useful upon other occasions. The Passage is in his Discourse on the Protection and Care of Trade, pag. 181. and is as follows:

'When therefore such a new Treaty of Commerce is establish'd, as shall be binding and effectual, the Legislative Authority here have reason to insist, That the high Duties upon *English* Cloth may be taken off by the Government in France; that it may be free for us to import *East-India* Commodities into that Kingdom; that it may be free for us to carry thither the *Lesser* Goods, there having been before the Year 1678. great Quantities of Raw-Silk, Gaules, Goats Wool, Cotton, Yarn, &c. exported by us to the *Western* Parts of France; which were a very great help to our *Furkey* Trade: And if it could be so order'd that our *Plantation*-Goods, especially Sugars and Tobacco, might be admitted there upon moderate Duties, it would greatly encourage our People to advance and cultivate that Product.

'If any thing contributes to putting the Balance even between us and that Kingdom, it must be the additional Impositions laid upon *French* Goods, 7 & 8 *Gal. fr. Mer.* for one and twenty Years. These Duties were very prudently laid, during the War, to be in force against a Peace should happen: After a Peace, it had not been reasonable to propose such Duties, which indeed amount almost to a Prohibition; but if the People of France seek themselves thereby aggriev'd, the Remedy is not difficult: If they will permit the Importation of Goods from England upon easier Terms, the Impositions upon their Commodities can be lessen'd here; which will be the true way of putting the two Kingdoms upon a more equal foot of trading with one another.

'The Nation is beholden to that able Man, and ex-

cellent Patriot, Mr. *Sachwell*, now deceased, for this prudent Caution: He was the first Author of this wholesome Council; he laid the Foundation of it, 1683 *Gal. fr. Mer.* And as his Abilities help'd his Country while he liv'd, among us we may now see that the *English* Wisdom is not dead. 'Tis true, other Persons would arrogate to themselves this Merit, but there are living Witneses enough, who can testify, that the Impositions upon *French* Goods were the Effect of his Skill and Foresight.'

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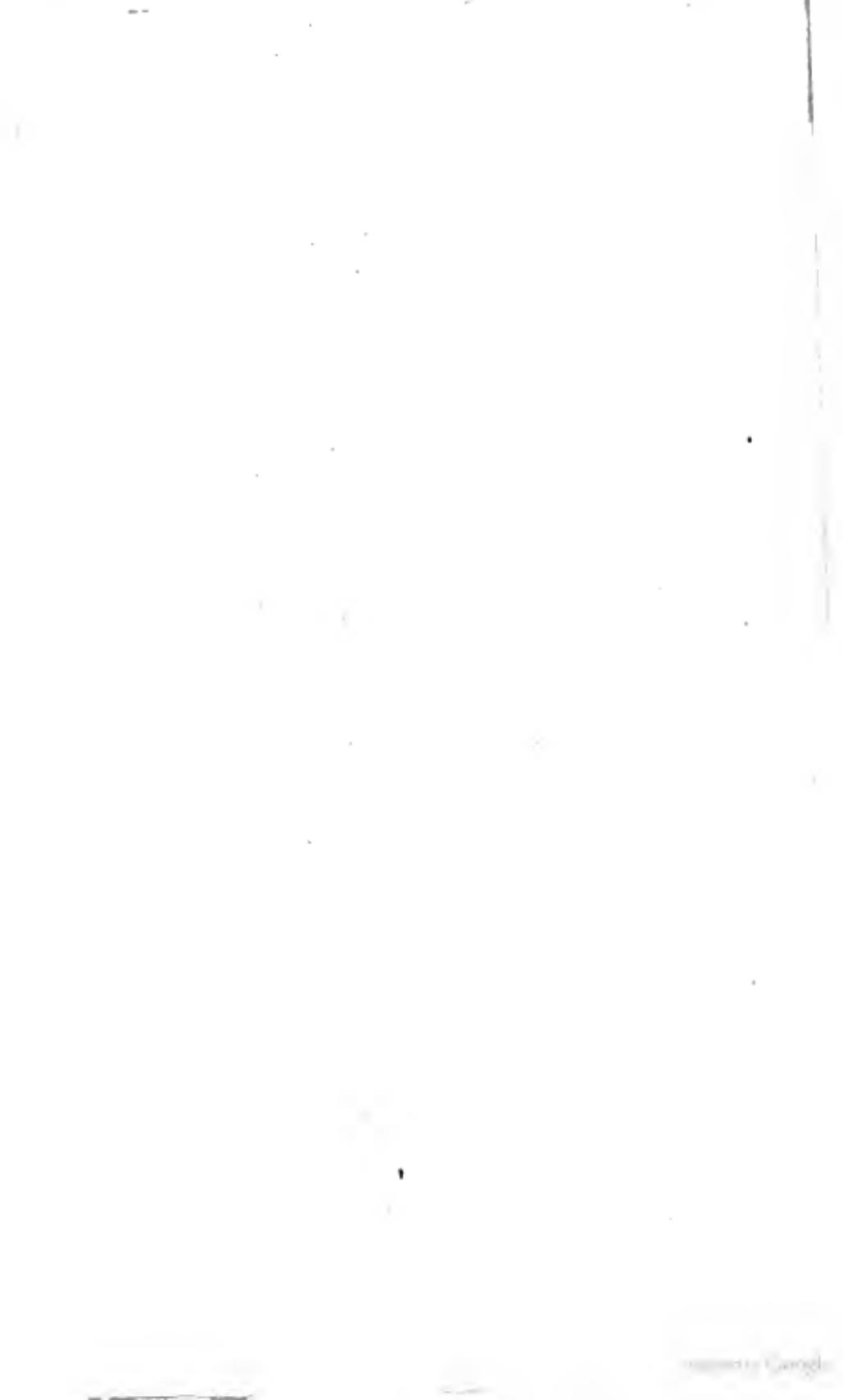
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The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator's Account of 218 Ships sent to Dunkirk; Noise, and nothing else.

A single Brew-house at London generally as good a Market for our Corn, as the whole Kingdom of France.

France as well able to supply her People with Corn, as England to supply her own.

No reason for accounting our Profit 50000 l. per ann. by the Exportation of Corn to France in an accidental dear Year.

The last dear Year of Corn in France, no Rule for the time to come.

The Exportation of Corn to France the last, or any other Year, no reason for passing the Bill of Commerce.

Our Exportations to Dunkirk, chiefly for the Subsistence of our own Garrison there.

50000 l. more struck off from the Mercator's Account of our Exports.

From FRIDAY, October 30. to TUESDAY, November 3. 1713.

WHAT a terrible Noise has the Mercator made with our Exportations of Corn to France! 218 Ships of ours at Dunkirk only! The landing of almost every one, either Corn or Coals! And all this at one Harbour! And for the use of one Town only, since they have no navigable River by which our Goods could be convey'd to any considerable Distance! And what shall be thought to be our Exportations to all other Parts of that Kingdom, if those to a single Town were so prodigious! And how much greater had our Exportations been, if we had pass'd the Bill of Commerce! And is this the Trade we have so foolishly rejected! With such Exclamations as these, in his *Numb. 29, & 30.* and some following Papers, one would imagine all the Farmers in England should be prevail'd upon to break up all their Pasture-Ground; and all little enough, to supply so vast a People as the French Nation with all the Bread they want. He delivers himself with such an Air of Confidence, as if he meant to terrify all the Adversaries of the Bill of Commerce. For my own part, I believe I should have been frighted among the rest, if I had not known the Ais under the Lion's Skin.

The Account from the Custom-house of all our Imports and Exports, from *Michalmas 1684, to Michalmas 1686.* between both Nations, makes the whole Quantity of Corn exported in that Year, of all sorts of Grain, and to all Parts of that Kingdom, amount to no more than 13156 Quarters. A wonderful Business, for all this Ostentation of the Mercator! 13000 Quarters of Malt are often consum'd in a Year by the Customers of a single Brewet; and 'tis a mighty thing with the Mercator, that the whole Kingdom of France is as good a Market to our Farmers, as one of our London Brew-houses.

This Writer, upon the very expectation of the Exports and Imports of a whole Year, which I have since publish'd, foresaw, that after the great Bluster he had been making about Corn, 13000 Quarters would look ridiculous to his Readers; and therefore, *Numb. 49.* he asserts, that there happens a Scarcity of Corn in France once in seven, or at most once in ten Years; and that the extraordinary Quantity taken from us at such a time, ought to be divided among the other Years; and then he thinks it reasonable to demand an

Allowance of 50000 l. per ann. for the vast Export of Corn upon the contingent Scarcity in France. Is this the Mercator's way of proving every thing by indisputable Vouchers? Can his Readers bear him any longer?

But why must a dear Year of Corn happen any oftner in France than it does in England? I do not believe the oldest Man now living has ever seen seven Years of Plenty, without one Year of Scarcity, or any seven Years together, in which the Poor have not been reduc'd to great Extremities for want of Bread. And then why are not we as likely to buy from France, as France from us, in any accidental Scarcity! Are the Seasons in that Country more irregular than they are in ours? Are the Blasts there more frequent? Or is not their Land sufficient for their whole Number of People? They have almost three Acres for our one, but not quite so many Mouths in proportion to their Acres. But what if the Scarcity of Corn in both Countries should happen in the same Year; should we then thank France for taking off our Corn, the Bread of our Poor, in such a Year! No, our Legislators have provided against this Mischief, by the Laws which allow no Bounty for exporting of Corn when it is very dear.

I have therefore very justly told the Mercator before, in mine, *Numb. 13.* that I shall never make him any Allowance for his dear Year of Corn, except in the Balance of the Exports and Imports of that very Year. Let him produce at any time his dear Year, with the whole Exports and Imports of that Year, and it shall be allow'd. But this is the most extraordinary Writer in the World: In almost 70 Papers, he has not given us the whole Account of any Year; he has not given us the whole Exports of Corn in any one Year, by which we are able to make any Judgment, that 50000 l. ought to be deducted from one, to be apply'd to the Profits of another. Is this the Man of Vouchers, of authentick and indisputable Vouchers?

I must repeat here what I told this Person in my last mention'd Paper, that our extraordinary Exportation of Corn this Year can be no Rule for the time to come; that by the Superiority of our Troops, we had drawn so many of his Subjects from the Plough into his Arms, as to cause a Dearth in his Dominions; that at other times he has been able to supply her self with Corn, and even other Countries when they want it.

Well!

Well! I have said this; and is it not true? Were we not every where superior? And does he imagine that France employ'd less than 200000 Men in Garrison and in the Field upon this account? Was not every Parish as the Kingdom, especially in the Villages, tax'd to these Levies? And was not the want of so many able Hands at the Plough, sufficient to produce a Dearth in that Kingdom? Did his most Christian Majesty, or his Subjects, grow the richer by being beaten? Is not Poverty the common Effect of an unsuccessful War? And might not the Poverty of his Subjects, occasion'd by means of this War, disable them to lay up such Stores before-hand, as they would have done in a time of Peace? Why should such a Supposition as this, be thought either unreasonable or improbable?

But see now how I am treated for this, by this impudenc Fellow! N^o 54. "Another Deceiver, says he, 10-
"squares now that the Scarcity of Corn in France is not
"a thing that ever happens in France in time of Peace,
"and that the Want they suffer now, or had suffer'd
"before, was not from Heaven, but for want of Meo
"to till the Land; we having so beaten them, that they
"were forc'd to take their People up to recruit their
"Armies, and so for want of Ploughmen they had a
"Famine.

"It is not, says he, that the Mercator will trouble his
"Readers with following these Magi in their shufflings
"and conjurings, that this is mention'd; but to give a
"Specimen of their way of reasoning, and leave the
"World to judge by it of the rest which they may
"expect."

"I make no doubt, but every disinterested Person will
"judge very well of my way of reasoning; but the Mercator
"was a Fool to mention any thing of the Superiority
"of our Forces, or of the Poverty of that Prince or his
"People, or of the Numbers forc'd away from the
"Plough into his Armies, because every impartial Reader
"will naturally judge that these things were enough
"to make a Dearth in his Dominions.

But how could this Fellow have the confidence to affirm, as he does, that I insinuate that Scarcity of Corn ever happens in France in time of Peace, or that their present Dearth was not from Heaven? No, I am taught better by my Bible, and by the Church of England, in which I was educated. I ever believ'd, that Plague, Pestilence, and Famine, are all Judgments from Heaven. I know not what Daniel has believed, but surely he does not believe as the Church of England: and I do assure him or the Mercator, which I take to be the same Person, I think their late Famine was a Judgment from Heaven, and a very just one too, and brought upon the French Nation by the very means I have mention'd. And I think farther, that we are not so very righteous a People our selves, that we ought never to be afraid of the like Judgment. But Judgments from Heaven, and all Accidents which happen out of the ordinary Course of Divine Providence, are a very precarious Foundation for the Profit of an annual Trade. The Mercator says, these Dearth's happen in France once in seven or 800th in ten Years, without giving me the least reason in the world to believe him: and I affirm, that they happen, or may happen, as often in England as they do in France, that the latter is as well able to supply her own People with Corn, as the former; and that 'tis altogether as likely we should pay, as that we should receive 50000 L. per ann. upon this account.

This Article therefore in the Mercator, N^o 66. is ridiculous and absurd, and has no foundation at all, either in Nature or Reason. But if I should grant him, that we gain 50000 L. per ann. by the extraordinary Quantity of Corn we export once in ten Years to that Country, to what purpose will it serve? What use will be able to make of it? Is it a Reason for our passing the Bill of Commerce? And if we should not pass it, shall we lose the exporting 50000 Quarters of Corn, or the gaining 50000 L. per ann. from that Country? Has the late Treaty of Commerce any thing to do with Corn? No, we shall always send our Corn to France, whosoever we can spare it our selves, and that People cannot live without it. This very Year is a Demonstration of this: the Bill of Commerce is not pass'd, the Articles are not made effectual, and yet we have

sent great Quantities of Corn to France; and whosoever he is starving, he will buy Corn from any Country, as I have said so my 23th, whether from Enemies or Friends. Our Corn-Trade does not at all depend upon our Treaty of Commerce, and I hope we shall never bind our selves by such a Treaty, for the sake of a Trade which we are free to have without it.

But one thing I must not pass over? That the Mercator's Two Hundred and Eighteen Ships were all sent to Duxbury, where we have a Garisoo of our own; that most of the Cargoes of those Ships consist either of Provisions or Fuel; and that, after all, the whole Value of those Cargoes was little more than sufficient to pay the Charge of our Garisoo in that City; and therefore very little more to be plac'd to the Account of the French Trade, than the Employment of so much Shipping between London and Newmarket.

But I believe I have said enough to convince every reasonable Man, that the Mercator's whole 50000 L. Article of Corn, for the extraordinary Quantity of Corn export'd in an accidental dear Year (neither I nor he knows who) ought to be struck off from every other Year, except when the same was exported. And there being no more than 13156 Quarters export'd to France in the Year which I have publish'd, the Mercator's extraordinary Sum of 50000 L. upon this account, must be struck off from the Exports of that Year.

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The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Pergit in mea maledicta quasi vero ea pulcherrime priora processerint.

Cic. Phil. 13.

From TUESDAY, November 3. to FRIDAY, November 6. 1713.

I should be on now to reduce the *Mercator's* 400000 *L.* French Debt, for Goods exported *via Holland and Flanders*: But I am so provok'd by the intemperate Language of this Writer, in his 63d, 66th, 67th, and 68th Papers, that I must beg my Reader's pardon, if I take up his whole time, for this once, upon this Subject.

The Compliments of *Knave and Fool, Chimney-Sweepers and Dunghil-Rakers, ignorant and wilful Cheats and Deluders*, are small things with this Writer; for he accuses the Gentlemen who oppose the Bill of Commerce, or himself, of being in a Plot or Conspiracy to carry on their Party-Wickedness. Hardly any thing can be less popular at this time of day, than the name of Whig; and therefore he has the confidence to call them *Whigs*; and the Account they have lately publish'd of the *French Trade*, is call'd the *Scheme of the Whigs*. He charges them with having timed their extravagant Scheme to animate the Party against those who serve their Country faithfully: And tho, says he, this has had but too much success, and deluded many, yet he congratulates himself that others begin to open their eyes, and see, the late, the Wickedness of the Design. He goes on, and says, *These Gentlemen Pretences of the French imitating our Manufactures, is as to outdo us, or not stand in need of ours, is a mere Forgery, a Party-Fillion, rais'd with a wicked Design to enslave our People, and to serve a Turn: That they have no regard to the Honour and Interest of our Trade; That they are not ashamed to depreciate us, and run it down; That they endeavour to make our People believe we cannot make better Goods than the French; which Suggestion he promises to prove both false and ridiculous, out of the mouths of the French themselves, and by the Practices of those very People who are not ashamed to say it.* But for these Gentlemen, says he, to publish that we cannot make our *Woolen Manufactures* so well as the French, is like a *Sea calling his Brother Shore*. But as it this were not sufficient to exasperate the People against the Gentlemen who oppose him and the Bill of Commerce, and as if nothing less would serve his purpose, than to take away their Lives; he says, * That in their private Meetings, say, and publick also, the Names of *Rogue and Liar, Fool and Rascal*, are the best Language they use to Ministers of State, to the best Men of the Nation; and that they are not ashamed to treat the Queen her self in the same manner: And lastly, That they have hired a Writer who is qualify'd with Spices against the Government, and who is especially noted for his foul Tongue; so that he might make up the gross Ignorance with ill Language.

Ill Language! I am amaz'd! When I have collected such a heap of Scandal out of three or four Half-sheets of this Person's Writings, has he the Confidence to upbraid me with a foul Mouth and ill Language? Was it his Intention to make good this Charge, by putting me under a necessity of repeating his own words? This was craftily done, and so it was to call me a *Dunghil-Raker*; he knew very well he could make good his Charge, if I made any Collections from his Works. However, to oblige him, I have given him a Sample from his *Mercator*, and I shall by and by give him a Collection from his *Reviews*. There is no need of raking the *Dunghil, Scandal* and ill Language are always uppermost.

Knaves and Cheats, ignorant and wilful Cheats and Deluders! What pretence has the *Mercator* to load me with any of these Titles? What one Voueuer has he ever yet produc'd, to make them just? For his Letters from *Wholesale Grocer, Silversmith, and Calve's Son*, are still but his own Authority; and his Vouchers from the old Women who heretofore cry'd *damag'd* Prunks about the streets of *London*, is just as much to his purpose. If I have affirm'd any thing, it is not sufficient for the *Mercator* to deny it; his Readers will expect Evidence and Argument; he must not think to put them off with anonymous Letters of his own forging. And yet the Truth of every thing I have asserted, and which the *Mercator* has deny'd with any probability of Reason, shall be maintain'd in the course of my Papers; or if any thing cannot be maintain'd, it shall be fairly given up. But of what Forgeries have I convicted the *Mercator*, with respect to the *Portugal Treaty*? Has he ever yet reply'd? Has he once had the Ingenuity to own himself in a Mistake? He has very lately asserted our Gain from the *French Nation* to be 500000 *L.* by exporting our Goods in 1685. 64200 *L.* by Advance upon the Sale of our Goods in that Country; and 50000 *L.* that Year, for the extraordinary Quantity of Corn exported in another. I have demonstrated the Absurdity and Fallshood of every one of these Assertions, and reduc'd his Sums to nothing. Has he ever once reply'd, or own'd himself guilty of a Mistake? And shall I not with justice retort upon him, that he is not ignorant, but a wilful Cheat and Deluder of his Readers?

But it seems too, I and my Assitants are in a Plot or Conspiracy to carry on our Party-Wickedness. Party-Party-Rage, and the Rage of Parties, are almost every where repeated in this Person's Writings, as the only Argument against the Bill of Commerce. This brings

brings to my mind a Passage in that very *Philippic*, wherein I have taken the words which stand as the Motto of this Paper: *Partes Juris dicuntur in foro, in curia; contra Italia armata est: Ibas in partes partemque Pop. Rom. defensionem vocat.* The *Oppositor* of Antony, says *Tully*, *is omnia de utroque parte callidus a Partis, in the Court, in the Senate; all Italy is up in Arms against him: And does he give the name of Party to the Opposition of the whole Roman People?* Every Parliament from the Restoration to this hour, except that which was procur'd by *King James II.* has esteem'd the *French Trade* a Nuisance; and does this Wretch presume to call us by the name of a Party? Is the Seize of all England for half a Century of Years, the Seize of a Party only? Is not this Fellow waging War with his whole native Country? and has he the confidence to call her a Party?

But we must be call'd Whigs too, for publishing an Account of the *French Trade*. This cannot chuse but look very well from *Daniel Fox*, from a Fellow, one might justly believe from his Writings, was never within a Church in his whole Life. I shall presently convince my Readers of his wonderful Zeal for the Church of England. But indeed he was nurs'd up in Fanaticism, as well as his present Masters; both Persons may have particular Views of their own, they may scaffold with the name of Church, till they shall have built up their own Fortunes, but they can have nothing less at heart than our Church or Constitution: yet neither Church nor State have any other Concern in this Affair of the *French Commerce*, than to give it all the Opposition we are able.

We are charg'd with animating a Party against those who serve their Country faithfully, tho' the People, he says, now begin to open their Eyes. I am inform'd indeed that they do, and that many have come on a sudden from the *East* and *West-Indies*, and some have even risen from their Graves, to vote on the *Mercator's* side.

We are charg'd with depreciating and running down our own Trade, with endeavouring to make People believe we cannot make our own Goods so cheap as the *French*, or that the *French* are able to outdo us at our own Woollen Manufactures. The Woollen Manufacture is every where call'd our Manufacture, our Woollen Manufacture, as if there was no such thing in any other Country. But I ask every Englishman who has travel'd, whether he ever came to any Village in *Essex*, where he wanted a Joint of Mutton for his Supper? And if they have Sheep every where, do they throw away their Fleeces? Or do not the Sheep of other Countries wear Wool, but Bristles upon their Backs? This undoubtedly the *Mercator*, *Numb. 67.* would have thought to be the Case of the *French* Woollen Manufactures, when he tells us of their Dogs-Hair Broad-Cloth, their rough half-dress'd Druggets, their unshorn Dozens, and their Cabbage-Net Boys. No doubt, *France* and *Austria* will forgive him every thing he can say against the *French* Woollen Manufacture, if it shall make way for passing the Bill of Commerce.

But why no fine Woollen Manufactures out of *England*? Is not their Wool fine enough in other Countries? Yet even here we give as much again for Spanish as we do for *Lampshire* Wool, and four times as much as for that of any other Country; and not only Spanish Wool, but even that upon the Mountains of *Languedoc* in *France*, is finer than any Wool that grows in *England*. The Wool the *French* have generally run from us, has been for the use of their poorer People. Since our finest Woollen Manufactures are without any mixture of *English* Wool, *Daniel Fox* therefore had better quit his Argument from the Fineness of our Wool, and rely altogether upon his inimitable Spinners of *England*. But why so very inimitable? Why should we suppose that all the Wit in the World is confin'd to our Country? That there are no People in *France* who can spin as fine as every Child of five Years old in this Kingdom? And if they can spin as well, must

they not be able to spin cheaper? If they can live, as the *Mercator* says, on an Onion and a Draught of Water, on a Bundle of Grapes and a Piece of Bread, can any one in *England* live for so little Wages? Perhaps there is not the like strength in People who fare so very poorly, but very few Manufactures require such great strength: and what is the strength of a Spinner of five years old? So that after all, this Charge of depreciating our Manufactures amounts to no more than this, that the *French* are a poorer People, and can therefore work cheaper, and that our Manufactures are the dearer.

The *Mercator's* last Charge against us is little less than Treason. The Impudence of this Fellow! But if any such words had been ever us'd by the *British* *Mercator*, and his Assistants, they had e'er this been in *Newgate*. The *Mercator*, no doubt, would have asked the Part of a *Machometta* to accuse them; and a Ministry so watchful for themselves, and especially for her Majesty, had long since brought them to their Trials. This Rascal has the Impudence to affirm what he does not believe himself! But I must desire the Reader to observe what the execrable Villain has publish'd in his *Reviews*, concerning the *Queen*, the *Royal Family*, the *Church*, and the *Constitution*.

Review, Vol. 2. Numb. 80. 'If *Jure Divino* comes upon the Stage, the *Queen* has no more Title to the Crown, than my Lord Mayor's Horse; all the People, by the Laws of God, are bound to oppose her as an Usurper.'

Review, Vol. 3. Numb. 122. 'The Line, of all the best Families in the Kingdom.'

Review, Vol. 2. Numb. 124. 'The Difference between the dry Martyrdom of *King James*, by his Passive Obedience Subjects; and the wet Martyrdom of *King Charles I.* by People that never made any such Pretence, will appear so small, that it's not worth Dr. D——'s while to meddle with it.'

Review, Vol. 2. Numb. 112. 'The Act of Uniformity imposing such and such indifferent things, as Terms of Communion, will appear scandalous to the Church, injurious to the publick Peace, and a Grievance to the whole Nation.'

Review, Vol. 3. Numb. 27.
'Lest it become a new Proverbial Jest,
'To be as wicked as an English Priest.'

Review, Vol. 3. Numb. 27. 'Should I publish the Matters of Fact which I am Master of, with respect to the High-flying Gentlemen of the Clergy; should I give a faithful Account of the most infamous and scandalous Behaviour, the notorious Lives, the best-ly Excesses, and the furious Treatment of their Brethren the Dissenters, which on a small Search I have been made acquainted with; the inferior Clergy of his Party, would appear the most wretched, profligate, abominable Crew, that ever God suffer'd to live unpunish'd, since he destroy'd *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* by Fire from Heaven.'

Review, Vol. 2. Numb. 105. 'If words could be made Treason, one Third at least of the inferior Clergy in *England* would be hang'd.'

Review, Vol. 2. Numb. 93. 'Drunkeness, Oaths and abominable Leudness; Ignorance, Negligence and scandalous Insufficiency; abhor'd Error, Deism and Socinianism, have over-run the Clergy.'

These things, I think, were enough to give every Englishman an abhorrence of the Author of the *Review*. For my own part, I am so far from wondering that he stood in the Pillory, that I am astonish'd at the Gentleness of his Punishment. But I am yet more astonish'd, that he should be at this time employ'd to write *Mercators*, or that any of the Reverend Clergy will vouchsafe to give them a reading.



The British Merchant ;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D :

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Erumpat enim aliquando libera & me digna Vox. Cic.

The Mercator's Calumny of the present Ministry confuted.

The Mercator sick of the Year 1685. endeavours in vain to draw off the British Merchant to another Argument.

The Mercator's Four Hundred Thousand Pounds Articles of Goods, exported to France, by the way of Holland and Flanders in 1685. ridiculous.

From FRIDAY, November 6. to TUESDAY, November 10. 1713.

DAN. FOE, *Mercator*, Num. 71. has this extraordinary Passage: ' Those People who will not be for giving up the Administration to the Will of a Set of Men, who would tear it to pieces, must necessarily join to deprive them of this popular Handle, and settle the Treaty of Commerce, to put an end to the foolish Clamour rais'd about it.'

Certainly this Writer must be out of his Wits, else he would never have told us, in such plain Terms, that the Continuance of the present happy Administration depends upon settling the Treaty of Commerce, and have offer'd this as an Argument to his Readers for the passing of that Bill.

For if the French Trade, by the Articles of the late Treaty, cannot chuse but prove for the Advantage of this Nation, we ought to make it effectual, tho' all the Ministers were against it. But, on the contrary, if the Consequences of passing the Commerce-Bill should be the Payment of a Million Sterling every Year upon the Balance of our Trade to the French, the depriving three or four hundred thousand of our poor People of their yearly Employment and Subsistence, and the Loss of many of our best Markets for the Product of our Lands, besides the hardening the Estates of Gentlemen with such a Charge of new Poor; we should be the greatest Fools in the World to compliment the best Administration that ever was with our own Ruin. No, tho' the present M——rs had procur'd for us the Victories of *Blenheim* and *Ramelleur*, of *Andunard* and *Tamers*; tho' they had reconc'd us, and all our Confederates, from Universal Monarchy, I had rather they should be torn in pieces.

But Thanks be to God, that is not the Case of the present Ministers; for who shall tear them to pieces, if the Bill of Commerce should not pass? Will those Multitudes of Merchants and Manufacturers, who were Petitioners to the Parliament against the passing of the Bill? Were they Petitioners that it should not pass; and will they be transported into so much Rage, if their Petition should be granted? Or from what sort of People then are the M——rs in any Danger? from the Party for the Bill of Commerce. If the M——rs themselves will stand but neuter, there would not be found a single Champion for the Bill in the whole Kingdom. There were many Petitions against it to the last Parliament, and not one single Person, either Mer-

chant or Manufacturer, that petition'd for it: And by almost every Parliament, from the Restoration to the last, the French Commerce has been treated as a Nuisance to this Nation.

From whom then are the M——rs in any Danger, if the Bill of Commerce should be rejected? Does France require that it pass? Or is there any Article to this purpose in the Treaty? Or would this Wretch insinuate that there is any such secret Stipulation? No; as I have said in my first, the Administration has with great Wisdom reserv'd it to the Judgment of the Parliament, to render the Treaty effectual, if they think fit; and no Man in Great Britain has any reason to be offended with the M——rs, if it should be rejected by the Parliament: but if France should be offended, we have still so much the greater reason to be upon our Guard; yet without doubt she will never expect to be complimented with the Ruin of our Manufacturers. But I hope I have said enough, to vindicate the Administration from this Calumny of the *Mercator*.

This Writer begins now to be quite sick of the Year of Exports and Imports, between *Michaelmas* 1685, and *Michaelmas* 1686. He finds at last that his Project for valuing our Credit, given that Year to France, at 1,746,277 *l.* 4 *s.* 2 *d.* 1/2, and for making our Gain, upon the Balance of our Trade, 866,372 *l.* 13 *s.* 8 *d.* 1/2 will never do. He sees that I have confuted his 500,000 *l.* Article of Shipping, his 64,500 *l.* Gain by Advance upon the Sale of our Goods, and his Corollary Article of 50,000 *l.* per ann. He knows very well, that I am still able to take off as much more as all the above-mention'd Sums from his Account; and therefore now he would fain divert me from that Year to another Argument.

His words, Num. 72. are, that it ' was a Cheat, a preposterous and absurd thing, to offer the Exports of 1685, for a Test of the Trade to France; which is to stand, after a Treaty of Commerce is settled, upon the foot of the Tariff of 1664.'

His Argument is, that after that Tariff, and before 1685, a new Tariff was made, and higher Duties laid in France upon our Goods, than by the Tariff of 1664. and that our Exports in 1685 therefore must needs have sunk below those in 1664.

He has also given as an Instance of high Duties laid on our Goods in France after 1685, which therefore sunk our Exports afterwards below what they were be-

fore; and concludes therefore, that our Exports of 1685, must needs be below those of 1664. and very much below what they will be hereafter, when the Tariff of 1664 shall be re-establiſh'd.

To this the Reasoning of the Mercator, for the present, I shall give the following Answer.

1. That that Tariff is not reſtor'd by the Terms of the late Treaty, without very large Exceptions, and such as render it insignificant.

2. I shall hereafter shew him, that tho we were to have that Tariff entire, and without any Exception; nay, tho our Goods in France were to pay no Duties at all, yet we should not be able to export such Quantities as we did in 1664.

3. I defy this Writer, or his Patrons, to shew, by the whole Exports and Imports of any one Year since 1664, or even before, when the Duties on our Goods were a great deal less than by that Tariff, that we ever gain'd upon the Balance of our Trade with France. Let him produce what Year he shall think fit; I have given him a fair Challenge.

4. But lastly, I wonder to find the Mercator at this time day find in need of a good Tariff to make the French Trade beneficial to this Nation. Is this the Man that asserted in his first, and several of his subsequent Papers, That the Trade between England and France WAS ALWAYS beneficial to this Nation, in spite of Tariffs, Edicts, and Prohibitions? I have produc'd the entire Exports and Imports of one whole Year, the only Year that has been laid before the Parliament from the Custom-house, the only Year I am able to procure, and it is against him. I have not look'd out for this Year, nor have Interest to procure any other. The Mercator has produc'd little Sketches from several Years, which shews that his Interest is better: but let him produce the whole Account of what Year he thinks fit, I will be ready to join issue with him upon his own Year. But I expect no such thing from him: the little Sketches he has offer'd, render it very suspicious that every Custom-house Account is against him.

In the mean time, I shall go on to shew all his Frauds and Fallshoods of that very Year, which I have communicated to the Publick: And the next in course is, that we exported to France between Michaelmas 1684, and Michaelmas 1686, the Value of 100000 L. by the way of Flanders, and 300000 L. by the way of Holland.

We were promis'd Vouchers, authentick and indisputable Vouchers, for every thing to be asserted by this Writer. Where is his Voucher for this Assertion? Does he expect to be believ'd upon his own Authority? But he has not only no Voucher for this strange Assertion, but 'tis impossible he should have any. There is not the least foundation in the Reason or Nature of the thing, to make it credible, that in that Year any of our Goods were exported to France by the way of Holland and Flanders.

For had we not at that time an open Trade with France? Why then should any of our Goods be sent thither by the way of Flanders and Holland? The Mercator tells us, that some parts of France are so situated, that they can no way be supply'd with English Goods, so as to have them at any reasonable rates, but by the way of Holland. Why, then it will follow, that that ought not to be call'd a part of the French Trade, which we cannot supply but by the way of some other Country.

But, first, why are not we ourselves as well able as Flanders, to supply any part of France with our own Goods? At what distance is the Seine from Flanders? And are we not able to send them up that River to any part of France, which can be supply'd by the way of Flanders? Or will our Goods bear first the Payment of one Duty upon their landing in Flanders, and afterwards another Duty in France, upon their being imported into this Country; rather than the Payment of the single Duty in this Country, upon our exporting them directly thither? It is therefore ridiculous and nonsense, to talk of exporting any Goods by the way of Flanders, when we had a direct open Trade to France from this Kingdom.

But, secondly, it is still more ridiculous to talk of any Exportations at that time by the way of Holland. All the Goods we send this way pay a Duty upon their Im-

portation into Holland, and another upon their Exportation; they must pay several Duties in their Passage to France, upon their going and the same, and at last as great a Duty upon their being sent through that way into France, as if they had carry'd them directly thither. And besides all these Charges, the Dutch Merchant will expect to have his Profit. And why should we imagine then, that our Goods, had not come cheaper to Charente, Lyons, and other French Countries near the Mouth of the Rhine, if we had first landed them at Amoy, and paid the single Duty of that City? If Water-Carriage is so very necessary, let the Mercator consult his Map, he will find they may be convey'd by two Branches of the Seine almost to every part of France, to which they can be carry'd by the Mouth of the Rhine. But if they were to be convey'd thro France by Land-Carriage, yet the Charge would be still lighter, for the Reasons I have given, than the Conveyance by the way of Holland.

If any of our Goods were sent up the Rhine at that time, when we had an open Trade with France, he will never be able to prove, that they were not rather sent that way to Germany than to France, since the former could not be supply'd otherwise, and the latter might have had them much cheaper, if we had sent them directly up to Amoy.

But why 400000 L. Value of our Goods exported to France by the way of Holland and Flanders? Says this Writer, because those parts of France had no Manufactures of their own. If they had indeed none of their own, I must ask him where or how they got the Money to pay for so great a yearly Value of ours? To ask the Question only, is to expose him. But if they wanted our Goods hereafter, they are likely to want but very few of them hereafter; they have been improving these last thirty Years in Woollen Manufactures, they have the Materials as cheap, and Labour a great deal cheaper. It will be impossible for us to send any Cloths to France under the Tariff of 1669, which is 20 per Cent. of the whole Value, and which must be the Tariff by the late Treaty.

But whatever shall be the Case hereafter, we certainly sent no Goods to France in 1685, by the way of Flanders and Holland, because we had then a direct Trade to France, and the direct Trade was the most profitable. So that, I have here cut off 400000 L. more from the Account of the Mercator.

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The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator and a common Prostitute compared.

Certain Maxims concerning Trade, and Rules to judge when a Trade is profitable.

A View of our Trade with several Countries.

That with France the only unprofitable Trade.

From TUESDAY, November 10. to FRIDAY, November 13. 1713.

ONE of the Paragraphs in *Mercator* 73 begins thus; 'If this was not an Age when Blushes are out of Fashion.' This, after I have convicted this Writer of so many impudent Lies and Forgeries, to which he has never offered the least Reply! I must confess I have never met with any thing like it, except somewhere, as I remember, in the Fables of Sir Roger L'Estrange. That Author tells us of a common Prostitute, who had nothing more frequent in her Mouth than this Expression, *Lord! says she, to see the Impudence of some Women!* It is the very same thing for *Dan. For* and a common Prostitute to exclaim against the Impudence of other People.

He has affirmed, That our Trade to France between Michaelmas 1655 and Michaelmas 1686, by Goods exported, Shipping, and other Articles, was worth 1,756,277 l. 4 s. od. 29. and that our Gain upon the Balance was 866,372 l. 13 s. 11 d. 24. I have already taken off above a Million from his Account to Demonstration, and shall still deduct a great deal more from his extravagant Sums, and prove that our Loss by that Year's Trade was almost as great as he makes our Gain. He neither confesses nor denies the Demonstration, but blunders on against the Impudence of other Writers.

But before I proceed to his other Articles I must observe, That the Prosperity and Happiness of this Kingdom depend very much upon our foreign Trade:

That we have no Gold or Silver of our own Growth: that all we have is imported from abroad, in Exchange for the Product and Manufactures of our own Country:

That we gain Gold and Silver from those Countries, which do not sell us so great a Value of Manufactures as they take from us; for in this Case the Balance must be paid in Money:

That we must pay a Balance in Money to such Countries as sell more Manufactures than they take from us: and that the Capital Stock of Bullion is diminished by such a Commerce, unless the Goods we import from an over-balancing Country shall be re-exported:

That we are most enriched by those Countries which pay us the greatest Sums upon the Balance; and most impoverished by those which carry off the greatest Balance from us:

That the Trade of that Country which contributes most to the Employment and Subsistence of our People, and to the Improvement of our Lands, is the most valuable:

That the Trade which lessens most the Subsistence of our People, and the Value of our Lands, is the most detrimental to the Nation:

That that Country which does not sell us so many Manufactures as it buys from us, contributes the whole Value of the Balance to the Employment and Subsistence of our People, and to the Product of our Lands:

That the Country which sells us more than it buys from us, takes the whole Value of the Balance from the Subsistence of our People and the landed Interest:

That therefore the Balance which is either paid or received by Means of our Trade with any particular Country, is one certain Medium to judge of the Value of our Trade: That is, every particular Trade contributes so much to the Subsistence of our People and the Improvement of our Lands, as the Balance it pays to us for the greater Quantity of Manufactures we sell than buy; and it deducts so much from both for the greater Quantity of Manufactures we buy than sell, as the Balance we are to pay:

And, lastly, That every Country which takes off our finished Manufactures, and returns us unwrought Materials to be manufactured here, contributes so far to the Employment and Subsistence of our People, as the Cost of manufacturing those Materials.

Many other Maxims might be offered; but these are sufficient to try the Value of every particular Trade.

First then for our Trade with *Perregal*: For the Goods we send to that Country, it is acknowledged that our Returns are Wine, Oil, and some other things for our own Use and Consumption; but it is indisputable that the greatest Value of our Re-

turns are Gold and Silver: So much therefore the *Portuguese* pay to the Employment and Subsistence of our People, and for the Product of our Lands; so much as this Balance is Gold and Silver, they contribute to the Prosperity and Happiness of this Nation.

For our Exports of Manufactures to *Spain*, before King *Philip* was settled in that Throne, our Returns were in Wine, Oil, Wool, Cochineal, Indico, Fruit, Iron, &c. many of which were consumed in *England*; and a great Part of them were also used in the Manufactures we exported. So many of them as we used in the Manufactures we exported, contributed so much to the Employment of our People and the Improvement of our Lands: But a very great Part of our Returns from *Spain*, was Money for the Over balance of Manufactures we sent thither; and this, undoubtedly, was so much added to the Prosperity and Happiness of this Nation. Whether King *Philip* will hereafter give us as fair Quarter as the Subjects of his Grandfather; whether we shall have again as profitable a Trade with that Country; will depend in some measure upon the Treaty of Commerce, when it shall be settled with that Nation.

Our Exports to *Italy* are made good to us by Returns in Oil, Wine, thrown and raw Silk, wrought Silk, Curants, Paper, and some Druggs, &c. and the rest in Money. This loss, for the Reasons I have given, is so much added to the Happiness and Prosperity of the Nation; and so indeed are many of our other Returns, since they are manufactured by our own People, and contribute so much to their Maintenance.

Between us and *Turky* very little or no Balance is paid in Money: Our Returns are raw Silk, Groggram Yarn, Cotton Wooll, and Cotton Yarn, Goats Hair, Coffee, Dying Goods, Druggs, &c. almost the whole Value either Materials, or such things as are necessary or useful in our Manufactures; and which therefore contribute very much to the Employment and Subsistence of our People.

Our Returns from *Hamborough*, and other Places in *Germany*, are made us chiefly in Linen, and Linnen Yarn; but we have also a Balance from those Countries in Money. The last, and a great Part of the rest of those Returns, contribute to the Employment of our People, and the Riches and Prosperity of the Nation.

But for the Goods we export to *Holland*, they are prodigious, whether we consider our woollen Manufactures, the Product of our own Country and our Plantations, our *East India*, *Turkey*, and other Goods; we have some Returns for them in Spices, Linnen, Thread, Paper, Rhenish Wines, Battery, Madder, Whale-fins, Claphoard, and some wrought Silks, &c. Dr. *Downam* the Inspector General of the Imports and Exports, in his second Report to the Commissioners of the publick Accounts by a Medium of seven Years Trade, pag. 19. has valued

	l	s	d	grs
Our annual Exports at	1937934	7	11	1
Our annual Imports at	549532	1	02	3
And makes the Difference, or annual Balance paid in Money,	1388402	6	08	2

Many of the other Returns are useful in our Manufactures; but since the whole Balance is paid for Goods, 'tis manifest that the *Dutch* Trade employs and subsists for many of our People, as make or procure all the Goods and Manufactures for which the Balance is paid, and consequently contribute so much to the Prosperity and Happiness of this Nation.

It is manifest by a cursory View of our Trade

with every one of these Countries, that we do not pay a Balance in Money to any one; that they do not sell us a greater Value of Manufactures than they take from us; and that consequently we are not impoverished by our Trade with any of them.

It is manifest that we import from every one for the Manufactures we export, either Money or Materials for new Manufactures, either of which contribute very much to the Prosperity and Happiness of this Kingdom.

Certainly then we shall with all our Power cultivate our Trade with every one of them. We can never be so abandoned of our common Sense, as to lessen the Advantages of any one, for the sake of a Trade with any other Country, till by clear Demonstration it shall appear to be more for our Advantage.

Let us consider then what are to be the Exports and Imports between *France* and *England*; and the Treaty of Commerce should be made (if it shall, and what other Trade must be settled).

In the first place, we shall send no woollen Cloths or Serges if they are to pay according to the Tariff of 1699, which is to be our Tariff for those Goods by this Treaty. I am not at all mov'd by the small Parcels which have been sent to *Dunkirk*, which is a free Port, and where no Duties at all are paid, and where we have a Garrison of our own, which must be clothed with our own Manufactures. But what is *Dunkirk* to the rest of *France*, where the Tariff of 1699 must take place?

We can export no *East India* Manufactures thither, for the Edict which I have repeated in a former *France*, to help on the Bill of Commerce, may connive at the Importation of some *East India* Goods; but the Treaty has no where provided for the Repeal of that Edict, and she may therefore keep them out without any Breach of the Treaty.

Our *Turky* and other foreign Goods are in it had a condition by the Edict of 1701. But what Inundations are we to expect from *France* of Wines, Linnens, wrought Silks, Paper, Kiddskins, &c. upon our rendering effectual the Articles of that Treaty? What one thing can we expect that shall be beneficial to us besides Salt? And are we not then to pay a great Over balance in Money to that Kingdom?

And first, the Payment of so much Money must be the loss of so much Riches to the Nation.

But secondly, the things for which we shall pay this Money, must needs be more detrimental to us than the Loss of the Money it self.

Can we have the Wines of *France*, and not lessen our Consumption of those of *Portugal* and *Italy*? And if we take off less of their Wines, will not those Nations make Reprisals upon us by a Prohibition of our Manufactures? And if they should, how many of the Manufactures must lie upon our Hands, which now employ such Multitudes of our own People? Can we buy the wrought Silks and Linnens of *France*, and melt not our own Manufactures of equal Value stand still? Or shall we import the like Goods from *Flanders*, *Germany*, *Italy* and *Holland*, and will not all these Nations retaliate upon us by the like Prohibitions? And then how many of our woollen Manufactures must stand still? The certain and infallible Consequence of the Bill of Commerce is, that we shall import from *France* a World of Manufactures already wrought, to the very utmost Perfection, and which will contribute nothing to the Employment and Subsistence of our People; and that we shall lose the selling vast Quantities of our own finish'd Manufactures to other Countries for Money, or for unwrought Materials, by which our People would be employed. If to be against such a Bill of Commerce is to be of a Party, I desire to be always of that Party.



The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Preamble of Two Acts of Parliament for prohibiting the French Trade, containing the Reasons of these Prohibitions.

The Trade which exhausts the Nation's Treasure detrimental.

The East Country does not exhaust our Treasure, and why.

The East-India Trade does not exhaust our Treasure, and why.

The Countries which for Money sell us unwrought Materials, of which, when Manu-

factur'd, we export a Part at a higher Price, do not exhaust our Treasure.

The French Trade exhausts our Treasure, because it carries off our Bullion or Treasure, and because it does not make us any Returns by which we can be repaired of that Loss.

The French Trade not only exhausts our Treasure, but hinders our gaining greater Treasures from other Countries than it takes from us.

From FRIDAY, November 13. to TUESDAY, November 17. 1713.

THE Preamble of the Act for prohibiting the French Trade in the 30th Year of King Charles II. is in these Words: "Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the Importing of French Wines, Brandy, Linen, Silks, 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.

The Preamble of the Prohibition Act in the 1st of King William and Queen Mary differs very little from the former, except in the Conclusion, where instead of Detrimental, it calls the French Trade a Nuisance to this Kingdom.

The Mercator often calls the Adversaries of the Bill for rendering the Treaty of Commerce with France effectual, by the Name of a Party: It is some Credit to us that we are not a very contemptible Party; the whole Legislative Powers in the above-mention'd Reigns were of this Party, and the Mercator's Bill of Commerce was rejected by the last House of Commons. There is some Sense in being of the Party of our Legislators. I would now ask this Person to name his Party for the French Trade, that we may know what Reputation we are likely to gain by changing Sides: Perhaps it will then appear, that only France and her Dependants are the Party for the Bill of Commerce.

But 'tis not for this Reason that I have cited the above-mentioned Preambles, but because they point out to us the Rules, all the Rules by which it is possible to estimate the Value of our Trade with any particular Country; and by every one of those Rules the French Trade stands condemned as a Nuisance to this Kingdom.

The first Charge against it in those Laws is, That it hath much exhausted the Treasures of this Nation. Our Legislators, it seems, judged, that every Trade which increased our Treasure was beneficial, and every Trade which exhausted our Treasure was detrimental, was a Nuisance to this Kingdom.

And when shall a Trade be said to exhaust our Treasure? Certainly then when it diminishes our Capital Stock of Gold and Silver; when it sells us a greater Value of Manufactures for our own Consumption than it takes from us; when we do not sell Manufactures sufficient to even the Account between us, and are therefore forced to pay the Balance in clear Money; and when it is no way possible for us to repair the Loss, by means of the Goods or Manufactures we have imported.

I have thrown in so many Cautions and Limitations to the Rule of exhausting our Treasure, or gaining from us a yearly Sum of Money upon the Balance of Trade, that my Readers will perceive I have no Intention to condemn the French Trade, if any thing can be said in its Defence.

But indeed I do not think our Trade with every Nation guilty of exhausting our Treasure, to which we pay a Balance in Gold or Silver. For if the Goods we buy from any Country are such as we export again in the Whole, or in Part, for the same or a greater Sum of Money, our Treasure is not exhausted by such a Trade; the Goods we buy make us full Re-stitution of all the Sums we were out for them.

First then, We buy Hemp, Pitch, Tar, and all sorts of Naval Stores from the East Country; unless we did this we could not fit out a single Ship to Sea. The Goods we send to that Country are by no means sufficient to even the Account between us: We are forc'd to pay the Balance in Gold and Silver; and this, as I have heard, amounts to 200,000 l. per Annum.

Shall we be said then to lose in great an Annual Sum by our East-Country Trade? No certainly; for, not to insist upon the numberless People that are employ'd and subsisted by Shipping and Navigation, we gain much more by our Shipping than the above-mention'd Sum from other Countries with which we trade; and it is certain we could gain nothing this way if we had not first bought the Naval Stores:

'Tis manifest the Freight of all exported Goods is paid by Foreign Nations; and I believe I should not be thought extravagant if I should affirm, that more than one Fifth of the Freight of all our Shipping is paid by the Nations with which we trade. If it be said, there is about 700,000 Tons of Shipping belong-

ing to this Kingdom, and perhaps the Freight of 5 *per Ton per Annum* will not be thought of very extraordinary. If this is *False*, and also, that one Fifth of the whole Freight is paid by other Nations, then we pay the *East-India* about 100,000 *l. per Annum* for our Naval Stores, which could not be had but from that Country, and gain above twice as much by our Shipping from other Nations. Therefore though we pay for great an Annual Balance upon that Trade, yet our Treasure cannot be said to be exhausted by it; we have such Goods in Exchange for it as make us very ample Amends, and enable us to supply that Loss by our other Commerce.

Possibly something like this may be said of our Trade to *China* and the *East-Indies*. It is certain, that besides Goods and Merchandizes, we export yearly to those Places our Bullion to the Value of 4 or 500,000 *l. per Annum*. And yet I cannot yield that our Treasure has been exhausted, nor indeed that it has not been very much increased by means of that Trade. *Salt-Petre*, *Pepper*, and some few *Dry* Goods of those Countries, perhaps we cannot be well without; and yet I believe our Merchants would fit out few or no Ships for so long a Voyage, if they were not also to have the Liberty of Importing Manufactures. But our own Want of *East-India* Goods will by no means acquit that Trade of the Guilt of exhausting our Treasure, or make us any Amends for such a Loss; that is to be done no other way, than by our gaining as much Bullion from other Countries by means of the Manufactures we import from the *East-Indies*.

First then, the Use of Wrought Silks and Stain'd Calicoes of that Country is prohibited in *England*; these therefore are re-exported; But, in the next place of their White Calicoes and Mullins, of their Coffee, Tea, Pepper, *Salt-Petre*, and other Goods, very great Quantities are also re-exported, and at a much greater Price than the whole Annual Sums which are sent from hence to the *East-India*. The Consequence is, that our Treasure is not exhausted by that Trade, since we have those Goods in Exchange for our Money; we procure us much greater Sums from other Countries, since our whole Loss is more than repair'd by re-exporting Part only of those Goods at a much higher Price than we paid for the Whole.

I have never heard of any Trade (except with the above-mention'd Countries, and that of *France*) which has been at any Time charg'd with exhausting our Treasure. But I will suppose, for once, that we never gain'd any Balance upon our Trade with *Spain*, or the *Lowes*: On the contrary, tho' it is not true that we even paid in Money for the Wool and Cochineal of the former, and for the Dying Goods of the latter; yet I can by no means be persuad'd that either the one or the other could, with any Justice, be accus'd of exhausting our Treasure, or of diminishing our capital Stock of Gold and Silver, or of selling to us any Goods for our Money, without enabling us at the same Time to get back the whole Price from other Countries. We have usually purchas'd 5000 Bags of *Spanish Wool* *per Annum*; and not to insist at the present upon the great Numbers of People employ'd in Working that Wool, have we ever sold less of it to other Nations than was sufficient to pay the whole Cost of all the Wool we bought from *Spain*, and of all other Foreign Materials mix'd with our Manufactures of that Wool? And for the Cochineal, and other Foreign Dying Goods that are necessary Ingredients in all our Woolen Manufactures, they are abundantly paid by the Manufactures we send Abroad, and the Prices given for them in Foreign Countries. Dr. *Devoaux*, the Inspector general, in his Report cited in my last, has given us an Account of Woolen Manufactures exported to *Holland* only in one Year, to the Value of 339,526 *l.* How prodigious then must have been our Exportations of that kind to all the World? And how considerable must have been the Foreign Ingredients in so vast a Value of Woolen Manufactures? And yet 'tis certain we could have made or exported very few, but for those Foreign Ingredients. The Trade therefore which carries out our Bullion, to enable us to export a greater Value of our Manufactures, cannot be said to exhaust our Treasure, or to diminish our capital Stock of Gold or Silver, or not to make us Amends by the Returns.

I will not be thought therefore to condemn every Trade which carries out our Bullion, of exhausting our Treasure; but that only which carries out our Bullion for Manufactures to be consum'd here, which returns us no sort of Goods to be sent Abroad again; and, lastly, which no way enables us to repair our

Losses of that Loss. And this, I believe, always was, and ever will be, the Case of our Trade with *France*.

I had publish'd (*Novemb. 14.*) an Account of all the Imports and Exports between *France* and *England*, with such a Valuation of Particulars as made the Imports about 5,224,000 *l.* the Exports about 5,140,000 *l.* by which the Balance against us was about 770,000 *l.* besides what was made by Goods clandestinely imported, which I suppos'd might be equal to a third Part of all that were fairly enter'd.

The *Minister*, to get rid of this prodigious Balance, has had Recourse to the most extraordinary Means in the World. By an extravagant Undervaluation of our Imports, he has reduc'd them to 489,000 *l.* and by an extravagant an Overvaluation of our Exports, he has rais'd them to 747,077 *l.* which still leaves against him a Balance of 247,816 *l.*

To make the Balance that very Year on our Side, he has add'd, that we gain'd 500,000 *l.* by exporting our Goods to *France* in our own Shipping; 400,000 *l.* by Goods exported by the Way of *Flanders* and *Holland*; 84,000 *l.* by Advance upon the Sale of our Goods in *France*; and 20,000 *l.* for *Wool* than was exported. The Absurdity of every one of these Additions I have demonstrat'd, as I shall hereafter of his over and under Valuations, so that the Balance of that Trade was then against us.

I must therefore here ask this Writer, and all his Readers, what were the Goods we imported for so much Money, to convince us 'twas it was not lost, or that so much of our Treasure was not exhausted? Had we any Naval Stores from *France*, as we have from the *East-India*? Had we any Goods from thence, which we export afterwards to other Countries, as we do those of the *East-India*? Had we any Wool, or other unwrought Materials which were either necessary or useful in any of our Manufactures, by the Exportation of which we regain'd the Money we paid to *France*? Nor any one of all these Things; but *Wines*, *Brandies*, *Kids-Skins*, *Paper*, *Fruens*, *Linnen*, and wrought Silk, and such like Goods as were all consum'd in *England*, and which could no way in the World make us Amends for our Loss by that Trade.

But the Payment of a Balance to *France*, is not the worst of our Condition with respect to our Treasure. If the Bill of Commerce should pass, the Goods we shall import from *France* will be so far from repaying us the Balance we shall find chitchee, that they cannot chuse but stop those Streams of Money which are every Day flowing into this Kingdom, by the Balance of our Trade with other Countries. For if we should abate of the Consumption of other Countries from whence we receive a Balance, will they contentedly take off so many of our Manufactures as they did before, and pay us still so much the greater Balance? No certainly, it is much more reasonable to imagine that they will retaliate upon us by Prohibitions and high Duties, till we shall be able to gain nothing from them by the Over Balance of our Manufactures. For Example;

If the Bill of Commerce should pass, should we not consume more of the *French Wines*? And should we not share in Proportion of those of *Portugal* and *Italy*? And would not those Countries then prohibit our Goods, to prevent the Payment of the Balance? Again, would not the *Freedom* of Commerce, if made effectual, increase our Consumption of *French* wrought Silk and Paper? And should we not consume so much the less of those of *Italy* and *Holland*? And, lastly, would not our Consumption of *French Linnen* be increas'd, and that of *Holland*, *Germany*, and *Flanders* be shar'd? And why should we imagine that these Countries will not abate of their Consumption of our Manufactures? or that they will not retaliate upon us by Prohibitions and high Duties, to make the Account of Exports and Imports even, and that they may not pay us any Balance? It is a very dangerous thing to provoke the Nations that pay us Money, and which have it in their Power to pay us none.

We gain a Million every Year by the Balance of our Trade with *Portugal* and *Italy*, and near twice as much by that with *Flanders*, *Germany*, and *Holland*; and shall we venture losing the Gain of Three Millions every Year from those Countries, not for the sake of gaining, but of losing a Fourth Million every Year to *France*? But, I think, I have said enough to shew my Readers, when it is that a Trade with any particular Country shall be said to exhaust our Treasures, and how they ought to try the *French* Trade by that Rule.





mentioned Goods, not instead of those which we make ourselves, but instead of those which we import from other Countries in Exchange for our Manufactures, which is the same thing as if we made them our selves, since we make the Goods which are exchanged for them; should we be careful in this Case taking that Value of those Goods from those other Countries? And would not they abate of their Consumption of the like Value of our Manufactures? And would not our own People by this Means also be deprived of such a Proportion of their Employment and Subsistence as is gained by making 500,000 l. Value of Manufactures? If *France* were to take as yearly a Million Value, and should buy none at all from us, the Case were still different; both the Quantity and the Wages of English Labour must be lessened, our People must lose as much of their Employment and Subsistence as is gained from so great a Value of Manufactures. The *French* Trade by exhausting our Treasure in this Manner, by selling us Manufactures and buying none, could not cause but deprive our People of their Employment and Subsistence: So that if this Trade is guilty of the first Charge of our Legislators, it can never be innocent of the second, or lessening the Employment and Subsistence of our People.

But the *French* Trade is not condemned of buying none of our Manufactures, but only of selling us an Over-balance of their own, and of exhausting so much of our Treasure as is necessary to discharge the Over-balance: And how will this affect the Labour or Subsistence of our People? As for Example; if we were to sell to *France* the Value of 200,000 l. in Manufactures, and to buy from thence the Value of 1,200,000 l. as much of our Treasure would be exhausted in this Case as in the former: But the Question is, how much would be taken from the Labour and Subsistence of our People? I affirm, that just as much as if we were to import a Million Value of their Manufactures, and to export none at all to that Country.

For the 200,000 l. Value of Manufactures, which by this Supposition we export to *France*, can employ no more of our People, than 200,000 l. Part of the 1,200,000 l. Value we import from thence, can employ and subsist in that Nation.

And therefore the remaining Million Value, for which we must pay in Money, and which exhausts so much of our Treasure, must, as in the former Case, deprive our People of making such a Value of the same Manufactures, or of making others here to purchase the like of those we import from *France*: So that whether we buy a Million Value, and can sell none, or buy the Value of 1,200,000 l. and can sell no more than 200,000 l. it all comes to the same thing; our People are deprived of as much of their Employment and Subsistence the one way as the other.

But after all, if it could be said in Defence of the *French* Trade, that it makes the Account even between both the Nations; that we could sell to *France* as great a Value of Manufactures as we take from her; should we not be losers? Should we not lessen the Employment and Subsistence of our People by such a Balancing of Accounts? The Answer to these Questions will depend very much upon the Knowledge of the Treasure and Employment we gain by our Trade with other Countries, and how much that with *France* is likely to interfere with their Gain.

For, First, if we gain above a Million Sterling every Year by the Balance of our Trade with *Portugal* and *Italy*, and as much Employment and Subsistence for our People as is usual by making such a Value of Manufactures; and if, by means of the *French* Trade, we shall lose the selling all this Over-balance to those Countries; then so many of our People will be deprived of this Employment.

If also, by means of that Trade, we should cease exporting twice as great an Over-balance of Manufactures to *France*, *Germany*, and *Holland*, this would be the Loss of Employment and Subsistence for twice as many of our People.

Let me ask the *Minister* now, Should we not cease exporting that vast Over-balance to those Countries, if the Treaty of Commerce with *France* should be made effectual? Should we not encrease our Importations from *France*, by reducing the Duties upon them to an Equality with those upon the like Goods of other Countries, and in some Cases below that Equality? And should we not abate of our Importations from other Countries in Proportion to the Increase of those from *France*? And would that

Portugal especially, which has bound herself by Treaty to admit all our *Woolen Cloths*, and other *Woolen Manufactures*, and never to prohibit any of them as long as we take their *Wines*, and lay no more upon them than two Thirds of the Duties which we do upon those of *France*. When ever we shall alter this Proportion, as we should do by making effectual our *French* Treaty, she has reserved to herself the Liberty of prohibiting all our *Woolen Manufactures*. And can any one be so senseless as to think she will not make use of this Liberty? Will she contentedly pay the present Balance, or a greater than she does at present? Will she let her own People starve for want of those *Wines* which now, even by her Treaty, she cannot help paying to the Employment and Subsistence of our *English* Manufactures?

There is good Reason to believe, that *Portugal* pays us a Million every Year upon the Balance of Trade, and every Shilling of this for the Labour of our People, or the Product of our Lands. But certainly I was not out of the way when I affirmed; in my last, That we gain above a Million every Year by the Balance of our Trade with *Portugal* and *Italy*.

Mr. Downart, the Inspector-General, in his second Report, has shewn, by a Medium of seven Years Exports and Imports, between *England* and *Holland*, that our Gain from that Country was 1,388,101. 6 s. 8 d. Half penny.

He has also told us, that by the like Medium our Gain from *Germany* amounts to 1,100,000. And probably the Balance coming to us from the *Spanish Netherlands* will be believed to be twice as great as our Gain from *Germany*.

And how little do all these Sums want of three Millions? and all this paid to us for the Product of our Lands, or the Labour of our People, except what was paid for the *Expensive* Goods, which were re-exported to those Countries; and even a great part of the Price of the latter paid for the Labour of our People, which were employ'd in importing and re-exporting those Goods.

But how great a Part of these three Millions was paid to the Labour of our People? Perhaps four Parts in five of the whole Sum will be thought reasonable to be allowed to this Account, which at 4. l. per Head, the common yearly Earnings of Men, Women, and Children in the Country, at a Medium, is the Maintenance of 600,000 of our People.

And shall we venture the losing of such a Balance, the Subsistence of such Numbers, for a Trade, which, though the Exports and Imports should be even, would add nothing to the Employment of our Poor?

The *Minister*, no doubt, according to his usual Impudence, will affirm, that I have granted that the Exports and Imports shall be even, and infer from this pretended Concession, that we can lose nothing directly by our Trade with *France*: But I must tell him, that I never have, nor ever shall make any such Concession. On the contrary, I shall convince my Readers, that we have lost a Million yearly upon the Balance of that Trade; and that, if our late Treaty of Commerce should be made effectual, our annual Loss to that Country will be much greater, notwithstanding his pretty little Maxims of *Dearness* and *Cheapsness* of our Commodities *holding us* in *Importing our Consumption*.

And for what can this prodigious Sum be paid to *France*, but for the Over-balance of Manufactures she is to find thither, and which must therefore put a Stop to such a Value of our own; and to the Labour of 200,000 of our People, which are employ'd and subsisted by so vast a Value of Manufactures?

If such is the Consequence of the *French* Trade, if it shall deprive such vast Numbers of their Employment and Subsistence directly, by pouring in upon us such an Over-balance of Manufactures, to the Hindrance of our own, and much greater Numbers, indirectly, by hindering the Exportation of so vast an Over-balance of our Manufactures to other Countries; our Legislators, as in the above-mentioned *Preamble*, had very good reason to charge that Trade with lessening the Value of our Manufactures, that is, with lessening the Employment and Subsistence of our People: And, no doubt, the Rule by which our Legislators, in the Reign of King *Charles II.*, condemned that Trade, will be a Rule for all our future Legislators.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide Preamble of Prohibition Act. 30 Car. II.

Reasons for placing the Preamble above at the Head of most of my Papers.
A Letter from Exeter.

The Mercator convicted of wilful Frauds, in his Valuation of several of our Exports.

From FRIDAY, November 20. to TUESDAY, November 24. 1713:

SINCE the Mercator so often reproaches the Adversaries of the French Commerce with the Name of a PARTY, the Preamble of the Prohibition Act, which stands at the Head of this Paper, shall be at the Head of many of my ensuing Papers, to shew my Readers that King Charles II. with the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons assembled in Parliament in his Reign, were of this PARTY. And that even in a time of Peace, and when there was no Disposition in our Court to quarrel with France, yet they all prohibited that Trade as detrimental to this Kingdom.

But I have another Reason for doing this, because it is as a Text to every thing I am able to say upon this Subject. The Propositions asserted in it are, that the French Trade exhausts our Treasure, and lessens the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures. And all my Discourses will be but Arguments to make good these general Assertions of our Legislators.

Whatever Proofs I bring that our Gold and Silver are carried out by the Balance of that Trade, or that the Manufactures imported from France, must lessen the Employment of our own People, or the Value of Product of our Lands, are so many Arguments to make good the general Propositions of that Preamble.

And if it shall be endeavour'd to persuade People, that the Balance of this Trade has not been against us, by overvaluing our Exports, and undervaluing our Imports; it tends to the same Argument, that is, to the Defence of those general Propositions, if I bring Evidence to disprove any such false Valuations. My present Paper is of this kind.

I had valued certain Exports of our Woollen Manufactures at less than 37,000 l. the Mercator has raised them to above 60,000 l. to take off his Over-valuation, tends to the making good my main Argument. And this I shall do in a few Instances, by the help of a Letter I have received from Exeter, and which is as follows.

To the British Merchant.

Exeter, October 31. 1713.

SIR,
WE have had your British Merchant here, in Answer to the Mercator, and in your Paper, Numb. 14. you have favour'd us with the Imports and Exports between France and England, for the Year 1685 to 1686. We have also had Mr. Fox's Observations on the Rating such Goods as concerns our Manufactory. In your Paper, Numb. 14. we find you have Rated 81557 Ells Serges, sent that Year 49

at one Shilling and 10 Pence per Ell; the Mercator has turned the same into Yards, and instead of Rating them at one Shilling and 10 Pence per Ell, he Rates them at 3 Shillings per Yard; now inasmuch as he has appealed to us in this Affair, we shall put that Part that relates to us in a true light between you. You must therefore understand, that there are 4 sorts of Serges made amongst us that are principally sold; the first is a small sort of Goods that contains about 19 or 19 and a half Yards in a Piece, and are sold at 19 s. to 20 s. 6 d. per Piece; the next sort holds about 27 Yards, and are now sold from 25 s. to 26 s. per Piece; another sort holds 22 Yards, and are sold at about 31 s. to 32 s. per Piece, but the very best sort of all holds about 22 and a half Yards to 23 Yards, and are sold at 35 s. per Piece. You must add to this Price 20 s. for the dressing such Piece, so the first sort will stand us about 13 d. half-penny per Yard; the next will stand us about 16 d. per Yard; the next sort, which we call the best Seconds, will stand in about 18 d. per Yard; and the best sort of all at about 20 d. half-penny per Yard.

There is great Quantities shipped off from our Port, but much a greater Quantity of the sort from 25 s. to 26 s. than of all the other 3 sorts put together; so that you have exceeded the Value at 22 d. per Ell, as our Markets have been for several Years past; and if you, or the Mercator, will give your selves the Trouble to search, you believe you will not find any material Difference between our present Prices and the Prices in 1685. We find you have valued our Perpets by the Pound instead of the Piece, which is our customary way of selling them; you have valued them in your Account of Exports at 2 s. 6 d. but the Mercator finds fault with your Valuations, and makes his at 2 l. 10 s. per Piece of 10 lib. per Piece, which is 5 s. per Pound Weight. You must note, we have a great many sorts of these Perpets, and some of very ordinary Wool, and therefore in this Case you must not take it amiss, if (excluding the coarsest sort) we give the Calt in favour of the Mercator, and only mention the best made in two of our chief Manufactory Towns, that is, Crediton and Sandford; the best Crediton are now worth about 26 s. per Piece, and holds 15 Pound Weight one with another; the best Sandfords are now worth about 29 s. 3 d. per Piece, and weighs about 16 Pound and an half one with another. You must add to this 20 d. per Piece for dressing, but still this will not bring the Crediton Perpets above 22 d. finishing



thing per Pound, over the *Sandfords* above 53 d. farthing per Pound, for that your Valuations at 2 s. 6 d. per Pound is above a fifth part more than their Value according to our present Market.

We find in your *British Merchant*, the next Article to your *Serges*, is 4000 Pounds *Stuffs*, *Woolens*, all valued by you at 2 s. per Pound; if it be really *Woolen-Stuffs*, as you say, we can see no reason for your such Price, since our *Perpets* that are all worsted *Chains*, and only the *Shute* of *Woolen-Yarn*, don't come to the Money. Mr. P. charges the very same Weights you do, but does not put in the word *Woolen*, by which means we must suppose he intends to be understood that the said 4000 Pounds of *Stuffs* is Worsted *Stuffs*, for he values it at 3 s. per Pound; 'tis plain that either the *Mercator* or you have endeavour'd to impose on the *Publick*, which of you, we shall not determine; but whether that you are guilty of adding the word *Woolen*, or the *Mercator* in leaving it out, when so fairly printed in your Paper, is done with design to impose on the Nation, and therefore would be either Forgery in you, or Villany in him, and therefore we expect you clear, or condemn your self. We heartily thank you for printing the *Portugal Treaty* in your said Paper, for now we plainly see the preserving that Trade is preserving us our Bread, and that breaking that Treaty will be our Ruin, for we have hardly any other Money current amongst us but *Portugal Gold*. Sir, we are in behalf of the *Manufactures* of this Country.

Your Humble Servants,

In the first place I make my Acknowledgments to the Gentlemen who have sent me this Letter, and I shall be oblig'd to every other Person who shall direct the like Informations to the Publisher of the *British Merchant*, concerning any other Article in dispute between the *Mercator* and myself. By this means we may come to have an exact Account of the Imports and Exports between both the Nations, and such a one as cannot be entred by the one Side or the other.

In the next place I am bound to answer a Question of my Correspondents, and to clear my self of an Imputation, which till I do it, may belong as well to my self as to the *Mercator*. I had valued *Woolen Stuffs* at 2 s. per *Lib*. which my Correspondents own to be right, the *Mercator* has valued *Stuffs* without the Addition of *Woolen*, which perhaps too may be right, if they shall be understood to be of *Woolen*; if they if I have fully added the word *Woolen*, it is Forgery in me, or Villany in the *Mercator*, if he has fully left it out, to impose the belief of their being *Worsted* upon the Nation. The very *Customhouse Account* therefore which was laid before the last Parliament, must answer this Question of my Correspondents. The Articles in the present Dispute between us stand thus in that Account.

Serges and Perpets	7,675 Pieces
Perpets	79,723 Lib.
Serges	81,557 Ells.
Stuffs WOOLEN	40,800 Lib.

Behold here *Stuffs WOOLEN* in legible Characters returned from the *Customhouse*! So that my Correspondents are at liberty to think of the *Mercator* as they please. All that I have done, is to add two other Columns to these above-mentioned, viz. the Valuation of the Species, and the value of the Parcels. So that my Account stands thus.

Serges and Per.	7,675 Pie.	21. per Piece	161,175 0 0
Perpets	79,723 Lib.	2s. 6d. per Lib.	9,965 7 6
Serges	81,557 Ells.	1s. 2d. per Ell	7,242 2 2
Stuffs woolen	40,800 Lib.	2s. per Lib.	4,080 0 0

By which I made the total Value of these Exports } 180,465 8 8

The <i>Mercator's</i> Account of these Goods stands thus.			
7,675 Pieces	Ser. and Per.	21. 10s. per Pie	19,150
7,973 Pieces	Dirty being	21. 10s. per Pie	19,930
	79,723 Lib. at 19 Lib. to a Piece		
101,946 Yards	Dirty Serges	3s. per Yard	15,297
40,800 Lib.	Stuffs	2s. per Lib.	6,160

By which his total Value of these Exports is } 60,521

And exceeds mine in the Sum of } 119,944 8 8

I ask the *Mercator* now how he came to value *Serges and Perpets* at 21. 10s. per Piece. He answers No.

61. that he has taken his Valuation from the OLD SCHEME. How! from the OLD SCHEME, to which he has pretended to give no other Authority. But it helps him no at all per Cent. For both *Perpets and Serges* more than he could get any other way; so he submits to the Argument, and the old Scheme begins to be a good Authority with him.

Again, he is so in Love with *Perpets* at 21. 10s. that he turns 79,723 Lib. weight of *Perpets* in the second Article into Pieces, and cannot be contented to leave them in Pounds as they are required by the *Customhouse*; but why 79,723 Lib. make 7,973 Pieces? why because he will allow no more than 10 Lib. to a Piece? and why no more than 10 Lib. to a Piece? when my *Export Correspondents* say there are at least 15 Lib. to a Piece? but the reason was, he could make half as many more Pieces at 10 Lib. to a Piece, as could at 15. And since he has the Authority of the OLD SCHEME for valuing every Piece at 21. 10s. it would swell the Account to multiply the Pieces. If he had lookt back to his No. 25. it would have taught him better, but his Hopes was that I had not so good a Memory. But why not value this Article by the Pound as I have done? No, by turning his Pounds into Pieces, he has made his second Article 19,930, which I have made no more than 9,965 l. 7 s. 6 d. and every Pound 5 s. which I have made but 2 s. 6 d. which is yet above 25 per Cent. too much in the Opinion of my Correspondents. He has therefore chosen his Method of turning the Pounds into Pieces, the 5 s. per Lib. might not shock his Readers, and because 50 s. per Piece would serve his Purpose as well, and was less likely to be observed?

Again, I must ask this Person, why he has not valued the 81,557 Ells of *Serges* by the Ell, as recopied from the *Customhouse*? and why he has turned them into 101,946 Yards, and valued them at 3 s. per Yard? first the greater number of Figures, it makes for much the better show; but this was not the whole Reason, I had valued them at 6 s. per Ell, and if the *Mercator* should have made them 4 s. per Ell, it would have been shocking. He has therefore turn'd them into Yards, and valued the *Serges* at 3 s. per Yard, which amounts to the same thing, and was less likely to be observ'd.

As for *Woolen Stuffs*, he could have no reason to leave out the word *Woolen*, but that his Readers should believe they were *Worsted*, and not think his Valuation extravagant, as is observ'd by my Correspondents.

But 'tis time now that these Gentlemen should determine how much ought to be taken off from the above mentioned 60,521 l. of the *Mercator*, according to their Opinion, the Account ought to stand thus.

7,675 Pieces <i>Serges</i> , and <i>Perpets</i> together,	at 30 s. 6 d. per Piece	23,692 10
79,723 lib. of <i>Perpets</i> at 15 lib per Piece, making 5,315 Pieces,	at 29 s. 4 d. per Piece	7,795 8
81,557 Ells, or 101,946 Yards of <i>Serges</i> , at 16 s. two thirds per Yard		20,729 11
40,800 lib. <i>Woolen Stuffs</i> valued alike by me and my Correspondents at 2 s. per lib.		4,080 0

Total Sum 55,397 10 0

Which is less than my Valuation by 60,521 8 8. So that 'tis plain in their Opinion I have not undervalued these Articles, but the *Mercator* has oppos'd to the *Serge-Makers* of *Export*, and they have both condemn'd him of over-valuing these few Articles in the Sum of 198,666 l. 8 s. enough in Conscience for so small a Value of Goods.

But what had the *Mercator* to do with *Perpets* and *Serges*? he ought to have kept himself to the Valuation of *Stockings*, it was his proper Business before he broke; he has not attack'd me for setting these Goods below their Value, and yet Men in a breaking Condition seldom buy at the lowest Price: What an Advantage is here for the *French Trade*!

But I really pity him, when I consider the little Shifts and transparent Disguises he has been forc'd to use to keep his Fraud from being seen. To conclude with an Expression or two of his own, *His* has fallen short of his Knowledge; and again, *that* has a few of his Friends, but by these very impartial Men they are at the rest, and whether by this Method it is not safe for him to make his Scheme balance which way he pleases.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Wide Preamble of Prohibition Act. 30. Car. II.

The Conclusion of the Exeter Letter considered. An Extract from a Letter from Lisbon. Reasons against breaking the Portugal Treaty. France proposes to serve Portugal with Woollen

Manufactures.

The Province of France sold Annually to Holland, the Value of a Million and a half of Woollen Yarn.

From TUESDAY, November 24. to FRIDAY, November 27. 1713.

THE Conclusion of the Letter from my Correspondents at Exeter, is so remarkable, that I think my self obliged to repeat it here in their very Words.

We heartily thank you for printing the Portugal Treaty in your second Paper, for now we plainly see the preserving that Treaty, is preserving us our Bread, and that breaking that Treaty will be our Ruin, for we have hardly any other Money current among us but Portugal Gold.

What? almost no other Money current in Exeter, one of the chief trading Cities in the West of England, but Portugal Gold? and not alter'd to the Coin of Great Britain? But I have heard that the Case is the same in all the trading Places of Devonshire and Cornwall. And yet I presented my Readers in my Ninth, with the Coinage of Gold, in the Mint from the 21 Aug. 1710. to the 7th of Aug. 1713. which amounted to 1,055,328 l. 17 s. 6 d. almost the whole from *Mintners of Portugal*. And besides this Money, what prodigious Quantities of Gold have been kept back in that Kingdom for the Payment of our Armies there and in *Catalonia*? And what Quantities have been also re-exported to our Forces in the *Netherlands*? Such Quantities coined in the Mint! Such Quantities paid abroad! and yet is there still enough of it left to be almost the only current Money in our trading Western Countries? And what are all these Sums but the Balance of our Trade with that Kingdom? And for what was all this Balance paid, but the Product of our Lands, and the Labour of our People? And is such a Trade as this to be abandoned? or would the *Mercator* have us give it up for a Trade which has been condemned by King *Charles II.* and his Parliament, of *exhausting our Treasures, and lessening the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures.*

And yet passing the Bill of Commerce, rending the French Treaty effectual, is breaking our Treaty of Commerce with Portugal, is the Destruction of that Trade which has been so beneficial to this Kingdom. But since I have begun to print Letters, a *Portugal Merchant* has been pleas'd to shew me a Letter which he

has very lately received from his Correspondent at *Lisbon*, and has been so kind as to suffer me to take from it an Extract, which is as follows.

EXTRACT.

S I R,

Lisbon, 7 Nov. 1713.

I Wrote you a few Lines the 10th ult. since which are come in the *Bay, John Mores;* and *Caper Galley, John Hammeron, &c.* And after acknowledging the Receipt of several Bales of Woollen Goods by these Ships, he gave me:

"I now find my self honour'd with your's of 6 Ofsd. and perceive you intend 20 Bales more by the *Mary, Capt. Field.* I am of Opinion you had as good stop your Hands, at least feed sparingly, till I can give you some more certain News about the *Brazil Ships*, and that you find what will be done in your Parliament in relation to the French Trade; for I dread their taking some Resolutions that will prove destructive to this. Thus far you may depend on, that if the Bill in favour of the French Commerce passes, that this Court will do their utmost to oppress the English Trade; and it's much to be feared, that the Treaty being broken by us, they will not be content to prohibit Cloths only, but proceed to forbid Bays and other Goods, which the French are proposing to bring hither, and are representing how much more advantageous to Portugal's Trade with France would be than with England, France taking off great Quantities of their Sogers and Tobacco, and England nothing but their Gold, except it be some Wine and Fruit, which does amount but to a small Part of the Trade. And as I should be sorry you should engage in this Trade with any Disadvantage, I give it in my Opinion, that one cannot sit too cautiously in it at present.

I am, &c.

The Letters of which I have given Copies in this and my last, or which I shall produce in any of my future

future Papers, shall be well attended; as also the Contents of those, whensoever they shall be called for by any competent Authority. But what a Figure would my Adversary make with his *Philomenus*; his *Elbow-finish* and his *Carpeting*, with his Anonymous *Scottish Letters*, and such other *epistolick* and *trifling* *Brothers*, all in his own Style, if not of his own proper Hand-writing?

But to proceed to the Matters of this Extract. Here is a Factor at *Lisbon*, who advises his Principal to send him no more Bales of Goods, or to send but very sparingly. A Factor advises this! who is to have the Profit of his Commission; and who can lose nothing by the Goods that are consign'd to him! Certainly the Apprehension of Loss must be very great to his Principal, that to save him from the hazard only, a Factor can satisfy himself to part with a certain Profit.

And what are the Apprehensions of this Gentleman? He dreads the Parliament's taking some Resolutions here, which will prove destructive to the Trade of Portugal. For my own part, I am not able to dread any such thing. A British Parliament take Resolutions destructive to the Trade of Portugal! A Trade which has brought above 350,000 per Annum into our Mint, furnished much greater yearly Sums to the Payment of our Armies in Portugal, Spain and Flanders, and moreover provided our Western Countries with almost all their present current Money? Will any Members of either Council or Assembly, give their Votes for the Destruction of such a Trade? Or is it possible that a British Parliament can ever be guilty of such a Thought? Did King Charles II. and his Parliament condemn the French Trade for exchanging our Treasures? and will a Parliament of Queen ANNE destroy the Trade of Portugal, for having gained for vast a Treasure to this Nation?

Again, for what have all these yearly Sums been paid by Portugal, but for our Perpets and our Serges, for our Cloths, our Bays, and other Manufactures; in short, for the Product of our Lands, and the Labour of our People? Has she not paid all this Money either to the Rents of the Gentlemen, or for the Employment and Subsistence of our Poor? And has she not by this means raised the value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures? And shall the Trade be destroyed which has done this, and destroyed too by a British Parliament? Could the Parliament of King Charles II. condemn the French Trade for lessening the value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures, for lessening the Employment and Subsistence of our People? And can it be imagined that any Parliament of Queen ANNE, will do any thing to destroy the Trade with Portugal, for being the Revener of that with France, for increasing the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures, for increasing the Employment and Subsistence of our People? A British Parliament do this? it is not possible to be suspected.

But what Resolutions doer he apprehend the Parliament can take, which will prove destructive to our Trade with Portugal? He assures us, he bids us depend upon it, that if the Bill in Favour of the French Commerce passes, the Court of Portugal will do her utmost to oppress the English Trade, and that our Treaty with that Nation being broken by us, she will not be content to prohibit our Cloths only, but proceed to forbid our Bays and other Goods. And what should hinder her? Before she had tyed up her Hands by a Treaty, had she not the Right of a Sovereign Prince, as the *Mercator* has said, to prohibit all or any of our Manufactures? Is he restrained from exercising this Right any otherwise than by a Treaty? And will not the Breach of the Treaty on our Part, restore her to the Power of exercising this Right? But besides that, she will be restored to this Power by the Breach, though there were no Clause of Restitution; there is a Clause in the very Treaty to this Effect, that if it shall be broken by us, it shall be again lawful for the King of Portugal to prohibit not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures. Has Portugal expressly reserved to herself such a Liberty without any Design to make use of it? No, we may

satisfy our selves, that upon the first Breach of the Treaty she will retaliate upon us by a Prohibition of all our Woollen Manufactures: And then there is an End of all that annual Balance which is paid to this Kingdom; there is an End of that Trade which has furnished half of our Treasure, and raised the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures. The Reduction of the Duties upon French Wines is a Breach of that Treaty, and restores Portugal to the Right of Prohibiting all our Woollen Manufactures. But then this Reduction cannot be made but by a British Parliament; and does this Gentleman imagine that a British Parliament will ever break a Treaty, and in Consequence of that Breach destroy a Trade so beneficial to this Nation, and this in favour of the French Commerce, which stands couvited by an English Parliament of exchanging our Treasures, and lessening the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures?

This Gentleman bids us depend upon a Prohibition, not only of our Woollen Cloths, but of our Bays and other Goods, if the Commerce-Bill should pass. The *Mercator* is of another Opinion; Woollen Goods, says he, the Portuguese must have; and from what other Nation can they be supply'd? So that, in his Opinion, we may safely break the Portuguese Treaty; that Nation will still be obliged to take off our Woollen Goods, and consequently must still contribute as much as she did before to the Increase of our Treasure, and to the raising the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures. He differs very much from this *Lisbon* Correspondent. This Gentleman endeavours to persuade us, that the French are at this very Juncture of Time proposing to serve the Portuguese with Cloths, Bays, and other Goods; and representing to them how much more beneficial it would be for them to trade with France than with England, and how much greater Quantities of Goods France will take off from that Country.

The *Mercator*, no doubt, will laugh at Woollen Manufactures from France. "Let us see now," says he, "their Dogs-Hair Broad Cloths, their rough half-dress'd Dozens, their unshorn Dozens, their Cabbage-Net Bays, and let them be match'd with the English Goods of the same Denomination." He writes with such an Air of Confidence, that one would almost believe there is no Mutton at all in France, or that their Sheep wear no Fleeces. Now if I should produce a hundred living Witnesses, that Wool, and not Dogs-Hair, grows on the Backs of the French Sheep, he would call them all Parties against the Bill of Commerce. I shall therefore give him a Witness that has been dead above this forty Years. It is the *Maxims of Helms* by the famous Monsieur De Helms. The Book has been many Years translated into the English Language, and neither the Author nor Translator can be suspected of Partisshy in this Cause.

In the 7th Chap. ad Part, among the Goods which Helms annually brought from France, we read WOOLLEN YARN SPUN IN ALL PARTS OF PICARDY, WORTH MORE THAN ONE MILLION AND A HALF.

WOOLLEN YARN worth a Million and a Half of Livres purchased annually from one French Province only, and yet is there no Wooll at all in France! To such Absurdities are Men reduced, who write only for their Hire, and without Reason on their Side.

Upon the whole, the *Lisbon* Factor has just Reason to give such Advice as he has done to his Correspondent, if the Bill of Commerce was like to pass: But as according to the Conclusion of the *Eastern Letters*, with which I began, the Preservation of the Portuguese Treaty is preserving the very Bread of our People, no Man in his senses can suspect that a British Parliament can have it in their Thoughts to break that Treaty, and to take the Bread out of their Mouths. The *Lisbon* Factor has judged very rightly of the Consequence of breaking that Treaty: He was only in the Wrong to suspect that a British Parliament could, upon any Account whatsoever, be induced to break a Treaty, especially one that is so beneficial to this Nation.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, Salt and Paper,* and other Commodities of the Growth, Product, or Manufactures of the Territories and Dominions of the *French King,* hath much exhaufted 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.

Vide Prohibition Act. 30. Car. II.

The Mercator's Insolence towards King Charles II. and his Parliament.

He has given a good Argument for the OLD SCHEME.

That SCHEME defended by the Mercator's Answer to many of his own Objections.

Greater Reasons now for charging the French

Trade, with obstructing our Increase of Treasure, and lessening the Value of our Manufactures, than when the Prohibition Act was made.

A Letter concerning the Mercator's Insolence, with respect to the Portugal Treaty.

From FRIDAY, November 27. to TUESDAY, December 1. 1713.

THIS, says the Mercator, No. 81. was a wild Preamble to a wild Act of Parliament. A wild Preamble! and a wild Act of Parliament! certainly then our Legislators who made this Law were so many Madmen in the Opinion of this Writer, and ought rather to have held their Session in *Stuefelds* than at *Westminster*. And has he the Confidence to treat thus King Charles the Second, his Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament Assembled, perhaps as wife an Assembly of Men as was ever known in the whole World? After this, can he think any Language to himself severe or unmannerly? King Charles the Second, and all our Legislators in his Reign Madmen? What other Wretch in all England should have dar'd to have said this besides the Author of the *Review*? His Style is still the same, whether in the *Review* or the Mercator. And is this a Person to convert Church of England Men to the *French Commerce*? I will as soon believe he can make them Converts to his own Religion.

But why a wild Preamble, and a wild Act of Parliament? Why? because our Legislators then were cheated by the old Knawish SCHEME into a Perswasion, that the French Trade carried our Money away, &c. and from thence, says he, came that wild Preamble to a wild Act of Parliament.

Several Things deserve Remark in this Passage of the Mercator.

First, That he says it led our Legislators to the making the above-mentioned Act of Parliament in the 30th Year of King Charles II. between 30 and 40 Years since; so that the contriving or drawing that SCHEME, is not the Crime of the present Age, tho' the British Merchant, and every Adversary of the French Commerce, has been stigmatiz'd by the Mercator upon that Account.

But, 2dly, The Adversaries of the Bill of Commerce ought not so much as to be charg'd with the Guilt of offering a SCHEME to the last Parliament, which they knew to be false; for if as, he says, it was the

Foundation, upon which our Legislators almost 40 Years ago condemn'd the *French Trade*, what reason could any Man have in this Age to suspect that so wise an Assembly of Men in the last were mistaken? or that upon insufficient Grounds they would proceed to a Prohibition of that Trade? Had the SCHEME ever been confuted? Had ever any thing been publish'd in print against it, before the Mercator was hired for this Service? And then was there not sufficient reason for every Man to rely upon that Authority which had convinc'd our former Legislators? If this SCHEME was indeed the Foundation of that Act of Parliament, the Mercator has requited every Person now living from the Guilt of forging an Argument against the Bill of Commerce, or setting any such Forgery.

But in the third place, if this SCHEME was a Forgery, how comes it to pass that it was not discover'd to that Parliament? that the Glory of this Discovery was reserv'd so many Years after for the Mercator? Could so wise a Parliament be so easily impos'd on by the Fraud, when it was so very fresh? And was it for ease for this Writer to lay it open after so great a distance of time? No, certainly, if the OLD SCHEME was the Foundation of that Law, I shall believe that it was not a Knawish SCHEME; I shall believe that our Legislators could not be so much mistaken as to make an entire Prohibition of the *French Trade*, when we were in Amity with that Prince upon a Foundation that was false. And thus the Mercator has furnish'd me with an Argument in Defence of the OLD SCHEME, the Authority of an English Parliament, who, I believe, knew a great deal more of this Matter than he or I at this Distance.

Lastly, If the OLD SCHEME was so very Knawish, the Ministry in that Reign would not have stid'd to lay it open; for how zealous soever the Lords and Commons were then against the *French Trade*, 'tis well known that the Ministry was for it; (France has often heretofore found her Way to an English Ministry, and

and found her Account in such a Correspondence) and they would certainly have detected all the Frauds of that SCHEME, if there had been any, especially if there had been no other Argument against that Trade. Since they did not think it so to do it, I must take it for granted, that whether from the SCHEME, or by whatsoever other Arguments our Legislators were in the right, when they allowed of our French Imports, that they exhausted our Treasures, and less'd the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures.

The Mercator affirms, that I gave up this Old SCHEME, that I now I would not proceed to vindicate it; I challenge him to produce the Word to this purpose in all that I have ever written. Indeed, in my fourth, I said the Mercator should not divert me from the Argument I had then chosen, which was the Confutation of his Fallacies to the Defence of that SCHEME, to which I was not at all oblig'd. But I even then believ'd that it was true, notwithstanding all that he had produc'd to prove it false. And I do not believe it the less at this time, if, as he says, it was the Foundation of an Act of Parliament. I think the Mercator for this Argument.

But my Gratitude goes farther, I thank him for the Answer I shall make to his chief Arguments against it, which are contradictory Accounts from the Custom-house. In his No. 61. he affirms, that in the Year 1680. which was two Years after this Act of Parliament was made, the Court gave private Orders to the Commissioners of the Customs to make wrong Entries; that this was done accordingly in the Case of Wines; and he gives us to understand that there sit at the Board at that time Sir Nicholas Butler, of *neglect Money*. God forbid I should think that a Sir Nicholas Butler sits there now, or that the present happy Administration would send any such wicked Orders to that Board. But if we are to take Custom-house Vouchers before the above-mentioned Act of Parliament, we must take such as Sir Nicholas Butler, of *neglect Money*, has left there. The Mercator can never be angry with me for this Answer, for it is his own, and indeed it is an effectual Cure for most of the several Stabs he has given to the OLD SCHEME, but I cannot help wondering that he is forc'd to write on. Is this the Man, as he says of himself in his last, who was set on foot to seduce and weaken a deluded slavish Nation, who are Party ridden, almost to their Ruin?

I believe I have effectually clear'd K. Charles II. and our Legislators in that Reign, from the Mercator's insolent Charge of their making *wild Presumptions*, and *wild Acts of Parliament*; and we ought therefore to believe that upon very good Ground, whether by the OLD SCHEME, or by whatsoever other Arguments they justly condemn'd the French Trade of exhausting the Treasures, and lessening the Value of the Native Commodities and Manufactures of the Nation.

Thus they judg'd of that Trade so many Years ago. They could not but know that an Overbalance of Manufactures imported from that Country, must be paid for by the Gold and Silver of this Kingdom; they could not but see, that all that Overbalance of Manufactures thus imported, must be worn and consum'd here, instead of so many of our own; and it follow'd thence, in the first Case, that our Treasure was exhausted, and, in the second, that the Value of our Native Manufactures must be less'n'd.

But these wise and excellent Legislators never liv'd to have the Experiments we have had since; and it was not possible for them to foresee how much our Trade with France interrupted that with other Countries. This could only be known by the Increase we have made since of our other Commerce, by the Interruption of our Trade with France. We are taught by the Report of the Inspector General of the Customs, that *Nedals* formerly paid us nothing, but now almost 1400,000 l. per An. for an Overbalance of our Manufactures. We have gain'd too, since that Interruption, from Germany, Flanders, Italy, and Portugal, by an Overbalance of Manufactures, more than ever we did before. Instead of a losing Trade with France, we have a gainful one with so many other Nations. All this Gain is owing to the Interruption of a losing Commerce; and the Restoration of that losing Com-

merce, must be the Interruption of our other Gain. From Portugal especially, since the Advantages of this Trade, were not only gain'd by the Commencement of that Interruption, but depend upon a Treaty for its Continuance. And yet what opprobrious Language has the Mercator bestow'd upon this Treaty? But I shall leave him for this once, to the Correction of a Gentleman who has oblig'd me with the following Letter, and which I give the Mercator in his very Words.

To the British Merchant.

S I R, No. 25, 1753.
T HO' you have already expell'd the Mercator about the Treaty with Portugal, for admission of our Cloths, &c. yet he is so impudent, that he calls that Treaty, in his Paper, No. 59, a Felonious Treaty.

That the taking hold of an Opportunity, when Portugal was newly engag'd in a War with Spain, when the Spaniards, jointly with France, made an Irruption into that Country, and if not destroy'd, you a stop to the Portuguese Manufacture of Cloth (it being made into the Places where the chief of those Manufactures were.) I say, that the improving that Opportunity to open for valuable a Branch of our Trade, as the admission of our Cloths, and to tie down the Portuguese never to Prohibit any of our Manufactures for the future, is treated.

And what is the Reason? Why, because it interferes at present, with the New Treaty with France, every thing is Felonious, that does not tend to deliver up our Balance of Trade to that Nation.

Was there never any Treaty of Commerce, in which, for the Advantages of their Trades, we favour'd one Nation more than another? This is certain, it will never be deny'd. Why therefore, must this Treaty be the Object of Party in favour of one?

Did it not immediately produce the Effects foreseen by that able Minister Her Majesty employ'd, who by a perfect Knowledge of the Portuguese Trade, knew the Consequences? He was not a Minister just sent to make that Treaty, but had been Envoy Extraordinary, in the Year 1691, and continu'd employ'd in that Country until the Year 1697; and in the Year 1700 was sent again, and continu'd until 1703, that this Treaty was made.

And the Success answer'd: For, from that Treaty's first taking Place, the Balance of Trade began to take Place; and the Year 1703, was the first Year we began to bring off the Silver of that Nation.

It's manifest from the time of their Prohibition of our Cloths, Cloth-Serges, and Cloth-Druggets, &c. (which continu'd 30 Years) we never had an Overbalance, so as to bring from thence either Gold or Silver.

No doubt, it well deserves the Name of a Felonious Treaty, and the Friends of France have very good Reasons to call it so; for it open'd such a Trade as brought us in fresh Supplies of Gold and Silver too, as to enable us to carry on the War, which we could never have supported, had we been forc'd to pay the Over-balance of our War abroad, out of our Stock, without any Supplies.

Should any one have the Impudence to call the French Treaty of Peace or Commerce a Felonious one, what would be the present Answer, but a Prosecution for abusing Her Sacred Majesty? And would not such a Person deserve Chastisement? And yet the Mercator can call the Portuguese Treaty so, tho' made and Ratified by Her Majesty.

Have these Men no regard to Her Majesty's Honour, when they traduc'd her Actions, because done in a former Ministry?

They must alledge, either Her Majesty knew, or she did not know what she did. Let them make it out either Way; for it's equal, and must be a most Scandalous Reflection on Her Sacred Majesty, for which I hope he will receive a just Reward.

Your, &c.

E R R A T. in the last.

In the Contents, for the Province of France, read one only Province of France. 4 Col. l. 43. for first Dozens, read Druggets.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of *French Wines*, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide Prohibition Act. 30. Car. II.

A Letter shewing that our Goods exported to Dunkirk, can be no Argument for any Exports to other Parts of France. That we do not export to France, by the Way of Flanders, &c. That the Mercator has no Reason to find Fault

with the Exports and Imports of 1685. That the French abatement of Duty, is not proportionable to ours, by the Treaty of Commerce. Some Reflections of the British Merchant, upon the above-mention'd Passages in the Letter.

From TUESDAY, December 1. to FRIDAY, December 4. 1713.

WILL Railing (*says the Mercator No. 81*) prove that the Wine and Brandy sold from 17l. to 20l. per Ton "in France, in the Year 1685? No, nor has the *British Merchant* ever affirm'd that they did: But he has appeal'd to the Merchants, who Traded at that Time for the Price of 17l. 10s. per Ton Wine: He has produc'd the Invoices of an old Merchant, by which his whole Quantity amounted to 17l. 8s. And what Invoices has this Writer produc'd to the contrary? The Inspector-general of the Customs appeals to the Authority of the Merchants. But has the *Mercator* yet produc'd any such Authority?

"Again, *says he*, will calling ill Names, prove that there are not great Quantities of *English Woollen Manufactures* sent every Year to *France*, thro' other Countries? No: But the *Mercator* ought to have produc'd some Evidence of such a Fact; till then, it had been sufficient for my self, or any other Person, to deny it. But I have given such Reasons against this Assertion of the *Mercator*, as render'd it altogether improbable. And has he any where offer'd an Answer, or the least Pretence of an Answer to any one of my Reasons? But the Improbability of our sending great Quantities of our *Woollen Manufactures*, and other Goods, to *France*, by the Way of other Countries, sufficiently appears in the following Letter.

To the *British Merchant*.

S I R,

I AM a well Wither to the *French Trade*, but I would not have us to be run down too low neither; therefore I apply to you, that you may set the *Mercator* right in three or four Points.

First, He gives us an Account of several Goods sent to *Dunkirk*, and makes this Observation upon it; If we send for many Goods to one Port of *France*, under the Pressure of the high Duties we pay at present there, what Quantities are we not like to send, when those Duties are reduced upon the Foot of the *Tarif 1664*?

To which, I answer.

First, That *Dunkirk* is not in *France*, 'tis a *Flemish Town*, where the People generally speak *Dutch*, and is by no means accounted as a *French Town* by us, since we do not suffer them to import into *Great-Britain* any Goods of *French Growth*, as taking it to be against the *Act of Navigation*.

Secondly, *Dunkirk* is a free Port, where no Customs at all are paid; so that it will ever be cheaper for us to send Goods there (if there was a Consumption for them) than to *France*, even upon the Foot of the *Tarif 1664*.

Thirdly, As we have a Garrison there, and in other adjacent Places, I take it that most of the Goods sent to *Dunkirk* are used and consumed by our own People; and if we have sent 100,000 l. worth of Goods to that Port, since it is in our Hands, we have sent six times that Sum in Money, and Bills of Exchange, for the Subsistence of our Forces there, and in other Places of *Flanders*; so that the Goods we send thither, do by no means answer the Expence we are at in that Country.

A second Point is, That the *Mercator* tells us, that several of the Goods sent from hence to *Flanders*, go from thence afterwards to *France*, and seems to look upon that as a Loss to the Nation; I am a Merchant of 30 Years standing, but I do assure you, I cannot conceive what he means by that Suggestion.

For,

First, It doth not stand to reason to think that any Man in his right Senses, who can send Goods directly to *Calcutt*, *St Palery*, *Ram*, or other *French Sea Towns*, should wilfully increase his Charges 2, 30, or 25 per Cent. by sending those Goods by way of *Flanders*; he must be mad if he doth so, or the most ignorant Trader in the World, if he doth not fall into the Account of it.

Secondly, Supposing there were no Charges in sending those Goods a round-about way, he would, however, render his Trade thereby more precarious and difficult, by reason the *French* do not admit into

France

France all Sorts of *British* Goods from other Countries which they do admit directly from *Great-Britain*.

Thirdly, Supposing again it were so as he pretends that *English* Goods were sent to *France* by way of *Flanders*, I cannot for my Life see the Prejudice it is to us. For I do by no means grant that *British* Goods, which are exported to *France* directly, are for *British* Men's Accounts more than *British* Goods exported to *Flanders*, or elsewhere; much less do I grant that there is 5 or 20 per Cent. Profit upon a Trade so near home, as that to *France* or *Flanders*; 'tis very well most times if the Merchants get the Insurance and Interest of their Money. So that after all, I should take it rather to be for our Advantage, if the *French* have such Occasions for our Commodities, that they can afford to give the extraordinary Charges, Customs, Commission and Profits (if any) which necessarily accrue upon them, when they are convey'd to them by way of other Countries; and this was undoubtedly the Case in-time of War, the *French* being so shrewd in Matters of Trade, that either in Peace or War, they will have whatever is useful for them and for their Manufactures, tho' nothing else.

A third Point is, The *Mercator* found fault that the Year 1685. was taken for a Standard for our Imports from *France*, because it was the Year after the Prohibition ceased. This seems to me strangely absurd in him, who both own'd, that tho' there was a Prohibition, the then Administration (which he takes Liberty to abuse at a strange rate, altho' in so Auspicious a Reign) wink'd at it; and there were as many *French* Wines, and other *French* Goods, imported under other Names, as if there had been no Prohibition at all; and he owns also, that in the subsequent Years there were more Wines imported than in 1685. and now after a long War and Interruption of Trade, and after he hath supposed *France* exhausted of *British* Goods, he not only will take this present Year for a Standard of our Exports to *France*, but insinuates, that for the future our said Exports are like to be much greater: When, as I said before, every body knows that either in War or Peace, in time of Prohibition, or in time of free Trade, the *French* will never take but what is useful and necessary for them, and are so wise as always to admit one way or other whatever they have occasion for.

Fourthly, Altho' the *Mercator* doth in none of his Papers, that I know of, pretend that this Nation hath occasion for any sort or kind of *French* Commodities whatsoever (for it were too gross to pretend it) however he would have us to state of the *French* Duties which have been so wisely laid by our Legislators, viz.

300 per Cent. on *French* Wines, } According to his own Valuation of those Commodities.
150 per Cent. on *British* Wines

45 per Cent. on Paper.
45 per Cent. on Linens:

And so in proportion to these two last Articles upon most other *French* Commodities

And for a Compensation to poor *England*, the *French* will state of the present Duties which *English* Goods pay in *France*, viz. 15 per Cent. on Lead, Tin, Alom, Coppers, and most other Commodities.

Upon Tobacco, which is one of our great Articles, Nothing.

And as for Woollen Goods, whether they abate much or no, 'tis of no Consequence, since every body agrees that the *French* make now most sorts cheaper than we our selves.

So that it appears we should abate to the *French* insensibly more of the Duties on their Commodities, than they should abate to us on ours, which makes me conclude we had better let Things remain upon the present certain good Foot they are, and enjoy the free open Trade and Commerce the happy Peace hath procur'd us with that Nation, than to give way without any Cause or Necessity whatever to a much greater Importation of *French* Goods into *England* when it is apparent the intended Redoction of the Duties on *English* Goods, even upon the Foot of 1664 is so inconsiderable, that it would give us an

Opportunity of exporting very little more Goods to *France* than now we do.

MY Correspondent observes here, that *Dunkirk* is a Free Port; And I must add too, that *Moskitoes* is also another, where no Customs are paid at all. How then, can our Exportations to those Ports prove, that any of our Goods can be let into any other Parts of *France*, under the Duties which are left upon them by the late Treaty of Commerce? Or, how will they prove, that we are to have the Tariff of 1664, when that Treaty has restor'd us that Tariff, with so many Exceptions? How will they prove to us that our Woollen Manufactures can be sold in *France*, under the Tariff of 1664, that is, under Duties of above 20 per Cent. of their whole Value? How will they prove that any of our Goods of Foreign Growth, or made of the Materials of Foreign Growth, can be sold in that Country, notwithstanding the Prohibitions of them which are to remain in their full Force by our late Treaty? *France* may dispence with her present Prohibitions, Edicts, and high Duties, to draw on the Bill of Commerce; but have we any Assurance, that this shall be done when that Point is once gain'd? We are to expect no Favours from that Country, but what She is bound to grant us by her Treaty.

But in the next place, what are his supposed Exportations by the Way of *Flanders*? Would any Man bear the Charges of a round-about Trade, when in Peace he can carry his Goods directly to that Country? Would he chuse to make his Trade so very difficult and precarious? But if the *French* must have our Goods, if they are under any such Necessity, that they must import them either Directly by the Way of *Flanders*, or other Countries, what Reason then for the Bill of Commerce? Shall we growt then the Liberty of exporting in upon us their Wines, their Linnens, their Silks, their Paper, and other Manufactures, so prejudicial to our own, only for the Liberty of carrying directly to *France*, such Goods as She is otherwise forc'd to take from us, by the way of *Flanders*, and other Countries?

In the next Place, I cannot but wonder, that the *Mercator* should be so very angry with the Year 1685. He that said so boldly at his first setting out, that the *French* Trade was, in spite of *Duties*, *Edicts*, and *Prohibitions*, from *ALWAYS* beneficial to this Nation! He that pretended to make a Balance, that very Year, of 8 or 900,000*l.* in our Favour! Let him shew that we had then, or ever before, either before, or since the Tariff of 1664, any Balance at all, and I promise here never to offer one Word against the Bill of Commerce.

Great Search has been making for this happy Year, but no such Year can be found, neither under the Duties of 1664, nor even before that Year, when the Duties were a great deal lighter. And therefore the *Mercator*, who was so very fond of Custom-house-Accounts, is come to down-right denying that any Scheme from the Custom-house, can give a true Scheme of the Trade of *France*, or so much of a Scheme, as to make a rational Conjecture from. Is this the Man that was so very sure of his Accounts from the Custom-house?

But I desire my Reader to look back to my Correspondent's Letter. What Abatements are we to make of our *English* Duties to let in an Inundation of *French* Manufactures into this Kingdom? And how inconsiderable are the Abatements of the *French* Duties upon our Goods? But if the whole Duties upon our Woollen Manufactures were to be abated there, it would do us very little Service. I have prov'd, that there is Wool in *France*, and they have cheaper Woollen Manufactures of their own.

Their Manufactures must be cheaper by their raising the Value of their Coin, and reducing the Value of Labour. They have been making some little Countersteps to this, to draw on the Bill of Commerce; but when that Point is gain'd, they may omakns them all again. The Treaty has not settled the Value of their Coin; but 'tis no doubt will deserve the Consideration of our Legislators.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide Prohibition Act. 30. Car. II.

The Mercator contradicts his own Assertions. His Letter concerning the Ship Marcellus Factor considers'd. Entries for the Straits cannot be presumed to be for France.

Custom-house Accounts the most certain Rule to judge of our Exports and Imports between France and England, notwithstanding the Letter concerning the Marcellus Factor.

From FRIDAY, December 4. TO TUESDAY, December 8. 1713:

WHAT a strange Creature is the Mercator? One while all for Custom-house Accounts, and for proving the French Trade beneficial by those infallible Vouchers. This has been promised in many of his Papers.

At another time, it is impossible to make any Consignees of the French Trade by any Accounts from the Custom-house. They are found now to be against him, therefore this is the Doctrine of his Numbers 21 and 22.

Again, for a long time he lamented the ill Success of the Bill of Commerce, for want of which few or no Manufactures could be sent to that Country; but by his latest Papers, a World of our Manufactures are sent thither, which are enter'd out for other Places.

One while our Goods cannot get into France, under the Pressure of the present high Duties in that Kingdom. This Doctrine has been press'd more than once, but of late one would imagine this Pressure of the present high Duties did us but very little Mischief. Our Goods it seems are first sent to other Countries, such as Holland, Flanders and Italy, where the Customs are very moderate, and afterwards sent to France under the Pressure of the present high Duties; that is, they will by no means bear paying the French Duties only, but they are very well able to bear the Duties of France and

other Countries join'd together. Such Absurdities as these are thought fit to be imposed on English Readers!

But why are we to grant, that greater Quantities of our Goods are exported to France than are enter'd for that Country? Why? "Because on the 31st of Ochsber last was enter'd at the Custom-house by Mr. Paul Terin 31092 lib. of Pepper for Marcellus, which was shipp'd on board the Marcellus Factor, a Ship that was afterwards clear'd out, not for Marcellus, but for the Straits."

Did this Ship, says he in other Words, carry no other Cargo to Marcellus? Was it worth her while to go to that Port with so small a Cargo? But if she was full laden for Marcellus, why was she clear'd for the Straits, which takes in so many other Countries, and not for that Port only? Since therefore Goods which are enter'd for the Straits are so very likely to be carried into France, he concludes that no Goods can be made from the Custom-house Books of what the Trade is France is.

And I must deny that any Goods can be made, what our Trade to France ever was or ever shall be hereafter, by any Tariff or Treaty of Commerce, from any Exports to Marcellus. Marcellus, as was affirm'd in my last, is a free Port, where no Customs at all are paid, either Inwards or Outwards, where all sorts of Goods

are laid up, till any other Market shall call for them, whether in *France*, or any other Country; and whenever that shall happen, they are carry'd out as free as they came in. The *Mercator* will by no means allow, that our Exports for *Malaga* are for the Consumption of that Country, and yet they pay a Duty both Inward and Outward, so that they cannot pass thro' *Malaga* without an Increase of their Price upon this Account. The Case is otherwise at *Dunkirk* and *Marseilles*, no Customs are paid at all upon Goods imported or exported in those Places, and then shall it be thought that whatsoever we send to either are for the Use of the *French Nation*? No, certainly it is much more reasonable to believe that they are only laid up there, till they shall be called for by some other Country; for as soon as they leave those Ports for any other Ports of *France*, they are loaded with such Duties as are next to Prohibitions. I must therefore inform this Writer, that his Exports to *Marseilles* are very little to his Purpose, very little more than if they were sent to *Constantinople* or *Alger*. It is much more probable, that the Goods loaded at *Marseilles* are shipped again for some other Country, than that either these, or any other Goods enter'd for the *Straits*, are for the Use of the *French Nation*. And therefore notwithstanding this fine Argument of the *Mercator*, the Custom-house Accounts are a very good Rule to determine the utmost Extent of our Exports to *France* in every Year of Peace; his *Marseilles Factor*, tho' she had been loaded wholly for that City, and for no other Country within the *Straits*, does not prove so much as a Probability that any thing more than the Pepper, or even that all the Pepper on board that Ship, was for the Use of the *French Nation*.

I shall therefore grant, that Goods may be sometimes entered for the *Straits*, and afterwards landed at *Marseilles*, without granting, that any Goods, whether entered for *Marseilles* or the *Straits*, are for the Use of *France*. I think *France* will use none of our Goods, except such as she cannot be without, as was insisted in my last; whether the Cargo of the *Marseilles Factor* was of this kind, we shall be able to judge when we see it, for my own part, I know nothing of it, let the *Mercator* produce it, if he thinks it for his Purpose. But I believe he will not produce it, or if he should, I believe we should be convinc'd by the very sight, that none, or but a very small part of it, was to be consum'd in *France*, or even to be laid up at *Marseilles*, till call'd for by any Foreign Market; but I must ask the *Mercator* here, if Goods enter'd for one Country are often landed in another, what reason he has not to believe that the Pepper enter'd for *Marseilles*, might not be landed in any Port of *Italy*, as well as the other Goods enter'd for the *Straits*, should be landed at *Marseilles*. I am sure there is very little reason to believe, that any great Quantities of our Goods can be consum'd in any Part of *France*, under the Pressure of the *protest Duties*, as he calls it, or even without any Duties at all, as is very well observ'd by my Correspondent in my last. I must therefore desire the *Mercator* to consider,

First, that *Marseilles* is a free Port, That our Goods there, and at *Dunkirk*, pay no Customs; that the Consumption of them in those Places, cannot be increas'd by passing the Bill of Commerce; and that therefore, the Exportations to either the one or the other, can be no Argument for that Bill.

Secondly, that our Goods in all other Parts of *France*, are either Prohibited, or loaded with high Duties; and that therefore, our Exportations to *Dunkirk* or *Marseilles* are no Argument at all, that any of them can be sold in any other Part of that Kingdom.

In the third Place, the Treaty of Commerce leaves many of our Goods under high Duties; and some of

them under Prohibitions, in all other Parts of *France*: And therefore, our Exportations to *Dunkirk* or *Marseilles* are no Argument that That Treaty will enable us to sell any, in any other Part of that Kingdom.

Fourthly, if more of our Goods are exported to *Dunkirk* or *Marseilles*, than are necessary for the Consumption of those Cities; it ought rather to be presum'd, that they are afterwards re-exported to other Countries, where they are admitted upon easier Terms, than that they are sold thence to any other Parts of *France*, under the Pressure of the *protest Duties*.

And from hence it will follow in the fifth Place, that if Goods are enter'd from *England*, without specifying any particular foreign Port, to which they are bound, it ought rather to be presum'd, that they are bound for those Countries where they are admitted upon easy Terms; than that they are bound for any Country, where they are either Prohibited, or loaded with high Duties. For Example: The *Straits* is a general Name that comprehends *Italy* as well as *France*; but our Goods are not Prohibited in *Italy*; they are admitted there with easy Duties. The Thing is just the contrary in *France*: The *Mercator* himself has deny'd, and indeed, it is ridiculous to imagine, that any considerable Quantity of our Goods can be export'd to that Kingdom, under the *protest Pressure of high Duties*; and therefore, every Entry for the *Straits* ought rather to be presum'd to be made for *Italy*.

And hence it will follow in the last Place, that the Entry of 3109; lb. of Pepper for *Marseilles*, and the clearing out the Ship in which it was carried, ought to be examin'd in this manner, &c. That the Pepper only was for *France*, if the use in absolute Want of that Commodity (for in such Cases, as is observ'd in my last, she admits every thing) and that all the rest of her Cargo was for *Italy*. Or if the whole was for *Marseilles*, for the Reasons I have given it ought not to be presum'd, that the whole is to be consum'd within the *French Nation*, or that it is not afterwards to be re-exported to other Countries, where it is admitted with easy Duties.

The *Mercator* has a very quaint Argument to persuade us, that the whole Cargo on Board the *Marseilles Factor* is intended for that Port; and that is, that if the Ship is bound for *Italy*, *Marseilles* is out of her Way; and that the Carriers Wagon is never known to leave the Road, to deliver a Parcel by the Way. (But is it the same thing with a Ship? Or is *Marseilles* so very much out of the Road to *Italy*? Or is 3000 lb. of Pepper, like a little Parcel in a Wagon? According to the last Sale, it is of 1500 l. Value; and how many Ships are laden with no greater Value? But if the whole Cargo was for *Marseilles*, *Marseilles* is a free Port, and nothing at all to the *Mercator's* Purpose.

But I think I have said enough to convince every reasonable Person, that his *Marseilles Factor*, the Entry on board her for that Port, and the Clearing her out for the *Straits*, are no Argument at all, that we cannot make a Guess at the *French Trade*, by any Returns from the Custom-house.

What a strange Creature now is the *Mercator* to deal in such self Contradictions! To be first so very confident of his Custom-house Accounts, and then so soon to give them up! To persuade us that our Goods cannot be carry'd into *France*, and that yet now such Quantities are carried thither! To persuade us that our Goods are not able to bear the present high Duties in that Kingdom, and that yet, now they are able to bear, not only the *French Duties*, but those of other Countries in Conjunction! But I believe I shall say my Readers before I have done, that Duties, or no Duties in *France*, the Case will be very much the same, we shall send very few Manufactures to that Kingdom.

LONDON, Printed for FRED. BURLEIGH, Jun. in London-House-Yard, the West End of St. Paul's. (Price Three Half-Pence.)





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide Prohibition Act. 30 Car. II.

A: Letter in Answer to one of the Mercator's
Arguments against the SCHEME. *Some Reflections on that Letter.*

From TUESDAY, December 8. to FRIDAY, December 11. 1713.

THO' at first I had nothing left in my Thoughts, than to undertake a Defence of the Old SCHEME; yet, as I have observ'd before, I believ'd it to be Right, before the Mercator shid it was wrong. I have already made my Acknowledgements to him, for some Answers to his own Objections, and for providing Cures for some of the mortal Sores he has given to that SCHEME. But I am also oblig'd to this Writer, for putting other Gentlemen upon the Study of this Argument, by which I shal be sav'd of a great deal of my Trouble. The Mercator's Objection against the SCHEME from the Custom-house Account, shid before the last Parliament, by the first Commissioners of the Customs, is so well answer'd by a Letter I have just now receiv'd, that I shal give it my Readers entire, as it came to my Hands.

To the British Merchant.

MY Correspondent here, has kindled a Way between the *profer* Officers of the Customs, and the Inspector-general; and for my own part, I am very well contented that it should be fairly fought between them. One thing I must observe, that Dr. *Account* (the Inspector-General) in his Report to the Commissioners of Accounts, acknowledges himself to be upon his Oath; and that he very well consider'd the Nature and Obligation of an Oath; I think this cannot be said of the Officers of the Customs, in respect to this Return.

Again, the Dr. fol. 8. has shew'd, "That all positive Enquiries had been made at the Custom-house, for an Abstract of the Imports and Exports for one or two Years before the Commencement of the War, but that he could not find that any such Abstract was kept." And therefore, if the Manuscript, mention'd by the Doctor, fol. 10. is genuine, then the Custom-house Accounts, for the Year 1669, 9. are undoubtedly spurious.

Besides, it appears plainly, that the Mercator, when he first began to Attack the SCHEME, knew so very little of the Custom-house Accounts in his Paper, No. 10. that he acknowledges, No. 2. that an Account of the Value of the Exports and Imports in the Port of London, between France and England, was really return'd from the Custom-house, as follows,

Imported from France, from Michas near 1668, to Michas near 1669.	348,543	16
Exported	106,699	4
Balance against England	455,244	22

* The Difference between this Custom-house Account, and that of the Inspector-General is so inconceivable, that it may very easily be Accounted for by a Slip of the Pen. But whether this in the Mercator No. 2. or that of the Inspector General is the right, for the Reasons in my Correspondent's Letter, the Mercator's Custom-house Account in his No. 11. must be wrong.

* Another thing must be observ'd, That the Customs were form'd in 1669; and I have seen an Account of the Liguors, and French Linnens imported into the Port of London, and the Out-ports from Mich. 1657, to Mich. 1669, sign'd by the Farmers, and the Officers of the Customs, and which was produc'd before the last House of Commons, where the Imports of those Goods render the Account of the same Goods in the SCHEME highly probable. And whether, at a time that the Customs were in Form, the Farmers and the Officers of the Customs were more likely to be in the right, or the present Officers of the Customs, so far great a Distance after, may be worth the Reader's while to consider.

* Lastly, it is notorious, that the SCHEME was brought into the House of Commons before 1678, by that worthy Patriot, the famous Mr. Sacheverell; and whether so great a Man was likely to be imposed on by the Merchants, or whether the Merchants could have any hopes to impose upon him, and the whole Parliament of England, upon the Matter of Fact was so fresh, will deserve the Reader's Consideration.

* My Correspondent, therefore, might have some Suspicion that the Merchants, who had subscribed the SCHEME, were imposed on, when he came to see the Custom-house Account in Mercator No. 11. before he had so thoroughly considered the Matter, as he appears to have done in this Letter. But for my own Part I shall never suspect that any Man's Integrity or Capacity ought to be call'd in Question for any thing I shall find in the Mercator.

To the British Merchant.

I Must frankly acknowledge, That I pay a very great Respect to the Memories of those worthy Merchants, who publish'd the Scheme of the Trade between England and France in 1674. as it was then carried on, in the Commodities of the Native Product and Manufacture of each Country, for one Year from Michaelmas 1668. to Michaelmas 1669.

* Their known Integrity and Abilities for that Work, easily prevail'd with me to give entire Credit to all they had assert'd.

But

But since I had told the *Mercator*, No. 11, and had examined the Accounts from the Officers of the Custom-house, relating to our Exports and Imports to and from France for the said Year from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669, which were laid in Sessions before the House of Commons, I was strangely surpris'd; and tho' I found by the *Memorandum* at the Foot of the Account of the Imports, that it was imperfect, yet the Difference between these Custom-house Accounts, and the Scheme was so great, that I must confess, I was afraid those Gentlemen had been imposed on, for I could not question their Sincerity.

Thus I was held in Suspence, until I had perus'd your Paper No. 34, which revived a Suspicion I had long harbour'd of the Authority of the *Mercator's* said *authentic* *Particulars*; and turning to the Inspector General's first Report to the Commissioners of Accounts, I was soon convinc'd, that this Argument against the Scheme, might be expos'd, tho' under the Pretence of so great a Demonstration.

For by that Report, it appears that all the Light the Inspector-General had been able to gain into the Transactions of past Times, relating to our Exports and Imports to and from France, was from a Manuscript remaining in the Custom-house, which only gives an Account of the several Goods and Merchandizes of the *Growth of England* exported from *London*, and an Account of the several Goods and Merchandizes that were imported into the said City from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669, and from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669, with the then Valuation of all the Commodities; but it takes no Notice of the Re-exports, viz. of Foreign Goods and Plantation Goods carried to other Countries.

This Abstract appear'd to him to be an authentic Copy of what had been offered to the House of Commons, but in what Year he could not find; and that the Quantities of Goods contained therein, may have been fairly extracted from the old Entry-Books of the Custom-house.

According to this Manuscript, or Abstract,
From *Mich.* 1668, The Imp. amount to 1,649,706 16
To *Mich.* 1669, Exports 375,065 6

The Imports exceed the Exports 1274,641 10

From *Mich.* 1668, The Imp. amount to 545,183 16
To *Mich.* 1669, Exports 108,999 4

The Imports exceed the Exports 436,184 12

And afterwards he observes, That
From *Mich.* 1668, The Lead which was Exported amounted to 14608
To *Mich.* 1669, And the Woollen Manufacture amounted to 68521 17

To this Account, there can be no Objection; it comes from the proper Officer, who declares that he was upon Oath, and look'd upon himself, by the Nature of his Office, bound to sit impartially between the Crown and the Merchant.

He believes it was fairly extracted from the old Entry-Books, and it had the Sanction to be officed to a House of Commons.

I cannot then doubt, but that this Manuscript was in the Custom-house, and known to be there, when the Officers of the Custom-house gave in their Accounts in *July* last to the House of Commons.

And since this was all the Light the Inspector-General had been able to gain, it must be concluded, that there was no other Account in the Custom-house in *1711*. (when his said Report was made) that was regularly enter'd, or that could be found.

This therefore is a sufficient Reason, to question the Validity of this Account from the Custom-house, unless it should appear that this and the Manuscript, mentioned by *Dr. DAVENANT*, are the same Record.

Which cannot be allowed, for the Doctor, in aforesaid, says, That the Woollen Manufacture were therein valued at 68521 *l.* 17 *s.*

And by the Scheme, they are valued at 68521. This Difference may be occasioned by the Rates that are set upon those Goods in the Manuscript and in the Scheme; but it will be impossible to reconcile the Quantities of the exported Goods in the Custom-house Account delivered to the House of Commons, with the aforesaid Valuation of 68521 *l.* 17 *s.*

To prove this Assertion, I might refer to the *Mercator*, No. 11, but because he has omitted several Particulars of the Woollen Manufactures that are express'd in that Account, I shall give you the Particulars, and their Valuation, according to the Rates made use of in the Scheme, viz.

349 Long Cloths at 20 <i>l.</i> per Clo.	7000	3490
54 Short Cloths do	432	432
2049 Spa. Cloths 15	30743	10
161 Petticoats 3 per Piece	483	
5997 Kerseys 2 1/2	10138	16
34 Cloth Rufes 5	170	
105 Double Douzens 5	527	10
161 Single Douzens 2	322	0
386 Double Bays 4	1544	0
1660 Single Bays 3 10	4150	1
168 Minish Bays 6	1008	
2512 Perpets and Serges 2 10	18955	
1701 Sars and Stuffs 2 10	4152	10
10145 Goods of Coc.	9 per 100 Goods	9171 7
550 Welsh Plains		
1215 Yards of Flannel	2 per Yard	60 15
2661 Dozen Mens	3 per Dozen	7983
Worsted Hosiery		
674 Childrens Worsted	8	5392
1522 Mens Woollen Hosiery	15	22830
1003 Child. Woollen Hosiery	3	3009
1003 Ells of Woollen Cloth,		180
valued at		

Woollen Goods exported from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669, as by the Custom-house Account, amount to 91396 16

Woollen Goods exported in the same Year, as by the Inspector-General's Account, amounts to 68521 17

l. 22874 8 6. the Difference in 22874 8 6

Which is sufficient to demonstrate, that the Custom-house Account, and the Doctor's Manuscript, are two distinct Accounts, and have no relation to one another.

Besides, it must be observed, that the said Custom-house Account differs from the Scheme in the Quantities of every Species of Goods: The *Mercator* has shewn you where it exceeds, but it did not seem his End, to give the Counterspart, where 'tis exceeded.

In that Account, there are also some Goods that the Scheme takes no notice of, and on the other Hand, there are other Goods in the Scheme, which do not appear in the Custom-house Account.

From the whole it's reasonable to believe, that the Doctor's Manuscript is Authentic; and that it's very probable, either that, or the Books of Entries, from whence it was taken, was the Foundation of the Scheme, since neither the SCHEME, nor the Manuscript give any distinct Account of Exports and Imports, to and from the Outports; nor of the re-exported Goods, as aforesaid, their different Valuation of the Products and Manufactures Shipped at *London*, may be easily accounted for.

But when, or how the Officers of the Custom-house came by the Accounts they laid, as aforesaid, before the House of Commons that Year; or why they took no Notice of the aforesaid Manuscript, is not for me to reflect on.

My Design being only to take off that Load of Infamy and Scandal, that has been cast on the Authors of the Scheme, who like true English Men, fear their'd the Prosperity of their Country. I am,

S I R,
Your Friend and Servant,

K. K.

London, December 7. 1713.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The *Mercator*, or *Commerce Retriev'd*.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the imporning of *French Wines*, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide *Prohibition Act*. 30. Car. II.

A gross Mistake in my last corrected.

The Old SCHEME cured of one of the Mercator's mortal Sins, by the Letter in my last.

The Mercator's Reasons for calling the Preamble of King Charles's Prohibition a wild Pream-

ble, further considered.

Mr. Backstroke in the Mercator his Charge against me.

My Answer to it.

From FRIDAY, December 11. to TUESDAY, December 15. 1713.

THE Letter in my last, which begins with the Words, *I must frankly acknowledge*, I sent to the Press just as it came to my Hands. All the rest of that Paper was either an Introduction to that Letter, or my own Reflections upon it, and both of my own Writing. But whether this was not understood by the Printer, or that he was misled by any thing in my Manuscript, I find my Reflections (which should have been the Conclusion) Printed as a first Letter, which has very much perplex'd the Sense of that whole Paper.

I must therefore desire my Reader to correct this Mistake, that is, after the Introduction to begin with the second Letter, and then to read the first, not as a Letter, but as it really is, and was intended, as my own Reflections upon the second Letter. Or I would much rather that my Reader should wholly lay aside both the Introduction and the Reflections, and consider the aforesaid Letter as the whole *British Merchant*; for I think every thing of my own unworthy to be read the same Day with that excellent Letter.

For indeed it has quite destroy'd the Mercator's chief Argument against the Old SCHEME.

That SCHEME which made the Balance against England upon her Trade with France, almost a Million Sterling per An. was consider'd as a most formidable Adversary of the Bill of Commerce; and was therefore to be encounter'd by all Sorts of Weapons.

Therefore in *Mercator* No. 11. a Custom-house Account is rais'd against it, by which our Woollen Manufactures exported from London to France, betwixt Michaelmas 1668, and Michaelmas 1689, which by the Old SCHEME are valu'd at no more than 61546 l. are so multiply'd, that they must amount to 93396 l. 5 s. 6 d. And if this Custom-house Account is true, then without Dispute, the Makers of the Old SCHEME were mistaken.

Against this Custom-house Account, the Letter in my last, has set up the Report of the Inspector General of the Customs, who upon Oath has deliver'd that Report to the Commissioners of the Publick Accounts. According to that Report, our Woollen Goods exported that Year, are valu'd at 68521 l. 17 s. These might be the same Sorts and Quantities of Goods which are in the Old SCHEME, tho' higher valu'd by the Inspector General, who has no where been guilty of on-

dervalk-

devaluing the Goods we send to France: But they can by no means be the Sorts and Quantities in the *Mercator's* Custom-house Account, which by the Valuations in the Old SCHEME, which he thinks too low for Goods exported to France, most amount to 93195*l.* s. 6*d.*

Whom then shall we believe? The Inspector General who was upon his Oath? Or the *Mercator's* Custom-house Account, which was handed into Parliament without any such Solemnity? It will be very well done of the *Mercator*, to decide this Controversy between the Inspector General, and his Account from the Custom-house.

If any Credit is to be given to the Report of the Inspector General, then the Custom-house Account must be Wrong: And if that Account is wrong, then this Mortal Stab, as the *Mercator* calls it, is cured, then the Old SCHEME is well again of this Wound.

All the Fear I have had, was that this Argument of my Correspondent, would bring back the *Mercator* to the French Commerce; and that for a while, we should remain without the fine Things he has promis'd us concerning the Spanish Trade and Treaty. But that Fear is over, he has given us great Hopes by his last, that his Correspondent *Back-stroke*, shall keep open all the Wounds he has given the Old SCHEME; while he himself is more usefully employ'd in defending the Spanish Treaty, from the Attacks of our News Writers.

Back-stroke therefore is my new Adversary, and as like the *Mercator*, as *Dox. Jot*, or the *Review*. In his very first Letter, he defends the *Mercator* for having said, that the Preamble of King *Charles's* the second's Prohibition Act, was a wild Preamble, to a wild Act of Parliament. Mr. *Back-stroke* thinks it as lawful to say this, as that many of the Members of that Parliament, were Pensioners to the Court. For my own part, I think so too; but yet, I believe it was never said, that any of those Members were retin'd by Pensioners against France. The Pensioners, if there were any such, were all in the French Interest, and were very far from being the most forward Persons for a Prohibition of the French Commerce. But they must either yield, or lose their Pensions; for the Country Part of our Legislators at that time, would give no Money, but with the TACK of a Prohibition. Our Legislators then thought the French Commerce too great a Nuisance to this Nation, that they gave Money to be without it: And without doubt, 'tis now worth the while of France to give a great deal to bring us into better Humour. And the *Mercator* or Mr. *Back-stroke* will deserve to have a Share.

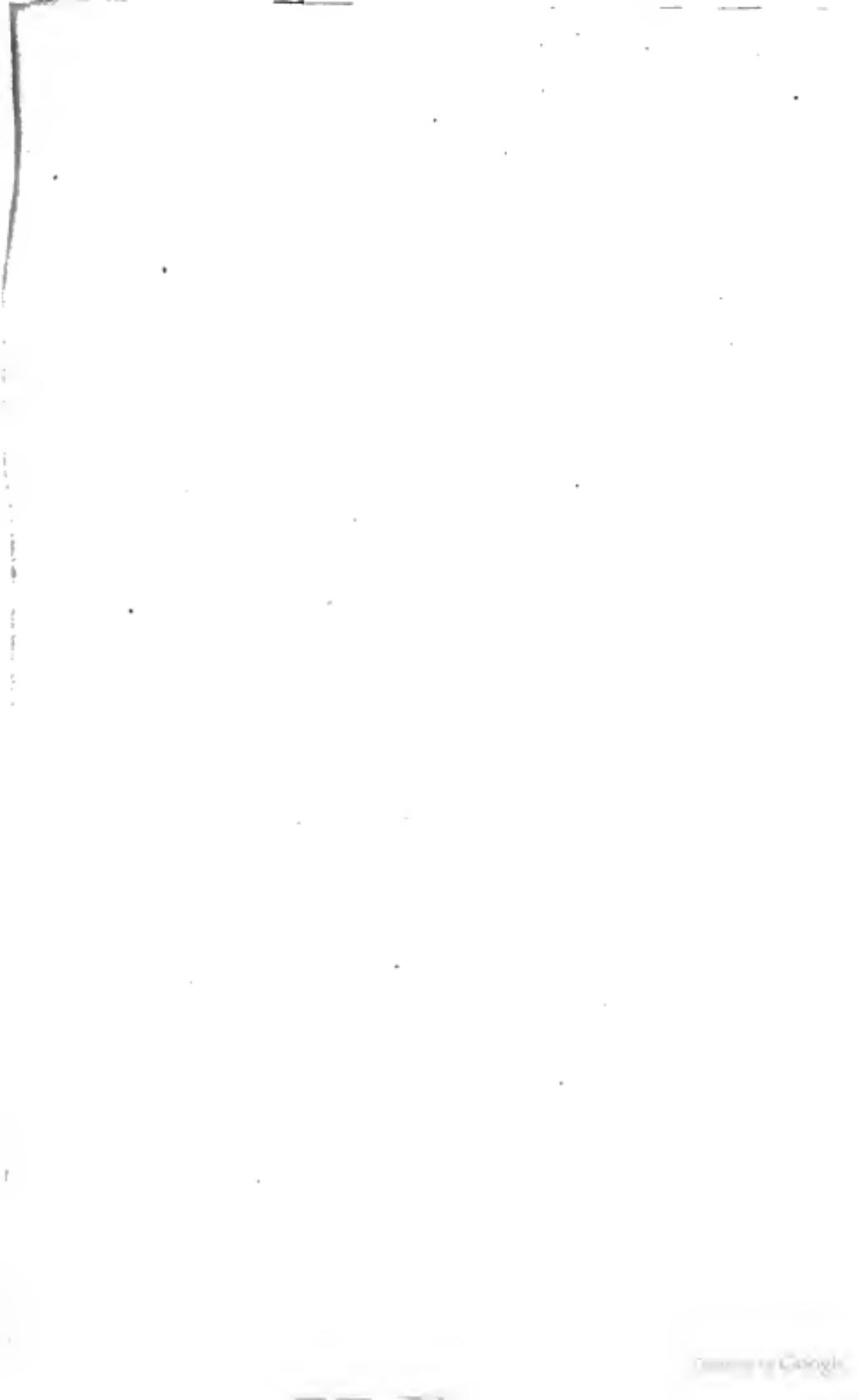
But to return to the Old SCHEME, and his Charge, That I had once disown'd it, and am now repenting of that Sin; that I visos my self upon the *Mercator's* Confession, that the Scheme was 40 Years old, as if it was the less a Cheat for being a Cheat of so long Standing; that I now know it to be counterfeit, and yet put it off for true Money; that I threw it by while it wanted Credit, but since it has been a successful Cheat, since it has cheated a Parliament, I am now ready to embrace it, as if a High-way Man, who had robb'd for 40 Years, and had pass'd all that while for an honest Man, deserv'd ever the less to be hang'd; but he resolves to prove this Old SCHEME the errantest Cheat that ever was put upon a Nation, and that I shall be ashamed of it a second time, or be made a Shame my self to all the World. And to give me a Sample of the bitter Things I am to expect in his future Letters, Mr. *Back-stroke* begins with the Title of the SCHEME, which he charges with a Fraud; it is called, says he, "A

Scheme of the Trade, as it is at present carry'd on between England and France; whereas, in the first place, all our Plantation Goods imported into England, and exported into France by Certificate, are omitted in it. This, says he, is first making the Title lye to the Nation, and then making the Scheme lye to the Title. Wonderful wily are the several Angles I have cited in the Passage above-mentioned, and are to be found in abundance in the *Mercator's* and *Review*.

But wherein is it that I have ever disown'd the SCHEME? Indeed I have said that it was not the SCHEME of my making, and the *Mercator* himself has requir'd me of this Thing; he acknowledges that it was made above 40 Years ago, that it should be a Parliament 40 Years since, than it could not be a Cheat of my contriving. But I am charg'd with knowing it to be counterfeit, and yet putting it off as true Money. But from whom have I known the Counterfeit? From the *Mercator*? I am so unfortunate as not to believe any thing because he says it; nay, since I have undertaken him, he has sold so many Untruths, that I am ready to believe the contrary of whatever he says to be true. I shall never believe any thing to be less a Cheat for its long Standing, if I can be once perswaded that 'tis a Cheat; but still I shall be convinc'd that the Old SCHEME was such a Cheat, I cannot easily believe that it could impose upon a whole Parliament, especially for wife ones that of *King Charles's* the Second, for that our Legislature was seduc'd by it to make *William's* the first Act of Parliament; if yet it is true, that the Old SCHEME was the Foundation of that Act, for as yet I have no Authority for it, but that of the *Mercator* and Mr. *Back-stroke*, which is always to be suspected. I believe the Old SCHEME will still live in (spite of the *Mercator's* mortal Stab; but whatever shall be its Fate, I make no doubt but our Legislators, as I have said in a former Paper, had very good reason for affirming, that our French Imports exhausted our Treasure, and spent the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures. The *Mercator* has not yet prov'd that they were millen in their Assertion; he has written almost an hundred Papers to prove the French Trade beneficial, and promis'd it in his first, yet has never yet shewn a Balance on the side of England. The Custom-house has been robb'd for this happy Year, yet nothing since the Tariff of 1654, nor even before, when the Duties on our Goods were lighter than by the late Treaty, can such a Year be found; let him but produce the Year, and I have done, I will then be ashamed of the Cause I have undertaken, nay, I will own my Shame to all the World. As for this Writer's quaint Observation, That the Title of the SCHEME professes it to be a SCHEME of the Trade, as it was heretofore carried on between England and France, and yet all our Plantation Goods that were re-exported are omitted, and therefore the Title is a LYE: The *Mercator* has made frequent Profession of his good Manners, but perhaps he will say this is the Language of Mr. *Back-stroke*; all I can say to this, is, that there is a very great Similitude between the Persons; but indeed the SCHEME seems every to be a SCHEME of the Native Commodities of both Kingdoms, and whether our Plantation Goods will be accounted such, we shall be able to judge if ever the French are brought to an Explanation of the Doubts of the last Parliament. But whoever reads the SCHEME, and the Conclusion of it, will readily believe, that as many of our Imports of the Growth and Manufacture of France are omitted, as of our Exports of Foreign Growth and Manufacture. But I would have the *Mercator*, or his Correspondent, answer the Letter I have presented him in my last, and recover his Custom-house Account, if 'tis possible.

LONDON, Printed for FRED. BURLINGHAME, Jun. in London-House-Yard, the West End of St. Pauls. (Price Three Half Pence.)







The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, Salt and Paper,* and other Commodities of the Growth, Product, or Manufactures of the Territories and Dominions of the *French King,* hath much exhaulted 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.

Vide Prohibition Act. 30. Car. II.

The Mercator's Maxims concerning Cheapness and Dearness of Commodities considered.

From TUESDAY, December 15. to FRIDAY, December 18. 1713.

THE Mercator has been often insulting Me with his Maxims,

That Cheapness of Commodities increases the Consumption of them. And

That Dearness of Commodities must needs hinder their Consumption.

From the first he argues, that since by the late Treaty of Commerce between us and *France,* the latter has obliged her self to lay no higher Duties upon our Goods, than those of the Tariff of 1664. We shall export more to that Country than we were ever able to do under the higher Duties of any subsequent Tariff, because Cheapness of our Commodities in *France,* must certainly cause an Increase of their Consumption.

But from the second he argues, that since by that Treaty we are obliged to favour the Goods of *France,* only as those of the Nations the most favour'd, by which Means the Duties upon French Goods will be a great deal higher than they were in the Year 1664, or in any subsequent Year; It must needs follow, that we shall not import such Quantities as we did under the lower Duties, because Dearness of Commodities cannot chuse but cause a Decrease of their Consumption. These are the Mercator's Arguments to prove that we shall import less of the French Goods than we ever did before, and at the same time that we shall export more of our own than ever to that Nation.

Now I have not taken up a Resolution to quarrel with every thing the Mercator says: I am for keeping

on the Prohibitions and high Duties upon French Goods, because we shall then consume the less Quantities, and because Dearness of Commodities hinders their Consumption.

The Mercator's Maxims therefore are very good, should his Opposer, as they say, that is, if they are restrained to Time and Place. For example, if the City of *London* had spent any certain Quantity of French Wines, Brandy, Silk, Linnen, and Paper, at a certain Price, it is a violent Presumption that if the Price had been doubled in the same Year, the Consumption would have been less. And on the other hand, if the People of *France* at this time use any considerable Quantity of our Lead, Tin, and Woollen Manufactures at the present Prices, it cannot be doubted that a great Abatement of these Prices by the Reduction of the Duties in *France,* must increase their Consumption, and be the Cause of a greater Exportation.

But then these Rules, if applied to different Times, are not so very infallible. For example, if 30 Years ago we spent a certain Quantity of French Goods at the current Prices of that Time, it cannot be concluded that we shall not spend as much now at higher Prices, and under an Increase of Duties. And the Reason of this may be, that our Luxury may be greater now than it was formerly, or that by an Increase of Wealth, our People may be able to pay better Prices.

But I would convince the *Mercator* even by Matter of Fact. It appears by an Account return'd from the Customhouse to the last Parliament, that the Wines imported from *France* into the Port of *London* for four Years, were as follow, that is to say, in the Year

	Tons	Gal.
1675	3495	88
1676	5645	11
1677	9789	80
1678	7212	3

The Medium of which was 5335 Tons per Annum. The Customs then were 61. 8. 12. On the 24th of *June* 1685, a Duty of 61. 3. 4. was added, that is, the Customs were almost doubled; and immediately after, the Account for four Years is as follows.

	Tons	Gal.
1686	12760	217
1687	15518	97
1688	14218	57
1689	11209	93



The Medium of which was annually 73401 Tons. So that here the Customs were almost doubled, and yet our Importations increased in so prodigious a manner.

But I must acknowledge now, that the Customs upon all Wines are above double what they were in the last mentioned Year; and so many other Countries, as well as *England*, are of late accustomed to drink Claret, that the prime Colds in *France* are very much increased; it is not to be imagined therefore, that the open Importation of those Wines can be as great now as it was formerly. And the above-mentioned Account from the Customhouse shews, that for the last Year and a Quarter, the Wines imported into the Port of *London* from all Countries in the World, did not exceed 12491 Tons, which was almost a Thousand Tons less than was imported in the last mentioned four Years from *France* only, and 5 or 6000 Tons less than was fairly imported in that time from all the World. But are there fewer Taverns now in *London* than heretofore? Or does any Man think that the Consumption is lessened? And if it is not, then it is certain the Quantity must be made up by Wines that are clandestinely imported, and that our Luxury has increased with the Prices.

But let it be admitted, that *London* now consumes no more than 12500 Tons per Annum. does any one believe that we shall import less than 10000 Tons of the Growth of *France*? Have we not accustomed our selves to Buy these Wines under almost double the Duties that are even now paid by those of other Countries? And will they not be universally preferred, if they shall pay no greater Duties, than those of the Nations the most favoured? Are we not infected, as much as ever, with an Appetite towards every thing that is *French*? And, if the Duties shall be reduced, is any other Wine so likely to be the common Draught of this Nation? And if this should be the Case, the Price of Claret in *France* has advanced so much of late Years, by the great Demand of them over all *Europe*, that in all probability, we shall pay as much for 10000 Tons, as we did heretofore for 12500. But if the Customs shall be reduced upon *French* Wines to an Equality with those of *Portugal*, I can by no means yield, that 10000 Tons will be the whole Quantity imported, either fairly or clandestinely; I am afraid as many will be imported as ever.

But should I grant, that the Duties by the late Treaty of Commerce upon Wines and Brandies, shall be

such, that our Consumption of them must be lessened; I am very sure, this cannot be the Case of *Wrought Silks*, of *Linnen*, of *Paper*, or of that other Goods. The Increase of Duties upon their *Linnen*, is very little more than a Half-Penny for every Yard: And is this a Duty sufficient to keep them out? We may expect therefore, that they will be poured in upon us, in such Quantities, as to destroy all the new Looms we have set up in *England*, as well as in *Ireland*, and *North-Britain*, to the Ruin of above an Hundred Thousand of our People.

As for the Customs here, upon most of the *French* Manufactures, which are to remain in Force by the late Treaty, they are generally such, as with the whole Value of the Labour that is bestowed upon them in that Kingdom, are yet under the Price that is given for the like Manufactures made in *England*. I need not resort to the *French* King's reduction of the Price of Labour, by several former Alterations of his Coin in his Dominions: But 'tis notorious, that his Subjects are subsisted in a meaner manner, and live for less Wages than the laboring People of *Great-Britain*. And then, can any one imagine that his Manufactures are not cheaper than our own? Or that we shall not buy the cheapest? It is not enough, therefore, for the *Mercator* to tell us, that dearth of Commodities, causes a Decrease of their Consumption: He ought also to shew us, that by the Duties which are to remain in force by the late Treaty; all the Manufactures we can import from *France*, will be so much dearer than our own, that our Merchants will be able to make very little Profit by Importing. Or otherwise, whether for our Luxury, or Necessities, they will still continue to import upon us.

Then for his other Maxim, that Cheapness of Commodities must needs increase the Consumption; and that consequently, by the Reduction of the *French* Duties upon our Goods, to the Tariff of 1664, we shall be enabled to find more of our Woollen Manufactures from *France*, than we did in 1685. It is nothing at all to his Purpose.

If we send any Manufactures to *France*, under the present high Duties; we have good Reason to believe, that, by taking off a Part of those Duties, our Exportations may be increased. But has the *Mercator* any where prov'd, that we send any Manufactures to *France*, under the Pressure of the present Duties? Our Exportations to *Dunkirk* or *Marseilles* prove nothing like it. No Duties are paid in those Places; and then, will our Exportations rather prove, that they are carry'd farther into that Country?

Will our Exportations to *France* in 1685, and under the Duties of that time, prove that we can send any Goods now, under any Duties at all? Have the *French* been labouring ever since at the Woollen Manufacture, and are they arriv'd at so Perfection? Have they plac'd King *Philip* on the Spanish Throne, that they should now buy Spanish Wool, or Spanish Cloth from *England*? It may as well be arg'd, that by permitting Importations from *Holland*, we should our selves buy our Woollen Manufactures from the *Netherlands*, because we did heretofore in the times of the Dukes of *Burgundy*.

Unless, therefore, the *Mercator* can apply his Maxims of Dearth and Cheapness of Commodities to one and the same Year, they are by no means sufficient to argue upon from the past time to the present.

ERRATA.

Numb. 37. Col. 4. lin. 35. from the bottom, instead of re-exported Goods, as observ'd, read re-exported Goods, and as observ'd. Numb. 38. Col. 4. lin. 26. for first read 112.

LONDON, Printed for FERRIS BURLING, Jun. in London-House-Tard, the West End of St. Paul's. (Price Three Half-Pence.)

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide *Prohibition Act.* 30. Car. II.

The Entries for Flanders, and the Straits, are not for France. | *neither at the present, nor by the late Treaty.*
Our Woollen Manufactures cannot go to France, | *And for what Reasons.*

From FRIDAY, December 18. to TUESDAY, December 22. 1713.

WELL: There is no end of the Mercator's Exports to *France*; that's certain. Every thing that is enter'd at the Custom-house, for *Flanders*, or the *Straits*, is carry'd into *France*, besides a World of Goods that are sent thither by the Way of *Holland*. It is unhappy for him, that any Entries are made for the *East* or *West-Indies*, for *Portugal* or *Mexico*; these Countries are either at too great a Distance, or too much out of his Way; otherwise, we should also lose those Trades, all the Goods we are able to send any where, wou'd be swallow'd up by *France*, he would damn all the Custom-house Accounts, and the Merchants for their false Entries to any other Country.

But why are the Goods carried into *France*, that are enter'd out for *Flanders* and the *Straits*? Why? Because it pleases the Mercator's Fancy; not that he has any

one Reason besides his being hir'd to Write for the Bill of Commerce, to induce him to be of that Opinion. No: Whatsoever Reason there is, it is against him.

To instance in our Woollen Manufactures, which is the Grand Article of our Exports, the Staple Commodity of this Kingdom. Where wou'd any one believe that these are carry'd? To Countries that have not sufficient of them for their own People; or to those which, besides having enough for their own People, are able also to supply their Neighbours? To Countries which receive them indifferently into every Port; or to those which restrain the Importation of them to two or three Ports only, at the greatest Distance from the whole Body of their People? To Countries which receive them with very easy Duties; or to those which load them with such Duties as amount

amount to Prohibitions? And lastly, to Countries which give our Merchants very little Trouble upon the landing their Manufactures, or those which subject them to very troublesome Visitations? To compare then, the Case of *Italy and Flanders*; they have not sufficient of their own Woollen Manufactures for their own People; they admit ours equally into every Port, they lay upon them very moderate Duties, and they give our Merchants no manner of Trouble upon their landing these Manufactures. In *France* every thing is the reverse, no want of our Woollen Manufactures, but three Ports, where they are suffer'd to be imported, excessive Duties, and exceeding troublesome Visitations. This is the Condition of our Trade with that Nation, even by the late Treaty; but till that Treaty shall be made effectual, our Condition is still worse: And then, can any Man entertain the least Suspicion, that the Manufactures which are enter'd out for *Flanders* or the *Straits*, are carried into *France*?

I shall particularly consider every one of the above-mention'd Circumstances; by that time, I believe, my Readers will be convinc'd, how unlikely it is, that any more of our Manufactures should be carry'd into *France*, than appear in the Custom-house Accounts.

As for *Italy*, it never did abound with Woollen Manufactures: Both the Lands and the People of that Country have been employ'd another Way. Silk is their chief Employment, in which they excel. But the People there wear Woollen Cloths; and since they have not enough of their own, they supply themselves from *France* and *Great-Britain*: And there is no great Doubt, but we shall continue to sell our Share, unless, by any ill Conduct of ours, we should provoke them to increase their Duties upon our Woollen Manufactures, which at present are very moderate.

Flanders heretofore in the time of the Dukes of *Burgundy*, was the Seat of the Woollen Manufacture. We then sold our Wooll to the *Flemings*, and bought from them our Woollen Cloths. Since that Time, by the coming in of the *Walloons*, by whose fine Laces, and by applying our selves to the Work in earnest, we are arriv'd at Perfection. The *Flemings* are gone off to fine Lace and Linens, and we sell them yearly a very great Value of Woollen Cloths: And shall still, perhaps, be able to do this, unless by any Provocation, we force them upon Prohibitions. We have learn'd better, I hope, by our late unsuccessful Attempts to prohibit the *Flanders* Laces, which made the *Flemings* retaliate upon us, and lessened our Exportation of Woollen Manufactures to the Value of several Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Annum*. But without giving any of those Provocations, we have just Reason to hope that our Exportations may be continued both to *Italy* and *Flanders*.

But can we hope to export any of our Woollen Manufactures into *France*? They have Wooll of their own, and they can never want the finest Sort from the Deminions of King *Philip*. They have followed it now for many Years with uncommon Application; and for the Encouragement of their Artists, they have put as many Hardships as possible upon Foreign Manufactures. They now not only supply their own People, but *Spain* and *Constantinople*, with more fine Cloths than are sent thither from *Great-Britain*, and even *Italy*, as I observed before, is served with the Woollen Manufactures of *France*. And can we hope then to sell any of these Goods to such a Country? Is it not justly to be presumed, that the Woollen Manufactures which are entered out for *Flanders* and the *Straits*, are consumed

in *Italy* and *Flanders*? Can any one believe that any of them go to *France*?

The next thing is the Ports. In *Italy* and *Flanders* our Woollen Manufactures are equally received in every Port, but sweep by the late Treaty of Commerce, by which it is provided we are to be very much favoured; they are admitted only in *Genoa*, *Rosno*, and *St. Valery*. And does this look as if the *French* were in earnest to receive our Woollen Manufactures?

The Customs and Duties upon them will soon determine where the greatest Quantities are consumed. They are very moderate in *Italy*, they are not above 8 *per Cent.* in *Flanders*. They are Prohibitions at this time, and so indeed they will be by the late Treaty, notwithstanding the Reduction of them by that Treaty. Woollen Cloths, every Piece of 15 Ells, there is 31 Yards, are to pay by this kind Treaty, if ever it should be made effectual, according to the Tariff of 1699, Fifty five Livres, Ten Sols, or 3 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.* that is 2 *s.* and 8 *d.* for every Yard, or 20 *per Cent.* for Cloth of 13 *l.* and 4 *d.* *per Yard*, and almost 40 *per Cent.* for that of 7 *s.* *per Yard*. And is any one so fond as to believe that any will be carried into *France* by this Treaty? And much more is it possible to believe that any is sent thither now? Or that our Woollen Manufactures which are enter'd out for *Flanders* and the *Straits*, are carried afterwards into *France*?

Perhaps the *Mercator* will imagine that they flow from *Holland* and *Flanders* into *France*, without paying French Customs. There is not the least Ground for this Imagination. If they do, they will do us a great deal of ill; they will rather bear paying the moderate Customs of *Holland* and *Flanders*, than from 10 to 40 *per Cent.* by the Tariff of 1699. For whatsoever the *Mercator* fauces concerning the Tariff of 1699, the former is to be the Tariff by the late Treaty for our Woollen Manufactures. And if this should be the Case, there cannot be the least Reason for the Bill of Commerce.

One thing still remains, and that is the Visitation. We are sure there is no such thing in *Italy* or *Flanders*, but by the late Treaty of Commerce they are subject to a Visitation; that is, they are to lie six or Eight Months at the Custom-house to be Moch-estem, till the President of the Customs shall have leave to be in perfect Health to make his Inspection, and then, if he pleases, he may measure them over in the Rain and the Dirt, and make them 20 *per Cent.* worse than they were before. With this and the extravagant Duties from 10 to 40 *per Cent.* we shall send a World of our Woollen Manufactures into *France*. Or it is wonderful likely that they should rather go thither under these Hardships, than to *Italy* or *Flanders*.

When I first read over the Treaty, I was astonish'd at the Exception of our Woollen Manufacture in the 9th Article; but I was still more astonish'd at the Hardships in the Articles annexed and dated a Month afterwards. But I can by no means wonder that the *Mercator* should think light of these Hardships, who has fallen foul upon the *Perseus* Treaty, which has taken off the Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactures in that Country. But we are oblig'd however to the *Mercator*, who, if they did not apprehend these Difficulties in the late Treaty, have yet refer'd it to the Parliament, which it is impossible should be mistaken.

ERRATA in the last.

For Year and a Quarter, read Sixteen Years and a Quarter.



The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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 Asssembled, and by Authority of the same.

Vide *Prohibition Act.* 30. Car. II.

From TUESDAY, December 22. to SATURDAY, December 26. 1713.

THE following Letter from an unknown Hand, contains for many excellent and self-evident Truths, that I resolve to pass it upon my Readers, without any Comment of my own.

To the *British Merchant.*

SIR,
Here are none of Her Majesty's Subjects that are more obliged to those worthy Patriots, who, last Session of Parliament rejected the Bill of Commerce, than those concerned in the Woollen Manufactures; and since the Wealth and Prosperity of this Kingdom, both in a great measure depend upon the Improvement thereof, and the profitable Trade carried on by the Exportation of the same; these is no doubt, but that both the Manufacturers and the Merchants, will be always assisted and encouraged by our Legislators, in prosecuting so good a Work, and that tends so much to the publick Utility. The Trade to those Nations therefore, who consume the greatest quantity of our Woollen Manufactures, must and will be most affectionately promoted.

And it is impossible, but that all those, who wish well to this Kingdom, will effectually discontinue our Commerce, with every Country that excludes the Importation of our Woollen Manufactures, by imposing such exorbitant Duties thereon, as amount to a Prohibition; especially when it is manifest, that such Manufactures have been set up in Opposition to ours, and that they not only supply themselves therewith, but interfere with us in our Trade to other Countries.

I will therefore conclude, that our Commerce with *Russia, the East Country, Germany, Holland, Flanders, Portugal, the Straits, Italy and Turkey,* with whom we traded during the late War, to the great Benefit of this Nation, will be encouraged; and that due and proper Measures will be pursued, for restoring our former Traffick with *Spain.*

But it's not to be imagined, if ever the *French Trade* should be again under the Consideration of a *British Parliament,* that they will permit the Subjects of his most Christian Majesty to import their Manufactures into this Kingdom, to the vast Prejudice (if not the utter Ruin) of our own, and to the great Discouragement of several of the aforesaid Trades, unless we can import our Woollen Manufactures, and Foreign Goods into *France,* whereby we might repair at least, part of the Damage we should in such Case suffer.

Our Forefathers (it's certain) enjoyed a great Trade with that Kingdom many Years, whilst they paid easy and reasonable Duties, viz. 6 Livres for a Cloth, and 1 Livre for a Piece of Serge; then the Woollen Manufactures exported thither, amounted to a vast Sum.

But as their own Manufactures increased, they gradually imposed greater Customs on ours, whereby that Trade was sensibly discouraged; and no sooner had the present *French King* established his Tariff in 1664, whereby we were oblig'd to pay 40 Livres for Custom of a Cloth, mix'd, or otherwise, of 25 Ells, or 32 Yards (that is on a Long Cloth of 42 Yards two thirds, 53 Livres one third, which, at 18 *d.* per Livre, amounts to 4 *l.*) and extravagant Duties on all our other Woollen Manufactures; but the Exportation thereof declined space.

And his Officers having since very frequently, tho' injuriously, detained the Merchants Goods in the Custom-house for several Months, before they could receive them, and afterwards by opening and exposing them, on purpose to discourage their Importation, also by further increasing his Duties, this great Trade dwindled to a Trifle; so that during the last Peace, which continued above 3 Years, all the Cloth exported to *France* is valued by the Inspector-General at no more, than 14010 *l.* 9 *s.* 4 *d.* and altho' (according to the present Treaty) those Duties are lessened from what they were in 1687, yet we are still to pay for Custom of a Cloth of 25 Ells, 55 Livres instead of 40 Livres as aforesaid, by the Tariff of 1664.

If this then be impartially considered, how small will the Exportation of our Cloth and other Woollen Goods be for the future.

It is therefore most certain, that his said Majesty has nothing more at Heart, than to encourage the Consumption of his Woollen Manufactures, and that he spares no Charge to promote the same.

For Instance: In 1665, He settled Mr. *Jehan Fan Relay,* a Foreign Protestant, at *Abrailles in Picardy,* and by Letters Patent, granted to him and his Workmen the Free Exercise of their Religion, and several other very considerable Privileges, which their Families enjoy to this Day. This Clothier fix'd the Manufacture of all sorts of Spanish Cloths in that City, and the King lent him by Agreement 1000 Livres for every Loom he set up, until he had 40 Looms at Work; so that he received 80,000 Livres. And at last it was found, he had so well established that Manufacture, that by degrees the Payment of the whole was remitted.

Again, That Monarch by an Arrest of the 19th of October, 1688 Granted to *Ned de Parmer* divers Immunities, to encourage him to carry on the Manufacture of *Drap de Londres,* (or Cloth made in Imitation of what is sent from *Londres to Turkey*) in the Province of *Languedoc.*

And afterwards that Province was obliged to furnish the *Sieur Magi* and his Partners, with 30,000 Livres, to carry on the same Manufacture of *Drap de Londres at Clermont and Sette;* and they having voluntarily engaged themselves, to transport 2000 Pieces of that Cloth to the *Levant;* by an Arrest of the 2d of

Other 1693, they are permitted to carry the Goods they import from thence at *Mexico*, by Transfers from *Lima*, into all Parts of that Kingdom (that is, without paying the Duties of particular Provinces) nevertheless upon this express Condition, that they export annually 2000 *Drags de Londres* to the *Levant*.

In 1679, a *Levant* Company was established in *France*, and the King both at that time and afterwards granted them many Privileges, and though it was some Time before their Trade flourished, yet they now import at some of the principal Scales in *Turky*, *Cloath* and *Perpets*, to a greater Value, than our *Turkey* Merchants.

By these, and other proper Methods, their Trade, and their Woollen Manufactures have been established in *France*, and they are now brought to a very great Perfection.

Do not the People of that Kingdom, as well as we in *Great Britain*, generally wear Woollen Cloth, and Stuffs, and are not those worn there, of their own Manufacture?

Is it not acknowledged by all that have lived in *Italy*, as well as in *Turky*, that they supply those Countries, with great quantities of Woollen Manufactures, and did they not formerly furnish us with *Stuffs* and *Druggers* to a great Value?

Besides, have not the *Spaniards* laid aside their old Habit, which was made of English Bays, and are now clothed in French Stuffs, &c. And can we be so very unhappy as to imagine, there are but few Woollen Manufactures in *France*?

But the *Merchant* says, they are not so good as ours; and I must confess they generally are not, especially their *superfine* Cloths: However, when it turns them to Account, they will make them very near as good as their Neighbours, and can sell them much cheaper.

Have we forgot, that our *Draps de Berry*, *Serge de Nimes*, and other Goods, took their Names from their Manufactures? But if they, or the Foreigners, with whom they trade, demand and are pleased with a lighter and worse made Cloth than ours, because it's cheaper; are they not in the right to gratify them?

Merchants and Manufacturers, must endeavour to comply with the Humours and Fancies of those, to whom they vend their Commodities, or else they will soon lose their Trade.

The *Pomians*, some Years past, supply'd a great part of *Italy* and the *Levant*, with their fine Cloth, which is an excellent Manufacture: But, by being obliged by the Law of their Country, to keep up to their own Standard, have since, in several Places, lost 9 Parts in 10 of that Trade.

What is become of our noble Manufacture of *Woolens*, *Woolens*, and *Woolens*, formerly made in *Saxony*? Are not these Sorts beat out entirely, by a slighter and inferior Sort, made in *Germany*? And are not the Cloths, even of this Country, which are made for Exportation, of less Substance than formerly?

Let our *Salisbury* Clothiers answer, how many more *Superfine Spanish* Cloths did they formerly sell for *Turky*, than at present: Or if the *Turkey* Merchants would confess, what is the Reason, that the Part of their Trade is almost lost; I am afraid it would be found, that the *French* fine Cloth prevents the Consumption of ours; for it's Obvious by their present Exports, they are well enough inclin'd for the Publick Good, to promote, nay, to force a Trade in the *Levant*, and yet they take off but little of this sort of Cloth.

But in all Countries, how few are there, that buy the best Cloth, comparatively with those that are forc'd to content themselves with the inferior Sorts?

If the *French*, then, come to the same foreign Markets with us, and have such sorts of Cloth as we have, tho' they are really inferior; will not theirs be prejudicial to the Sale of ours?

The *Merchant* may tell a *Turkish* Clothier, that it's in vain for him to send up his Cloth to *London*, to be dispos'd of there; because there are many better Sorts from the *Woolen* Parts, to be sold every Day in that City: But he will never take his Advice, nor credit what he says, any more than you do.

In short, an inferior Commodity will always affect the Price of a better, at the same Market.

But, however some may deceive themselves, or be deceived; this is certain, the *French* work cheaper

than we can; I mean, they have much more Work done for a Shilling in *France*, than we have here for the same Value; and they sell their Cloths, *Perpets*, &c. abroad, considerably cheaper than we can pretend to, with fair and just Allowances for the Difference of the Goodness of the Manufacture; and for the Truth hereof, I appeal to every unbiass'd Merchant, that has lived abroad, where theirs and our Manufactures are sold.

Formerly, the *Dutch* were our Rivals in these Manufactures; but the *French* having been too hard for them, by almost ruining their Trade in several foreign Markets; I must now assert, that the *French* are become our principal Rivals abroad; and I wish, we find not the bad Effects thereof in a very few Years.

But this must be submitted to: Their Industry, and the *Remissness* of others in former Times, has increased their Woolen Manufactures, and occasions their supplying several Foreign Countries with those Manufactures, which interfere with ours, the ill Consequences whereof can never be prevented, but by encouraging the Exportation of the Woolen Manufactures to those Countries who trade with us on the Square, and by promoting the Manufacture of Silk, and other unwrought Materials, which are the Returns thereof. If this be not precluded, this Kingdom can never regret the Loss of a destructive Trade with *France*; but on the contrary, shall remember, not only our late Legislators, but those also, who pass'd the Prohibition Act in the 30 Car. II. as *Benedictors* to their Country, and as such, with the highest Honour, Gratitude and Respect.

Before this Statute was in force, the Wool of this Kingdom was a meet Drug, and the Clothiers, I am sure, petition'd the Parliament several times, upon the ill State of their Trade: But in 3 Years after, I find, Wool was advanced above 30 per Cent. and such a Trade (says a good Author in 1681) there is for Woolen Manufactures, as *England* never saw in any former Age.

But that you may be fully convinced, that this Nation has enjoy'd a prodigious Advantage, since that Trade was prohibited, examine the following Account, which is taken from Dr. *Daumont's* Reports.

Exported from <i>England</i> in 1662-3	2,072,811 l. 4 s.
in 1668-9	2,063,274 l. 19 s.

Total exported in those 2 Years before the *French* Trade was prohibited } 4,086,087 l. 3 s.

Exported in 1699, when the Trade between *France* and *England* was reciprocally carried on upon the same high Duties as are now in force } 6,788,166 l. 17 s. 6 d.

in 1703, when we had a War with *Spain*, and before the great increase of the *Portugal* Trade } 6,644,103 l.



Total exported in these 2 Years since the *French* Trade was either prohibited, or carried on with high Duties } 13,432,269 l. 17 s. 6 d.

Deduct the first two Years Exports as above } 4,086,087 l. 3 s.

So that the Exports of these two Years exceed the two Years Exports, when we had a free Trade with that Kingdom } 9,346,182 l. 14 s. 6 d.

This, I must acknowledge, is a surprizing Difference; but any Merchant, who will thoroughly inform himself of the Trade that was formerly, and is now carry'd on in *Great Britain*; together with the Importance of our Silk and other Manufactures, may account for it.

I am, SIR,

London, December 01. 1713. Your Friend and Servant,

S. M.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vote Prohibition *Act.* 30. Car. II.

Why the Mercator takes no Notice of the Goods and Merchandizes which France may lawfully prohibit without any Violation of the late Treaty.

The Meaning of the Words, WITH RESPECT TO THE GOODS AND MERCHANTIZES OF GREAT BRITAIN, in the 9th Article of that Treaty.

The French King never intended to repeal his Prohibitions of Foreign Goods imported from Great Britain.

The House of Commons doubted that the Words of the Treaty were not sufficient to repeal Prohibitions of Foreign Goods.

French Prohibitions of Foreign Goods re-exported from England, not repealed by the Treaty.

France may prohibit the Importation of Foreign Goods from Britain, without Violation of the Treaty.

Foreign Goods exported to France, were heretofore half our Exports to that Kingdom.

From SATURDAY, December 26. to TUESDAY, December 29. 1713.

THERE are many Goods and Merchandizes in *Britain,* which are prohibited in *France* by the Edicts of his most Christian Majesty, or which are loaded with such Duties as amount to Prohibitions, and which that Prince may still continue to prohibit, or charge as he shall think fit, without any Breach of the late Treaty of Commerce. But has the *Mercator* ever had the Ingenuity to acknowledge this in any one of all his Papers? No, his Design is, that his Readers should believe that all Prohibitions are to be repeal'd.

Again, there are other Goods and Merchandizes which by express Words in the late Treaty are excepted out of the general Rule of paying no higher Duties than those of the Tariff of 1664. But how slight is the Mention which the *Mercator* has made of these Exceptions? Not above once or twice in above an Hundred of his Papers.

But we are so often told by him of the Tariff of 1664, the easy Duties of that Tariff, and of the Excellency of the Treaty, which has brought us back to those easy Duties, that the Generality of his Readers run a way with this Delusion, that the above-mention'd Tariff is to be the universal Rule, that *France* is oblig'd by the late Treaty to admit all sorts of Goods from *Great-Britain* without any the least Exception, and all under no higher Duties than those of the above-mentioned Tariff. And then the next thing to be believ'd is, that Cheapness of Commodities is the Cause of increasing their Consumption, and that we shall make prodigious Exportations to that Kingdom.

My present Design is to take off this Delusion from his Readers, if any of them are so foolish as to believe that *France* is oblig'd to repeal all her Prohibitions of

all sorts of Goods which shall be exported hereafter from *Great-Britain*; let them only read the late Treaty, and they will be convinc'd of their Mistake.

In the 9th Article of that Treaty are the following Words, *Omnesq; Prohibitiones, Tariffes, Edicta, Declarationes, five Decretis post Tariffum illum Anni 1664. Et contra illam QUOAD BONA MERCESQUE MAGNE BRITANNIE in Gallia facta obsequantur.* The English Translation is thus, *And all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations, or Decrees, made in France since the said Tariff of the Year 1664, and contrary thereto, IN RESPECT TO THE GOODS AND MERCHANTIZES OF GREAT BRITAIN shall be repeal'd.* Now I must ask the *Mercator* or his Readers here, what are the Prohibitions that are to be repealed by these Words? Certainly the Prohibitions only, *QUOAD BONA MERCESQUE MAGNE BRITANNIE*; the Prohibitions only WITH RESPECT TO THE GOODS AND MERCHANTIZES OF *GREAT-BRITAIN.* And what are these? Certainly they are the Prohibitions of the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great-Britain,* and not of any other Country; and therefore by the above-mention'd Words, only the Prohibitions of the Goods and Merchandizes of this Country are to be repeal'd, and not those of the Goods and Merchandizes of other Nations.

The *Mercator* will needs have it understood, that all Commodities of which our Merchants are possess'd, whether of the Growth and Manufacture of *Great-Britain,* or imported hither from any foreign Nation, are properly speaking, the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great-Britain.* But what if *France* should not be of his Opinion? What if his most Christian Majesty should interpret the Manufactures of other Countries imported into *Great-Britain,* or the Manufactures of *Great-*

British made or mixt with the Materials of foreign Countries, to be the Goods and Merchandizes of those Countries, and not of Great-Britain, to whom shall we appeal? Or who is it that shall decide the Difference between the *Mercator* and his most Christian Majesty? If there is the least doubt of this, ought it not to be fully clear'd before the Treaty shall be made effectual.

But his most Christian Majesty might very justly urge, that the whole Article explains the Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain, to be only the Product and Manufactures of the very Country, and not those imported into Great-Britain from other Countries. For in the former part of the 9th Article, the Laws to be repealed by us, are those made in Great-Britain *from the Year 1664, for prohibiting Usterum & GALLIA VENIENTIUM* *Interpretationem, in the Translation thus, The Importation of any Goods and Merchandizes COMING FROM FRANCE. Now Item Mercatorum, & GALLIA venientium, or Goods and Merchandizes COMING FROM FRANCE, are undoubtedly all the Goods that come from thence, whether the Goods of that, or any other Country. Why then are we to repeal all our Prohibitions of Goods and Merchandizes COMING FROM FRANCE, when France is only oblig'd to repeal her Prohibitions OF THE GOODS AND MERCHANDIZES OF GREAT-BRITAIN? Why are not the Terms of the Repeal, the very same in both parts of the Article? His most Christian Majesty may say, that we, by the very Terms of this Article, are oblig'd to repeal our Prohibitions of all Goods that COME FROM FRANCE, whether they are the Goods of France, or of any other Nation, whereas he is only oblig'd to repeal his Prohibitions of the Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain, and not the Goods and Merchandizes of other Countries which are exported FROM GREAT-BRITAIN. Will the *Mercator* affirm that such a Construction as this is a mere Chicanery? Or will his most Christian Majesty be satisfy'd if he should? Certainly if he meant the same thing in both parts of the Article, if by Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain, he intended all those exported from Great-Britain, whether the Product and Manufactures of that, or any other Country; he very well knew the Doubts of the last Parliament, and he would have explain'd that to be his Meaning.*

But this whole Matter is admirably well discuss'd in part of a Letter I have received from one of my Correspondents. In another place he, *sc. the Mercator*, says, that as to the Trade of France, he will put it on this Issue, that England is to enjoy all the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as was then enjoyed. I would readily agree with him it would be so, if there were no Exceptions in the 9th Article; and if as to the repealing Prohibitions on both Sides, it had been said FROM BRITAIN, as it is said FROM FRANCE. Would not one think that to avoid Dispute, the Terms should be the very same in both Places? Can any Man think that such a Difference, in so correct a Thing as a Treaty, could be an Error of the Pen? Or ought it not rather to be believed that the Thing was done with Design? And that the Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain, meant something less than the Goods and Merchandizes exported from Great-Britain?

If his Most Christian Majesty intended to put us fully on the Foot of 1664, and that all Prohibitions since that time in his Kingdom should be repealed, Why did he not explain himself in this Manner? He knew this Difference was objected to the Treaty in the last Parliament; there was time enough during the Debates, to have had an Explanation. The French Deputies were here, they were certainly prepared on that Head, and they could not but know their Master's Meaning. If he meant that no more Goods from Great-Britain should be prohibited in France than in 1664, this Meaning would have been explained. Since France was not pleas'd to do this, it is plain that by repealing her Prohibitions of the Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain, she never intended to

repeal those of Foreign Goods exported from Great-Britain.

The House of Commons seem'd doubtful in this Matter, and therefore provided by their Bill of Commerce, that the Repeal of the French Prohibitions should extend as well to Manufactures of Foreign Countries exported from Great-Britain, as to her proper Manufactures, and made the Consent of France to this Provision, a Condition, without which, the Treaty could not be made effectual. Could the House of Commons have such a Doubt, and yet is the thing in very clear in the Opinion of the *Mercator*? If France should have explained the Sense of the Article to be as asserted by the *Mercator*, yet that very Explanation had overthrow'n his Assertion, and shew'd that the Treaty had not put us upon the Foot of 1664, with respect to Prohibitions. The very Explanation had shew'd that the Treaty wanted one, so that the *Mercator's* Assertion had been ill, that the Treaty had restor'd us to the Foot of 1664, with respect to Prohibitions; it has not yet done, nor can do it without an Explanation.

My Correspondent here has undoubtedly fill'd the Assertion of the *Mercator*, but that is the least part of my Ambition; what I principally intend here is to shew, that the late Treaty of Commerce does not put us upon the Foot of 1664, with respect to our French Trade.

If the Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain, are not so comprehensive Words as the Goods and Merchandizes exported from Great-Britain, if the Commons in Parliament doubt'd that they did not signify the same thing, if his Most Christian Majesty was not oblig'd to satisfy their Doubt, and to explain the Words to that Sense; then it is certain, that by Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain, he could mean nothing more than the Product and Manufactures of this Kingdom, but not the Product and Manufactures of Foreign Countries imported hither, and afterwards re-exported.

And if this was his Meaning, if the Treaty oblig'd him only to repeal his Prohibitions of the Product and Manufactures of Great-Britain, and not of those imported into Great-Britain from other Countries; and if there are no other Words than the above-mentioned, which dissuade his Most Christian Majesty from making new Prohibitions; then it is certain, without any Violation of this Treaty, all the French Prohibitions of Foreign Goods remain still in their full Force, and he may add as many more to them as he shall think fit.

But there will be very little need of his adding any new Prohibitions to the old. *East India* and *Tarky* Manufactures are absolutely prohibited in that Kingdom, whether imported by his own or the Subjects of other Nations. This by the Edict in my 7th. All other Merchandizes of Foreign Growth, or Manufacture, or made, or mix'd with Foreign Materials, are forbid to be imported by English Merchants, by the Edict of 1701 of which there is an Extract in my 18th. And if this is not sufficient, France is still at liberty by this Treaty to prohibit all other Foreign Goods; and whether she may not contrive our very Plantation Goods to be such, is a Matter worth explaining.

Our Foreign Goods, and those made or mix'd with Foreign Materials, together with a very few Plantation Goods, were almost half the value of our whole Exports to France, between *Michaelmas 1688*, and *Michaelmas 1686*, as appears by my 14th; but if all these are now prohibited, or may be prohibited if France please, without any Violation of the late Treaty; how then could the *Mercator* say, that as to our Trade, we are put upon the Foot of 1664? How can this be, if the Treaty does not provide for the Repeal of Prohibitions of our Foreign Goods, or against the making any new ones?

This much for the Goods and Merchandizes which are not comprehended in the Treaty; but our Condition will appear to be still worse, with respect to those that are excepted from it. But this must be the Subject of another Paper.



The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the importing of *French Wines*, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide Prohibition *Act*. 30. Car. II.

Three Fourths of our ancient Exports to France, during the Tariff of 1664, cut off by the late Treaty.

The Article annexed to the Treaty, will not enable

us to export our Woollen Cloths.

The French Duties upon our Woollen Cloths Stated, in a Letter to the British Merchant.

From TUESDAY, December 29, to FRIDAY, January 1. 1714.

Absurdity and Falshood are so common in the Mercator, that I have many times resolv'd to be surpriz'd at nothing but Truth in this Writer; and yet he very often delivers things so very false and absurd, and with such an Air of Confidence, that I cannot help being surpriz'd in spite of all my Resolutions.

His Assertion, That England is to enjoy all the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as was then enjoy'd, is of this Kind.

It is certain, that at that time we had Liberty to export Foreign Goods to France, as well as those of our own Growth and Manufacture, and that too subject to no other Duties or Prohibitions than were then in being. But since the Year 1664, many Foreign Goods are absolutely prohibited to be imported into France, whether by the Subjects of that or any other Nation. Many others of them, if exported into France by English Merchants, are charged in that Country with such Duties as amount to Prohibitions. And none of these Prohibitions or high Duties upon our Foreign Goods, are taken off by the late Treaty: So far from this, That his Most Christian Majesty may absolutely prohibit the Importation of all Foreign Goods whatsoever from hence into his Kingdom, without any Violation of that Treaty, as I have shewn at large in my last. If we could export Foreign Goods to France in 1664, subject only to the Duties of that Tariff, and are not enabled to do it now by our late Treaty of Commerce, how could the Mercator have the Confidence to assert, That England is to enjoy all the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as was then enjoy'd.

Our Foreign Goods exported heretofore to France, as appears by my No. 14. amount'd in one Year to almost one half of our whole Exports to that Kingdom. How then can our Exportations be as large as ever, when his Most Christian Majesty either has prohibited, or may if he pleases, prohibit one half of the whole, without any Violation of our late Treaty?

Our Foreign Goods then are none of those Goods, which by the late Treaty are comprehended within the Rule of the Tariff of 1664. But some also of our own Growth and Manufacture, are expressly, and by Name excepted out of that Rule, by the 9th Article of the late Treaty, particularly our Woollen Manufactures.

Strange! A Treaty of Commerce, by which our Woollen Manufactures, the staple Commodity, the Life and Soul of this Nation, are excepted out of the Number of Goods which we are permitted to export to France! And will the Lords in Parliament hereafter sit upon their WOOL-SACKS? Will they suffer themselves to be upbraided, by their very Sears, that a Treaty of Commerce has been made between France and England, and that our Woollen Manufactures were excepted out of the Goods allowed to be exported to that Kingdom? Certainly they will never be consenting to that Treaty while there are any Woolficks in their House.

Our Woollen Manufactures were usually above half the whole that we exported heretofore to that Nation. And has the Mercator the Confidence to assert, That England is to enjoy all the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as was then enjoy'd? Or that our Exportations shall

be

be as large as ever, when above half the value of those of our Native Manufactures are excepted by our very Treaty?

Our Foreign Goods which are not comprehended within the Rule of the Tariff of 1664, and our Woollen Manufactures which are excepted from it, were at least three fourth Parts of the Value of the Goods and Merchandizes which we usually exported heretofore to France. And how are our Exportations to be as large as ever, when of these three fourth Parts, little or nothing is to be exported?

By the Treaty of Commerce, as it was executed the 31st Day of March last, this was the Case of our Woollen Manufactures; France might either totally prohibit them, or load them with as high Duties as the pleased. Whatsoever she had done of this kind, had been very consistent with that Treaty.

Indeed, by subsequent Articles executed a Month after, she has vouchsafed to give us the following Article for our Woollen Manufacture, which was excepted by the above-mentioned Treaty.

Second Article.

Cloths, Rattines, and Serges, shall be likewise subject to the Duties of the Tariff of 1699, and in order to facilitate the Trade thereof, it shall be allowed to import them by *St. Valery* upon the *Somme*, by *Keses*, and by *Burdwanke*, where these Goods shall be subject to Visitation, in the same manner as those which are made in the Kingdom.

A very extraordinary Favour this! And every good Englishman ought to be as thankful to France for it, as if his most Christian Majesty had in express Words prohibited the Importation of those Goods into his Country!

For first the Reader is to observe, that they are to be subject to a Visitation; that is, the Merchant abroad is not to take them from the Customhouse, till the President of the Customs in the place where they are landed is well enough, or at least, to make his Inspection; and he may be indisposed as long as the King will give him leave, till the Manufacture is Moch eaten, and good for nothing. And if with great Solicitation at Court, the Officer shall be directed to inspect the Goods, he shall chuse the open Air and a rainy Day for this Purpose, that they may be quite spoiled. Are we subject to any such Visitation in *Holland*, *Germany*, *Italy*, or *Portugal*?

The next thing is, that we have three Ports, *St. Valery*, *Reses*, and *Burdwanke* to facilitate our Trade to that large Kingdom. That is just as if we were to permit the French to import their Wines only into *Plimouth*, *Cheshire*, and *Lewerpool*, to facilitate their Trade to this Kingdom. To facilitate our Trade? I could not have imagined the many Victories we have obtained, should have rendered us so much the Scorn of that Nation.

The next thing to be observed is, that not one of these three Ports is in *Britany*, which was almost the only Place for taking off our Woollen Manufactures; either because the People there were employed in others, or were at too great a distance from *Picardy*, and other places where the like are made. That Province too was never accustomed to pay as high Duties as other Provinces of France. This I think was the Condition of its being annexed by *ANNE* of *Bretagne* to that Kingdom; instead of Taxes they presented the Prince with free Gifts. But now it seems they must pay the Duties of the Tariff of 1699, since they are not to have our Manufactures but through other Provinces, where they have been already paid. And this seems to be a principal Reason of restraining us to three Ports, and none of those in *Britany*.

The last thing to be considered is, the Duties to be paid by the Tariff of 1699, which, and not those of 1664, are to be the Duties by our late Treaty. For my own part, I believe we should send very little of our Woollen Manufactures to France, though the had granted us this last Tariff entire, and without any manner of Exception.

It is not the same thing now and when that Tariff

was made; the French were then in the Infancy of their Woollen Manufacture; they have been labouring at it ever since, and are now arrived at a very great Perfection; and it is not therefore to be imagined, that ours can be kept out now by as small Duties as heretofore, when they had very few of their own.

But because the *Mercator* stranges us very often upon the lowness of Duties to be paid hereafter in *France* by our Woollen Manufactures, and tells his Readers that they are but about 10 per Cent. or the tenth part of their whole Value, they will be convinced by the following Letter of my Correspondents, that the Duties are vastly beyond 10 per Cent. by the Tariff of 1664, and yet vastly more by that of 1699, which is to be the Rule by our last Treaty.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,
YOUR Paper No. 42. not giving your Readers such a distinct Account as they expected, of the Custom payable in France, on Woollen Cloth made in Great-Britain: We have taken the Liberty to transmit you the Particulars of what was paid, according to the Tariff of 1664, and what is to be paid by the Tariff of 1699; which last is the Rate fixed by the late Treaty of Commerce with France. We see to pay,

By the Tariff of 1664.
25 Ells, or 32 1/2 Yards of Broad Cloth, paid 40 Livres, which at 18 d. per Livre, amounts to 3 l.

30 Ells, or 37 1/2 Yards of Spanish Cloth, paid 70 Livres, at 18 d. per Livre, amounts to 5 l. 5 s.

By the Tariff of 1699. Which is the Tariff by which we are to pay, by the Treaty.

25 Ells, or 31 1/2 Yards of Broad Cloth, is to pay 55 Livres, or 4 l. 2 s. 6 d.

30 Ells, or 37 1/2 Yards of Spanish Cloth, is to pay 100 Livres, or 7 l. 10 s.

And whereas both you and the *Mercator* agree, that a short Cloth is to be vint'd at 8 l. and a long Cloth at 10 l. at a Medium. Therefore, the Custom of a short Cloth, which contains about 31 1/2 Yards; by the 1664, paid 3 l. Or 37 1/2 per Cent.

Tariff of 1699 pays 4 l. 2 s. 6 d. Or 55 1/2 per Cent.

And a long Cloth, which contains at least 43 1/2 Yards, which is 1/2 part more than 25 Ells, must consequently pay,

by the Tariff of 1664 4 l. Or 40 per Cent. ad valorem.

A Spanish Cloth Containing 37 1/2 Yards, by the Tariff of 1664, paid as aforesaid 5 l. 5 s. That is 21.9 d. 1/2 per Yard. Which

on a Cloth of 21. per Yard, is 35 per Cent. ad valorem.

on a Cloth of 16.1. per Yard, is 33 1/2 per Cent. ad valorem.

By the Tariff of 1699, said Cloth is to pay 7 l. 10 s. That is 4 s. per Yard. Which,

on a Cloth of 21. per Yard, is 50 per Cent. ad valorem.

on a Cloth of 16.1. per Yard, is 39 per Cent. ad valorem.

If it should be objected, that at present the *Livre* of France is not worth 18 d. you will remember, that by the French King's late Edit, or Arrest (a Translation whereof, is in the *Daily Courant* of the 6th of *October* last) for regulating the Diminution of his Coin, a French Crown is to pass after the 1st of *June*, 1715, for 3 Livres and 10 Sols; and then the intrinsic Value of a *Livre*, will be rather more than 18 d.

We are

Your Humble Servants,

A. B. C.

I desire now the *Mercator* will inform us, what Quantities of our Woollen Cloths may be carry'd into France, under these extravagant Duties of 1699: Or how much our Exportations may be enlarg'd by the Increase of Duties by that Tariff; or whether he will still affirm that we are now to enjoy the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as we then enjoy'd?



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the Importing of *French Wines*, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide *Prohibition Act*. 30. Car. II.

The Treaty of Commerce with France will not increase our Exportations to that Country. But will vastly lessen those to other Countries. It can neither increase our Capital Stock of Gold

and Silver. Nor the Employment and Subsistence of our People. Nor the Value of our Lands.

From FRIDAY, January 1. to TUESDAY, January 5. 1714.

I Would very gladly now be inform'd by the *Mercator*, or any other Person, what we shall get by a Law for rendering effectual the 8th and 9th Articles of the Treaty of Commerce: Shall we enlarge our Exportations by means of such a Law? Will Gold and Silver flow in upon us more plentifully than they did before? Will our People be better able to subsist themselves by their own Labour? Will our Lands rise in Value, or our Rents be better paid? These are the Rules, the only Rules, by which it is possible to state and determine the Value of any particular Trade, or of the universal Trade of the whole Nation.

And first of all shall we enlarge our Exportations? To what Country shall we export more Goods than we did before? Shall we export more to the *French Nation*? Yes, says the *Mercator*, we are to have the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as it was then enjoy'd; and he would therefore have us believe, that we shall export as many Goods as we did then. But I think I have fully prov'd in No. 45, that the Prohibitions and high Duties, which have been imposed in *France* since that Tariff upon Foreign Goods exported from this Kingdom are still in force; and His Most Christian Majesty may add as many more to them as he pleases, without any Violation of our late Treaty. Foreign Goods are not enticed by the Treaty to the Benefit of that Tariff, they are in no better a Condi-

tion than they were before, they may be entirely prohibited if that Prince pleases, so that the Treaty does by no means enable us to enlarge our Exportations with respect to foreign Goods.

Others of our principal Goods and Merchandises, and among those, our Woollen Manufactures are by express Words in the Treaty, excepted from the Rule of paying no greater Duties than by the Tariff of 1664. So that all these excepted Goods, as they stand in the ninth Article, were left to His Most Christian Majesty's Direction to tax as he thought fit. I must confess I was surpris'd, that in a Treaty of Commerce, there should be such an Exception to our Woollen Manufactures.

Indeed, by other Articles executed a Month after, instead of admitting those excepted Goods, that Prince has been pleas'd to grant us a shew of admitting them, but into such Ports only, and under such Restrictions, upon such Conditions, and paying such exorbitant Duties, that nothing can more manifestly shew the Design of excluding them for ever from his Countries. I have given an Instance of this in my last, and shew'd that this is plainly the Case of the Restrictions and Duties upon our Woollen Manufacture. I should not have believed, that either by our reducing *France* so low as we did by our many Victories, or by our giving her at last all she wanted with a Peace, we could deserve to be the Scorn of that Nation.

Our

Our foreign Goods, our Corn, our Woollen Cloths, are in no better Condition with, than without the late Treaty of Commerce; and the same thing may be said of our Fish, Sugar, and all our Woollen Manufactures. The Treaty of Commerce will not enable us to make greater Exportations of these things to France, than we do at present. These have formerly been nine Parts in ten, of the Value we exported to that Nation. And then what a Trifle is all the rest?

The Treaty of Commerce does not make way for any of the above-mentioned Goods to go to France. And as for the Inconsiderable Remainder, it consists generally of such Goods as France wants, and cannot have from any other Country but ours; such as Lead, Tin, &c. She had these Things from us, even during the last War, by the Way of neutral Countries; and she must have them either thus, or directly from hence, at whatsoever Price. And she will take no more of them than she wants, though the Prices of them should be reduced. She therefore puts them upon the Foot of the Tariff of 1664, not for our sakes but her own. So that I have answered the fifth Question, the Treaty of Commerce will not enlarge our Exportations to France.

The next is, whether by means of this Treaty, they are like to be enlarged to other Countries? There is no Dispute, but that our Importations from France will be increased by it. If France is to pay no higher Duties than other Countries, and can produce as good or better Commodities, and is also nearer at hand, so that the Carriage will not cost so much; there can be no Question but our Importations thence will be increased.

But whether the Increase of our Importations from France will be a Means to increase or lessen our Exportations to other Countries, is a thing that ought to be considered.

If we are to judge of future Times by the past and present, the Treaty of Commerce, and consequently the Increase of our Importations from France, must needs lessen our Exportations to other Countries.

I must here refer my Reader to the Extract out of Dr. Downes's Report, which was in my No 41.

Our Exports to all the World from England

	l.	s.	d.
in 1662-3 were	1,012,822	04	00
in 1668-9 were	2,063,274	19	00

In 1699, when the Trade between France and England was reciprocally carry'd on upon the same high Duties as are now in force } 6,728,166 17 06

In 1703, when we had a War with Spain, and before the great increase of our Trade to Portugal, } 6,644,103 00 00

Here the Reader is pleas'd to observe, that in 1662, even before the Tariff of 1664, and when the Duties upon our Goods were a great deal less in France than by that Tariff; yet our Exports to all Parts of the World in that Year, amounted to no more than Two Millions, Twenty two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twelve Pounds, Four Shillings.

Again, in 1669, even after France had loaded us with the severe Tariff of 1667, yet our Exports to all the World amounted in 1669, to Two Millions, Sixty three Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy four Pounds, Nineteen Shillings.

The Difference between the two Years is inconsiderable; so that it seems the Case was much the same, whether we pay low Duties or high Duties. In France, our Exportations to all the World differed but a very little.

Nay, We made the greater Exportations to all the World, even when France carried our Goods with the higher Duties. And yet without doubt, the Consumption of our Manufactures was lessened in France in 1669, by those higher Duties; but then it is certain it must have increased in other Countries.

In 1699, our Exports to all the World amounted to Six Millions, Seven Hundred and Eighty eight Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty six Pounds, Seventeen Shillings and Sixpence, above three times as much as in either of the former Years.

In 1703, our Exports to all the World were Six Millions, Six Hundred and Forty four Thousand, One Hundred and three Pounds, that is almost as much as in 1699; but still above three times as much as in either of the former Years.

The Duties in France upon our Goods in 1699, were the very same as they are now, even before the Treaty of Commerce is made effectual; and yet our Exportations to all the World were above three times as great as in 1662, even when we had a more easy Tariff than that of 1664. And yet it is certain, that in 1699, we could make out greater Exportations to France than we do now, because the Duties in both Years were the very same.

But whatever Exports we made to France in 1699, it is certain we exported very little to Spain, for in that Year we were at War, and our Goods and Merchandizes were all prohibited in that Kingdom. And yet notwithstanding this, and though we had then also a War with Spain, and could send little or nothing to that Country, yet our Exports to all the World, were almost as great as in 1699, and above three times as great as in 1662, when we were every where at Peace, and paid so very easy Duties to the French Dominions.

Now what can be the reason that our whole Trade is so much better, when our Goods in France are either prohibited or loaded with excessive Duties? It can be no other than that the French Goods here, are either prohibited or loaded with higher Duties than those of other Countries, that we therefore chuse to buy the Goods of other Countries; and that these in return enlarge their Trade with us, and take off so many more of our Manufactures.

But then if we shall increase our Importations from France, as we shall certainly do, if the Treaty be made effectual, shall we not lessen our Importation of the like Goods from other Countries? And will not these in return take off so much less of our Goods and Merchandizes? Especially Portugal, which by her very Treaty, buys our Woollen Manufactures, upon condition that we will buy her Wines.

The Result of all that has been said, is, that our French Treaty of Commerce, far from increasing our Exportations to France, is likely to lessen those to other Countries, and that our present annual Exportations of the value of Six Millions and a half, shall be reduced again to two Millions, as they were before the Year 1664, and when we had a better Tariff than is granted us by this Treaty.

And if we shall export less Goods and Merchandizes than we did before, will our Gold and Silver be increased? Have we any Gold or Silver, but in exchange for our Commodities? And shall we get more by exporting Commodities of the value of two Millions, than by exporting the value of Six Millions and a half?

And then for the Employment and Subsistence of our People, can it be conceived that greater Numbers will be subsisted by making Manufactures for Exportation of the value of two Millions, than above three as great a value? Or rather, is it not certain that as many People must come to the Parish for Subsistence, as are now maintained by their own Labour for the difference of the two Sums, that is, for four Millions and a half?

And lastly, are our Lands likely to rise in value by these Means? Are the Rents likely to be better paid? When the Demand of so vast a part of our Product shall cease in other Countries, when so many of our own labouring People shall be disabled to buy either Cloaths for their Selves, or Meat for their Bellies? When instead of doing this, they must be subsisted at the Cost of the Landed Interest.

But if France must be benefited by such a Treaty of Commerce, I must conclude, O Miserable England!







The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

*A Digression to the Spanish Trade.
A Letter concerning that Trade.*

From TUESDAY, January 5. to FRIDAY, January 8. 1714.

THE French Trade and the Bill of Commerce are the Arguments I have undertaken: I have not thought it necessary to follow the *Mercator* to Spain, or to our Trade with that Country; but the following Letter is of that extraordinary Nature, that I presume upon my Reader's leave, to make it the Subject of my present *British Merchant*.

To the British Merchant.

SIR,

I Wonder you suffer the *Mercator* to run on as he does upon the Spanish Trade; he has delivered us gross things upon this, as upon our Trade with France. And it is in my Opinion your Business to undeceive his Readers, as well in the one Case as the other.

In his Arguments about our Trade with Spain, he lays down as a Maxim, that if France could have supplied them with Manufactures, she would never have permitted that Spain should have solicited the opening a Trade with us; and therefore it shews of Consequence, that if Spain wanted a Trade with us then, we shall much more easily carry it on in Time of Peace.

The Interest of Spain was certainly to open a Trade with us, for by that means they got a Consumption of their Wine, Oil, Fruit, Cochineal, and other Commodities, some of which no Nation takes off but us, and though France takes off some equally with us, yet it was the Interest of Spain to have several Buyers at the Market.

Now having shewn it was the Interest of Spain to open a Trade with us, or else they had had no Consumption for several of their Commodities; it might be expected I should shew the Advantage we had by that Trade.

I am sure all the eminent Spanish Merchants were of Opinion, that it could be of no other Advantage to Great Britain, than by supplying us with Wool, and dying Goods which we wanted; they did not promise themselves an equal Trade with that Country, or that we should sell her as great a value of Goods as we were likely to buy from thence; but, as we had then hopes of regaining Spain to the House

of Austria, it had been no good Policy to frown the Spaniards by our Refusal of their Products, but rather give way at present on a future View.

I appeal then to all the Spanish Traders, whether Spain has not had an Over-balance against us; and if so, it could not be the Nation's Benefit to open a Trade that must exhaust us: for all Over-balance of Trade must be paid with Money.

I am sure no one of our Commodities for the Expence of the Spanish Market, advanced an opening the Trade with Spain, which shews the Spaniards had no great occasion of our Commodities; on the contrary theirs, which otherwise must have perished in their Hands, not only found a Consumption here, but at very good Prices.

But let any one look back to the Peace of Ryswick in 1697, and he will find, that notwithstanding we had been in Amity with Spain during that War, and consequently carried on a Trade with some Difficulty by Convoys and Runners; yet on that Peace, as soon as we were able to go free, and Freight and Insurance were very easy and reasonable, all English Goods proper for the Spanish Markets advanced very considerably.

For instance, *Calceolar* Boys rose from 17 s. to about 24 s. the Flemish Ell. I desire the *Mercator* to tell me what they are risen since this Peace with Spain?

If he cannot shew that our Goods are advanced, can he pretend the Spaniards want them? Does not all Demand necessarily cause an Advance of the Price of Goods? Now I challenge all that trade to Spain, to shew one Commodity advanced, one Commodity wanted in the Spanish Markets, of the Growth or Product of England.

If the Spaniards wanted them in 1697, as appears by the Advance, is it not plain they do not want them now? And is it not a necessary Consequence, if they do not want our Manufactures, that they are supplied from some other Country?

Can any thing then be more certain than that France has got that Trade? Or else let the *Mercator* tell who has it; or can the Spaniards live without either their Manufactures or ours? It is equal to England which of the two is the present Case; since the

Con-

Consequence is what I assert, we have a losing Trade to Spain, by taking off more of their Commodities than they take off of ours.

However, it's certain our Trade to Spain is the Benefit of France; for since as above, none of our Products are demanded there, and that France takes off so little of theirs, the Over-balance that we pay must consequently center in France.

For France, by permitting the Spaniards to trade with us (and I shall never think it otherwise than a Permission) will have this Advantage, by our taking off the Products of Spain, that we shall enrich the Spaniards, without which they would be reduced to Poverty and Misery; and in the mean time France reaps the Benefit of their Trade, which they could not do, did not we furnish those People by taking off their Products.

The Mercator, to help out his Assertion that Spain wanted our Products, insinuates a great Trade might have been driven by way of Lisbon.

If by Land, all Goods must pay 23 per Cent. Custom; indeed the Valuation is favourable, but then they must pay 20 per Cent. more on the Frontiers of Portugal, before they can be carried into Spain.

If by Sea, they may be landed in France, and thence re-shipped, paying only 4 per Cent. Duty; but then Warehouse room, Expence of Officers to see they are re-shipped, and not brought ashore again, Freight, Insurance and Commission, fall heavy on the Goods.

So that neither of these ways would any one take to send Goods to Spain, after we might send directly; and I will maintain, not the one hundredth part of the Goods sent to Portugal was ever re-shipped for Spain.

But could it be proved, that under the above Difficulties we did send Goods that way for Spain, would it not show what extravagant Prices they must fall for? And when we could go directly, would not a Demand have appeared?

And now that we can go freely and unmolested, (if this were the Case) would there not be in Spain a vast Demand for English Manufactures and Products.

But so far as we are from this, that Letters from Cadix give this melancholy Account,

That for the Woollen Manufacture of England, there is no talk of it, and that particularly for Cloth it is with'd the Mercator and his Friends saw the French Cloth had there; which if they did, they would believe the French could make Cloth.

But I am, Sir, so far from believing any thing will be a Conviction (that I answered the Letter, for it was written to me, with a Proposal to send me some of the Cloth) that it was in vain, the Spirit of De-lusion and Infatuation was got amongst us; and who-ever would not deliver up himself without Reserve, was branded with Faction.

No Demand of our Goods in Spain, no Advance of their Price! here is an Argument, that they are not wanted in that Country. But an Accident which has lately happen'd, shews that the Privileges of our Merchants are no longer regarded by the Spaniards. At Alicante, 13 English Ships are seized to carry Stores for reducing Majorca and Catalonia. English Ships to reduce the People of Majorca and Catalonia, who came in against King Philip upon our Invitation! What Offence have these poor People committed against us, that we should be made assisting to their Calamities? That French Ships should assist King Philip to reduce them, were but reasonable, since they had declared War against the Nation. Who can refrain from pitying those brave People, whose only Crime is, that they fought for us, and for the Liberties left them by their Predessors, against Slavery and Oppression? And how must freeborn English-men, whose greatest Happiness is their Liberty, resent the Spaniards taking our very Ships, to oppress a free-born People, and our Friends?

Yet this is the Case; but to go on, to shew how this Seizure must affect our Trade: The Cargoes of

these Ships were bought, and lie perishing. The Ships freighted, and the Merchant disappointed of his Returns; and when the Spaniards shall have no further Occasion for the Ships, they then take in their Cargoes, the Freight returns, the Wages paid by being brought home in the Heavie Principal's Joll, and the Merchant brought in debt to pay Freight and Customs. In the mean time, the Spaniards lose nothing; they have sold their Goods, and we must bring them off as well as we can. Perhaps the Owners may be paid for the Use of these Ships by the Spaniards, but what Satisfaction will be made to our poor Merchants? Does not this sufficiently demon-strate, that even Spain does not care what Implications and Hardships are put upon the English Nation?

The Overbalance paid by us upon our Trade to Spain, is a Demonstration of our losing by that Trade; but this Seizure of our Ships, is another Instance of our Loss by our trading with that Country, and is an ill Precedent to all Countries with which we have any Commerce.

Perhaps it may be argued here, if our Trade with Spain is such as I have represented, how comes it to pass that we bring Silver thence? I answer, Silver is a Commodity, and bought and sold as other Com-mo-dities, both in Spain and England; and it happening to bear a greater Price here than it did in Spain, some Parcels were bought from thence, which we wanted for Re-exportation. This made us here, either remit Bills of Exchange from hence to Cadix, upon Portugal or Italy, to be negotiated there; or else we ordered our Correspondents at Cadix, to draw upon us by the Way of Italy, Portugal, or Holland, and to send us the Produce in Pieces of Eight; so that we did not pay for that Silver by the Goods we sent to Spain, but by paying with so much of that Balance we should otherwise have received from those other Nations.

If this was not the Case, the Mercator would do well to explain, why we brought in Pieces of Eight from that Country, when they were here above five Shillings and two Pence per Ounce, and could not at that Price be coin'd in our Mint; and why they ceased to be imported, upon their falling down to that Price.

I ought not here to pass over an Accident that brought a vast Quantity of Pieces of Eight. One of our Men of War happening to be at Cadix, took them in, and signed Bills to deliver them at Antwerp, and was to have 1 1/2 per Cent. Freight, whereas the Freight is but 1/2 per Cent. for England. But the Lords of the Admiralty not suffering her to proceed, the Money was landed here, and the Insurances be-comeing void, the Proprietors were forced to send over their Bills of Lading from Antwerp, receive their Money here, and pay half per Cent. extraordin-ary Freight. I mention this for two Reasons, one because the Mercator would have exulted, had he known so much Money was imported from Spain, and our know that it was not for our Account. The other is, that of late he takes care to tell us what Silver is exported for Holland; which, let his Pretences be what they will, is not done without Design. But this Fact will shew, that this whole Sum might be re-exported to Holland, because it was indeed theirs from the beginning, not because we lost by the Balance of our Trade with that Country.

Thus I think I have fully prov'd, that we have hitherto a Disadvantageous Trade with Spain, since the Balance of Trade is against us, which formerly was the greatest we receiv'd from any Country. I have also shewn, that Spain did not open a Trade with us for any Want of our Products, but to get a Con-sumption for her own; I should be glad for my Country's Sake, the Mercator could shew the contrary.



I am,

S. R. Cr.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

--- Obeundus Marsya, qui se

Vultum ferre negat Noviorum posse minoris. Horat.

A Letter concerning the Mercator's affronting a certain Person.

A Letter concerning the Manuscript cited by the Inspector General, and the Report of the Com-

missioners of the Customs.

The Old Scheme defended from the late Insults of the Mercator.

From FRIDAY, January 8. to TUESDAY, January 12. 1714.

To the British Merchant-

S I R,

THE Mercator in several of his late Papers, has taken very strange Liberties with my Person; but the most bitter things he has said of me, have not given me half so much Trouble, as the Civility of calling me his Friend, which is a Compliment he has very often repeated. I wonder how how we came to be so well acquainted; for my own part, I cannot call to my remembrance, that I have ever seen Mr. Dan. Fe above twice in my whole Life.

Once was, when he had many Thousands of Spectators as well as my self, but I cannot imagine that at that time he took the least Notice of any of us; he seem'd to me to have no other Concern than to get off from his Stand with as little Detriment as possible to his own Person.

The other time of my seeing him was upon this Occasion: There was a Statute for the discharging of Bankrupts upon the Certificate of the Commissioners, that they had fairly deliver'd up their whole Estates and Effects to the Commissioners, for the Benefit of their Creditors. Mr. Daniel Fe had a mighty Mind to obtain his Liberty by this Statute, that is, he had a Mind to get rid of his Creditors, without paying any one of his Debts. He came to me for my Opinion, and upon the Representation of his Case, I remember I told him that the Statute would not give him any Relief, and that if I my self were to be a Commissioner, I could not sign his Discharge, even though he should make the fairest Confession of his Estate, and conceal no part of it from his Creditors. This gave me Occasion to take particular Notice of his Person. But I believe I should not know him now, if I were to meet him in the Streets.

I believe however he may very well call me his Friend for my Advice; for I have heard that he af-

terwards procur'd a Commission of Bankrupt to be taken out against him, and such Gentlemen to be appointed for his Commissioners, that were of Opinion he was capable of Relief by that Statute, if he made a full Confession of his whole Estate, and surrender'd every part of it to his Creditors. But then I have heard too that his Confession was so deficient, that the very Commissioners he lik'd so much better than my self, would not give him any Certificate for his Discharge. I believe therefore that my Advice was very good, and that for this reason only he has a Title to call me his Friend.

Whether Mr. Dan. Fe made an honest and fair Confession of his whole Estate to the Commissioners, and conceal'd nothing from his Creditors, is not my Business to examine. But one thing I have heard that is very unaccountable, and it is this; that this Person was in Execution for a Debt of 1400 or 1500 Pounds Principal and Interest, to a Gentleman of *Yarmouth*; I have heard too that he was taken up by an Escape Warrant, upon which by a late Statute, he was to be carried to the next Goal, and made a close Prisoner, that he might no longer have the Liberty of the Rules of the Fleet or the Queen's-Bench. And if my Information is right, the whole Debt was paid the next Morning.

I must here ask him if this whole Sum was in his Possession when he was examin'd by the Commissioners, and why it was not surrender'd to his Creditors? And if it was not, I must ask whether it has been acquired by his writing of Mercators? If this last is the very Case, every one of his Readers will believe that he has been very well paid for his Service, and that the Sum of 1400 or 1500 Pounds, is worth all the Mercators that have been published. The Persons who would reward such an Advocate at such a Price, must needs be in very great Want of the Bill of Commerce.

I am,

S I R, &c.

I must here acknowledge that the foregoing Letter is of no other use in the present Dispute between the *Mercator* and my self, than to take off the Credit of every Argument in the former, which depends upon the Authority of *Mt. Dam. Fac.* But the Letter which follows, is an Answer to his Replies upon the Argument in my 17th, for supporting the OLD SCHEME, and may serve as a Preparatory for the farther Defence I intend to make of that SCHEME.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,
YOU offer the *Mercator* in several of his late Papers, to go triumphing on with his Answer to the Letter in your No. 17. written in Defence of the OLD SCHEME. And since the Author of that excellent Letter has not yet thought fit to reply, I have presumed to send you my own Thoughts upon the Answer, which if they shall not fully satisfy your Readers, may at least prepare them to expect from that Author, such a Defence of the SCHEME, as shall never be replied to by your Adversary.

It is pity to abridge that excellent Letter, but if I should not begin with the Substance of it, I shall hardly make my self intelligible to your Readers.

The OLD SCHEME subscribed by the most eminent of the French Merchants in 1674, gives the Parcels of the Woollen Manufactures exported to *France* in 1668-9, from the Port of *London*, with a Valuation of the Particulars, and makes the whole amount to no more than 61,546 *l.*

The Report from the Commissioners of the Customs mentioned in the *Mercator*, No. 51, which was laid before the last Parliament, and pretended to be taken from the Entries, makes the Parcels of Woollen Manufactures exported in that Year, to be much greater than those in the SCHEME; so that according to the Valuation of the Particulars in the SCHEME, the whole value exported by the Report, must have been 91,396 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.*

From the difference of the Quantities in the SCHEME, and the Report of the Commissioners, the *Mercator* argued that the former must have been false, and gave this as one of his Mortal Stabs to the SCHEME.

The Author of the abovemention'd Letter sign'd *J. K.* undertakes the Cure of this Wound, and defends the SCHEME, not by the Authority of the Inspector-General of the Customs, but by a Fact he has cited from his Report, which was this, that the whole Woollen Manufactures exported that Year to *France* from the Port of *London*, amounted to no more than 68,521 *l.* 17 *s.* which is 24,874 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.* short of the Value exported, according to the Report of the Commissioners of the Customs, and but a very inconsiderable Sum more than the Value exported by the SCHEME.

Hence the Letter argues, that the Parcels in the SCHEME, and the Inspector-General's Report, might very well be the same, though a little overval'd by the latter, but that the Parcels could not be the same in the Report of the Inspector-General, and that of the Commissioners of the Customs, since the Value of the latter is 24,874 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.* more than that of the Inspector-General.

The Question then is, which is more to be believed, the Inspector-General, or the Commissioners of the Customs?

Not to mention here, that the former was upon his Oath, he affirms, that he has taken his Value from a Manuscript remaining in the Custom-house, which appeared to him to have been an Authentick Copy of what had been offer'd heretofore to a House of Commons; and this Manuscript he affirms was all the Light he was able to gain into the Transactions of past Times relating to the Exports and Imports between *France* and *England*.

The Inspector-General made his Report after the first Session of the last Parliament; and if his Manuscript was all the Light he was then able to gain into the Transactions of the abovemention'd Year, it is plain there could not be any of those Entries at the Custom-house, from whence the Commissioners of the Customs have made a Report of the Exports of our Woollen Manufactures so different from those

of that Manuscript. Whence the Letter very justly argues, that the Manuscript must have been the right, and the Commissioners Report a wrong Account of the Exports of that Year.

And hence it will follow, that the Manuscript and the SCHEME, which may very well agree in the Quantities of our Exports, though they differ a little in the Valuations, may be the same thing; and that the SCHEME is a more Authentick Account, and much more to be depended on, than the Report of the Commissioners of the Customs.

Now to this what Answer has the *Mercator* yet given? Why, he says, No. 96, that the Inspector-General says of the SCHEME, that it was maliciously made up of by some that had a Mind to defame and disturb the Government, but that the Trade to *France* was a beneficial Trade to this Nation. In No. 97. That *Silvers* have been heretofore sold before the Parliament, which to enhance the Over-balance of the French Trade against *England*, have valued their Wines at 36 *l.* per Ton, and Brandies at 45 *l.* per Ton; when according to the Judgment of experienced Merchants, they were not worth above 8 or 9 *l.* per Ton. And in 98. That the great Coinage of Gold and Silver in the Mint, from 1650 to 1688, is a Demonstration, that we could not lose 5 Million Sterling per An. by the French Trade, since our Trade to *Spain* was never able to repay such a Sum. And from hence the *Mercator* concludes, that the OLD SCHEME is condemn'd, and the French Trade prov'd to be beneficial, by the Authority of the Inspector-General, a Witness of your own calling.

I cannot but observe here in the first Place, that the Inspector-General is not cited in the above-mentioned Letter as a Witness for the OLD SCHEME, or against the French Trade for sake of his Opinion or Authority, but for the Evidence of a Fact, of which he could not but have sufficient Knowledge, and which is inconsistent with the Report of the Commissioners of the Customs, and an Answer to one of the *Mercator's* chief Arguments against the OLD SCHEME.

He may be a good Witness of a Fact, yet for his Opinion, it may be no better than another Man's. For Example, in Pag. 46, of his Report, he says, that in the Year 1665, our Imports from all the World exceeded our Exports in 1,991,207 *l.* 14 *s.* And in the Year 1668, our Imports exceeded our Exports in 2,132,864 *l.* 18 *s.* Now he is very likely to be a good Witness of these Facts, because he is Inspector-General; but then he goes on to say, that in those Years no Man in his right Senses will deny that we carried on a profitable Traffick. This is his Opinion. But I must affirm, that such a profitable Traffick for many Years together, must have been the Ruin of this Nation.

Again, if the *Mercator* should acknowledge that he is a Bankrupt, or that he has stood in the Pillory for Scandal against the Church of *England*, I should believe him: But his Authority, or Opinion concerning Trade and Schemes of Trade, is good for nothing.

The Witness you have called was not Dr. Dowling the Inspector-General, but the Manuscript cited in his Report; and has the *Mercator* any where destroyed the Validity of that Manuscript? Yet as long as that shall be right, the Report of the Commissioners of the Customs must be wrong.

But for the OLD SCHEME's being made or used to defame the Government, what Witness has the Dr. for any such thing? By what Argument has he proved the French Trade to be beneficial to this Nation? As for the Valuation of Wines at 36 *l.* or Brandies at 45 *l.* per Ton, it is not the Valuation of the SCHEME. But he or the *Mercator* are desired to produce the Authority or Invoices of Merchants for the Valuation of 8 or 9 *l.* per Ton. And lastly, as for the Coinage in the Mint, we might very well lose a Million yearly by our Trade to *France*, and yet regain not only that Sum, but also enough to supply our Mint from *Spain* and other Countries; but this does by no means prove that the French Trade was beneficial, that the OLD SCHEME was false, or the Dr's Manuscript to be wrong, or the Report of the Commissioners to be right.

I am, S I R, Yours,



The British Merchant;

OR;

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

An *Edict* of the French King's concerning Some Observations concerning that *Edict*.
Bays and Perpetuans.

From TUESDAY, January 12. to FRIDAY, January 15. 1714.

THE Subject of this Day's *British Merchant* shall be an Arrest or *Edict* of his Most Christian Majesty's Council, taken from a Book lately publish'd in English, entituled, *The French Book of Rates*, Pag. 403. with some Observations of my own upon that Arrest.

Arrest of the King's Council, ordaining that the Stuffs called Bays, Perpetuans, &c. of the Manufacture which are sent to Italy shall pay but 30 Sols per 100 Weights.

October 23. 1703.

THE King having by Arrest of Council of the 14th of July last, for the Reasons there explained, regulated the Duties upon the Exportation of Stuffs called Bays, Perpetuans, &c. which are sent into Italy any way whatsoever, at 10 Sols per 100; and his Majesty being informed that there is a very considerable Quantity of the said Goods consumed in

Italy of the Manufacture of England, and that it will be very advantageous to the Manufactures of the Kingdom to fix the Duties of Exportation, so as that the Merchants may be able to furnish Italy with the said Stuffs at the same Price as the Manufacturers of England do; WHICH HIS MAJESTY BEING WILLING TO GRANT, and to encourage A TRADE WHICH IS SO ADVANTAGEOUS TO HIS SUBJECTS, has therefore ORDAINED, and does hereby ORDAIN, That the said Stuffs called Bays, Perpetuans, &c. of the Manufactures of this Kingdom, which are sent into Italy by any Way whatsoever, shall pay but 30 Sols per 100 Weight, instead of all the Duties which they used to pay; and the said Stuffs shall be exempted and discharged from paying the Duties of the Custom-house of Lyons, and the Duties of the Custom-house of Valence, and the Customs of *Bejoux*, and from all other Duties, as

Ortois,

of Oatmeal, Peas, and Passages, which were levied
 to his Majesty's Use, or to the Use of particular
 Lords, Cities, and Communities, as well for their
 Importation and Passage as for their Exportation out
 of the Provinces of the Kingdom by Land or Water,
 without Prejudice nevertheless to the Transire grant-
 ed upon the Merchandizes sold in the Fairs of Lyons,
 Bourdeaux, and Troyes, his Majesty forbidding the
 Farmers to levy any higher Duties upon the said
 Stuffs upon Pain of restoring double, and all Charges,
 Damages, and Interests.

Domeat Fountainbleau, Octob. 23. 1703:



Signed
 PHILIPPEAUX.

The *Mercator* has been so eloquent upon the
 Dogg-hair Broad-cloth, the Unshorn Dozens, the
 Cabbage-net Bays, and other sorry Woollen Manu-
 factures of the French Nation, that I was almost
 tempted to believe there were no Sheep in France,
 or that their Sheep did not bear Fleeces, or that
 the People did not know how to work up the
 Wooll; so that, let the Duties be ever so high in
 the Country, yet they would be obliged to buy our
 Woollen Manufactures. But of all things in the
 World I should not have suspected that they would
 pretend to vie with us in other Markets, that they
 could have the least Hopes of carrying their Bays or
 Perpetuanas with any Success into Italy, or that
 any of them could be sold there in the Presence of the
 English Manufactures.

I was perfectly amazed when I came to read over
 the above Edict of his Most Christian Majesty. What?
 the Merchants of France represent to their Prince,
 that they should be able to sell Bays and Perpetuanas
 in Italy at as low a Price as the English Manufactures?
 And this too without taking off the whole Duties
 of Exportation? Nay, tho' 30 Sols per 100 Weight
 should be still left upon these exported Manufactures?

All the Duties of Exportation upon our Woollen
 Goods were taken off long before this Edict, and yet
 are we not able to sell our Bays and Perpetuanas,
 though all the Duties are taken off, cheaper than the
 French Merchants, though a Duty of 30 Sols per 100
 Weight is still left upon them. This was all the
 French Merchants desired to enable them to cope
 with England in the Italian Markets, and the Prince
 has granted what was desired by his Subjects.

If their Bays and Perpetuanas are as cheap with a
 Duty of 30 Sols per 100 Weight, as ours without any
 Duty at all, what if his most Christian Majesty should
 remit even these 30 Sols? Why then we shall not
 be able to export either Bays or Perpetuanas to the
 same Market, without giving a Bounty at Exportation
 as we do in the Case of Corn.

The King acknowledges that the Trade of sending
 their own Bays and Perpetuanas to Italy, even when
 this Edict was made, was already advantageous to his
 Subjects. What then must we think was the Conse-
 quence of this Edict, and the discharging all those bur-
 thensome Oatmeal, Peas, and Passages, besides the
 Port Duties, and reducing the whole to 30 Sols per 100
 Weight, not above one fourth part of their whole Va-
 lue? There is no doubt but their Exportations to Italy,
 if they were before so very advantageous to the French
 Nation, must needs be very much increased.

It is in vain for the *Mercator* to talk, as he often does,

of the Quality of our English Manufactures, and their
 being so very preferable to those of France: If the latter
 can be sold as cheap, it is plain that the Quality, as
 well as Quantity, is considered by the Buyer.

The *Mercator* often calls the Woollen Manufacture
 our Manufacture, our own Manufacture, the English
 Manufacture, as if Wooll was not the Growth of any
 other Country, or as if the People of other Countries
 did not know how to work it up. And Mr. Des. Fe-
 in's late Treatise, has assisted very largely upon the
 inimitable Spinners of England. This Edict is a full
 Confutation of their fine Doctrines; they have Wooll
 in France, they have Spinners in France; so that besides
 supplying their own Country, they are able to vie
 with us in Foreign Markets.

Another thing is remarkable, which is, that this E-
 dict of 1703, is particularly levelled against England.
 It was made on purpose that his Subjects might be able
 to sell their Woollen Manufactures as cheap as the En-
 glish can sell theirs in Italy: And if they can sell as
 cheap in Italy, will they not be able to sell as cheap
 in every other Country? If France is able to sell their
 Woollen Manufactures as cheap as we to Foreign
 Countries, can we hope to sell any of ours to France,
 under the extravagant Duties of the Tariff of 1699,
 which are to be the Duties by our late Treaty: If
 France had granted us the Tariff of 1664, for our Wool-
 len Manufactures, which are exorbitant enough; nay,
 if she had granted us the Liberty of importing our
 Woollen Manufactures free of all manner of Du-
 ties, yet we could not find any to that Country. Their
 making these Manufactures so very cheap, that even
 with a Duty of Exportation they can be sold at the
 same Market with ours, is a Demonstration that they
 can make them cheaper for the use of their own Peo-
 ple, and that we are not able to send an Ounce of ma-
 nufactured Wooll to France.

The *Mercator's* Objection here will be, That we have
 formerly sent considerable Quantities into France, un-
 der higher Duties than those of the Tariff of 1664, as
 appears by the Exports of 1685, which have been prin-
 ted.

All this is very true, but all this is no Argument
 that we shall be able to do the same thing now. Their
 Woollen Manufacture was then but in its Infancy,
 they have been labouring at it ever since, and 30
 Years may very well be thought a sufficient time to
 advance into very great Perfection. And his most
 Christian Majesty has contributed very much to this
 Perfection, by prohibiting or loading with high Du-
 ties, all Foreign Manufactures, and even by lessening
 the Duties upon those of his own Subjects, as appears
 by the Edict which stands at the Beginning of this
 Paper: Such Encouragements from the Prince, and
 so great a length of Time, cannot chuse but be suffi-
 cient to make them Artificers; and they have all neces-
 sary Materials for the Manufacture of the Growth of
 their own Country, or from the Dominions of King
 Philip, the Grandson of his most Christian Majesty.

We bought heretofore our Woollen Cloths from the
 Flemings, Time and Application have brought us
 since to as great Perfection in this Manufacture as any
 People in the World. And should we buy any Wool-
 len Cloths from *Flanders* now, if we were to admit
 them clear of Duties? There is as little reason to be-
 lieve that we can sell either Bays or Perpetuanas to
 the French Nation. But the Edict of 1703, is a De-
 monstration that they are able to vie with us at other
 Markets, and are therefore certainly able to undersell
 us at their own.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the Importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide *Prohibition Act*. 30. Car. II.

The Interest of Merchants ought not to be considered in Treaties of Commerce so much as that of the Landholders and Manufacturers. Merchants may enrich themselves by impoverishing

their Country. We are not enabled to export any Fish to France by our late Treaty.

From FRIDAY, January 15. to TUESDAY, January 19. 1714.

TH O' in Opposition to the *Mercator* I have set out with the Title of *British Merchant*, and have continued it ever since, yet the Interest of the Merchants, is the thing that I have least of all considered in my Reflections upon the late Treaty of Commerce, or upon the Bill for rendering that Treaty effectual.

The Merchant may have a distinct Interest from that of his Country, he may thrive by a Trade which shall prove his Ruin; for Example, Suppose a hundred *French Merchants* were to export annually the Value of a Million Sterling in Bullion for *French Wines, Brandy, Linnens, Silk, Paper,* and other Manufactures of that Nation, all for the Consumption of this Kingdom; or, which is the same thing, suppose they should pay for such a Value of Goods by Bills of Exchange, by which the Receipt of so great a Balance from other Countries would be prevented; it cannot be deny'd that such a Trade as this would be very ruinous, that it must exhaust our Treasures, and lessen the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures. And yet even by such a Trade the Merchants themselves may grow very rich, they may sell the Manufactures they import for a hundred thousand Pounds more than they cost, they may share this hundred thousand Pounds among themselves; yet from whom do they gain this Sum? Not from *France*, but from their own Countrymen, who buy their Goods; let their Gain be what it will, yet still, by this Supposition, *Britain* loses a Million yearly to the *French Nation*, and their Manufactures of so great a Value are imported here, and sold at the same Markets with our own, which cannot chuse but diminish to the like Value the Product of our own Lands, and the Manufactures of our own People. For this Reason I have never had the least Regard to the Interest of the Merchants, unless that Interest of theirs shall be also consistent with the Interest of the Kingdom.

The Case will be the same in a greater or less degree, as the Quantities of Bullion exported, or the Sums remitted abroad are greater or less; and as the

Manufactures imported for our own Consumption are more or less. The Nation in every such Case, loses all the Balance that is paid abroad. The Merchants who export the Bullion, or remit the Money, may perhaps gain the tenth part of that Sum; but they do not gain it from the Country with which they trade in this manner. Their whole Gain is shuffled to them out of the Pockets of their own Countrymen, from the Landholders and the Labourers; and thus in the mean time lose perhaps ten times as great a Value of their Product and Manufactures by the Payment of so great a Balance to a Foreign Nation.

Our Legislators therefore have had the Wisdom in every Age to guard the Nation from this detrimental Gain of the Merchants. The many Prohibitions, and high Duties laid upon *East-India* Manufactures, are so many Evidences of this Matter. There can be no doubt but our Merchants have gain'd incredible Sums heretofore for themselves, by sending out our Bullion to the *East-Indies*, and by returning such Manufactures thence as were thought to interfere with those of our own Nation. But the particular Gain of those Merchants was no Invitation to our Legislators to let them go on, and therefore from time to time they made Laws to lessen the Consumption of *East-India* Manufactures in this Kingdom, some they totally prohibited, others they charg'd with such Duties as render'd them very little cheaper than those of our own People; so that now our *East-India* Company must derive almost their whole Gain from the Manufactures which are re-exported, and consum'd by Foreign Nations, very little is gotten by the Consumption of any of them in our own.

And yet I very much question whether it ever could be objected against the Trade to the *East-Indies*, as has very justly been against that of *France*, that it exhausted our Treasures, or lessened the Value of the Native Commodities and Manufactures of this Kingdom. As for our Treasure, it is notorious that we always re-exported as many *East-India* Manufactures as equal'd the whole Cost of our Importations, by which means we were repaid the

the Sums we sent abroad; so that our Treasure could not be said to be exhausted by this Trade. And then as to the lessening the Value of our own Commodities and Manufactures, the Wrought Silks and Calicoes of that Country could not very much prejudice our Woollen Manufactures; and for the Silks and Linens wrought in England, they were formerly but inconsiderable; they are risen up of late Years to be such mighty Manufactures; they are worse chiefly since the Prohibitions upon those of France and the East-Indies.

But the Case of the French Trade was very different: The Wines, Brandies, Silks, Linnen, Paper, innumerable other Goods imported from that Nation, were all consumed by our own People. I would desire the Mercator to shew me that any of these Goods were ever re-exported to other Nations. If he is not able to do this, it will follow, that if our Merchants paid France a Balance, so much of our Treasure was exhausted; they might perhaps gain Estates to themselves, but it was by carrying on a Trade that was detrimental to their Country. The Estates they gain'd, they gain'd from their own Countrymen, the Nation paid very dear for the Acquisitions of those Merchants, and perhaps ten times as much as the whole Value of their Acquisitions.

Again, as to the lessening the value of our native Commodities and Manufactures, I have already observed that some of the Goods imported from France, were us'd to be re-exported, they were all consumed by our own People; and then must not this take off from the Value of our own at the same Market? Would it be possible to import great Quantities of Wine from France, without lessening in proportion the Consumption of our own Malt, or at least of the Wines we buy from Italy and Portugal for our Manufactures, which otherwise we should not send in such Quantities to those Countries? and then must not these French Wines, if they are no otherwise to be purchased than with our Money, lessen the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures? And must not the same thing be said of Brandies, Linnen, Silk and Paper, if any considerable Quantities of them should be imported? Should we consume as much of our own Spirits as we did before, and yet increase our Consumption of French Brandies? Should we make still as many Silks, as much Linnen and Paper, and yet at the same time increase our Importation of these things from France? And if we are to purchase all these things with our Money, and not with equivalent Manufactures, is it possible that the value of our own native Commodities and Manufactures should not be lessened with their Consumption? And yet perhaps the Merchants who imports these Goods may grow Rich; He may get a great Estate for himself by lessening the Value of the Product of our Land, and when he has done, he may purchase so many more Farms for his Money; He may drive our People from their Manufactures, and when he has done, he may hire them to be his Servants or less Wages. Whosoever therefore was the Gain of our Merchants, our Legislators in the Reign of King Charles the II. did not think this a sufficient Argument for the Continuance of the French Trade; they thought the Merchants Gain was vastly overbalanc'd by the Loss of the Nation's Treasure, and by the Impoverishment of our Land-holders and our Labourers, and for this reason they prohibited the whole Trade for *enriching our Treasure and lessening the value of our native Commodities and Manufactures.*

The Mercator in one of his late Papers appeals to the Merchants upon the Exchange, whether they are Losers by the Spanish Trade; but what is all this to his Purpose? If they have made great Gain for themselves, is this any manner of proof that the Kingdom has been also a Gainer? Does it prove that we sell more Manufactures to Spain, than Spain does to us; or that we receive a Balance in Money from that Country? If this is not the Case, our Spanish Merchants may grow Rich by selling the Treasure of their Native Country, but poor England in the mean time must pay very dear for their Riches. The same thing may be said of our Merchants that traded formerly to France, but I cannot have the least Suspicion that our present Legislators will not follow the Steps of their wise Predecessors, and consider not so much the Interest of the Merchant, as that of the Land-holders and the Labourers, and indeed of the whole Nation. Without doubt they will take sufficient care that it shall not be in the Power of France to gain a Balance from this Kingdom, that it shall not be hereafter in her Power to sell us more Manufactures than she takes from us; but they will never be able to prevent

her doing this, if the 8th and 9th Articles of the late Treaty should be made effectual.

By passing a Law for this purpose France would be as much favoured here, as every other Nation the most favoured. And should we not then from fear a Country, and where the People are oblig'd by very Poverty to work cheaper than they do in other places, import much greater Quantities of Wines, and Linnen, and Silks, and Paper, than we either produce our selves or import from Italy, Portugal or Germany in exchange for our Manufactures? And would not there be an End in this Case of so many of our own Manufactures which we either make for our own Use, or to exchange with those Countries? Certainly so much of the Value of our own Product and Manufactures must be lost, unless it shall be affirmed, that we shall sell as many to France, as we made for our selves and those other Countries.

But this the Mercator says we shall be oblig'd to do by the help of the late Treaty, (when it shall be made effectual) and upon the Tariff of 1664 which, says he, is fully restor'd to us by that Treaty. The Tariff of 1664 is often brought to our Remembrance, as if we were now to be under no other Duties or Prohibitions than during the time of that Tariff. But God knows by the late Treaty we are to have very little or almost nothing of that Tariff.

In the first place, that Tariff is not granted to the foreign Goods re-exported from this Kingdom, as I have shewn at large in former Papers. These were heretofore one half of our whole Exports, but the French King may now prohibit them or charge them with high Duties, notwithstanding and without any Violation of the late Treaty.

In the next place, at least one half of all the other Goods we usually sent to France, were our Woollen Manufactures as I have expressly shewn: These are put under the hard Tariff of 1699, and under such other Restrictions, as shew plainly the Kings Resolution that he shall send none of these Manufactures to his Dominions; and yet the French are so improved in these Manufactures of late years, that if we were to have the Tariff of 1664, or to pay no Duties in that Country, yet we could send none to France.

Thus in these two Articles of Foreign Goods, and Woollen Manufactures we have not the Tariff of 1664, but lest every thing else is excepted from the general Rule of that Tariff of which we might hope to export any considerable Quantity. To leave other Articles to another time; I shall instance at present in that of Fish.

Fish, is one of the Species of excepted Goods, which by the subsequent Articles, as well as Woollen Manufactures, is put under very heavy Duties, and with such Restrictions as besides the heavy Duties, shew that France is fully determined that none at all shall be imported from this Country.

The Council of Trade here propos'd Additional Articles to be added to a Project of a Treaty of Commerce with France, as follows:

THE Most Christian King does further promise, That from henceforth all Cod, Ling, or halibut or salted Herrings, Salmon, and all Fish whatsoever dry or wet, may be freely imported from the Dominions, and by the Subjects of Great-Britain in British Ships, into the Territories of France, without being liable to re-packing, notwithstanding any Edicts, Arrests, or Orders to the contrary; and that you shall not be oblig'd to pay any higher Duties than what were established by the Tariff of 1664, and also that the said British Subjects shall have Liberty to sell the Fish by them so imported to whatever Buyer they please.

The Most Christian King does likewise promise, That from henceforth the British Merchants shall have the like Allowance upon Tare on Cask and Packing of Goods in France, as is allow'd to French Merchants in Great-Britain.

These Articles his most Christian Majesty rejected, instead of which, he has given us an Exception for our Fish in the body of the Treaty; and in the Articles sign'd a Month afterwards, he is pleas'd to grant us Liberty to import Fish into his Countries, but under such Duties, and with such Limitations and Restrictions, as plainly shew that he wants none at all from us, and that he knows very well what use to make of GREAT-BRITAIN, which has been granted him by a late Treaty.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Clause for appointing Commissioners, no Relief to us against the Exceptions in the Treaty of Commerce.

Fish excepted in the Body of the Treaty, from the Goods we are to export to France, and we are not enabled to export it by the subsequent Articles.

A Comparison of the Duties upon Fish by the Tariff of 1664, with those Duties and Restrictions by the Articles subsequent to the late Treaty.

A Letter in Defence of the Letter in British Merchant, No. 45. concerning the Spanish Trade.

From TUESDAY, January 19. to FRIDAY, January 22. 1714.

AMong the many false Arguments made use of to reconcile the People to the Treaty of Commerce, in my Opinion the most barefaced of all is, that all Prohibitions laid in France since the Year 1664, upon Goods and Merchandizes exported from Great Britain are taken off, that all high Duties there upon our Goods, are reduced to the easy Tariff of the above-mentioned Year, and that we shall of Consequence make prodigious Exports to that Kingdom.

The Treaty of Commerce is so far from granting us this general Repeal of Prohibitions and high Duties, that all Foreign Goods stand charged still as they did before, and may be yet farther charged at the Discretion of his most Christian Majesty, without any Violation of the late Treaty; and Foreign Goods were a very great part of our whole Exports to that Kingdom.

The Treaty of Commerce has not granted us the Tariff of 1664, (though a very exorbitant one) for our Woollen Manufactures. This, though the staple Commodity of this Nation, is expressly excepted from the general Rule of that Tariff. Indeed by the Treaty Commissioners are to be appointed on both Sides, to consider of the Terms upon which Woollen Manufactures, Fish, and other excepted Goods shall be admitted. But till the Commissioners appointed by his most Christian Majesty shall have his leave to agree upon any such Terms, the Exception is absolute, and

he might load these Goods with as high Duties as he thought fit, without any Violation of the Treaty.

It is true, his most Christian Majesty by subsequent Articles dated a Month after, and consequently no part of that Treaty, has given us a Permission to import three sorts of Woollen Manufactures into his Dominions, (which I take it does comprehend almost every one) but under such extravagant Duties at such Ports only, and under such Restrictions, as plainly demonstrate his Intention that we shall send none of them into France. The Truth of it is, the very Form of the Permission granted us in these subsequent Articles, looks rather like a Ridicule upon the British Nation, than a Permission to introduce our Woollen Manufactures into his Countries. Our Woollen Manufactures were usually heretofore one third part of our whole Exports to France; but we have not the least hopes of sending any now under the Articles subsequent to the late Treaty. This Article, and that of Foreign Goods were heretofore above three fourths of our whole Exports, we have not the Tariff of 1664 for these Goods, we should export but very few of them, even though we had that Tariff, but without it we have not the least hopes of exporting any.

Of the remaining Goods which we exported heretofore under the Tariff of 1664, the Fish from England, but especially from Scotland, was a very considerable Part. But this too is well as our Woollen Manufactures,

tures, is excepted in the Body of the late Treaty, from the general Rule of paying according to that Tariff, and is reserved for the Commissioners to be appointed on both sides, to consider upon what Terms they shall be imported into France. This is the strictest Contrivance in the World to exclude the Importation of these excepted Goods, without giving any colour of Complaint to the British Nation. For can we have the least reason to be offended with his most Christian Majesty, if the Commissioners appointed on his part should refuse to admit these Goods upon any Terms or Conditions whatsoever? For my own part, I should not think they very much consulted the Interest of their Master or his Subjects, if they should admit any of them, without the offer of some new Equivalent on our Part, besides the Advantages already secured to them by this Treaty. I believe therefore that no Man in his right Senses, can think that Commissioners will be appointed by France for any other purpose than as a Shooing Horn to draw on the Bill of Commerce, to amuse the Nation, and grant us nothing. So that we have absolutely granted France what she wants by this Treaty, in lieu of which she has condescended to grant us the Liberty of importing the excepted Species of Goods and Merchandises, when Commissioners appointed by her shall agree with the Commissioners appointed on the Part of Great Britain upon what Conditions. Upon the whole Matter, notwithstanding the Clause of Commissioners for adjusting the Differences between the two Nations, the Goods excepted by the Body of the Treaty were absolutely excepted, and France was at full Liberty to load every one of them with as high Duties as she pleased, without any Violation of the Treaty.

But in the subsequent Articles dated a Month after, she has condescended to explain her Meaning concerning the Article of Fish, as much to our Advantage as she has done that the Woollen Manufactures; that is, that we shall import the one no more than the other into that Country. For indeed the subsequent Articles in every Case of the excepted Goods, instead of an Allowance, are in effect a downright Prohibition of those Goods.

This will be apparent in the Case of Fish, by a Comparison of the Liberty we had to import that Commodity into France under the Tariff of 1664, with the Duties and Restrictions laid upon it by the Articles made and executed after the late Treaty.

By the Tariff of 1664, the Case of Fish imported into France stood thus,

Herrings per Last of 12 Barrels, paid	55 Livres
Ditto white per Last of 12 Barrels, paid	56
Salmon per Last of 12 Barrels, paid	6
Codfish dry per M.	8
Ditto green per M.	3

But the third of these subsequent Articles is in the following Words, viz. "Salt Fish in Barrels only is to be imported into the Kingdom, Countries, and Territories under the Dominion of the King; and at all Places of Entrance into the Kingdom, Countries, and Territories under the Dominion of the King, even at all free Ports, the Duties of Loading and Consumption shall be paid, which were appointed before the Tariff of 1664; and besides 40 Livres per Last, consisting of 12 Barrels, weighing each 300 l. for the Duty of Entry; which Entry shall not be permitted, but by St. Valery upon the Somme, Rouen, Nantes, Leburne, and Bourdeaux, and shall remain prohibited at all other Harbours or Ports, as well in the Ocean as in the Mediterranean."

Can any Man read this Article, without some sort of Indignation? Has His Most Christian Majesty granted this to facilitate our Importation of Fish into all Places in his Dominions? Is not the whole Article a Demonstration of that Prince's Resolution, that his Subjects shall eat no Fish, but of their own catching and curing?

Fish for the Duties: 55 or 56 Livres upon the Last of Herrings, by the Tariff of 1664, that was almost 2. for every Barrel. Herrings would be valued high enough at 15 s. per Barrel; and then the Duty, even by that Tariff, was about 14 per Cent. of the whole Value. And 200 Fish, of which almost the whole Cost is paid to the Labour of the People, bear a higher Duty? And yet, as if this was not sufficient, forty Livres are laid on the Last of 12 Barrels by the above-mentioned Article; that is, 5 s. 10 to every Barrel. And 200 Herrings to appropriated to this Island, or to wanted in France, as to be able to bear both this Last, as also the Duties, whatsoever they are (doublet high enough) of Landing and Consumption? which is about 35 per Cent.

Can Salmon, of which we did not export very great Quantities before, under the old Duty of 6 Livres per Last, bear a Load of 40 Livres, which is laid upon it by the above-mentioned Article?

But the most extravagant part of the Story, and which shews that France understands perfectly well, what is given up to them in *Cape Brit.* is still behind. And that is that Cod fish, which were formerly imported into that Country by Tale, and paid from three Livres, to eight Livres ten Sols per M. must be hereafter imported in Barrels, or not at all, and pay 40 Livres per Last, that is 5 s. per Barrel, a Duty equal to almost the whole Value of that Fish. And then, as for the Espence of Cask, which is imposed upon us, while their Newfoundland Fishermen may import their own in Bulk, and save this Expence, it is equal to almost half the Value of the whole Commodity. If his Majesty had made it high Treason for any British to import Cod-fish into his Countries, he could hardly keep them out more effectually than he will be able to do by this Article. *O Cape Britum! Cape Britum!*

And yet, as if all this were not sufficient, our Importation of salted Fish is confin'd to five Ports only, and these all in the Ocean, without any Port in the Mediterranean. But yet there may be some such Fools as will believe that this was done, as in the Case of our Woollen Manufactures, to facilitate our Commerce; And for the very same Reason, no doubt, the Judicious Proposal of our Council of Trade (recited in my last) was rejected by France, and this wonderful kind Article given us in its stead.

I believe I have here essentially answered the Mercator's pretended Scotch Letters of the great Disappointment to that Nation, by the rejecting the Bill of Commerce, and depriving them of the Means of exporting their salted Fish to France. I have effectually prov'd that the Bill of Commerce, if this Article is a part of it, is a Prohibition of that Commodity.

I desire now the Mercator will inform his Readers, of what sort of Goods we shall be able to send any considerable Quantities to France, since the Tariff of 1664 is not granted to Goods imported here from foreign Countries, nor to our Fish, nor Woollen Manufactures, since all these are either prohibited there, or admitted only with such Duties, and under such Restrictions and Limitations as amount to Prohibitions. If this is the Case of all the above-mentioned Goods, I desire the Mercator will tell us of what sorts of Merchandizes we shall be able to export any greater Quantities than we do already without his Bill of Commerce, that he will tell us, if he can, what Sorts of Goods are to amount to 6 or 700,000 l. which, he says in his Yesterday's Paper, would be the Value of our Exports, if the Treaty of Commerce were made effectual.

One thing I think I ought not to pass over without Notice, which is, that his Majesty has in a Manner disannoy'd his very free Ports in the Ocean, by this Article, on purpose to exclude our Fish, since even at the very free Ports, the Duties of Landing and Consumption must be paid, as well as the exorbitant Duty of 40 Livres per Last. But even with all these Duties, he has not thought fit to allow us any Port in the Mediterranean.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to
The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the Importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, Salt, and Paper, and other Commodities, of the Growth, Pro- duct, 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.

Vide *Prohibition Act. 30. Car. II.*

Persons good Witnesses of Facts. But their Opinions ought never to prevail against Reason. Our Legislators good Witnesses of the Facts mention'd in the Preamble, and no Custom-house Accounts which can be now produc'd, sufficient to

overthrow their Evidence. The Petition of the People of Lyme-Regis. What Allegations in it good, and what not. Their Petition not granted, though the Mercator says it is.

From FRIDAY, January 22. to TUESDAY, January 26. 1714.

I Have ever consider'd the Authority of Persons as the lowest kind of Proof, and such as ought never to be credited against Demonstration or Probability. I believe Persons to be very proper Witnesses of *Facts*; and when I have no Reason to suspect their Fidelity, or Capacity; or that they have been imposed on or mistaken, I am ready to give Credit to their Evidence.

It is for this Reason, that I have often cited the Preamble, which stands at the Head of this Paper. The Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, in the Reign of *K. Charles II.* had better Opportunities of knowing, than we can possibly have at this time of Day, the State of the *French Trade*, as it was then carried on. No Custom-house Books could be denied to them. They had a Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records. They had a Power to send for the Records of the Custom-house, before the Court could give any Directions, or the Officers of the Customs could have time to satisfy any of their Entries. And therefore, since the Legislative Power then asserted, That the importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, and Paper, and other Commodities of the Growth, Pro- duct, or Manufactures of France, did exhaust our Treas- ure, and lessen the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures,* I am forced to believe, that vast Quantities of those Goods were imported, and such as very much over-balance our Exports to that Kingdom. The Lords and Commons had, no doubt sufficient Knowledge of the *Fact*; and if the *Fact* was true, I do not want their Assistance to reason from it; I am my self able to determine, that our Importations from *France exhausted the Treasure, and lessened the Value of the Native Commodities, and Manufactures of this Kingdom.*

The *Mercator* affirms, that the Balance of our Trade to *France* was always on the English side, that our Exports to that Nation, always exceeded their Imports thither. If so, why was not such a Balance made out to that Parliament? It is well known, that the Court, and the Ministers were not at all pleased with the Prohibition they did all these

be offer'd contrary to this Assertion of our Legislators, it would not deserve the least Credit. For I must here repeat my Questions, if there had been any such Account at the time of making that Prohibition, why was it not produced before those Legislators, in order to prevent it? Were the Court, and the Ministers at that Time, so very fond of the Prohibition? Is it not notorious, that they did all they could to oppose it? And if they could have opposed it by plain Evidence of the *Fact*, would not that Evidence have been then produced? So that, if any Custom-house Account should be offered now, contrary to this Assertion of our Legislators, it would be a very violent Presumption, that such an Account has been forged since, and that it was not then in being, when that Prohibition was made.

I am far from suspecting that any such Forgery would be attempted in the present Age, that any such Orders would be given by the present Court, or obeyed by the present Officers of the Customs. But presently after the passing of that Prohibition, might not the Court, that was then against it, use their utmost Endeavours to satisfy the Custom-house Accounts, by which it was supported. For Example, if the Exports and Imports, between *Michaelmas 1668, and Michaelmas 1669,* and the great Over-balance against us in that Year, was the chief Argument made use of for passing that Prohibition, might not the Court, then, give Orders to the Commissioners of the Customs, to take away the Old Entries, and to substitute others in their Room; making the several Quantities of exported Goods much greater, and those of Goods imported much less than were really made in that Year? Might they not do this to get rid of that Prohibition which was so very displeasing to them? And is it likely, that such Orders would not be obeyed at that time by the Officers of the Customs? The *Mercator* himself has led me to this Argument, by telling us, that *Sir Nicholas Bauler, of Flagrant Memory,* sat a little after at Board, that in discharge of the Prohibition

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any Treaty of Peace, Care may be taken to get the said Prohibition taken off, and that your Petitioners may be restored to the said Trade, and be at Liberty to import Divers, and other Goods and Commodities of the Growth and Pro- duct of this Kingdom Custom free as formerly) and that the Owners of the said cherting, never by a retreating Army.

Granted? As for the restoring of old Lodges! Miss-poo- People of Lyme! Such things might be done by a this was their Petition? or that their Decision was Granted. How was it possible for him to say that

in his right Senſes, might very juſtly argue, that a great Over-balance of ſuch Imports, muſt needs have encreaſed the Treaſure, and ſignified the Value of the Native Commodities and Manufactures of this Kingdom.

Again, in one of my former Papers, I have cited the Inſpector-General of the Cuſtoms, as a Witneſs, that there remains in the Cuſtom-houſe, a Manuſcript of the Imports and Exports between England and France, from Michaelmas 1668, to Michaelmas 1669, which I have ſhewn to be utterly inconſiſtent with an Account tranſmitted by the Commiſſioners to the laſt Parliament: I have cited him too as a Witneſs, that he was not able to gain any Light into the Tranſactions of that Year, but from the aforementioned Manuſcript. Theſe were undoubtedly Facts within the Knowledge of the Inſpector-General, and I therefore cited him as a Witneſs. But if the ſame Gentleman ſhould tell us, that in his Opinion, the Old Scheme is falſe, without alledging one ſingle Fact or Argument, to induce me to be of his Opinion; or, if he ſhould tell us, that we may import annually an Over-balance of Manufactures of two Millions more than we export, and yet be no loſers by ſuch a Traffick, I muſt aſſure the *Mercator*, I cannot yield to his Authority; I ſhould not believe ſuch Assertions of the Inſpector-General, though they were declared to be true, by all the Legiſlators of Great-Britain.

Again, if a Merchant whoſe Varcacity is not at all to be ſuſpected, ſhould tell me that he has gained a 100,000 l. by trading to France, he is the proper Judge of this Fact, and I would believe him. But if he ſhould argue hence, that therefore this is a profitable Trade to the Kingdom, even though it ſhould import upon us the value of a Million more in Manufactures than it takes from us, by which we ſhould be obliged to pay fo great a Balance, I ſhould not be moved by his Authority, let his particular Gain be ever ſo great, I ſhould believe the Nation loſt a Million by ſuch a Commerce.

Laſtly, if a whole Town ſhould repreſent that they had exported formerly to France the value of 50,000 l. per An. in Woollen Manufactures, they may be proper Evidences of this Fact, and I ſhould be ready to give them Credit. But if they ſhould argue hence, that the whole Trade with France was beneficial to this Nation, and that the Exports from the whole Kingdom exceeded their Imports, and that we conſequently received a great annual Balance from France, I muſt take leave to diſagree with this laſt part of their Repraſentation, I could not yield to their Authority. I might believe their Evidence as to Facts which are properly within their own Knowledge, but how can they be Judges for the whole Nation? Or how can they argue from the particular Gain of their own Town, to the univerſal Gain of all England? Upon this Occaſion I think my ſelf obliged to preſent my Readers with a Copy of a Repraſentation of the Mayor, &c. of *Lymo-Regis*, concerning a Prohibition of Britiſh Commodities from being imported into France, which is as follows.

To the Honourable Commiſſioners of Trade,

The humble Repraſentation and Petition of the Mayor, Burgoſſes, and Principal Inhabitants of the Town of *Lymo-Regis*, in the County of Dorſet.

Sheweth,

That the Trade to France with the Woollen Manufactures was an enriching Trade to this Nation, and was the beſt this Part of the Kingdom had for Employment of People, Shipping and Navigation; there having been yearly for ſeveral Years together ſhipped in this Port for the PROVINCE OF BRITAIN in France in Drapery, to the value of 50,000 l. Sterling and upwards; and that this Trade was enjoyed Time out of Mind, and DRAPERY was imported into the ſaid PROVINCE CUSTOM FREE till the Year 1687, in which Year, the Importation of all Woollen Manufactures whatſoever was prohibited; and afterwards ſeveral great Duties were laid on all Goods and Commodities of the Growth, Produkt or Manufacture of this Kingdom, by an Ediſt, a Copy whereof truly tranſlated from the Original is hereto annexed. And we alſo crave leave to acquaint your Honours, that a Month before the ſaid Prohibition took place, ſeveral great Quantities of Drapery to the value of 3,000 l. and upwards, which had been imported into the ſaid Province in two Ships from this Place, were ſeized and detained during all the laſt War, which were all ſpoiled. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, that in the enſu-

ing Drapery ſeized and ſpoiled, may have Satisfaction made for the ſame. And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

John Syme, Mayor. Jonas Wheatcoah.
Signed by Nicholas Nowell, and 89 others.
(Mat. Weſt.)

The People of *Lymo* without doubt are very good Witneſſes that their DRAPERY till the Year 1687, was imported into the PROVINCE OF BRITAIN, CUSTOM FREE; they were certainly able to diſtinguiſh between paying Cuſtoms, and paying none at all. This is agreeable to what I have ſaid before, that *Britany* was formerly a free Province, and as no Cuſtoms were paid there, ſo there was the chief Conſumption of our Woollen Manufactures. But as *Britany* now by the Articles ſubſequent to the late Treaty, can have our Manufactures only by the Way of other Provinces, ſo muſt receive them after they have paid the Cuſtoms of from 30 to 50 per Cent. according to the Tariff of 1699, which is to be the Rule by our late Treaty. If we exported to France any conſiderable Quantities of Woollen Manufactures where they paid no Duties at all, it is no Argument that we can export any under a heavy Load of Duties, and eſpecially now the French themſelves ſince that time are arrived at ſuch Perfection in their own Woollen Manufactures which pay very eſſie Duties.

Again, the People of *Lymo* are very good Witneſſes that the French Prohibitions of our Woollen Manufactures began in the Year 1687; this was a Fact that they could not but be well acquainted with by their own feeling. Strange! that France ſhould then prohibit our Woollen Manufactures, ſo ſoon after King James and his Parliament had obliged her by taking off our aforementioned Prohibition! But this ſhews as the Inſpector-General has ſaid, that they have all along treated us, as if the Genius of France had got a perfect Aſcendant over that of England!

Again, I believe the People of *Lymo*, when they tell us that their own Goods which were exported to France before the Prohibition were ſeized and ſpoiled, tho' the Prohibition did not take place till after their Importation. This was a Fact which they felt, and had therefore very good reaſon to remember. But I aſk, Did the French ſeize their Goods by virtue of the Prohibition? That had been ſtri to make it lawful to import thoſe Goods, and then by a Law *ex poſt facto* to condemn them. There can be no trading with ſuch a Nation.

Again, the People of *Lymo* may perhaps be good Witneſſes that they formerly exported yearly to France the value of 50,000 l. in Woollen Manufactures, tho' I am afraid they have at a venture lumped it at fo great a Sum; for this would amount to almoſt the third part of all that ever were exported to France in one Year from the whole Kingdom.

But laſtly, I can by no means allow the Evidence of the Good People of *Lymo*, when they tell us that the Trade to France with the Woollen Manufactures, was an enriching Trade to this Nation, and was the beſt that Part of the Kingdom had for Employment of People, Shipping and Navigation. For do they conclude that the whole Nation was enriched by the French Trade, becauſe the ſingle Town of *Lymo* was enriched by exporting to France the yearly Value of 50,000 l. in Woollen Manufactures? Does this prove that the Balance of the whole French Trade was on the English ſide, or that our Exports exceeded our Imports from that Country? And as for Shipping and Navigation, one ſingle Ship was ſufficient to carry at once that whole Value of Woollen Manufactures: So that if great Numbers of Ships were employed in the French Trade, they muſt have beto employed to import upon us a great Over-balance of Wines and other Goods from that Nation, perhaps to the enriching the ſiege Town of *Lymo*, but certainly to the impoveriſhing the whole Kingdom.

And now as to the Prayer of their Petition, that our Woollen Manufactures may be imported CUSTOM FREE into the Province of *Britany* as formerly, and that the Owners of the Drapery which was heretofore ſeized and ſpoiled, may be repaired of that Loſs. Alas poor People of *Lymo*! *Britany* is no longer Cuſtom free, all the Woollen Manufactures that Province is to take from *Lymo*, the muſt take under the intolerable Duties of the Tariff of 1699, that is, the Prohibition of them ſtill remains.

Yet we read in the *Mercator*, No. 3. this impudent Paſſage. *Lymo-Regis* Prays the Prohibition of Woollen Manufactures and the high Duties laid in France may be taken off, and the ſaid Goods be imported into France as formerly.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Two Letters, one being a Defence of a Letter concerning the Spanish Trade, the other concerning the Mercator's Over-valuation of our Exports. | Part of an Answer to the Mercator's Whimsies about Perpetu.

From TUESDAY, January 16. to FRIDAY, January 19. 1714.

IN my Paper, No. 49, the last of the Contents is in these Words, *A Letter in Defense of the Letter in the British Merchant, No. 45, concerning the Spanish Trade*; but because there was not room for it, I here give it my Readers, and it is as follows.

To the British Merchant.

SR, London, January 20, 1714-14.
THE Mercator hath in his Papers, No. 99 and 100, pretended to answer my Letter to you in such scurrilous Terms, that it hardly merits a Reply; for he is so very ignorant both in Trade and Facts, that he has no other recourse but to answer with Scurrility, and to call Truths Forgeries. I shall only answer at present to what he says about one of the Queen's Ships taking in Pieces of Eight at Cadix, and signing Bills of Lading to deliver them in Amsterdam; this he has called a Forgery, but if what I have asserted is Fact, I think the World will have the Opinion of him, and his Writings that they justly deserve; and had he been but acquainted with any on the Exchange that trade to Cadix, they could have informed him that it was Fact. I had in my Letter to you put the Ship's Name, but for some Reasons you see I blotted it out: I do now assert it to be the *York Man of War*, whose Commander finding there was a great Sum of Money at Cadix for Amsterdam, did sign Bills of Lading at Cadix to deliver it at Amsterdam; and did apply to the Lords of the Admiralty for a Licence to go to Amsterdam to deliver it; but being refused it, he offered to put it aboard a Yacht, and to pay the Freight to Amsterdam; but the Owners at Amsterdam considering the Inferences made on the *York* would be all void, did not then think fit to run the Hazard.

Now I appeal to the Merchants who had the Bills of Lading assigned them from Amsterdam for the Truth of this Fact. It is impossible to find out the several Sums to make up the total; but if the Mercator will apply himself to the Commodore, he can give him an Account of what Sum he had aboard, for which he signed Bills of Lading to deliver in Amsterdam.

This was a Fact I asserted, acted here on the Exchange of London, and yet this the Mercator asserts to be a downright Forgery; in a little time we shall be forced to prove that the Sun shines. When the Mercator has the Modesty to beg Pardon, and own he was in the wrong, I may be at leisure to prove the other two Paragraphs he calls Forgeries, but till then I shall think it in vain, the Spirit of Delusion and Infatuation is got abroad, and the Mercator depends on the implicit Faith of his Party, or else he would never have ventured to have called that a Forgery, which was so near at hand to be proved; and I appeal to all his Readers, what Faith or Credit ought hereafter to be given to any thing he writes, and indeed he seems resolved to contradict, though he is sure to be exposed; and so little does he know what he talks of, that he asserts in his *Mercator*, No. 100, That Bullion being now under the Stamp, we see coining vast Sums every Day in the Mint. The word (now) must be supposed the present Time, the Standard is $5 \text{ s. } 2 \text{ d. } \text{ per Ounce}$, and Bullion sells for $52 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d.}$ Farthing per Ounce; what will not this Man assert? I did not design to have gone so far, but it being Matter of Fact, if he will please to carry 1000 Pieces of Eight to the Market, he will find Goldsmiths will give him $5 \text{ s. } 2 \text{ d.}$ Farthing per Ounce, but if he carries it to the Mint, he can make

no more than *i.* and *j.* I hope he will have also the Modesty to retract this, which who he has done, I shall proceed to prove that Silver, as well as any other Commodity, is Merchandize, and that hitherto the Balance of the Trade we have to Spain does lie against us.

In listing an Account of Profit or Loss by Trade between two Nations, it is not sufficient to tell us of our Exports only, as the *Mercator* generally does, without saying one word of the Goods imported, that is trying a Cause by hearing the Evidence only of one Side. Neither is it sufficient to give us an exact Account of both Exports and Imports, without giving the Valuation of every Parcel of Goods; for how shall the Reader judge to which a Balance is to be paid in Money, without knowing the Value of the Parcels?

And yet I am afraid it is not in the Power of any one Man alive, whether Gentleman or Merchant, to know the value of every thing. I believe no Man's Knowledge is so universal; and therefore in my Account, No. 14. I called several Gentlemen of Experience to my Assistance; and yet in spite of all this Care, I believe I have been mistaken in some of my Valuations. I am ready to be corrected as often as any such Error shall be discovered: But I shall never submit to any Correction upon the single Authority of the *Mercator*, that Authority is always to be suspected; it appears plainly that he knows very little or nothing of the Matter, almost all his Valuations will be found to be made at random.

But I believe it will appear as last that I have been generally so fair as not to undervalue our Exports, or overvalue our imported Goods, to make our Loss by the French Trade seem greater than it really was. As I have formerly produced a Letter from *Exter*, which is some Testimony of this Candour, with relation to some of our Woollen Manufactures, the following Letter from *Brissol* testifies the same thing in respect to the Tobacco exported from this Kingdom.

SIR,
Brissol, December 16. 1713.
 Since we for you are willing to receive Letters, and insert them in your *British Merchant*, with intention to inform the Nation how the *Mercator* endeavours to delude the People; we thought it our Duty to join with the honest trading Part of the Kingdom, and true Lovers of their Country, to detect that hireling of *France*, the *Mercator*.

The Letter from *Exter* is certainly a great discovery of the ill Designs of that Writer, as it is also a Demonstration to all the trading part of *Great-Britain* that you have acted with Candour, and that in your Account of Exports to *France* in the Year 1685-6, you have rather chose to overvalue our Goods, than leave Room for an honest Man to object; for 'tis plain what the *Exter* Men say is worth but 30,544*l.* 11*s.* you have rated in your *British Merchant*, No. 14, at 16,865*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* But the *Mercator* in his Account No. 63, has rated the same Goods in his Valuation at 60,511*l.* about as much again as they are worth.

In your Account No. 14 you have valued 13173*li* of Tobacco on Board at 3*l.* per Pound; in which you have also very much exceeded the Value. We shall therefore give you the Prizes on Board for re-exported Tobacco for 4 Years, viz. from 1684 to 1687.

In 1684, Tobacco on Board, with the	3 1/2	per lb.
Duty drawn back	3 1/2	
In 1685, Ditto	3 1/2	
In 1686, Ditto	3 1/2	
In 1687, Ditto	3 1/2	to 1/2

Note, the Advance in the Year 1685, continued but for a little time on Tobacco for Exportation, for in May 1685 the Parliament laid no further Import of 3*l.* per Pound, which Duty commenced the 14th of June following, which occasioned the engrossing the old Tobacco at a greater Price than the former Year; but as soon as any Tobacco that paid the additional Duty was entered and landed, it fell again to 3*l.*; and therefore, there is no Reason to think *France* would buy any till the Price came to be settled. Here the *Mercator* has also served you as he did in the Woollen Goods of *Exter*; for he has charged the said 13173*li* of Tobacco at 4*l.* per Pound, which is about double

the Value; where any Person will take such Liberty, the unskillful part of Mankind may be easily misled, till the Author comes to be found out, and their Judgment better informed; and then they will agree with us, that these cannot be so wicked an Enemy to his Country in the whole Kingdom, as the *Mercator* himself. And if other of your Friends would take the Pains in their way of Business, to hint what they allow, you would find that all honest Men would soon smother the *Mercator*.

Your humble Servant, D. F. and J. M.

I think I need make no Reflections upon this Letter; it is as plain that I have not undervalued these Goods, as that the *Mercator* has grossly overvalued them. I shall therefore now proceed to another Subject, and that is, his imaginary Disability of *France* to rival us in our Woollen Manufactures. His two last Papers but one, are taken up in labouring this Point, in the Case of Perpets and Sars. I shall here answer his Whimsies concerning the former.

"It is evident, says he, No. 106. the Perpetuans made in *France* have not been able to sell so cheap as the English; or else they are not so good as the English; how else comes it to pass, that we have such a Vend for ours, and that every Day at the Customhouse we see vast Quantities of Sars and Perpetuans enter'd both for *Spain* and *Italy*, whereas the French are at the Door? And could they underfell us, they can upon all Occasions poor in their Goods before us, and with much less Expence, the Voyage from *Marseilles* to the Coast of either *Italy* or *Spain* being not above two or three Days Sail?"

In answer to this, I must affirm, that the French King for 60 Years past has been encouraging the Woollen Manufactures in his Kingdom. And as his People succeeded therein, he increased the Duties on ours that were imported into *France*.

In 1654, the Customs on Cloth were raised to 30 Livr.	
In 1664, _____	to 40 _____
In 1667, _____	to 80 _____
In the first Year on a Serge _____	to 5 _____
In the second _____	to 6 _____
In the last _____	to 11 _____

Under these Discouragements our Exports decreased annually, and their Manufactures exceedingly flourished. Our Trade came down to almost nothing every where, except in *Britany*, where, as I have said, they were always Custom-free, till the Year 1687, and where they had almost no Woollen Manufacture of their own.

Besides, about this time, their Perpets, which both *France* and We call Imperial Serges, being brought to very great Perfection, they became our Rivals in that Trade, even in the foreign Markets; and therefore no doubt, were well enough able without our help to supply those of their own Country, which they were still the more able to do, by excluding us out of *Britany*.

But as to foreign Markets, to begin with our Trade to *Turkey*, which has been always very justly a Favourite of this Nation; it is manifest they export vast Quantities of Perpets to *Turkey* from *France*, in comparison of those from *England*, and such as cannot chuse but disturb the Sale of our Goods in that Market; it is plain we have almost lost the Trade of Perpets to that Country.

Our last Fleet, which will be allow'd to export the Bulk of our Goods for one Year to *Turkey*, yet exported in that Fleet but 400 Perpets, which cannot exceed 16 or 18 Bales.

But I have also seen an Account of the Perpets exported from *France*, for the Years 1711 and 1712, to the Port of *Smyrna* only, in which the Bales were 400, that is, 200 Bales per Ann.

Will the *Mercator* say now, that they do not rival us in our Trade of Perpets to *Turkey*? That we are in no Danger in foreign Markets? May it not be said here in the *Mercator's* own Words, that it is evident, that our Perpetuans are not sold so cheap as the French, or else that they are not so good as those of that Country? But we need not light a Candle to the Sun.

ERRAT. In my last, Col. 1. lin. 20. for satisfy read satisfy.



The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D;

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the Importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, Salt, and Paper,* and other Commodities, of the Growth, Product, or Manufactures of the Territories and Dominions of the *French King*, hath much exhasted 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 Asssembled, and by Authority of the same.

Vide Prohibition Act. 30 Car. II.

A Letter concerning the Mercator's Personal Evidence of two Kings and a Queen.

A Postscript concerning his pretended Drawback

of Duties on French Goods re-exported to our Plantations.

From FRIDAY, January 29. to TUESDAY, February 2. 1714.

S I R.

Jan. 29th.

THE Mercator's first Argument, and in his first Paper, to prove the French Trade was always beneficial to this Nation, and that our Exports, by a Medium of any three Years, have exceeded their Imports, was his pretended Personal Evidence of two Kings and a Queen. *No less*, says he, than the *Witnesses of two Kings and a Queen*: who could not chuse, no doubt, but be very competent Judges of our Profit or Loss by the Trade between both Nations.

The Custom-house has been ransacked for an Account to this Purpose, the Medium of three Years is not yet found, nor indeed any one in which our Exports have exceeded. All his other Hopes have failed him, and therefore in his Yesterday's Paper, he is come back again to his principal Strength, the Evidence of two Kings and a Queen. I would advise him to make the most of this, for I am very confident he will not be able to support his Paradox by any other Argument; he seems to triumph a little that no Answer to it has ever yet been attempted.

Though I can by no means desire your Time should be spent upon this ridiculous Subject, yet I cannot think it reasonable to leave the Mercator and his Party even this little Argument for the French Trade, or the Bill of Commerce; and therefore to save your Pains, I have resolv'd to bestow an Hour upon an Answer, which you may please to use or let alone at your Discretion.

The Princes he has thought fit to call to bear Witness for the French Trade, are the late King *William* and Queen *Mary*, and the present most Christian King. There can be no doubt of the Wisdom of all the Three, and we are very well assur'd of the Love of the two first to this Nation. But are Princes of all others the most competent Judges of a Country's gaining or losing by Trade? or are they more likely to know than the Officers of their Customs, when the Imports are over-balsanc'd by the Exports?

But after all, what if these Princes have never pass'd any Judgment in this Matter? First, it does not appear that the French King was ever of Opinion that his own Country lost, or that *England* was a Gainer by the Commerce of both Nations. Yes, says the Mercator, "He has tacitly owned it, by raising his Customs, and laying his Prohibitions; and that he could do this for no other reason, than to put a Check to the Imports of our Goods, that his own Subjects might not be impoverish'd, and *England* enrich'd at their Expence."

But this Writer must be told that that Prince might do this for another reason; he might do it, that the Trade which was before carried on to the Advantage of *France*, and Disadvantage of *England*, might be render'd still more beneficial to *France*, and more ruinous to this Kingdom. To explain this matter by an Example, Suppose that our Exports to *France* had been of the yearly value of half a Million, and that the Goods imported thence were of three times that yearly Value, it is plain our Trade in that Case had been a losing Trade, and that upon the Balance we must have paid a Million sterling to that Kingdom; indeed by your No. 24. you have made it probable that we paid a great deal more. But if his Prohibitions or high Duties had still lessened our Exports, must not the Balance against us have still increased? must not the Trade have become still more ruinous to this Nation, by reason of those Prohibitions? That Prince therefore might still lay on his Prohibitions, not to deprive us of a gainful Trade, but to make it still a more losing one to us, and a more beneficial one to his own People. So that it cannot be concluded from the Prohibitions and Increase of Duties in *France*, that the French Trade was beneficial to us, or ruinous to the French Nation.

The Mercator supposes the French King would not be the *Aggressor* in this Case, least we should have retaliated upon him by high Duties and Prohibitions upon the French Imports; so that by grasping at greater, he might have lost the present Advantages of that Trade.

* Nec

Not to insist here upon the Inspector-General's Answer to this; which you have cited upon some other Occasion, that *France has all along treated us, as if for Generis of that Nation had got a perfect Ascendant over England*; I must give this Answer to the Mercator, that that wise Prince has generally known how much his Neighbours would endure before they would be provoked to retaliate; and besides, there are Ways and Means to keep off this Retaliation. The Pen- sions in the Reign of King Charles II. are too notorious to be forgotten, they are the Subjects of some of the Memoirs and Letters of our Ambassadors and Ministers of State at that time. It was certainly worth the while of the French King to have given then a 100000 l. per An. among the Ministers to hinder a Prohibition in England, and to save a Trade, which perhaps was more than ten times that value, to his own Subjects, that is, to himself, since he has the absolute Command, and is the Master of every one's Property. If his most Christian Majesty would have thought fit to pass with a 100000 l. per An. for such a Purpose, I believe we have formerly had Ministers of State in England, who would have been ready to sell him a very good Pennyworth, and perhaps ten times as great a Value from their Native Country.

Without some such Reason as this, it will not be easy to account why it was so hard to obtain the Prohibiting Act in that Reign, and why in 1678 there was no other Way to come at it, than by tack- ling it to a Capitation.

His Most Christian Majesty therefore, might very well be the Aggressor in this Case, he might lead our Trade with Customs, and interrupt it with Prohibitions, because he might have the Address and Skill to prevent the like Practices in England, not because he thought our Trade either ruinous to his own Coun- try, or beneficial to this Kingdom. Our Legislators in the Preamble of their Prohibition Act, in the Reign of King Charles II. have expressly affirm'd, that the French Importations were ruinous to this Nation; but His Most Christian Majesty's Prohibitions or high Duties, are no Demonstration, that he ever thought his People lost upon the Balance of their Trade with England, or that they were not always very great Gainers by that Trade.

The Truth is, the French Nation has been now above 50 Years labouring at the Woollen Manufac- tures; and as fast as they increas'd in Skill, the French King, like a wise Prince, made it his Endeav- our to remove every Obstruction. The Woollen Manufactures of England and other Countries were the chief Obstruction, therefore first, high Duties were laid on the foreign Manufactures by the Tariff of 1664, these were doubled by the Tariff of 1667, and when at last, the French Manufactures came to be able to supply that whole Country, then the For- eign Manufactures were prohibited. In the whole Progress of this Matter, he has shew'd a Resolution to make Trade as beneficial as possible to his own People; not an Opinion at all, that upon the Bal- ance of the whole Exports and Imports between England and France, the former was the Gainer.

So much for the Evidence of His Most Christian Majesty. His other personal Evidence is that of the late King William and Queen Mary; they it seems, declar'd their Opinion, that the French Trade was always beneficial to this Nation, before the Interrup- tions given on that side by Prohibitions and high Duties. A wonderful Argument this! and such as must needs force the Assent of every Man in the Kingdom!

And when was it these Princes declared their Op- inion in this Matter? In the beginning of the Year 1689. They came into England the latter End of the Year 1688, and they had a long time, and a great deal of Leisure to instruct themselves in the whole Value of the French Trade, by the beginning of 1689. To such wretched Stuff as this, are the Advoc- ates of the French Trade reduced for their Sup- port!

But in what have King William and Queen Mary declar'd their Opinion for the French Trade? Why, in their Declaration of War, in the beginning of the Year 1689, against the French King, they charge this Prince with a Design to destroy our Trade with France, upon which the Wealth and Safety of this Nation so much depend.

As for Queen Mary, she had no part of the Admin- istration. Her Name was join'd to the King's for Form sake. But it is highly probable that the Decla-

ration of War was never read to her for her Approba- tion: So that here is an End of her Personal Evidence.

But how shall this be said to be an Evidence of the King's Judgment concerning the French Trade? The Declaration is a Declaration of War; that is the principal thing. It is indeed customary in such Cases, to heap up as many Aggravations as possible, so that those Words in the Declaration concerning our Trade, will rather be thought to be the Words of a Secretary, than of the late King, who cannot be presum'd, after so short an Acquaintance with England, to have had any clear Knowledge of our Profit or Loss by our Trade with France. For this, he might very well content himself with the Suggestions of his Council, and by what has happen'd in our Memories, it is very possible for a Prince's Council to be mis- taken.

But after all, what if there is nothing in the De- claration which either suggests or implies, that the French Trade was ever beneficial to this Kingdom? The Words cited by the Mercator to be a Part of the Declaration of the King are these, *His forbidding the Importation of a great part of the Produce and Manufactures of the Kingdom, and imposing exorbitant Customs upon the rest, are sufficient Evidence of his Design to destroy the Trade upon which the Wealth and Safety of this Nation so much depend.*

Now to shew the Honesty of this Writer, even this Argument, as poor a one as it is, he darst not offer to his Readers, till he had mangled the Words, and left out the most Principal of that Part of the Declaration. The very Words as they stand in the Declaration of War are as follow, *Forbidding the Im- portation of a great Part of the Produce and Manufactures of the Kingdom, and imposing exorbitant Customs upon the rest, NOTWITHSTANDING THE VAST ADVANTAGES HE AND THE FRENCH NATION REAP BY THEIR COMMERCE WITH ENGLAND, are sufficient, &c.* Here the Mercator has artfully enough left out these last Words, because they did not make at all for his Argument. For could the Trade be so very beneficial to England, and yet the French King and his Subjects reap such vast Advantages by our Com- merce? Forgeries and Omissions of the most prin- cipal Parts of Records are small things with the Mer- cator.

But the Words (whether as quoted by the Mercator, or as they stand in the Declaration) do by no means imply, that the Wealth and Safety of the Nation depend on our Trade to France. They do, no doubt, upon our Trade with the whole World, though that with France is very ruinous; and if the last is made still more ruinous by the French King's Prohibitions and high Duties, the Profit of our Trade with the whole Commercial World is so much the less, and the Wealth and Safety of England cannot depend so much upon it. This is the most that can be imply'd by the Words; it can never be the Meaning of those who Penn'd the Declaration, that the Wealth and Safety of this Nation depended on our Trade to France; if it had, King William would never have begun that War, which was an entire Interruption of that Trade. But these People, I believe, are the very first that ever brought a Declaration of War, to prove the great Advantages of any particular Trade.

I am, Sir, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

I am sorry, Sir, I have taken up so much of your Time upon an Argument that does not deserve an Answer. I will endeavour to make you amends by a short Postscript.

The Mercator has affirm'd, that we are in a lament- able Condition, for want of the Treaty of Com- merce; for our Goods, says he, are Prohibited in France; whereas the French Linnen, and other Man- ufactures, may be imported here with high Duties, and after having drawn back the Duties, may be re- exported to our Plantations.

But you ought to have told this Writer long ago, that the Act of Parliament has laid the high Duty of 25 per Cent. ad valorem, on French Goods, and that no Provision is made in that or any other Act, for a Draw-back of any Part of that Duty. So that they cannot be exported to our Plantations, not with that whole Load of Customs. When the Law imposes a Duty, and makes no Provision for a Draw-back, the whole Duty still remains; and as long as it does, there is no great Danger of our Plantations dealing much in the Manufactures of that Nation.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Another Letter concerning the Spanish Trade. | The Course of Exchange proves that the Balance of that Trade is against us.

From TUESDAY, February 2. to FRIDAY, February 5. 1714.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,
I Should not think my self obliged to give any Answer to the Mercator, since he, instead of answering to any one Fact hid down in my Letter to you about the Spanish Trade, has recourse to his usual Impudence, in calling those Assertions Lyes and Forgeries, tho' he was sure some of them were Facts, that we need not go farther than the *Exchanges of London* to disprove him; he knows he has Proselytes that will take him on trust, and never be at the Pains to see how he imposes on them. It has been what has serv'd a Party of Men in greater stead than all the solid Reasons or Arguments in the World could do. To give insufficient Answers would be a Means to let his Readers know that there are Arguments against himself which can never be answered; it is therefore the Interest of the Mercator not to take off the Scales from the Eyes of his blind Followers, and then he can lead them where he pleases.

Let but a Man offer to shew a true State of the Trade of the Nation, if it in the least interferences with the Treaty of Commerce with France; it is properly Blotting and Falsion, that is the Trade we must be fond of, if we will be esteem'd good Subjects, and all the Trades we have in Europe must be made a Sacrifice to that Treaty; if we lay the French interfere with us in the Spanish, Italian, Portugal and Turkey Trades, and are actually undermining us at this present in those Trades, it is call'd Falsion; if we say that all Letters from Spain say there is no Demand for the Manufacture and Product of England, it is call'd Design to amuse People with Falsities about the Trade these Men are fond of.

How easy and much more convincing to ingenious and understanding Men, would it have been for the Mercator to have shew'd that the Manufactures of England, and Products that used to be expended in

the Spanish Markets, had risen on the Peace, the natural Consequence of a Demand? and to have enquir'd of the Spanish Merchants, whether the Factors of the several Ports of Spain, gave them Encouragement by the Demand there was of our Goods; but as he knew the Facts were all against him, he answers they are Lies and Forgeries and bids the British Merchant prove they are Truths, without offering one convincing, or indeed any Argument, but what is false in Fact, as he did in saying Silver being under the Standard, we were coining Silver in the Tower, which I think my self plainly proved was false.

I asserted that we had a losing Trade to Spain, by taking off more of their Product than they take of ours; he answers it is false, and says they that assert it must prove it.

The stated Maxim amongst Merchants, to know whether the Trade be for or against us, is to have recourse to the Course of the Exchange, it is a Nicety many of our Merchants themselves are unacquainted with; yet as the Exchange holds the Balance of Trade, so as that is for us or against us, it immediately decides the Point.

If the Exchange be above the par of the Money of the Country we trade with, it is a plain Argument that the Balance is on their side; for no Man will bring Silver from a Country, when the Exchange is more favourable than the Coin. If a Country takes off more of our Commodities than we take of theirs, they must pay the Balance in Money; and in such a case the Exchange must necessarily be under the par of the Money, for there can never be found sufficient Bills of Exchange; and if there are Bills, they cannot be on England, but must be on some Country with which Spain has an Over-balance; and then the Debt being removed to that Country, there the Balance will be decided, according as we over or under-trade that Country.

The Fact of the Exchange deciding the Balance of

all Countries with whom there are Exchanges, I think is very plain from what I have already said. But I will give two Instances of an Over-balance and an Under-balance, which will be Conviction enough to any understanding Trader on the Exchange.

The Trade to Portugal has been of such a Magnitude, that it is notorious to the World we have had a vast Importation of Gold from thence. As our Trade increased, so the Exchange declined; and in some Years when Corn was cheap here, and dear in Portugal, our Balance was so very great, that notwithstanding we paid Subsidies to the King of Portugal, and paid for Troops, there was also vast Sums for Supplies of our Armies in Valencia and Catalonia; yet still the Over-balance lay so much against them, that the Exchange has been at 52. 2d. and 50. 2 Millrees; now a Millree in Portuguese Gold, weighs according to the English Standard, 52. 9d. so that there was 10, 12, and 15 per Cent. difference between the Exchange, and the intrinsic value of the Money.

In some Years, when we had a want of Corn our selves, and therefore could not supply Portugal, the Exchange immediately found the want of so great an Over-balance, and rose to 52. 4d. 52. 5d. and 52. 6d. At which last Price in time of War, Gold would not turn to account; nor own, considering that there is three per. at least Charges without Insurance, and that 5 per. will make 52. 6d. cost 52. 9d. which is the Standard of the Millree; so that there is but 2 per. for the Time and Hazard.

Our Trade to Holland during the War, was on a contrary Foot, notwithstanding our vast Over-balance against them in Commodities, yes by our paying such a Sum to subsidize the Armies in Namur, and Subsidies to several Princes, the Balance lay during the whole War against us; so that as fast almost as we brought Gold from Portugal, it was carried over to pay the Balance.

The Exchange immediately found the Balance of Trade, and went declining from 36 s. 8d. and 37 s. as it was in the Peace; and as our Expence increased abroad, by augmenting the number of Troops in our Pay, so the Exchange went declining as the Balance against us was greater. And though in some Exigencies it was at 32 s. 6d. and 33 s. yet that being but casual, it came to a Medium of 31 s. 8d. and 32 s. So that there was 9 per. difference between the time of Peace, and time of War; and since the Cessation, and our drawing off our Troops, as our Expence went decreasing, so the Exchange went advancing, and has come to 36 s. and 36 s. 4d. but not yet arrived to the height it was before the War; for to this Day we have subsisted Troops in Flanders, and very lately made a remiss of 400000 l. for the subsisting the Troops still left. And when Dunkirk is demolished, and all our Troops withdrawn, our Over-balance will increase, and consequently the Exchange advance.

Thus having plainly proved, that the Exchange is the Standard by which you may know where the Balance lies, it must now remain only to prove, that the Exchange in Spain has hitherto been above the Standard.

Tho' the Exchange has been in Spain at 52d. per Piece of Eight, yet it has also been at 50d. So we will take the Medium of 51d. Tho' I could prove that several Quantities of Pieces of Eight which were brought into England, cost the Importer 52d. and some by Drafts made on Holland, more.

Now a 1000 Pieces, remitted by Bills at 52d. per Piece of Eight, is 222 l. 10 s. Sterling.

1000 Pieces of Eight will weigh 870 Ounces. And tho' some were sold that came by Men of War from Cadix at 52. 2d. per oz. yet others were sold at 52. 4d. Farthing; But the East-India Company, who were the greatest Purchasers, fixed the Price at 52. 3d. for what they bought; and after they had bought the Quantity they wanted, they gave Liberty to the Private Traders to buy, who before they had made up their Quantities, advanced it to 52. 4d. and 4d. Farthing.

870 Ounces, sold here at 52. 3d. per oz. is 222 7 6

Pieces to purchase }
 Peices of Eight in } 50
 Spain, 5 per. }
 Carrying on Ship- }
 board, and Risque } 20
 2 per. }
 Commission 1 per. } 10
 Freight 1 per. } 10
 Insurance 1 per. } 10
 Commission where }
 Landed, & Charges } 10
 to London



Loss by a Bill of Exchange of }
 1000 per. of 8 from Spain }
 which is 3 1/2 per. } ----- 7 10

So that if they bought their Peices of 8 at above 52. per. French, a Bill of Exchange was more profitable: Now I do affirm, that the major Part of the Peices of 8 that we imported, cost from 3 to 5 per. Expence. Suppose then, they had carried it to the Mint at 52. 2d. the Loss would be a per. more than the above calculate. I appeal therefore, to any reasonable Man, if the Peices of 8 thus imported, could be the Balance of our Trade? Had it been; that would necessarily have shew'd it self in this Trade, as well as in the Facts I lay down in that of Portugal and Holland.

So that until the Mercator can shew the Exchange in Spain is under the Par of the Silver, I do affirm and affirm, the Balance of that Trade is against us.

And notwithstanding the Entries in the Customhouse, yet if the Goods do not find Expence at a Market, it will be no Proof. When they do, and that Spain does consume more of our Imports, than we export from them, the Exchange will be in our Favour, and then I will join Issue with the Mercator, we have an Overbalance.

And tho' the Mercator treats the Notion of an Over-balance against us with Spain as a Novel, yet it is no Novelty to the Traders thither: And I believe I may justly affirm, that none of the Peices of 8 that came home, were the Product of the Manufactures of England: If so, I would desire the Mercator to shew how we came by them, or whether he thinks we could purchase them without an Over-balance of Trade with some other Country? If not, we must pay back as many Ounces in Spain, as we brought in.

And though he excludes at this Assertion, is settled for some Design, yet I am very well assured, that in the Hearing before the late House of Commons, against the Treaty of Commerce with France, the Over-balance of Spain against us was then asserted; and the Person that spoke, appealed to the whole Body of the Traders to Spain: That tho' some Ships were arrived, and others on the Way to Home with Peices of 8, yet not one Bag of them was the Product of the Manufactures of England.

This, had it been a Novel Notion, or not Fals, would have certainly met with a Contradiction: We had then had about 10 Months Trade with Spain; and what proves that there is no Alteration in the Trade in our Favour, the Exchange was against us then, and has continued so ever since.

I question not but this will convince any Man, who understands the Nature of Trade, that the Exchange is what will always, and in all Countries, decide where the Balance lies.

I am,

SIR, &c.

LONDON, Printed for FRED. BURLINGHAME, in Amen-Corner.
 (Price Three Half-Pence.)



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Some Observations on the Course of Exchange. How the Course of Exchange between two Countries proves which of them pays the Balance upon Trade.

Another Letter from the same Correspondent that sent the last, shewing that Silver is a Commodity bought for our Money, and not always for our Manufactures.

From FRIDAY, February 5. to TUESDAY, February 9. 1714.

IF the excellent Letter in my last is not in a Style too Mercantile for my common Readers, they may learn from it the way of deciding whether the Balance of our Trade with any particular Country, with which we have in Exchange, be either for us or against us, or whether we buy or sell the Over-balance of Goods and Merchandizes, and are accordingly to pay or receive the Balance in Gold or Silver.

This the Author proposes to be done by the Course of Exchange between two Countries, which is a way of paying the Debts due from each to the other, by exchanging the Debtors of both Countries, as far as the Debts of the one are sufficient to satisfy and discharge the Debts of the other; perhaps this may be rendered intelligible by some common Instances.

Suppose the Tenant in *Wiltshire*, is to pay for Rent 100*l.* to his Landlord in *London*; and the *Woolen Draper* in *London*, is to pay the like Sum to his *Clerk* in *Wiltshire*: Both these Debts may be paid without transmitting one Farthing from the one Place to the other, by Bills of Exchange, or by exchanging one Debtor for the other: That is, the Tenant may receive his Landlord's Order, to pay an 100*l.* to the *Clerk* in the Country; and the *Woolen Draper* may receive his *Clerk's* Order, to pay the like Sum to the Landlord in Town. These two Orders are properly call'd Bills of Exchange; the Debts are exchanged by them, that is, the *Woolen Draper* in Town, instead of the Tenant in the Country, is become Debtor to the Landlord; and the Tenant in the Country, instead of the *Woolen Draper* in Town, is become Debtor to the *Clerk*; and when these Orders are comply'd with, the two Debts between *London* and the Country, are discharged, without sending one Shilling in *Specie* from the One to the Other.

In like manner, the Warehouse-Man in *London*, is indebted in 100*l.* for Stuffs, to the *Weaver* in *Norwich*;

and the *Linnen Draper* in *Norwich*, is indebted in the like Sum to the *Hamberough Merchant* in *London*; both these Debts may be paid by Bills of Exchange, or by the Exchange of one Debtor for the other, by placing one Debtor in the other's Head; that is, the Warehouse-Man may receive the Order of his *Weaver*, to pay an 100*l.* to the *Hamberough Merchant*; and the *Linnen Draper* may receive the Order of the *Hamberough Merchant*, to pay the like Sum to the *Weaver*. These Orders are Bills of Exchange; the Debtor in one Place, is chang'd for the Debtor in the other; and thus both Debts may be paid without sending one single Shilling in *Specie*, from the one City to the other.

If the Debts reciprocally due between *London* and *Norwich*, are equal; whether they are an 100*l.* or an 10000*l.* they may be all discharg'd in this manner by Bills of Exchange, without sending any Money in *Specie* from the one to the other.

But if the Debts due from both Places are not equal, then only the same Quantity of Debts on both sides, can be paid by Bills of Exchange: The Balance must be sent in Money from the City, from whence the greatest Sums are due. For Instance: If by the Trade between *London* and *Norwich*, the former owes 10000*l.* to the latter, and the latter, no more than 9000*l.* to the former: It is manifest, that only the Debts of 9000*l.* on each Side, can be discharg'd by Bills of Exchange; the Balance of 1000*l.* must be sent either from *London*, or some other Place indebted to *London*, to even the Account between both the Cities.

Let us suppose then, that to send and insure 1000*l.* in *Specie* to *Norwich*, would cost 5*l.* or 10*s.* per Cent. *Liv.* which of the Debtors in *London* would be willing to be at this Charge? It is natural to believe that every one will endeavour to shift it off from himself, that every one will endeavour to pay his Money by a Bill of Exchange, it is natural to believe that every one, rather than stand the Cost and Hazard of sending 100*l.* in *Specie*,

Specie, would pay 100 l. 5 s. in London for a Debtor in *Newick*, upon Condition that the *Newick* Debtor should pay 100 l. for him in that City. By which means the *Newick* Debtor would pay his Debt of 100 l. in London with less than that Sum, while the *London* Debtor would be obliged to give more than that Sum for the Payment of 100 l. in *Newick*. And if such for Years together were the Course of Exchange between *London* and *Newick*, there could be no Question to which of the two Cities a Son must be sent in Specie to pay the Balance; that City undoubtedly pays the Balance that gives more than the Par, that undoubtedly receives the Balance that gives less than the Par for Bills of Exchange. The Course of Exchange in this Case would sufficiently decide that the Balance of Trade is on the side of that City that procures Bills of Exchange upon the most easy Terms.

I have taken Examples from two English Cities, where the Money is of the same Denomination, and the same Quantities are equal a Par in both. For the Case is the very same between two Cities whose Denominations of the Money are different, as long as any certain Quantity of Money in the one, can be reduced to a Par or Equality with any certain Quantity of Money in the other. For Example, the old French Crown was just equal or Par to 54 s. English; and 444 of those Crowns were just Par or equal to an 100 l. Sterling; every Farthing given more or less than 54 s. for a Bill of Exchange then between *London* and *Paris*, amounted to 9 s. 3 d. upon 444 Crowns, or upon so many times 54 s.

Suppose then the Course of Exchange between *London* and *Paris* stood thus heretofore. If a Man in *Paris* indebted to *London*, paid a Farthing less than the Par for a Bill of Exchange upon *London*, to pay 54 s. there; the *Parisian* paid his Debt to *London* of 100 l. by a Bill of Exchange that cost him in *Paris* 9 s. 3 d. less than that Sum. And if a Merchant in *London* gave a Farthing more than the Par for a Bill of Exchange upon *Paris*, to pay a French Crown, the *Londoner* gave 9 s. 3 d. more than 100 l. for a Bill of Exchange to pay that Sum in *Paris*. If such was the Course of Exchange between *London* and *Paris*, if the first gave above the Par, and the second less than Par for Bills of Exchange to pay their respective Debts, there can be no doubt that Bills of Exchange were more and more easily to be had in *Paris*, than at *London*; and consequently, that greater Sums were due from the latter than the former; and that we paid a Balance upon our Trade to that Kingdom. And as the Price rose here to a Penny or Twopence above the Par, or fell there so much more below it, it shew'd so much the greater Scarcity here, and the greater Plenty there of Bills of Exchange; and that so much the greater Balance of Bullion was going hence by means of our Trade to that Country. My Correspondent therefore might very well say as he does in his last, that the Course of Exchange between two Countries, will quickly decide to which a Balance is due in Money, and which of the two is overbalanc'd in Goods by trading with the other; and this he has proved against the *Mercator*, to be the Case of our present Trade to *Spain*. And I will now oblige my Reader with another Letter from the same Correspondent, which is as follows.

To the British Merchant.

SIR;
I have in my last answered the *Mercator's* Charge of my having falsly affirm'd, that we now lose by our Trade to *Spain*, and have effectually proved that we do, by the Price of Pieces of Eight, and the Course of Exchange.

His next Forgery, as he calls it, is my saying Silver was a Commodity.

Whatever is bought and sold in a Market, has its Rise and its Fall, must certainly be a Commodity, be it Silver or be it Gold.

Now no Man can affirm, that Bills of Exchange are paid in *Spain* in Pieces; they are not look'd on as cur-

rant Colo in *Spain*, but kept up for a Market; and the *Premio* or Price rises and falls as the Demand is more or less. If this is not properly said to be a Commodity, I would desire to know what is.

In *England* foreign Silver is a Commodity, and has its Rise and Fall according to the Demand for the shipping of our own Coin, being prohibited by a Law; and the Traders having occasion to send to the *East Indies*, *Turkey*, and the *Baltick*, &c. are forced to buy foreign Silver on the best Terms they can.

Now indeed Silver and Gold when coined in *England*, cannot be properly called a Commodity, because its shipping off being prohibited, it can have no Rise nor Fall. For the Person who will venture the Penalty of the Law, and export it, will pay no more than the current Price it passes for.

In *Holland* all Gold and Silver is properly a Commodity: For as all Bills of Exchange above such a Sum, are payable in Bank, where the Specie is supposed to lie, to answer the whole Credit of the Bank on any Demand; and that there is Money of a base Alloy, with which all small Sums are payable, and the Necessaries for human Life bought; as also most of the Commodities bought and sold (some few excepted, which are always bought in Bank Money) if you then being this Current Money, and no Standard Money running in Payment, that Gold and Silver is more properly a Commodity in that Country than any when else, for People make it a Trade there to buy Silver and Gold, and keep it for a Market, so that it seldom or never has any fixed or certain Price.

Now can any Man pretend to say that Silver and Gold are not Commodities bought and sold, as all other Commodities are? Are they not bought and sold in the Markets daily? Is not this evident? Need any Man go farther than to *London* or *Amsterdam*, or the *Goldsmiths* thereabouts, to be satisfied that they buy Silver and Gold, and sell it daily? And yet this is called a Forgery, and the *Mercator* calls upon you to prove it such.

Having thus I hope in this, and my two former Letters, proved to all Men verid in Trade, what I asserted, and answered fully the three Questions the *Mercator* desired you to prove, I might conclude, but I have one Observation yet to make.

As several of our Trades already recited, have an absolute Necessity of foreign Silver to carry them on; so if not imported by others, they must import it themselves: And a Man that wants Silver, and sends to buy it, has no regard whether we have a Balance with that Country, but orders the Person that ships them to draw on him for them.

For Instance: The *East India* Company in the last War used to purchase considerable Sums every Year in *Holland*. I believe no one will assert it could be purchased by a Balance of Trade; for, as I have said before, we had a very great Overbalance against us in that Country, by reason of our Payments to them.

Turkey Ships often in the way to *Turkey*, touch at *Cadix*, and take in Silver to purchase Coffee and other Commodities in *Turkey*; their Orders are given without any Concern what must answer it.

That Silver might be brought home from *Cadix* in hopes of a Market, as Oyls, Wines, and Fruit, &c. are, and yet be no Balance of any Trade we have with them.

To sum up all, the Importation of Silver and Gold is no longer an Advantage to *England*, unless we have an Overbalance in the general Trade of the World to answer it. And notwithstanding all Laws that can be made, if we owe a Balance in our general Trade, the Silver and Gold of the Nation must go to pay the Balance; so that it signifies nothing to import it in a foreign Specie, if we must pay for it in our own Coin to the Man who will run the Risque of our Laws. In *Spain* and *Portugal* it is by the Law Death to ship off Gold or Silver, and yet we see it daily exported.

I am, &c.

LONDON, Printed for FRED. BURLEIGH, in Amen-Corner.
(Price Three Half-Pence.)



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

An Answer to the Two last Mercators.

From TUESDAY, February 9. to FRIDAY, February 12. 1714.

THE *Mercator* Numb. 113. has this extraordinary Passage; "It would be worse than felonious to enforce the keeping it (scilicet the Portugal Treaty) at the Expence of the undoubted Privileges of the British Parliament. This would be a Robbery equal to the worst of Treason; for it would take from the Parliament that Right which has not for some Ages been disputed with them, (viz.) of having the only Power of levying and appropriating Taxes, and raising Money; A RIGHT EVEN KING JAMES HIMSELF NEVER DENY'D AND NEVER INVADED."

Now, with the Leave of this Writer, I must affirm, that King James did INVADE this Right of the Parliament. And for this I have the Authority of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons assembled at Westminster, in their Declaration of the 13th of January 1688, in the Words following, viz.

"Whereas the late King James the Second, by the Assistance of divers and Counsellors, Judges, and Ministers employed by him, did endeavour to SUBVERT and EXTIRPATE the PROTESTANT RELIGION;

"By assuming and exercising a Power of dispensing with and suspending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws, without Consent of Parliament;

"By committing and prosecuting divers worthy Prelates for humbly petitioning to be excused from concurring to the said assumed Power;

"By issuing and causing to be executed a Commission under the Great Seal, for erecting a Court called The Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes;

"By levying Money for and to the Use of The Crown by Pretence of Prerogative, for other Time and in other Manner than the same was granted by Parliament.

Here, directly contrary to the *Mercator*, we have the Declaration of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, that K. James did invade the Right of Parliament, to levy and appropriate Taxes, and to raise Money.

And whereas he has cited *Magna Charta* against the Portugal Treaty, I must let him know that the Powers here mentioned to be assumed and exercised by King James were Violations of that Charter. In the 5th Chapter of which (if I remember, for I have it not before me) are these Words, viz.

Nullo liber homo capietur aut imprisonetur, aut alio modo diffidetur de terra sua sine de iudicamento suo, nisi de liberis consuetudinibus suis, nec in eam ibimus nec in eam mittimus.

mur, nisi per legale iudicium Parium suorum vel per legitimum Terræ.

King James by these Words ought not to have imprisoned any Freeman, nor to have delisted him of his Freehold, but by the Judgment of his Peers, or by the Law of the Land: Yet he erected an Ecclesiastical Commission contrary to Law, with a Power to imprison Persons during Life, and even to deprive Ecclesiastical Persons of their Benefices, of their Freeholds, for Disobedience to their illegal Censures. This Commission he caused to be executed, and by it several Persons were imprisoned, and many eminent Ecclesiastical Persons were deprived of their Benefices.

King James ought not to have levied Money without the Consent of Parliament: He ought not to have raised Taxes by his Prerogative; yet he continued the Excises and Customs beyond the Limitation of them by Act of Parliament. This was certainly to levy Money for and to the Use of the Crown by Pretence of Prerogative, for other Time and in other Manner than the same was granted by Parliament. This was to invade the People's Francis or Power of levying and appropriating Taxes and raising Money. But the Secretary to the *Mercator*, who writes in a more elevated Style than that Scribbler, would have all those unhappy Misadventures forgotten in King James for the sake of a Person that pretends to be his Son, and to have a Right to Her Majesty's Realm and Dominions.

This Writer would have us believe; that King James never did the least Harm to this Nation, but that the Maker of the Portugal Treaty (that is Her Sacred Majesty, for Her Majesty made the Treaty; however it might be advised by Her Ministers) has invaded the undoubted Privilege of Parliament of laying on or taking off Duties at Discretion. One might indeed expect that those Persons who have the Confidence to acquit King James of invading the Privileges of Parliament, would make no Scruple to charge His Sacred Majesty, or Her Ministers, with this Invasion.

I had long expected what the *Mercator* has long promised against the Sining of the Parliament, viz. a demonstrative Evidence that the Portugal Treaty was broken by his Portuguese Majesty as soon as ever it was made, and therefore we are not bound by it; as also an effectual Answer to all that has been said in Defence of that Treaty: All is now come out in the two last *Mercators* that have been published.

The demonstrative Evidence, that the King of Portugal broke the Treaty almost as soon as it was made, is in the Letter in *Apr.* Numb. 113, and is this; "That

That before that Treaty all coloured Cloths, but no other Woollen Manufacture, were prohibited in Portugal, that this was a Treaty for taking off that Prohibition on British Cloth, on Condition that Portugal's Wines should pay in England a Third less Duty than the French; that they were to give us an Equivalent for this Difference of Duties, viz. the taking off that Prohibition of our Cloth, and we were to give them an Equivalent, for the taking off that Prohibition, viz. that the Wines of Portugal should pay so much less than those of France; and that the Treaty was mutual, for increasing the Consumption of our Cloths in Portugal, and of their Wines in England; that ever since that Treaty, the Duties on the Wines of Portugal have been one third less than those on France; but that the King of Portugal soon after taking off the Prohibition of our Cloths, took off his Prohibition on Dutch, French, and all other Cloths, and thus without any Equivalent: That the Dutch have ever since Imported into Portugal a third part as many Cloths as England; that this was an Infringement of the Treaty, the Intent of which was to encourage the Vent of our Cloth in Portugal, exclusive of other Nations, since we could not be thought to have been so insatiable, as to give an Equivalent for the Dutch and the French; and that since the Portuguese put the Cloth of other Nations on the same Foot with ours, they can have no reason to complain, if we level the Duties on French Wines with theirs. The Sense of all which is, if the King of Portugal does not perform what he has never promis'd, viz. to keep on his Prohibition upon the Woollen Cloths of all other Nations, we are at liberty not to perform what we have stipulated by the Treaty, viz. that the French Wines shall pay one Third more Customs than those of Portugal.

But the Merchant goes on haranguing upon this Subject, No. 113. he says, "That we granted the King of Portugal's Subjects a Privilege exclusive in Britain, viz. of paying one Third less Customs for their Wines than the French; that we could do this only for the Advantage of having our Cloths admitted, while those of other Nations were prohibited, and not that other Nations should be put on the same Foot with our selves; that therefore the taking off the general Prohibition, was a direct Contravention to the meaning of the Treaty; that we could not be such Fools, as to give the King of Portugal, an Equivalent for the same Thing which he granted the Dutch and the French for nothing; that the Advocates of this Treaty, who do not pretend to appropriate the Woollen Manufactures to England; and who allow the French to be as expert in them as our selves, cannot deny that the King of Portugal has taken off his general Prohibition, as much to their Advantage, as he has done to ours; and has therefore acted contrary to the very meaning of the Treaty, which was to have the sole Importation of Woollen Cloths to our selves; and which was the only thing for which we gave an Equivalent to Portugal."

In answer to these fine Harangues, I must assert, as I have often done, that colour'd Cloths were not the only Woollen Manufactures which were prohibited in Portugal by their Pragmatic before the Treaty. For when the Portuguese found that we introduced Cloths, Serges, and Cloth-Druggets, in prejudice to their Woollen Cloths, they prohibited these as well as Woollen Cloths. This Prohibition continued till the Treaty.

Next I must assert, as I have often done, that the King of Portugal has stipulated by the Treaty, to take off the Prohibition, not only of our Woollen Cloths, but of all our other Woollen Manufactures; and not only this, but that they shall not be again prohibited, till the Breach of the Treaty on our Part. When the Treaty shall be broken by us, then by express Words, it shall be again lawful for the King of Portugal, to prohibit not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures. The Merchant would fain possess his Readers, that he had prohibited only colour'd Woollen Cloths, and upon our Breach of the Treaty, was allow'd to prohibit nothing else; but as he said himself, the King of Portugal before the Treaty, by the Right of a Sovereign Prince, might prohibit any thing of the Growth or Manufacture of this Kingdom: It must be said, that by his Treaty,

he has divested himself of this Right, and by a Breach on our Part, he will be restored to the Right of Prohibiting; as well what was not, as what was Prohibited before. Was it worth anything to us, that he has divested himself of this Right, with respect to any sort of Woollen Manufacture? And has he done this for the Dutch or French, or any other Nation?

It is very true, that we have made the Duties, one Third higher on French Wines, than those of Portugal. We had done this before we stipulated to do so by our Treaty; and it was our Interest so to do, though no such Treaty had been ever made. We made no Alteration in the Duties we had already established for the sake of Portugal, though Portugal took off Her Prohibition of many of our Woollen Manufactures for our sake, and obliged herself never to prohibit any. It was our Interest, that the Duties on French Wines, should be so much higher than on those of Portugal, and we had accordingly made them so before. Certainly that Minister must have been a Person of very great Address, who could prevail with that Prince to take off his Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactures, for a Condition that was as much for our Interest as his. To talk of our giving an Equivalent, is Nonsense; we have given nothing to Portugal for taking off his Prohibition, but what was our Interest to have given, though the Prohibition had still continued.

The Intent of our Treaty was, to increase the Consumption of our Woollen Cloths in Portugal; and has it not been increased by Means of this Treaty? What we any Balance before from Portugal? And do we not now gain every Year a Million by that Trade? And what was done for the Minister, who by his Advice has done so much Honour to his Prince, and so much Service to his Country?

As for France or Holland, has he oblig'd himself not to take off the Prohibition of their Woollen Manufactures by this Treaty? then though he had done it, could not be an Injury. But is it credible, that he did any such thing in behalf of France, when he was in actual War with that Kingdom? If he did it for Holland, he was assist'd by that State against his Enemy, yet far from enabling Holland to send near a third Part as many Cloths as us to his Country: They do not send one Cloth for Forty, that are sent by England; however, this must be said, Portugal has put herself under no Obligation to those Countries.

It is ridiculous to talk of the including of the Woollen Manufactures of other Nations; no such Thing is express'd or couch'd in the Words of the Treaty. And France has put me quite out of conceit with the Spirit against the Letter.

We had an immediate Benefit by the Treaty, by the taking off the Prohibition in Portugal. Portugal had nothing for it during the War, more than She had before; and now our Turn is serv'd, should we reduce the Duties on both Wines to an equality? Where is the Equity of this Proceeding? But it is not for our Interest.

The Merchant thinks we are at liberty to level the Duties on the Wines of both Countries, by the first Breach of the Treaty by Portugal; but I deny that She has broken it. If She had, it would be our Interest still to keep it, and not to lose a Trade worth a Million Yearly to be reveng'd.

The Merchant thinks, we could grant what we have done to Portugal, only for the sake of excluding the Woollen Manufactures of other Nations from that Country. We granted it, because it was for our Interest; and on this Condition She has oblig'd herself never to prohibit any of our Woollen Manufactures. Portugal has not granted this to France or Holland.

France rivals our Trade in Woollen Manufactures to many other Countries, but not to Portugal. I believe therefore, her Woollen Manufactures are not admitted there, or not with so easy Duties. But I am already too long, and shall defer the rest to my next.

ERRATA

In British Merchant, Nam'd, p. 11. the words Customs, 1000, instead of the Words, Lofs by a Bill of Exchange of 1000 pieces of 8 from Spain, which is Three pieces of 1000 pieces per Cent = 30. 10 s. read, Lofs by bringing 1000 Pieces of 8 from Spain in specie, which have not produced so much as if remitted by Bill of Exchange 7 1/2 to 1.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A farther Answer to the Mercator concerning the Portugal Treaty.

From FRIDAY, February 12. to TUESDAY, February 16. 1714.

SINCE the Mercator has begun again to inveigh against the Portugal Treaty, and the Minister who negotiated that Treaty with other Words, and the old Argument, I think myself obliged to remind my Readers of the Defence I have formerly made both of the one and the other. The Work will be half done by a bare Repetition of the material Parts of that Treaty.

" The Preamble expresses an Intimation of the Queen's Desire that the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the Woollen Manufactures of Britain, may be admitted into Portugal, the Prohibition of them being taken off.

" The King of Portugal accordingly promises to admit FOR EVER the Woollen Cloths and the rest of the Woollen Manufactures of the *British*, as was accustomed before they were prohibited.

" The Condition on the Part of Britain is, That she shall be obliged FOR EVER to admit the Wines of Portugal, paying no more at any time than Two Thirds of the Duties paid by those of France.

" The Penalty on us for not performing this Condition is, That it shall be lawful for the King of Portugal AGAIN to prohibit the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the *British* Woollen Manufactures.

The first Motion to this Treaty, it seems, was made on the Part of Her Majesty. Our coloured Woollen Cloths were prohibited in Portugal. The Portuguese had set up a Fabrick of their own, and proceeded in it with very good Success, after the Prohibition of ours and all foreign coloured Cloth. We had then nothing left against their Cloths but to introduce our Cloth Serges and Cloth Druggots into that Country. They quickly found that these gave some Interruption to their Manufacture, and therefore they proceeded also to prohibit foreign Serges and Druggots. These Prohibitions continued till they were taken off by this Treaty.

The Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom have been ever considered as the greatest Branch of our Trade; and as we have laboured as much as possible in the Improvement of these Manufactures at Home, so it has ever been our principal Care to open as many new Markets as we could for them in foreign Countries. The principal Parts of our Woollen Manufacture were prohibited in Portugal, and that Prince has taken off the Prohibition upon the Motion of Her Majesty.

The King of Portugal had nothing to desire of us. The Wines of his Country were then admitted into England. They paid little more than Half the Duties that were levy'd on those of France. This Difference of Duties was settled long before by Act of Parliament, and for a long Term, which is not yet expired, it was settled, not at the Request of the King of Portugal, but because it was the Interest of England. So that Prince had nothing to desire for the present which we had not already granted without any such Desire: But it was a great Mischiefe to England, that so great a Part of our Woollen Manufactures stood prohibited in that Country. It was but reasonable therefore to move that this Prohibition should be taken off; it was but reasonable that the first Motion to this Treaty should be made on the Part of England. Certainly there was nothing in the Motion for taking off this Prohibition, and for opening a new Market to our Woollen Manufactures contrary to the *Nova Charta*, inconsistent with the *British* Liberties, or destructive of the Privileges of Parliament.

Well, the King of Portugal has obliged himself and his Heirs FOR EVER to admit into his Country our *Woolen Cloths* and the rest of our *Woolen Manufactures*, as was accustomed before they were prohibited.

To admit FOR EVER is not only to take off the Prohibitions then in being, but never to lay on any new Prohibitions.

To

To admit FOR EVER our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures, is not only never to prohibit anew our Cloths, and Coth Serges, and Cloth Druggens, which flood prohibited till this Treaty, but also every other sort of Woollen Manufacture, which it was lawful for that Prince to prohibit, before he had divested himself of this Right by his Treaty.

There is a Way of Prohibiting without a direct Prohibition, and that is by high Duties; but the King of Portugal by this Treaty has also divested himself of this Right, with respect to our Woollen Manufactures, by obliging himself to admit them *as was accustomed*, that is, with as easy Duties *as was accustomed* before the Prohibitions.

The Duties of Importation before the Prohibitions had the Name of *23 per Cent.* but the Goods were undervalued; those Duties of *23 per Cent.* were not above *12 per Cent.* of their real Value. To such low Duties has the King of Portugal obliged himself with respect to the several Sorts of Woollen Manufactures which flood before prohibited in that Country.

I shall not wonder that there are Men so abandoned to object against a Treaty which has not only opened a Market for so many of our Woollen Manufactures which were before prohibited, but has made that Market perpetual for every Sort of our Woollen Manufactures. It might be expected from those Persons who are so liberal of their Panegyrics upon the two Treaties of Commerce with France (for so I must call the Treaty and the subsequent Articles signed a Month after) the first of which excepts all our Woollen Manufactures from being esied of either Prohibitions or high Duties in that Country; the second admits some few under Duties thrice as high as those of Portugal, and at such Ports only, and with such Limitations and Restrictions, as shew a plain Intention in the French King never to admit any of them into his Dominions. Instead of a Treaty of Commerce, it may as well be called a Treaty for excluding our Woollen Manufactures out of France. The Advocates of such a Treaty as this may very well be displeas'd with that of Portugal, which has opened to us a perpetual Market for all Sorts of our Woollen Manufactures.

The Stipulation of the King of Portugal in this Treaty, has helped us to so prodigious a Vend for our Woollen Manufactures in that Country, as has abundantly made up to us the Loss of that Balance we heretofore received from Spain, (which God knows whether we shall ever recover, now King Philip is on the Spanish Throne) employed and subsisted vast Multitudes of our People to prepare Goods for Portugal, and kept up the Value of the Product of our Lands, which otherwise must have fallen very much by the Loss of the Spanish Markets. Certainly the Memory of that Minister, who had the Address and Dexterity to gain us such a Stipulation from the King of Portugal, ought to be for ever sacred in this Kingdom, unless he has made us buy it at too great a Price.

The Price therefore is the next thing to be considered, or the Condition to be performed to Portugal on the Part of England, which is, that we shall be obliged *for ever* to admit the Wines of that Country, paying no more at any time than two thirds of the Duties payable by those of France.

Now I will suppose at the very worst against this Treaty, that at the time of making it, the above-mentioned Woollen Manufactures flood prohibited in Portugal; and that the Wines of that Country were not admitted here, without paying as high or higher Duties than those of France; and that Portugal had stipulated on her Part, never hereafter to prohibit any of our Woollen Manufactures; and the Queen on Her Part has absolutely promised that such an Alteration should be made in the Duties on Wines in favour of Portugal. It is certain that the Duties on Foreign Goods imported into this Kingdom, cannot be adjusted but by the Parliament; and that the Parliament would not have been obliged by the Treaty to make such an Alteration in the Duties on Wines in favour of Portugal, unless they should be convinc'd that it would be for the Advantage of the whole Nation. And thus even by the Treaty in this Case, the Right of the Parliament had

not been invaded or taken away, the Alteration in the Duties had not been made without the Consent of the Parliament, and the British Liberties had been still the same. The Treaty only in this Case had been void, and no Alteration of Duties ever made.

But what would have been the Conduct of an English Parliament, if this had been the Case? Would not the Parliament have considered whether this Alteration of Duties had been for the Advantage of the Kingdom? Would they not have considered whether the Loss by this Alteration of Duties, was likely to be made up by opening a new Market for our Woollen Manufactures? If it should have been made appear to them, that both the one and the other had been advantageous to this Nation, would they not have made the Alteration of Duties?

If this is not the Case, I am not able to think what can be said for the late Treaty of Commerce between us and France. The 8th Article has stipulated absolutely that the Merchants of France shall be as much favoured here as those of any other Nation. And yet it is certain they are not yet, nor cannot be so much favoured, unless the Parliament shall pass a Law for that Purpose. The Parliament shall not thought fit to pass such a Law, and France without it cannot have the Favour that is granted to her by the Treaty; so that even by this Treaty, no Alteration is made, or can be made in the Laws of this Kingdom, without the Authority and Consent of Parliament. And therefore though the Portugal Treaty had expressly stipulated, that no Alteration should be made in the Duties on Wines which were then in being; yet the Duties must have continued as they were, notwithstanding this Stipulation, till the Parliament had thought fit to make the Alteration. So that the Treaty in this Case, neither had, nor could take away the Privileges of Parliament, nor destroy the British Liberty.

But there is not even this to be objected against the Portugal Treaty; for there is no Stipulation in it to alter any Law already made, there is no Undertaking in it for any thing that could not be done without the Authority of Parliament. The Parliament had before made a greater Difference between the Duties on French Wines and those of Portugal, to the Advantage of the latter than the required by this Treaty: This was done without any Respect to Portugal, but because it was for our own Interest. The Advisers therefore of this Treaty might very well presume upon the Parliament's Intention not to alter the Duties already established, with very great Consideration, and for the Benefit of the Kingdom; they might very well advise such a Stipulation on our Part, for so great a thing as the opening a Market for our Woollen Manufactures. What if a Minister had advised Her Majesty to stipulate to the King of Portugal not to deliver up an English County to France, for the sake of gaining a Market for our Manufactures? Would such a Minister deserve to be hanged for his Advice? The Portugal Trade is annually worth more to us than the Fee-simple of some English Counties; and this we owe to the Difference of Duties which we have promised, and which was not contrary to any Law in being. But if the Parliament should not be pleas'd with the Advice, they may, notwithstanding the Treaty, give away the Portugal Trade, though it were as valuable as many Counties. For Portugal has only granted the Trade, on Condition that we will be obliged to continue such a Difference of Duties; if the Parliament will not think fit to preserve the Trade to Portugal, they may do as they please with the Duties on the Wines of other France or Portugal.

For lastly, The King will by this means be restored to the Right he had before, a Right to prohibit our whole Trade, though there had been no such Penalty annexed by the Treaty; yet in such Case, without any Breach of Treaty, he might prohibit not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures. Might not Portugal grant us what she has done by this Treaty, upon what Condition she pleas'd? and annex any Penalty that was in her own Power, to the Breach of this Condition? What is there in all this that was contrary to *Magna Charta*?



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A further Justification of the Portugal Treaty.

From TUESDAY, February 16. to FRIDAY, February 19. 1714.

THE Mercator, after having treated as a Faction all the Adversaries of the French Commerce, that is, the Major part of the last House of Commons, and many precedent Parliaments, has begun at last to compliment with the same Title all the Advocates for the Trade to Portugal. They are a Faction that are met for making good the late Treaty of Commerce with France! They are a Faction that are not for breaking that with Portugal!

I advise the Mercator to keep himself to this way of arguing, for it is his best. The Custom-house has been rummag'd for a Balance coming to or upon our Trade to France; and no doubt if any one Year could have been found, in which our Exports had exceeded, either before or since the Tariff of 1664, to the time of our prohibiting or loading with high Duties the Goods and Merchandizes of that Kingdom, we should have had it in CAPITALS. The happy Year cannot be found, and therefore all he has left for it, is to band with the Name of Faction all the Opposers of the French Treaty, all that are against our paying a yearly Balance to the French Nation, all that are against letting in upon us an Inundation of French Manufactures, to lessen the Value of the Product of our Lands, and of the Labour of our own People.

And yet so bad as the French Trade has been, or is likely to be, upon the Foot of our late Treaty of Com-

mended by our Treaty with that Nation; that it was as good before as it has been since, that we exported as many Goods before, and gained as great a yearly Balance from that Country. But Custom-house Accounts, it seems, are stubborn things, they will not be made to speak what they do not mean; and are therefore as silent with respect to the Disadvantages of the Portugal Treaty, as they have been with respect to the Advantages of that with France.

I am not able yet to part with him upon his Charge of Faction: Why is it that we are to be filed a Faction? Why? because there is such an Intemperance of Interests, because every one that is against the Peace, and against the Ministry, are all to a Man against the French Trade, and that therefore the Complaints against the Commerce, is a popular Shift to gain Strength, gain over People of their Party Cause, and strengthen the Party against the Government.

But how comes it to pass that the Administration of the Government are at all concerned in the Question concerning the Bill of Commerce? Would the Mercator insinuate that the Ministers are to get any thing if the Bill should pass? Or that they are to lose any thing if it should be rejected? Or if this were really the Case, must the People for their sake suffer the Treasure of the Nation to be exhausted, and the Value of its Native Product and Manufactures to be diminished, by keeping the Treaty with France, or by breaking that with Portugal? Could such Distress be brought upon

LONDON, Printed for F. & D. BUKBRIGHT, in ABBEN-CORNER, (Price Three Halfpence.)
 Law, and only by publishing us a Party, to which
 before, and without the Treaty, we were liable, by
 not performing the Condition which is required as to
 performed on our Part, and we were liable, by
 may keep it if he pleases, notwithstanding the Ar-
 but who can help it? the Estate is his own, and he
 Case will not be thought to have had any right
 Value of his Estate. Perhaps the Noblemen in this
 hor a Party, and though the greatest were of twice the

works, has been his Language ever since: Nay, sometimes he is pleased to call us traitorous Conspirators against the Trade and Prosperity of our Country. As for the *Portugal* Treaty, he has had the Confidence more than once to call it a Felonious Treaty: he has more than once said, that the Makers and Advisers of it ought not to wear their Heads. What could he mean by this, but to outrage the People, and let them loose upon all Persons that had any hand in that Treaty?

But I must expostulate with him upon this Felonious Treaty, which is a Charge so often repeated in his latest Papers.

The King of *Portugal* by this Treaty has granted us Liberty to import our Woollen Cloths and other Woollen Manufactures, which were before prohibited, into his Country under very easy Duties; he has obliged himself never to prohibit either our Woollen Cloths, or any other of our Woollen Manufactures; he has obliged himself and his Heirs never to lay any higher than the old accustomed Duties upon any of them. Certainly if that Prince had bound himself and his Heirs to do all this for nothing, we should think our selves very much obliged to the Address and Dexterity of the Minister who had negotiated so good a Treaty for his Country.

This only Question is, Whether this Minister has not paid too great a Price for the Purchase? This Question implies in it many other Questions, such as these that follow, Whether he has not advised Her Majesty to do that by Her Prerogative, which she could not do without the Consent of Her Parliament? Whether the Ratification of this Treaty has not bound down the Parliament of *Great Britain* to the Difference of Duties between the Wines of *Portugal* and those of *France*, expressed in the second Article? Whether the Parliament has it now in its Power to alter this Difference of Duties? Or whether, when the present high Duties on French Wines shall be expired, the Parliament is bound to continue the Difference which is stipulated between the Wines of both Countries? Or, Lastly, if the Parliament shall refuse to do this, whether Her Majesty is absolutely obliged by Her Treaty to do it whether they will or no?

As to the first Question, Whether the Minister who negotiated this Treaty has advised Her Majesty to do that by Her Prerogative which she could not do without the Consent of Her People in Parliament? I must desire my Readers to look back to the Treaty it self in my second Paper; they will perceive there, that the King of *Portugal* has made all the Grants above-mentioned.

UPON CONDITION,

That Her Majesty and Her Heirs shall be obliged for ever to admit the Wines of *Portugal* into *Britain*, paying no more at any Time than two Thirds of the Duties paid by those of *France*.

AND IF ANY ALTERATION SHALL BE MADE IN THIS DIFFERENCE OF DUTIES, then it shall be lawful for the Prince, again, to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.

Certainly in all this the Minister that advised this Treaty, cannot be said to have advised Her Majesty to do any thing by Her Prerogative, which she could not do without the Consent of Her Parliament.

The King of *Portugal* might have granted what he has granted by this Treaty, absolutely and without any Condition, if he had pleased: But he has granted it upon a Condition, viz. of preserving the above-mentioned Difference of Duties, which cannot be performed without the Consent of Parliament; and what if the Parliament will not give this Consent? Why then the King of *Portugal* has granted nothing.

Suppose a Gentleman, who is possessor of the best Jewel in the Kingdom, should enter into Articles of Agreement with the Merchant, and oblige himself to deliver his Jewel to a Nobleman,

Upon Condition,

That the Merchant in Return shall be obliged to procure for him the Estate of this Nobleman. What if the Nobleman will not consent to part with his Estate? Will the Merchant affirm that his Estate is gone from him by these Articles of Agreement to which he was not a Party? No certainly, if the Merchant cannot make it appear to be the Interest of the Nobleman to give his Estate for the Jewel, he may still keep it notwithstanding these Articles, to which himself was

ties to which he never was a Party, to which he never gave his Consent.

The Case of this Treaty is the very same; the King of *Portugal* has granted the Queen a free Market for all the Woollen Manufactures of Her Subjects, and he is absolutely obliged himself that this Market shall be perpetual: But all as

Upon Condition,

That Her Majesty shall be obliged to preserve for ever the above-mentioned Difference between the Wines of *France* and *Portugal*, which cannot be preserved but by the Consent and Authority of the Parliament. But what if the Parliament will not consent to preserve this Difference of Duties? Why then the Condition is broken, and the King of *Portugal* has granted nothing; but it can never be said that the Parliament is deprived of the Right of making or relaxing their Assent to the Performance of the Condition, or of altering the Difference of Duties in such manner as to deprive the British Nation of one of the best Markets for their British Manufactures.

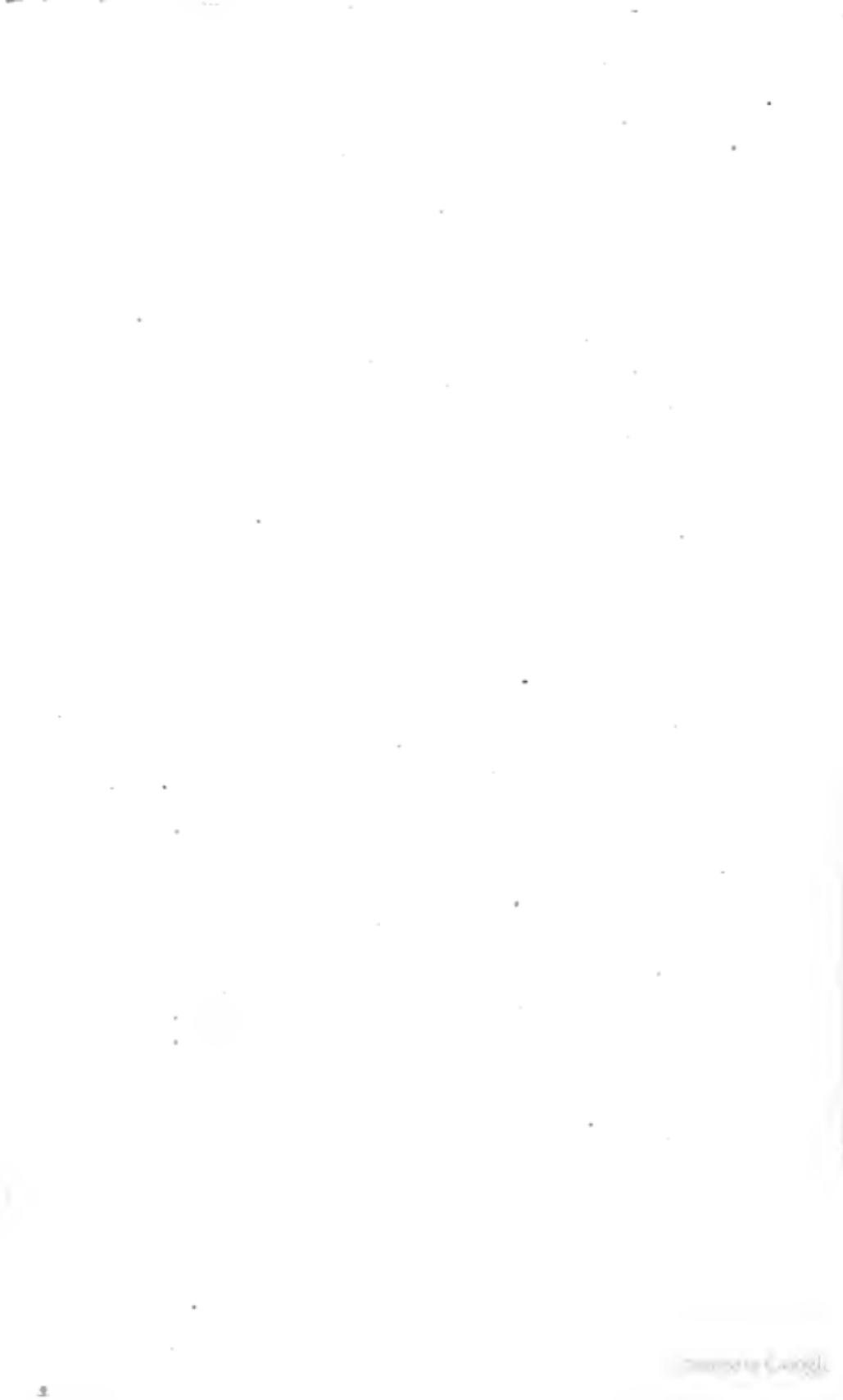
Perhaps to make an equal Alteration in this Difference of Duties may be worth nothing, may be as Mischief to the British Nation, while an open Market for all our Woollen Manufactures is invaluable: But who can deny that the Parliament possess the Power to make the Alteration, and to deprive the Nation of that invaluable Market. It might be thought my strange, if our Legislators should exercise this Power; but still they have the Power, it is not taken from them by the Treaty, which was a Transaction between the Queen, and the King of *Portugal*, to which the Parliament never gave their Consent, and may refuse it when they please. The Parliament therefore is not bound down to the Difference of the Duties expressed in the Treaty. The Parliament has it still in their Power to alter this Difference of Duties. The Parliament is not obliged to continue any higher Duties upon the Wines of *France* than *Portugal* after the Expiration of the Act which has made the present Difference.

But, Lastly, Her Majesty is not obliged by Her Treaty to preserve this Difference of Duties whether the Parliament will or no. The last Clause is a Demonstration of this Thing, which is, That if any Alteration shall be made in the Difference of the Duties contrary to the Meaning of the Treaty, then it shall be lawful for the King of *Portugal*, AGAIN, to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures: Now as the Merchant foolishly construes it, that it shall be lawful for the King of *Portugal* to prohibit again just what was prohibited before, and no more; but that it shall be lawful again for the King of *Portugal*, as it was before, to prohibit all our Woollen Manufactures.

Mr. Mathew would very vain have had the Penalty worded just according to the Constitution of the Merchant. No, says the Minister of *Portugal*, it shall be worded as it now stands: The King my Master grants you a Market for your Woollen Manufactures, which you had not before; and the Penalties of his own Subjects will be destroyed by it. The King my Master has the Power of prohibiting all your Woollen Manufactures by the Right of a Sovereign Prince; and if the British Parliament shall not think fit to perform the Condition, and continue the Alteration of Duties, it is very fit they should know my Master will be restored to the whole Power he had before of prohibiting not only Woollen Cloth, but all the rest of your Woollen Manufactures. The Agreement to the Penalty in this Form was some Weeks in transacting, and I should think the Minister had very well deserved to lose his Head, if he had not the Grant of such a Market for our Woollen Goods, for want of expressing a Penalty that was simply in the very Breach of the Condition.

But I believe every Man who has the least Love for his Native Country, will think that this able Minister deserves rather to have his Statue set up in every trading Town, who has had the Skill and Address to make a Treaty for opening a new and a great Market for so many of our Woollen Manufactures, and which we have now enjoyed for the space of ten Years, and which we may enjoy for ever; and all this without obliging us to make any onerous Alteration in our







The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A farther Vindication of the Portugal Treaty.

From FRIDAY, February 19. to TUESDAY, February 23. 1714.

NOW for the Questions of the *Mercator*, to which in Numb. 115. he desires plain Answers may be given, I shall for once oblige him, and give as plain Answers as he desires.

To his first, *Is the Portugal Treaty a Limitation of the Parliament, or is it not?* I answer, It is not. The Parliament is not limited. The King of Portugal is bound by the Treaty to continue to us one of the best foreign Markets we ever had for our Woollen Manufactures, till the Parliament shall set him free, till the Parliament by altering the Duties between the Wines of France and Portugal, shall enable the latter to deprive us of that Market, to stop that vast Stream of Moieties, which ever since the Treaty have been flowing into this Nation. The King of Portugal is bound, but the Parliament is still at Liberty, and when they please may set that Prince as much at Liberty as themselves. Our Legislators, if they please, may refuse to continue the Difference of Duties after the Expiration of the high Duties on the Goods and Merchandizes of France, or they may immediately level the Duties on French Wines to those on Portugal; but the very Moment they shall do this, the King of Portugal is at Liberty as he was before the Treaty, to prohibit not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.

It must have been wonderful Address in that able Minister, that he could prevail with the King of Portugal to grant us so good a Market, upon Condition that we should not make an Alteration in the Difference of Duties, that is, to bind himself till the Parliament should make him free; yet at the same time to accept for this a Condition on our Part, to be kept or not kept at the Discretion of a British Parliament.

Without doubt the King of Portugal was prevailed with to believe that so good a Market as his Country for our Woollen Manufactures would be so very ac-

ceptable to this Nation, that for the sake of its Continuance we should not fail to perform the Condition to be performed on our Part, as much as if in express Words our very Legislators had obliged themselves to the Performance. And for this Reason, and this only, he could bind himself, and leave the British Parliament at their full Liberty.

For my own Part I should have been of that Prince's Opinion, that our own Interest was a sufficient Obligation upon England, to continue the Difference of Duties required by the Treaty, when so beneficial a Market depended upon the Continuance, especially when we had thought it our Interest to make even a greater Difference between the Wines of France and Portugal than is required by the Treaty, and when we did not gain any new Market for our Woollen Manufactures by our so doing.

The Time was, when laying high Duties on French Wines, and other Goods of that Nation, for a long Term of Years, was thought a sufficient Commendation of the very Gentlemen who had first proposed it to the Parliament. The Words of the Inspector-General, which I have cited in my Numb. 25. are remarkable upon this Occasion: "The Nation, says he, is beholden to that able Man and excellent Patriot, Mr. Sacheverell now deceased, for this prudent Caution. He was the first Author of this wholesome Counsel; he laid the Foundation of it 4 and 5 Gal. and Mar. And as his Abilities help'd his Country while he lived among us, so we may now reap the Fruits of his Wisdom after his Death. 'Tis true, continues he, other Persons would arrogate to themselves this Merit; but these are living Witnesses enough who can testify that the Impositions upon French Goods were the Effect of his Skill and Foresight."

Dr. Davenant here is in wonderful Disquiet, lest Mr. Sacheverell should be robb'd of the Honour of pro-

projecting the high Duties on French Goods. Mr. *Sachverell* is his Patriot for this Project: And yet all the Use Mr. *Sachverell* made of it, was to prevent a very losing Trade to *France*. But Mr. *Metkew*, it seems, in the *Mercator's* Opinion, deserved to lose his Head for grafting upon this Project a very gainful Trade to *Portugal*. And yet he has not obliged the Parliament to continue the high Duties on French Wines; all he has done is to oblige the King of *Portugal* to preserve to us this very gainful Trade, till the Parliament shall think fit to alter the Duties on French Wines, contrary to the Terms of the Treaty. If Mr. *Sachverell* was a Patriot for preventing a very losing Trade, and Mr. *Metkew* deserved to die for helping us to a very gainful one, I shall never be able hereafter to distinguish between the Patriot and the Malefactor.

If the Treaty projected by Mr. *Metkew*, and ratified by Her Majesty, had been in these Words, *The King of Portugal on his Part promises to admit for ever all our Woollen Manufactures; and the Queen on Her Part promises that no more shall be levied on the Wines of Portugal than two Thirds of the Duties levied from those of France.* Yet even in this Case Her Majesty could not perform Her Promise, unless Her Parliament would enable Her to do it. If Her Parliament would not enable Her to keep it, then Her Promise must be broken. But sure it could not be said even in this Case, that the Power of limiting or raising Taxes had been taken from the Parliament.

The Power of making Peace and War, Treaties and Alliances, are the Prerogative of the Crown. The Prince may declare War against his Enemy without asking Advice of his Parliament; but then he must resort to his Parliament to compel Men into his Service, and he must resort to his People for Money to pay his Armies; he can neither force Men, nor raise Money without the Consent of the Parliament; his Declaration of War does by no means oblige him to do these things without their Consent; and if they will not give their Consent, he can neither have Men nor Money, and must make as good a Peace as he is able: So that his Declaration of War does not deprive his Parliament of any Privilege, since they can either give or refuse their Assent to any thing that is asked of them.

The Sovereign may, for his own or his Peoples Benefit, enter into an Alliance or Treaty with a foreign Prince, and oblige himself to pay that Prince a Subsidy of 100,000 *l.* per annum, which perhaps is more than he is able to do without the Money of his Subjects. But can he take Money for this Purpose from his Subjects by his Prerogative? No, he must resort to his People for Money to pay this Subsidy: And if they will not give it, yet he cannot take it from them. The Privilege of Parliament all this while is safe, the Treaty does not destroy it, the Prince must break his Treaty if his Parliament will not enable him to keep it.

In like manner, what if the Queen had absolutely promis'd, as in the Case above-mention'd, that no more should be levied on the Wines of Portugal than two Thirds of the Duties levied on those of France: And this as a Recompence for what is promis'd by the King of Portugal, can the Prince in this Case alter the Duties from what they are at present, or continue the Alteration beyond the Limitation of it by Act of Parliament? No certainly, if the Parliament will not make or continue the Alteration, the Treaty is broken, but still the Privilege of Parliament is not destroy'd; they have it still in their Power to make or not make, continue or not continue the Alteration of Duties at their Discretion. They are absolute Judges in this Case, whether the Promise to the Queen is an Equivalent for the Alteration of Duties promis'd by Her Majesty, and may therefore enable Her or not, as they think fit, to perform Her Promise. But whether the one or the other, yet nothing had been taken from the Parliament.

But there is not so much as even this in the present Case. The Queen has not promis'd any thing in express words. The whole Substance of the Treaty is a Promise of a Market for our Woollen Manufactures, by the King of Portugal, on Condition that the Queen shall be obliged to continue such a Difference of Duties as

requir'd. But if Her Parliament will not suffice the Difference to be continu'd, no not even for the sake of a beneficial a Market for her People, surely there are no Words in this Treaty that oblige Her Majesty to continue the Difference, whether the Parliament will or no, or that are any Limitation of the Parliament.

The *Mercator* has not all along insisted upon this Treaty, being a Limitation of the Parliament; for in his 19th are these Words, viz. That it was only a Treaty of Commerce; and that as the Parliament might hereafter find it convenient to pass some other Act which might interfere with it, the Consequence of such Infraction was provided for in the Treaty. That then the King of Portugal was free to prohibit such Goods as were before prohibited; that is, in plain English speaking thus to the King of Portugal.

Sir, As this Treaty is made at Her Majesty's Desire, that the Prohibitions of English Goods in Portugal may be taken away; so it is on this express Condition, that if the English Nation shall break this Agreement, Your Majesty is where You were, and no harm done: All the Prohibitions You laid on before, You are free to lay on again, and this is the Sum of the whole Treaty.

How can this Writer that calls this the Sum of the whole Treaty, call it a Limitation of the Parliament? Was it a Limitation of the Parliament, that the King of Portugal has granted Her Majesty's Subjects a Market for their Woollen Manufactures? The Parliament have it in their power to remedy this; they may make a Law if they please, that no Woollen Manufactures shall be sent to Portugal.

Or is it a Limitation of the Parliament, that he has granted as this Market on Condition, the Satisfaction of which, he says, by express Provision of the Treaty, only brings us back to the Circumstances we were in before? Why then the Parliament has it at any time in their power to place themselves in these happy Circumstances, and to give up the Market for our Woollen Manufactures in Portugal, for the better Wines of France. If the Gold we have gain'd from Portugal is a Burthen to us, France will be ready to take it off our Hands.

All the *Mercator's* other Questions are answered by the Answer that is given to the first. *Is the Portugal Treaty a giving Power to the Prerogative to raise Taxes and limit Taxes, without Consent of Parliament, or is it not?* I answer it is not; not is any such Power given to the Prerogative by this Treaty. I expected to have heard from the *Mercator*, that the high Duties on French Wines were expir'd, and that the Minister who negotiated it, had advis'd Her Majesty's Will to continue them by Her Prerogative, as King James did of the Excise and Customs, beyond the Limitation of them by Act of Parliament. Thanks be to God no such thing has been done, nor I believe never will, during the Reign of Her present Majesty. Thanks be to God too, that the high Duties on French Wines are still in Force, both because they are beneficial to this Nation, and because they have help'd us to so beneficial a Treaty as that with Portugal.

His next Question is, *Is any Act of the Ministry limiting the Parliament void in its own Nature, or is it not?* I answer, this Act of the Ministry does not limit the Parliament; and if it did, it were void in its own Nature.

His last Question is, *Are they punishable by our Laws who invade Parliamentary Privileges, and are thereby Betrayers of their Country, or are they not?* I answer, no Parliamentary Privilege is invaded by this Treaty; if they were, I shou'd wish the Advisers of it might be hang'd. I shall wish the same thing for every one that has advis'd the making a pernicious Treaty for his Country.

The *Mercator* would do well to shew that the Nation is a Loser by the Portugal Treaty: But he knows very well he is a great Gainer by it. Therefore his way is to expatiate our Legislators gain'd it, as an Attack upon their Privileges; but the Privileges of Parliament are safe and unhurt, and we are not likely to break a Treaty so beneficial to this Kingdom, for the Whimsies of the *Mercator*.





The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A Promise to consider the Mercator's new Argument for breaking the Portugal Treaty as soon as it shall be finished. Reasons why the French ought not to insist on any

Reduction of Duties on their Wines. Neither the Price nor Quantity of French Wines have been abated by any of our former high Duties.

From TUESDAY, February 23. to FRIDAY, February 26. 1714:

Hitherto I take my self to have answered all the Mercator's Objections to the Portugal Treaty; when he shall offer any thing that is new to fortify his old Objections, I shall not fail to give them as much Weight as they deserve.

But now from Objecting against the Nature of the Treaty, he is come to object against the Use of it. From calling it a *Solemn* Treaty, and charging it with having robbed the Parliament of its Fundamental Privileges, which I have fully answered, he comes now to call it a *ridiculous* Treaty, (it is his own Word) and to charge it with not being the Cause of increasing our Exportations of Woollen Manufactures to that Country. His Argument is not yet finished, as soon as it is, it shall be considered.

In the mean time I shall proceed to consider the chief Articles of Exports and Imports between us and France; and first, what reciprocal Duties will be sufficient in each Country, to make the Value of the one as great as the other, and to hinder a Balance in Gold or Silver going from either Country; and secondly, Whether such a Reciprocation of Duties is provided for by the late Treaty of Commerce between us and France. Answers to these Questions shall be the Subjects of some of my future Papers.

But in the first place I ought to observe what Goods of both Countries ought to be excepted from this Equality or Reciprocation of Duties. To which I make

this general Answer, that all such ought to be excepted as are peculiar to the Growth of either Country. For example, Suppose that equal Duties of 5, or 10, or 15 per Cent. of the real Value, were sufficient to enable us to sell as great a value of Woollen Manufactures to France, as France could import upon us of Silks and Linnens; then in these two Articles, an Equality of Duties were all that is to be required in either Country. But this can be no reason why no more of the real Value shall be imposed on the Wines that shall be imported from France into Great Britain, because we have no Wines of our own Growth, and can import none so good as those of France from any other Country. So that if equal Duties on the Woollen Manufactures of Britain, and the Silks and Linnens of France, would make the Balance even between both Countries in these two Articles, and only equal Duties should be imposed on French Wines, or not enough to amount to a Prohibition, the whole value of the Wines that shall be imported, will be a Balance against Great Britain. Wines therefore ought to be excepted out of this Equality or Reciprocation of Duties. Great Britain ought to be left at Liberty to impose on Wines at her Discretion, to prevent the Payment of any Balance.

This is admirably well treated by the Merchants in 164. who made some Proposals to the Commissioners then appointed for a Treaty of Commerce with France, in the Explanation of their Proposals.

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Their third Proposal was, that there might be an Equality of Duties according to the true Value of the Goods exported and imported between both Countries. But then foreseeing that France would object against this Equality of Duties to be laid on the Manufactures of each Country.

That his Majesty hath laid great Imposts on French Wines and Brandy, which (as they may suppose or pretend) may be prejudicial to France between QUANTITY and PRICE. To this the Merchants answer as follows.

First, That in Fact it is far otherwise; for that since his Majesty's imposing those Duties, the Quantities of Wine and Brandy imported into England from France have been far greater, and purchased at much higher Prices than before.

From Michaelmas 1663, to Michaelmas 1664, there was imported into the Port of London, 6228 Tons of French Wine: And the Quantity of Brandy was then so small, that it deserves not to be noted.

From Michaelmas 1669, to Michaelmas 1670, being after the raising the Duties on those Commodities, there was imported into the Port of London in the said two Years,

about 17000 Tons of Wine.

about 3000 Tons of Brandy.

From Michaelmas 1672, to Michaelmas 1673, being two Years, was imported into the Port of London, upwards of 22500 Tons of Wine.

In June 1667, the Year preceeding the last great Impostition, the Price of Langosse Wines in France was not above 47 Crowns per Ton clear on board.

In June 1668 the Price was 47 Crowns

In June 1669 ————— 54 Crowns

In June 1670 ————— 53 Crowns

In June 1671 ————— 55 Crowns

In June 1672 ————— 50 Crowns

In June 1673 ————— 56 Crowns

And this Year, June 1674, 70 Crowns per Ton, clear on board.

And all sorts of Claret are risen double in Price since the Year 1657; so that it is evident that the Impostitions on Wines and Brandy in England are only on his Majesty's Subjects, on the Consumption, and do no ways impair the Trade of those Commodities, either in Quantity or Price, to the People of France.

3. We answer, That Impostitions in England on Wine and Brandy cannot properly be objected against the Reduction of the Impostitions on English Manufactures in France; for that the French Manufactures imported into England do not only answer, but exceedingly much surmount in Value the English Manufactures imported into France: So that the Wine and Brandy stands upon a distinct Foot, and the French have wholly the Advantage thereof above the English. That is, they have a Balance upon us upon all the other Goods exported and imported between the two Nations; and therefore the whole Price paid for French Wines is so much added to that Balance, so much clear Gain to that Country. And for this Reason then the Merchants thought the French Wines ought not to be comprehended in the abovementioned Reciprocal or Equality of Duties between the two Nations, but be left to our Discretion to deal with them as we thought fit.

But many Things are very remarkable in the abovementioned Allegations of the Merchants, and every one against the Mercator.

First, That the Increase of Duties did not lessen the Consumption of French Wines, the Importation of them increased presently after the Impostition of the high Duties; they were before not above 6800 Tons, they increased presently after to 8500, and so on to above 11000 Tons.

What then is become of the Mercator's Maxim, That

Dearness of Commodities lessens the Consumption? Here it is plain the Consumption increased, notwithstanding the Price. In mine, Numbr. 39 I have shew'd that it shall increase, even after the last high Duties were almost doubled, in the first Year of King James the Second. How then will this Maxim be able to maintain his Maxim against so plain a Fact? But the Truth is, as Luxury increases, sumptuary Laws are hardly able to provide against it.

The next Thing is, as to the Price of the Wines, the Mercator's French Wines are never above 8 or 9*l*. a Medium; and therefore by Torna he has been very angry with the OLD SCHEME for the Valuation of French Wines at 23 *l*. 10*s*. 6*d*. per Ton in the Year 1660, with the Dutch Merchants for 17*l*. 10*s*. 6*d*. per Ton in 1664, and with the English for 25 *l*. per Ton in this Year of Day.

Behold here the Prices of Langosse Wines, the cheap White Wines of France! In 1668 47 Crowns, or even through the Exchange; were at Paris, 10 *l*. 11*s*. 6*d*. per Ton in 1669 54 Crowns, or 12 *l*. 3*s*. per Ton; in 1670 11 *l*. 18*s*. 6*d*. in 1671 12 *l*. 7*s*. 6*d*. in 1672 50 Crowns, or 11 *l*. 5*s*. in 1673 56 Crowns 12 *l*. 12*s*. and in 1674 75 Crowns, or 16 *l*. 17*s*. 6*d*. By which we may see that the Prices of French Wines have been gradually increasing since the Year 1664, and that even the Prices of the lowest Wines are very little more than in the Scheme for the best and the worth together.

But the Quantities of Graves Claret, Portoway, and other dear Wines being added to the Langosse Wines, will make it hard to believe that the Price of all Sorts of Wine imported in 1669, could come out at less than 12 *l*. 10*s*. at a Medium, especially since Claret has been generally the Draught in this Kingdom, and it then the Merchants say in 1674, the Price of 1668 had been quite doubled.

The Mercator takes his Price of 8 or 9*l*. per Ton from the Inspector-General, who appeals to the Merchants of that time, the Merchants of that time whom he makes his Appeal, know of no such Price as 8 or 9*l*. per Ton, and have accordingly here justified the very Price of 12 *l*. 10*s*. in the SCHEME. The great Rise from that Time makes it credible, that the Dutch Merchants was in the Right in his Price of 17 *l*. 10*s*.

The Mercator's Objection against this Price, as if it would justify the Breach of the Portugal Treaty, first French Wines at such a Price were likely to give us little Obstruction to those of Portugal, has been already answered by my Numbr. 23, in which it is demonstrated, that the Price of French Wines, even with Portugal Duties upon them, would be 40*l*. per Ton cheaper than those of Portugal for several Years last past at a Medium; and that even though they should be at the Guardian's Price of 25 *l*. per Ton, they would not be above Two-pence per Quart dearer: All can any Man then imagine that they would not be common Draught of this Kingdom?

For my own Part, I can see nothing less than 10 or 12000 Tons of French Wines at 20 to 25*l*. per Ton, to be imported either fairly or clandestinely to the Loss of 2 or 300,000*l*. per Annum, if the Treaty of Commerce should be made effectual; that is, if France had in all things be as much favoured as the Nations the most favoured. But the Value of her other Goods and Manufactures imported upon us will so much surmount, as our Merchants say, that of all the Golds we shall be able to send to that Country upon the Foot of the late Treaty, that I make no doubt he will easily give up the Article of Wines for the sake of the Balance she is likely to gain in other Articles; unless she should resolve to adhere to it, not only for the sake of her own Profit, but that we may break with Portugal, and destroy one of the most profitable Trades we ever had in Europe.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the Importing of *French Wines*, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vote Prohibition Act. 30 Car. II.

Some further Observations concerning the Importation of French Wines. The Quantity of Brandy's likely to be imported if

the Treaty should be made effectual. The Detriment of this Importation.

From FRIDAY, February 26. to TUESDAY, March 20 1714.

THEY were Merchants, and French Merchants too, and indeed all that were eminent in that Trade in the Year 1674, who made the Representation from whence I have taken the Extract which is cited in my list. Some of them too were very much in the Favour of the Court; one of them, as I remember, was made a Commission-Alderman by the late King James for the City of London, after that City had been illegally deprived of her Charter, so that they could not be all said to be a PARTY or a FACTION against the Court. Yet in this they agreed one and all, That the French Manufactures (even without Wines and Brandy) imported into England, did us only injure, but exceedingly much *forment* or *Value* the English Manufactures imported into France; so that, said they, the Wine and the Brandy stands upon a different Foot, and the French have thereby the Advantage thereof above the English. The Meaning of this Part of the Representation is, that the French Manufactures imported into England vastly over-balanced all our Exportations to that Country, and that the whole Cost of Wine and Brandy was so much added to the Balance against England: That France, besides a vast Superabundance by the rest of our Trade, gained clear the whole Cost of Wine and Brandy from this Nation.

The Representation shews, that notwithstanding the high additional Duties imposed on French Wines in England, notwithstanding the Increase of their Cost in France from the Year 1663 to 1674, yet the Importation continued every Year increasing.

The Duties were doubled in the first of King James II, in the Year 1688; and by the Invoices of that

Time it appears that the Cost of Wines clear on board in France was vastly increased beyond that of the Years before-mentioned; and yet the Quantity imported in that and the following Years, and entered at the Custom-house, was vastly greater than at any time before when the Cost and the Duties were a great deal less.

The Use I would make of this is, that small Impositions may be sufficient to restrain Luxury in its Infancy, but when it is once grown up, and has taken Hold of a Nation, it grows out of the Reach of the severest sumptuary Laws that can be made.

We have indeed since made the Duties as high again upon the Wines of France as those of other Nations, and yet it is very much to be questioned whether even this would have much lessened the Consumption, if a War at the same Time with France had not made a total Interruption of all Manner of Commerce with that Nation, if this had not made it very penal to the Importer; and yet we remember, even during the War, how greedily these Wines were sought after by Gentlemen at sometimes double, often at the treble Cost of those of Portugal and other Nations.

Peace at last has opened the Trade to France, but the high Duties still remain, and the Customs are pretty well looked after by the numerous Officers at the Port of London. And yet we see the Importation of French Wines has increased at the Port of London; but for the Coast of Great Britain, which is of vast Extent, and not so well attended, what Quantities must we believe have been clandestinely imported? Every Gentleman upon the Coast drinks his French Wine at less than the very Cost of the Duties. If these then should be levelled to those of the Nations the most favoured,

accord.

according to the late Treaty of Commerce, can we be so blind as to imagine that they will not be the common Draught of this Kingdom? and that the Importation of *Portugal* Wines will not be reduced again to the Quantity of 3 or 400 Tons *per Annum*?

Carets formerly the Drink of almost no other Country except *Great Britain*, are now arrived at such Reputation in so many other Places, that the Cost of them in *France* has been gradually increasing above forty Years; and if the Merchants would produce their Invoices of some of the last Years, the Prices would appear double to what is represented by the Merchants in the Year 1669; and yet even at this double Price they have been demanded. But if the Duties shall be levelled to those of the Nations the most favoured, even at this advanced Price they will be imported almost as cheap as the Wines of *Portugal*, and if the Qualities of both shall be considered, a great deal cheaper. And can we question then that they will be the common Draught of *Great Britain*?

It is therefore exceedingly foolish in the *Mercator* to argue from 40 or 50 Years past to the present Time; to argue from the Quantities then imported, that we shall now import a great deal less because of the Increase of the Duties from 7 l. 10 s. to 27 l. and of the first Cost of the Wines from 1 l. 10 s. to double that Cost, that we shall import less than we did in those Years. Experience and Fact are against his Argument. The Consumption has increased with the Cost and the Duties. Sumpstuary Laws are scarce sufficient to restrain the growing Luxury of a Nation; and I must believe that I have been modest in my Calculation of 10 or 12000 Tons of Wine to be annually imported from *France* even at the first Cost of 2 s. l. and under the Duty of 27 l. *per* Ton, which added to the Profit of the Importer and Retailer, will not altogether exceed those Wines above 18 or 20 d. *per* Quart. It thus would be the Case, *France* will drain us every Year of 150000 l. for Wines.

The next Article is their Brandy. The Importation of this was inconsiderable in 1665, according to the Representation of the Merchants, and not worth their Notice. The Duty then was but a Trifle. But the Brandy then could be afforded so very cheap, yet it was in very little use in *England*; it was not the fashionable Luxury of this Kingdom, it was but then beginning to creep in upon us. Soon after a high Duty was laid upon it, and then the Merchants represent that from *Michaelmas* 1667 to *Michaelmas* 1669 about 3000 Tons were imported, that is, about 1500 Tons *per Annum*.

The *Mercator* would have us believe, that so large an Importation was owing to the Consumption of the old Stock by the Fire of the City of *London*.

To confute this Imagination, we read in the above-mentioned Representation of the Merchants, that from *Michaelmas* 1671, to *Michaelmas* 1673, there was imported into *London* above 7111 Tons of Brandy, above 1667 Tons *per Annum*. This for *London* only, besides what was imported at the *Out-ports*. Was this too owing to the Fire of *London*, which happened so many Years before?

We may see therefore that this Part of our Luxury was then making large Steps into this Kingdom, that it was rushing in upon us in spite of the Duties, which were then thought to be very high.

The Merchants therefore might very well suppose the annual Importation of Brandy to be 4000 Tons, as they do in the OLD SCHEME, when it was already arrived to that Quantity. The same Merchants that drew this Representation, were the very Persons that presented with it the OLD SCHEME to the Commissioners then appointed for making a Treaty of Commerce with *France*.

It is manifest that the Merchants never intended to have it thought, that 4000 Tons of Brandy were imported from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669, since the very same Persons have in their Representation supposed the whole Quantity imported from *Michaelmas* 1667, to *Michaelmas* 1669, two Years, to be no more than 3000 Tons of Brandy; they could not therefore

make the Quantity 4000 Tons for one of those Years. The 4000 Tons therefore they supposed might be the Quantity of our future annual Importations, according to the measure of the two Years from *Michaelmas* 1671 to *Michaelmas* 1673, when almost 4000 Tons *per Annum* were imported into the Port of *London*. The OLD SCHEME has not fixed just 4000 Tons of Brandy for the Importation of 1668-9. The Article is worded thus, 4000 TONS OF BRANDY ONE YEAR WITH ANOTHER; which shews them to have had a particular Eye to the vast Increase of that Importation in succeeding Years.

But that which deserves our chief Observation in the Increase of our Expense of Brandy, is, that it was that growing apace upon the Nation, and perhaps neither Customs nor Excises had been able to hinder the open or clandestine Importation of this Commodity, if at last a War had not come on with *France*, which was a total Interruption of all manner of Commerce with the Nation.

But did this put an end to the Luxury which was very far advanced? No, from the Loss of this beloved Brandy, we fell immediately to supplying the Want of it with Malt Spirits, and some drawn from *Malaga*, far below the Value of French Brandy; but yet we made a shift with it, when Brandy could not be imported.

Our Manufacture of Malt Spirits increased by this Means to 1,600,000 Gallons *per Annum*, which makes Consumption of at least 80,000 Quarters of our Malt to the great Improvement of the landed Interest.

But where is the Carman or the Porter, who would not rather chuse a Quart of French Brandy than a Gallon of Malt Spirits? And yet if the Customs and Excises on the former shall be reduced to 51 l. *per* Ton, *France* Brandy will not be three times the Price of our Malt Spirits. Brandy is drawn from the lowest priced Wines, and is commonly sold at 20, seldom more than 25 l. *per* Ton in *France*; so that though the Customs and Excises should be at 52 l. *per* Ton, they will be afforded at 6 s. and 8 d. *per* Gallon. And thus can any one imagine that we shall not bid farewell to Malt Spirits in this Kingdom? Whether Gentlemen will contentedly bear of the Loss of such a Market for their Malt, or whether they can believe the value of their Lands will not be impaired by such a Loss, belongs to them to consider; for my own part, I am only considering the Loss of the whole Kingdom. If the Duties should be reduced according to the Terms of the late Treaty, I must believe that 2000 Tons *per Annum* will be entered at the Custom-house; and no Man can be sure that half that Quantity ought not to be allowed for clandestine Importation: At 2 l. *per* Ton, the Cost of 2000 Tons *per Annum*, amounts to 60,000 l. so much ought to be added to the Balance against *England*.

These two Articles of Wines and Brandy are likely to add above 300,000 l. *per Annum* to the Balance against *England*, and this too for the Luxury of the People.

The Wines we import from *Portugal* and *Italy* we purchase for our Manufactures, and for the Product of our Lands, since we receive a Balance from those Countries: And are we sure we shall not abate of our Exportations in proportion to the Quantity of Wines we shall cease to take from them? What will the Lands and the People of *England* suffer by the Loss of these Markets for such a value of our Manufactures? And will Gentlemen be contented not only with this Loss, but that we should pay *France* 250,000 l. *per Annum* for the Wines of that Country?

Our Malt Spirits are entirely the Product of our Lands, and the Labour of our People; and will Gentlemen be contented to pay 60,000 l. *per Annum* to *France* for Brandy, that a Market of equal Value may be lost for our Malt Spirits?

I am glad at all times, of sumptuary Laws against Luxury: But since it is hard to provide against it, let our People pay their own Country, and not *France*, for their Luxury.







The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Forasmuch as it hath been by long Experience found, that the Importing of *French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silks, 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.

Vide *Prohibition Act*, 30 Car. II.

A Calculation of the annual Value of Linnens consumed by England and our Plantations.

The Linnen Manufacture made in England, pays the whole Value of it to our Lands, and the Labour of our People.

So does that imported now from other Countries.

The Value of our own Linnen Manufacture.

The Value of foreign Linnens imported.

French Linnens never paid any thing to the Lands or Labourers of England.

They deprived both of a Value equal to the Value of those Linnens.

The Value of French Linnens heretofore annually imported.

From TUESDAY, March 2. to FRIDAY, March 5. 1714.

Linnen heretofore was the largest single Article of our French Imports in the Custom-house Books, equal to almost thrice the Value of all our Woollen Manufactures exported to France, equal to almost all our Exports to that Nation of all kinds whatsoever. This even by the Accounts from the Custom-house, which cannot well be defective as to the Quantity of exported Goods, tho' large Allowances ought to be made beyond the Entries for Goods clandestinely imported, as I have shewn in my former Papers, and as I shall shew more particularly with respect to the Article of French Linnens.

If the Duties on French Linnens are to be reduced by the late Treaty of Commerce to those on the Nations the most favoured, there is little Reason to believe that this Importation will not be as great as ever; for what is an Half-penny per Ell beyond the former Duty?

But Gentlemen are in no great Pain upon this Account; they think we can suffer very little by the Loss of our Linnen Manufactures; and as for what shall be imported from abroad, they think they may be imported from France with as little Detriment to England as from any other Country whatsoever.

In all this they have too cheap an Estimation of Linnens made in England, and of the Advantages accruing to us by our Importation of this Manufacture from other Countries since the Interruption of our Commerce with the French Nation. I shall endeavour now to give them other Thoughts of this Matter, by shewing, First, The Value of the Linnen Manufactures made in England;

And, Secondly, The Advantages accruing to us by the Importation of *Germany* and other Country Linnens since the Interruption of our French Commerce.

For the First, I believe every Man will readily agree, that the Linnens, whether of our own or foreign Manufacture, which are annually consumed in England only are very considerable. If I shou'd affirm, that the English People great and small, rich and poor one with another, consume in Shirts, Sheets, Table-linnen, and all other Domestick Uses the annual Value of $\text{£}5$. I believe there is not one Man in a hundred, that wou'd not laugh at me for rating the annual Consumption of the People in Linnen at too low a Value.

And yet if the People of England are rightly computed at seven Millions, this Number multiplied by five Shillings, will produce thirty five Millions of Shillings, or one Million seven hundred and fifty thousand Pounds Sterling. The annual Consumption of every one, at 5 s. per Head at a Medium, will amount to so great a Sum.

If to this shall be added, the Canvases for our Ship-

ping, and course Cloths for the Package, and embalming of Goods and Merchandises, and also the Consumption of our Plantations in the *West-Indies*, which before the Union were served only from England, I believe no Man will think me extravagant, in rating the whole annual Consumption of Linnens at 1,750,000 l.

If all the Linnens annually consum'd in England were of her own Growth and Manufacture from the Flaxseed to the Draper's Shop, I believe no Man cou'd doubt the Advantages of it to this Kingdom; the annual Consumption of 1,750,000 l. Value of Linnen, all our own Manufacture, wou'd not be brought to pay less for Flax to the Lands than a fifth Part of that Sum, and four fifth Parts to the Labour of our People. A Manufacture which shou'd pay those respective Sums to the Lands and Labour of England, wou'd deserve to be cultivated with the utmost Care and Application.

I shall endeavour therefore to shew, that the annual Consumption of Linnen at this Time in England, and our *West-India* Plantations, whether made here, or imported from other Countries, does either directly or indirectly, pay the above-mentioned Sums to the Landholders and Labourers.

There can be no question of this, with respect to the Linnens made in England, in Proportion to their Value; but I believe I shall be able to shew, that the Case is the same, with respect to all that are imported now from other Countries, since the Prohibitions or high Duties on *French* Linnens, and the total interruption of Commerce with that Nation.

To begin with our own Linnen Manufacture. It is far more considerable than is generally believed. Indeed, because it is not of that Extent, nor the Business of so many Counties as our Woollen Manufactures, as I have expressed my self before. Men have too cheap an Estimation of it, they are in little or no Pain what becomes of the Linnen Manufacture.

But to shew the Value of Linnens made in England, we must first know the Value of those imported from other Countries; in the first Report of the Inspector General of the Customs, we read that the Importation of *Germany* Linnens, by a Medium of three Years, from Christmas 1699. to Christmas 1703, amounted to

519,717 l. ————— per Ann.

By his second Report, the *Holland* Linnens imported in 1703, amounted to,

£13,708 : 89 : 11 per Ann.

From *Flanders, Alsace,* and other foreign Countries, I am informed that the Value of imported Linnens may be,

60,000 ————— per Ann.

The Importation of *Swiss* Linens, does not exceed 130,000 *l.* per *Ann.* nor that of *Ireland* 20,000 *l.* in the whole.

So that all the Linens imported into *England*, will not exceed,

If it shall be allowed, that our annual Consumption of Linens amounts to

And that our present annual Importation does not exceed,

It will remain, that the *English* Linen Manufacture amounts to,

$160,000$ per *Ann.*
 $205,438 : 19 : 11$ per *Ann.*
 $17,50,000$
 $2,05,438 : 19 : 11$
 $626,561 : 00 : 1$ per *Ann.*

If the annual Consumption of Linens of our own Manufacture in *England*, and in our Plantations, to the Value of 175,0000 *l.* would be allowed to pay the Sums I have mentioned to our Lands, and the Labour of our People, then our own Linen Manufacture of above one third of that Value, must give above one third of those Sums to the like Uses. If this were the whole Value of the Linens Manufactured in *England*, certainly we should not abandon so useful a Manufacture.

But in the next Place, the Consumption of Linens Imported from the above-mentioned Countries has the very same or as good an Effect in proportion to their Value; for every one of those Countries takes from us an Over-balance of our Goods and Merchandises, and especially of our Woolen Manufactures; and this they could not do, or at least must do in proportion to our Importation of their Linens; *Germany* especially, which already, according to the Inspector General's Report, pays us a Balance of 170,000 *l.* per *Ann.* And can a Country which has little Foreign Trade, and imports very little Gold or Silver from Abroad, afford still to take off from us the same Quantity of Goods and Merchandises, tho' we should cease to buy their Linens? or instead of 170,000 *l.* per *Ann.* pay us a Balance of that Sum, and 50,000 *l.* more than they do at present? In this Case then it must be acknowledged, that we purchase Goods for Goods; and if the Goods or Manufactures exported hence, for such a Value of Linens, contribute equally to our Lands or Labouring People, it is the same thing as if the Returns of Linens were of our own Manufacture, whether our Lands or Labourers are paid directly by the Linen Manufacture, or by the Manufacture of Woolens and other Goods which are exported to purchase these Linens, it is one and the same thing. Our annual Consumption of Linens, to the Value of one Million seven hundred and fifty Thousand Pounds, whether made in *England*, or imported from the above-mentioned Countries, in exchange for our own native Product and Manufactures, does either directly or indirectly pay that whole Sum to the Lands, and the Labouring People of *England*.

Now this can never be said in Defence of the French Trade, or the Importation of Linens from that Country. We NEVER sold, I will venture to say NEVER, no Custom-house Account can shew that we EVER sold an Over-balance of Goods and Merchandises to that Country.

On the contrary, we always purchased thence a great Over-balance of Goods and Merchandises, for which we paid in Gold or Silver, and this to more than the whole Amount or Value of all the Linens imported from that Nation. How is it possible then to say, that the Linens imported from *France* contributed any thing either directly or indirectly to our Lands or our Labouring People? They could not do it directly, since they were not the Product of our Lands, nor the Manufacture of our own People: They could not do it indirectly, since they were purchas'd by our Money, and not by the Product of our Lands, nor the Labour of our People, since they were not Purchas'd by any Manufactures of our own, or by any other Goods or Merchandises which paid the Value of those Linens to our Lands or our Labouring People.

But this was not the worst Part of our Condition; when almost our whole Consumption was of French Linens, they not only exhausted our *Treasure*, and paid nothing to the Lands or the Labourers of *England*, but they lessened the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures; that is, they took off so much from the Value of our Lands, and the Hire of the People, as is now paid to both by the annual Consumption of Linens, which are either entirely of our own Growth and Ma-

nufacture, or which is the same thing in Effect, purchas'd or purchas'd in exchange for our own Product and Manufactures; and which therefore pay our Lands and our Labourers the whole Value of our present annual Consumption.

Is it possible then that Linens shall be hereafter imported from *France*, without lessening at the same time in proportion our own Manufacture, or our Importation from other Countries? and if this shall be the Consequence, will not our Lands and our People be deprived of the Sums which are annually paid to them by our present annual Consumption?

It may be worth while to consider here, how much was lost to both formerly, when our chief Consumption was of French Linens. The Custom-house Accounts may tell us either 3 or 4 or 500,000 *l.* Value of Linens were Entered in their Books, but they can give us no Account of clandestine Importations; and yet these in proportion were as detrimental to the other. But there is another way more certain of coming to this Knowledge, and that is by the Increase of this Manufacture at home, and by the Increase of the Importation from other Countries.

Whatsoever is this Increase, it is for our own Consumption, and that of our own Plantations. Equal exports of Linen to other Countries. Few People will believe that we are richer now, or abound more in Numbers than before the Beginning of the last French War. All that are of this Opinion must necessarily conclude, that our Consumption of Linens was as great then as it is now. All then that we have increased in our own Manufacture, and in our Importations from other Countries, was the very Value we imported heretofore from *France*.

From *Germany* we imported formerly by the Inspector General's Account, Linens of the Value of 121,682 *l.* now the Value of 519,737 *l.* per *Ann.* the Increase is From *Holl.* formerly, 179,972 *l.* 15 *s.* now 213,701 *l.* 19 *s.* 11 *d.* the Increase is

$121,682$ *l.*
 $179,972$ *l.*
 $42,779$ *l.* 4 *s.* 11 *d.*

From *Holland*, and other Foreign Countries, I am inform'd our Importations have increased; but from *Sweden* I have heard that our Importation formerly was not above 30,000 *l.* and that it is now 130,000 *l.* per *Ann.* the Increase is

$100,000$ *l.* 0 *s.* 00

The whole Importation of 80,000 *l.* from *Ireland*, is an increase of

$80,000$ *l.* 2 *s.* 00

Besides which, there is an increase of 240,000 *l.* per *Ann.* Linen Manufacture in *Lancashire* and *Yorkshire*. This is very probable, if the Representations from those Countries are to be Credited, that they have 10,000 Looms, and 60,000 People wholly employ'd and subsisted by that Manufacture.

$240,000$ *l.* 0 *s.* 00

In like manner it is alledg'd, that the Increase of our own Linen Manufacture in *Dursetshire* and *Somersetshire* is an

$100,000$ *l.* 0 *s.* 00

And in other English Counties

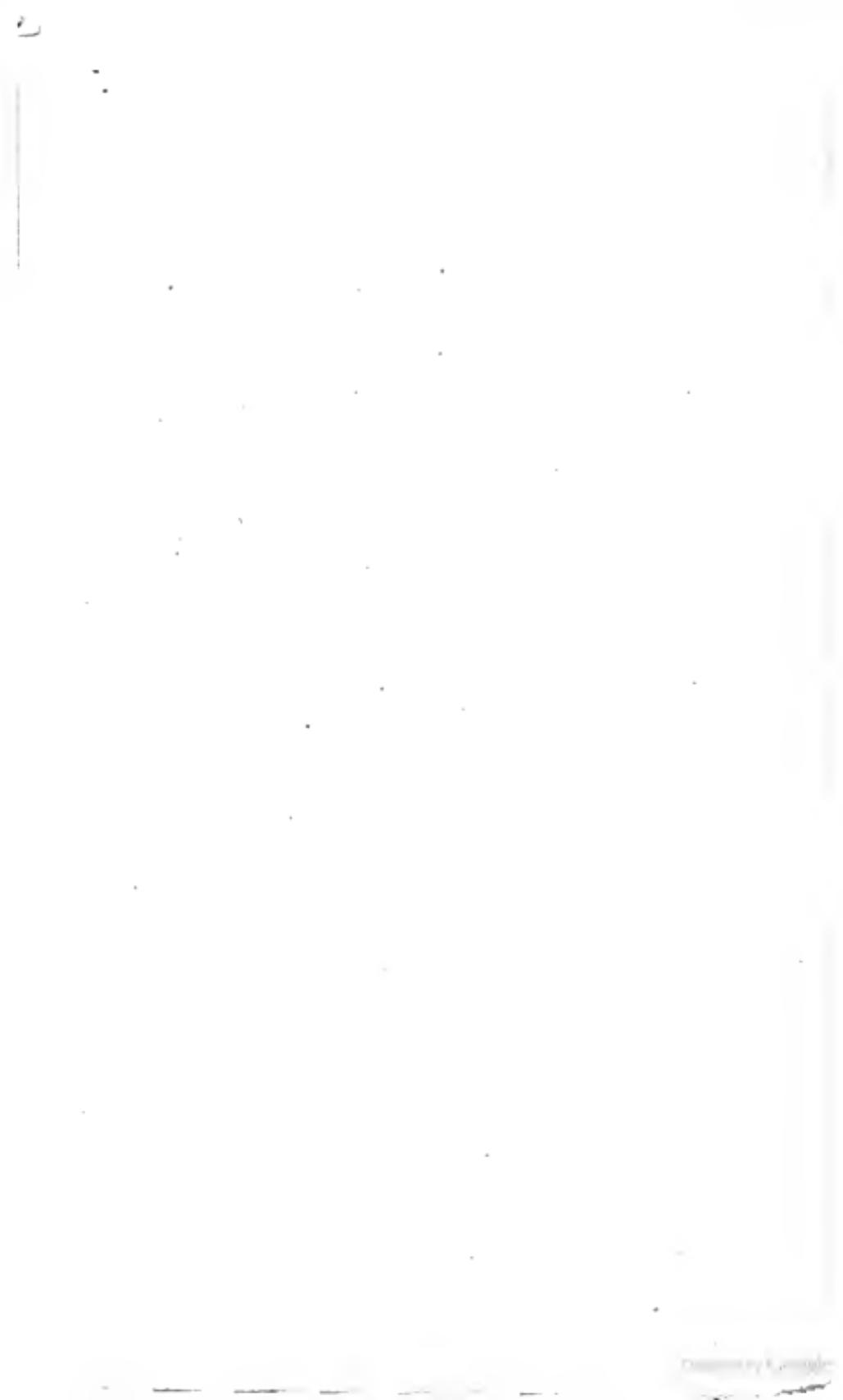
$40,000$ *l.* 0 *s.* 00

So that according to this Account, the Increase of our own Linen Manufacture, and of our Importation from other Countries, Amounts to

$960,784$ *l.* 4 *s.* 11

If our Consumption for the above-mentioned Reasons, is no greater now than it was formerly, then this whole Increase must be lost to *France*; and let the Custom-house Accounts say what they will, either fairly or clandestinely our whole Importation of Linens from *France* must heretofore have exceeded 900,000 *l.* per *Ann.* It is easy then to see of what annual Sums we were drained by this Article of French Linens, and how much they lessened the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures, of how much Rent they must have tob'd our Lands, and of how much of their Hire the poor Labouring People of this Kingdom. And are we contending like Madmen for such a Trade as this?





The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

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.

Vote Prohibition Act. 30 Car. II.

An Error in my last corrected.

The Increase of the Silk Manufacture in England considered.

The Value of it to our Lands and labouring People.

The Increase of our Silk Manufacture demonstrates better than Custom-house Accounts the annual Value heretofore imported from France.

From FRIDAY, March 5. to TUESDAY, March 9. 1714.

BEFORE I proceed to any other Article of our Imports from *France*, I ought to rectify a Mistake in my last concerning the Quantity of our *English Linnen Manufacture*, which by my Fault is made to be less by 50000 *l. per An.* than it really is.

The Argument of that Paper consists of two Parts; the first to shew, that the whole Consumption of Linnens in *England* and our Plantations amounts to 1750,000 *l. per An.*; and whatsoever short of this Value is now imported from other Countries, is made up by Linnens made in *England*, which, at the Foot of that Account, are valued at 696,561 *l. 00 s. 1 d.*

This happen'd by an Overvaluation of the Linnens said in the first Paragraph of the 3d Column to be imported from *Scotland* and *Ireland*. It is said there very truly, that the Linnen annually imported from the former does not exceed 150,000 *l.* nor that from the latter 80,000 *l.* but then these two Sums are cast up at 260,000 *l. per Annum*, whereas they make no more than 110,000 *l. per Annum*.

This one Mistake has made, at the Foot of that Account, the whole annual Value of the *English Linnen Manufacture* no more than 696,561 *l. 00 s. 1 d.* whereas it should have been 746,561 *l. 00 s. 1 d.*

The Reader, if he pleases, may correct this Error; however, I shall be in no great Pain whether he does or no; since, the Value of 110,000 *l.* or 260,000 *l.* in Linnen is made in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, for our Consumption, the whole Price is paid to our fellow Subjects; but, as I have likewise fully shewn in that Paper, all the Linnens that are now imported into *England*, are the Returns of our Manufactures, and the whole Value of this Consumption is paid to the Lands and Labour of *England*, as much as if those very Linnens were of our own Growth and Manufacture.

The second Part of the Argument of my last Paper shews, that the whole Increase of the Linnen Manufacture made in *England*, and of the Importation from other Countries, is so much taken off from our Consumption of *French Linnens*; or that we consume so much less of *French Linnens* in Proportion to that Increase. This making 660,000 *l. per Annum* in the whole, we want no other Demonstration that so great

a Value of *French Linnens* was annually imported into *England*. Whatsoever the Entries at the *Custom-house* make out Consumption of *French Linnens* short of that Value, it must be made up by clandestine Importations.

And I believe there will be as good Reason to conclude, that the *Custom-house* Entries, in the Article of *French Wrought Silks*, have been exceeding short of the real Importation. If we have increased in the Importation of Raw and Thrown Silk, and the Manufacture of these Commodities in *England*, or in the Importation of manufactur'd Silks from other Countries, for our own Consumption, *France* and the *East-Indies* must be allow'd to have lost the Selling us Wrought Silks equal to that Increase; since, as in the Article of Linnens, all who believe the Notion is not richer or more populous than it was before the Beginning of the last War, will easily be persuaded, that our Consumption of Wrought Silks has not increased; so that whatsoever it has increas'd from other Places, is so much lost to *France* and the *East-Indies*.

As to the Increase of this Manufacture at Home, this will appear in some measure by the vast Increase of the Importation of Raw and Thrown Silks from foreign Countries, from *Turkey*, *Italy*, and the *East-Indies*.

But here I must acknowledge, that the Importation of *Ardais*, or coarse *Perse* Silk, from *Turkey*, is vastly abused. This has been principally occasioned by the Imposition of such Duties on it as it could not bear. But then this Loss has been in Part supplied by a vast Importation of *Groggram Yarns*; and besides this, the Importation of *Hollandine*, or white *Turkey* Silk, and of *Sherbazice* of *Perse*, is greater now than that of these and the cheap *Ardais* Silks join'd together was before the Beginning of the first War. All the Work therefore that was formerly done with *Ardais* Silk, and is now performed by *Groggram Yarn*, together with the whole Increase of the Number of *Sales* imported from that Country more than formerly, must be placed to the Account of the Increase of the Silk Manufacture in *England*.

I will not pretend to determine the Value of this Increase; all I will say here shall be only to explain it. Suppose then, that formerly our annual Importation of *Ardais*

Ardfs and other Silks imported from Turkey amounted to 1950 Bales, and that at this Time the Importation of Bellandine and Sberbaffie amounts to 1600 Bales of Silk; at first Sight, this would look as if only 200 Bales of Silk more were brought into the English Manufacture; but if the Program Yarn, which is for the most Part a new Importation, should be allowed to supply 500 Bales of Ardfs Silk, and that nevertheless 1600 Bales of Raw Silk from Turkey are imported, then it would be manifest, that not only 200, but 600 Bales of our present annual Importation, must either be re-exported, or added to our Silk Manufacture. If it shall be allowed, that to the Turkey Trade by this Means furnishes 600 Bales of Silk per Annum to our Manufacture more than it did before, I shall be very glad to be inform'd, whether such a Quantity is not sufficient to produce 80 or 90000 lb. weight of Wrought Silk? The Turkey Merchants, or rather the Weavers of *Perria-Fields*, might certainly answer this Question; and also, whether at least 600 Bales of Turkey Silk are not brought annually to our Looms more than before the Beginning of the first War.

But we are yet more free of our Importation of *Black-moist* and *Orange* Silks: This amounts to near a thousand Bales in a Year, and is wholly new. Of these and other *Italian* thrown and raw Silks, we use at least 1500 Bales annually at our Looms more than we did before the Beginning of the first War. And whence is this prodigious Increase of our Silk Manufacture, but from the Interruption of our Commerce with *France*, and the Prohibition of *East-India* Silks?

I have by me an Account of the *East-India* raw Silks imported for several Years last past, the whole Quantity, at a Medium, will make 400 Bales per Annum; so much of this as is not re-exported is used at the English Looms. If by these several Articles 2000 Bales are used at our Looms more than formerly, the Weavers will be able to answer, whether the Produce will amount to less than 280,000 lb. weight of Wrought Silk; and this Quantity, at 40 s. per lb. will make the Increase of our Silk Manufacture 700,000 l. per Annum.

I am very ready to believe that such has been the Increase, from what was asserted at the Bar of the last House of Commons by a Gentleman well skilled in these Matters. He asserted that our Manufacture of Luddings, Abmodes, and other black Silks for Hoods and Scarves only, amounted to 300,000 l. per An. Of Silks for Linings of Cloaths in } 150,000 l. per An. Imitation of *Perlians*, to } 150,000 l. per An. Of Silk Handkerchiefs, to 200,000 l. per An.

The whole of these Articles, 650,000 l. per An.

All this, besides the Recovery of Stuffs and Cottons mixt with Silks, which before were almost lost to this Kingdom.

Luddings and Alamodes are now very little used; the Silks that are used in their Stead are Ruffianses and Mantos Silks, which are quite a different Fabrick. But the whole Value, it seems, of our black Silks is 700,000 l. per Annum. This is an entire new Manufacture to England, with which before the first War we were wholly served by *France*. This is not such a prodigious Sum as People may imagine; it amounts to little more than 2 s. and 6 d. per Annum for every one of the female Sex, and we may very well conceive that 100,000 of this Sex are in these Silks every one at the Charge of 20 s. per Annum, which makes up the whole Sum: But whatever is the Quantity, *France* served us with the whole before.

For Broades and other rich Silks, almost the whole Quantity used in England were the Manufacture of that Nation, as well as great Part of the *Perlians* for Linings: And if this last Sort made in England amounts to 150,000 l. per Annum, the whole of these two Articles imported may very well be believed to be the Value of 200,000 l. per Annum.

The above-mentioned Articles, and that of Silk Handkerchiefs, make it credible that I am not much mistaken in my Computation of 2000 Bales of Silk manufactured by our own Looms, more than were before the Interruption of the French Commerce, and the Prohibition of *East-India* Manufactures. Whether such a Manufacture of so much Value deserves our Care or our Contempt, is the next thing to be considered.

In the first Place I must insist upon it, that the whole Price of this Increase of our Silk Manufacture, from the Worm to the Mercer's Shop, is paid to the Producers of our Looms, and to the Labour of our People.

There can be no Question of the Silks which are imported raw from *Turkey*, and which are re-exported in *France*. No *Billion* is sent to that Country. The raw Silks are purchased there for our Woollen Manufactures; and as a Part of the Price of these is paid to the Land-holder for his Wool, and the rest to the Labour of the People that made it up, it must be supposed that the whole Value of *Turkey* raw Silk is entirely paid to our own People, by being paid to the Goods that are exchanged for it; and as for the whole new Value that is superadded to it, for the Charge of importing, throwing, weaving, and dying of this Silk, it is entirely and directly paid to the Labour of our own People.

The same thing may be affirmed of the raw and thrown *Italian* Silks; they are both purchased by an Over-balance of English Manufactures exported to that Country; and if the whole Value of these are directly paid to the English Looms and Labour, we could not hope to preserve our *Italian* Manufactures without taking off their Silks, it must be acknowledged that our Landholders and Labourers are indirectly paid the Value of these Silks, by being paid for the Goods that are exchanged for them.

The only Difficulty is concerning *East-India* raw Silks, which are purchased partly by our Silvers and partly by our Manufactures. But of these it must be acknowledged, that the whole Price of importing and working them up is paid to the Labour of our People. But as *East-India* raw Silks are the least Part of our Importation, so it is of these that we make the greatest Re-exportations; and the Countries to which we do it, reimburse us not only our whole Cost of the exported raw Silk, but a very great Part of the Price; and perhaps the whole for all the raw Silk that is re-exported from the *East-India*. However, the throwing of raw Silk employs for many herts and otherwise helps Hands, that I shall never quarrel with the *East-India* Trade for the little Silver it exports for these useful Materials.

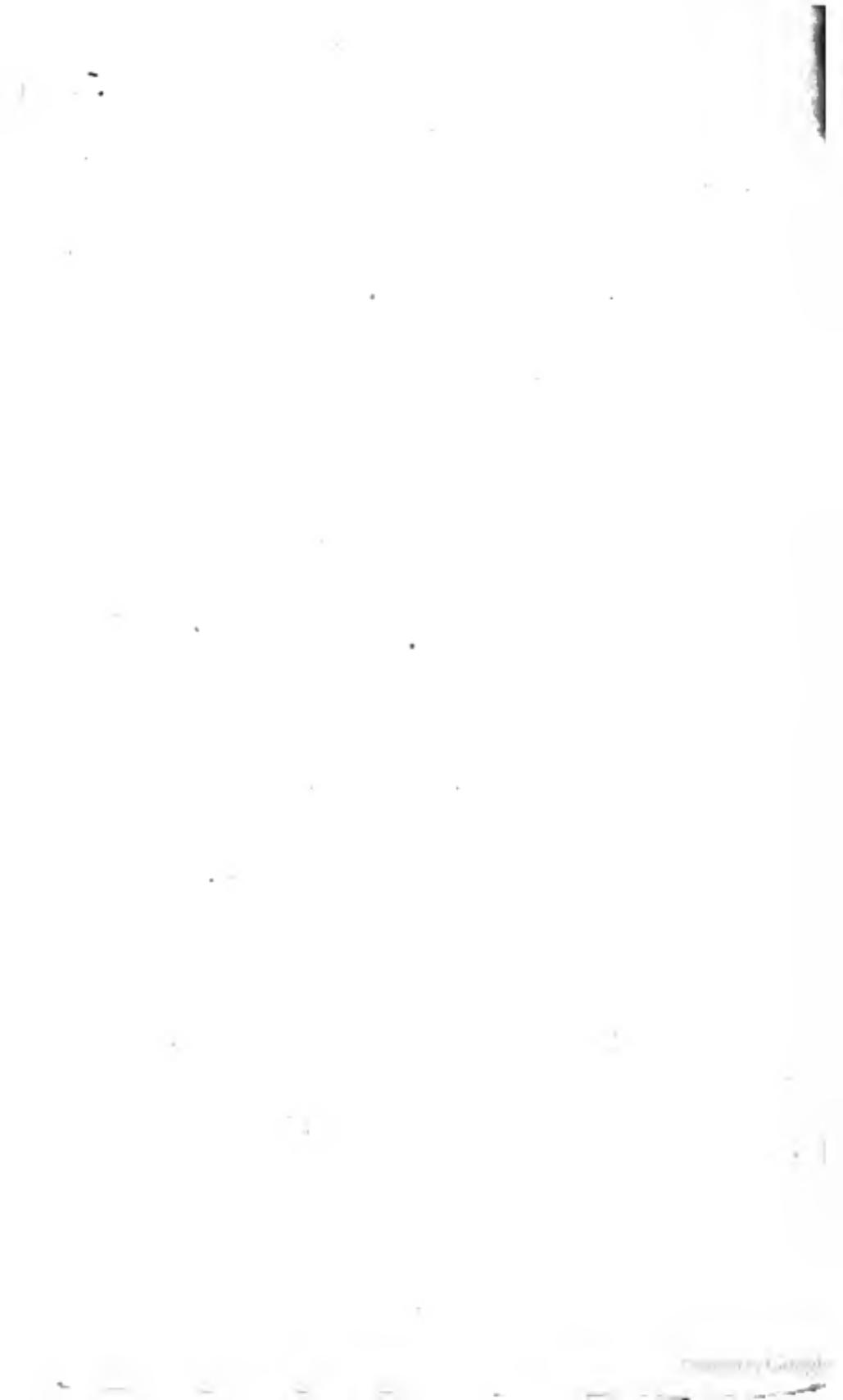
But this never be said in Defence of a Trade which exchanges our Silver for foreign Silks, that are manufactured to the very utmost Perfection, for who can these be said to pay to our Looms? what do the Labour of our People? It were better for us to send our Money to the *East-India* than to *France* for these manufactured Silks, not only because they are purchased cheaper in the former, but because the Cost of a long Importation is all paid to our own Navigation; besides that, it were less dangerous to enrich a Country at so great a Distance, than to near a Neighbour as the French Nation.

But that which I am chiefly aiming at is, that the whole Increase of the Silk Manufacture in England is so much lost to other Nations: For all that pretend that we are not richer nor more populous than we were before the War, will grant that our Consumption of wrought Silks cannot be greater than it was before. Whence then is this Increase of a Manufacture to the Value of 700,000 per Annum gained? and to what Country is it lost? it must be wholly lost to *France* and the *East-India*; and how is this Loss to be appertained?

Our whole Quantity of black Silks was heretofore brought from *France*, our own Manufacture of this Commodity amounts to 200,000 l. per Annum; *France* therefore has lost in this Article the selling us so great a Value.

There is no Reason to believe that the whole Value of *East-India* wrought Silks annually consumed in England ever amounted to 200,000 l. per Annum; it remains therefore, to make up the whole 700,000 l. per Annum, that the Value of 500,000 l. per Annum more in *Indies* and other *East-India* Silks must have been imported from *France*.

Then let the Custom-house Accounts make up Wrought Silks imported from *France* as much as is liable as they please, the Increase of the Silk Manufacture in England will demonstrate, that our Importation of this Commodity from *France* was heretofore 500,000 l. per Annum.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to
The *Mercator*, or *Commerce Retriev'd*.

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 exhaulted 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.

Vide *Prohibition Act*. 30 Car. II.

The *Authorities* of Puffendorf, De Wit, Forry, concerning the vast Importations from France heretofore.

From TUESDAY, March 9. to FRIDAY, March 12. 1714.

THE *Mercator* and my self may wrangle for ever in the Controversy of Trade; but no sensible Reader will think that it ought to be decided by either of our Authorities. For this Reason I bring against him Arguments, of which every one is or may be as good a Judge as the *Mercator* or the *British Merchant*; or if a Matter of Fact is at any Time disputed between us, and cannot easily be determined otherwise than by the Evidence of Persons, I always esteem Witnesses in proportion to their Knowledge and Indifference; I ever think most Credit ought to be given to Witnesses that have been long since dead, or who can neither get nor lose by the Controversy.

The first Dispute between us concerning the French Trade, is, whether that Nation has heretofore sold to this an Over-balance of Goods and Merchandizes? and consequently whether we did not pay the Balance in Gold or Silver? These Questions are denied by the *Mercator*, and affirmed by the *British Merchant*.

A Custom-house Account I have produced, and it is against him; the Custom-house has been searched for an Account on his Side, but so such thing can be found.

Custom-house Accounts tell us the Truth, but not the whole Truth. They tell us that we imported from France a great Over-balance of Goods and Merchandizes; they tell us all, or very near all, that were exported, since it could not be the Interest of any Man to export Goods without making due Entries. But very great Duties are paid by the imported Goods which are cleared at the Custom-house, all which are saved by clandestine Importations: The Custom-house can give us no Account of these clandestine Importations; and yet I have demonstrated in my two last Papers, that they were very great in the two Articles of Silks and Linnens.

I was so fortunate as to find out Demonstrations in the Case of the above-mentioned Articles. For many other of our clandestine Importations, besides the Reason of saving the Duties, both the *Mercator* and my self must content our selves with the Authority of Persons who from time to time have treated of these Matters, and whose Integrity at least is not to be suspected.

The first I shall begin with is Puffendorf's Introduction to the History of Europe, English Translation, 7th Edit. p. 212. where, discoursing of France, he says, "Its Fertility is not only sufficient for its Inhabitants, but also plentiful enough to be exported into foreign Parts. The Commodities exported out of France

are chiefly Wine, Brandy, Vinegar, Salt, innumerable Sorts of Silks, and WOOLLEN Stuff; and Manufactures, Hemp, Canvas, Linnen, Paper, Glass, Saffron, Almonds, Olives, Capers, Prucellos, Chestnuts, Soap, and the like. Scarce any Metals are to be found in France, and no Gold or Silver Mines; but this Want is supplied by the Ingenuity of the French, and the FOLLY of FOREIGNERS; for the French Commodities have drawn FLEETS of their MONEY into France, especially since Henry IV set up the Silk Manufactory there. There are some who have computed that France sells Stuff *Alamode* yearly to Foreigners only to the Value of 40 Millions of Livres, Wine 15 Millions, Brandy 5 Millions, Salt 10 Millions, and so proportionably of other Commodities. Mr. Forry, an Englishman, says the Commodities which were brought from France into England exceeded what were carried from England to France in the Value of 1600,000 l. Sterling; and it is notorious, that by what they send into Spain they get a great Part of their *West-India* Plate Fleet. But after all, Navigation does not flourish so much in France as it might. The Reason seems to be, that the French Nation is not so much addicted to the Sea, and that other Nations have been before-hand with them in the East and *West-India*; which is the Reason that the King, tho' he has above a 100 capital Ships, yet cannot set out so great a Fleet hitherto as the English and Dutch. They apply themselves still to fishing upon the great Sand-bank before Newfoundland. The King's Revenues are computed at 150 Millions of Livres, whereas in the last Age it did not amount to above 9 or 10 Millions, at the Time of Henry the Fourth to sixteen Millions, and in the Year 1639 to 77 Millions; which vast Difference is in part to be ascribed to the different Value of Money since those Times, and the great Taxes which were imposed upon the Subjects; but without Question the chief Reason is, that France since that Time has found out new ways to draw Money out of other Countries.

Thus far Mr. Puffendorf, who was a Swede, and therefore without any Bias towards us or France. For my own Part, I believe he must have been mistaken, or at least the Translator, in his Valuation of Stuff *Alamode* to the Value of 40 Millions, because he has made the Exportation much greater than other Authors. For the rest of his Articles, he differs from them very little; especially from Ms. De Wit's Memoirs of Holland,

Holland, the English Translation of which, P. 169, is thus.

As to France, we see to observe, that formerly that Country subsisted wholly by Tillage; but since the Reign of Henry IV. many heavy Impositions have been laid on all imported Manufactures, and the weaving of WOOLL, Silk, and Linnea, with many other mechanic Works, is so considerably improved there, that the French can supply others with more made Stuffs and other Manufactures than Foreigners take off. And again, P. 170, "I find my self obliged to draw up a List of Manufactures and Commodities exported out of France into foreign Parts, especially into Holland, according to a Scheme presented to the King of France by the Society of Merchants in Paris, when a new and very high Imposition was laid upon all foreign imported Goods, so especially Manufactures, leaving left the like Impositions would be laid by Holland and England upon all French Goods; and also from an Imposition exhibited by the Lord Ambassador Boreel in 1658, to the Lords States-General of the United Provinces.

1. In the first Place, great Quantities of Velvet, Plushes, Satins, Cloth of Gold and Silver, Taffeties, and other Silk Wares made at *Lions* and *Tours*, which amount to above six Millions.
2. In Silk, Ribbands, Laces, Falletments, Burtons, Loops made about *Paris* and *Rouen*, and those Parts, to the Value of two Millions.
3. Beaver Hats, Casors, Hats of Wooll and Hair, which are made in and about *Paris* and *Rouen*, to the Value of one Million and a Half.
4. Feathers, Belts, Fans, Hoods, Masks, gilt and wrought Looking glasses, Watches, and other small Wares, to the Value of above two Millions.
5. Gloves made at *Paris*, *Rouen*, *Perugia*, and *Clermont*, to the Value of above a Million and a Half.
6. Woollen Yarn spun in all Parts of *Picardy*, worth more than one Million and a Half.
7. Paper of all Sorts, made in *Auvergne*, *Prusse*, *Limousin*, *Champagne*, and *Normandy*, for upwards of two Millions.
8. Pins and Needles made at *Paris* and *Normandy*, and Combs of Box, Horn, and Ivory, for a Million and a Half.
9. Childrens Toys, and such as *Nuremberg* Ware, &c. as the French call them, *Limousin*, made in *Auvergne*, for upwards of 60000 Florins.
10. Linnea Sailcloth, made in *Bretany* and *Normandy*, for upwards of five Millions of Florins.
11. Household Goods, Beds, Mattresses, Hangings, Coverlets, Quilts, Creppins, Fringes, and Molets of Silk, above 5 Millions of Florins.
12. Wines from *Gascony*, *Xantaigne*, *Nantais*, and other Places, for above five Millions.
13. Brandyes, Vinegar, and Syder, for 1500,000 Livres.
14. Saffron, Wood, Soap, Honey Almonds, Olives, Capers, Prunes, Prunello's, for above two Millions.
15. Salt, yearly the Lading of 5 or 600 Ships, exported from *Rheims*, *Brugges*, *Maran*, the Islands of *Oleron* and *Ree*.

At the Foot of this Account stands this marginal Note: Of these Goods there are yearly transported above 30 Millions, wherof Holland takes of the greater Part.

The Question then is, what these Millions shall be understood to be, whether Livres, Florins or Crowns? First, it cannot be Livres; for without the last Article of Salt, the rest make above 37 Millions of Livres.

Secondly, it cannot be meant of Florins; for that too, besides the last Article, will make very little Alteration. Therefore,

Thirdly, it must be meant of French Crowns; for the two Articles mentioned in the Account of 5 Millions of Florins each, and one of 600,000 Florins, and one of a Million and a half of Livres, being reduced to Crowns, will, with the other Articles, amounting to 15 Millions, without Denomination of any particular Species of Coin, if they shall all be understood to be Crowns, make the whole Sum upwards of 19 Millions and a half, besides what is to be added by the last Article of Salt, and consequently make the whole Computation of above 30 Millions very just.

Fourthly, to this ought to be added, that since three of the Articles are specified to be either Livres or Flo-

rins, the rest, which are not so specified, ought to be understood of Crowns.

Fifthly, the Livres is the most common Payment in France; yet, as appears by the Course of Exchange between that and other Countries, Crowns are the usually used Way of exchanging.

Sixthly, the reckoning thus by Crowns, will make *Passader's* 15 Millions of Livres, and *De Witt's* 5 Millions, for French Wines, to be the very same Sum; and their Difference in Brandy to be no more than a Trifle.

This Account of *De Witt* will make the whole Exports of France to be 6750000 l. Sterling, which indeed is less than they have been valued at by other Writers; and of this the above-mentioned Mr. *Ferry*, cited by *Passader*, makes the French Importations into England amount to 1600000 l. One Thing I ought to observe of Mr. *Ferry's* Book, that it was dedicated to King *Charles II.* and it must have been a strange Pretension in him to dedicate to his Prince to Account at random, and which had no Foundation at all to Support it.

It is not possible by any Custom-house Accounts to find out the Value of imported Goods and Merchandises from the French Nation; but if in my last Papers I have justly proved, even against Custom-house Accounts, that the two Articles of French Laces and Wrought Silk annually imported into the Kingdom must have exceeded 1,000,000 l. per Annum; then a moderate Allowance for clandestine Importations in other Articles, might swell the whole to Mr. *Ferry's* 1,600,000 l. per Annum. And yet I can't see Reason why other Articles of Goods should not be run in upon us in as great a Proportion, to *French* Duries, as well as those of Silks and Linnea.

But it may be very well worth the Reader's While to observe how it is that Mr. *Ferry* makes up his Account, and the Authority he pretends for it. His preamble to his Account is as follows:

"Foreign Commodities are grown into so great Esteem among us, that we wholly undervalue and neglect the Use of our own; whereby that great treasure of Treasure that is yearly waisted in Clothing, Furnitures, and the like, redounds chiefly to the Profit of Strangers, and to the Ruin of his Majesty's Subjects.

"And this will more plainly appear, if we examine the vast Sums of Money the French yearly debase us of, either by such Commodities as we may well have of our own, or else by such others as we might as well in great Part be without.

"Whereby, no doubt, our Treasure will be soon exhausted, and the People ruined; as this Parliament may make appear, which not long since was deliberated 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 Commodities sent into France did surmount the Value of those that were transported thither.

- There is transported yearly out of France into England.
1. Velvets, Satins, Cloth of Gold and Silver, L. 150000
 2. Silks, Stuffs, Taffeties, Poudcoys, Tabbies, Ribbands, &c. from *Tours*, 100000
 3. Silk Ribbands, Gallowens, Laces, and Bottoms of Silk, from *Paris*, *Rouen*, &c. 150000
 4. SERGES of *Gualles*, *Charente*, &c. and from *Auvergne* and other Towns in *Picardy*, 190000
 5. In Beaver, Demi-Caslor, and Felt Hats, 180000
 6. In Feathers, Belts, Girdles, Fans, Hoods, Looking-Glasses, Watches, Pictures, &c. 150000
 7. In Pint, Needles, and Combs of all Sorts, 100000
 8. In perfum'd and trim'd Gloves, 100000
 9. In Paper of all Sorts, 100000
 10. In Ironmonger Wares, 49000
 11. In Linnea Cloth, 400000
 12. In Householdstuffs, Beds, Hangings, &c. 100000
 13. In Wines, 600000
 14. In Brandy, Vinegar, Syder, &c. 100000
 15. In Saffron, Cattle-Soap, Honey, Almonds, Olives, Prunes, Capers, &c. 150000

16. Besides Salt, 150000
Whereby the King of France finding it would prove to his Loss to forbid the Trade with England, soon laid aside the Design.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to
The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator's bold Assertion, that tho' the French King were Monarch of all Europe Trade would run as it does, considered. Also several other Paradoxes in No. 126.

From FRIDAY, March 12. to TUESDAY, March 16. 1714.

THE *Mercator* seems now to have finished his Argument, by which he had undertaken to prove that the *Portugal Treaty* was a ridiculous Treaty, and that it contributes neither so the Improvement, nor the Preservation of our Trade to that Country. I take this Argument to be quite finished, because in his last, No. 125. he is come back again to *France*, and that whole Paper is spent upon another Subject. I shall proceed therefore to consider his last Argument for breaking the *Portugal Treaty*.

But in his No. 126. there are many Things so very extraordinary, that my Readers will forgive me, if I take up their whole time here in proper Animadversions upon that Paper.

The most remarkable Thing, and that with which I shall begin, is, he says, That *THO' THE KING OF FRANCE WERE TO BE MONARCH OF ALL EUROPE, TRADE WOULD RUN MUCH AS IT DOES*

What does the *Mercator* mean by this Expression? Does he foresee that *French Chains* are preparing for this Kingdom? And is he endeavouring to make us easie under the Load? I hope Things are not coming to this, tho' I must confess, I all along believed the last War was not a Question between Her Majesty and the Pretender, but between *France* and all her Neighbours, whether *Great-Britain*, and all her Allies, were still to preserve their Independency? Or whether they were to be reduced into the Form of so many Provinces, to be governed at the Discretion of that Nation?

The magnifying the formidable Power of *France*, so as to make her a Terror to this Nation, the *Mercator* calls a *NEW CUSTOM*, and a *Device lately taken up*; tho' I believe I am able to shew him either Speeches from the Throne, or Acts of Parliament, to this Purpose, down from the *French Treaty* to the present happy Administration, which has not reduced *France*, by any new Conquests, to a Condition of being less formidable than she was before.

He goes on to tell us, That it is ridiculous to affirm that the *French*, after being so often beaten, are more formidable now than before the War; that this would be an unreasonable Reason for making Peace with them. I believe never any Man was so ridiculous, as to say this. It is visible to all Mankind, that the many Victories obtain'd by Her Majesty's Armies, and those of Her Allies, have cut off great Branches of the *Spanish Monarchy* from the House of *Bourbon*, and it is ridiculous to affirm that the House of *Bourbon* can be as powerful with a Part, how great soever, as with the whole. I believe no Man is so ridiculous.

I believe some Men may have affirm'd, That if the Renunciation of King *Philip* should be no better observ'd than some former Renunciations, if the Crowns of *France* and *Spain* should come to be plac'd upon the same Head, if in the mean time the King of *Spain*, to secure his Possession of that Throne from the Pretensions of the Emperor, which are not given up by the late Treaty of *Rastat*, should depend upon the Protection of *France*, and govern himself by her Councils; if these are not extravagant Suppositions, I believe there are some Men who may have affirm'd from them, that *France*, by the Accession of *Spain*, and the *Spanish Indies*, to the House of *Bourbon*, is become more formidable than she was before. Whether there is any thing ridiculous in this, is not my Business to consider, till the *Mercator* shall charge it upon me as my own Saying.

I am perswaded therefore the *Mercator's* best way to quiet Peoples Minds, concerning the formidable Power of *France*, will be to make good his Assertion, That *THO' THE KING OF FRANCE WERE TO BE MONARCH OF ALL EUROPE, YET TRADE WOULD RUN MUCH AS IT DOES*; for tho' our Religion in this Case may be in some Danger, yet a World of People would be easie to be assured that their Temporal Interests shall be still safe.

But how does he make it out, That *Trade would run much as it does*? Why by such Paradoxes as these that follow:

" That *France*, neither before the War, nor since, has bid fair for engrossing the Trade of the World.

" That it cannot but make the most considering Men smile to hear People talk of a Nation engrossing Trade that have no *WOOL* for their Manufactures, and but a poor deal of Shipping for their Navigation.

" That their Situation is an effectual Bar against their so much, as meddling in several considerable Trades in the World.

" That the Rivers of *France*, except the *Rhine*, and and its Branches, give them no Navigation into any other Country.

" That by her Situation, *France* is cut off from Trade with the Heart of *Europe*.

" That several Rivers, whose Course is out of *France* thro' other Countries, give those Countries an Inlet into the Heart of *France*, by which she is so far from engrossing the Trade of the World, that she cannot carry on her whole Trade within her self, without exporting her Goods to Foreign Countries from one part of *France*, that they may be exported into another.

" That

but the Wines, Wrought Silks, Olives, Oil, &c. of *Cafzara, Langueux, Aijous*, cannot be sent to the North of *Champagne*, or to *Alfania*, but by the way of *Malaga*, or by a long Voyage by Land at an insupportable Expence, and such as would ruin Trade it self.

That, with the greatest part of *Europe*, *France* has no Correspondence, nor can Trade with, but by the Help of her Neighbours.

That she cannot sail without Ships, nor carry by Water, without Sea or Rivers, or make Manufactures without Wool.

That the French are incapable of being considerable in Trade, because they have NO Ships for their Trade, and NO Trade for their Ships; that is none, comparatively to the Trade and Shipping of the two Maritime Powers, much less to all *Europe*.

That the Dutch employ more Shipping in their Fisheries, than all the Shipping in *France*; and so do the English in the *West India Trade*.

That the very Coal Trade of *England* employs more tons of Shipping, than the whole Amount of French Shipping, either at home or abroad.

That *France* has no Trade to employ such Numbers of Ships, as are employed either by the English or Dutch.

That the French were nothing at Sea during the last War, that they carried on only a Piratical War, or if they ever fitted out a Fleet, they were forced to lay up their Privateers; or, when they were manned, to lay up their Men of War.

That whenever we meet their Fleets, we blow'd them out of the Sea; that they durst not meet us there, or always had the worst, and at last left us the Dominion of that Element.

That a Nation that dares not look us in the Face at Sea, is not likely to prevail over the World in Trade.

That so long as the English and Dutch are the chief in maritime Power, they will command the Trade of the World.

That as long as we encourage and improve our naval Strength, this will be the security of our Trade; and this will be our Security against all Pretenders and Invaders in the World.

These are a Ser of very choice Maxims: But in Defence of them I must inform the *Mercator*, that the Dominion of *Spain* and the *Spanish West-Indies*, join'd to the natural Fertility and Industry of *France*, would soon enable this Prince to make himself the sole Monarch of all *Europe*, and to leave *England, Holland*, and all other Countries, no more Trade than what he shall please not to take from them.

First, for Dominion; if before the last War, and the surprizing Victories of the Duke of *Mariborough, England, Holland, Spain, and Germany*, had so much Difficulty to preserve themselves against the single Power of *France*, what should we be able to do if *France* and *Spain* should come to be united under one Prince, and all the Treasures of the *Spanish West-Indies* should be made to flow into *France*? But God forbid that this last Renunciation should be also broke! For the very Independency of this Kingdom subsists entirely by a steadfast Adherence to that Renunciation.

But the *Mercator* is in no Pain for our Trade, tho' it should be broken, and tho' *England* should be made a Province to the French Nation; for even then, says he, *France* cannot engross the Trade of the World.

And for what Reason? why, first, because they have no Wool for their Manufactures; or, as in another Place he expresses himself, they cannot make Manufactures without Wool.

Now tho' I have several times told the *Mercator*, that Mutton is eaten in every Village in *Europe*, that their Sheep every where wear Fleeces, and that these Fleeces are generally manufactured in the Countries where they grow; nay, tho' he has been often told, that better Wool is imported from *Spain* than ever grew in *England*; yet all this is still forgotten: Wool is the peculiar Growth of this Kingdom.

My very last gave him the Authority of *Mr. Puffendorf*, that innumerable Sorts of WOOLLEN Stuffs and Manufactures are exported out of *France*; the Autho-

riety of *Mr. De Witt*, that WOOLLEN Yarn spun in all Parts of *France* worth more than a Million and a half was annually exported out of *France*; the Authority of *Mr. Farley*, that the SERGES of *Châlons, Choisy, &c.* and from *Lyon* and other Towns in *France*, imported into *England*, were worth 150000 *l. per Annum*: Yet all goes for nothing. *France* has no Wool, and can make no Manufactures.

But if all this were true at present, would it continue to be a Truth if we were to become a Province to that Kingdom? Should we then be able to continue our Laws against the Exportation of Wool? No certainly, we should be obliged to obey our Masters, and to grant a Bounty on the Exportation of our Wool, as we do on Corn, that *France* might have it cheaper than our People.

But Lastly, if there were no Wool in *France*, why must *France* be said to have no Manufactures? Are there none but Woollen Manufactures? Are not Silks, Linnen, Paper, and divers other Things Manufactured and are not the Exportations out of *France* of these Things superior to our whole Expectations of the Woollen Manufacture. But if *France* were to be under the Dominion over *England*, she would not suffer the Exportation of English, any more than we do of English Woollen Manufactures.

The next Thing is, that the Situation of *France* is inconsistent with engrossing the Trade of *Europe*, quite contrary to *Puffendorf*, who places it in the Centre of *Europe*, and makes the Carriage of their Goods much easier to other Countries.

But it seems the Rivers of *France* let other Countries into the Heart of *France*, but not *France* into other Countries: These are strange Rivers indeed! I must desire the *Mercator* to explain them; for my own Part, I think the *Seine, the Loire, the Rhone*, are an Outlet for the Goods of *France* to other Countries, as much as the *Thames* for *England*. And the *Wesphalia, the Rhine, and the Moselle*, are as much Rivers for the Carriage of French Goods to *Holland and Germany*, as for bringing back the Goods of those Countries into *France*. But 'tis ridiculous to spend Words in proving that 'tis light at Noon-day.

But one of the merriest Things (if it were possible to be metry when such Fellows as these would persuade us that our Trade may be safe under the absolute Power of *France*) is, that *France* is not able to convey her Goods from one Part of that Country to another, but either through *Holland*, or by a chargeable Land Carriage. May not the Goods of *Cafzara, Aijou, or Langueux*, be carried up the *Seine*, and the Fleets that run into that River, to the Neighbourhood of *St. Jace and Champagne*? and will the little Land Carriage then be so very chargeable? or will the Conveyance by the Way of *Holland*, the Duties in and out of that Country, and the several Tolls upon the *Meuse* and the *Rhine*, be less Expence? or is the Land Carriage for Silk, Linnen and Paper, so very dear? yet this round about Way must be taken to save it: But nothing is so absurd for the *Mercator*.

With what Face can this Fellow say that *France* has no Outlets for their Countries, that has four Rivers running into the Ocean or *Mediterranean*? Has one of the most fertile Countries no Product to send abroad? one of the most ingenious and polite People no Manufactures for foreign Markets? We have found otherwise to our Cost.

But in the last Place the *Mercator* says, they have no Shipping for their Manufactures. This indeed was formerly the Case, but we have little Reason to think it will ever be so again. They have of late Years made wonderful Application to the Sea; they have met the united Fleets of *England and Holland*, and come off without any great Disadvantage. If they quitted the Sea during the last War, it must be own'd that they did it to bring their whole Strength to bear against the Duke of *Mariborough*. God knows whether we may ever have another Duke of *Mariborough*; I hope we shall never want one: But how the French can ever want either Shipping or Seamen, that have more Goods to export in Bulk than any other single Nation in the World, and that have such a Nursery for Seamen yielded up to them as *Cape Breton*, is past my Reason to imagine.

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Price Three Half-pence.







The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator's Assertion, that France cannot be considerable in Trade or Navigation, further exposed.

The Methods by which she has increased in both.

From TUESDAY, March 16. to FRIDAY, March 19. 1714.

THE *Mercator*, No 118, is grown outrageous upon my having affirmed, That it would be possible for *France* to engross the Trade of the World, if we should become a Province to that Kingdom. The very Supposition of such a thing has put him into the greatest Disorder imaginable. He has my free Consent to be as angry as he pleases with this Supposition, for it is his own: His Words, No 116, are, FOR WERE THE KING OF FRANCE MONARCH OF ALL EUROPE, he could not sail without Ships, carry by Water without Sea or Rivers; he could not make Manufactures without Wool; he might have the Dominion of the Country, BUT THE TRADE WOULD RUN MUCH AS IT DOES.

Certainly it was very lawful for me to confute this extravagant Paradox of the *Mercator*; but if the Author of that Paper had just reason to believe his Readers would be startled at his Assertion, I might justly expect the Rage he has poured out for exposing it to them in so clear a View as I have done in my last; yet I must declare my Hopes that we shall not become a Province to the *French* Nation, tho' I said in my last, That GOD KNOWS whether we may ever have another Duke of Marlborough, I must agree with the *Mercator* in this, That WE KNOW that God is able to deliver us whether we have or no.

But observe the *Mercator's* Reasons why the *French* cannot engross the Trade of Europe, even tho' we were to become a *French* Province, they cannot sail without Ships; they cannot carry by Water without Sea or Rivers; they cannot make Manufactures without Wool. His Arguments of sailing without Ships, and making Manufactures without Wool, are fully answered in my last. *France* has Ships sufficient for her Trade, and can increase them as her Trade increases. She is not deprived of the Power of doing this by the late Treaties; and as for making Manufactures without Wool,

France has Wool of her own Growth; I have given the *Mercator* some Reasons to believe it, I shall give him other Reasons here. In the Tariff of 1664, besides the Duties of Exportation out of *France*, there is a Duty of 4 s^{ols} per Head upon all YEW'S that are exported. *France* exacts so small a Duty upon exported Trawls, and yet shall it be said that *Norwich* has no WOOLL?

But since the *Mercator* has not only asserted this, but that *France* by her very Situation, and for want of Rivers and Water-Carriage, is incapable of much Trade, and hence I have mentioned the Tariff of 1664; I think it will not be smelt to give him an Extract out of the Introduction to that Tariff, which in the *French Book of Rates* lately translated into English, begins, Page 20, in the following Words

"But finding that these Abstemious would only lessen the present Miseries, and give our People the Opportunity to live with more Ease, but did not tend to bring in Wealth from abroad, and that Trade alone is capable of bringing this to pass; for this Purpose we have therefore from the Beginning applied our selves to the proper Means to support, encourage and increase the same, and to give all possible Ease to our Subjects therein: And in order therunto have caused a general Inquisition to be made in all the Tolls which are raised upon all the Rivers in our Kingdom, which any way hinder the Commerce, or the transporting Goods and Merchandises from Place to Place; and having enquired into all the Pretences every where made for the raising and levying the said Tolls, we have suppressed so many of them that the Navigation of our Rivers is thereby made extraordinary easy. At the same time we have established Commissioners in all our Provinces, to examine the Dues of all our Communities or Corporations; upon which we have made such Regulations as would reduce the same for the present, and

and after wards entirely discharge them: And in the mean time we have given a general Liberty of Trade to all People, which they had been deprived of by the Violences aforesaid. — After this we have codewor'ded to cause all our *Bridges, Causeways, Mills, Banks, Ports, and other publick Buildings* to be repaired; the bad Condition whereof have been a great Hindrance to Trade, and to the carrying of Merchandize from Place to Place. Also we have powerfully established the Safety and Liberty of the Highways, appointing severe Punishments to Highway-men, and obliging the Provost of our Cousins the Marshalls of *France* to a careful Discharge of their Office. And after having thus done every thing that was in our Power to restore Trade within the Kingdom, we have applied the greatest of our Care for the encouraging Navigation and Commerce also without, as the only Means to enrich our Subjects. To this End, having found by Experience that Strangers had made themselves Masters of all the Trade by Sea, nay even of the Coasting-Trade from Port to Port of our own Kingdom; and yet the small Number of Ships which remained in the Possession of our Subjects were every Day taken just at our own Doors, as well in the Levant Seas as in the Western Ocean; we have established the Impost of 50 Sols per Ton on the Freight of all Strangers Ships, at the same time discharging those of our own Subjects; encouraging them thereby to build and fit out sufficient Numbers of Ships for their Coasting Trade: At the same time we have put to Sea 50 considerable Fleet, both of Ships and Gallies, as should oblige the Coasters of *Barbary* to keep their Ports and Places of Retreat. And the better to suppress all manner of Piracy, we have resolv'd to Attack them in their own Country; to the End, that having Fortified some considerable Ports, we might be able to keep the same in Possession.

At the same time we have secured the Navigation of our Subjects against all other Pirates, by allowing them Convoys of our Men of War. We have Fortified and Augmented the French Colonies settled in *Canada*, and the Islands of *America*, by having sent our Ships thither; making them acknowledge our Authority, by setting of Courts of Justice among them. Also we have laid the Foundation for the Settlement of our *East-India* and *West-India* Companies, which are now set up in our Kingdoms, to our entire Satisfaction.

But altho' all these great Things are very much to our Satisfaction, yet the said Love which we have for our People, as it is every Day stirring us up to forget what is past, and look forward to what may further be done, to the Increase of their Happiness: We have resolv'd to call a Council of Trade, to meet in our Presence, and to employ to that End, one of the Councils of the Finances, which for that Purpose we shall dissolve: In which Council of Trade shall be considered all the Means possible for the Increase and Encouragement of Trade both within and without our Kingdom; and also OF MANUFACTURES, which having been happily performed in the first Days of their Meeting. We have made known to all our Companies, as well Sovereign as Inferior, to all Governours of Provinces, and their Intendants, how tender a Regard we have to the Prosperity of the said Commerce, with Orders to them to employ all that Authority which we have committed to them, for the Protection of the Merchants, and to do Justice to them, even with preference to others, that they may not be Injured or Cheated, or any way Discouraged in their Business. And we have by Circular Letters invited the Merchants to Address themselves directly to us, upon all Occasions; and to deputate some one of their Body near our Person to pre-

sent to us their Memorials and Petitions; and in Case of Difficulty, we have appointed a Person to receive all their Petitions, and Solicit for them at our Expence. And we have Ordained there shall always be a House appointed for that Purpose. We have also Resolv'd to employ a Million of *Livres* yearly for the Settling of Manufactures, and the Increase of Navigation. But as the most effectual Means for the Restoring of Trade, is the Lessening and Regulating the Duties upon Goods and Merchandizes coming in and going out of the Kingdom, We have appointed our Trusty and Well-beloved the Sieur Colber, Counsellor in our Royal Council, and Intendant in our Finances, &c.

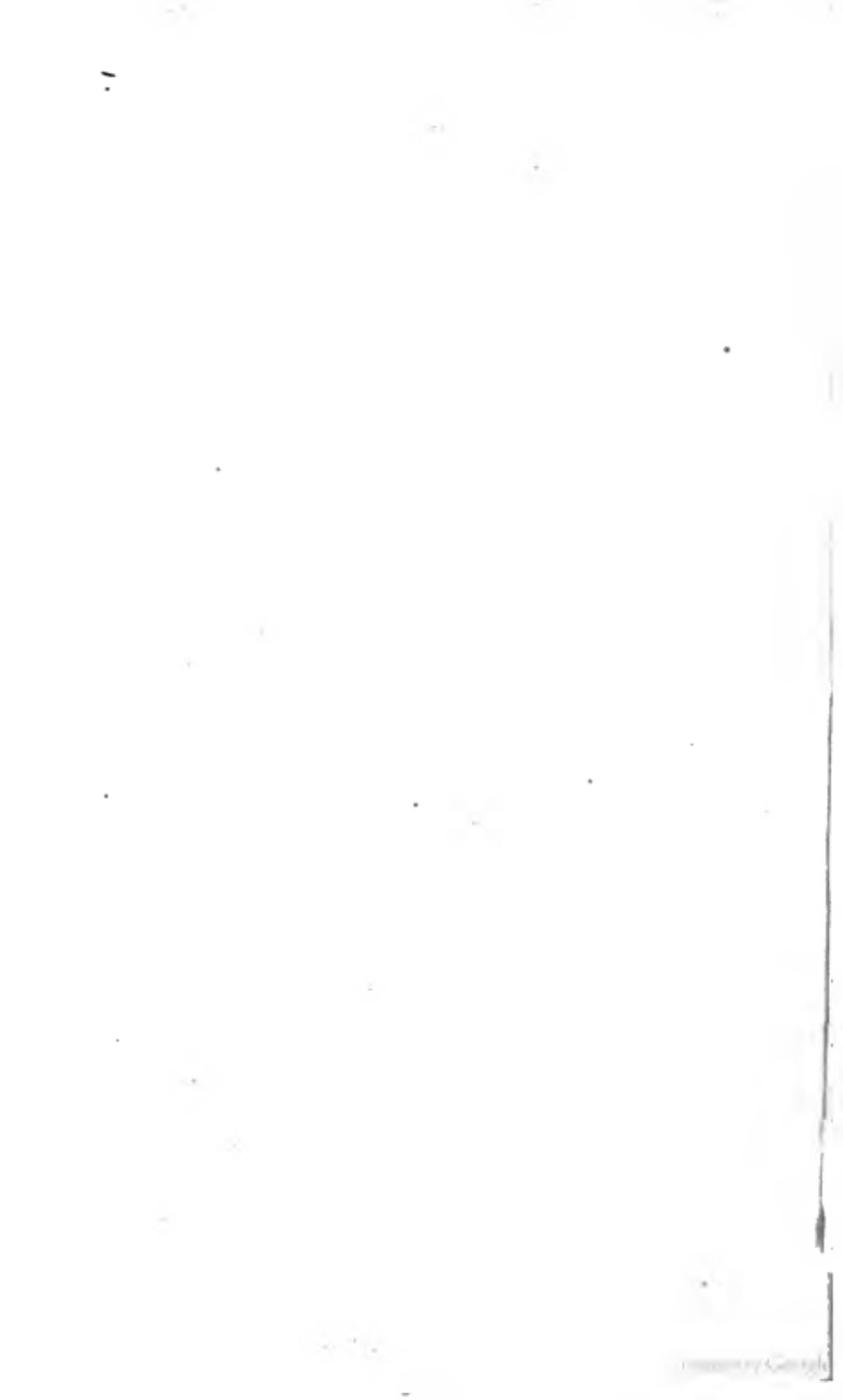
Has the French King taken such Care to render safe the Navigation of his Rivers? Has he applied the greatest of his Care for the Encouraging Navigation also without? Has he laid such Imposts on Strangers Ships, discharging at the same time those of his own Subjects? Has he been at the Charge of Convoys, to secure the Navigation of his Subjects against Pirates? Has he vested a Council of Trade for the Increase and Encouragement of Trade both within and without his Kingdom, and also of Manufactures? Has he employed a Million of *Livres* yearly for the settling of Manufactures, and the Increase of Navigation? And does he Mercator go on to tell us that *France* is incapable of Trade or Navigation?

There is not a Country situate more than *France* the Centre of all Europe? And does her situation then disqualify her for increasing her Trade and Navigation? Does she want an Out-let to the Sea, when she has not least 700 Miles of Coast to the Ocean, and between 1 and 3 Hundred to the Mediterranean? Or does she want an inland Navigation from the very Heart of that Country to the Coast? I have the Map of *France* lying before me at this very time; and besides numberless other Rivers emptying themselves on the Coast, when I view the *Seyn*, the *Loire*, and the *Garonne* in the Ocean, and the *Rhodes* in the Mediterranean, and the innumerable Branches running into those Rivers, I am not able to see a Town or City of any Note in all *France*, at any considerable distance from Navigation, except in the Province of *Languedoc*; and the West there has been supplied by a Royal Canal, at the Cost of the French King, by which he has made a Communication by Water through the very Heart of his Country between the Ocean and the Mediterranean. I cannot conceive of any Country how it can be served, either by Art or Nature, more capable of Navigation. Can *France* send from all Parts by Water-Carriage to the Ocean, or the Mediterranean, her Produce or Manufactures, which are too much for the Consumption of her own People, and by the same Conveyance back again, receive things of foreign Growth, which are useful for her Manufactures? And then is she not capable of performing the whole Exportation and Importation between her self and other Countries, in Shipping of her own? I desire then the *Reader* will explain to his Readers what it is he means, when he tells them, that the French cannot carry by Water without Sea or Rivers: She has both Sea and Rivers sufficient for her Water-Carriage; and CAPE BERTAIN IS YIELDED TO HER, which will prove a perpetual Nursery for her Seamen.

I hope there is no manner of Danger of our ever becoming a Province to *France*; but let us continue so Independent as we can desire, I believe I have said enough to demonstrate, that there is no want of Sea or Rivers in that Nation, to render her considerable in Commerce or Navigation. We have seen and felt, that her Increase in both in this last Age, has been prodigious by the wise Maxims of her present King. He has judg'd very rightly, as is expressed in the Extract I have mentioned, that Trade was the only Way of bringing in Wealth from Abroad.







The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

Extracts of two Edicts of the French King, concerning the Paper Manufacture.
Paper is made in France for less than half the Price that Paper of like Goodness made in England, and why.
A Demonstration that the French Manufacturers work cheaper than the English, with respect to

the Quantity and Quality of their Work.
If the French Commerce Bill should pass, the English Paper Manufacture must be ruined.
An Essay towards proving the Value of Paper heretofore annually imported from France, either fairly or clandestinely.

From FRIDAY, March 19. to TUESDAY, March 23. 1714.

ARREST of the King's Council, prohibiting the Exportation of old Linnen, Old Clothes, Rags, &c. May 28. 1697.

THE King having been informed, That the Exporting old Linnen, old Clothes, Rags, &c. is a very considerable Prejudice to the Manufactures of Paper and Cards of this Kingdom, had ordained, by a former Arrest of the 28th of January, 1697. That the said Goods should pay 12 Livres per 100 Weight upon their Exportation, instead of 6 Livres per 100 Weight, payable by the Tariff of 1664; but his said Majesty having since that being informed, That notwithstanding double Duty, divers particular Merchants contious to export such great Quantities out of the Kingdom, as would cause a Scarcity thereof to the Manufactures in the Provinces aforesaid; for Remedy whereof his Majesty ordains, and hereby makes an express Prohibition to all Persons, of what Rank or Condition soever, to export out of the Kingdom, without his Permission, any old Linnee, old Clothes, or Rags, from the Day of the Publication hereof, upon Pain of Confiscation, and 3000 Livres Fine, of which the third part to the Informer.

Done at Versailles, May 29. 1697.

Signed, Du Jardin.

ARREST of the King's Council, taking off the Duties of Exportation upon all Cloth of Gold and Silver, and Silks, and upon Paper, Postboard, and Cards; and moderating the Duties upon Stuffs of Wool, and Thread, Linnen-Cloth, and other Merchandises, December 24. 1701.

the Year round, and no other Drink but Water; so that they can afford their Work very cheap, and do it next to nothing, except some of the upper Workmen, who earn a small Salary by the Week. This is so true, that considerable Parcels of Paper were imported lately from thence, altho' the Duties paid here exceed one hundred per Cent on the first Cost, notwithstanding which the French Merchants are able to undersell our and some of them do brag, that as soon as the Parliament is up, they will import great Quantities, whether the high Duties be taken off or no; but being in Hopes to succeed in having them taken off, they forbear awhile importing, to see the Event, and to save, if they can, the 45 per Cent Duty which is now paid upon French more than upon any other Foreign Paper; which, if it should happen, would prove the entire Ruin of the Paper Manufacture of this Kingdom.

If Chestnuts, and such like spontaneous Productions of the Earth, for which we are chiefly beholding to Nature, very little to the Labour of Man, are the greatest Part of the Subsistence of the People employ'd in the Paper Manufacture of France, there can be little doubt of their living at less Wages than our English labouring People, even the Mercator would not have the Confidence to assert that a Bellyfull of Chestnuts, which grow without the Labour of Man, shall cost as much as a Bellyfull of Bread, which pays so much to the Ploughman, the Seedman, the Reaper, the Thresher, the Miller, the BAKER, and innumerable other Labourers, who have bestow'd some Work upon every Loaf that was ever eaten. Our People therefore are subsistent at a great Charge, and the French Manufactures for almost nothing.

But for all this, the Mercator will not yield that the French can work cheaper. That they may (say) be, Num.

LONDON, Printed for F. & D. BURLINGHAME, in Amen-Corner.
 Price Three Half-Pence.

Duties be kept on French Paper, being that which they desired most, by reason of its extraordinary Cheapness. The Necessity of having Writing and Printing Paper is well known to every Body; but it will not perhaps be imported from France, the rest of the Sum of Value of 20 or 30, or 40,000 l. per Annum, was annual- Imports, per Annum must be made up by chandeltime

On a Draught of Water, a Bush of Grapes and a Piece of Bread, which is certainly the cheaper Diet of the two; and yet as cheap as it is, the People employ'd in their Paper Manufacture, are very few of them so well fed: Their chief Diet is Chestnuts, which is not quite so dear as what we give our Hogs. Here then we have the Confession of the Mercator, that the Subsistence of the People in France is much cheaper than it is in England; and yet if that of their Paper Manufacturers is chiefly Chestnuts, it is still a great deal cheaper than he has acknowledged: Without having Recourse to the Redoubt of their Coin in France, and the cheaper Wages there upon that Account, there can be no Question that a Bushel of Chestnuts is to be purchas'd for less Silver than a Bushel of Bread Corn.

But then here the Mercator urges, that there is great Difference between working a Day and doing a Day's Work, as much Daily Work, and he undertakes to say, That as Nations in the World will do as much Work in a Day, as do that Work in a Week; and for the Truth of this, he appeals to the Persons themselves that live among us. I accept of his Appeal, and will be content to abide by their Determination.

I have had the Curiosity to enquire into the Paper Manufacture, and I find that five Pair of Hands are employ'd at every Fat; that so many Hands are necessary in England, and that more cannot be used in France. I am taught too by our own Manufacturers, that they do not dispatch here above eight Reams of Paper in a Day at a single Fat, and that they dispatch above nine in France with the same Number of Hands; and yet I believe there is not any Man in England so hardy as to affirm, that either ours, or indeed any Paper in the World, exceeds that of France.

I would not be thought to affirm, that a Frenchman, with his Belly full of Chestnuts, or with the Mercator's Onion and a Draught of Water, with his Piece of Bread, and a Bush of Grapes, can have as much Strength as an Englishman with his Beef and Pudding; but there is a Slight of Hand in almost every Manufacture that is much more necessary than Strength, and 'tis plain that we are not yet arriv'd at that Slight, if a Fat with five Pair of Hands, in France, is able to work off more Reams of Paper than the same Number of Hands can do in England.

If the French Manufacturers can live on Chestnuts, possibly, not a fourth Part of the Price of our English Diet, surely they may be able to work for a third Part of the daily Wages that are given in England. And if with all this the same Number of Hands can dispatch more Reams of Paper in a Day than can be done in England, it is not to be wonder'd at, that with the present Duties, exceeding *Cent per Cent*, on French Paper, the French are nevertheless able to undersell our English Manufacturers. But their very underselling of us, under the present Load of Duties, is another Demonstration, that the French work more and better Paper, for less Wages, than the Paper-makers in this Kingdom.

What then must be the Consequence, if *45 per Cent* of the present Duties on French Paper should be taken off, pursuant to the late Treaty of Commerce? Then there is an End of our English Manufacture.

Before the Revolution, there was hardly any other Paper made in England than brown; but the War ensuing, and Duties being laid from time to time on foreign Paper, it gave such Encouragement to the Paper-makers, that most of them began to make white Paper fit for Writing and Printing; and they have brought it by Degrees to so great Perfection, both for Quantity and Goodness, that they make now near two Thirds of what is consumed in Great Britain; and several of them make it as white and as well bearing as any comes from abroad, as Sir William Hamlyn, Mr. Baker, and several others, can witness. And I make no doubt but that, if farther Encouragement was given them, by taking off the *12 per Cent* Excise which was lately laid upon home-made Paper, and which by the Multitude of Officers brings in little or nothing to the Queen, and the said *12 per Cent* (for an Equivalent to the Fund) was laid upon outlandish Paper, but they could in a little Time make enough to supply all the Occasions of the Nation, there being above 120 Fats within 60 Miles of London, besides several more in Yorkshire and Scotland, which all (more or less) make white Paper, and will undoubtedly go on daily improving and increasing that useful Manufacture, if the present high

be smals to make it appear how profitable and beneficial that Manufacture is to Great Britain.

Rags are the main Ingredient Paper is made of, which were formerly cast away, and throw'd to the Doggill, but are now gather'd with great Care by poor People, who get honestly their Livelihood by it, and would otherwise beg their Bread: This employs abundance of Hands. When these Rags are gather'd, they are brought to the Mills, and this still employs more Hands. After they are in the Mill, they let them lie awhile till they are sufficiently mellow or rotten, and then put them into the Tubs under the Hammers, to be beaten into a Kind of Jelly or white Substance looking like Milk, and being thence carried into the Fat, the chief Workman, upon a Pair of Molds for that Purpose, takes up the Sheers or Water Leaves, (of which he makes 5 or 600 a Day, more or less, according to the Size and Weight of the Paper). These Water Leaves, after being well press'd between two Felts, and the Water well drain'd out, are carried up into the Garrets or drying Rooms, and there hung upon a Multitude of Ropes to dry, and from thence being brought down again into the sizing Room, a Liquor is there prepar'd for sizing or gumming every Sheet; the Paper which is for Printing being but moderately sized, but that which is for Writing nicely, that it may bear Ink.

This Paper, after Sizing, is a second Time press'd, and carried up into the Garrets, and hung upon the Ropes to dry once more; and then, with a great deal of Care, and hard Labour, press'd a third, a fourth, and a fifth Time, to make it smooth, and of a good Grain; and then put up into Quires and Reams.

Now considering how many Hands every individual Sheet of Paper goes through before it be brought to Perfection, 'tis plainly perceiv'd that a great Number of People is employ'd in each Mill: Then those who gather the Rags up and down in all the Counties of England, and bring them to the Mills; those who make the Felts, which take up a good Quantity of Wool, being very thick, and for every Sheet of Paper, a Piece of Felt of the same Size, or a little larger; the Rope-makers, the Molds makers, the Carpenters, Wheel-wrights, Timber Merchants, Smiths, (for this Work consumes a great deal of Iron, by the Hammers bearing perpetually upon the Iron Plates) and several other Trades, who depend upon the building and keeping the Mills in Repair: Those who sell Allum, Copers, Corings and Parings of Gloves, Parchment and Leathers; all which are used in the Sizing or Gumming of Paper. All these Things considered, it cannot be deny'd, but a vast many People get their Livelihood, or receive a Benefit, by this useful and ingenious Manufacture.

There is still one further Use I would make of this Information, which I have received from the Paper Manufacturers of this Kingdom; and that is, to compute by it, as I have done in the Articles of Linnen and Wrought Silk, the Value of Paper which was heretofore annually imported from the French Nation.

Upon the Interruption of our French Commerce, we have increased our Importation of Paper from other Countries, and the Manufacture of this Commodity in Great Britain. Indeed the Manufacture of White Paper is almost entirely new in this Kingdom.

If it shall be said that we are not richer now than we were formerly, and if our late Excises on Paper make it credible that our Consumption of it is not greater than before our first War with France, then whatsoever we have increased in this Manufacture at home, or in the Importation of it from other Countries, is so much lost to France, then the whole Quantity of this Increase was annually imported from that Kingdom.

An 120 Fats within 60 Miles of London for white Paper, at eight Reams per Diem, must produce near 100,000 Reams per Annum; and if those of Yorkshire and Scotland, together with the Increase of our Importations from Italy and Ireland, shall be allowed to produce above 100,000 Reams more for the Consumption of this Kingdom, (as they certainly do, if the whole Paper Manufacture of Britain is but two Thirds of our whole Consumption) the whole Quantity made in this Kingdom, or imported from other Countries instead of French Paper, will amount to 400,000 Reams per Annum; then such therefore must have been our annual Importation from France, and the Value of this, at 5 s. per Ream, must have amounted to 1,000,000 l. per Annum. Our Customs hereabouts amount to about 1,000,000 l. per Annum.





The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A Letter to the British Merchant, shewing by the Authority of the Review, that the Balance of the French Trade was formerly against England.

And conjecturing at the Reasons how he comes so have chang'd his Opinion. And lastly, containing some Reflections upon several Passages in that Author.

From TUESDAY, March 23. to FRIDAY, March 26. 1704.

To the British Merchant.

SIR,

YOU have lately given us the Authority of *Posindoff, De Wit, and Ferry*, for the vast Extent of the French Trade and Manufactures. I have sent you here the Words of a living Author upon the same Subject, and the vast Balance *France* formerly had against *England*. My Author, I believe, would take it ill not to be thought as considerable as any of the Passages you have cited; and for my own part, I think he has treated this as well as ever he did any other Subject. My Author is the *Review*, and his Words are as follow:

Review, Numb. 22. Saturday Decemb. 16 1704.

It lays before us to consider our Trade, as it stands with Relation to *France*.

It is apparent, that except as hereafter excepted, our Trade with *France*, suppose the War over, stands on a better Foot than ever it did this last 50 Years, or indeed ever before.

French Fashions, French Wine, and French Goods grow up so much in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, that in spite of all the English Goods, we could vend in *France*, was Traded with them to our Loss, and the Balance was 800,000 *l.* per Annum against us, which we were obliged to make good by Bills.

I desire to lay this Case's Issue open as short as possible, and be particular in the Goods we sent thither, and received from thence, because it will be very informing to the Schemes I shall have Occasion to draw.

We sent to *France* in chief,

Woollen Manufactures, as	
Cloth,	Wrought Iron,
Stockings,	Hatting,
Hats, &c.	Cash,
Leather,	Lead,
Tin,	East-India Goods,
Sugars,	Coppers,
Tobaccoes,	Wool in abundance.

We received from thence,

Salt,	Paper,
Wine,	Rozin,
Brandies,	Prunes,
Linnens,	Pickles,
Wrought Silks,	Perfumes,
Gloves,	Preserves, and numberless
Hats,	useless Toys.
Glass,	

The Gentlemen that have been conversant in Trade, know very well, that the *Provincials* and *Tradesmen* of *France* in comparison all our Reports thither, that there was no Proportion between the Particulars on either side, but that any single Article of Liquids demanded more Money than all our Trade to them could pay for.

Thus stood the State of our Trade to *France* when the late War began, and let any Man that says *France* has not lost by the War, compare the State of their Trade to *England*, as it was at the end of the last War, and will be at the end of this (if ever it shall end) and they will join with me in this; that *France* has an irreparable Loss, which she will feel in Trade for 50 Years, and perhaps ever after the War; a Loss that has returned the Scale of Trade against her, that as she Traded with us 800,000 *l.* per Annum for her Gain before, she must Trade as much now to her Loss, which is above a Million and half difference every Year. In the general Balance of Trade, I shall proceed to make this plain in the next Paper.

Agio, *Review* Numb. 26. Saturday Decemb. 30. 1704.

I am upon the Article of our Trade with *France*, or rather their Trade with us, I have noted how at the beginning of the Rupture between the Kingdoms, the French Trade to *England* was carry'd vastly to their Gain and our Loss, by reason of the prodigious Export of their Liquids, Silks, &c.

Before I go on further with the Particulars of the present State of this Trade, I am to show how it is fallen from being so much to their Advantage, to its being now as much to ours; and here 'tis necessary to examine our own Affairs, a little. A Multitude of French Refugees thronging into this Nation, on Account of Religion, or Persecution of Religion, (let the Uncharitable judge which way they please) these People being generally speaking, all Mechanicks, fell immediately to Trade, in order to get Bread, some to one employment, & some to another: As a great many of them fell off our Woollen Trade, so they generally inclined to work our Wool into such kind of Goods as they had been accustomed to work in their own Countries, rather than to fall into our own Manufactures, which they did not understand. From hence it appears, that among our Combers, Wool Spinners, Broad Cloth or Serge-Makers, you have few or no French.

The first Effort of the French Refugees, was our thin Black Crapes, a Manufacture which they had

I refer to the Memory of People convert in Trade, how universally it pleases our People; so that the least Quantity of Wooll that ever was heard of in a Garment, supplying the room of a Suit of Cloth, it became a general Habit, and the Ladies of the best Quality began to appear in a Gown and Petty-Coat under 25 Shillings, till the Meanness of the Price giving every Servant an Opportunity to be as fine as her Mistress, it grew a little Obsolete among the Women, then the Men fell into it.

And again, in the same Review, As the French Refugees applied themselves to Industry and Labour, they not only introduced Alterations in our Manufactures, by *fasting up such sorts of Woollen Goods as were before made in France*, but as in like Cases it always happened, they began to erect such French Manufactures as we used to have in great Quantities from them, such as Hats, Glafs, Paper, Lustrings, Canvas, Sail-Clothes, and several sorts of Wrought Silks.

The two first of these we have absolutely mastered, and brought them to such a Perfection, as that in open Trade they are contrary to receive them from us, and the other are in a great measure improv'd, and in a prospect of Increase.

By this Method, five exceeding great Articles of our Import from thence are lessened, if not quite suck; and here those Gentlemen who cry our Manufactures sink, and are made abroad, would do well to consider whether we do not daily increase in making other Manufactures, as well as in losing some Quantities of our own; but these slegmatick Gentlemen are for doing any Country Justice but their own.

The Manufacture of Glafs and Hats we have absolutely and entirely made our own, as is before noted; and I think I need not spend my own Time, or the Reader's, to tell them, that *Lustrings or plain Hack Silks, Paper, and Sail-Cloth*, are wonderfully improved, vast Quantities of them made in England, and great Numbers of our Poor daily employed in them. If any Man requires me to defend to Particulars, I can inform them of near 50 white Paper-Mills, which make now extraordinary good Paper for the Press and for the Pen, which within these few Years was not to be found in this Nation, the *Lustring Company can answer for the Silks*, and the *Multitude of Lovers at Work on Canvas and Sail-Cloth* will prove much of the other.

I wove here what Use I could make of this Matter with respect to the supplying our People with Manufactures, obtained to this Nation by Encroachment from our Neighbours, as a Thing remote from the Purpose: But thus far it answers the present Affairs; these Articles have sunk exceedingly out of Imports of Goods from France.

But this was not all; as soon as the first War broke out, the *strict Prohibition of Wines and Brandies from France*, and more particularly the *high Duties on those raised by Prices*, put a Check to the vast Importations from thence; and that War holding 50 exceeding long, the *Portugal Merchants* soon enlarged their Trade, and filled the whole Nation with their Wines. 'Tis true, their Wines being heavy and strong, did not at first please, and we hanker'd after the old *Claret of Bourdeaux*; but in time the Quantities wore off, and the Merchants found out Ways and Means either to bring the *Sarragusee Wine* to our Palates, or Custom brought our Palates to the Wine: So that we began to forget the French Wines, and like the other well enough—And for this Reason I confess I should like much rather the Act against sophisticating of Wines should not pass; for we trade in Wine so much to our Advantage now, to what we did before, that we had better drink almost any thing for Wine, than fall back into the old Channel of Trade, and buy them with ready Money from France. It is a strange thing to observe how Trade runs in Channels and Eddies, and will sometimes, like the Tide, shift the Course, change the Streams, and remove or fix Banks and Sands here or there, and on a sudden return to them again.

By these Turns of Affairs the Channel of the Wine-Trade is quite shifted from France to Portugal and Spain. It is not for me to enter into the dark Doings of our Vintners, Wine-Coopers, and Brewing-Merchants: I am not examining what Quantity of Syder or Teal mixture is used in that Wine we

drink. If a letter for England we should drink all Turnip Wine, or any Wine, then we should drink the best Wine in Europe, and go back to France for it. At present the Gilt of the French Wine is laid by, and the great Draught of the whole Nation is upon *Portugal Wines*. These the *Portugals* tell us for our Manufactures, and take a large Quantity of Goods from us. And all their ready Money, we give to pay the Price for their Wine, Brandies, and Vinegar, it is sold in our Markets.

Upon the whole it appears, that were we now actually at Peace with France, we should not import any of their Glafs, their Hats or Lustrings, not a fifth part of their Wine, nor above a third part of their Brandy, nor half their Lustrings.

And this great Alteration must of Course turn the Channel of Trade against them. 'Tis true, they have prohibited entirely our Trade to them for *Herrings in Tins*, *of Bees*, and laid high Duties on our Manufactures, *as our Lead, our Tin, our Tobacco, our sugar, our East-India Goods, our Corn, our Leather, and so much of our Wools*: These things they must have, they will have, and they cannot be without. And it is plain, that for these and such like, during the Interval of the last Peace, they received from us such prodigious Quantities as plainly proved, the Scale of Trade on our Side to great Value.

To establish the Authority of the Review in Matters of Trade, if I mistake not, there is a Passage the Author of *This Essay on Publick Credit*, in which he declares his Apprehension of the Review in Matters of Trade much better than in Politicks. He comes it pass that he is now gain'd over to be Advocate for the late projected Commerce, which will have proved the Ruin of this Kingdom.

I must be so just to the Author of the Review, as to observe, that in a Treatise he has since published, intituled, *Some Thoughts upon the Subject of Common with France*, pag. 17. he acknowledges himself to have been mistaken formerly in his Opinion of the Balance of the French Trade being 800,000 *l. per Annum* to our Loss. The Mistake, he says, he owes to a Paper which pass'd for current Truth in those Times, call'd *A SCHEME*, &c. But, says he, I have newly been accus'd to see that *Scheme* consisted of such manifest Falsities, as to be wholly false, and designedly to be imposed on the Nation, even to stripping it stark naked from all manner of Covering, and set me Word laid in its Defence.

Sir, you have said more in Defence of the SCHEME, than the Author of the Review and his present Party will ever be able to answer; and notwithstanding all the Objections against it from the Customhouse, the Balance of the French Trade was heretofore 800,000 *l. per Annum* against England, as asserted by the Review.

But 'tis probable this Author may have corrected his Mistake from some secret Conventions given him by the above-mentioned Author of the *Essay on Publick Credit*, rather than from the Frauds pretended to be detected in the SCHEME.

'T remains then, that according to the unbiased Sentiments of the Author of the Review in the above-cited Passages, that our Trade with France, by our Prohibitions and high Duties on French Goods, *is now a much better Post than it has been these 50 Years, as usual ever before*; that the Balance heretofore ran 800,000 *l. against us*; that the very Wines and Brandies imported formerly from France were *superior* to all our Exports in that State; that the French Refugees set up here their *Wool* Cloths, a Manufacture partly their own, and that consequently they had a *Woolen Manufacture* in that Nation, that by means of their Prohibitions and high Duties on Lustrings or plain Hack Silks, Paper, and Sail-Cloth are wonderfully improved, and great Numbers of our Poor daily employed in them; that we had better drink almost any thing for Wine, Turnip Wine, or any other Wine, than fall back into our old Channel of Trade, and buy our Wine with ready Money from France, or than drink the best Wine in Europe, and go back to France for it; that while these Prohibitions and high Duties shall remain in force, we should not import any of their Glafs, their Hats or Lustrings, not a fifth part of their Wine, nor above a third part of their Brandy, nor half their Lustrings. I suppose he meant in proportion to what we did formerly; but while all these Things stand prohibited here, several Things, and to a very great Value, the French must buy from England, and pay for them with ready Money. I am,

Sir, your humble Servant.





2

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The way to estimate the Quantity of our Gain | The Mercator exposed.
by Trade with any particular Nation.

From FRIDAY, MARCH 26. TO TUESDAY, MARCH 30. 1714.

BEFORE I enter into a Dispute with the Mercator concerning our Gain by the Portugal Trade, and how much of it we owe to our late Treaty with that Nation, one Point seems necessary to be settled between us; which is, What shall be said to be Gain or Profit of Trade between two Nations?

The Mercator makes the Gain by our Trade to Portugal to be a small Part of the Value of our whole Exports to that Nation. This seems to be imply'd in his Numb. 121. in these Words, *That we ever gained a Million per Annum by it, &c. the Portugal Trade, shall appear very ridiculous, in that it shall be found upon Examination, that our whole Trade never amounted to a Million per An.* He is undoubtedly in the Right so far; our Gain could not be a Million per An. if all our Exports were never of that Value; but that which is insinuated here, is, that our Gain is much less than the Value of our Exports.

But, Numb. 122. he expresses himself a little more plainly: *The Opposer of the Treaty of Commerce with France, have run up the Value of the Portugal Trade to such a vast Magnitude, that no less than gaining a Million a Year by it has been the Beast, Monstrum horrendum!*

What a Trade must this be! and how insensate are these People grown? To talk of gaining a Million a Year, is what no body can mention without laughing. Had they said, that we exported thither a Million a Year, that had been extravagant, and, as shall appear, is far more than ever was true; yet the thing had not been so flagrantly insensate, as it is to say we export more to Portugal than all our Trade amounts to in a Year to all Parts of the World. It is the general Opinion of Men, whose Judgment in these Things will not be questioned, that our whole Exports of Woollen Manufactures to all Places in the World, amount yearly to between four and five Millions of Pounds Sterling, and a very great Trade it is; but no Man will undertake to say that we get clear one Million Sterling by that whole Trade, which would indeed be after the Rate of twenty six twenty five per Cent. Profit; an Account too extravagant to obtain with any Body.

To what a degree of Assurance then are these Party Merchants come, that can by wholesale affirm, *that we gain a Million per An. by our Trade to Portugal only.*

What he asserts here, among other Things, is, that our Gain upon our Woollen Manufactures exported either to Portugal, or to all the World, is not twenty five, no, nor twenty per Cent. of the whole Value of those Manufactures.

But, lastly, After having given us the whole Quantity of Woollen Manufactures exported to Portugal in three Years, which he jumps at less than a Million Value, he closes his Numb. 123. with these Words, *Now let the Stupidity of the People be judged by this Scheme, (i. of Exports) tho' this be a prodigious Expectation in it self, yet if the Accounts they have given were true of our gaining a Million a Year by our Trade to Portugal, then these two monstrous Things must follow;*

1. *That we gain 20 per Cent. by all the Manufactures which we send to Portugal; and that upon the Foot of such a Gain it follows,*

2. *That we exported fifteen Millions Sterling in Woollen Manufactures to Portugal in the three Years above-mentioned, which the Mercator affirms is more than all the Manufactures made in the said three Years in the whole Nation.*

The Mercator affirms here, that the Value of five Millions per An. in Woollen Manufactures, is not made in the whole Nation; yet in his precedent Paper, in the Passage above cited, he had said, That in the Opinion of Men, of unquestionable Judgment, our whole Exports of Woollen Manufactures, to all Places in the World, amount yearly to between four and five Millions of Pounds Sterling; that is, we export ten times as great a Value as we consume our selves! *Monstrum horrendum!* But this, and other Absurdities in the above-mentioned Passages, is not the Business of my present Paper. My present Business is to settle how great a part of the Value of our Exports shall be said to be our Gain.

The Mercator says, that our Gain cannot be equal to the whole Value of our Exports; 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

yearly by our Trade to Portugal, we must export thither five Millions yearly in Woollen Manufactures.

First, our Gain, says he, cannot be equal to the Value of our Exports; and why not? if we export any Value of our Manufactures for the Consumption of a Foreign Nation, and import thence no Goods at all for our own Consumption, it is certain the whole Price of our own Manufactures exported must be paid to us in Money, and that all the Money paid to us is our clear Gain.

The Merchant perhaps does not get 20 per Cent. by the Goods he sends abroad, yet if he sells his Goods for the very Price he paid for them, and brings back the whole Price in Money, and not in Goods, to his Native Country, the Merchant in this Case gets nothing, but his Country gets clear the whole Value of the Goods; but this is above the Understanding of this idle Fellow!

I shall endeavour therefore to make the Nation's Gain by Trade intelligible even to the Mercator. I shall endeavour to bring him to it by degrees, and teach him first his A, B, C, as we do Children.

I ask the Mercator then, What is the Gain of the Day-Labourer or Manufacturer? He will answer me, That it is just so much as he earns by his Work for the Subsistence of himself and his Family: His whole Wages are his Gain.

If his whole Time is taken up in working for the Consumption of the Portuguese, if his whole Wages are paid him by that Nation, he gains from Portugal the whole Value of his yearly Labour. And the same thing must be said of the Portuguese Manufacturer that works for the Consumption of the English Nation, he clears his whole Wages from this Kingdom.

But still the Question is, How much of these Wages is gained or lost to the one Nation or the other?

It is certain, that all that the Consumption of Portugal pays to the English Labourers, more than is paid by the Consumption of England to the Labourers of Portugal, is clear Gain to England, and so much Loss to Portugal: And therefore if the Wages of English People for Labour bestowed on the Corn, Lead, Tin, Woollen, and other Manufactures exported to Portugal, should amount to 800,000 *l. per Annum*, and the Wages of the Portuguese for their Labour bestowed upon the Wine, Oil, Fruit, and other Products of that Country imported hither for the Consumption of our People, should amount to no more than 200,000 *l. per Annum*, it is clear that in the Article of Wages for Labour, setting the Wages of one People against those of the other, we gain by the Balance 600,000 *l. per An.*

The next Question is, What is gained or lost by the Exchange of the Product of the Land between both Nations?

And here another Question will arise, What is gained by the Gentleman or Land-holder? I believe even the Mercator would give me this Answer, That he gets just so much as is given for the Product of the Land, clear of the Charge of Labour that is bestowed upon it; and whatsoever is the Consumer, whether this or a foreign Nation, pays the Gentleman so much of his Rent?

If the Corn, Lead, Tin, Woollen, or other Manufactures of this Kingdom, are exported to Portugal for the Consumption of that Nation, it is certain that Portugal pays the English Land-holder the whole Rent, or in other Words, the whole Price which is paid upon account of Rent for these Goods; which is indeed the whole Price that is paid for them, deducting the Wages given for the Labour bestowed upon them. The same thing must be said of England; the Land-holder of Portugal gets just so great a Part of his Rent from England, as is paid by the Consumption of this Nation to the Rents of that Kingdom.

How much then is gained or lost to the Land-holders of either Nation? All that is given for the meer Product of the English Lands by the Portuguese, more than is given for the meer Product of Portugal by the English, is so much Gain to England, and so much Loss to Portugal.

Suppose then that the Product of the Lands of England (clear of the Wages of the Labourers) exported to Portugal, should amount to 400,000 *l. per Annum*, and that the Product of Portugal, clear of Labour, imported into England, should amount to no more than 200,000 *l. per Annum*, the Difference is 200,000 *l. per Annum*. The English Land-holders gain so much yearly from Portugal, and Portugal loses so much to this Nation.

The last thing is the Gain of the Merchant. The Merchant gains all that Part of the Price of his Goods in which his Sale exceeds his Purchase; and this Difference of the Price is paid by the Consumer: If England is the Consumer, the Merchant gains this Difference in England, but England gets nothing by her Consumption; but if Portugal is the Consumer of the Goods exported by the English Merchant, he gains the whole Difference from Portugal. And so in like Manner does the Portuguese Merchant get from England the whole Difference of the Price upon all Goods which he buys in Portugal and sells to this Kingdom.

Suppose then that our English Merchants buy here the Product of our Lands manufactured by the Labour of our People at the Cost of 1,200,000 *l. per Annum*, and sell the same to Portugal for 1,300,000 *l. per Annum*, our English Merchants get from that Country 100,000 *l. per Annum*. On the other Hand, if the Merchants in Portugal buy there their Oil, Wine, Fruit, &c. at the Cost of 300,000 *l. per Annum*, and sell the same to England for 325,000 *l. per Annum*, their Gain from England is no more than 25,000 *l. per Annum*: So that in this very Article of the Merchant's Gain England would gain clear 75,000 *l. per Annum* from Portugal, and so much would be yearly lost to that Nation.

For my own Part, I know no other way of estimating the Profit or Loss of Trade between two Nations; all that the Labour of the People, the Product of the Lands, and the Gain of the Merchants in one Nation exceed in Value those in the other, is so much Gain to the first, and so much Loss to the second. This is plain and obvious to every Person even of the meanest Capacity: The Mercator himself cannot chide but understand it, if he does not he is a Blockhead.

But when he tells us of his Twenty's and Twenty five per Cent. upon our Exports, I must tell him in a new-coined Word that this is downright Bamboozle, and that he can mean nothing else but to impose upon his Readers. In stating the Value of Trade between us and any other Nation, he ought fairly to tell them the Value of both Exports and Imports: His Readers would be able to tell the rest, and that the whole Difference in which the former exceeds is our Gain, and so much Loss to the other Nation. But to make such a Discovery was not the Business of the Mercator or his Masters; they are not to teach their Readers to judge right of the French Trade, or any other.

But I believe by this Time the Reader sees that it is possible for England to gain a Million yearly by her Trade to Portugal, without the Merchant's gaining 25 or 30 per Cent. or indeed without selling their Goods for any more than they cost: And that there is no Necessity for our selling the Value of five Millions in any Goods whatsoever, much less in woolle Manufactures, to gain a Million yearly from Portugal. The whole Sum is gained by selling Goods to the Value of a Million more than we buy.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

The Mercator's Vouchers are against himself in
the Matter of our Portugal Trade.
The Mercator expos'd in a Letter for his Ignorance

in producing such Vouchers.
Some Remarks on the said Letter.

From TUESDAY, March 30. to FRIDAY, April 2. 1714.

SINCE the *British Merchant* is not enough in the good Graces of the Persons who have the Custom-house Accounts under their Direction, to be let into the Perusal of them, lest they should furnish him with too many Arguments for the *Portugal* Treaty, and against that of *France*, he thinks himself obliged however, to make all possible Acknowledgments to those Gentlemen for putting those Accounts into the Hands of the *MERCATOR*.

For though, without Doubt, his Commission is to give only such Parcels of them to his Readers as may serve to destroy the Credit of the *Portugal* Treaty, and to raise the Reputation of that with *France*, yet he is such a bungling Fellow, that ever now and then he abuses his Trust, and gives a Weapon to his Adversary.

This has often happen'd in the Course of his weekly Papers; but a remarkable Instance he has given of this Conduct, since he has begun from Scraps of Custom-house Entries to prove the *Portugal* Treaty *ridiculous*; and that, as we have increas'd since in the Exportation of Woollen Cloths to *Portugal*, we have decreas'd in the Exportation of our other Woollen Manufactures.

The Treaty was in *October*, 1703. for taking off the Prohibition of our Woollen Cloths, and for obliging the King of *Portugal* never to prohibit for the time to come either our Woollen Cloths or any of the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.

The *Mercator* therefore has singled out the Year preceding, and that which follow'd the Treaty, to shew us how much our Exportation of Double Bays, *Perpets*, *Serges*, *Stuffs*, *Druggers* and *Says*, exceed'd the Exportation of the like Goods after the Admission of our Woollen Cloths into *Portugal*; and consequently how little we got by taking off the aforementioned Prohibition.

This was the Argument of his Numb. 119. but then in his very next Paper he has given us another Scrap from his Entries, which demonstrates that our Exportation of Double Bays, *Perpets*, *Serges*, *Stuffs*, *Druggers* and *Says*, has been as great since the Treaty as it was before; so that we have not decreased in the Exportation of those Goods by getting off the Prohibition

from our Woollen Cloths, and that Consequently the whole Exportation of our Woollen Cloths is clearly gain'd by that Treaty. Is such a stupid Fellow fit to be trusted with Custom-house Entries? But I am glad he has been trusted, for otherwise I had never been let into this Argument.

But this Blunder of the *Mercator* is so well expos'd in a Letter from one of my Correspondents, that I shall here give it to my Readers just as it came to my Hands.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,

THE *Mercator's* grand Argument against the Advantage this Nation has received by the Treaty with *Portugal* in 1703. is, That though we exported in 1704, the Year after the Treaty, Cloths 10493 more than in 1702, the Year before the Treaty; yet that the Consequence of this Increase was the lessening the Exportation of our *Perpets*, *Serges*, *Stuffs* and *Druggers*.

To prove which, in No 119. he gives a Scheme of several Woollen Manufactures exported in 1702 and 1704; whereby it appears, that there were shipped for *Portugal* in 1702 more than in 1704.

- 728 Double Bays,
- 171279 lib. wt. in *Perpets* and *Serges*, and
- 161247 lib. wt. in *Stuffs*, *Druggers* and *Says*,
- And in 1704 more than in 1702.
- 210 Minikin Bays,
- 274 Single Bays,
- 10939 Dozen Pair of Hose;
- Besides *Coxens*, *Hats*, &c.

In Answer to this irresistible Argument, I must first remind the *Mercator*, that in 1703, the very Year the War was declared with *Spain*, while *Portugal* stood neuter, we endeavour'd to supply *Spain* by the Way of *Lisbon*, not only with Bays, but with *Perpets*, *Serges*, *Druggers*, and several other Commodities; and therefore this was the real Occasion of such a large Exportation for *Portugal* in that Year.

Every

Every Merchant on the Exchange is so well acquainted with this Fact, that it is strange the *Mercator* should so openly expose himself to the Charge of Partiality; for of this he could not be ignorant.

But when he has proved that there was exported for Portugal in 1702:

Lib. wt. 244707 in Stuffs and Druggets, and 16899 in Says.

Lib. wt. 322606, and 602604 in Perpets and Serges.

Lib. wt. 924110. And in 1704 but

Lib. wt. 93656 in Stuffs and Druggets, and 66701 in Says.

Lib. wt. 160357, and 439225, 1/2 in Perpets and Serges.

Lib. wt. 589821, 1/2.

And consequently that the Exportation of the said Manufactures in 1704 was decreased lib. 314527, 1/2.

He very unfortunately for himself produces (upon another Argument) No 123. an Account of the Exportations for Portugal in 3 Years, 1703, 1704, 1705; whereby it will appear, though the *Mercator* should not publish the Account of the Exports in 1703 and 1705 separate from 1704, and tho' private Merchants cannot procure any such Accounts from the Custom-house, that this lost Exportation was soon regained; or at least, that a great Exportation in 1704 and 1705 might, as usual in such Cases, lessen the Export in 1704.

For if, according to his Accounts, there was exported in 1703, 1704, and 1705,

Lib. Weight. 1623826 in Serges and Perpets; Deduct 429225, 1/2 for what was exported in 1704;

and then 1196500, 1/2 was exported in 1703 & 1705; the Rem.

The Medium whereof for one Year is, lib. wt. 598250; and our Exports in 1702 amounted only to lib. 602604;

And if there was exported in those three Years Lib.

841736 in Stuffs, Druggets, and Says; deduct 160357 for what was exported in 1704,

and then 683379 was exported in 1703 and 1705;

the Rem. 341689, 1/2

The Medium whereof for one Year is 321606

Whereas our Exports in 1702 was but

So there is gained here 20083, 1/2 lib. wt. per Annum

It is then plain, by the *Mercator's* own Voucher, that our Trade to Portugal in Perpets and Serges, and in Stuffs, Druggets, and Says, was greater in 1703 and 1705 than in 1702, tho' the Exportation was then designed for the Supply both of Portugal and Spain; and if our Merchants were disappointed therein, then it would have been no Wonder if the Exportations for the subsequent Years had been considerably lessened.

The Encrease therefore of our Trade to Portugal in 1705 in Woollen Manufactures, must be owing to the Treaty made by Mr. Methuen. And though the *Mercator*, No. 123, says that this Encrease since 1705 cannot be occasioned thereby, but has another visible Cause to be assigned to it; yet I would fain know whether that judicious and wise Minister did not foresee the Encrease of their Brazil Trade, and was therefore desirous that his Country should be sure to reap an Advantage thereby.

But if to the 10493 Cloths which the *Mercator* allows to be exported for Portugal in 1704, as aforesaid, he should, as he ought to have done, add a very great Part of the 2409 Double Dozens,

305 Single Dozens,

1612 Kerseys,

60 Pennsibones,

which he says were exported in 1703, 1704, and 1705; he may continue, if he pleases, to assert that England had no Benefit by the Treaty, but there are more fit Arguments to believe him.

But to insinuate that the Exportation in 1702 to Portugal, was a Standard and Measure to judge of what was gained or lost by that Treaty, is a great Imposition; and an over-set his own Argument by producing a Custom-house Account, is as ridiculous: But some Men cannot be content, without giving us their own just Occasion to expose them.

I am, &c.

The first Thing observable in this Letter is, that in 1704, the Year next after the Treaty, our Exportations of Woollen Manufactures to Portugal (according to the *Mercator's* own Account) exceed those of the Year 1703; viz.

2189, 1/4 Long Cloths, which at 10 l. per Cloth amount to	21892 1/4
5413 short Cloths, at 8 l. per Cloth,	43304
2891 Spanish Cloths, at 15 l. per Cloth,	43371 1/2
2130 Minikin Bays, at 6 l. per Piece,	12780
254 Single Bays, at 2 l. 10 s. per Piece,	685
10939 Doz. Pair of Hose, at 20 s. per Doz. Pair,	218939
883 Dozen of Hats, at 2 l. 10 s. per Dozen,	2207 1/2
531 Kerseys, at 1 l. 5 s. per Piece,	999 1/2

In these Articles the Exportation in 1704 was more than in 1703 156112 1/2

Our Exportations in 1705 more than in 1704, was in the following Articles; viz.

7281 Double Bays, at 1 l. per Piece,	7281
173279, 1/2 lib. wt. in Perpets and Serges, at 25 lib. per Pieces, making 11992 Pieces,	294823 1/2
at 2 l. per Pieces,	348558
161247 lib. wt. in Says, Stuffs, and Druggets, at 10 l. per Pieces, making Pieces	161247
16125, at 2 l. per Piece,	32250

In all 84478

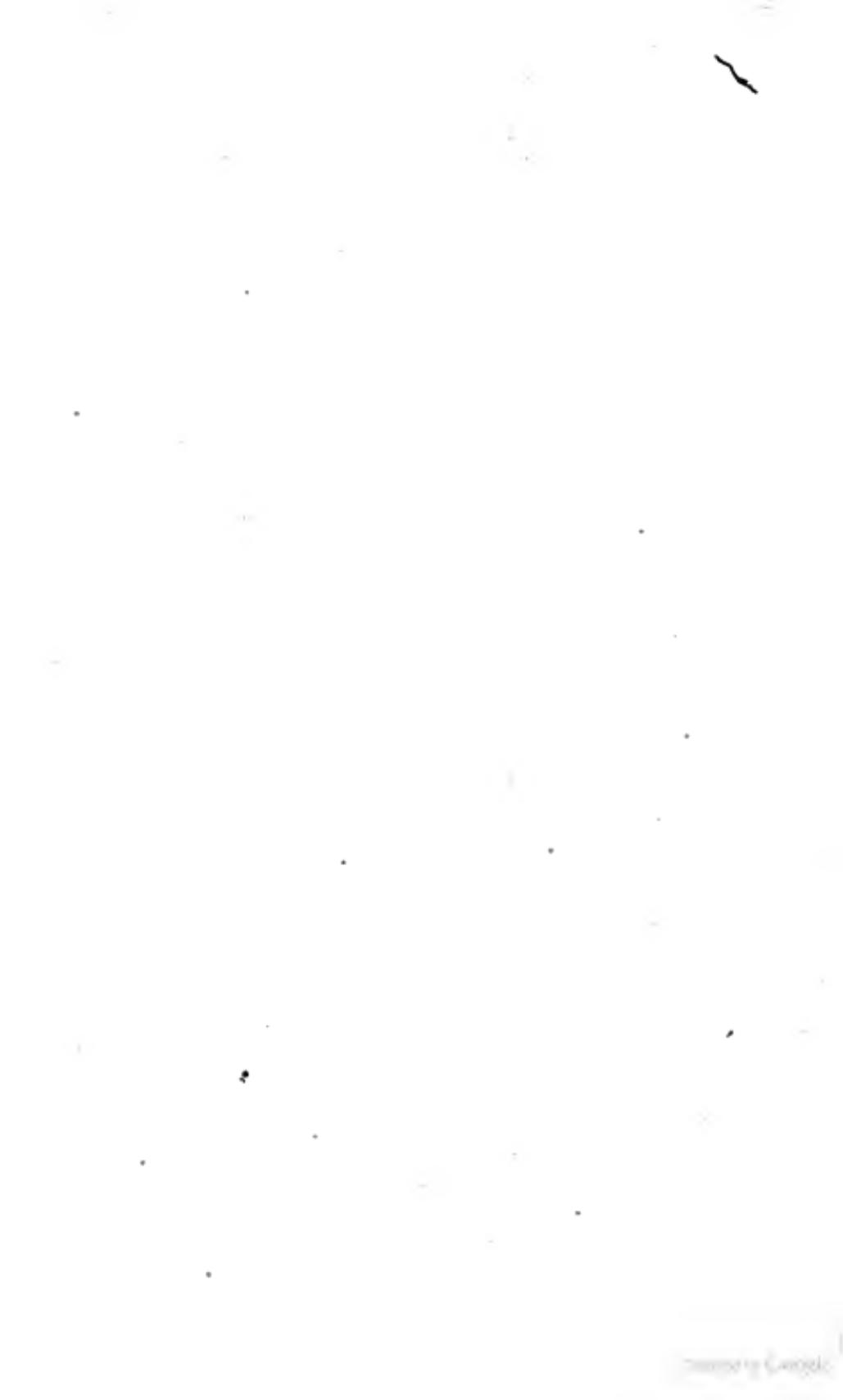
Which being deducted from the above-mentioned Sum, the Value of the Exportation in 1704 is greater than in 1703.

So that the very Year which he has chosen next after the Treaty, exceeds in so great a Sum the best Year he could find out before.

My Correspondent has very well observed, that our Increase of Bays, Perpets, Serges, Stuffs, Says, and Druggets in 1705, was owing to an Attempt to agree again with those Goods by the Way of Portugal; which failing, our Exportations might well be lessened in 1704.

But that the *Mercator* should so uncharitably give us the Exportation of these Goods in 1705, by which it appears that we regained our lost Exportation in 1704, and increased after the Treaty not only our Exportation of Woollen Cloths, but of the rest of our Woollen Manufactures, was certainly the most unaccountable Stupidity in the World. But we owe to this Stupidity that we have one Voucher more than we had before, that we increased above 70000 l. in the Exportation of our Woollen Manufactures the very next Year after that Treaty, and the Year after that in above double that Sum. When all the succeeding Years shall be brought to Light, it then will appear that we have been ever since increasing, which the *Mercator* himself does not deny.

It is indeed true that the *Mercator* assigns another Cause for this Encrease, viz. The Discovery of the Golden Mines in Brazil: Yet how much is owing to the able Minister who projected the Portugal Treaty, and by this has secured to us a perpetual Share in those Mines, by obliging the King of Portugal to admit into his Country our Woollen Cloths, and never to prohibit any of our Woollen Manufactures?



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A Letter to the British Merchant, shewing
the Progress of the Woollen Manufacture
in Portugal, from the Commencement of
it in 1684. to the Destruction of it in

1703 by Mr. Methwen's Treaty.
Our whole Exportation of Woollen Manu-
factures to Portugal depends on that
Treaty.

From FRIDAY, April 2. to TUESDAY, April 6. 1714.

To the British Merchant, April 5.

SIR,
BEFORE you proceed to a Confutation of
the Mercator's Assertions, which are in Numb.
125. viz.

1. That the Increase of the Portugal Trade is not
at all owing to the Portugal Treaty.

2. That no Convention of that Treaty will
occasion the Loss of any Part of that Trade.

I beg you, Sir, to give me leave to inform you of
the State and Progress of the Woollen Manufacture
in Portugal, till the Time of the Treaty made by
Mr. Methwen in 1703, which prov'd the Destruction
of their whole Fabricks.

In the Year 1681, one Courtier, so Irishman, a Serv-
ant in the Family of the then Queen of England, af-
terwards Queen Dowager, carried over several Cloth-
iers and Baymakers into Portugal, where they presen-
tly set up the Manufactures both of Cloth and Bays,
particularly at Port Aligre and Carullhan.

It was soon found that the Staple of their Wool
was too short for Bays, therefore their Baymakers were
soon dismiss'd.

But they proceeded in the Manufacture of Cloth,
and soon brought it to such Perfection, that in 1684,
either in June or July, upon the Counte d'Escricas's
Project to increase their Exportations, and lessen the
Consumption of Foreign Manufactures, as well as to
encourage their own, the King of Portugal made a
Sumptuary Law to restrain several Excesses in his
Kingdom, and among the rest, the Importation of
all Foreign Woollen Cloths was prohibited.

Upon this the Foreign Merchants in that Country
made several Remonstrances, but could by no means
obtain that the Prohibition should be set aside, yet
they gained a Years time to bring in those that were
on the Way; but were obliged to re-ship what-ever
should arrive after the time limited.

The Mercator, in his Numb. above-cited, has given
a prodigious Exportation for that Year, especial-
ly of Woollen Cloths, which, by this, is very well
accounted for; a Licence to import for one Year,
when for ever after they were to stand prohibited,
might very well give Occasion to that vast Exporta-
tion. It was an Exportation indeed of but one Year,
but it was to supply that Country for many Years to
come.

The Portugals soon became so expert in the Manu-
facture of Woollen Cloths, that they sent some our
English Clothiers in a distressed Condition, and the
Rumagado's were forced for some time to beg their
Bread; which I desire you will inculcate to your

Readers, that they may all know the Reward that is
justly to be expected by such Betrayers of their
Country.

But the Portugals, as I have said, went on success-
fully; their Manufacture of Woollen Cloths increas-
ed to that degree, that both Portugal and Brazil were
wholly supply'd from their own Fabricks, and the
Materials of this Manufacture were their own, and
Spanish Wool, and no other; so that the Mercator
may know that other Nations have Wool as well
as Great Britain and Ireland, and tis but cheating our
selves to fancy that all the Materials for Woollen
Cloths are of our own Growth, I am afraid it will
be found that Portugal, as well as Spain, has better
Wool than ever grew in England.

To make our selves some amends, and to evade the
ill Consequence of this Prohibition of our Woollen
Cloths, we presently introduced into Portugal in
their Head Cloth-Serges and Cloth-Druggets, against
which their Fabrick of Cloth, which was then but
in its Infancy, would have been as unable to con-
tend as against a free Importation of our Woollen
Cloths; therefore that their own Cloth might have
no such thing as a Rival in their own Country, they
proceeded to prohibit Foreign Cloth-Serges and
Cloth-Druggets. This happened in about one Year
after their first Prohibition.

It is ridiculous in the Mercator to deny this, and to
call for a Copy of the Pragmatica, by which these
Goods were prohibited. The Merchants seldom
take Copies of the Prohibitions in any Country, but
they soon learn at their Peril what Goods are un-
lawful to be imported. A Gentleman who lived in
Portugal affirm'd this very thing before the Parliam-
ent of Great-Britain, and I will defy the Mercator
to produce any one Merchant that shall deny it.

The Mercator therefore has Recourse to an Argu-
ment, that there could be no Prohibition of Cloth-
Serges and Cloth-Druggets, which is, that Serges
and Druggets were after that imported into Portugal
as freely as they were before, which is nothing to
his Purpose; for the Prohibition was not of all sorts
of Serges and Druggets, but only of Cloth-Serges
and Cloth-Druggets, which were then after the Pro-
hibition of Foreign Cloth, the only Rivals of their
new Manufacture.

If it will be of any use to you in your future Pa-
pers, I must observe to you, that the Expence of
Cloth in Portugal is of about two thirds Cost to one
third Fine; but this that follows I am very free must
be of use, viz. That the Dutch import only fine Cloth
to Portugal, but yet not one twentieth part even of
this

the fine Cloth that is imported thither by the English; so that it was perfectly amaz'd at the Confidence of the *Mercator*, when he affirm'd that the Dutch sell as much Cloth to *Portugal* as is equal to one third of all that is sold by *England*, whence he argues that *Portugal* has broken her Treaty with us, by admitting Dutch Cloth, without an Equivalent, when an Equivalent was given by *England* for this Liberty. A strange way of arguing this! but of this you may be assured, the Importation of Dutch Woollen Cloths into *Portugal* is not equal to one sixtieth Part of all that are imported thither from *Great-Britain*.

Before I conclude, I must appeal to every Person that has lived in *Portugal* from the Year 1683 to 1703, during the time of the Prohibition, whether *Portugal* did not make Cloth enough for herself and *Brazil*? I am sure that every Man of Honesty and Experience must acknowledge this.

Your Correspondent in your last has sufficiently demonstrated from one of the *Mercator's* own Vouchers, that our Exportation of our other Woollen Manufactures to *Portugal* has not decreased by taking off the Prohibition on our Woollen Cloths; and the *Mercator* himself has owned our Exportation of 10493 Cloths to *Portugal* upon our taking off that Prohibition; whence then was *Portugal* supplied with such a Quantity during the Prohibition? Certainly from their own Fabrick; for if we did not decrease in our Exportation of other Woollen Manufactures upon the Admission of our Woollen Cloths, either the *Portuguese* made so great a Quantity themselves before, or else as many of them went naked as are since clothed by those 10493 Pieces; and was it of no Importance to us to destroy such a Fabrick in *Portugal*? And is nothing due to the Memory of the Minister who opened such a Market for our Woollen Manufacture?

The *Mercator* often makes us the Compliment of the Woollen Manufacture, and calls it our Wool, our Manufacture, our Woollen Manufacture, as if there were no such thing in the World but in *Great-Britain*: But the very Moment I am writing I have *Mr. Man's* Treatise, entitl'd *England's Treasure*, licensed by Lord *Arundel*, and printed in 1664, lying open before me, and in p. 59 I read the following Words, WE KNOW THAT OTHER NATIONS NEITHER WANT ART NOR MATERIALS TO THIS PERFORMANCE.

For my own part I know very well that Wool is the Growth of other Countries as well as *England*, and in some Countries in much more Perfection than it is in *England*; and they have Dying Goods too for perfecting their Manufacture which are wanted here; so that I never hear of an Attempt in any Place to set on Foot the Woollen Manufacture, but it gives me a Fit of Trembling for my native Country. And we see by this Attempt of the *Portuguese*, that in a very few Years time they were able to forbear yearly a hundred thousand Pounds Value of our Woollen Cloths.

This was their first Essay: But can we be so very fond as to think they would have stop'd here? or that they would not have proceeded afterwards to other Parts of the Manufacture? They would have gone on from Cloth to Druggets, from Druggets to Serges, and so to other Things, till, one after another, as last all foreign Woollen Goods had been prohibited.

Perhaps it may be objected, and very justly, that the Staple of the Wool in *Portugal* is not of sufficient Length for Bays and several other Parts of the Woollen Manufactures: But can we be sure that this Defect might not have been cured in time, by removing their Sheep into their richest Pasture? However, at the worst, if they had not been able to come up to the Perfection of *England*, yet they might resolve to be contented with their own to save an Expence of five hundred thousand Pounds per Annum.

The *Mercator* would persuade us, that the *Portugal* Trade is not so very necessary to *England* as the English Manufactures are to *Portugal*; and that the very Prohibition of them were enough to raise a Rebellion there against the Government, to cause a Revolt of the People from the Prince. This is the Doctrine of his *Numb. 121*. Was there any Danger of a Revolt upon the Prohibition of foreign Cloth in 1684? yet that Court was pleas'd with Remonstrances from their Manufacturers when the Prohibition was taken off pursuant to *Mr. Methuen's* Treaty. But the

Thing was past, the Treaty was ratify'd, and their Looms were all ruin'd; and yet there was no Tendency to a Revolt, when so many People were depriv'd of their Employment in that Country by taking off that Prohibition. People revolt for want of Bread; for want of Employment and Subsistence; but the Prohibition of foreign Manufactures provides Employment and Subsistence for a People, and saves the Expence of Money to foreign Countries, and is this a Reason for a Revolt?

For taking from the People, by such means as these, the very Occasion of revolting, seems to be the Thing which the *Comte d'Armaignac* had most at Heart, and I am oblig'd to consider him as the Calves of his native Country. He was undoubtedly a very good Minister for *Portugal*, but a very bad one for *England*. 'Tis well for us he was not in Being at the Time of our Treaty with that Country. If he had, I fear it would not have paid, and the Estates of *England* would have wanted this Objection to complain of *Mr. Methuen*.

Mr. Methuen's Treaty, by taking off the Prohibition of British Cloths, and by providing that neither these, nor any of the British Woollen Manufactures in *Portugal*, should hereafter be prohibited, was the immediate Ruin of all the Fabricks in that Country, and open'd to us a Market by the *Mercator's* own showing for above 20000 of our Cloths, above the Value of 200000 per Annum. So much we were present Gainers in the single Article of Cloths. How then could the *Mercator* have the Face to assert that we got nothing by the Treaty?

But this was not all: The Success of *Portugal* is that one Fabrick might have carry'd her on to others, till at last every foreign Woollen Manufacture should have been prohibited. This is provided against by the Treaty. *Portugal* is never to prohibit any of our Woollen Manufactures, till we shall set her at Liberty to do this by exporting more from the Wines of that Country than two Thirds of the Duties we take from those of *France*. The *Mercator* then, if he pleases, may reckon that we have gain'd nothing by that Treaty, or gain'd only the Admission of our Woollen Cloths into *Portugal*; but I must inform him, that the Prohibition of all our Woollen Manufactures is prevented: So that our whole Exportation, whatsoever it is, ought to be placed to the Merit of that Treaty. And, I believe, when some of the last Years Entries shall be given in from the Customhouse, it will appear that our whole Exports of Woollen Manufactures to *Portugal* amount to 5 or 600000 per Annum.

I am, S I R, &c.

The 5 or 600000 l. per An. at the Close of my Correspondent's Letter is far short of a Million Sterling, which has been sometimes said to be the Profit of the *Portugal* Trade; but it never has been pretended that the whole was gain'd by our Woollen Manufactures. It has been said that so much was the whole Gain upon the Balance of all the Exports and Imports between both Nations; that a great Part of this was owing to the *Portugal* Treaty, which enabled us to export so many Woollen Manufactures; and that a Treaty so very beneficial deserved to be cultivated with all imaginable Care.

My Correspondent would have me inculcate to my Readers, how deservedly ill our People were rewarded, who had been instrumental in setting up the Manufacture of our Cloth in *Portugal*; but I must tell him that those People deserve not quite so much to be blam'd as the Wretches, who, by letting in Intentions of Foreign Manufactures upon us, force our People out into Foreign Countries to seek their Bread.

The last thing is, if the *Comte d'Armaignac* of *Portugal*, and *Mr. Colbert* in *France*, deserve so much Honour in their respective Countries, for erecting new Manufactures for the Employment and Subsistence of their Countrymen, certainly very great Honour must be due to *Mr. Methuen* in *England* for his projecting a Treaty, by which he has gain'd and secur'd to us so vast a Vent for our Woollen Manufactures, and so vast an Employment and Subsistence of our People.

ERRAT.

In the last, Col. 3. instead of 1-2 in six places, read one half.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A Recapitulation of the Arguments in my two last, by which is proved that the Portugal Treaty is not a ridiculous Treaty. A Letter to the British Merchants, shewing

how Dangerous Rivals the French are of our Trade, especially in the Article of Fishing by our Grants to them of Cape Briton and in Newfoundland.

From TUESDAY, April 6. to FRIDAY, April 9. 1714.

I Was preparing my self to confute the *Mercator's* two Assertions in his Numb. 215 *viz.*
1. That the *Increase of the Portugal Trade is not at all owing to the Portugal Treaty.*

2. That no *Contractation of that Treaty will occasion the Loss of that Trade.*

But when I come to read over again the two Letters in my two last, which were sent me only as Introductions to the Argument, I find my Correspondents have said enough on this Subject, and made the farther Confirmation of the above-mentioned Assertions altogether unnecessary.

For can any Man believe that the *Increase of the Portugal Trade is not at all owing to the Portugal Treaty*, when the former of my Correspondents has demonstrated, from the *Mercator's* own Voucher, the Importation of above 10000 of our Woollen Cloths into Portugal the very next Year after the Treaty, more than were imported the Year before? When he has so fully prov'd that our Exportation of other Woollen Manufactures did not decrease by the Admission of our Cloths into that Country; and that our whole Exportation of Woollen Manufactures increased above 70000 *l.* the first, and above double that Sum the second Year after the Treaty; Will he have the Confidence after this to affirm that the *Increase of the Portugal Trade is not at all owing to the Portugal Treaty*, which has let in such a Quantity of Woollen Cloths into that Country that were prohibited there before, and this without diminishing our other Exportations?

Again, Can any Man believe either this, or that no *Contractation of that Treaty will occasion the Loss of any Part of that Trade*, when the latter of my Correspondents has so fully demonstrated the successful Progress of the *Portugals* in the Manufacture of Woollen Cloths, till their whole Fabricks were knock'd in Head by their Treaty? when he has rendered it probable from their first Essay, that they might have proceeded on with like Success to other Parts of the Woollen Manufactures, till at last all those of Foreign Countries should have been prohibited? when he has shewn that the Treaty has so ty'd up their Hands, that they cannot for the future prohibit any kind of our Woollen Goods, and yet can have no Manufactures of their own, as long as they shall stand obliged by this Treaty to admit those of this Kingdom? when therefore

lastly, it is probable that our whole Importation of Woollen Manufactures into Portugal depends upon our Preservation of the Treaty? The *Mercator* now, after his coarse way, may tell us, that the *Portugal Treaty* has contributed nothing more to our Exportations to that Country than the Wren did to the Increase of the Waters in the Sea; but there is no *Mao* so ridiculous as to believe him.

As long as the above-mentioned Letters shall remain unanswered, all his Attempts to render the *Portugal Treaty* ridiculous, must render this Writer ridiculous to all his Readers. I expect therefore his Answer to these Letters; and, in the mean time, I shall present him with Answers to some of his newest Arguments. I shall oblige him, in the first place, with a Letter I have just now received, concerning his late Pretensions that the *Dutch* are much more Dangerous Rivals in Trade than the *French*, which is as follows:

To the British Merchants.

S I R,

THE *Mercator* is frequently essaying against the *Dutch*, and tells us they are very averse to our Trading with *France*. If I should for once agree with the *Mercator* in the Matter of Fact, I am afraid I should differ with him in the Reason; and the Reason he assigns, is, that they may have the Opportunity of buying the *French Goods*, and running them in upon us; but this is so ridiculous, nothing can be more so. What! Can the *Dutch* buy *French Goods*, carry them to *Holland*, and then run them in upon us? And cannot the *French* much more easily from their own Coast do it? The *French* are neerer, their Risque less, the Freight cheaper, than to go so much farther a field, run a double Risque, and pay double or treble Freight, and other Charges. Really, in this Instance, it must be said the *Mercator* was hard put to it to find a Scone to sling at the *Dutch*; but supposing the *Dutch* as fond of the *French Trade* as they please, this I am sure of, that since our Prohibition of *French Goods*, we have exported more Goods to all the World, than during their being admitted.

The *Mercator* has obliged us with some Instances, wherein the *Dutch* and *French* have been too hard for us in Trade. Had he done this fairly and impartially, he would have been to be commended; and in this

this I will join Issue with him, that whatever Nation, be it Dutch, French, or any other, that endeavours to over-reach us in Matters of Commerce, ought to be look'd upon by Great-Britain with a jealous Eye; but I will shew him there is not so much Danger from the Dutch, with relation to our Trade, as from the French.

He has in his Papers, Numbr. 120, 121, and 122. given us eight Instances, wherein he says the Dutch are our most Dangerous Rivals; and in his Numbr. 123. he says the French are our Rivals only in two Branches of our Trade, viz. The Woollen Manufacture, and our Shipping. But two, quotha? Why, these two are worth all the rest. Surely he forgot when he said this; how often he has told us of the pitiful and inconsiderable Woollen Manufacture of the French, that there could be no Danger of their Woollen Manufactures, and that, far from Rivalling us at a Foreign Market, they could never cope with us at France it self, tho' our Woollen Manufactures should pay the Duties imposed by this Treaty?

Again, these great Wits have very short Memories. He must needs have forgot how frequently he has told us, that the Dutch are the only Rivals of our Navigation; but now he acknowledges the French are so too — And are the French such innocent Creatures, that their being Rivals in our Navigation is not so dangerous to us, as the same thing would be in the Dutch?

But that I may not be misunderstood as if I were pleading for the Dutch; for whereinsoever they are our Rivals in Trade, they are to be guarded against. But I am shewing we ought to be more jealous of the French, who are more our Rivals in Trade; and in order to do this, I shall shew the *Mercator's* Partiality, by representing truly the State of the French Trade, and adding to the *Mercator's* two Instances several others wherein the French are our Rivals, at least equally, if not in a greater Degree than the Dutch are.

He has omitted to charge to the Account of the French their rivalling us in the Fishery. He charges this to the Account of the Dutch, and tells us very truly, that they are increased in the Herring-Fishery; I hope he will not say in Red-Herrings, that he knows is not true, for they make none but White-Herrings: They catch them in the open Sea near the Coast of Scotland, and carry them to Holland and prepare them. Their Industry in this is to be commended, and the Slopiness and Negligence of the Scotch and English to be blamed (not that they do not hinder them, but that they do not imitate their Industry and Vigilance. He says they used to pay an Acknowledgment for this; I wish they did so still. But I shall tell him presently of another Nation that paid a Duty for catching Fish, which has been long since discontinued thro' the Faults of some Persons formerly, and that they are now very far from being again reduced to a Condition of being ever forced to renew the Payment of that Duty. He says, the Dutch have beaten us out of the Whale-Fishery: He has forgot that the French have a very great Fishery of that kind; but it did not serve his Purpose to say any thing of the French White-Fishery; that would have made against his good Friends, and therefore was to be pass'd over in Silence. Notwithstanding the French Fishermen of *St. John de Lefse*, *Bayne*, and other Ports in that Part of the Bay of *Biscay*, are the most expert Harpooners in the World, without excepting the Dutch and *Hamburgers*. Whether the *Mercator* knew this or no, the French know it, and therefore took care by the late Treaty of Commerce to have the Produce of Whales excepted (not against us, says the *Mercator*, but) against the Dutch. 'Tis a Sign they think their own Fishery sufficient at least to supply themselves with the Produce of Whales, without being beholden either to the Dutch or English. The Dutch then are not the only Nation

that have worm'd us out of this Trade; the French have done it too, to the vast Encrease of their Navigation and Seamen.

But the French are not only encreased in the Whale-Fishery, but, which is of much more Consequence to us, they have exceedingly encreased their Fishery to Newfoundland, as well on the Coast as on the great Bank. The Consequences of this Encrease of their Fishery we have, to our Sorrow, too sensibly felt; and yet they have found Advocates for it, who are ready to answer, when any thing is represent'd against granting the French any Liberty of Fishery. What! must the French have nothing? So very little are some Persons to them, that they are angry with their Fellow-Subjects for endeavouring to exclude them that Fishery. The French do not only fish in the great Banks of Newfoundland for such Fish as are cured without drying, as the Dutch do in their White-Herring-Fishery in the open Sea, but have had the Address to obtain that the Island of *Cape Breton* should be yielded them up to fortify and do what they please with; where they may, and doubtless will, make another *Dunkirk*, and where they may carry on their Dry-Fishery, as well as at *Placentia*. WHICH WE HAVE NO ACCOUNT AS YET THAT THEY HAVE QUITTED, tho' we have an Account that they have sometime ago sent *Men of War* to fortify *Cape Breton*. But, as if this was an Privilege enough for them, they have obtained this in the Fishing Season they may resort to the very Head of Newfoundland it self, and erect Stages, &c. to cure and dry their Fish at. 'Tis a Sign they think this Liberty sufficient for them; for they have excepted against all this sort of Fish from us, by excluding any sort of Fish but what shall be in Barrel by the late Treaty of Commerce. The *Mercator* cannot be so ignorant as to suppose Newfoundland Fish, and especially the Dry Fish, can be carried to France in Barrels, but at such an Increase of the Cost as shall render the Sale impracticable in that Country, though the Duties there are sufficient to do this.

But this is not all; the World is well acquainted with the French since the Time that they paid Tribute for the Liberty of curing and drying Fish at Newfoundland, which was granted to them by King *Charles* the First in the 10th Year of his Reign. At this present the French do not only pay no Tribute, but by their Neighbourhood at *Cape Breton* will oblige us to keep large Garrisons at Newfoundland, if we will prevent being surpriz'd there; where they will have the Liberty of the Fishing Season equally with us, from *Cape Breton* Northward to the Northern Point of the said Island, &c. by which Situation they will be our Rivals in another Branch of our Fishery, that of Salmon: For at the Harbour of *Bassett*, which is to the Northward of the Cape, and therefore within their Limits, is an extraordinary good Fishery of Salmon. But this some wise Folks know nothing of. Had the late King *William* granted the Dutch any one of the Islands of the *Orkney* in Propriety to fortify, or a Liberty of referring to, or of erecting Drying-Houses necessary to cure Red-Herring in any such Island, or in England or Scotland, it would have been remembered with very good Reason a thousand and a thousand times over. So the *Mercator* may observe here, the Dutch nor French do neither of them pay the Duty they used to pay; but the French have had the Cunning to procure for their Fishery such Liberties and Privileges as can scarcely be consistent with our Safety or Interest, and which the Dutch could not obtain from those whom the *Mercator* counts their Friends. I leave the World now to judge who are our GREATEST and MOST DANGEROUS Rivals in the Fishery. But I shall pursue this Argument by other Letters.

I am, SIR, &c.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to
The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

An Abridgment of the Debate between the Mercator and the British Merchant, concerning the Portugal Treaty, with References to their several Papers.

From FRIDAY, April 9. to TUESDAY, April 13. 1714.

THE Mercator very often drops his Subject, when he has nothing more left to say upon it, and takes it up again at whatsoever Distance, when a new Supply comes in; and as I am oblig'd to follow him in my Answers, it will not be expected that our Readers will be at the Pains to carry our broken and interrupted Debates in their Heads.

I have determin'd therefore, as often as any one Subject shall be finish'd, that is, when the Mercator shall have argued all that is possible, and I have answer'd all that is necessary upon it, to collect the Arguments on both sides, to bring the whole Debate into a narrow Compass, and to lay it before my Readers at one View.

This I imagine to be the Case of the Portugal Treaty: The Mercator seems to be quite exhausted, and I have sufficiently answer'd all his Arguments. It is time therefore now to present my Readers with the whole Substance of what has been said upon that Subject.

The Substance of the Portugal Treaty, is, that in the Preamble, "The [Brit. Mer. Numb. 2 and 36.] Queen desires that the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the Woollen Manufactures of Britain may be admitted into Portugal, the Prohibition of them being taken off."

"The King of Portugal promises to admit FOR EVER the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the Woollen Manufactures of Britain, as was accustomed before they were prohibited;

"Upon this Condition, That the Queen shall be oblig'd FOR EVER to admit the Wines of Portugal, paying no more at any time than two thirds of the Duties paid by those of France."

"The Penalty on us for not performing the Condition, is, that it shall be lawful for the King of Portugal AGAIN to prohibit the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the British Woollen Manufactures."

Treaty on his Part, and has therefore excus'd us, if we no longer keep it on ours.

Fifthly, and lastly, That this Treaty has been little or no Advantage to us, and all the Penalty we can suffer by the Breach of it, is inconsiderable or nothing.

To make good his first Argument, Merc Numb. 10. he gave us but part of the Penalty for the whole; he told us that the Penalty for our Breach of the Treaty was, that there should be lawful for the King of Portugal again to prohibit the WOOLLEN CLOTHS, and there stop'd, and left out the remaining Part of the Clause, viz. and the rest of the British Woollen Manufactures.

He knew there were but few Copies of this Treaty abroad, and he did not expect to be charged with suppressing so material a Part of the Penalty; and yet it was necessary to suppress it, his Readers were to be kept in Ignorance, they were not to be let into the Secret, that the Penalty for our Contravention to the Portugal Treaty might be a total Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactures in that Country.

When he was charged with this imposing upon his Readers, [Brit. Mer. 3.] his way of getting off was, [Mercator, Numb. 39. and 40.] That only Woollen Medley Cloths were prohibited in Portugal before the Treaty; that this was acknowledged by the Merchants in the last Parliament; that a Request of the Queen to take off the Prohibition from our Woollen Manufactures, was a Request to take it off only from those that were before prohibited; that the Penalty that it should be lawful for the King of Portugal AGAIN to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the rest of our Woollen Manufactures, could mean only that it should be lawful for him to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, since nothing else was prohibited before, and nothing else could be prohibited AGAIN, that if this was not the Sense of the Penalty, the Word AGAIN was absurd, and had nothing to do there, and the Treaty it self was Nonsense.

His second Argument, that the Penalty for our Contravention being express'd in the Treaty, if we will be contented to suffer the Penalty, will justify that Con-

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the Mercator's Constitution of the Treaty place him in this not only upon Woollen Manufactures, but all our own Woollen Manufactures, that we were immediate, and very great Gainers by the Portugal Treaty, and that by it we entirely destroy'd the Fabrica for Woollen Manufactures in that Country, and have during the Continuance of that Treaty prevented their Progress in those Manufactures. This was the Substance of my Number 68, 69, and 70. which, I hope, are yet fresh in the Memory of some of my Readers.

can suffer nothing but the Penalty, that is, as I have shew'd the Mercator's second Argument to justify our Breach of the Portugal Treaty, by telling us that we must all the Rest of our Woollen Manufactures. us, they undoubtedly prohibit not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the Rest of our Woollen Manufactures; that he shall be let at Liberty, and stand in no need of our Woollen Manufactures; but if by a Breach on our part, we cannot prohibit any of our own Woollen Manufactures, that we were immediate, and very great Gainers by the Portugal Treaty, and that by it we entirely destroy'd the Fabrica for Woollen Manufactures in that Country, and have during the Continuance of that Treaty prevented their Progress in those Manufactures. This was the Substance of my Number 68, 69, and 70. which, I hope, are yet fresh in the Memory of some of my Readers.

ing Money; that the Person who made or advised this Treaty ought to have left his Head, [Mer. 39.]

His fourth Argument, to excuse any Breach on our Part, is, that the King of Portugal was guilty of the first Contravention [Mer. 112, 113.] he says, *That the Treaty was made between us and Portugal for increasing the Vens of their Wines here, and of our Woollen Manufactures in that Country; that each of these was stipulated and given as an Equivalent for the other; that Portugal immediately after the Treaty took of the Prohibition of Dutch and French, as well as English Cloths, and this without any Equivalent given by those Countries; that the Dutch have even since forced Portugal with as many Cloths as were equal to a third part of those exported thither from G. B. that this was an Hindrance to the Increase of our Vent of Woollen Manufactures in that Country; and lastly, that we gave an Equivalent for an exclusive Liberty of sending our Woollen Cloths in that Country, and not that the Cloths of other Nations should be admitted there to the Hindrance of our own; that this therefore was a direct Contravention of the King of Portugal, in the true Intent, and Meaning of that Treaty, and sets us at Liberty to keep, or not keep it at our Discretion.* This wonderful Argument was referred to the very sitting of the Parliament, till, as he thought, the Bill of Commerce should be brought in, and when he thought there would not be Wit or Time enough to give it a good Answer.

The *Mercator's* last Argument against keeping the *Portugal* Treaty, is by undervaluing the Advantages it has brought to us, and by perfwading us that we can suffer little or no Loss by the Breach of it. He tells us, [Mer. 125.] *That the Increase of the Portugal Trade is not at all owing to that Treaty, and that no Contrivement of that will occasion the Loss of any Part of that Trade.* [Mer. 219.] *He gives us Lists of our Exported Woollen Manufactures for the Years 1701, and 1704. that we may believe us exported as much the Year before, as we did the Year after the Treaty; and [Mer. 222, 223, 223.] He ridicules our gaining a Million yearly by the *Portugal* Trade, since our whole Exports of Woollen Manufactures to that Country do not amount to the Sum, *since, says he, it is not likely that we gain above 20 per Cent. by our Exports to Portugal, and therefore to gain a Million yearly by the Portugal Trade, we ought to Export thither the value of 5 Millions yearly of Woollen Manufactures.**

These are the *Mercator's* wonderful Arguments for breaking the *Portugal* Treaty.

In Answer to his first, I have printed the *Portugal* Treaty [B. M. 1.] where it appears that the Penalty annexed to our Contravention of that Treaty, is, that it shall then be lawful for that Prince AGAIN to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and the Rest of our Woollen Manufactures, and that the Prohibition of our Cloths is but part of the Penalty annexed. [N. 9. and 70.] that not only Woollen Cloths, but also Cloth-Serges and Cloth-Druggets were prohibited in *Portugal* before the Treaty; and that therefore tho' the King of *Portugal* could prohibit nothing again but what was prohibited before, yet the Penalty is more than a Prohibition of *Woollen-Cloths*. The *Mercator* has laid great Stress upon the Word AGAIN, as if the King of *Portugal* were tied up by it not to prohibit what was not prohibited before; but in my last mention'd Numbers I have shewn, that his AGAIN is so plac'd in the Middle of the Clause, that the Construction that it shall be again lawful for the King of *Portugal* to prohibit not only *Woollen-Cloths*, but all the Rest of our Woollen Manufactures, is as natural as the Construction, that it shall be lawful for him to prohibit AGAIN only what was before prohibited, and that nothing can hinder that Prince from choosing which of the Constructions he likes best. But [in N. 57.] I have shewn, that the Rest of our Woollen Manufactures were added by the *Portugal* Minister to the Penalty, to let us know that after our Breach of that Treaty, his Master would be at Liberty to prohibit not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the Rest of our Woollen Manufactures. This is sufficient to make the Penalty very Good Sense for *Portugal*, however Inconceivable the Construction may be to all *England*. But what if no Penalty had been annexed to the Treaty? The King of *Portugal* is a Sovereign Prince, he might prohibit what he pleas'd of ours before the Treaty, and will the Breach of the Treaty on our part by help of

ready shewn, nothing but the Exclusion of all our Woollen Manufactures out of that Country, is extremely pleasant, we are wonderfully beholding to him for this Argument. The Penalty express'd in the Law for smuggling Goods, is all that can be inflicted, and therefore says this Writer the King of *Portugal* can inflict no greater Penalty on us for any Contravention to his Treaty, than what is express'd in the Treaty. An extraordinary Reason this! But if a Total Prohibition of our Commerce is a Penalty, the King of *Portugal* might have inflicted this upon us by the Right of a Sovereign Prince before the Treaty had been ever made; and certainly our Violation of the Treaty will not reduce him to a worse, or place our selves in a better Condition. But this and other Things I have answered to this part of his Argument in my Numbers 8, 9, and 10, to which I refer my Readers. But at the Close of this Agreement the *Mercator* has given a wonderful pretty Construction of the Treaty with *Portugal*, to wit, Sir, if we break our Treaty, no harm is done, you are where you were before, what you prohibited of ours before, you are free to prohibit again: I think him for this Construction, for it quite Destroys

His third Argument for our not keeping the *Portugal* Treaty, that it is inconsistent with British Liberty, and I know not what. Can the Parliament be said to be bound by a Treaty which we are at Liberty to break whenever we please? [as I have urg'd in my Number 1] but how this Fellow rants [in Mer. 39, 40, 55.] upon this Occasion? A Treaty to favour the Wines of *Portugal* more than those of *France*, in order to secure all perpetuate one of the best Markets we have for our Woollen Manufactures, and this too after the Parliament had already so favour'd those Wines, binds and limits the Parliament of *England*, and pins it down to what Duties it shall or shall not raise on Foreign Merchandize, and is a Robbery equal to the worst of Treason. I have answered this charge in my Numbers 10, 56, and 57. But all these Things may be as well laid to the charge of any Treaty that shall without Application to the Parliament here favour the Goods and Merchandizes of any other Nation, as much as those of the Nation the most favoured.

The eighth Article of the *Fr. Treaty* of Commerce agrees, that the Goods and Merchandizes of that Nation shall be favoured as much as those of the Nation the most favoured. And this too absolutely and against the Judgment of former Parliaments, which had already plac'd that Country under a present Necessity of being less favoured with respect to Duties on their Goods and Merchandizes.

The second Article of the *Spanish Treaty* lately published, stipulates the same thing for that Country. Yet is there any talk of bringing this Treaty to the Parliament to be made effectual?

The 38th Article of the Treaty in 1667, with *Spain*, stipulated the same thing; and had it ever any Satisfaction from the Parliament? or was ever any Body accus'd for such an Article?

But as I have answer'd in my 10th, 56th, and 57th, in such Cases the Minister presumes upon the Parliament's making the Treaty effectual, when it shall be necessary to bring it into Parliament for that purpose? And there is no fear of the Parliament's not doing it when it shall be for the Interest of the Nation. But if in this Case the Parliament will not do it, the Treaty is not made effectual, nor are its Privileges invaded.

I come now to the *Mercator's* 4th Argument, that the King of *Portugal* first broke the Treaty, by taking off the Prohibition on *French* and *Dutch* Woollen Cloths, and this without any Equivalent, that is, if we will believe this Writer, he has broke the Treaty by doing what he never oblig'd himself not to do, and which is little or no Disadvantage to us, for the *French* sell few or no Woollen Manufactures to *Portugal*, and the *Dutch* not a 60th Part of what are sold thither by the *English*; but I have largely answer'd his whole Harangue upon this Argument in my 55th, 56th, and 70th Papers.

And for his last Argument, I have shewn him that we gain by our Trade with *Portugal*, not after his foolish ridiculous way of reckoning by 20 per Cent. upon our Exports, but all that our Exports sell for in *Portugal* above the Price of their Imports in *England*, and





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From TUESDAY, April 13. to FRIDAY, April 16. 1714.

THE Mercator in this whole Controversy concerning the French Trade and Treaty observes one Method, which is of great Use to himself, and that is, never to take Notice of any Argument of his Adversary's, to which he is not able to offer the least Colour of an Answer.

I have often and often obliged him in the Course of my Papers to this Conduct, and I assure my self my Argument of this very Day will be of this kind. The Mercator will have the Discretion to contain it, because it is impossible to be answered.

The Mercator, at his first setting out, and in very many of his Papers, has laboured to induce his Readers to have a good Opinion of the Treaty of 1664. This Treaty, says he Numb. 2. was esteemed by all the Nations in these Parts of Europe to be very safe, and was the least Interruption to their Trade with France.

The next thing his Readers are to believe, is, that our late Treaty has obliged France not to exceed the easie Duties of that Treaty, and that it has consequently opened to us a most beneficial Trade to that Country.

All Manufactures of WOOLL, says he in his first, and he has often repeated it in his following Papers, were rated at 10 per Cent. according to their Value.

And Numb. 3, and 4. he says, that the Treaty has restored us to this Treaty, except that Broad-cloth, which, by the Treaty of 1664, paid but 40 Livres per Piece of 25 Ells, is now to pay by the Treaty of 1699 54 Livres; and mill'd Serges, which paid 10 Livres by the former Treaty, are to pay by the latter 12 Livres.

All other Woollen Manufactures, says he Numb. 6. except Broad-cloth and Cloth-Serges, are admitted into France by the late Treaty, and are to pay only the Duties of the Treaty of 1664, that is, according to him, not above 10 per Cent. of their real Value; and this is the Doctrine of one of his latest Papers, Numb. 274. The Duties upon them now are by the Treaty of Commerce reduced to 10 per Cent. except on Broad-cloth and Serges only.

Now what must every Manufacturer in the Country think of the Mercator, and of our Treaty of Commerce, if vastly the greatest Part of our Woollen Manufactures are admitted into France by the late Treaty only under the Treaty of 1699? and shall be obliged to pay from 30 to 50 per Cent. of their real Value? Will our Manufacturers think themselves obliged for this Treaty? or that any of these Goods can be exported to that Country under so heavy a Load of Duties, except for Patterns to their own Fabrieks? Will our Woollen Manufacturers bear from 30 to 50 per Cent. in any Country in Europe? They must believe therefore that the Treaty of 1699 is a Prohibition.

Again, I am not now disputing with the Mercator, whether any of our Woollen Manufactures are admitted into France by the late Treaty under the Treaty of 1664. For the present, to oblige this Writer, I shall take for granted that all such of them as are not obliged to pay by the Treaty of 1699, are admitted by that Treaty under the Treaty of 1664; but are the Duties of this Treaty no more than 10 per Cent. of the real Value of the Goods? or are they so very easy, that our People might hope to export any considerable Quantities to that Country, especially after France has continued for five and twenty Years without our Manufactures, and has made such Progress in their own? I shall now shew the Mercator what are the Duties by the Treaty of 1664, and this I shall do not so much to convince this idle Fellow, as to inform my Correspondent who has sent me the following Letter.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,

I N your Numb. 43 you have shewn us the Custom payable on long, short, and Spanish Cloths in France by the Treaty of 1664, and also by that of 1699, which is as follows;

By the Treaty of 1664 the Custom on

Long } Cloths amounts to	{ 40 } per Cent. on their
Short } Cloths amounts to	{ 37½ } Value;

And on Spanish Cloth 33½ per Cent. st a Medium; And by the Treaty of 1699 the Custom on

Long } Cloths amounts to	{ 55 } per Cent.
Short } Cloths amounts to	{ 51½ }

And on Spanish Cloths to 33½ per Cent. st a Medium.

Sir, your Mercator so often tells us, that the Duties on our Woollen Manufactures in France by the Treaty of 1664 do not exceed 10 per Cent. of their real Value; and that all, except Cloth and Cloth-Serges, are to pay according to this Treaty by the late Treaty, that you will highly oblige us if you will be at the Pains to inform us which of our Manufactures, by the Mercator's own Account, are to pay by the Treaty of 1699, and how much they are to pay by that Treaty; also what shall be accounted Cloth, and what Serges, and how they are to be tax'd by that Treaty; and, in the last place, that you will be so kind to let us know how our Manufactures are to pay by the Treaty of 1664, which, the Mercator says, is to be the Rule by the late Treaty; for if they should be found to exceed the Mercator's 10 per Cent. of their real Value, we could have little Hopes of exporting any Quantities into France.

I am, &c.

I think

I think there would be little Hopes, with a Duty of no more than 10 per Cent. upon any of our Woollen Manufactures, of contending with the French in their own Country, when they have been so many Years labouring at every Sort of Woollen Manufacture; but I must answer my Correspondent.

Cloth (or Mill'd) Serges, by the Tariff of 1664, paid Livres 10 for 15 Ells, or Yards 18 $\frac{1}{2}$, that is, at 18 s. per Livre, 15 s. or 9 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Yard, which

on a Yard worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 4 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. is } 31 \\ 3 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. } 27 \\ 3 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. } 27 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

And by the Tariff of 1699, must pay Livres 11 for 15 Ells, or Yards 18 $\frac{1}{2}$, that is, at 18 s. per Livre, 16 s. 6 d. or 10 s. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Yard.

on a Yard worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 4 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. is } 35 \\ 3 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. } 29 \\ 3 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. } 29 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

Serges (not Cloth Serges) by the Tariff of 1664, paid 6 Livres for 10 Ells, or 15 Yards, that is, at 18 s. per Livre, 9 s. or 4 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Yard, which

on a Yard worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ s. } 1 \text{ d. is } 10 \\ 1 \text{ s. } 4 \text{ d. } 17 \\ 1 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. } 24 \\ 1 \text{ s. } 9 \text{ d. } 30 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

And by the Tariff of 1699, must pay Livres 8 for 10 Ells, or 15 Yards, that is, at 18 s. per Livre, 12 s. or 5 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Yard, which

on a Yard worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ s. } 4 \text{ d. is } 41 \\ 1 \text{ s. } 4 \text{ d. } 36 \\ 1 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. } 38 \\ 1 \text{ s. } 9 \text{ d. } 47 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

The *Mercator* would have it thought, that Perpetuans are to pay by the Tariff of 1664, and not by 1699; but these are the Serges which are called in the Fr. Edicts Imperial Serges, and must pay by the latter of those Tariffs according to the aforementioned Valuation. The *Mercator* too would make a Distinction between Serges and Cloth-Serges; but the Treaty has made no such Distinction. Serges in general are left to the extravagant Duties of that last Tariff.

And I am informed, that *Stuffs* and *Saves* were ever charged in *France* under the Denomination of Serges; nor can I find it to be otherwise by the original French Tariffs that are now before me. These the *Mercator*, Numb. 6. would sifo have us believe are left to the Tariff of 1664; but I must desire him to inform me by what other Name than that of Serges they are taxed in that Tariff. If they are taxed by that Name, then by the late Treaty they are to pay by the Tariff of 1699.

Bays (Single) by the Tariff of 1664, paid Livres 5 (not Livres 4, as by the English Translation) for 15 Ells, or 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ Yards, which, at 18 s. per Livre, amounts to 7 s. 6 d.

So that a Piece containing Yards 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ paid 12 s.

which on a Piece's worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 30 \text{ is } 26 \\ 40 \text{ } 27 \\ 50 \text{ } 32 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

Bays (Double or Minikin) by the same Tariff, paid Livres 15 for 15 Ells, or 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ Yards, which amounts to 1 l. 2 s. 6 d.

So that a double Bay containing 50 Flemish Ells, or Yards 37 $\frac{1}{2}$, paid 2 l. 7 s.

which on a Piece's worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 3 \text{ l. } 10 \text{ s. is } 38 \\ 4 \text{ l. } 00 \text{ } 33 \\ 4 \text{ l. } 10 \text{ } 30 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

And a Minikin Bay, containing 100 Flemish Ells, or Yards 75, paid 2 l. 14 s.

which on a Piece's worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 6 \text{ l. } 10 \text{ s. is } 41 \\ 7 \text{ l. } 00 \text{ } 38 \\ 7 \text{ l. } 10 \text{ } 36 \\ 8 \text{ l. } 00 \text{ } 33 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

Stockings (Worsted or Woollen) by this Tariff, paid Livres 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per dozen Pair, or 5 s. 3 d. (not ac-

ording to the English Translation 2 l. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per 1000) which on 1 dozen Pair, valued at 20 s. one with the other, is 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

Kerseys by the Tariff of 1664, paid Livres 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ for 13 Ells, or Yards 16 $\frac{1}{2}$, that is, at 18 s. per Livre 5 s. 3 d.

So that a Piece containing Yards 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ paid 9 s. 4 d.

which on Pieces worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 35 \text{ is } 26 \\ 40 \text{ } 27 \\ 45 \text{ } 30 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

Flannels and Penningtoes, by the Tariff of 1664, paid Livres 6 for 16 Ells, or Yards 30 $\frac{1}{2}$, that is, at 18 s. per Livre, 9 s. or 3 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Yard.

Which on a Yard of Flannel worth 1 s. 4 s. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

And on a Penningtoe, containing Yards 47 $\frac{1}{2}$, the Duty amounts to 13 s. 7.

So that a Piece's worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 50 \text{ pays } 26 \\ 60 \text{ } 33 \\ 70 \text{ } 34 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

I do not pretend here that Bays, Stockings, Kerseys, Flannels, or Penningtoes, can be charged by the Tariff of 1699, under the Denomination of either Cloth or Serges; but if it should be allowed that they are to the Tariff of 1664, yet my Correspondent will think that even by that Tariff, the Load of Customs was very heavy, that there was not the least Occasion in making it greater.

Cottons or Plains 100 Goods, by the Tariff of 1664, paid Livres 11, or 18 s. which, if worth 9 l. is but 10 per Cent.

Fraises by the same Tariff paid Livres 3, or 4 l. 6 s. for 18 Ells, or 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Yards, which is 2 s. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Yard; so the Custom on 1 Yard, at 1 s. per Yard, is 10 per Cent.

I believe upon these two trifling Articles of Cottons and Fraises, which make almost no Item at all in our Exports to *France*, it is that this wretched Custom grounds his 10 per Cent. upon our whole Woollen Manufactures by the Tariff of 1664. I suppose this will be his Excuse! But I should be for giving *France* little or nothing for the Liberty of importing these two poor Parts of our Woollen Goods Custom free; it is certain that our Exportation of them, with or without that Tariff, was always inconsiderable; but as I have the Law the Duties by that Tariff on Bays, Stockings, Kerseys, Flannels, or Penningtoes, were so exorbitant, that *France* did not find there was any Necessity for adding to them.

There is one Thing I had like to have omitted, and that is Cloths called *Dozens*, which is not mentioned in the Tariff of 1699; whence the *Mercator* would infer, that they are to pay according to that of 1664; but I must inform him, that the Tariff of 1664 made part of that of 1699 for all Goods that are omitted in the latter, and this by express Words, which says, That the Goods not comprized therein shall pay according to that Tariff.

English Cloths called *Dozens* are to pay Liv. 10 or 15 s. for 10 Ells, or 15 Yds by the Tariff of 1664, so which they are subject, being Cloth, and not being mentioned in the Tariff of 1699.

So that they are rated at 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Yd.

which on a Yard worth $\left. \begin{array}{l} 3 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. is } 40 \\ 1 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. } 34 \\ 4 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d. } 30 \\ 5 \text{ s. } 24 \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$

A sufficient Duty to prevent the Exportation of every Ounce of this Manufacture into *France*, as well as Spanish Cloths, which are liable to the same Duty.

But I think for Spanish Cloths the *Mercator* need not much trouble himself; they are made of foreign Materials, and stand prohibited by the Edict of 1704, notwithstanding anything in this Treaty.

I shall think the *Mercator* the most incorrigibly impatient Fellow in the World, if I should ever hear again from him of 10 per Cent. upon our Woollen Manufactures, without his giving 20 Answers to this Paper.



the *Tracherous Merchant*, has asserted, amounted to at a Medium.

On Cloths Long	40	} per Cent. on their Value.
Short	37	
Spanish	33	
Mill'd Serges	26	
Serges	27	
Bays Single	27	
Double	31	
Minikin	36	
Hofe	26	
Kerseys	31	
Flannels	27	
Pennifones	24	
Cottons and Frieze	10	

And that by the Tariff of 1699, we are liable to pay at a Medium,

On Cloths Long	55	} per Cent. on their Value.
Short	51	
Spanish	33	
Dozens	30	
Mill'd Serges	29	
Serges	26	

Also that Perpets, Stuffs, and Says, are liable (as is concluded) to the same Rate as Serges, and that Spanish Cloth is prohibited by the Edict of 1701.

By this Account, my Readers see that Spanish Cloths made in *England* remain prohibited in *France*, notwithstanding our late Treaty.

And, Secondly, That the *Mercator's* two excepted Species of Cloth and Serges, comprehend Cloths long and short, Dozens, Mill'd Serges, Serges, Perpets, Stuffs and Says, and that the Duties on these, remaining by the late Treaty, are 38 per Cent. of their real Value at a Medium.

And, lastly, That the *French* Duties remaining by that Treaty on Bays, Single, Double and Minikin; Hofe, Kerseys, Flannels, Pennifones, Cottons, and Frieze, amount to 24 per Cent. of their real Value at a Medium.

Is this the *Mercator's* 10 per Cent. in *France* on our Woollen Manufactures?

If it should be allowed that the several Sorts of Woollen Manufactures, mentioned under the Duties of 24 per Cent. at a Medium, are not prohibited in *France*, yet is 24 per Cent. so moderate a Duty, as to be little or no Obstruction to these Goods? I believe there is not one of our Manufacturers so fond, as to promise himself a Market for any of them in *France*, under so heavy a Load of Duties.

But these are a small Exportation, in comparison of our Cloth, Long, Short, and Spanish Dozens, and all Sorts of Serges. The Treaty has not taken off the Prohibition of Spanish Cloths, and has left a sufficient Prohibition on all the rest in the Duties of 38 per Cent. of their real Value at a Medium. What a Monster was this *Mercator* to tell his Readers of 10 per Cent. in *France* on our Woollen Manufactures? By this Sketch his Readers will perceive, if they are not blind, that our *French* Treaty is, in Effect, a Treaty that our Woollen Manufactures shall remain prohibited in that Kingdom.

I shall now give my Readers an Account of the Custom, to which their wrought Silks, and Lockrams and Dowls, are liable by the Treaty of Commerce, that they may judge whether (as *Dr. Douvart* says) *France* has justified to the Terms of a fair Commercial Treaty, &c.

On one Pound of wrought Silk	1	d.
On a Piece of Lockram or Dowls	10	6

Whereby it will appear that

	l.	s.	d.				
One Pound of wrought Silks worth	{	2	5	00	} pays 31		
		2	10	00		} 21	
		3	00	00			} 17
		3	10	00			
4	00	00	} 23				
	l.	s.		d.			

and Manufactures) at least three times as much as we exported thither in our Woollen Manufactures, besides what was run by them.

The *our* Duties are high upon their Wines, yet I have shown, Numb. 59. that this is upon our own Consumption; and that having no Wines of our own Growth, this can be no way prejudicial to their Importation, for that neither the Price nor the Quantity of *French* Wines have been abated by any of our former high Duties.

The *Mercator* and his Readers may observe here, that the Duties left in *Great-Britain* by this Treaty on *French* wrought Silks will not exceed 17 per Cent. and those on Lockrams and Dowls not above 10 per Cent. of their Value at a Medium.

If they will be at the Pains to consult the old Entries at the Custom-house, they will find that either of these Articles were near double the Value of all our Woollen Manufactures exported to the *French* Nation before our Prohibitions and high Duties on their Goods and Merchandizes.

They will likewise see by those Entries, that our Woollen Manufactures were above one third of our whole Exports to that Nation, but that Lockrams and Dowls were not above two thirds of the Value of Linens imported thence into *England*; and that the Articles of *French* wrought Silks, Lockrams, and Dowls, were seldom more than half the Value of our whole Imports from that Country.

I ask these Gentlemen then, Is this an equal Treaty? Is this a Treaty to make the Exports and Imports even between the Nations? Can the Duties left by it on the Goods and Merchandizes of each be said to be reciprocal?

Is ten and a half per Cent on Lockrams and Dowls imported into *Britain* sufficient to bring these Goods to an Equality with the several Sorts of our Woollen Manufactures, which are to pay above 24 per Cent at a Medium in *France*? And yet this at the best is the Case of all our Woollen Manufactures which are not brought under the Rule of the Tariff of 1699. The Duties on those Goods, even by the boasted Tariff of 1664, are twenty four and a half per Cent at a Medium; and are our Duties of ten and a half per Cent on their Lockrams and Dowls by the late Treaty, and theirs of twenty four and a half per Cent upon our Woollen Manufactures, equal and reciprocal?

But 'tis not the greatest Part of our Woollen Manufactures that are to pay this moderate Duty of 14 and a half per Cent; our Spanish Cloths are still prohibited, and all the rest of our Cloths and Serges are left to the Tariff of 1699, and the Duties by that Tariff come out at almost 40 per Cent at a Medium. A World of Cloths and Serges, no Doubt, we shall send to *France*, under Duties equal to two fifths of their whole Value.

Seventeen and a half per Cent here on their wrought Silks, and thirty eight and a half per Cent in *France* on our Cloths, Serges, Stuffs, Says, and Perpetuanas, are no Doubt the Way to make these Exports and Imports even between the two Nations! This is the Reciprocation and Equality of this wonderful fine Treaty!

The *Mercator*, 121. says of the Opposers of the *French* Treaty, that it is not to be supposed that they sell their Country for Nothing. I answer, whoever has advised this goodly Equality of Duties for the Benefit of *England*, ought to be very well paid by *France* for his good Service.

But that which I expect from it, is no Vent at all for any of our Woollen Manufactures to the *French* Nation, but such an inundation of wrought Silks and Linens from that Country, as must carry our yearly great Quantities of our Bullion, destroy numberless Looms in the Silk, Linnen and Woollen Manufactures, bring numberless Artificers to the Lands for their Subsistence, and reduce the Reuts of the whole Kingdom.

Gentlemen may value themselves as much as they please by the great Advantages of our present Peace, but if this were to depend on the reading effectual our late Treaty of Commerce, they will soon find themselves in a much worse Condition than by a continuing Land War.

They may believe it to have been impracticable to carry on this War any longer; but if the Treaty



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

*A Digression to the Spanish Trade.
Concerning our giving up the Privilege*

of a Judge-Conservator in that Nation.

From TUESDAY, April 20. to FRIDAY April 23. 1714.

WAS the Mercator several times in December last full of his Panegytricks upon the late Treaty of Commerce with Spain, so long before it was ratified, so long before he or I knew any of the Articles? And now that it has been abroad, and in every ones Hands, for above a Month, is he stuck quite dumb? Are all his Praises quite exhausted? Or is it a Subject that will not bear them? But this has been the modern Way, to offer our Thanksgivings before the Bowsery, because afterwards it would not be thought to deserve them. Our thanking for Favours before they are granted, I presume, is to cut us off from the Right of making Complaints if they should be withheld from us. But this is not the Case of the British Merchant, who has never yet said one Word concerning the Spanish Treaty.

What a Rage was the Mercator in, [Numb. 83.] with the News-writers for Publishing,

1. That the Spaniards would not allow an English Consul at Cadiz, to be judge in Affairs relating to British Merchants among themselves.

2. That they demanded an Advance of Duties upon our Merchants in Valencia, Murcia, Catalonia, &c.

3. That they demanded 40 per Cent. Duty of all Goods brought into Spain, by the British Ships which were not of British growth.

4. That we should not be suffered to Trade to the West Indies, but as Biscainers, and in the Name of Biscainers?

The News-writers are all (but one) a Pack of Rascals with the Mercator for pretending that these or the like Terms were ever insisted on by the Spaniard; he says very roundly there, *That the King of Spain has made no such Demands or Requests. He has not refused the Consul at Cadiz, he has not demanded higher Duties in Valencia, &c. or 40 per Cent. on Merchandises of foreign Growth,*

brought into Spain by British Ships; or demanded that we should Trade to the Spanish West-Indies as Biscainers.

Now I am for making the Spanish Treaty a Judge of these Differences between the Mercator and the News-writers.

In the first Article of the Treaty, which recites and confirms My Lord Sandwich's Treaty of Peace and Commerce, and several Cedula's or Grants of the Kings of Spain to the English Nation, except what is altered by subsequent Articles of the late Treaty, there are near sixty Pages shewing the Constitution, Use, and Necessity of a Judge-Conservator for the English Nation.

But in the 15th Article are these Words, *As to the Judge-Conservator, and others to be substituted by him, if this Privilege be granted to any other foreign Nation whatsoever, the Subjects of Great Britain shall likewise enjoy it.* That is as much as to say, till this Privilege shall be granted to any other Nation, the Subjects of G. B. shall not enjoy it. I believe this Article will be no otherwise understood either in Spain or England.

The News-writers it seems mistook the Consul for the Judge-Conservator. But it is manifest by the Treaty that the Judge-Conservator, which is a Privilege of ten times greater Necessity to us than that of having a Consul, is taken from us by the 15th Article.

King Philip IV. by his Royal Orders or Cedula's bearing Date the 19th of March, the 26th of June, and the 9th of November, in the Year 1645, granted to the English a Liberty to chuse one of the Court of Seville Judge-Conservator for their Nation.

By the 9th Article of the Treaty of 1657, it is stipulated, that the British Subjects shall have, use, and enjoy, all the Privileges and Immunities granted by the said Cedula's or Orders.

Now

Now the Privileges and Immunities granted by the said Cedula, &c. that the English, and especially in South, Cadix, St. Lucar, and Malaga, shall not be chosen into publick Offices, that their Goods and Merchandizes shall not be taken from them; for the Dispatch of Armada's, Fligets, or Gallions for Affairs or Extraqueros, but, at their own Prices; that they shall not be at the Coſts of Guards or Waiters to be put on Board their Ships, which Import Fiſh or other Goods into that Kingdom; that no Proceſs ſhall be made againſt them for ſelling rotten Fiſh; that they ſhall not be impriſoned on Lawſuits; that they ſhall not be ſpoiled on account of their Religion, and ſhall be as good Witneſſes in every Court as the Spaniards; that their Books of Trade ſhall not be taken from them; that Merchants Houſes ſhall not be viſited, nor any Diſpatch of Goods deſtroyed from them; that the Duties of Millions on Fiſh dry and freſh, and other Goods, be recovered only on the Conſumers; that their Houſes may not be ſearched, nor the Entries of their Goods demanded of them; that Merchants Houſes may not be taken from them till their Leaſes be complied with.

Theſe without doubt will be allowed to be very conſiderable Privileges and Immunities, and were all confirmed to us by the 9th Article of the ſaid Treaty.

But what if, contrary to this Treaty, an English Merchant ſhould have been choſen into any publick chargeable Office? What if his Wheat or Barley ſhould be taken from him at the Price of the King's Purveyors, for the neceſſary Diſpatch of the King's Armada's? What if Guards or Waiters ſhould be put on Board his Ships, and Pay exacted for theſe Fellows from the Maſters of the Veſſels? What if Proceſs ſhould be made againſt the Merchant for ſelling rotten Fiſh? What if he ſhould be impriſoned on a Lawſuit, or ſmoother an Account of his Religion, or his Evidence ſhould be reſuſed in any Court of Juſtice on the ſame Account? What if the Millions ſhould be exacted from the Merchant, and not from the Conſumer? What if his Houſe ſhould be ſearched or viſited, his Books taken from him, or the Entries of his Goods demanded? In all theſe Caſes, he muſt be either Plaintiff or Defendant in the King's Courts, he muſt plead the Royal Cedula, and the Confirmation of them by the Treaty of 1667; this he muſt do in a ſwary Court, as he ſhall be removed from one to another; and perhaps he will find, that tho' the Right ſhould at the laſt be adjudged with him, yet the Coſts and Expences of his Suits might make it better to have ſubmitted quietly to the firſt Loſs.

But there is one thing that is yet worſe than all the Reſt, which is, that the Exportation of Silver out of that Kingdom is very criminal. The Merchant who ſhall export Silver, muſt be ſuppoſed to make Entries of this in his own Books; if the King's Officers may enter and ſearch his Houſe, and take away his Books, they may produce them as Evidence againſt the Owner, which has been often practiſed in Spain heretofore; but in England we have ever thought it reaſonable to force any Man to be his own Accuſer. But how innocent ſever a Merchant may be of this Offence, the very ſeizing his Books, under the Colour of ſearching for an Account of Silver unlawfully exported, may diſcover to much of his Condition as ſhall prove his Ruin.

A Judge-Conſervator therefore choſen by the English Nation, and under their own Pay, is abſolutely neceſſary to protect our Merchants in the Enjoyment of all theſe Privileges and Immunities, and to inhibit all Courts and Officers that ſhall act in Contravention to them. And for this very Purpoſe, as the Cedula expreſs, the Judge-Conſervator was erected, to inhibit all other Courts to take Cognizance of any Cauſes between the English and the Spaniards, to try the Merit of every ſuch Cauſe himſelf, and to make a juſt Representation of it to the Court of War at Madrid, for the Determination of that Court. And certainly we had little reaſon to fear a ſevere or partial Administration of Juſtice againſt us, by a Judge-Conſervator of our own chuſing, and under our own Pay; that nothing that is unjuſt ſhould be defined of him in our Favour.

It is hard to imagine why the Judge-Conſervator is taken from us, unleſs it is reſolved on the Part of Spain that it ſhall not be poſſible for us hereafter to get any

Balance by that Trade; if this is their Reſolution, for my own Part I do not know any great Reaſon for trading with them.

They have granted us, by a ſeparate Article of this Treaty, a Judge-Conſervator for the Canary, becauſe we can carry off nothing from that Country but their Wine, and they cannot get them off to any other Nation. It is plain therefore the Privilege of a Judge-Conſervator is taken from us in Spain, to hinder us carrying off any Silver from that Country. An excellent Treaty of Commerce, which has deprived us of a Privilege we have enjoyed from 1645 to K. Philip's Acceſſion to the Spaniſh Throne: Does he thus reward us for our eſtabliſhing him in the quiet Poſſeſſion of his Kingdom? Is he reſolved that we ſhall never be the better for trading hereafter with his People?

What English Merchant will ever live in a Country where his Books are liable to be ſearched on every Occaſion, which is the Condition of no Man in England that is not a Bankrupt by our Laws? There are ſome in Trade, tho' contrary to no Laws of any Country, which cannot be diſcovered but to the exceeding Damage of the Merchant. But whatever ſhall be the Damage, we ſhall be forced to ſubmit to it, if our Judge-Conſervator ſhall be taken from us.

The ſearching of the Houſes, or taking away the Books of our Merchants, is indeed contrary to the 12th Article of the Treaty of 1667; but we ſee by a ſecond Decree of K. Charles II. of Spain, in the Year 1670, cited in the firſt Article of the preſent Treaty, how hard it is to have Juſtice done us in an arbitrary Dominion without a Judge-Conſervator that is in our Intereſt, and whole very Salary is from our ſelves, and depends upon our continuing him in that Office. It appears theſe, that *Franciſco Diaz de Pineda* was perſwaded to enter their Houſes, and to ſearch and ſeize, and even mark the Books and Papers of their Trade and Correſpondency, and was hardly reſtrained from ſo doing by the Representation of our Ambaſſador, and the Inhibition of the Judge-Conſervator, till at laſt they made a Shift to obtain a particular Injunction on him from the King. Was a Judge-Conſervator then to us given up?

In the Name of God, why ſo many Pages in the ſecond Article to tell us the Uſe and Neceſſity of a Judge-Conſervator, if by five Lines in the 15th Article this Privilege was to be taken from us? Were theſe three Pages made Part of the firſt Article only to be Witneſſes of our Diſgrace, and to inſtruct us how great a Privilege we enjoyed formerly, and that we ſhall never enjoy the ſame again?

But it will be objected, why ſhould we reſiſt? We ſhall have this Privilege, if it ſhall be granted to any other Nation. But there may be Ways of favouring France, without directly granting to her this Privilege, as by giving ſecret Orders to the Officers of the Spaniſh Cuſtoms to connive at any of her Deſigns from the Laws of that Country, while the Houſes and Books of our Merchants are to be ſearched to find out Offenders in order to their Punishment.

The 3d Article, both as ſigned by Her Maſteſty's Plenipotentiary, and as ratified with Alterations not at all for the better, ſays it was laid down as the very Basiſ of the Peace, that we were to enjoy the ſame Privileges and Liberty of Trade as in the Reign of K. Charles II. A Judge-Conſervator was one of thoſe Privileges, and the moſt Fundamental of all, and without which all the reſt of our Privileges are worth nothing. But this is given from us by the preſent Treaty.

The News-writers undoubtedly miſtook the Conſul for the Judge-Conſervator, as I have ſaid before. And I think I have pretty plainly ſhewn that the Spaniards would not allow us a Judge-Conſervator. If they would, why have we given it up? The *Mercurius* perhaps may ſay that this Privilege was never demanded on our Part, but he will not be able to ſay that it was never reſuſed on the Part of Spain.

I ſhould now proceed to his other Charges againſt our News-writers, but I have already exceeded my juſt Length; and in the mean time I aſſure my ſelf, this will not be called an advantageous Treaty. If it ſhall appear that it gives up almoſt all the Advantages we formerly had in Spain.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

A farther Defence of the News-Writers concerning the Spanish Treaty.

From FRIDAY April 23. to TUESDAY, April 27. 1714.

THE Mercator's second Charge against the News-Writers, Numb. 83. is, that they had published, That the Spaniards demanded an *Advances of Duties on our Merchants in Valencia, Catalonia, &c.* He says the King of Spain had made no such Demand.

I am now to show that the King of Spain has advanc'd the Duties on our Goods in Spain, but indeed higher in *Valencia* and *Catalonia* than in the rest of Spain, because the Duties formerly there were lower, and that we have left him at liberty to do this by the late Treaty.

First then, I am to consider what the Duties in Spain were before this King's Accession to that Throne.

Secondly, What they are or may be without prejudice to the late Treaty.

For the first, my Reader will forgive me if I am a little too long in stating the several Duties in Spain as they stood before the late War.

All Goods in Spain are rated at the Custom-house by Maravedies or Ryals;

And the Customs are paid by one or other of these Denominations.

The Customs called *Alcavala*, and some others, are paid in Vellon or Copper Money; the old Duty called *Almozarifargo*, and some others, are paid three Quarters in Vellon, and one Quarter in Plata or Silver Money.

The Plata Money is 50 *per Cent.* better than the Vellon Money of the same Denomination.

The Merchants there always make up the Accounts of their Customs in their own Books in Vellon, and therefore make an Addition of 50 *per Cent.* for such part of it as is paid in Plata.

15 Ryals Vellon are a Piece of Eight equal to 4 s. 6 d. English Money, and 34 Maravedies make a Ryal.

The Duty called *Almozarifargo* is 11 *per Cent.* on some of our Woollen Manufactures, on others not above 5 *per Cent.*

On those Goods where the *Almozarifargo* is 11 *per Cent.* the old *Alcavala* is no more than 1 *per Cent.*

But where the *Almozarifargo* is no more than 5 *per Cent.* the old *Alcavala* is 5 *per Cent.*

Let us see then how the Duties will arise in 100 Maravedies, even to the 100th part of a Maravedie, on the Goods which pay the highest *Almozarifargo*. 100 Maravedies are supposed to be the Value of the Goods.

11 <i>per Cent.</i> <i>Almozarifargo</i>	→	Quarto Plata.
1	Dos per Ciento	→ Quarto Plata.
1	Uno y Medio per Ciento, with a Premio or Addition of 5 <i>per Cent.</i>	
1	Uno <i>per Cent.</i> <i>Noeva Alcavala.</i>	
1	Uno <i>per Cent.</i> <i>Donativo.</i>	
1	Dos per Ciento	→ Quarto Plata.
1	per Ciento	
1	per Ciento	
1	Dos per Ciento	→ Quarto Plata.
1	Old <i>Alcavala.</i>	
1	per Ciento	→ Quarto Plata.

in all 24; so that by this Account the whole Duties are 24 of 100 Maravedies.

But here the Reader ought to observe that a quarter Part of some of these Duties is paid in Plata, which, as I said before, is 50 *per Cent.* better than Vellon; and that there is also a Premio or Addition of 5 *per Cent.* on one of the Duties. The Addition then of this 5 *per Cent.* and also of the 50 *per Cent.* will still swell the Account, and add to the aforesaid 24 *per Cent.* that is to say,

The quarter Part of 11 <i>per Cent.</i> <i>Almozarifargo</i> is 2, 77 Maravedies, which being paid in Plata, which is 50 <i>per Cent.</i> better than Vellon, the half of 2, 77 Maravedies must be added, viz.	Maraved.	hundredth parts of Mar.
	1	37½

The quarter Part of three times Dos per Ciento paid in Plata for the same Reason must add

The Premio of 5 *per Cent.* on 11 Maravedies must amount to

0	75
0	7½

The

The last Duty is $\frac{1}{2}$ Maravedies, and the Quarter of this being $\frac{1}{4}$ hundredth Parts of a Maravedie, the half of that Sum should be added for its being paid in Plata; but, as void is inconsiderable a Fraction, the Merchants in their Accounts add only the half of 10

	In all	0 ——— 15
The Customs without these Additions amount to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ per 100 Maravedies	1 ——— 35	14 ——— 45

So that the whole Custom is on every 100 Maravedies. But where the Almozarifargo is no more than 5 per cent. the old Alcavala is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the whole Customs were as follows,

5 per cent. Almozarifargo	Quarto Plata.
2 Dos per Ciento	Quarto Plata.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Ciento; with a Premio, or Addition of 50 per cent.	
1 per Ciento Nova Alcavala.	
1 per Ciento Donativo.	
2 Dos per Ciento	Quarto Plata.
1 per Ciento	
1 Dos per Ciento	Quarto Plata.
1 Old Alcavala.	
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Uoo y Quarto per Ciento.	Quarto Plata.

So, that according to this Table, the whole Duties are 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Maravedies.

But in this as well as in the former Case, for the Quarto Plata and the Premio, Additions ought to be made, viz.

	Maraved.	Hundredth Parts of Maraved.
For the Quarto Plata on 5 per Cent Almozarifargo	0 ——— 62 $\frac{1}{2}$	
For the Quarto Plata on 3 times Dos per Ciento	0 ——— 30	
For the Premio of 50 per cent on 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Maravedies	9 ——— 71 $\frac{1}{2}$	
For the Quarto Plata on the last Duty of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	0 ——— 15	
To which add the 23 three fourths abovementioned, viz.	1 ——— 60	
	23 ——— 75	

And the whole Duty on Goods paying but 5 per cent Almozarifargo amounted to 34 ——— 35

These Duties of 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ Maravedies and 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ Maravedies per cent. were reckoned in Vellon, or Copper Money.

To show how much this amounted to upon the real Value of our Goods, it will be necessary first to fix the Value of our Goods, and then to show what Gratias were allowed, or Abatements made to the Merchants, out of these Customs.

To begin with a Comparison of the Custom-house Valuation and the real Value, and particularly in the Case of Bays.

A Piece of Bays was rated at 10000 Maravedies, and paid 2660 Maravedies Customs.

The same was usually sold for 10 Ducats, or 120 Reals Plata; To which add 50 per Cent for Vellon or Copper Money, and it will amount to 130 Reals; and there, multiplied by 34 Maravedies, will produce 1120 Maravedies; that is, 120 more than the Custom-house Valuation.

Now 2660 Maravedies on 10000 is 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent, but on 11200 is not quite 23 per Cent.

But in the next Place 35 per Cent was abated for the Farmer's Gratia; that is, in 100 Pieces of Bays, the Farmer counted no more than 67, he received Customs for no more; so that the whole 100 Pieces paid only the Customs of 67 Pieces.

Again, upon the Payment of these Customs, a Quarter Part was abated for the King's Gratia. A quarter Part of 67 is 16 $\frac{1}{2}$. This reduced the Customs on 67 Pieces to no more than the Custom on 50 $\frac{1}{2}$.

But other Allowances were also made to the Merchants, which brought the Customs on 100 Pieces of

Bays down to 41 or thereabouts, which makes an Abatement of 57 per Cent on the Customs, which I have already shown were not above 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent of the real Value of the Goods, and reduced the sum to about 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent on our Bays.

On other Goods the Deductions were yet greater. The Farmer's Gratia was 45 per Cent, the King's Gratia a 4th Part of the remaining 55, which amounts to 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent, and reduced the Goods to 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent of the Quantity whereon the Customs were paid; which is the same thing as abating 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent out of the Customs, and reduced the sum on all Goods paying the 11 per Cent Almozarifargo to less than 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 9 others which paid but 5 per Cent Almozarifargo to about 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

Thus stood the Duties in the Reign of K. Charles II of Spain on our Woollen Manufactures, a little more or less, and this even for the Province of Andalusia, where they were the highest; in Catalonia, Valencia and Aragon, they were much lower than in Andalusia; But now Andalusia is to be the Rule for these Places, and the Reign of King Charles II. by the late Treaty, is not to be the Rule for Andalusia.

The Articles sign'd by the Bishop of Bristol by the Duties in Spain shall not exceed those in the Reign of K. Charles II.; but the ratified Articles have given us this Rule. The Bishop's Articles had bound King Philip not to exceed the Duties in the Time of his Predecessor, and consequently to allow the Gratias were then allowed; but the ratified Articles oblige us to pay 10 per cent the first Custom, and this not only Andalusia, but also in Valencia, Catalonia and Aragon, and leaves us to pay his Alcavalas and Cientos in all the afore mentioned Places; nay leaves that Prince at Liberty to make his Alcavalas and Cientos what he pleases. He is not obliged by these Articles to allow any Gratias, he is not restrained from increasing his Alcavalas and Cientos, he may make them amount to Prohibitions, without any Prejudice to his Treaty.

It appears that the 11 per cent Almozarifargo was reduced formerly, by the several Gratias and Allowances, to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; but for this Duty we are not obliged to pay 10 per cent without any Abatement.

It appears likewise, that the 5 per cent Almozarifargo was reduced by Gratias, &c. to two per cent. But we have bound our selves to pay 10 per cent the first Duty, and this too for Valencia, Catalonia, and Aragon, where those Duties were still more easy than in Andalusia.

If were something if this were to be the whole; but the Alcavalas and Cientos besides are left upon us. What these were formerly we see by the Table above, and what was paid for them we see by the several Gratias; But what they shall be hereafter King Philip only knows; in this we are left to his Mercy. Doubtless he ought to be very merciful to us for having left us in the quiet Possession of that Kingdom.

The Alcavalas and Cientos on the Goods which paid 11 per cent Almozarifargo were 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, on those that paid but 5 per cent Almozarifargo were 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, as appears by the foregoing Table; but by the several Gratias and Allowances they were reduced, the former to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, the latter to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. It is extreme hard that we should now be obliged, besides the 10 per cent Almozarifargo, to pay these Alcavalas and Cientos, tho' all our former Allowances should be made us. This would make our Duties in the first Case from 10 to 16 per cent, in the second from 16 to 17, where the whole before never amounted to ten, and this for Valencia, &c. as well as in Cadix and Andalusia.

But where is there any one Word in the Treaty that obliges King Philip to grant us any Gratias, or to make any Allowances on the Alcavalas and Cientos; or indeed not to make these Duties as much higher as he pleases? But he need not make them higher, the very withdrawing his former Gratias will leave, besides the 10 per cent, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent on a very great Part of our Woollen Manufactures, and 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ Alcavalas and Cientos on all the Rest.

Let the Merchant now tell us if he thinks our Woollen Manufactures will bear from 10 to 16 per cent in Spain; let him look into the Treaty; and then tell us if that Prince is under any Restraint as to Cientos and Alcavalas, and whether he is obliged to lessen them, or may not increase them as he thinks fit; Let him tell us, that he has not demanded an Abatement of Duties in Catalonia or Valencia; but I am very glad, if he has demanded it, we have granted it without his asking.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

An Objection against the Necessity of a Judge-Conservator in Spain, answered by a Letter of my Correspondent.

From TUESDAY, April 27. to FRIDAY, April 30. 1714.

AN Objection has been made against my Paper of Friday last, which charges the Spanish Treaty of Commerce with giving up the Privilege of a Judge-Conservator in that Nation. It has been said that this is an Officer of so little Use to us; that in Cadix, for several Years together, we never chose one; and that nothing can be a clearer Demonstration of our not wanting such an Officer.

This Objection is so well answered by the following Letter, that I think my self obliged to give it my Readers as it came to my Hands.

To the British Merchant.

TIS on Occasion of your last Friday's Paper, that I give you this Trouble. You have rightly judg'd that it was to no manner of purpose to make a pompous Recital of the Privileges granted us by the former Kings of Spain, if under the present we are deprived of them. The greatest of those Privileges was that of choosing a Judge-Conservator, to be in the Nature of a Chancellor in all manner of Affairs relating to the English Merchants: And if, as you have truly observ'd, they were hardly restrained from entering our Houses while we had such a Judge, who shall pretend to hinder them now we are to be deprived of such a Protector? 'Twill be impossible for any of Her Majesty's (unless you will call a few Irish Papists by that Name) to live there with any tolerable Ease, which must either prevent the sending our Goods thither, or else they must be sent to the Native Spaniards, either on their own Account, or by Commission from hence; in both which Cases the Profit that formerly accrues to us, will then be gain'd by them.

The Trade to Spain was formerly an extraordinary Nursery of Merchants, and a great many Gentleman's younger Sons were usually provided for that Way; who must hereafter stay idling away their time at home, to the Detriment (not Advantage) of the Common-wealth. And should any Englishmen be so weak as to settle there, they could never stay there any time. They may perhaps buy and ship thence the Produce of that Country; but no Merchant in his Senses will ever consign them any Woollen or other Goods from hence, or entrust them with any Effects to lie by them for a Market; if he should, he must every Post expect to hear they are ruined by the Spaniards, whose Bigotry will prompt them to be eternally harassing and seizing them, till they have forc'd them to leave the Place, that so if any of Her Majesty's Subjects should still live amongst them, it may be only Irish Papists, and not the Sons of our English Gentry.

But I am told that 'tis reported, the yielding up this Point is owing to a Misunderstanding of what was said by the Spanish Merchants, who acknowledged

they had for some Years no Judge-Conservator at Cadix. Now the Truth of the Fact is, That the Judge-Conservator chosen by our Merchants for Sevilla, was authorized and oblig'd to appoint such Deputies for Cadix, St. Lucar and Malaga, as should be chosen also by our Merchants for those other Cities; that the Governour of Cadix was always to give a Man to obey the Inhibitions of the Judge-Conservator of Sevilla, or his Deputy at Cadix; that therefore the Merchants for several Years made choice of no Person for their Judge-Conservator at Cadix, but apply'd themselves to the Governour to act as their Judge-Conservator, tho' he was above accepting the Title, and made him annual Presents of greater value than the Salary given to that Officer; that for the sake of these Presents that Governour protect'd them in the Enjoyment of all their Privileges and Immunities, as much as if he had been chosen into that Office, and this I have heard was represented by the Spanish Merchants to the Lords Commissioners of Trade. So that the Governour of Cadix was to our Merchants there instead of a Judge-Conservator, and that therefore they did not need one. Was this a Reason for giving up the Judge-Conservator in Cadix, and every other Spanish City? Did not that Governour of Cadix receive an Allowance annually at Christmas for his Civilities to us, as the Judge-Conservator used to do? And did he not know the English Merchants had a Right to have chosen a Judge-Conservator if they had pleas'd? Did not that oblige him to use us civilly, least by another sort of Treatment, we should have been provoked to have put that Privilege in actual Execution, and have chosen one that should have procur'd us Justice from the Court, if he should refuse or neglect to do it? Suppose further, that any Spanish Merchant had said that we never chose a Judge-Conservator for Cadix, bred to Letters (as 'tis presumed some of those were, to whom this was said) be so weak as to make no difference between the not putting this Right in Execution, and the giving it up? Besides, 'tis notorious that at Sevilla, Malaga, and other Places in Andalucia, there actually were such Officers, or their Deputies; and there could have been no living quiet without them. The Officers of the Revenues are so despotick and insolent in that Country (as well as in another I could Name) that without the Right of choosing our own Judge, we should not have had a free Hour in the Day without being liable to their Vilitation, as well as to that of the Court of the Inquisition. 'Tis very well known to those Merchants that have resided in that part of Spain, that none of the Inquisitors, not any of the King's Officers, could come into our Houses without first acquainting the Judge-Conservator therewith, nor the very Alcalde-Mayor, without having obtained the Judge-Conservator's leave; and that whenever he did (though upon a visit of Friendship) he was oblig'd

obliged to leave his Staff, (the Ensign of his Authority) without our Houses.

Innumerable are the Vexations to be expected, unless we obtain the Right of choosing such an Officer when we find it necessary; and indeed it seems very strange, that the Subjects of Her Majesty, to whom the present King of Spain owes the Security of his Crown, should be levelled with those of any other Prince or State, who have not, or did not, come so soon, or so heartily into a Peace with him; and that no distinguishing mark of Favour should be shewn to Her Subjects more than to others (the *Offence* instead of a Favour being really a Burthen, the French would couch under no longer.) But that in this Point, which is indeed a Noble Privilege, we must have no other Favour than what will be in common with any other Nation. Have the *Hans-Towns*, the *Dutch* or *Portuguese* been so instrumental in raising the Royal Diadem on his Head, as we have? And must we be without this Privilege till some or other of them have first obtained it? Nay, could France itself have secured to him his Crown so essentially as this Nation has done? She who was not able to defend Her own before the Cessation of Arms between this Kingdom and that? And must we not enjoy this Advantage till She has led the Way? I say till France or some other Nation have it first; for you cannot but remark that we are not to be allowed this Privilege, unless it be granted to some other, that is, we must come after them. This is such an Indignity as must raise every honest Englishman's Indignation, to see the Preference thus given to all the Nations upon Earth before us. The Inspector General in his first Report, where he mentions the Hardships put upon us by the French, says, they acted as if they thought the *Genius of France has got the Ascendant over that of England*. Whenever he takes Cognizance of the Trade we are hereafter to carry on to Spain by this Treaty, I am apt to think he must conclude the same for that of Spain.

Tuesday April 27th, 1714.

The Reader sees by this time what poor wretched Shifts the Advocates of the Spanish Treaty are reduced to, for an Answer to so manifest an Objection as that of giving up the Privilege of a Judge-Conservator! A Judge-Conservator we did not stand in need of in *Cadix*, as long as we had a Right to chuse one in that City, and had it in our Power to supply the Want of one in the Governour; therefore we must put it out of our Power to chuse such an Officer, nay, put it out of the Power of the Governour of *Cadix* to be our Merchants instead of a Judge-Conservator! A Judge-Conservator we did not chuse in *Cadix*, where, for the Reasons of my Correspondent, the Governour was the same thing, therefore we must not have one in any other City, where such an Officer was always wanted, and always chosin!

But I think myself obliged to correct an Error of my own, (if I am guilty of one) in my aforementioned Paper of last Friday. I have said there, that the Spaniards have granted us a Judge-Conservator for the Canaries, because we can carry off nothing from that Country, but their Wines, and they cannot get them off to any other Nation. At the first sight this seemed to me to be granted to us by the Separate Article of the Spanish Treaty; but I am afraid, upon a more careful Perusal of that Article, that the Privilege of a Judge-Conservator, so as we enjoyed it heretofore, is not granted to us even in the Canaries.

The Words of that Article are, *That it shall be as all times hereafter be lawful for the British Subjects who shall live in the Canary Islands, for the sake of their Trade, to nominate some one Person, being a Subject of Spain, who shall execute the Office of Judge-Conservator there, and shall as the first Instance take Cognizance of all Causes RELATING TO THE COMMERCE OF THE BRITISH SUBJECTS*. So that according to this they are only to take Cognizance of all Causes relating to the Commerce of the British Subjects. Is this the thing that is only wanted in a Judge-Conservator?

No the thing that is wanted, is that he and he only shall in the first Instance try all Causes, whether Criminal or Civil, relating to the British Subjects; whether

they relate to Trade, or any other Matters whatsoever; That he only shall have the Privilege of entering the Houses of the British Subjects, and shall have Power to restrain all other Persons from visiting their Houses, or searching of their Books.

For what if any other of the King's Officers or Judges should arrest or try the British Merchants for any pretended Crime, such as the Exportation of Silver, or the like, shall they be inhibited by the Judge-Conservator? No he will be presently told that he is a Judge-Conservator only in Causes relating to the Commerce of the British Subjects, and that he can have no Cognizance of any of their Offences against the State. What if the Merchants Houses should be visited by the Books, and Papers, and Letters of Correspondency should be searched for an Offence against the State? Will not the Judge-Conservator be told that his Authority does not reach to any thing besides their Commerce? But on whatsoever pretence the Merchants Houses shall be visited, such Discoveries shall perhaps be made, as shall subject them to every other Court, and render their Privilege of a Judge-Conservator of no use.

I know it is added in the Separate Article, that the King will grant Commissions to the Judge-Conservators in Spain, and all the Privileges which the Judges-Conservators enjoyed formerly in Andalusia. But whether all the British Judges shall not be restrained to the Causes relating to the Commerce of the British Subjects, which is the only thing that seems to be granted in the former part of this Separate Article, may be thought to merit an Explanation.

But if after all it shall be said, that the Privilege of a Judge-Conservator is granted to us in the Canaries in as ample a Manner as we could wish, I must ask why it is refused to us in Spain?

Do we so much want a Judge-Conservator in the Canaries, from whence we can carry off almost nothing but their Wines? And is it not of use in Spain, a which Country it is hardly possible for us to Trade to any considerable Advantage without bringing away some part of their Bullion thence? But this is criminal by their Laws, and therefore we are to be deprived of our Protection.

For my own part, after the Loss of such a Protection I am obliged to be of my Correspondent's Opinion, that it will not be safe for any Englishman or Protector to reside in that Kingdom. I think any such Person is in Danger of being ruined every Hour, and that he must be a Man of very great Courage that will overrule the value of 500l. in the Hands of any English Faber or Merchant in that Kingdom.

I make no Doubt that this was the very Intention of the Spaniards to fright every Englishman out of their Country. Perhaps to engross the whole Profit of Commission and Factorage to themselves. If this was really the Case, our Spanish Merchants here are like to have very fine Accounts from their Spanish Factors. These will soon be an End of our Trade to that Nation.

Perhaps our Irish Papists, on Account of their Religion, may meet with better Quarters in that Country. This is agreeable to the ancient Conduct of Spain, which was to keep that People as much divided as possible from the British Interest. Did the Spaniards intend by taking away our Judge-Conservator, that none but Spaniards, or Irish Papists, should be our Factors and Correspondents in that Country?

We have all the Reason in the World to be afraid of the great Zeal of the present Ministry for promoting the British Trade, otherwise I should suspect they had been misled by the Irish, to give up the Judge-Conservator from this Nation. But it was our Misfortune that they were not bred Merchants; then they had clearly understood the Importance of this Privilege.

I see no reason why the People of Ireland should be born with worse Capacities than in other Countries; but Irish Papists are such Bonglers in all sorts of Business, that the very Proverb has appropriated Bulls and Blunders to that Country. But I know not whether I am to call it a Bull, or a Blunder, that we are told so largely of the Necessity of a Judge-Conservator in the first Article, and that we are told in the 15th, that we are not to have any more that Privilege.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

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,

Vide Prohibition Act. 30 Car. II.

A Letter showing the Unreasonableness of permitting the Importation of French Manufactures, and some of the fatal Consequences thereof.

From TUESDAY, May 4. to FRIDAY, May 7. 1714.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,
Since it has been always allowed that Foreign Commerce ought to be the chief Object of Great Britain's Jealousy, and that the Preservation thereof is of the utmost Consequence to her Welfare and Prosperity;

It is really surprizing that there should be any among us, so very inconsiderate as to plead for the Restoration of the *Fr. Trade*, which must unavoidably cramp us in almost every valuable Branch of our Foreign Traffick, reduce the Rents, and exhaust the Stock of the Kingdom; that must ruin our Manufactures, and at the same time establish theirs; and which, in short, will enable them to engross the Trade of the Universe.

Are we ignorant that *France*, for many Years past, has employ'd her ablest Ministers and greatest Politicians to fix her Commerce upon a firm Basis and solid Foundation? That his Most Christian Majesty has apply'd his utmost Care for incouraging of Trade and Navigation, as the only Means to enrich his Subjects? That he is fully determined to maintain this Conquest, and that above 40 Years since he declared, *That the Establishments he had made, having in every thing the success he expected, he thought himself oblig'd to provide for their Continuance?*

Or has his end his People's Indolence from that time rendered them so contemptible, and us so very secure and safe, that we are content to cherish such a Rival?

Is it possible that *Britain* can thus expose themselves to a Nation that is immoderately bent upon enlarging her Traffick, that is courting Commerce with the heartiest Applications and warmest Addresses that were ever yet made to a Kingdom, whose Navigation is prodigiously increased, or to any Potentate, who is convinced by Experience that the **BALANCE OF TRADE**, where ever it centers, must secure the **BALANCE OF POWER**, and whose unbounded Ambition, when thus supported, shall tempt him to contend for Universal Empire?

Have we so soon forgot, that if our Sovereign had not broke the Chain with which *Europe* was some Years past threaten'd, she had long ere this been an abject Slave, and that among the humble and trembling Croud, we must have fallen upon our Knees like the Camel, and been loaded at the Mercy of the Conqueror?

But the Advantages we enjoy'd by our Trade, enabled her Majesty to surmount all Difficulties, and to secure not only her own Subjects but other Nations also from the impending Ruin.

However *Great Britain* can be only this considerable, and hold the Balance of *Europe*, whilst she is rich and powerful; and we can only be said to be a rich and powerful Kingdom, as our Riches and Power bear a Proportion with our Neighbour Nations.

Can we then be so very unhappy, as to give *France* a Market for her Manufactures, whereby she shall be recruited, and we exhausted? Will not this so sensibly affect us in the tenderest part, that our Commerce must immediately wax feeble, and by Consequence must not our Power be soon abated?

Our present Security is certainly owing (next to the Blessing of Providence) to her Majesty's Firmness to the Common Cause of *Europe*, to her wise Councils, to the happy Conduct of her great and faithful General, and to the matchless Bravery of her Forces both at Land and Sea; but nothing can more effectually establish our Prosperity than an Excess and Pre-eminence of Foreign Trade.

Of this her Sacred Majesty was so sensible, that she graciously recommended to her Parliament last Year, TO THINK OF PROPER METHODS FOR IMPROVING AND INCOURAGING OUR HOME TRADE AND MANUFACTURES, which can alone render our Traffick to other Nations considerable.

Those therefore who are sensible of the Importance hereof, and who have the Interest of their Country only in view, can never stoop to such Measures as must necessarily destroy our Manufactures, and at the same time establish a Staple for all Commodities in *France*.

But

But I am perwaled, if the Advocates for opening a Trade with France, upon the Foot of the late Treaty, would but consider the Advantages we have enjoyed by the Increase of our Woollen, Silk and Linen Manufactures, &c. since the Prohibition of our Commerce with that Kingdom in 1678; and inquire also into the State of our Trade, both before and since that Period, they would soon declare against the pernicious Consequences of such an Experiment.

Our Exports before the said Prohibition In 1662-3 amounted to

	l.	s.	d.
	202813	04	00
	206374	19	00

And in 1658 9

And our Exports since the Prohibition in 1699 amounted to

	678566	17	06
	664410	00	00

And in 1703

Whereby it appears that we have exported in the two last Years *Nine Millions, three hundred forty five Thousand, One hundred eighty two Pounds fourteen Shillings and Six-pence, MORE* than in the two first Years.

This prodigious Increase in our Exports is certainly owing to the great Increase of our Manufactures, and their Increase to the Prohibition of the French Trade.

And it is very observable, that since our Silk Manufactures have been encouraged, they have greatly promoted the Exportation of our Woollen Goods; contrary to an Opinion formerly propagated (to serve a Turn) of their being inconsistent with, and prejudicial to one another.

For in 1664, or in 1668, our exported Woollen Manufactures could not in proportion to the general Export as aforesaid exceed the Value of *Nine hundred thousand Pounds.*

But in 1699 they amounted to *Two Millions Nine hundred thirty two thousand, two hundred ninety two Pounds seventeen Shillings and Six-pence.*

It amounts then to a Demonstration, that there is an inseparable Dependence between the Woollen and the Silk Manufactures; and that as the unwrought Foreign Materials whereof our wrought Silks are made, meet with our Encouragement or Discouragement here, the Woollen Manufactures wherewith they are purchased in *Turkey and Italy* will inevitably find the same Fate there.

The said Silk Manufacture having been supported by several necessary Laws, is now computed to be about 20 times as great as it was in the 14th Year of the Reign of King Charles II. when the Company of Silk Throwers employed, in and about the City of *Louvain*, FORTY THOUSAND Men, Women, and Children.

And must this Manufacture, which occasions such vast Exports of our Woollen Goods and other Products, that gives Employment to such Multitudes of Her Majesty's Subjects, be Part of the SACRIFICE that some would make to France? Whatsoever the charitable Part of Mankind may think, the MISERABLE POOR will never conclude they can plead Ignorance for their Excuse.

But when to this shall be super-added the Destruction of our Linen Manufactures, which are increased in *Great Britain and Ireland*, since the late Wars, at least 600,000 *l. per Annum*; and that we shall lose the Exportation of a very great Part of 400,000 *l. yearly*, to purchase *Liensens in Germany*; besides the total Loss of our Paper Manufacture, and the Prejudice we must suffer in our distilled Spirits, &c. together with the Malignant Influence which the Commerce will have on our Portugal, Italian and Turkey Trades, that are now carried on to the inexpressible Benefit of the Kingdom;

What an incredible Sum will there be then annually lost to this Nation; and what Misery must it entail upon us?

I appeal to every unbiass'd Person living, who is conversant in Trade, whether these (with many others that might be insisted on) are not the natural Consequences of letting in an INUNDATION of French Manufactures upon us?

And if this should ever be our Portion, have we any Reason to flatter our selves, that our present flourishing Trade must not dwindle to the wretched State it was in before the Prohibition of the French Commerce as aforesaid?

For I shall make no Scruple to assert, that the opening a free Trade with France can make us very little or no amends.

At present, it's allowed, we enjoy a considerable Advantage by that Trade, by their taking from us what they want; but this being obtained by the Peace, not by this Treaty of Commerce, will remain, tho' the said Treaty should never be rendered effectual by a Law.

What then can we further expect from France, if that Treaty was in Force?

Are not our Gilded Fish, Sugar, and the Product of Whales, excluded by the Articles subsequent to the Treaty? Are not our Woollen Cloths, Serges, Hatters, Stuffs and Saws, (our principal Manufactures) liable by the Treaty of 1699 to an exorbitant Duty, from 30 to 50 per Cent, which will amount to a Prohibition? And tho' it is pretended, that our other Manufactures are to pay by the Tariff of 1664, (as it is imagined, that a Custom of 25 to 30 per Cent (on all but Prizes and Cottons) as you have provided in your Papers No. 73 and 74, will not effectually prevent their Importation?

Again, are not all our foreign Goods, and all our Manufactures made of foreign Materials, already prohibited in France? and has not the 5th Article of that Treaty established those Prohibitions?

Where then is the Equivalent for this monstrous Evil? Can such Politicks as these procure it? Is this the best Method our Minister can prescribe to increase the Trade and the Stock of the Nation, and to repair the Damages sustain'd in the late War? Or would that slavish *Gibsonite*, if it was in his Power, first ruin, and then consign us all to France, to the *Honour of Wood and Drawers of Water.*

But farther, after this Kingdom has been at a vast Expence for 30 Years together to fix our Manufactures, after our Legislators have made so many wise and excellent Laws to encourage the same, and with great Difficulty have settled such profitable Employments for the Poor; is it just or reasonable to unravel the Constitution of our home Trade at once, and force many thousand Families upon the LAND-ED INTEREST for a Maintenance?

Can the most singular Abettors of the French Interest imagine, that any Gentlemen are so egregiously stupid, as to give the Nation such an incurable Wound?

I remember it was observed by a late ingenious Author, that all Nations concur in this Maxim: *That the less they consume of foreign Commodities, the better it is for them.* To which I will add another, tho' in the same Purpose, *That the Expence of foreign Manufactures is the worst Expence a Nation can be induc'd to, and therefore ought to be prevented, as much as possible.*

Shall we then be expell'd into such a Commerce as this, which will send us again to France for Manufactures that will soon drain us of our Treasures, and augment the Grandeur of that Nation, whose exorbitant Power has cost us very lately so many Millions to reduce, and which grew to such a Magnitude by pursuing steadily her Interest in foreign Trade?

Before the late Wars, is it not notorious that France gain'd, upon the Balance of her Trade with the Northern Parts of Europe, at least five Millions sterling? And has she not since introduced her Woollen Manufactures into many distant Countries, in great Abundance, to our vast Prejudice?

How many are there of our Turkey Merchants, who remember the Time when the French Imports into the Grand Seigneur's Dominions did not exceed 2 to 300 Cloths per Annum; whereas now, the Value of their Woollen Goods imported annually thither, is greater than what ours for several Years past, at Medium, have amounted to?

May it not then be fairly concluded, if the Kingdom will favour them so far as to take off their wrought Silks, which are made of the raw Silks they bring from *Turky and Italy* in Return for their Woollen Cloths, Serges, &c. that we could not fall into proper Measures to fit the Woollen Manufacture in France, and to prevent the Exportation of our own? I intended to have added several other Observations, relating to the Encrease of the maritime Power of France, &c. but they shall be sent you hereafter. In the Interim remain,

S I R,
Your humble Servant,

J. D. F.



The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From FRIDAY, May 7. to TUESDAY, May 22, 1714:

MERCATOR Numb. 26.

Are not the Custom-house-Books open? Have not both Sides given Schemes said to be taken from those Books, &c.

To what Purpose do these Men beat the Bush, and and dance in a Circle: THE CUSTOM-HOUSE IS A RECORD OF THESE THINGS, and may be referred to, even back to 1664, and further if they please, &c.

The Mercator appeals to the Custom-house-Books, and the Custom-house-Books must be right, and may be searched; Now these Men dare not do it, &c.

MERCATOR Numb. 149.

To call them for the Accounts of Exports and Imports from the Custom-house-Books, and to make a Judgment from them of the Trade to France, is to covet being cheated, to call for an Evidence, who, we are assured before-hand, can give no true Account of the Matter.

What then is become of all your Schemes, and Draughts, and Sums from the Custom-house, by which the Clamours against the French Trade are supported? It is evident the Judgment made from them is all Fallacy and Cheat.

A LETTER containing a *Vindication* of the
OLD SCHEME.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,

THE Letter which I wrote you the 9th of December last, being only intended to remove those vile and infamous Reflexions which have been cast upon those Gentlemen, who published in 1674 a Scheme of the Trade between England and France, in the Commodities of

the Native Product and Manufacture of each Country.

I was in hopes, after the Inspector-General (who must be allowed to be a proper Judge of Custom-house Accounts) had upon Oath given such entire Credit to the Manuscript which he mentions, in his first Report to the Commissioners of Accounts,

That the *Mercator* might have at least allowed, it was possible, if not probable, the said Gentlemen had given the best Account they had been able to pro-

A

cure

care, to those noble Lords of his Majesty's Council who engaged them in that Work.

For I must insist on it, that it's very reasonable to conclude, the said Manuscript, or the Accounts from whence it was drawn, were the Foundation of that Scheme.

And I cannot omit another Argument to prove Dr. Dawson's firm Belief of the Validity of that Manuscript, which is, That upon this Authority, he not only grounds his Report of the State of the French Trade in 1662-3 and 1668-9, but also the State of the whole Trade of the Nation for those two Years, which stands thus :

	l.	s.	d.
Anno 1662 } Imports	4,016,019	18	00
} Exports	2,011,812	04	00
The Imports exceed the Exp. 1,999,207 14 00			
Anno 1668 } Imports	4,196,139	17	00
} Exports	2,063,274	19	00
The Imports exceed the Exp. 2,132,864 18 00			

This then is certain, that an Abstract had been drawn out of the Books of Entries, of the Quantities of Goods exported to and imported from all Parts, to which we traded in those two Years, and the Doctor says, It was drawn not almost in the same Form as the Ledgers in his Office are now kept.

Is it not then much more reasonable to believe, that those old Accounts which were regularly and fairly drawn out at leisure, must be exacter than these new Accounts, which were laid by the Officers of the Custom-house before the last Parliament, which were extracted in a hurry, and consequently liable to Errors?

Besides, I cannot reject the Objections you have made to yours No. 34, against all Accounts which are, or may be NOW brought from the Custom-house of the Transactions of those Times.

Tho' I will not suppose that either the present Commissioners, or the Officers, who signed those Accounts, would deliver out any Account that appeared to them to be false or unjust.

For which Reason, and to oblige the Merchant, since he has taken such Pains to justify these Custom-house Accounts, I am resolv'd (whether they are right or wrong) to allow them their full force.

For I am not contending, whether the Woollen Manufactures exported to France in 1668-9 amount to l. 61456 — as by the Scheme, or l. 68511 17 — as by Dr. Dawson's Reports, or l. 93396 5 6 — according to the Custom-house Account, as is calculated in your British Merchants, No. 37.

The Difference between the least and the greatest of these Valuations is but l. 31850 5 6, and what a Trifle is this, to the Balance of l. 965,128 17 2. 4 d. which the Scheme sheweth to the Debtor of the French Trade exclusive of re-exported Foreign Goods?

But the Mercant having with the greatest Assurance declared, not only that this Scheme is manifestly detested of Forgery and Deceit, but that the Trade between England and France has been always a beneficial Trade to this Kingdom; and having also treated you with the greatest Rudeness and Indecency; I cannot but esteem my self so far concern'd, as to attempt the Support thereof, and to justify as far as I am able, those honest and worthy Patriots, who deliver'd that Scheme to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners appointed for the Treaty of Commerce with France in 1674, together with their humble Desires in behalf of the English Merchants trading to France, and of the English Trade; and I submit the whole to the Correction of every proper and impartial Person whatsoever.

The main Questions therefore that ought to be resolv'd, is this :

What will the Goods and Merchandises exported to and imported from France, from Nicholas 1661. to Alchazar 1669, together with the Wine and Brandy which are computed by the Scheme, according to the Consumptions in 1674, amount to and then how will the Balance stand?

I shall therefore examine, not what induced these Gentlemen to leave us such an Argument against the French Trade, but how far the Custom-house Accounts, which were laid before the last Parliament, and such others as I shall refer to, will prove sufficient Vouchers, to engage our Assent to the Truth of their Computations

In order then to clear up this Controversy, I shall in the first place present you with an Abstract of the said Scheme, which is entituled as follows :

A SCHEME OF THE TRADE as it is at present carried on, between England and France, in the Commodities of the Native Products, and Manufactures of each Country, calculated as exactly as possible, &c.

Wherein it is asserted, that there was exported to France from the Port of London, according to the Custom-house Books, from Mich. 1668. to Mich. 1669.

In Woollen Manufactures ——— l. 61456 00 00
In English wrought silks ——— 1921 00 00

Exported from London in Manufactures 63466 00 00
Exports from the Out-ports, computed at one third more 21155 06 08

Exported from England in Manufa. l. 84621 06 08
And in several Products, viz.

Lead ——— 2500 Fodder at l. 12 30000 00 00
Tinn ——— 6000 hund. wt. l. 4 24000 00 00
Allom ——— 100 Tuns l. 24 2400 00 00
Calve Skins and Leather 10000 00 00
And in all other Goods to the Value of 20000 00 00

Total of the Exports to France in said Year are computed at l. 171011 06 08

And there was imported into England from France in several sorts of Linens amount to l. 50735 04 00

Wt. Silks 150000 at l. 2 30000 00 00
Wine — Tuns 11000 l. 22 100 17750 00 00
Brandy, Tuns 4000 l. 20 8000 00 00
Paper, Reems 60000 5s. 40000 00 00
Perrens, Feathers, Salt and Resin 16400 00 00
Kid Skins 5000 Hund. l. 3 15000 00 00
In all other Goods 40000 00 00

Total of the Imports from France are computed at l. 1,136,150 04 00

Deduct the Amount of the Exports to France as aforesaid 171,011 06 08

Balance gained by the French from us yearly l. 965,128 17 04

Besides all manner of Toys, Fans, Gloves, Laces, Point Laces, embroider'd Garmets and Beds, to an incredible Value.

Signed by

Patience Ward, John Hought, John Merick, Peter Parsonson, William Bollandy, John Davis, Michael Godfrey, Benj. Godfrey, George Terriana, Edward Harrison, John Houlton, Esq. Dr. Lane.



* These were the Merchants, all of them great Traders to France, who signed the several Papers, which were presented with this Scheme, to the Lords Commissioners, as was before hinted; for their Lordships being entirely satisfied in their great Experience, known Abilities, and unquestioned Integrity, and withal to testify their own Care and Concern for the publick Good and the Welfare and Prosperity of the Trade of the Nation, required these Gentlemen to render them the Opinions, relating to the settling of a fair Commercial Treaty between both Nations.

* With this Command they honestly and justly complied, without the least Regard either to Party or their own private Interest, as may be seen at large in their aforesaid Papers.

* But such is the Iniquity and Folly of the Merchant and his Friends, that they have in several of his Papers represented this Scheme as a most unfair and partial Calculation, a designed Confusion, than which nothing can be more corrupt; that it was in it self a Design dishonest, a shameful Paper, a horrid Raguery, a cursed, open, naked Cheat, &c. &c.

* However, this foul-mouthed Fellow cannot without some Shame and Confusion remember, how grossly he has imposed on his Readers, and how injuriously he has treated the said Merchants, first by charging their Scheme with a Fraud in its Title, and then branding them with the scandalous Names of Cheats, &c. for giving a Scheme of the Trade as it was then carried on between England and France, and omitting therein the re-exported foreign Goods. Whereas it is that Jugler the Merchant that has falsified the Title, by striking out the 3 last Lines thereof,

*In the Commodities of the native Prods
and Manufactures of such Country,
calculated as usually is possible, &c.*

* But by the true Title of the Scheme, as aforesaid, it is obvious at first Sight, that they had only a Regard to the Trade in the Commodities of the natives Prods and Manufactures of each Country; and it appears now by the Manuscript mentioned by Dr. Dawson, that they could give no other Account, and therefore they frankly and fairly declare by the Title, what was intended, though this wretched Deceiver has basely and treacherously represented it otherwise.

* The Scheme being thus vindicated in its Title and Design, I shall in the next Place give you an Abridgement of the Custom-House Accounts, which were laid, as aforesaid, before the last Parliament.

* Whereby it will appear, wherein the Scheme and those Custom-House Accounts differ.

* The Valuation of the Particulars is according to the Rates made Use of in the Scheme, as far as they will serve; being satisfied the Authors thereof were perfectly acquainted with the Prices of all sorts of Goods, not only at Home, but in France, from whence they received Annually vast Quantities; and the rest is supplied according to the best Informations I could obtain.

* And because the Quantities or total value of our Manufactures and Products exported from the Out-Ports, and of several Goods and Merchandizes imported at the Out-Ports, could not be ascertained by any other better Rule, they are determined by the same Proportions as the Exports and Imports from and at the Out-Ports in 1685-6. bear to the Exports and Imports of the same Year at London, as by your Paper No. 14.

* Whereby the Objection made by the Commissioners of the Customs, against the Computation in the Scheme, relating to the Value of what was exported from the Out-Ports, (being one third of the Value of the Manufactures exported from London) is fully answered.

* However it must be observed, that the Officers at the Custom-House, both before and after 1674, were generally governed in their Calculations by that Proportion, and it exceeds the present Inspector General's Rule, in his first Report Folio 12.

* This is mentioned, not because a General Rule adhered to in the Custom-House, is to be objected either in this; or in many other particular Cases.

* But to shew how it came to be made use of in the Scheme; for this Scheme was drawn and prepared by the proper Officers in the Custom-House, and is entered in those Books, tho' the present Commissioners cannot find that the same was prepared by Order of their Predecessors.

* The particulars of the Goods and Merchandizes exported from the Port of London from Mich. 1668. to Mich. 1669, as by the Custom-House Account, are as follow:

Woollen Ma. valued as aforesaid at l. 93796	5	6
Wrought Silks, lb 473 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. 3 208.	118	15
Lead 970 Fod. 11 bund. wt. 121.	116	6
Tin-bund. wt. 996 3qrs. 14 lb. 4l.	398	10
Allom ——— 391 bund. wt. 1 l. 4 s. 47	47	12
Tanned Leather 495 $\frac{1}{2}$ bund. com- puted, viz. $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. at 6 s. $\frac{1}{2}$ at	191	6
Untreated Goods ———	9990	15
In other Manufactures and Products	11000	6

l. 15133 8

* Products, Manufactures, and Foreign

* Goods exported from the Out-Ports,

* according to the Proportion of what

* was exported from the Out-Ports in

* 1685-6. computed at one half part of

* what was exported in Manufactures

* and Products from London, amounts to

75661 14

l. 26985 2

Foreign Goods re-exported from

London,

43980 lb. wt. Co. Wool at 6d. l. 1099

23615 lb. wt. Cor. Ya. at 72d 1180

19147 hund wt. Gauls. at 1 l. 5743

50977 lb. wt. Gos. Hair, at 2s. 5097

160818 lb. Tobacco, at 3d. 2010

304 Tuns Oyl, at 30s. 6120

6080h 3qrs. 3 lb. Sugar b at 25s. 7600

22489 lb. wt. Pepper Bl. at 9d 8432

7995 $\frac{1}{2}$ pcs Callicoes at 15s. 5996

8481 lb. Indico. at 3s. 6d. 1484

765 Doz. Goats Skins, at 2l. 1930

In Drugs and other Goods 17200

61495 6 9

* Total of the Exports to France in 1668-9. computed at

l. 90480 8 9

* The Account and Value of the Goods and Merchandize imported from France in said Year, is next to be ascertained.

* But it must be observed, that these Custom-House Accounts are very defective in not taking Notice of the Wine and untreated Goods imported at London, nor of any Goods imported in the Out-Ports.

* For the Inspector-General has given no Account Pol. 15 and 16, of the Wines imported into the Port of London from France.

* Both in 1661-3.

* And in 1668-9.

* And therefore it is VERY STRANGE it should be asserted, that the Books of Entries for Wines, ending at Michaelmas 1669 are not to be found; and the Omission of the untreated Goods is so gross, that its shrewdly to be suspected, they are defective in other Articles.

f How.

* However to supply part of these Defects, I shall take to my Assistance another Custom-House Account, which was formerly laid by the Firmers of the Customs before a House of Commons, and was produced before the last House of Commons, as an Evidence to confirm the Authority of the Old Scheme: Its entituled,

* *An Account of Linnen and French Linnens imported at the Port of London and Out-Ports from Mich. 1667. to Mich. 1669.*

Which is Signed by

Yof. Dawson, per Coll. John Wallenstow,
E. Bremer, per Comp. John Shaw,
Th. Kyngston, per Sr. E. Turner.

* Whereby it appears there was imported into England, in those two Years, Linnens of the Manufacture of France, as follows

506442 Pcs of Lockrams	at 6s.	l. 303165 2
3003 Pca dyad Linnens	1	3003
1028 Yds Diaper Tabling	2s.	1028 2
43063 Yds Diaper Knapsking	2s.	2653 3
9753 Hoad. Ells, Newm. Canvas	7	68271
14712 Hd. Ells, Vity and My. Canv.	6	20 272
4533 Pair of old Sheets	5s.	1133 5
2157 Bolts of Faldavis	15	1692 15
4798 Pcs of Karnings	1 10	7197
155 Hun. Ells packing Canv.	2 10	387 10
800 Shirts valued at		64

* Imported in said two Years by this Account Fr. Linnens, amounting to

l. 932353 15

* The half part of said l. 932353 15s. being the Medium of one Year is l. 466176 17 6

* Imported from the 15th of October 1668, to the 20th of Octob. 1669, o-ther sorts of Linnens, which are omitted in the aforesaid Account, but are inserted in the Account from the Custom-House, which was laid before the last Parliament.

100 Hun. Ells Bro. Cloth at 6s. 13s. 4d.	3000
13079 Ells of Courtyard	345 19 55
1185 Ells of Iffingham Clo.	5 396 5
809 Pcs of Quotins	10 404 10
1362 Dozen of Buckrams 2 10	3405

* And for several other small Par. of Cloth 155

* By this Medium of the Farmer's Account, and by the aforesaid Custom-House Accounts the Linnens imported from France in 1668-9. are computed at

l. 506957 7 6

* If it should be objected against this Article, in the Farmer's Account.

* That the Out-Ports could not take off, so great a Quantity of Linnens, as will appear to be wanting by the said Custom-House Account, to answer this Sum of

l. 506957 7 6

* I answer, That the Linnens imported in this Year, at the Port of London, as by said Custom-House Account, according to the aforesaid Valuation will amount to show

l. 247000

* And consequently the Linnens imported at the Out-Ports are only va-

259957 7 6

* And this being the Total of this Year's Import.

l. 506957 7 6

* Whereas, if you compare the Proportion of what was imported in 1685-6, at the Out-Ports, with what was imported the same Year into London.

* You will find, the Difference between London, and the Out-Ports in that Year, was much greater than is before-mentioned.

* For then, according to this Valuation, there was imported into the Port of London, Linnens to the Value of

l. 179000

* And into the Out-Ports to the value of

l. 297000

* Total Amount of the Linnens imported, as by the Custom-House Accounts in 1685-6.

l. 476000

* Which though short of the Value of what was imported in 1668-9, yet the Value of what was then imported at the Out-Ports is l. 37042, 12 s. 6d. more than is charged in this Year.

* And if it should be further objected, that these Linnens are valued at higher Rates than you have valued the Linnens imported in 1685, which I observe was according to the Custom-House Valuation.

* I shall only add, What the Gentlemen who published this Scheme mention, in their Report to the Lords Commissioners, viz.

* That the Silks and Linnens imported from France into England, are one with another charged, but at the rate of 5 per Cent. for though by the Book of Rates for Subsidy and Additional Duty, the said Commodities are rated to pay about 7 per Cent. yet they being undervalued in their Prices, the Duties levied on them, do not in the General exceed 5 per Cent. of their real and true Value.

* I shall proceed to the Article of wrought Silks, of which the Farmers Account makes no mention, and the Custom-House Account takes notice only of

* 'Lh. 6630 } Imported into the Port of London, for, in aforesaid, there is no Account of what was imported in 1668-9, into the Out-Ports.

* (Tho' by the Commissioners Report to the Lords, all the Out-Ports Books were not wanting; if therefore they have the Accounts from Dover and Deal, it would be soon found, what Quantities of wrought Silks were imported that Year.)

* Neither does the Scheme pretend to give an exact Account of what was imported, but computes it at lb 250000 wt. per Annum, which at 2s. per lb wt. amounts to l. 100000.

* However the Author's therein Note, 'That in 1674. there was received at the Port of Dover only (as they were informed) l. 15000 for Customs of wt. Silks, so that considering what may be conveyed anonymously, and that great Quantities are worth from 1 lb to 4 lb. the lb. wt. they believe the wt. Silks may amount to much more in value than what is above.

* And if any one would inform himself from those French Factors, who are still living, and were at that time in London, of the vast Quantities of French wrought Silks, that were then sold in that City, they would be soon convinced, that there was annually imported at least double the Quantity which is mentioned in the Scheme.

* This is also proved beyond all Contradiction, by the prodigious increase of that Manufacture in this Kingdom, and by the yearly Importations of raw and thrown Silk, which are now much greater than in those Days, the Manufacture whereof, archduke of the Cost of the Silk, amounts to a much greater Sum than is above-mentioned.

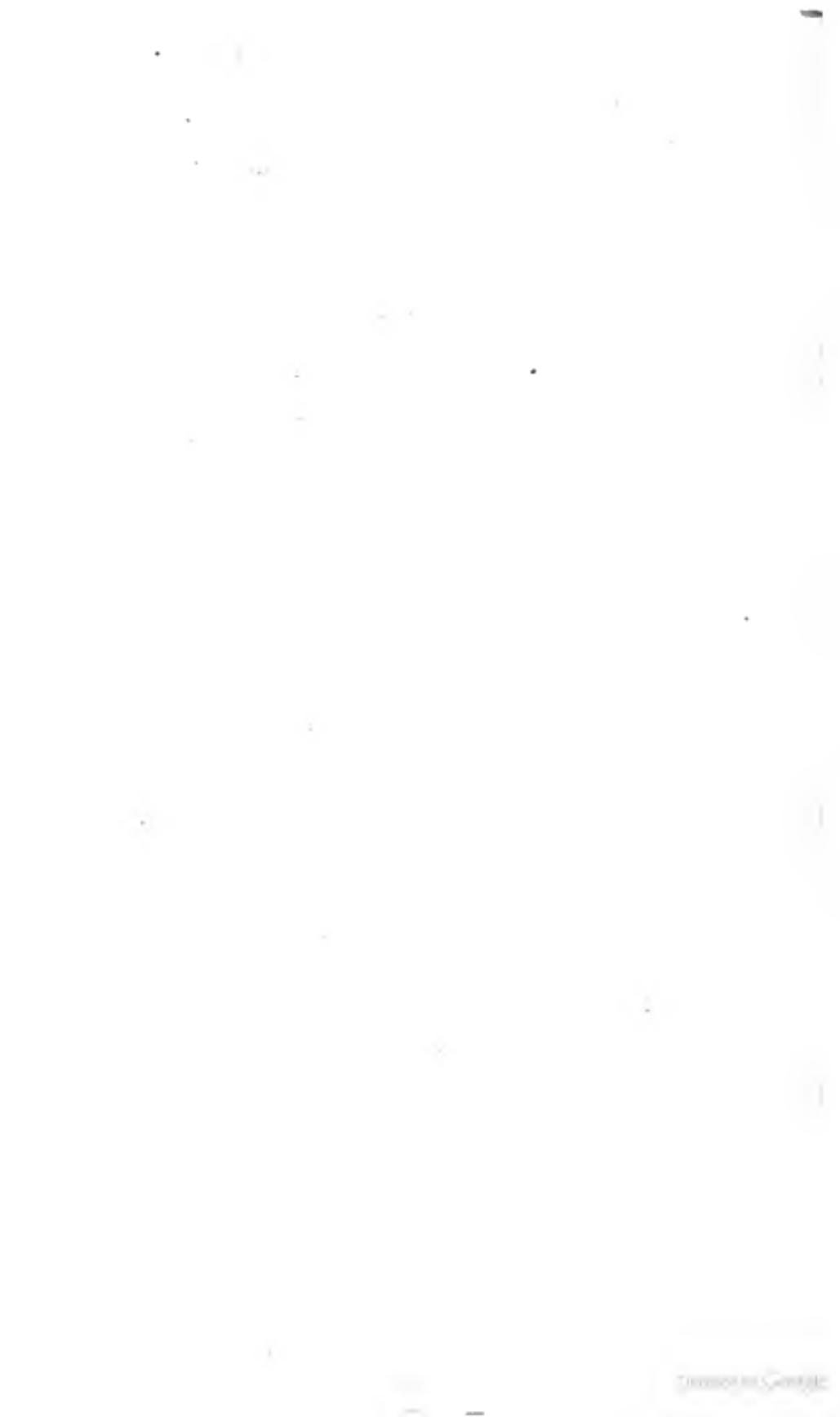
* But least it should be doubted, whether there was ever any considerable Quantity brought to England in one Year, your British Merchants No. 24. will prove, that in 1685-6. there was imported.

5966 1/2 lb into London, and
115592 into the Out-Ports, besides what might be imported, during the Mich. Quarter in 1686 at Deal, &c.

121497 1/2 lb.

* Which tho' a less Quantity than is computed by the Scheme, yet according to your Valuation it 50s. per lb wt. amounts to 303743 l. 15s.—

* And



* And he that knows any thing of the Price of Wrought Silks, must allow you have not exceeded the Medium.

* Neither is it to be imagined, that the Merchants who drew the Scheme, exceeded the Quantity of what was fairly imported in 1674.

* So that upon this Foot this Article could not be over-valued; but on the contrary, if the clandestine Importations were to be added, I have good Reason to believe it would amount to near 8.000*l.* per Annum.

* As to the Computation, that 11000 Tons of French Wine were then annually imported into this Kingdom;

* It is plain by the Farmers Account, that from Michaelmas 1667 to Michaelmas 1669, there was imported Tons 21471.

* From Michaelmas 1673 to Michaelmas 1674, the Merchants assert in their storefid Report, that there was imported into London Tons 21500.

* By the Custom-house Accounts laid before the last Parliament, the Medium of what was imported into London in 1675, 76, 77, and 78, is Tons 2535 per Annum. And the Medium for 1686, 87, 88, 89, was Tons 13403 per Annum.

* Let the Merchant then add the just Proportion for what was imported at the Out-Ports, and he will hardly be able to persuade any reasonable Man in the Kingdom that this is a partial Calculation.

* The Brannies are next in Course to be considered; the Scheme supposes that we should take from France 4000 Tons per Annum, not, as the Merchant has been persuading his Readers, that 4000 Tons were asserted to be imported 1668-9.

* On the contrary, the Merchants asserted, that the Quantity imported from Michaelmas 1663 to Michaelmas 1664 was so small, that it deserves not to be noted.

* That from Michaelmas 1667 to Michaelmas 1669, there was imported into London but 3000 Tons; And by the Farmers Account the total Import in the said two Years amounted only to 3775 Tons.

* But from Michaelmas 1673 to Michaelmas 1675, there was imported into the Port of London 7315 Tons, besides what was imported in the Out-Ports, (which were the two preceding Years before they made this Calculation.)

* Since therefore the Consumptions of French Brandy increased yearly vastly from 1663 to 1674, they could not conclude that less than 4000 Tons were then spent, or would for the future be imported.

* I shall now return to the Custom-house Accounts to adjust both the Quantities and the Prices of the remaining Goods that were imported in 1668-9.

* Whereby it is obvious the following Parcels of Paper were imported into London in that Year.

	l.	s.	d.
Bundles 430 Brown, at 3 <i>s.</i>	64	10	
Reams 650 Cap. at 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	243	15	
159; Demy, at 15 <i>s.</i>	1194	15	
1554; Ordinary, at 5 <i>s.</i>	3882	15	
33 Painted, at 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	33		
438 Royal, at 2 <i>l.</i>	876		
	15855 <i>s.</i>	4153	15

* The Proportion for the Out-Ports is computed on the Quantity at 14 per Cent which makes Reams 22197,

* at 5*s.* per Ream,

* Total of the Amount of the Paper 46803 00

* By the same Account there was imported into the Port of London in said Year,

	l.	s.	d.
1346 Weights of Salt, at 2 <i>l.</i>	2692		
5300 bun. Weight of Resin, at 8 <i>s.</i>	2120		
9646 1/2 bun. Weight Præms, at 15 <i>s.</i>	7234	17	06
45 1/2 bun. Weight Feathers, at 5 <i>l.</i>	2258	15	
	14105	12	06

* And for the Proportion of the Out-Ports since the Amount of the said Commodities imported at London in 1685-6, according to the storefid Valuation, was

21354 12 03
And at the Out-Ports 5775 12 03
It is computed accordingly at 38687

* Total of the Value thereof. 53991 12 06

* The Kid skins imported into London by said Account from the Custom-House, are 4109 hund. and 70 Skins, which at 3*l.* per hund. amounts to 12329 2

* The Importations at the Out-Ports is computed at 5 per Cent. 646 9 6

* The Kid Skins amount to *l.* 13575 11 06

* And the Value of all other Goods imported into London, as by said Custom-house Account, is computed at 28200

Unrated Goods, tho' omitted in that Account, conclude they amount to as much as in 1685-6 13558 4 6

41758 4 6
The Proportion for the Out-Ports, calculated at 7 of what is imported at London 13919 8 2

Total, 55677 12 8

* According to the storefid Calculations, the whole Account stands as follows.

IMPORTED.	l.	s.	d.
Linnens of all Sorts	506997	7	6
Wrought Silks, at least	300000		
Wine, Tuns 11000, at 12 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	137500		
Brandy, Tuns 4000, at 20 <i>l.</i>	80000		
Paper, Reams 180752	45803		
Salt, Roxin, Præms, and Feathers	5994	12	6
Kidskins	13575	11	6
In all other Goods and Merchandizes	55677	12	8

* Total of the Value of Goods and Merchandizes imported from France in 1668-9, together with the Wine and Brandy, which are computed according to the Consumption in 1674. 1193506 4 2

* Deduct the total Value of what was exported from England to France in 1668-9, as storefid 290480 8 9

* The Imports exceed the Exports, or there was annually lost by our Trade with France 903025 15 2

* Difference between this Ballance and the Ballance by the Scheme but 62103 2 11

* The Ballance, as by the Scheme, being as storefid 965128 17 4

B

Upon

* Upon the Whole, you will observe, that I have made an Allowance for the greatest Objections to which this Scheme was liable:

* Having charged for the Amount of our re-exported foreign Goods

Shipp'd for France 63495 : 6 : 9
 For the Difference in the Quantity of Woollen Manufactures between the Scheme and the Custom-house Accounts 31850 : 5 : 6

* And instead of computing what was exported from the Out-ports at 7, as in the Scheme, I have allowed the Half of what was exported from London, the Difference whereof is

25220 : 11 : 4

In all, 120966 : 3 : 7

* Tho' it is very apparent, the Merchants who drew the Scheme must be discharged from the least Imputation of Partiality in these Particulars, as long as the Inspector-General's Manuscript, and the Rules of the Custom-house, must vouch for them.

* The Merchant will also observe, that I have had some Regard to several of his Objections, against the Valuation of divers Goods and Merchandize in your Account of the Exports and Imports in 1685-6.

* I shall therefore offer what has been said, as a fair and probable Argument to support the Authority of this old Scheme, being grounded upon the Authority of Custom-house Accounts, that have been produced for no other End than to destroy it.

* But the Merchant's irrefragable Weapons have been always turned against him; and tho' I have some Reason to believe that every Office in the Kingdom has been roused to equip him, yet hitherto he has not produced one Demonstration, nor published any Matter of Fact, which proves that the French Trade was (not always, as he says, but) at any time beneficial to this Kingdom, unless during the late and the present Peace, when it was carried on under the present high Duties; and in this we all agree.

* He formerly indeed promised to exhibit a true Scheme of this Trade; and having had the Custom-house Accounts of our Exports to and from France from Michaelmas 1685 to Michaelmas 1688 so long by him, I was in hopes he would have tack'd them to the Accounts of the preceding Year, and oblig'd his Readers with an impartial Account of these 3 Years Trade together.

* But the Changeling being now out of Honour with all Custom-house Accounts, I must conclude they are all as must against him, as the French Commerce is against the Interest of this Kingdom.

* And therefore, if the Way to judge of whether he hereafter exported or imported, is to examine what has been formerly exported or imported, as our Merchant has asserted; we may justly determine for the French, if ever they have it in their Power to supply us with their Products and Manufactures, will at once ruin both our home and foreign Trade.

S I R,

Your humble Servant,
 K. L.



NUMBERS 81, 82, 83.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From TUESDAY, May 11, to FRIDAY, May 14, 1714.

A Letter concerning the Fishery at Newfoundland, and wherein is stated the ex-

travagant Duties payable upon HERBINGS, &c. in FRANCE.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,

I shew'd you in my former, in your Numb 77, that the French were much more our Rivals in the Fishery than the Dutch. Not that I am so much concern'd that they do not now pay that Acknowledgment they formerly paid for the Liberty of Fishery on the Island of Newfoundland, as I am that they at any time paid any such Acknowledgment: For certainly, without the Shadow of that Submission, they would not have been indulg'd in a Matter that might in its Consequence prove as fatal to our Safety, as detrimental to our Commerce; and I cannot but think, that notwithstanding the Interest the French had in the Court of England, by means of the French Match, they would hardly, without this seeming Advantage, have obtained Leave to cure and dry their Fish upon the very Island of Newfoundland it self, whatever Leave might have been granted them of Fishing upon the great Banks thereof, which are as much the Dependencies of that Island, as the Coasts and Banks where the Dutch fish for Herrings off of Scotland and the North Parts of England, are belonging to Great Britain, and for which there was the same Reason to insist on a Duty to be paid by the French, though they should never set their Foot upon the Island, as there was for demanding it of the Dutch for what they caught here in the open Sea— Every body must acknowledge, that it was extremely the Interest of France to submit to pay 5 per Cent. upon all the Fish they caught and dry'd at Newfoundland, that they might secure to themselves the Advantage of such a Nursery of Seamen.

They are now so much our Rivals in this Trade, and are increased to such a prodigious Degree, that they employ yearly from St. Mela, Granville, Rochel, St. Martins, Ile of Rea, Bayonne, St. Jean de Luz, Sibus, &c. to carry on their Fishery on the great Banks of Newfoundland, and on the Coasts of that Island, that is in their Wet and Dry Fish, upwards of Four hundred Sail of Ships; they do not only now supply themselves with the Fish they formerly had from us, but furnish many Parts of Spain and Italy therewith, and Rival us there to our prodigious Loss. They have the properest Sort of Salt of their own, which renders their Voyages much shorter than ours; for we are obliged to go from

hence to Rochel, Orleans, St. Martins, &c. to fetch that Commodity, which they have at their own Doors, and thereby most frequently spend a Month or six Weeks more in our Voyages than they do.

They are so extremely sensible of the prodigious Advantage of this Fishery, and so very intent upon pursuing it, that from their first Attempts to make themselves considerable at Sea, they have had it perpetually in View— They first obtained Leave to fish upon paying a Duty of 5 per Cent. afterwards they got that Acknowledgment relinquish'd: But they have lately gone much further; for in the present Treaty they have procured a Cession to be made to them of the Island of Cape Breton, and several Islands in the Gulph of St. Lawrence: And, not content with that, they have further obtained a Liberty of Curing and Drying their Fish, setting up Stages, and resorting to OUR Island of Newfoundland during all the Time that it is of any Use to resort thither; that is, during the Fishing Season. They are indeed to deliver us up the Possession of Placentia, and some other Places in Newfoundland; but then they have taken care to have a better Place yielded to them in Lieu thereof; with this extraordinary Favour to them more than to us, that they have the Liberty granted them to frequent OUR Island of Newfoundland, and erect Stages, &c. thereon for Curing and Drying their Fish; but we have not the Privilege allowed us of doing the same on any of their Islands, or on the Island of Cape Breton, which they have express Permission granted them to fortify as they please. Thus they are our Rivals in the FISHERY by our own Consent, which is the more wonderful, in that it is owing to this Fishery that they dared to contend for the Mastery at Sea with the Maritime Strength of England and Holland united. 'Tis true, the English and Dutch are most frequently called the Maritime Powers; but if I were not afraid the Mercator would fall upon me for discovering our own Weakness, I would beg you to tell him, I think it a just to appropriate the Name of Maritime Powers to Great Britain and Holland exclusive of France, when we consider what a Figure that Nation made at Sea before the Battle of La Hogue in 1692. Can we then think that a few Years of Peace, with such a Fishery, and such Conditions of Commerce as were to be granted to France by the late Treaty, will not soon enable her to contend

again with our united Fleets? The History both of France and England will show you, that it is since their procuring Leave to fish at Newfoundland that they have grown so formidable at Sea; and that their Naval Royal has augmented in Proportion to the Numbers of Ships employed in that Fishery — What have we not to expect then from them now they have obtained a Right to a better Place by their Fishery, in the Opinion even of the French themselves, as you will see by the inclosed Letter, written by a Minister of State in France to the Duke de G. — at Bayona, and which I believe is genuine: The Occasion of it was, that the People of St. Jean de Luz and S. Jean (two Places in the County of la Basque) being under Apprehensions that their Fishery at Newfoundland was to be delivered up wholly to us, the Duke wrote a Letter to Paris to be rightly informed, and received the following Answer.

Copy of a Letter written by Monsieur de P. — — — — — to Monsieur the Duke de G. — — — — — from Fontainebleau, 19 Sept. 1713.

“ I Have received, Sir, the Letter you did me the Honour to write me the 3d of this Month, with two Letters that were directed to you by the Inhabitants of St. Jean de Luz and S. Jean, upon the Subject of their Fishery of Dry Fish. From the Account I have given the King of their Demand, his Majesty directed me to write by his Order to Monsieur the Duke d’A. — — — — —, his Ambassadeur Extraordinary at London, to ask of the Queen of Great Britain a Permission for them to go the next Year to Placentia, and the Liberty to continue their Fishery in ALL the Ports and Harbours upon the Coast of Newfoundland. I shall give myself the Honour to acquaint you with Monsieur the Duke d’A. — — — — —’s Answer. I agree with you, Sir, that the Country of la Basque would suffer very much, should they be deprived of the Liberty of carrying on their Fishery of Dry Fish, and you will be persuaded of the Attention I have to procure to the Merchants that drive this Commerce the Means to continue them in it, when I have informed you, that the King sent from Rochefort, in the Month of May last, one Frigate to go and lay the first Foundation of an Establishment in the Island of Cape Breton, where Fish is MUCH MORE ABUNDANT than at the Island of Newfoundland, and where one may make the Fish, and manage the Drying thereof easily. This Frigate arrived June 26. at Placentia, from whence she was to continue her Course for Cape Breton, to which Place I have caused to be transported 100 Men to begin the Settlement. His Majesty will send in the Beginning of the Year three Ships to transport thither the Garrison of Placentia, and the Inhabitants of the Island of Newfoundland, and to put the last Hand to the Establishment of that Port. The Merchants of this Kingdom may then send all such Ships as they shall think fit to order for the fishing of dry Fish, and for the Oyls that are made from the Fish on the said Island. This Favour ought to animate the Merchants that drive this Commerce to carry it on with Vigour, from the Advantage they will draw from it. This is all I have been able to do in their Favour. I desire you to be persuaded of the great Sincerity wherewith I have the Honour to be —

“ From this Letter ’tis plain the French never intended to quit the Fishery of Dry Cod, and that they have very much at Heart the Rivaling us therein.

“ That, to secure themselves against any Accident, they were careful to send a Man of War in the Month of May, 1713. which was within a little time after the Signing the Treaty the 11th of April before, and had sent 100 Men to lay the first Foundations of their Fortifications at Cape Breton; and further assure the Duke, that three other Ships should be sent the Beginning of this Year to transport the Garrison of Placentia thither, and put the last Hand to the Establishment of that Port; which no doubt they will effect before they deliver up Placentia: Not much unlike what they are doing under our Nose, making a NEW Port at Nardick, before they fill up the OLD One at Dantick.

“ Another Thing observable from this Letter, is, that the French are NOW so SANGUINE, as not to content themselves with the Possession of Cape Breton and other Islands thereabouts, nor with the Liberty of erecting Stages, &c. to cure and dry their Fish, from Cape Breton Northward, and so on to Pointe a Pitre on the Western Side; but are asking new Favours, and demand a Permission to Placentia this Year, (altho’ the Time agreed for delivering that Place has been long since expired) and for a Liberty to make their Fish in ALL the Ports and Harbours, upon the Coast of Newfoundland; which, tho’ I make no doubt but was denied them, yet I am amazed that it should ever enter into their Heads so much as to attempt: Sure they think we can deny them Nothing!

“ This explains the true Meaning of the 3d Specification in the late Treaty, where it is said, That Six Fish Barrels only shall be imported into that Kingdom. They are resolved to cultivate and improve this Fishery to the utmost, and know it is impossible in the Nature of the Thing for us to carry any dried Codfish from thence to France in Barrels; more especially so long as they themselves can and do always carry it in Bulk.

“ And here, since I have mentioned the third Specification, I will (for the Sake of the 19th Country Pillchards and Yawsack Herrings, and to explain more at large what I find you did but just mention of the Duties of Fish in your No 49) subjoin an Account of the prodigious Duties which must hereafter be paid upon those two Sorts of Fish if this Specification should be rendered effectual. And that your Readers may the better understand and how much the said Specification has agreed shall be paid, I shall quote the Words thereof; viz.

“ Salt Fish in Barrels only is to be imported into the Kingdom; and at all Places of Entrance in the Kingdom, Counties, and Territories under the Dominion of the King, even at all Free Ports, the Duties of Landing and Consumption shall be paid, which were appointed before the Tariff of 1664. and besides, 40 Livres per Last consisting of 12 Barrels, weighing each 300 lb. for the Duty of Entry.

“ The Duty of Entry which is agreed shall be paid on Fish by this specification, (tho’ otherwise used in the Tariff of 1664.) is, for every Last of 12 Barrels, Livres, 10

“ Besides the Duty of Landing, which is 3 1/2 to As also the Duty of Consumption, 36

“ To which must be added 2 Sols per Livre upon those two Duties, being an Augmentation constantly paid thereon, 6 1/2

“ The Fishmongers Duty 3 Liv. per Barrel, 36

“ Add to this the 2 Sols per Liv. as above, 3 1/2

“ The Duty of Ransoms, (which is payable in the respective Provinces that are included in the Provision referred to in the 9th Article, in these Words, And in the other Provinces the Duty shall not be payable, otherwise then according to the Rate at that Time prescribed) 16 Sols per Barrel, 33 1/2

“ Add to this the Augmentation of 2 Sols per Livre, as above, 3 1/2

£. 195 00

“ Which, at 18 s. per Livre, is 14 l. 9 s. 7 d. per Last of 12 Barrels, or 24 s. 2 d. per Barrel of 300 lb. weight.

“ But because a Barrel of Herrings seldom weighs above two thirds of that weight, therefore, instead of 24 s. 2 d. per Barrel, I compute it only 16 s. 6 d. per Barrel of Herrings, the Value whereof is seldom, out Year with another, 25 s. put on Board; so that this Duty will amount to about 105 or 106 per centum of their Value shipp’d off.

“ And as a Hogshead of Pickards weighs generally above 500 lb. weight, I compute for 300 lb. 24 s. 2 d. 16 s.

“ The Duty on a Hhd. of Pickards then is 40 s. 01 d.

“ Which is more than 100 per centum of their Value shipp’d off; for they cannot reasonably be effected



at 40 s. per Hoghead at a Medium for any Number of Years

They must be as ignorant as the Mercator, that we can imagine we can send either of these Sorts of Fish thither, if ever this Treaty take Effect. I am,

In our last, in p. 2. Col. 1. in the 4th Line, for Merchant read Mercator; p. 3. Col. 2. Line 27. for such read each; p. 4. Col. 1. Line 23. for Knapping, read Napping; l. 40. for Broad Cloth, read British Cloth.

From FRIDAY, May 14. to TUESDAY, May 18. 1714.

A Point gain'd of the Mercator.

A Recapitulation of the Argument in Defence of the Old SCHEME in Numb. 80.

FOR a long time the Mercator was either himself, or believed that we were so very ignorant of the Custom-house Accounts, that he would ever be appealing to those Accounts, as the only and infallible Evidence that the French Commerce was beneficial to this Nation.

I have often challenged him to produce the Entries of any one Year to prove his Assertion. I have proved the direct contrary by the very Entries of the Custom-house, so that now the Doctrine of his late Papers is, 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; so that 'tis manifest I have gain'd one Point of the Mercator.

I do not wonder that he is now so out of Love with Custom-house Accounts. This was reasonable to be expected, because they are so many Arguments against the Bill of Commerce; but it appears by that excellent Letter, *Brit. Merch.* Numb. 82, that even the Old Scheme is a Custom-house Account, and that it is so ancient and impartial an Evidence of our losing by the French Trade, that both the Mercator, and those that employ him, may very well be enraged at all the Custom-house Books upon that Account.

How often has that Scheme been traduc'd as a most unfair and partial Calculation, a disguised Callation, a shameful Paper, a horrid Ragsery, a cursed open naked Cheat, &c. And yet it was subscribed almost 40 Years ago by all the eminent French Traders in this City, several of them too of the Court Party, all of them required (by the Commissioners for making a Treaty of Commerce with France at that time) to represent their Opinions concerning the French Trade. Certainly it will never be said of them that they were a Party against the late Treaty of Commerce, which was made so many Years after that Scheme, and indeed after the Death of every one of the Subscribers.

The Scheme is entituled, A SCHEME OF THE TRADE, as it is at present carried on between England and France in the Commodities of the Native Products and Manufactures of each Country, calculated as usually is possible.

By that Scheme it appears, that our

l.	s.	d.
Whole Imports were	1,136,150	04 0
Our Exports no more than	171,021	06 8

So that the Balance against Eng-
land, in the Exchange of the Na-
tive Commodities and Manufactures of
each Country, was } 965,128 17 4

Every Objection against this Scheme is answered by my Correspondent in the foregoing *Brit. Merch.* Numb. 80.

The first Objection is by the present Commissioners of the Customs, that all our Foreign Goods re-exported are omitted, and they have given a List of Foreign Goods re-exported to France in the Year 1668-9, for which Year that Scheme was made.

To this my Correspondent has answered:
First, That the Scheme by its very Title is a Scheme of the Trade as it was carried on in the Native Commodities and Manufactures of each Country. Our Foreign Goods are not our Native Commodities and Manufactures, and tho' indeed they lessen the Balance against us, yet the Exportation of such Goods is not to

The Balance of Imports and Exports the only possible way of trying the Value of any particular Trade.

be depended on, since France might have them from the Fountain's Head, and was under no Necessity of taking those Goods from us; to which may be added, that she has so guarded her self by Prohibitions against taking any Foreign Goods from England, that our Re-exports formerly can be no Rule for the time to come; and our late Treaty of Commerce has not repealed the French Prohibitions of Foreign Goods and Merchandises.

But, Secondly, my Correspondent has computed the Value of all our Foreign Goods exported to France in the foregoing Year, and it amounts only to 63495 l. 6 s. 9 d.

A second Objection by the Mercator and the Commissioners of the Customs, is, that the Woollen and other Manufactures and Products exported to France, according to the SCHEME, are less than appear in the Entries of the Custom-house for that Year.

To this I have answered, Numb. 34, that all Custom-house Accounts which shall be produced now contrary to the Old Scheme, are very justly to be suspected. I have given my Reasons for this Answer in that Paper.

But, Secondly, My Correspondent acknowledging that the Woollen and Silk Manufactures exported from the Port of London, according to the Old Scheme, amounted only to 63466 l. 0 s. 0 d. and that the Merchants who subscribed that Scheme computed that but one third part of that Value in those Goods was exported from the Out-ports, and consequently from all England no more than 21152 l. 6 s. 8 d.

And also that all our other Exportations from all England, viz. of Lead, Tinn, Allom, Calve-skins and Leather, and other Goods, according to the Scheme, amounted to no more than 26400 l. so that our whole Exportations of Woollen Manufactures, and other Native Goods and Products, did not exceed the Sum of 171021 l. 6 s. 8 d. has then proceeded to tell us the very Quantities of all the foregoing Goods, which are pretended by the Report of the Commissioners to have been exported from the Port of London, and has computed the same at 171021 l. 6 s. 8 d.

And whereas the Merchants who subscribed the Scheme, according to an old Custom-house Rule, valued the Exports of Manufactures from the Out-ports at one third of the Value of the Exports from the Port of London, and the Commissioners of the Customs in their Report represented this as an Undervaluation.

My Correspondent, tho' he justifies the Merchants for having pursued a Custom-house Rule, when they were not able to procure any certain Account of the Exports from the Out-ports; yet to give the Mercator and the Commissioners as fair play as possible, he is contented to allow,

First, That the Exports from London were not according to the Old Scheme, but even according to the Report of the Commissioners 151325 l. 9 s.

And, Secondly, That not one third part only of that Value, but even the half of that whole Value, was exported from the Out-ports, according to the Proportion of the Year 1685, when it appears that half the Value of the said Goods exported from London was exported from the Out-ports, so that the Exports from the Out-ports will amount, according to this Proportion, to 75661 l. 12 s.

I would not have the *Mercator*, or the Commissioners of the Customs, imagine that my Correspondent gives up the Scheme to their Report; for the Reasons I have given against crediting any Custom-house Accounts to be produced at this time of Day against the Old Scheme, he will never do. But to let these Gentlemen make our Exportations to *France* as large as possible in that Year, he has shewn, that even by their own Accounts our Exportation of our Native Goods and Manufactures from *London* did not exceed

85133 08 0

that all our Exports from the Out-ports could not exceed

7566t 14 0

and that all our Foreign Goods exported from *London* did not exceed

61495 06 9

so that the Exports from all *England* } 290480 08 9
were no more than

The next thing objected against the Scheme is, that the Merchants who subscribed it, have exceeded in the imported Goods.

But as not the least Proof has been offered to make good this Objection, my Correspondent has effectually maintained every one Article of our Imports to have been near as much, and many of them more, than the Imports in the Scheme.

The Scheme makes the Article of imported Linens

507350 04 00

My Correspondent has demonstrated partly from the Report of the Commissioners, and partly from another uncorrected Custom-house Account, that the Linens imported from *France* in that Year amounted to

506957 07 06

And what a Trifle is this short of the Sum in the Scheme?

The Scheme does not pretend to give the exact Quantity of wrought Silk imported from *France* in 1669, but conjectures that the Value imported that Year might be as much as in 1674, viz. 150000 *li*. wt. and might amount to 300,000 *l*.

The Commissioners in their Report say, that only 6630 $\frac{1}{2}$ *li*. wt. were imported into the Port of *London*.

My Correspondent seems unwilling to censure the Commissioners for not telling us what Quantity was imported at the Out-Ports, tho' 'tis well known that wrought Silks were chiefly imported, not at *London*, but the Out-Ports.

And in 1685 but 5906 $\frac{1}{2}$ *li*. were imported at *London*, and 15591 *li*. were imported at the Out-Ports, almost 20 Times as much as at the Port of *London*, besides what might be imported during the *Michaelmas* Quarter at *Dreal*, and other Out-Ports, which might probably make the whole Quantity 150000 *li*. wt. for the whole Year.

For what Reason did the Commissioners keep back the Importation of the Out-Ports? But their silence ought to be taken for their Consent to the Scheme in this Article.

But my Correspondent gives me Reason to believe, that not only the value of 300,000 *l*. but 800,000 *l*. was annually imported into *England*, (and he writes like one that knows) by making Allowance for clandestine Importations.

And I think I have also shewn in a former Paper, that what by fair Entries and clandestine Importations, at least the Value of 800000 *l*. in *French* Linens was annually imported into *England*.

The Scheme supposes the annual Importations of *Fr*. Wines to be 12000 Tons at 12 *l*. 10 *s*. per Ton, the whole 137500 *l*.

My Correspondent shews it to have exceeded more Years than it has fallen short, and the Account of the Farmers of the Customs comes up to almost the very Quantity in the Scheme the very same Year.

Brandy imported is supposed to be 4000 Tons per the Scheme, at 20 *l*. per Ton.

The Merchants did not suppose that so much was imported in 1669, because they themselves have represented otherwise to the then Commissioners for a Treaty of Commerce; but my Correspondent has shewn they had just Reason to rate it at that Quantity by the Medium of other Years, and the annual Increase of that Importation.

The Scheme makes the Value of *French* Paper imported to be 40000 *l*.

My Correspondent makes it appear by the Entries to have been 46803 *l*.

Pruens, *Feathers*, *Salt* and *Rozin*, per the Scheme are 16400 *l*.

My Correspondent has shewn their Value to have been in the very Year of the Scheme 52990 *l*. 12 *s*. 06d.

The *Fr*. Kid-skins imported are valued in the Scheme at 15000 *l*.

My Correspondent has made it credible, the Value could not be less than 13575 *l*. 21 *s*. 6 *d*. and this given from the Report of the now Commissioners of the Customs.

All other *Fr*. Imports are valued at 40000 *l*. in the Scheme.

My Correspondent has made it credible from the very Commissioners Report, and by other Arguments, that the Importation that very Year of other *Fr*. Goods ought not to be valued at less than 55677 *l*. 12 *s*. 8 *d*.

So that the Scheme has valued all the *Fr*. Imports at

2136150 4 2

And my Correspondent has shewn their Value to be

2191506 04 2

My Correspondent does by no means think himself obliged to allow the Objections made to the Scheme, but if they should be allowed, and the whole Value of exported Goods should stand as above at

290480 08 9

Yet still the imported Goods would exceed in the Sum of

903025 15 4

This is a Balance against us made out even by Custom-house Accounts, and chiefly by Custom-house Accounts of the shewing of the present Commissioners of the Customs. The *Mercator* and the present Commissioners of the Customs, whether they intended any such thing or no, have helped us to Arguments to support the old Scheme, and to prove that we lost above 900,000 *per An*. by the Balance of our *Fr*. Trade.

It is ridiculous in the *Mercator*, or any one else, to tell us what we have exported to *France*, without telling us at the same time what was the Value of our Imports; for by the exact Knowledge of both, we can only know how much we are Gainers or Losers by that Trade. If they can shew that our Exports have at any time exceeded, every Child would be able to infer that that whole Excess was our Gain. On the contrary, if our Imports have exceeded, that the whole Excess was our Loss.

To magnify our Exports, or diminish our Imports by comparative and superlative Words, serves for nothing but to amuse the ignorant. The Balance, the Balance of both, is the only thing that can demonstrate our Profit or our Loss.

If we sell more Goods than we buy, the Balance must be coming to us in Money, and that is so much Gain.

If we buy more Goods than we sell, we must pay away the Balance in Money, and that is so much Loss to the Nation.

This is finely expressed in *Sir William Temple's* Observations upon the United Provinces, 5th Ed. *pag*. 130 *Cap*. 6th. "The vulgar Mistake, that Importation of foreign Wares, if purchased with Native Commodities, and not with Money, does not make a Nation poorer, is but what wish every Man that gives himself Jealousie to think, must immediately rectify, by finding out, that upon the End of an Account between a Nation, and all they deal with abroad, whatever the Exportation wants in Value to balance that of the Exportation, must of Necessity be made up with ready Money.

"By this we find out the Foundation of the Riches of *Holland*, as of their Trade by the Circumstances already rehearsed. For never any Country traded so much, and consumed so little: They buy infinitely, but 'tis to sell again, either upon Improvement of the Commodity, or at a better Market. They are the great Masters of the Indian Spices, and of the Persian Silks; but wear plain Woollen, and feed upon their own Fish and Roots. Nay, they sell the finest of their own Cloth to *France*, and buy Coarse out of *England* for their own Wear. They send abroad the best of their own Butter into all Parts, and buy the cheapest out of *Ireland*, or the North of *England* for their own Use. In short, they furnish infinite Luxury, which they never Practice, and Traffic in Pleasures which they never Taste.

"And before, in *pag*. 230 "It is no constant Rule, that Trade makes Riches; for there may be a Trade

that Impoverishes a Nation : As it is not often going to Market, that enriches the Country-man ; but on the contrary, if every time he comes there, he Boys to a greater Value than he Sells, he grows the Poorer, the other he goes ; But the only and certain Scale of Riches arising from Trade in a Nation, is the Proportion of what is exported for the Consumption of others to what is imported for their own. It is manifest that, by this Rule, England was impoverished by the Fr. Trade. It is manifest by the old Scheme, admitting all the Objections that can be made against it, with any Colour of Reason, that we purchased from France, Goods to the value of 900,000*l*. for our Consumption, more than we sold to that Nation in a Year. Therefore we had so much to pay in Money, therefore that whole Balance was our Loss. But the Loss of Money was not the worst of our

Condition. We paid this 900,000*l*. in Money to the Fr. Nation ; but for what was it that we paid it ? We paid it for the Product of their Lands, and for the Labour of their People. Our Lands and our People in the mean time lost their Market for so much of their Product and Labour, as was equal to that 900,000*l*. for it will not be imagined that the Consumption of our own Goods was not lessened in Proportion to that Overballeance of Goods and Merchandizes which we imported from the Fr. Nation. What a Havock must it needs have made among our Landed and our Labouring People, to have been deprived of a Market of such a Value ? Our Legislators might well chide as they did, that the Importation of French Manufactures, &c. exhausted our Treasure, and lessened the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures.

From TUESDAY, May 18, to FRIDAY, May 21, 1714.

The Exportation of Raw Silk from Great Britain and Turkey to France considered

To the British Merchant.

S I R, 'T'HO' you have effectually demonstrated, in several of your Papers, the pernicious Consequences of opening a free Trade with France, and have fairly and fully exposed many of the Arguments urged in favour thereof ; yet we shall take the Liberty to put you in mind of one Argument for that Trade, which we are informed is of considerable Importance, or at least great Stress is laid thereon, *viz.*

That if the French Trade was open as formerly, though the French would import their Silk Manufactures into this Kingdom, yet we should thereby retrieve a considerable Market for our Raw Silk in that Kingdom, by exporting great Quantities both from hence and directly from the Levant.

And consequently that such a current Consumption for our Raw Silk would greatly promote our Trade to Turkey, and ruin the French Trade in those Parts, &c.

Your Answer to this will oblige

S I R, your humble Servant,
W. L. and S. K.

In Answer to this Letter I shall assert in general, that if the French were permitted to import their Wrought Silks into this Kingdom, (as they will be if ever the Treaty of Commerce should be rendered effectual) all the imaginary happy Consequences that can be deduced from that ill-grounded Supposition of our supplying France with Raw Silk, must prove vain Chimeras, mere empty Notions, though really well enough adapted to amuse the ignorant, or those who are wilfully and obstinately blind.

But to descend to Particulars

By the Custom house Accounts laid before the last Parliament, it does not appear, that from Michaelmas 1668 to Michaelmas 1669, there was any Raw Silk re-exported from London to France ; however, after the Restoration France did sometimes afford us a Market for this Commodity. But though the Quantity was not considerable, and that at least two thirds of all that was ever sold or exported for France was Ardais, which is worth but about 9*s*. per lib. wt. being the coarsest Sort of Poissy Raw Silk.

Yet so intent was the French King at this Time upon encouraging the Levant Trade in his Dominions, that in March 1669 he issued out an Edict, whereby a Duty of 30 per Cent. was imposed on Raw Silk, and all other Goods from the Levant which should be imported into France, provided they had been landed in England, or in any other foreign Country.

This was intended as a Prohibition to this Trade ; but the Farmers of the Customs finding that this Edict

would be prejudicial to their Farms, and the Importations of Raw Silk from Turkey not being then sufficient to supply the Manufacturers, the Execution of this Edict was for some time connived at, or rather dispensed with.

In this manner therefore the Trade in Raw Silk between France and other Countries in Christendom continued until August 1685, when an Arrest of Council was published, which enjoined a strict Execution of the aforesaid Edict of 1669.

To this the Farmers were obliged to have a greater Regard than to the former, and the Importation by way of French Fleets was in a manner thereby prevented : But so it was, that the Importations both of Raw Silk and all Levant Goods from England was still permitted ; probably because if it had been otherwise, it would have founded very harsh in the Eyes of our Legislators, after they had in that very Year repealed the Statute of 1678, which prohibited the Importation of all their Manufactures and Products.

For, as I am informed, the Exportations of Raw Silk from London after that Arrest took Place, stood thus ;

From Mirk	{ 1685	to	MAR	{ 1686	lib. 11722
	{ 1686			{ 1687	1391
	{ 1687			{ 1688	1952

In 3 Years, lib. 15075

which at a Medium cannot exceed 28 or 30 Bales per Annum ; so that this was the advantageous Market which was then enjoyed for our Raw Silk in France upon taking off that Prohibition.

About this Time the Trade between France and Turkey being increased, it was again attempted to promote the Consumption of Raw Silk from the Levant and to obstruct the Importation thereof at Rouen, &c. by engaging the Manufacturers of L. &c. and others to supply themselves with Raw Silk from Marseille, as is evident from the Arrests of the 22d of February and 9th of November, 1685. And by another Arrest of the 15th of June in the same Year, Transfers or Permits were granted them, whereby they could have their Raw Silk from the said Port of Marseille without paying any of these Duties, either of Importation or Excise, to which the Traders to other Parts of the Kingdom were subject.

But the said two Arrests were by Degrees hid aside, on Pretence of facilitating the Importation of Silk and other Goods proper for the Manufacturers of L. &c.

This proving prejudicial to the Levant Company in France, (whose Trade began now to flourish considerably) in 1691 they represented to his Majesty, that unless the Importation of Levant Goods from France could be prevented, it would be impossible for them to carry on

this Trade to Turkey, whereby the Expectation of the several Manufactures of France would be diminished, the principal whereof are Woollen Cloths, Perpetus, Caps, Paper, &c.

It was further urged, That it was easier for his Majesty's Subjects of French Flanders to have their Raw Silks, &c. from them, than from Foreigners, who by this prohibitive Traffick draw considerable Sums from the Kingdom.

Hereupon on the 3d of July, 1699, His Majesty ordains, That all Silks, and other Goods and Merchandizes coming from the Levant, &c. which have been landed in any other foreign Country, shall pay the Duties of 20 per Cent ad Valorem. And his Majesty P R O H I B I T S all the said Goods and Merchandizes to be imported at any other Port or Place of the Kingdom, except only at the Port of Dunkirk and the City of Roan, paying the said Duties of 20 per Cent. And excludes and prohibits all other Ports and Passages, whether by Sea or Land, according to the aforesaid Arrest of the 15th of August, 1685, so far as Consuetudine as well of the Goods as of the Horses, Waggones, Boats, Kiffles, and other Carriages concerned in bringing the said Goods, and of 2000 Livres Fine for every Offence.

Thus the Importation of raw Silk into France, that had been landed in any Part of Christendom, whether in England, Holland, or Italy, was entirely prevented, not only during the Remainder of that War, but in the last Peace, and even to this present Time, as well by the Subjects of France, as by Foreigners.

And in the French Book of Rates lately translated into English, Fol. 284. after the List of those Merchandizes from the Levant, which are to pay 20 per Cent. ad valorem, according to the Arrest of the 15th of August, 1685, it is noted, That SILK FROM THE LEVANT is not comprised in that present List, because it is PROHIBITED BY THE KING'S ORDINANCE.

However it must be observed, That the Dutch, by the 9th Article of their Treaty with France, both at Ryswick and Utrecht, did obtain, That as to the Levant Trade in France, and also 20 per Cent. raised on that Occasion, the Subjects of the States-General of the United Provinces shall also enjoy the same Liberty and Freedom as the Subjects of the most Christian King; so as that the said Subjects of the States-General shall be permitted to carry Merchandizes from the Levant to Marseille, and other Places permitted in France, as well by their own Ships as in French Ships; and that the Subjects of the States-General shall in neither Case be subject to the said 20 per Cent. unless in Cases where the French are subject to it for carrying Merchandizes in their own Ships to Marseille, and other Places permitted; and that no Alteration shall be made herein to the Prejudice of the Subjects of the said States-General.

By this Article it is evident, the Dutch had no other Advantage granted to them by the Treaty of Ryswick than the English enjoy'd, (tho' we had no Treaty of Commerce with the French at that Time) except a Liberty to import Goods and Merchandize directly from the Levant to Marseille, &c. since the Subjects of France, as well as of the United Provinces, were prohibited to import those Commodities from any Place in Christendom, without paying the Duty of 20 per Cent.

But the Interruption not only of Commerce, but of Correspondence in France, during the late Wars, rendered us such Strangers to the Laws of that Kingdom, that it was apprehended this Article was of much greater Importance than it really was; and therefore it was insisted on at Utrecht, and obtained under the general Rule in the 8th Article.

However we have no Relief hereby as to the Exportation of our raw Silk to France, nor should we have had any by the Treaty of Commerce, if it had been rendered effectual by a Law, being prohibited as aforesaid.

For by the 5th Article of the said Treaty it is stipulated, That the Subjects of each of their royal Majesties may have Leave and License to come with their Ships, as also with the Merchandizes and Goods on board the same (THE TRADE AND IMPORTATION WHEREOF ARE NOT PROHIBITED BY THE LAWS OF EITHER KINGDOM) to the Lands, Countries, &c. And that the Laws and Statutes of each Kingdom shall remain in full Force, and shall be duly put in Execution, whether they relate to Commerce and Navigation, or to any other Right; these Cases being only excepted, concerning which it is otherwise determined in the Articles of the present Treaty.

It is then very obvious, that unless the aforesaid Prohibition of raw Silk is taken off by any subsequent Article in that Treaty, it must still remain in Force.

But I cannot find that any other Prohibitions in France are to be repealed, than QUO AD BONA MERCESQUE MAGNE BRIFANNIE, as far as they relate to the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, as in the 9th Article.

And therefore I shall conclude, that all Prohibitions in France relating to foreign Goods, as to such as are manufactured with foreign Materials, are allowed, continued, and confirmed by this Treaty.

The Importation of raw Silk from Great Britain into France being prohibited, as aforesaid, it remains to be considered, whether we can reasonably expect any considerable Benefit by importing of raw Silk directly from Turkey to Marseille.

Before these late Wars with France, our Trade from the Levant to Marseille was very inconsiderable; however, now and then, a little Silk, some Wax, Sheeps-Wool, Goats-Hair, Drugs, Cotton-Wool, and Yarn, Pintadoes, Hydes, &c. were sent thither; but it is much doubted whether, at a Medium, the whole Value of those Exports amounted to 4 or 5000 l. per Annum.

And I am very well assured, that the Dutch, during the last Peace, did not so much as dispatch one Ship from the Levant to Marseille; neither were they known to be concerned on the French Ships which went in that Trade; so that their Commerce that way, if they had any, was carried on privately, and could be but of very small Importance.

Neither can either we or they ever expect any Benefit from that Market, unless we had equal Liberty with the French Levant Company to carry our Goods by Transits into all Parts of that Kingdom, and thro' it into other Countries.

For thereby they are discharged of the Duties which must otherwise be paid at Lion, and in every Province thro' which they pass, the Prages de Rabais, of the Duty of 2 per Cent. d'Adou, siers par Fines, Quarantaine, and other extraordinary Impositions and Duties whatsoever.

But this Indulgence is confined to the said Levant Company, and some few others, purely to encourage the Consumption of the Goods they import from Turkey, in return for what they export thither.

The Sieur Magi and his Partners, (who are Woollen Manufacturers in Langoude) to obtain this Favour, are obliged to export annually 2000 Draps Londres, of the Cloths made in Imitation of ours at Clermont, Sedan, &c. to the Levant, as may be seen in the Arrest of the 2d of December, 1699.

Whereby it also appears, That the Merchants of Marseille were enabled by the said Transits, to discharge and sell out of the Kingdom one Part of the Merchandize which they import from the Levant to other Countries.

If then their Importations of all Levant Goods in 1699 were so great, that they had sufficient for their own Manufactures in France, and a SURPLUS to sell to Foreigners, certainly we have little Reason to flatter our selves that Marseille can take off our Levant Commodities, when we reflect either on what has been already mentioned, or on the prodigious Increase of their Trade since that Time.

My aforesaid Correspondents and my Readers may hereafter expect an ample Account of this ungrateful Scene; but at present I shall only assert, that about 19 Years past the French Trade to Turkey was very inconsiderable; whereas, since the Conclusion of the Peace, the French Merchants being encouraged by the Hopes of a free Trade with Great Britain, and probably well supported by better Purcha than their own, have vastly extended their Commerce in the Grand Signior's Dominions, their Ships carrying down great Quantities of Cloth and Woolen Goods, besides divers other rich Commodities.

To which must be added the prodigious Sums they import into Turkey in Pieces of Eight, often 50,000, and 100,000, and sometimes 150,000 by a single Ship; whereby they are enabled to dispose of their Cloth in Quantity, and have several times since the aforesaid Period engros'd both the fine and coarse Silk upon the first Arrival of the Persia Caravans; and it's needless to insist on the large Parcels of other Sorts of Goods which they daily engage in.

Well therefore might one of my Correspondents, N^o 79 say, that the French Nation is immoderately bent upon enlarging her Traffick, &c. and I am afraid, if we should grant them a Market for their wrought Silks, we should at the same time establish their Trade, and ruin our own in the Levant.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From FRIDAY, May 20, to TUESDAY, May 25, 1714.

Confining the English People to English Products and Manufactures. And not driving them out of England into other

Countries by wholesome Severities, are the chief Ways to keep up the Rents of our Lands, and the Prices of our Manufactures.

ONE of the constant Titles of my Paper is *Commerce Preserv'd*. And every one of my Readers must observe by the whole Course of my Writings, that by the Preservation of our Commerce, my chief Aim has been to recommend the Preservation of the best Markets for the Product and Manufactures of my Native Country.

The first and best Market of *England* are the Natives and Inhabitants of *England*. It is computed that we have Seven Millions of People, and that great and small, rich and poor, one with another, are not lodg'd, fed and cloth'd for less than 7 l. per Head, so that the Expence, or Consumption, of our whole People must amount to 49 or 50 Millions of Pounds Sterling per Annum.

This whole Sum is annually paid for the Product and Manufactures of *Great-Britain*, except only so much of it as is paid for our Foreign Consumption, and for the annual Lodging of our People.

Our whole Importations do not exceed the Value of 5 Millions per Annum, great Quantities of these are re-exported, and there is not the least Reason to believe that our whole Foreign Consumption can amount to 4 Millions.

Neither is there any Reason to believe that our People are lodg'd at above the Price of 10 s. per Head at a Medium; or that the whole House-Rents of *England* for 7 Millions of People can exceed three Millions and a half.

And consequently allowing 7½ Millions for Lodging, and our Foreign Consumption, above 43 of the 50 Millions Expence of our People are paid for the Product and Manufactures of our Native Country. Our own People are a constant Market for our own Product and Manufactures of so great a Value.

The Gentleman fondly imagines that he receives his Rent from his Tenant; the Weaver that he is paid his Wages by the Master Clothier; but it is the Consumer that pays both, he pays the Price of the Wool and the Charge of the Manufacture, neither the one nor the other can be paid but by the Consumption of the People.

For my own part therefore, I consider every Person in the Kingdom for what he eats and drinks, and wears as a Tenant to the Lands, and a Pay-master of our Labourers; and if 7 Millions of People consume the yearly Value of 43 Millions of our Native Product and Manufactures, as was said above, every one at a Medium pays the yearly Sum of 6 l. to the Lands and Labour of this Kingdom; every one is a Market of such a Value to his Country.

All our annual Exportations to Foreign Countries, both of our own and Foreign Goods and Merchandizes, do not amount to 7 Millions; and therefore since our own People are a Market for our own Product and Manufactures to the Value of 43 Millions yearly, all our Foreign Markets join'd together are not of one sixth part of that Value.

Besides, from the Value of our Foreign Markets, there ought to be deducted the Price of all the Goods we buy, and especially that interflow with and hinder the Consumption of our own; and if this shall be considered, it will be found that all our Foreign Markets, far from a sixth part, cannot be equal to one twentieth part of our own, for taking off our Native Product and Manufactures.

It remains therefore, as I said at first, that our own Consumption, the Consumption of our own People, are the best and greatest Market for the Product and Manufactures of our own Country.

The Preservation and Increase of this Market has been the Thing principally intended in almost every one of my former Papers.

Every Argument which proves that *France* heretofore over-balance'd all our Exports to that Country by her Importations into *England*, or that she would do so again, if the present high Duties should be taken off, or that the Linnens, Wrought Silk, Paper, and other Manufactures of *France*, are so much cheaper than those of the same kind made in *England*; that the Duties by the late Treaty of Commerce will not render them so dear as ours; or that those vast Improvements we have made in several Manufactures since the Commencement of the high Duties on those of *France*, must all fall to the Ground when the Duties shall be reduced to the Terms of the late Treaty; in short, every Argument which proves that by rendering the late Treaty effectual, we should consume less of our own Manufactures, and more of the *French* than we do at present, is an Argument against the Bill of Commerce, against suffering the Importation of any Foreign Goods or Merchandizes that shall any way prejudice the Sale of our own, and such generally have been the Subjects of my former Papers.

It is not to be expected that our own People will ever buy the Product or Manufactures of their own Country, if the like are to be had cheaper from Foreign Nations. Therefore those of Foreign Nations are either prohibited or loaded with high Duties, that our own may have no Rival to contend with among our selves. And I make no doubt that the Use of Foreign Manufactures in *England* will always be discourag'd by our Legislators for this very Reason, that our own Consumption, which pays annually the Sum of 43 Millions to our own Product and Manufactures, that is, to the Rents of our Lands, and the Labour of our People, may never pay any part of the above-mentioned Sum to the Rents and Labour of Foreign Nations; or at least that sufficient Care will be always taken that the Consumption of every other Nation shall pay as much to the Rents and Labour of *Great-Britain*, as *Great-Britain* shall to any such other Nation. And there is no way of doing this but by Prohibitions or high Duties, to prevent our being over-balance'd by their Importations.

We suffer the Goods and Merchandizes of *Holland*,

Germany, Portugal and Italy, to be imported and consumed among us; and it is well we do, for we export a much greater Value of our own to those Countries than we take from them; so that the Consumption of those Nations pays much greater Sums to the Rents of our Lands, and the Labour of our People, than ours does to them.

For we keep out as much as possible the Goods and Merchandizes of France, because our Consumption of them would very much hinder the Consumption of our own, and abate a great part of that 42 Millions, which it now pays to the Rents of our Lands, and the Labour of our People. Neither would France make us any Amends; our very Treaty of Commerce with her, has still left so many Prohibitions and high Duties on our Products and Manufactures in that Country, that very few of them would be received there. I cannot suspect that this Matter will not be duly considered before that Treaty shall be made effectual. Particular Persons may perhaps find their Account in the Treaty, or it may be necessary for them that it should be made effectual; but a British Parliament will consider what Amends shall be made the Nation for giving away any part of our Rents, or of the Wages of our People.

The next Care to that of confining the English People to our English Products and Manufactures, will be that of confining them to England; since if any Numbers of them should leave the Kingdom, this could not chuse but make a great Abatement in the 42 Millions that are now yearly paid to the Rents of our Lands, and the Labour of our People.

Every Resident in England will easily be believed to pay at least 10 s. per Annum for his House-Rent, and at least 6 l. per Annum for our Products and Manufactures; but how much will be paid of this if he should retire into any other Country? Nothing at all for House-Rent, and very little for the Products and Manufactures of the Kingdom.

The United Provinces are the very greatest of all our foreign Markets, since the Lands there are not sufficient to produce Provisions for the Bellies nor Cloaths for the Backs of their own Inhabitants; and therefore they take off very great Quantities of both from us: Yet our whole Exports to those Provinces, at a Medium, have not exceeded two Millions per Annum, which is not above 10 s. per Head for every one of their Inhabitants. What then should we get by driving our People into Holland? We should drive them out of England, where every one pays at least 6 l. 10 s. to the Rents and Labour of our own Country, into a Nation where no one amongst them will pay above 10 s. for our Products and Manufactures: We should lose 6 l. per Annum by every Subject that should retire from this Kingdom into the United Provinces.

The United Provinces are almost wholly peopled by giving that Ease to Strangers, which they want in their native Countries. When I made my Ramble through that Country, I could not but observe with Regret, that there was an English Congregation in almost every one of their great Towns, and a great many such in Rotterdam. By the best Information I could gather there, above an hundred thousand of their whole Inhabitants, were either Deserters from this Nation, or the Descendants of such Deserters: Such as had fled thither for the Ease they wanted in their own Country. I could not but reflect what a Loss this was to Great Britain, and what a Gain to those Provinces: If every Resident in this Nation pays at least 6 l. 10 s. for Lodging, Products, and Manufactures to Great Britain, and the Resident in Holland does not pay above 10 s. yearly to Great Britain upon any Account whatsoever; tho' he pays a great deal more than 6 l. 10 s. for the Lodging, Products and Manufactures of that Country; then by this Desertion of a hundred thousand of our People and their Increase, Great Britain has lost 600000 l. per Annum, and Holland has gained a great deal more than that Sum, and an Estate too still increasing with the Descendants of those Deserters.

His Most Christian Majesty was so sensible that his Subjects were the Riches of his Country, that tho' he resolved to make them all of his own Religion, yet he made the Penalty to be Death, or Gallies, if they deserted their Country, upon this Account: But 'twas hedging in the Cuckoo. Infinite are the Deserters from France over England, Holland, Germany, and Switzerland: There is no Man in his Senses can believe, that in other Countries they now pay as much to the

Product and Manufactures of France as if they still are in that Kingdom.

One of the extraordinary Methods in France, is, that the People who are suspected to differ from the King's Religion in their Hearts, shall not have the Liberty of chusing what Tutors, or Masters, they think fit for their own Children: But if they cannot have this Liberty in France, they will retire, and we see they do retire with their Children into other Countries, where they shall not be under any such Restraint.

I have said before, that 'tis not sufficient to confine our People to our own Products and Manufactures, we must also confine them to their own Country; for if they shall be forc'd to desert to other Nations, there is an End of the Sums which they pay for the yearly Products and Manufactures of this Kingdom: With a very Subject the Nation will lose 6 l. 10 s. per Annum, with every hundred thousand 600000 l. per Annum, and what many will think a great Aggravation of our Loss, is, that Holland, which is the common Refuge of Deserters, will gain as much Revenue as shall be lost to Great Britain.

But how is it that our People are to be confin'd to our own Country? By using wholesome Severities to bring them over to the national Religion; by forcing Dissenters to worship God in a Way they do not like by chusing Tutors for the Children which the Parents would not chuse a by making it penal for any Person to be a Teacher that is not of the Church of England. It is senseless to imagine, that the Father will not be as careful of his Child's Soul as of his own, and that both together will not seek that Ease of Conscience in other Countries which they shall not be allowed in England: But let them retire to whatsoever Country, England is sure to lose so much as every one pays to the Products of our Lands and the Manufactures of our People.

I remember something pertinent to this Discourse that fell from a Reverend Divine of the Church of England: He had tried, in vain, his wholesome Severities that were heretofore in Fashion, but the Dissention increas'd upon them. After the Toleration came, he carelessly and courted the Dissent, and by Degrees brought most of them over to the Church. One Day he took me along with him to visit a Farmer of his Parish, a very zealous Man, that wish'd all the Dissenters were banish'd out of the Kingdom. The Divine, without correcting him for his Zeal, ask'd him the Price of Wool: he answer'd, it was so low, and had been for several Year, that he should be oblig'd to leave his Farm. What say'd the Divine, if we should banish 3 or 40000 Dissenters, who all wear our woollen Manufactures, would the Banishment of so many Buyers mend the Price of Wool? But our Zeal is generally so great that we seldom think of Consequences.

Every Man living is able to reason upon this Subject: But my Unhappinesse is such, that the Reason will not believe me, if I do not bring him Authorities for common Sense. I shall give him two Authorities upon this Occasion, both great Men and Courages in the Reign of King Charles II.

The first shall be Sir William Temple, who, in his Chapter concerning the Religion of the United Provinces, says, That whatsoever design the Change of Religion in a Country, or Government, by any other Means than that of a general (by which its plain he means voluntary) Conversion of the People, designs all the Mischiefs of a Nation that rise to infer in, or attend, the two great Evils of a State, Civil War, or Tyranny. This kind it is no more in a Man's Power than his Statute or his Laws: and he that tells me I must change my Opinion or his, because 'tis truer or better, without other Arguments, has no more to me the Force of Convictions, may as well tell me I must change my grey Eyes for others, like his, that are dark, beautifully are levelled, or more in Effluen: That every Man has as much Care of his own Soul as another. Therefore it is provided in the very Constitution of the United Provinces, That every Man shall remain in his own Religion, and none be constrained or entreated for the Cause: That the Church suffer no Violence, or Oppression upon any Man's Conscience, whose Opinions break not out in any Actions of ill Consequence to that State: That the Toleration or Sharpness, which accommodates the Differences of Religion in other Countries, it appears, or is justified, hereby the general Freedom which all Men enjoy; and lastly, That the Government be so wisely to the Increase of their Trade, and the Growth of their Trade and Riches.

Many Men remember how full our Prisons were of Debitors before the Toleration; and will therefore readily believe, that many of them might escape into Holland for more Ease in their Religion, to the vast Increase of the People, Trade and Riches of that Country, and the great Impoverishment of ours.

Sir W. Petty is my second Author, who, in his first Chapter of Political Arithmetick, among other Reasons for the Dutch Policy of absolute and universal Freedom in Religion, alleges, *That as Men can believe what himself pleases, and as free Men to say they believe what they do not, is vain, absurd, and without Honour to God; that the Hollanders think all Men will be careful to save their own Souls, and that their State has no more Reason to interest itself in this Matter, than to take Bonds of their Statesmen not to call away their Ships and Levies; that Her-*

odoxy does still prevail, where the wrong Cause is used to procure Uniformity; that the, all Nations People should be removed out of their Country, for a new Christian Party will start up in the Remainder; and that the Protestant Party of every Country are, generally speaking, the more industrious, and contribute most to the Riches of the Nation.

But whatever are the Reasons, by which Sir W. Temple or Sir W. Petty are governed in this Matter, we are sure that the absolute Freedom of Conscience in Holland, has robb'd us of great Numbers of People, which, if they were now in England, must pay a very great Price for Houfe room, Food and Manufactures. God grant no more may be sent away, to the great Enriching of that Nation, and no less Impoverishment of our own.

From TUESDAY, May 25, TO FRIDAY, May 28, 1714

Rents are called Vivi Redditus, because the Lords and Owners thereof do live by them, which they shall enjoy the better, if Trade and Traffick be

I Have made it my chief Design in the Course of my Papers to inform my Readers of the natural and unavoidable Consequences to which this Kingdom will be exposed, if ever the late Treaty of Commerce with France should be rendered effectual by a Law.

And I hope that the malignant Influences which such a Concession must have on the most valuable Branches of our Trade, and on almost all our Manufactures, are now very obvious.

All the Vouchers which have been produced, either by the Merchant or myself, undoubtedly demonstrate and concur in this, That our Commerce with France was formerly destructive to this Nation's Interest, and, if again permitted, must entail such a Train of Calamities upon us, as no true and honest Briton can reflect on without the greatest Concern imaginable.

The Merchant may endeavour to puff his Shams for Realities upon his Party, and prate as long as he pleases: But to herd with those who can entertain tolerable Thoughts of paying a Million Sterling, or more, per Annum to France, rather than to our Landed Interest and to our industrious Poor, for Manufactures (as is fully made out by the Old Scheme) will never be the distinguishing Character of such as wish well to their Country.

On the contrary, those who by trifling and false Arguments would destroy our Commerce, that have successfully censured our late Legislators who rejected the Bill of Commerce, and safely traduced the Memorials of those noble and truly worthy Patriots, that formerly not only secured, but laid also a solid Foundation for enlarging the Trade of the Kingdom, by prohibiting the French Trade, will at last be deemed THE FACTION.

The prodigious Encrease of our Foreign Traffick since that Prohibition is really amazing; instead of paying two Millions annually upon our general Balance to those Nations with which we traded, to gain two Millions annually from them, is hardly to be credited, if the Inspector-General, who is the proper Officer, was not the Voucher.

I have often quoted the Facts which that Author has published, and being in hopes to give my Countrymen a better Relish of Trade, and of the said wholesome Prohibition, I have extracted out of his Discourses on Trade several Passages, which, if duly considered, must answer my Design.

He asserts, *That in the Year 1600, (which was before we became considerable in Trade) it does not appear, the general Rental of England for Land, Houses, Mines, &c. did exceed 6 Millions per Annum.*

Which at 11 Years Purchase (and they were not worth more in 1611, as Sir Tho. Chalceper and other later Authors have also affirmed) amount to 72 Millions.

But in 1698, (since England had extended her Trade to all the known Parts of the Universe) the said general Rental was computed at 14 Millions.

And being valued at 18 Years Purchase, (as Lands were worth one with another in 1698) amount to 252 Millions.

maintained, and our Native Commodities, which are rich and necessary, bolden up and saleable at a reasonable Value.

Sir Edw. Coke's Institut. Pt. 1. Book 2. Ch. 1.

Which effectually demonstrates the great Advantage our Landed Interest has enjoyed by encouraging and promoting our Foreign Trade and Commerce.

After this our Author proceeds to give his Opinion concerning the Stock of the Kingdom, how it stood formerly, and how it has since proceeded, and he computes,

<i>That the Stock of England was Anno 1600</i>	<i>about</i>	<i>1. 17,000,000</i>
<i>That in 30 Years it near doubled, and Anno 1630 was about</i>		<i>28,000,000</i>
<i>That in 30 Years it doubled, and Anno 1660 was about</i>		<i>56,000,000</i>
<i>That from 1660 to 1688 it above half doubled, and was in 1688 about</i>		<i>88,000,000</i>

If this Account is exact, or near the true State thereof, which I never heard questioned, the Inference is very clear, That by our Industry at home and our Traffick to Foreign Parts, the Stock, as well as the Value of the Lands of England, have been prodigiously increased and augmented, and consequently that every one who has any Interest or Concern therein ought TO TAKE CARE THE TRADE OF ENGLAND RECEIVE NO PREJUDICE.

But (says the Doctor) it may be here asked, how it came to pass that the Stock did not double the last, as well as the next preceding 30 Years? To which he answers,

That in the first 60 Years wherein England minded Trade, it had introduced but little FOREIGN LUXURY, &c. But there was a Stop put to our Career by the great Plague in 1665, by the Fire of London, which consumed a large Part of the present Stock, by our Wars abroad, and by our GROWING LUXURIES, which drew to other Uses what formerly was left wholly to run in the Channel of Trade.

And this he reasonably shews was the Cause, that from 1660 to 1688 our National Stock did not encrease in the same Proportion as before.

However, when the Kingdom had recovered these Losses and Stocks, which he had Grounds to think it had perfectly made about 1680, (Trade augmenting all the while, and becoming more extensive) its Wealth grew faster towards the latter End of the last Age of 30 Years than before.

From whence I argue,

1. That though the Plagues, the Fire, the Wars, and our Luxury, alias the FRENCH COMMERCE, did every one contribute to prevent the Encrease of our National Stock from 1660 to 1688, as aforesaid, yet in the preceding 30 Years we were also interrupted in our Course of Trade by our unnatural and fatal Civil Wars, &c. and therefore the Failure of this Encrease must be wholly charged to the Account of our Luxury.

2. That from 1660 to 1688, our excessive Luxuries being supplied chiefly from France, it was impossible that our Stock could encrease in the same Proportion as in the preceding Years, until that Trade was cramped and stinted.

3. That when the Prohibition in 1678 had put a Stop to that vast Expence of Treasure, which was then annually sent to France to purchase her Manufacture,

tures and Products, the National Stock did encrease immediately in the same or a greater Proportion than formerly, until 1685, when that Prohibition was repealed. And,

4. That though our general Trade was augmenting all the while, yet this Advantage was so far from being owing to our French Commerce, that it's beyond all doubt a very great Part of what was gained by our Trade with other Foreign Nations only paid our Debts in France before the Prohibition was in Force.

For our first Inspector-General has proved in his Reports, that in 1661-3, and in 1668-9, we lost by that Trade.

The Old Scheme, being again revived, must be brought in as an Evidence against the same Trade, both for the Years 1668-9 and 1674.

Our Legislators in 1678 prohibited it as a common Nuissance.

My Account, in Numb. 14, of the Exports and Imports to and from France in 1685-6, prove what a wretched Condition we should have been reduced to, by such a Commerce.

And the Accounts of 1686-7 and 1687-8, which the Mercator has so long stified, will, I doubt not, sing the same Tune.

I have also presented my Readers with the Opinions of *Pejusdewiff, De Wit, Ferris*, and the late Author of the *Review* (before he turn'd Mercator) upon this Subject; and it would be endless to produce the concurring Testimonies of all the Authors that have wrote against this Commerce.

But at present I shall omit calling up that Cloud of Witnesses, resolving rather to support Dr. *Daveman's* Assertion, That this Nation had perfectly recovered their Losses and Shocks in 1689; and that our Wealth grew faster after that Year (or rather from the Time of the Prohibition to 1685) than from 1660 to 1680, as aforesaid.

And in the first Place, I shall produce a Pamphlet wrote by Sir *Josiah Child*, or at least by his Direction, and approved of by the *Council* of Commissioners for the East-India Company in 1681, wherein, in Fol. 19. they state and answer an Objection as follows.

Object. *Some Clothiers complain that the East-India Company hinders the Sale of Cloth.*

Answer. *In the Year 1674, or 1675, the Clothiers had the Confidence to tell the Parliament, The Company would spoil the Trade of Cloth, and bring the Price of Wooll to nothing; but in fact, the Company hath since that time much augmented their Trade to India; Wooll is advanced 50 per Cent. and such a Trade there is, and hath been for Woollen Manufactures, as England never saw in any former Age, &c.*

Hereby it is evident, at first sight, what miserable Complaints were made at home for want of a Market for our Woollen Goods, whilst the French Trade was cherished, and what a happy Change was occasioned by the Prohibition. A great Demand for Wooll, and a current Consumption for the Woollen Manufactures.

The Clothiers had petitioned against the East-India Company as aforesaid; also against the Levant Company; and by frequent Applications, hombly implored the Assistance of the Legislator to support their tottering and declining Trade. In short, the Nation was uneasily, Rents fell in most Parts of the Kingdom, and great Complaints were made upon the visible Decay of Trade, and the great want of Money.

On the other hand, France had her Engineers at work, and if we may believe the Histories of those Times, she found great Advocates for her Trade, and for a long time corrupted, otherwise a brave Nation.

But at last, it was generally confessed and acknowledged, that the French Trade had ruined our own, and our Legislators came heartily in to the Prohibition in 1678, as aforesaid, notwithstanding the Court for sometime opposed it.

Murmurs and Complaints then ceased at once, Rents soon advanced, and Industry being encouraged, new Manufactures were daily set up, and there was a full Employment for the Poor.

The Gentleman and the Farmer, the Merchant and the Manufacturer soon experienced the mighty Benefits, and *Kiss'd their Goddess* which had freed them from that insupportable Burthen, under which for a long time they had groined and staggered.

But to proceed to some further Proofs of this favourable Alteration in the Nation's Trade, by several London Price Currents, which I have now before me, I find,

That *Clothier's Bays* were worth about *Michasmas* 1676 but 17 s. 4 per Ell. 1677 16 s. and 6 d. per Ell.

And advanced after the Prohibition at *Michasmas* 1679 to 18 s. and 6 1680 23 s. and 6 1681 24 s.

And I refer to the Books and Accounts of all our Merchants, who were then engaged in Trade, whether in general the Value of all our other Woollen Manufactures did not encrease in proportion from the Year 1678.

The Price of Spanish Wooll, which in 1677 and in 1678, was from 20 s. to 21 per lb. wt. Advanced in 1680 to 26 s. and 18 s. per lb.

Our principal Dying Wares, whose Consumption depends upon the Demand of our Manufacturers for Estimation, rose also immediately upon this Prohibition.

Thus Cochenal, which was worth at *Michasmas* 1676 but 15 s. — d. s. 15 s. 6 d. per lb. wt.

1677 14 3 14 6 1678 12 3 13 9

was advanced, after the same Prohibition, at *Michasmas*

1679 to 23 — s. 24 1680 21 6 24 1681 21 — s. 21 6 1682 27 — s. 28

Indico Labore from 1676 to 1677 sold for 3 s. to 3 s. 4 d. per lb.

At *Michasmas* 1680 05 07 per lb. 1681 04 — s. 4 6 1682 04 — s. 9

Logwood in 1677 and 1678 13 s. — d. to 14 s. 6 d. per Ct. wt.

In 1680 and 1681 18 s. s. 19 s. 6 d. Cr. wt.

And Crap Madder from 1676 to 1679, 46 s. s. 64 s. per Cr. wt.

In 1681 75 s. s. 85 per Cr. wt.

So that it is most apparent, a French Trade with France is diametrically opposite to the Interest of this Nation, and tends only to subvert the very Constitution of our home Trade and Manufactures.

But notwithstanding our Trade was thus happily retrieved in 1678, and tho' the Advantages we enjoy by this Prohibition were so very visible, in 1681, our Parliament, in Compliance to King *James* the Second, and to gratify his good Ally the French King, repealed this Prohibition.

However, such were the Apprehensions and Convictions which that House of Commons entertained of the pernicious Consequences thereof, that about the same time they appointed a Committee to consider of the Means to keep up the Price of Wooll, &c.

They plainly saw that their Foreign Trade, which had encreased the Value of their Lands, and the Stock of the Nation as aforesaid, when this Prohibition should be repealed, must dwindle to its primitive State; and therefore, as the only Method they could think of, to preserve a poor Trade, *resolv'd*, That all Persons should wear the Woollen Manufacture six Months in the Year, and to prevent the Consumption of French Silks, High-crown'd Hats were to be again introduced into Fashion, &c.

But the French (ever vigilant to improve the Opportunities we gave them) immediately stock'd us with their Manufactures and Products, and in 3 Years time imported upon us to the Value of 4 Millions, besides what they brought in clandestinely, which amounted to an incredible Sum.

Thus stood our Commerce with that Nation when our late GLORIOUS DELIVERER rescued our CHURCH, our LAWS, LIBERTIES, and TRADE from Ruin.

And since that happy Period, notwithstanding the unavoidable Pressures and Losses occasioned by our late necessary Wars, our Foreign Trade is again prodigiously encreased, as appears by the State thereof in 1699 and 1703, mentioned in Numb. 79. and is still capable of greater Improvement.

Foreign Nations may indeed envy us this Prosperity, but without our own Consent we can never be deprived of it, as long as our *Navigation*, our *Products* and *Manufactures* enable us to contend with them.

Upon the whole I appeal to all impartial Men living, whether our Traffick with *France* was formerly advantageous or detrimental to this Kingdom? and whether the late Bill of Commerce would have secured or ruined our prefer Trade?

And sure I am, upon the Authorities now produced, they must concur and unanimously agree in their Verdict against reviving that pernicious Bill.

The *Mercator* and his Assistants, however, may and

will drudge on; for as *Dr. Dawson* says, *Many may be sensible, as to promote a Foreign Interest as the Prejudice of their own Country, and may weaken and undermine its Traffick, with Design to give it to some other Nation; and when these wicked spirits are at Work, there needs no more than that some or five should privately give the Word among their Friends, pretend the Government's Service; be very loud and warm, and Trade it self may presently be rendered a Party Business.*

From FRIDAY, May 28. to TUESDAY, June 1. 1714.

A Letter, shewing the Loss that will accrue to the Landed Interest by imposing an Uniformity

of Religion, and driving the People out of England.

To the British Merchant.

THE Computations in your Nam^b. 84. of Seven Millions of People in England, and that every one expends 7 l. per Ann. at a Medium, are Sir *William Petty's*.

Such as consider no farther than our Villages, and that a Husband and his Wife, and three or four Children, which all together earn not above 20 l. per Ann. by their Labour, yet call for no Assistance from the Parish, may perhaps think the Computation of 7 l. per Head too high for the whole People.

On the other hand, such as shall take their Estimate only from the Cities where the People are better lodged and fed and clothed than in the Country, will think that Computation much too low.

But such as shall compare the City and the Country, will readily agree that 7 l. per Head is a just Calculation for the Expence of the whole People from the Prince to the Parish Poor.

Your Inference from the aforesaid Computations is very right: that the whole annual Expence of the English Nation is 49 or 50 Millions.

If our whole Consumption of Foreign Goods, as you have asserted, does not exceed the Value of four Millions (and this may be known from the Entries of imported and re-exported Goods) it is certain that at least 45 of the 49 Millions must be yearly paid for the Lodging, Product, and Manufactures of this Kingdom; and that very near 6 l. 10 s. per Head are annually expended upon this Account by our whole People at a Medium.

I wish, Sir, with all my Heart you had adjusted or computed how much of this 6 l. 10 s. is annually paid to the Lands, and how much to the Labour of the English Nation.

For there are Gentlemen of the Landed Interest so regardless of all others, that they could easily consent to the Banishment of many hundred thousands of our People, if it would bring no Detriment to themselves, if their Rents would not be abated by it, if it would prove no Interruption to their Pleasures.

The whole 45 Millions expended by all our People, the whole 6 l. 10 s. by every one, then are paid for the Lodging, Product, and Manufactures of England, as you have said; that is, the whole is paid to the Rents of our Lands, and to the Labour of our People.

But how much to each is the Question?

In the first Place, you have valued the Lodging of every one at 20 s. per Ann. I think you could not well have valued it at less; yet this for 7 Millions of People will amount to 3,500,000 l. per Annum.

The next Expence of the People is our Corn, and the Question is, How great a Part of the Value of our Corn is paid to the Rents?

I have sometimes known, that instead of Rent, every third Sheaf, after the Payment of the Parson's Tithes, has been paid to the Landlord. And 'tis almost a received Opinion, that the Farmer or Occupier of Corn-Lands ought to make three Rents in a Year to enable himself to pay one: According to this Proportion, a third Part of the Value of our Corn is paid to the Landlord.

But much more than the third Part of a Value of Meat, Milk, Butter, and Cheese is paid to the Rents, since Grazing and Dairy-Lands are managed with

less Charge, and the Cattle feed themselves with little Labour of the People.

Our Wool is sent to the Clothier, and returned in Manufacture of no more than double the Value of the Wool; according to which Proportion half the Value of our Woolen Manufactures is paid to the Rents of the Kingdom. The Shepherds, Carriers, Dyers, Dressers, Tailors, and other Labourers Wages ought to be added to the above-mentioned Value; but all these other Charges are not equal to one Half of the whole Value of the Woolen Manufacture: So that of the English Woolen Manufacture consumed by our own People, a third Part of the Price is paid to the Landlord in his Rents.

As for all kinds of Fuel, they grow of themselves; the Charge of Cutting, Digging or Carriage is not to be esteemed at two Thirds of the Value of the whole Consumption; so that at least one third Part of the whole Value is paid to the Rents.

The Fruits of Trees, whatever Part it is of the Subsistence of the People, they grow with very little Labour, and almost wholly to the Profit of the Land-Owner.

Thus by an Enumeration of the several Necessaries and Conveniences of Life, one would be induced to believe that one Third of their whole Value is paid in the Rents of the Lands, and not above two Thirds to the Labour or Manufacture of the People.

The rich Man is not able to carry a greater Burthen of Cloaths upon his Back, nor to consume a greater Quantity of Provisions than the Day-Labourer, (he has very seldom Health or Strength to do so much) so that there is no Reason to believe that he pays any more for the meer Product of the Lands, or to the Rents upon this Account. But then both the Diet and Apparel of the rich Man is procured or wrought with so much greater Cost and Labour, that 'tis reasonable to think he pays ten or eleven times as much to the Labour of the People as he does to the Product of the Lands.

There are in all Probability ten times as many Poor as Rich, or ten that are clothed with the cheapest Apparel, and fed with the cheapest Diet, for every one that lives in a better Manner. And if this Reasoning is just, and that all together, one with another, over and above 20 s. per Head for Lodging, pay 6 l. per Ann. for our Product and Manufactures, it will follow that of the 6 l. per Ann. about one fourth Part is paid to the Rents, and three fourths to the Labour of the People.

So that by this Account the Lodging and Consumption of our own People pays about 40 s. per Ann. to our Rents at a Medium, or every Individual is to be esteemed as a Tenant of that Value to the Landed Interest.

I have often thought 'tis a very strange and unaccountable Policy in many Lords, who have pulled down Houses and Yemens in their Manors, that they might not harbour Enemies to their Game. It look'd to me as if they drove away their Tenants to make Room for the Hares and Potes.

Or was it the Policy of these Gentlemen to drive away their People, that they might be at the Charge of carrying their Corn and Provisions after them? I should have thought it much better to have saved this Charge, and to have fold their Cotts and Provisions at their own Doors.

It was well however that the People, when they were driven out of one Place, were able to find Reception in another; it was well they were not driven out of the Kingdom, for then the Landed Interest had lost so many Tenants, so many that paid every one 40 s. *per Annum* to the Rents for his Lodging and Consumption.

Our People die every Day, but this Loss is still repaired by the succeeding Generation: The Landed Interest is insensible of any Loss, while as often as one goes off another succeeds in his Room, and pays as much yearly Rent for his Lodging and Consumption.

But should a Million of our People be swept away at once by any such Judgment from Heaven as that of Plague, Sword, or Famine; should we lose at once a seventh Part of our whole People, how would such a Loss be repaired? Would the remaining six Parts provide us a new Generation as large as the whole seven to inhabit our Houses, and consume our Products and Manufactures? No certainly, if every Subject at a Medium pays 40 s. *per Annum* of our Rents by his Lodging and Consumption, with this Million of People we should lose two Millions of our annual Rents.

The Case would be yet worse, if a Million of our People, by being made uneasy here, should be forc'd to retire into any Neighbour Country, and particularly to *Holland*, which is always open to Refugees. We are not sure of being always at Peace with our next Neighbours; and if a War should break out between us, we should lose so much of our Strength and Riches, and that Nation would gain both, and might make use of both against us. With a Million of People we must lose two Millions of our annual Rents; and if such an Addition should be made to the Rents of *Holland*, what a Sum is this to be used against us? Since 'tis well known the Dutch have often applied their whole Rents to the Prosecution of their Wars, and convert themselves to live by their Commerce and Manufactures; and might therefore make use of these whole two Millions *per Annum*, which, with a Million of our Refugees would be added to their Rents by Lodging, and Consumption of the Product of that Nation.

The Zeal of Gentlemen must be very great for the established Religion, if for the Sake of preserving Uniformity throughout *England*, they would give up so much of their annual Rents, and give them up too to the United Provinces of the *Netherlands*; for these by the Nearness of their Situation, and the vast Liberties they give their Subjects, will have almost all the People that shall be forc'd to fly from this Kingdom.

In this whole Argument I have purposely confin'd my self to the Loss of Rents, because Gentlemen are hardly to be convinced by any other Argument; and because, tho' with the Loss of People the Kingdom must lose the yearly Value of their Labour, yet this would not be so sensible either to our Gentlemen or our labouring People.

Not to the Gentlemen, since they have no other Advantage in keeping the Country full of People, than that of keeping the People here to dwell in their Houses, and to consume the Product of their Lands, by which their whole Rents are paid; and I believe I have made them sensible, that the Rent of 40 s. *per Annum* is paid to the landed Interest by every Subject that resides in *England*, and you your self have shewn how very little of this would be paid by every one that should retire into any other Country. But, sdly,

The Loss of the yearly Value of the Peoples Labour, with the People that shall retire out of *England*, would not be so soon felt by the labouring People that should stay behind; since the Labourers or Manufacturers that shall retire, wrought as much for the Backs and Bellies of other People as others did for them, and therefore received as much annual Wages as they paid; so that 'tis not likely that our Loss of any Numbers of People would make any sudden Fall of Wages, our most sensible Loss would be to the landed Interest.

And yet by Degrees our very labouring People would come in for their Share of Loss in the Desertion of our Inhabitants and the Decay of our Manufactures.

Our heterodox Party, or those that differ from the establish'd Church, see generally those of the lowest Rank, Mechanics, Artificers, and Manufacturers. And if any Numbers of these should be driven out of *England* for their Difference of Religion, they would carry their Manufactures into other Countries, as the *Welsh*: that were oblig'd heretofore to fly from *Flamers*, introduc'd their woollen Manufactures into *England*.

Now what must be the Consequence? Our Manufactures as they shall increase in other Countries must decay in *England*; even many of our People whose Conformity to the Church would allow them to stay here, will be oblig'd to follow their Manufactures into other Countries for a Livelihood. Thus it was that *Flamers* heretofore lost, and *England* gained the woollen Manufactures; not only those of the *Welsh* came to settle here that were forced out of their own Country upon account of their Religion, many others also came to follow their Manufactures, and to procure a Subsistence for their Families; so that banishing People that differ from the established Church, may prove a Means to banish many others that are very zealous for it; but with every one that shall depart the Kingdom upon any Account whatsoever, the landed Interest is sure to lose 40 s. *per Annum*, which is the Sum that every one pays for his Lodging and the meer Product of the Lands.

But how comes any such Thought into my Head, that any of our People are to be banished for dissenting from the established Church?

I answer, The making People uneasy here upon Account of their Religion, is forcing them out of the Kingdom. By this Means so many *French* Refugees are come among us, and by the same Methods, before the Toleration, such Numbers of our People were driven into *Holland*.

Our best Care is, or ought to be, the saving our own Souls; the next to this is saving those of our Children: And every Man believes that this will be best done by the Religion which he thinks to be the best; and for this Reason he will enjoy this Religion at home as long as he is able, and when it shall be denied to him at home, he will retire to any Country where it shall be allowed, and esteem that as his native Country.

I have that Zeal, and I hope ever shall have that Zeal for the Church of *England*; that if the Pretender should come among us with his *French* Religion, I shall retire into any Country where I shall not be disturb'd for my Zeal for the Church of *England*.

But what if the Pretender would leave me to my Liberty? what if he should only oblige me to send my Son to a Catholick Tutor to be instructed? I hope in this Case I should send him into *Holland*, or any other Country, to prevent his being bred up in a Religion which I should think so dangerous to my self, a Religion by which I never could be saved though it were the right, because I believe it to be the wrong.

Why should not I believe that the People who dissent from the Church of *England* have as much Zeal for their Religion as I can have for mine? and especially when their Sincerity is not to be suspected upon the Account of any Advantages they can enjoy, since all the Advantages are with the established Religion. Why should I think that any Men who do not believe as the Church of *England*, can be served in a Church which he does not think a true one? or that every Dissenter will not take as much Care to educate his Child in his own Religion, as I would mine in the Church of *England*? or that he will not send his Child, at retire with him, into a foreign Country, as I would with mine, where the *Father* is not to be controuled in his Manner of Education?

For my own Part, I believe the Church of *England* would gain nothing by forced or false Converts, but I think the State must lose a great deal by enjoying Uniformity of Religion. I think this the ready way to drive our Manufactures with our People into other Countries; and that with every Person that for his Conscience sake shall leave the Kingdom, the landed Interest will lose 40 s. *per Annum*, with every 100000 People, 200,000. *per Annum*.



NUMBERS 87, 88, 89.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From TUESDAY, June 1. to FRIDAY, June 4. 1714.

Fourteen or Fifteen of the last Mercators answered at once, which relate to the Argument of Marfeilles.

THE Mercator has kept himself for above a Month in the *Streights*: He seemed to me to have thought himself so very safe, and so well entrenched there, that I did not believe he would be drawn from thence by any Provocation.

I must confess now that I was mistaken; he has left the *Streights* to defend Persecution, and to shew that how much soever we may persecute our Manufacturers out of England, yet if we can but keep our Wooll at home, we are sure of keeping our Woollen Manufactures.

I shall not fail to consider his Defence of Persecution, as a *British Merchant*, so far as it is directly contrary to the Interest of Trade.

But for the present I must take up his Argument of the *Streights*, since he seems to have finished all he had to say upon that Subject.

The chief Subject of Dispute between the Mercator and myself has been the French Trade. I have asserted, that before our Prohibitions or high Duties on the Goods and Merchandizes of France, that Trade was always detrimental to this Nation. The Mercator on the contrary has asserted, that it was ALWAYS BENEFICIAL; and we have both appealed to the Custom-house Accounts in Defence of our several Assertions.

In Defence of my Assertion I have produced the OLD SCHEME; I have cleared the Scheme from every Cavil and Objection of the Mercator; the Mercator has not made the least Reply: So that by the OLD SCHEME the French Trade stands condemned of paying a Balance of 903,025 l. 15 s. 5 d. to that Nation. The OLD SCHEME is a Custom-house Account, and proves this.

I have likewise produced the entire Entries of both Exports and Imports between England and France in the Year 1685-6. The Balance against us in that Year is not very short of the former, especially if my Valuations of the Linens and some other Particulars were rectified; for having followed the Custom-house Rates, they were greatly undervalued.

The Merchants, who drew the Valuations of the OLD SCHEME first set me to Rights in this Matter, by their Representation in 1674 to the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council, then Commissioners for making a Treaty of Commerce with France, as may be seen in my Paper Num^b. 80.

And Dr. Dawson too has fully clear'd up that Point; his Words in his Discourse on the Protection

and Care of Trade, Pag. 175. are, 1st "Tis likewise said, when the Book of Rates was compiled, that the French knew how to place somewhere a great Sum very skillfully, by the Help of which they procured, that the Customs and Duties upon their Produſt should be light and heavy upon that of Spain, though apparently we got by one Country, and though we were thought to lose by the other in the general Balance of Trade.

These two Custom-house Accounts, that of the OLD SCHEME, and that of the Year 1685-6, are two such Objections against the French Trade, and so plainly demonstrate that it was detrimental to this Nation, that the Mercator has been at great Pains to get rid of them.

A World of Ways he has try'd to no Purpose; but his last Refuge is, that now his beloved Custom-house Accounts are to be given up, as not being able to give us a true Balance of the French Trade. They give us, says he, a full Account of our Importations from France, but they cannot give us a full Account of our Exportations to that Country.

This has been the Subject of 14 or 15 of his last Papers running, without stopping aside to any other Argument.

His whole Argument collected from the aforesaid Papers is as follows:

"That vast Quantities of our Goods are exported to France that are not entred to that Country.

"That our Goods, and especially our Woollen Manufactures, are entred out for the *Streights*, and a very great Part of them are exported to *Marfeilles*.

"That this is apparent, First, "Because some Goods are indeed entred for *Marfeilles*, though no Ships are bound thither, but only for the *Streights*; and the Quantities enter'd for *Marfeilles* are so inconsiderable, that the Ships which carry them could not afford to go to *Marfeilles* if they were not also to deliver other Goods than those which are directly enter'd for that Port.

Secondly, "Because *Marfeilles* in France, as well as *Pavia*, *Leghorn*, *Genoa*, *Naples* and *Gallipoli* in Italy, *Allicant* and *Malaga* in Spain, and *Messina* in Sicily, are all in the *Streights*; and therefore of all our Entries for the *Streights*, *Marfeilles* ought to have its Share, it ought to be allow'd that considerable Quantities are exported to that City.

Thirdly, "Because the Goods exported to the other Cities are usually entred for those Cities, and not by the general Name of the *Streights*; whereas we

" very rarely see any Entries for *Marseilles*, and therefore it ought to be presumed that the Goods enter'd for the *Streights* are exported to *Marseilles*: *Fairly*, " Because there can be no Reason to conceal our Exports to other Countries, as there is to *France*: The *Streights* therefore is a general Name to conceal our Exports to that Country.

From all which the *Mercator* concludes.

First, That great Quantities of our Goods entered out for the *Streights* are indeed exported to *Marseilles*, and he lumps the Sum at one half of our whole Entries for the *Streights*.

Secondly, That the Custom-House Accounts are by no means to be depended on for giving us an exact Balance of the *French Trade*, since they do not take the least Notice of any Goods that are enter'd out for the *Streights*; and yet such of them as are exported for *Marseilles* do as much help to make the Balance of the *French Trade* on our Side, as those which are directly enter'd out for *France*.

And the *Mercator* assures himself, that if all the Goods which were heretofore enter'd out for the *Streights*, *Flanders*, *Holland*, and *Germany*, and either directly or through those Countries carry'd into *France*, were separated and distinguished in the Custom-House Books; it wou'd quickly appear that the Balance of the *French Trade* was greatly on our Side. But since the Custom-house Books cannot do this, he resolves that all our Schemes of Trade taken from thence are false and fallacious, and only calculated to deceive our Readers, and to exasperate the People against Trade which was always beneficial to the Nation.

This is the Sum and Substance of 14 or 15 of the *Mercator's* last Papers: I believe that he himself must acknowledge I have not wrong'd him in the Abridgment, or that I have not omitted any thing that was material to his Argument.

But now 'tis time to give an Answer to this Argument.

And *first*, How cou'd this Fellow have the Confidence to affirm, that the Custom-House Books give us a full Account of all our Importations from *France*? Are no Goods then clandestinely imported? Are not the high Duties which are fixed by its Encouragement to the Clandestine Importer? Are not innumerable Offices appointed at the vast Charge of the Government to seize all such Goods? Are not Seizures made every Day? Shall it be said that none of them escaped being seiz'd? And all that are thus imported, help to augment the Balance of Trade against *England*? Yet the Custom-House Books give us no Account of these clandestine Importations: I never pretended that they did; I have often said the contrary. So that the Custom-House Books may indeed make out a Balance against *England*, but they cannot make out the whole Balance.

But, *Secondly*, I am to consider his Reasons why prodigious Quantities of our Goods are exported to *France*, which are not enter'd out for that Country.

The first of which is, that the few Entries for *Marseilles* demonstrate that our Ships which carry those Goods cou'd not afford to go up the Gulf of *Lions* so much out of their Way, if they were not also to deliver other Goods at *Marseilles*, besides those which are enter'd for that Port.

But I must inform the *Mercator*, since he knows nothing of the *Maree*, that nothing is more common than for Ships bound for the *Streights*, in time of Peace, to set out with an inconsiderable Part of their Loading. They are contented for a small Freight to call in at any Place not very much out of their Way: And very often at the Places where they call, they take in Goods to the Places where they are afterwards bound, which at some Freight or other may help to fill the empty Holds. And Ships for this reason may even call at *Marseilles*, tho' they have very few Goods to deliver there; and therefore their going to *Marseilles* with a small Part of their Cargo enter'd out for that Port, is no Argument at all that they have any greater Quantity for that Place.

His 3d Reason is, That *Marseilles* being in the *Streights*, ought to have its Share of all the Goods that are enter'd out for the *Streights*.

To which I answer, That it is but one of a great many Ports in the *Streights*, and ought to have a very small Share upon this Account: nor is it likely it can have so great a one as any of the rest. It is true, *Marseilles*

is a free Port, and no Customs are paid there; therefore it may receive as much as is consumed there, without Payment of any Customs; but excessive Customs are paid (if sent thence) for all other Parts of *France*, more than in any other Country in the *Streights*; so that it is not very likely that any Goods are exported to *Marseilles* but for the Consumption of that Place, or some other, where the Customs are more easy than they are in *France*; and whichsoever is the Case, our Exports for *Marseilles* are no Argument for the Bill of Commerce.

The *Mercator's* 4th Reason, That we do not export such Quantities of Goods to any other City in the *Streights* as we do to *Marseilles*, is, that we have no Necessity of concealing our Exports to other Places as we have to *France*; and that therefore to such other Places we make our Entries to the very Place to which we export our Goods; which is answered.

By saying, That we are under no greater Necessity of concealing, now in a time of Peace, our Exports to *Marseilles* than to any other Port. Our Trade narrows and opens there as to any Port in the *Mediterranean*. If therefore we seldom see any Entries for *Marseilles*, it is certain it is because we have less Trade there than to any other Port; and consequently of the Entries to the *Streights*, we ought to believe that *Marseilles* has the least Share, and more especially because though *Marseilles* is a free Port, and pays no Customs, yet our Goods cannot be carried farther into *France* without paying excessive Customs, and more than are paid in any other Country.

I have received the *Mercator's* 3d Reason to answer in the last Place, which was, That we enter to most other Ports in the *Streights* by their particular Names, and therefore a great Part of the Entries for the *Streights* must be supposed to be made for *Marseilles*, in which very few Entries are directly made.

To this I answer, the Entries for the Year 1699, by the Inspector-General's Report, were

To the <i>Streights</i>	l. 49865 05 1
To <i>Italy</i>	10049 07 4
To <i>Venice</i>	3474 10 7

In all l. 54900 05 1

And in 1703 there was exported

To the <i>Streights</i>	l. 30453 16 2
To <i>Italy</i>	27319 12 1
To <i>Venice</i>	1593 15 6

In all 49675 10 6

So that there was exported in 1699
more than 1703 l. 49865 14 9

From this Account I must observe, that in 1699 whilst we enjoyed in the late Peace with *Spain*, and at free Trade to *Marseilles* as we can pretend to do at present, we exported into the *Streights* but l. 49865 14 9 more than in 1703, when, by reason of the War, we had lost our Trade to *France*, *Spain*, *Sicily* and *Naples*. And consequently that no more than l. 49865 14 9 could be exported to *Marseilles*, *Alcous*, *Malaga*, *Barcelona*, *Messina*, *Naples*, &c. all of them at War with us, and to which our Trade was prohibited.

And if this was the Case, how small a Part of that Sum must be said to have been exported to *Marseilles*, when a much greater might reasonably be believed to have been exported to every one of those other Places, with which we were at War as well as *France*?

By this Account 49865 l. 14 s. 9 d. is the whole Value of the Goods entered for the *Streights*, which can be supposed to have been sent to *Marseilles*, *Alcous*, *Malaga*, *Barcelona*, *Messina*, *Naples*, &c. and how small a Part of this Sum can be assigned to *Marseilles*, and consequently to *France* alone? For my own Part, I believe very little, and I believe every Reader will be of my Mind; especially since 'tis well known to our Merchants, that we made very few Entries directly for the aforesaid *Spanish* and *Italian* Ports, tho' they all knew our Trade was not inconsiderable to those Places, which therefore must be supposed to have been made under the general Name of the *Streights*.

It is manifest now that all our Entries to the *Streights* *Italy* and *Venice*, in the best of the above-mentioned Years, did not exceed l. 54900 5 1, when our Peace was universal.

And



And that they amounted within 1. 49862 14s. 7 d. of that Sum, even when by the Way our Trade to *Marseilles, Alicante, Bonaporta, Messina, Naples, &c.* was cut off from us; so that there is no Pretence for assigning to *Marseilles* any considerable Quantities of our Exports to the *Streights*, and perhaps almost nothing.

Will the *Mercator* then conclude, that one half of our Goods entered out for the *Streights* were exported for *Marseilles*? Or is there any more Reason to believe that our Goods which are entered for *Holland, Germany* and *Flanders*, are exported to *France*, than that those which are entered to *France* are exported to those Places, tho' it must be confessed the Merchants commonly make wrong Entries to conceal their Trade from one another.

I have proved too before, that he must be a ridiculous Trader that will export to *France* thro' other

Countries, considering the Customs, and other large Charges that must be paid by the way.

And then can the *Mercator* hope by his Entries to the *Streights*, of which very little goes to *France*, or by his wrong Entry to other Countries, or his Exportations thro' other Countries, to fetch up such a Balance as 500000 l. which by the SCIENCE, and other Custom-house Accounts, we paid to *France*, or indeed any considerable part of that Sum; much less that the Balance of the *French Trade* can thereby be made so to be on our side?

It remains therefore, that the Custom-house Accounts are not false nor fallacious, and that they are sufficient to prove that we lose at least the Balance appearing by them.

And it is certain we lose a great deal more, if the clandestine Importations shall be added.

From FRIDAY, June 4. to TUESDAY, June 8. 1714.

A Mistake in my last rectify'd.
The *Mercator's* Argument concerning the *Streights*
and the Exports to *Marseilles* farther computed.
The last *Mercator* answered. Foreign Nations

I have asserted in my last, that the whole Entries for the *Streights, Italy, and Venice*, by the Inspector-General's Report, amounted to

For the Year 1699 ————— 1.543,900 5 s

For the Year 1703 ————— 494,037 10 6

The *Mercator* here perhaps may think to confute me, by denying that any such Assertion is to be found in either of the printed Reports of the Inspector-General. I must acknowledge that this is not expressly said in either of those Reports.

But I have in my Hands, whether drawn up by the present Inspector-General or his Predecessor, an Account of the Value of our total Exports to all the World, which according to the 2d Report, Pages 43 and 71, amounted to

For the Year 1699 ————— 1.6,788,166 17 6

And for the Year 1703 ————— 6,644,103 00 0

And in this Account the whole Exports to every Country are valued, and particularly those to the *Streights, Italy, and Venice*, at the very Sums mention'd above and in my last *British Merchant*.

So that the Inspector-General appealing to this Account for the Value of our Exports to all the World in those Years, does by Implication confess the particular Values exported to particular Countries, and among the rest those to the *Streights, Italy, and Venice*, to have been as I asserted.

However, the *Mercator*, or his or my Readers, may correct my Error, if they think it one, and in the last *Brit. Merch.* Col. 4. instead of the Entries for the Year 1699, by the Inspector-General's Report, may read, the Entries for the Year 1699. From whence the Inspector-General has given the Value of all our Exports in that Year, *mere, &c.* and then every Reader will perceive that the Value of the Entries to the *Streights, Italy, and Venice* was as I have asserted, by the Authority of that very Account upon which the Inspector-General depends for the Value of our Entries to all the World.

The *Mercator*, Numb. 150. has said, that all our Entries for *Marseilles* in the Space of 7 Months were no more than 6 small Parcels, viz. in the whole 42 C. of Leather and 40 C. of Tin.

From whence he argues, that it was not worth the while of our Ships to go to *Marseilles* with such inconsiderable Parcels, and therefore it might be presumed they were to deliver there a very great Part of their Cargoes, though entered

there Materials for the Woollen Manufacture. Perfection in England the Way to instruct foreign Nations in the Woollen Manufacture.

out for the *Streights* and other Places, and consequently that vast Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures, as well as other Goods, were delivered and sold at *Marseilles*, and from thence distributed and sold to other Parts of France. By this fine Argument he thinks he has very safely lodged our Goods at *Marseilles*, and, with a kind of Triumph, he bids his Adversaries get them thence if they are able. Though *Marseilles* is a free Port where no Customs at all are paid, yet he thinks the tax spend but a very small Part of the Goods we deliver there; they must either be consumed in other Parts of France where they pay excessive Customs, or re-exported to other Countries. And if the French can afford to consume our Goods with the present Burthen of Customs, he thinks it a Demonstration that they have few or no Woollen Manufactures; but if they are obliged to re-export our Woollen Manufactures, then he is very sure they have none of their own which can contend or vie with ours in any foreign Markets.

I have shewn in my last, that our Ships to time of Peace set out for the *Streights* with a very small Part of their Lading, (every Merchant upon the Exchange will tell the *Mercator* this) and therefore for very inconsiderable Freight they will touch at several Ports to mend their Freight, by taking in Goods from one Port to another; and consequently the few Entries for *Marseilles* are no Argument at all that any more Goods are delivered there than entered for that Place.

I have shew'd too in the 2d Place, that of all the Goods entered for the *Streights*, so great a Part was always carried to the Ports of *Spain, Italy, and Sicily*, that the Share left for *Marseilles* could amount to but a Trifle.

To which, 3dly, may be added, That the Customs on our Goods are easiest in every other Country of the *Streights* than they are in *France*; and therefore it is but a natural Presumption, that few or none of our Entries for the *Streights* are intended for *Marseilles*.

But 4thly, How can the *Mercator* have the Face to tell his Readers, that he has lodged vast Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures, and other Goods and Merchandizes at *Marseilles*, when his whole Entries for that Port are such a Trifle? and amongst them not a Yard, nor an Ounce of Woollen Manufactures? *Marseilles* is free Port; and yet receive none of our Woollen Manufactures! 'Tis wonderful like, then that vast Quantities of 'em are consumed in Fr. under the present intolerable Burthen of high Duties! We are wonderful likely to contend with their Woollen Manufactures

in other Parts of *France* under the present high Duties, or those grievous ones of the late Treaty, when we are not now, even now, able to contend with them at *Marseilles*, which is a free Port, and where we cannot be made more easy by our late Treaty than we are already!

But Lastly, If the *Mercator* were able to produce any Proof, or the least Presumption, that any of our Woollen Manufactures are landed at *Marseilles*, (which he is not able to do) I must insist on it that they are only landed there in order to be re-exported to other Countries, where they are as much, and perhaps more, favoured than those of *France*.

A Gentleman, who very well understands the Trade of *Marseilles*, gave me the following Account of this Matter.

"The *Mercator*, says he, pretends in very many of his Papers, that all the Merchandizes that go from *Lenden* to *Marseilles* are to be sold in *France*, which is false.

"For there is a Transit from *Marseilles* to *Genova* belonging to the *Messieurs Fatio* and Company of the said Place; and they are permitted to pass them through *France* up the *Rhine* near *Genova*, by giving Security to do this, and without paying any Customs.

"Thus all heavy Merchandizes that are loaded here for *Genova*, *Switzerland*, *Alsace*, *Sweden*, &c. go this Way; such as Tin, Lead, Pepper, Sugar, &c. and 'tis cheaper much in respect of Freight, than to send them by the Way of *Holland* or *Hamburg* in a Time of Peace, when the Freight and Assurances are very cheap; and I believe that nine Tenths of the Merchandizes that go to *Marseilles* make no Stay at all in *France*, or are sold there, but are pass'd from thence by the aforesaid Transit.

What an inconsiderable Quantity of Goods has the *Mercator* himself shewn us to have been entered for *Marseilles*? and among them not one single Parcel of Woollen Manufactures? But if ten times as great a Value had been delivered there, and all of Woollen Manufactures, yet, according to this Gentleman, nine Tenths Parts are re-exported; so that 'tis but a Trifle that is consumed in *France*, and without doubt nothing that is not absolutely necessary for that People, and in every such Case it is the Policy of that Prince to dispense with his own Prohibitions.

It is the Custom of *France* to dispense with her Prohibitions for the Good of the People. *East-India* Manufactures, and many other Goods, are under Prohibitions, which are not provided against by the late Treaty; and yet we see that some Parcels of such Goods are sent every Day to *France*. The Execution of his Prohibiting Edicts seems to be conniv'd at or suspended for a time, as a Shooing-Horn to the Bill of Commerce, and to gain an easy Admission here of his Wines, his Linnens, his Paper, his wrought Silks, to the utter Ruin of very many of our Manufactures. Perhaps not only our *East-India*, but some small Parcels of our Woollen Manufactures may be able to get into *France* under such Dispensations, without paying any Customs, and for the very same Reason. But when his Point is once gained, and the Treaty is made effectual, *France* will have no Balance to pay to *England*; she will be very strict in the Execution of all her Edicts that are not repealed by the late Treaty; we shall not send so many of our Goods thither as we do now, while infinite Sums shall go every Day out of *England* to pay the Manufacturers of that Kingdom, which are now paid to our own Poor, and keep them from coming upon the Parish.

But let what will happen, the *Mercator* assures us, That our Woollen Manufactures shall be still safer, tho' a Persecution should happen to break in upon us, and drive away our People, drive away the very Artificers that are employ'd in our Woollen Manufactures, yet they cannot sit it up in any other Country. All other Countries want the necessary Material; they want the Wool; and let us but effectually secure and keep our Wool at home, all other Nations must buy from us, our Artificers may be forc'd away, but if they cannot carry our Wool along with them, we are in no Danger of losing our Woollen Manufactures. This is the Doctrine of the late *Mercator*, Numb. 164.

No Wool in any other Country! I must confess I thought I never should have heard more of this Subject, after I had so often appealed to the Gentlemen, both within and without Doors, who have travelled into other Countries, that they eat Mutton broad as

much and so good as they do in *England*, and that their Sheep there wear Fleeces, and not Dog's Hair; after I had appealed so often to the Testimony of four Woollen Manufacturers, who every Day give a much greater Price for Spanish Wool than the very best that grows in *England*; after I had appealed more than once to the Testimony of the famous Monf. De Witt for the vast Value of Woollen Yarn that was annually spun in *Picardy*, a single Province of *France*, and sold to the *Hollanders*; after I had shewn the Commencement, Progress and Success of the Woollen Manufacture in *Portugal*, with her own Wool before it was knock'd in Head by Mr. Methuen's Treaty with that Kingdom; after I had produced so many *French* Edicts against the Exportation of Wool, and for Encouragement of the Woollen Manufacture; after I had produced the Testimony of the famous Mr. Maa, printed and licensed by a Secretary of State in the Reign of King Charles II. THAT OTHER NATIONS NEITHER WANT ART: NOR MATERIALS FOR THIS PERFORMANCE: After all these Evidences, and without the least Answer given to any one of them, to be fill pleas'd with the Want of Wool in other Countries, I shew THE MIRACULOUS IMPUDENCE OF THE MERCATOR.

Certainly the Woollen Manufacture is not so new a Thing, nor so confin'd to *England*. I do not know any Evidence of the English Woollen Manufacture in the Days of *Tiberius Caesar*; yet *Strabo*, who lived at that Time, when he speaks of *Tartadania* (which at most is but a Part of *Portugal*) and her Traffick, says, That frequent trade primis vestis quibus, nunc vestis Caracorum amplius Lanificium excellentissima palatitudo, unde singulis ariste sales emanat. Cloths, says he, were heretofore the Exports of that Country, but now a more noble Woollen Manufacture of most excellent Beauty, such as that of the *Corazzi*, whence Rens are bought for Bred at the Price of a Talent. A Talent, above an 200 l. of our Money, the Price of a single Ram to propagate this fine Woollen Manufacture! surely this was very fine. The *Corazzi* were a People in *Asia*, and was their Woollen Manufacture so very fine, that *Strabo* could not better commend that of *Portugal*, than by comparing it with that of the *Corazzi*? And yet the *Mercator* will tell us that there is no Woollen Manufacture but in *England*.

This Fellow has engaged me whether I will or no to read Books and Papers, that give me no other Pleasure but that of confuting him.

It was very lately that I was forc'd by him to look into a Spanish Book of Customs paid in *Castile* on Foreign Goods; there I found that the Customs were the very same on the Bays of *Barcelona* as those that are made in *England*. How? *Barcelona* able to sell her Bays in Spain under as heavy a Load of Duties as those that are made in *England*; yet no doubt the *Mercator* will say that Bays cannot be made in any Part of the World, except in *Catalonia*.

I have this very moment a *Marseilles Price Current* for the 7th of November in my Hand, and there I see the Wool of *Castile*, *Araxen*, *Algarafin*, *Barbery* and *Castellante*, all of different Prices, and the very lowest above the Price of English Wool, but no English Wool at all in that *Price Current*; yet no doubt this Fellow will tell us, that English Wool is the best and dearest in the World, tho' every English Woollen Manufacturer will tell him the quite contrary.

The *Mercator* will tell us, as he does in his Paper, that our English Sheep and Wool degenerate when they are transported into other Countries, as he does that our English Horses lose their Mettle, tho' every Jockey in *New-market* can tell him what Prices are given in *England* for an Arab or a Turk; how much more then was given for an English Stallion; but it seems Sheep and Horses, and Cocks, and Bull-dogs, are all peculiar to the Soil of *England*.

Dr. DOCUMENT, the Inspector-General, in his Treatise that Foreign Trade is beneficial to *England*, Fol. 66. was of another Opinion as to Wool. The Experience, says he, if we see Products is indeed the Foundation of all our Trade; but 'tis subject to many Accidents; other Countries may sit up the Manufactures which we call in AT PRESENT, and tho' not by the Goals, yet by a low Price, beat us down in the Market abroad. The *Mercator* now, if he pleases, may number the Inspector-General among those that are for disparaging the Manufactures of their Native Country.

The Wretch would persuade us that our Wooll is sufficient to preserve to us the Woollen Manufacture, tho' a Perfection should drive the Manufacturers out of *England*; so that it seems they are of no Use, our Wooll must Comb, and Card, and Spin, and Weave, and Full, and Dress it self. Hands are of no use in this Matter.

Yet the *Mercator*, innocent Man, does not say this to promote a Perfection, God forbid! then why did he say it at this Time? He knows very well, that the Spirit of a persecuting Party is at this time so much inflam'd, that the Justice of the Thing is not half so prevalent to lay this Spirit as the Interest of Persons; and that it is the Interest of all Persons, the Landed as well as Manufacturing Persons, to preserve our Woollen Manufacture, to keep it to *England*, and not to shew it to other Nations. Why then are we told, especially at this Time, that the forcing away our Manufacturing People, is not forcing away our Manufacture?

Since it is not in any Man's Power to believe as he pleases, every Man must be suffered to enjoy the Religion which he believes to be the best.

Every Man is obliged to Conscience to educate his Children in the Way which he thinks the safest for himself, and therefore ought to chuse for them such Masters or Teachers as he thinks best qualify'd to educate them in his own Religion.

To force any Man by Penalties to embrace a Religion which he does not think the best, to force his Children from him, or to deprive him of the Means of educating them in his own Religion, or to disable the Teachers which the Father has chosen for them, is Persecution.

It is natural for Men that are persecuted in one Country, to fly into another where they can be free.

Such as dissent from the established Church, are, as

I said before, generally speaking, *Mechanicks* and *Manufacturers*.

And as their Arts and Manufactures are their Subsistence, it must be expected they will carry them along with them.

And I have also said enough to shew that the Materials for the Woollen Manufacture are in other Countries, that they want nothing but Art and Industry, and that a Perfection in *England* is the ready way to supply their only Want.

Every landed Person in *England* thinks it his Interest to preserve our Woollen Manufacture, and to keep the Knowledge of it so much as possible from other Nations.

For this Reason I had urg'd, that Perfection must naturally drive away our People, and instruct Foreign Nations in our Manufactures, because I believed many Gentlemen would more easily be convinced by Arguments of Interest than of Justice.

The *Mercator* did not seem to be offended; a few Days ago he wished me God speed with my Argument; he was mightily against Perfection.

And now all on a sudden, when so many Men are in haste for it, he still declares against Perfection, but says it cannot possibly hurt our Woollen Manufacture; that is, he tells them they should not perfect it, but that it would not hurt them if they should. Gentlemen are likely to be convinced by both Arguments.

What a strange Fellow is this *Mercator*! As I am informed, he was very lately, if not now, a Dissenter from the Church of *England*: He has often written very strangely, but could his Masters hire him also to write this?

All I can say to it is, that such monstrous Things have been done by our new *Covenant* within these 3 or 4 Years, that for my own Part I shall not wonder at any thing.

From TUESDAY, June 8. to FRIDAY, June 11. 1714:

A Letter to the British Merchant, wherein the Fall of the Price of Wooll and Woollen Goods is considered.

To the British Merchant:

SIR, THE *Mercator* has frequently said, That the Fall in Price of our Wooll and Woollen Goods is owing to the rejecting the Bill of Commerce; the direct contrary of which is true, viz. That it is owing to the rejecting of that Bill that they are so high as they are at present; and had that Bill passed into a Law, they must inevitably long before this time have been much lower. Such a Law must have lessened our Exportation of Woollen Manufactures to *Portugal*, *Italy*, *Germany*, &c. in Proportion to our Demand from them. Our Demand from those Countries must have decreased by our Importation of Goods from *France*; our Importations from *France* must have increased by our reducing the Duties on them to an Equality with those of the Nations the most favoured: So that with the Demand of our Woollen Manufactures in those Nations, the Price both of our Wooll

and Woollen Manufactures must have decreased, unless our Treaty were the Way to open to us a good Market for them in *France*, as it most necessarily have taken from us in other Countries.

This we had no Reason to promise our selves by the sforesmentioned Treaty, seeing that upon the Foot of the Tariff of 1699 for such of the Woollen Manufactures as are expressly tied down by the Treaty, to pay by that Tariff, and for such other Woollen Goods as the *Mercator* and his Friends pretend are to pay by the Tariff of 1664, the Duties are so extravagant (whereof a particular Account was given in your *Numb.* 73 and 74) that it is beyond Contradiction we could have gained no new Market in *France* to compensate for the old one we should have lost in other Countries, the Consequence whereof must be, that the Demand for Exportation being thereby lessened, the Price must necessarily sink in Proportion.

I will allow that upon the Cessation of Arms between Us and France, and on the positive Assertions that were then made, how advantageous the Treaty of Commerce to be settled between the two Kingdoms would be to our Trade; a mighty Expectation was raised here that we should have the most flourishing Trade imaginable, and with very good Reason; for who could expect that any thing very advantageous for the Commerce of France should be insisted on by a conquered Enemy, whose Interest it was to *assist* US? or on the other hand, that any thing highly prejudicial to our Trade should be yielded in a Treaty with France, when we could have imposed on her what Terms we had pleased? Therefore the *Merchant* may be in the Right in saying, That the Price of our Goods was raised when the News was spread about the Kingdom that the French Trade would be opened; and yet his Conclusion from thence (*viz.* That the Fall thereof was occasioned by rejecting the Eighth and Ninth Articles) very false; for every one must remember, that before the Treaty of Commerce was printed, it was INDUSTRIOUSLY spread through the Nation how great Advantages were obtained for the Trade of England, and particularly that Care had been taken that all the Prohibitions and high Duties laid on the Woollen Manufactures in France should be taken off; and this with such Assurance, and from Persons who, 'twas thought, might be depended upon, that the People generally believed it, and were not only induced publicly to express their Satisfaction with what they knew nothing of, but did really think that what Woollen Manufactures they had by them would soon find a very great Vent, and thereupon immediately heightened the Prices thereof, as also that of Wool, as well in Expectation of finding what they were told of the French Trade true, as upon the Belief they had that the Treaty of Commerce with Spain would soon be signed; in which 'twas hoped they had Reason to believe, from the Necessity that Monarch seemed to be in of our Assistance, that no Article could possibly be proposed to him in favour of our Commerce but what would meet with his ready Compliance, and that therefore our Trade must at least be as beneficial with that Kingdom as it had formerly been, notwithstanding that Monarchy was now in the Hands of a PRINCE of the HOUSE of BOURBON.

But no sooner was the Treaty of Commerce with France made publick, and thoroughly considered, but they quickly found their Mistake with relation to that Trade; for in that Treaty, they plainly found that the Duties on some Woollen Goods were settled according to the excessive Rates imposed by the Tariff of 1699; and that the Articles and Specifications were so ambiguously worded, as to put it very much in doubt whether the rest were to be admitted at all, or after what manner they were to pay

They also found to their Cost in a little time, by some Goods sent to Cadix, that the Expectation they had conceived of a vast Trade to Spain, was groundless; that the Fashions in that Country were extremely altered, since that Monarchy had been under the Influence of French Councils; that the little Demand for our Goods in Spain proceeded from the Alterations in their Apparel to the French Modes and Manufactures; and the Treaty of Commerce with that Crown, since published, has shewn us we are in no wise to depend on any inconsiderable Trade thither.

When therefore, upon a due Examination of the Treaty of Commerce with France, it was found impracticable, upon the Foot of that Treaty's being rendered effectual, to send any great Quantities of Woollen Goods thither, by reason of the excessive high Duties that would still remain to be paid by the Tariffs of 1664 and 1699; as also by their being expressly subjected by the second Specification to VI-

SITATIONS in France, whereby they might be confiscated upon the *Alleged* Pretences in the Warth, if they were found either in Length, Breadth, Weight, Fineness, or any other way different from the like Sorts made there: For these Rules of *Prohibitions* could be insisted on by France for no other Intent but to have a Handle to plague us, and to prevent our Importation.

So that upon these Considerations, it was not possible but that the Price of Wool, and of the Manufactures made thereof, must again fall as fast as it rose; and that what was raised purely upon the *force of Expectation*, and without any solid Ground, must sink again when that ill grounded Rise came to be perceived.

But the Case was far otherwise after the Peace of Ryswick; for tho' we sent but few Woollen Goods to France during that Peace, as Dr. *Dowdall* informs us, yet an AUSTRIAN PRINCE being then upon the Throne of Spain, who was more desirous of encouraging our Trade than that of France; and the Demand for our Woollen Goods was then so great in Spain, the War, which had raised Freight and Premiums of Insurance to a most extravagant height, being ended, what was saved on those two Accounts came to be added to the Price of the Manufactures, which gradually advanced by that continued Demand, whereof I will give an Instance in the Article *Celebrier Bays*, which, at the time of the making of the Ryswick Peace, were at about 17 *d.* per Ell, but rose to about 23 *d.* and 23 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ per Ell, and continued about that Price till a Stop was put to our Trade thither.

Another Reason that may be assigned for the sudden Fall of the Woollen Manufactures, from the Prices to which the Manufacturers and Dealers therein had raised them upon the Prospect of the *Utique* Peace, is, That most of our Merchants never knew what the Duties that were to be paid in France by the Tariff, said to be granted us, and which they were told was so advantageous for our Woollen Manufactures, would amount to; but when they found what Duties would be payable, supposing the Treaty took effect, and that they were tantamount to a Prohibition; and that, unless they would run the hazard of getting them clandestinely imported into France, their Correspondents could give them so manner of Encouragement to send any thither, they then plainly saw that it was impossible to answer the Expectation of the Manufacturers here.

This being the Case of our Woollen Manufactures in respect to France, it were to be wished that our Treaty of Commerce with Spain would benefit them more than that with France; but you have shewn in several of your Papers that no Good can be expected from it as it is, but that we are saddled with much higher Duties than ever we could bear in that Country. But besides, the *Made in Spain* is so much altered, and the Fashion of wearing *Boys*, and other English Woollen Goods, so very much changed into that of *French* Druggs and fine *Stuffs*, and those that will not alter their Manner, being furnished by the way of *Allicant*, and other Ports of Spain in the Mediterranean, with *Boys* and *Perpetua's*, &c. from *Cassera*, and other Places in the Province of Languedoc, which is very near them; and since there are such other Discouragements to our Woollen Manufactures both in France and Spain, it plainly appears that it is wholly owing to the Trade we have PRESERVED with other Nations, that our Woollen Goods are not reduced a great deal lower than they are; and that nothing but keeping the Trade to and from France upon the present Foot of high Duties, the preventing the clandestine Transportation of our Wool; and the obtaining an Alteration of several Things in our Treaty of Commerce, with Spain, can prevent the total Ruin of the Woollen Manufactures in this Kingdom.

NUMBERS 90, 91, 92:

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From FRIDAY, JUNE 11. TO TUESDAY, JUNE 15. 1714.

The Woollen Manufacture of the greatest Importance to Great Britain.

Though we have the most useful Wool, Other Nations have their Manufactures.

The French push hard to secure this Manufacture.

By their Conduct at home and by the Wool they import from other Countries,

France is become our greatest Rival.

The Goodness of our Manufactures cannot prevent the Sale of the French.

The unhappy Consequences of the Encrease of the French Trade,

And of the Fears of reviving the Bill of Commerce.

Our new Projects have encouraged the French Designs.

The best Methods to stint their Woollen Manufacture, is

To encourage our own Exportation, and To prevent the Running of our Wool.

TO preserve and encourage the Consumption of our Woollen Manufactures both at Home and Abroad, is the common Concern of every Man that delights in the Welfare and Prosperity of his Country.

These have been the Foundation of our Foreign Commerce, and the chief procuring Cause of our Riches.

It is therefore of the greatest Consequence to this Kingdom firmly to support the profitable Trade that is carried on by the Exportation thereof, and to be very jealous of those Nations whose Thoughts are bent upon supplanting us of this mighty Benefit.

'Tis true indeed, Providence has furnished us with better and more useful Wool than most of our Neighbours, and our Industry has brought out Manufactures to the greatest Perfection.

But can these be said to be secured to us, whilst (as I have formerly mentioned) we know that *other Nations neither want Art nor Materials to this Perfection?*

Is it not certain that the *Portians* have still a noble Manufacture of Cloth, with which *Italy* and *Turkey* were formerly supply'd in abundance?

Did not the *Jews* and *Greeks* at *Salem*, and in the Country thereabouts, 70 Years past, set up a Manufacture of *course Woollen Cloth*, which entirely beat out our *Koiss*, then vendid in great Quantities in *Turkey*, and which has ever since proved prejudicial to the Consumption of our ordinary Cloth in that Empire?

Nay, have not the *Turks* of late Years, upon the Encouragement of two *Viziers*, twice attempted this Manufacture? And though under their Conduct Manufactures can never flourish, yet they made several

Cloths, which were esteemed of equal Value with ours, from 5 to 8 l. per Cloth white.

In 1665 was it not notorious that *Thomas Tillam* of *Warwickshire* prevailed with upwards of 1000 Men in this Kingdom to settle in the *Palatinats*, where they established an Woollen Manufacture, which was greatly encouraged by that Elector? And after they were fixed, was not that Colony joined by *Shops of Hertfordshire*, and many others?

And in *Silesia* and *Poland* have they not their Woollen Manufactures? and did they not attempt but two or three Years past to supply the *Czar* with Woollen Cloth for the Use of his Army?

Besides, how often have the *Dutch* entertained our Manufacturers who fled thither; and to encourage them, and others to follow their Example, settled them at *Lyden* and other Places Rent-free and Excise-free for several Years?

By these and many other Instances in my preceding Papers, 'tis evident that there is scarce any Country in *Europe* without a Woollen Manufacture.

But never did any Nation PUSH SO VERY FURIOUSLY to extend their Traffick in these Manufactures, as *France* has done since the Conclusion of the present Peace.

The *Mercator* will and may start at this Assertion as often as he pleases; but I am well assured none that are acquainted with their Trade can deny the Facts.

However, since he has only crude Notions of the French Trade, and possibly is not acquainted with the Methods they take to supply themselves with WOOL from several other Countries besides *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, I will endeavour to set him to rights in the following Particulars. V v And

And in the first Place I will tell him, That France has abundance of Wool of their own Growth, which always served for many ordinary Manufactures.

That of late Years, by the Encouragement they have given to Foreign Manufactures, they have learned to make the best of this and all their Wool.

And that the French King, some Years past, crossed great Parts of his Kingdom to be surveyed, and the waste Grounds which were found proper for the Improvement of Wool were surveyed, and the Waste, whereby they now reap no small Advantage.

To these I shall add the great Supplies they import from many Foreign Parts.

From Turkey they bring vast Quantities of the middling and ordinary Sorts of Wool: and having lately engruffed all they could procure in those Parts, they have this Year advanced the Price thereof 150 per Cent.

From the Gulf of Persia, and the Country thereabouts in Great, they constantly import several Sorts of Wool equal to ours from 7 to 9 L. per Pack.

They have also large Parcels of the inferior Sorts from divers Places in Barbary.

The Portugal Wool is now shared between them and the Dutch, the best whereof will make 13 lb and 7 c. per Yard.

And from *Billburie's* advised, under the 27th of April last, that in 8 Months before that Time, the French had sent out of Spain into France more than 1000000 Bags of Wool of all Sorts; and besides, they had contracted for most of the best Piles of the new-born Wool.

In this Manner France is become a Staple for Wool, and her Woolen Manufactures working for one Half and two Thirds of the Wages which we pay to ours, they are thereby enabled to sell their Manufactures exceeding cheap, and in great Quantities, at all the foreign Markets to which we both trade; and therefore I shall conclude, that she is become the greatest Rival we ever yet contended with in the woollen Manufacture, and that the utmost Care and greatest Application is absolutely necessary to support this national Manufacture.

But that my Readers may the better judge of the Importance thereof, I shall add,

That we are told by several ingenious Authors, the Value of the Wool from

In England amounting annually to	1,000,000
The Manufacture whereof is computed at	6,000,000
Total;	7,000,000

And that in 1699, as was observed in No. 79, our exported woollen Manufactures amounted to 2,032,921: 17 L. 6 s.

These are all Arguments which prove the Necessity we are under of securing this invaluable Treasure, and of removing every Clog that restrains our Exportation, or the Consumption of those foreign Commodities which we import in return for our woollen Goods.

If the French can work up the Wool they are now possess'd of, which they certainly can, and will do, the Merchants who trade in our woollen Goods to *Holland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Turkey*, must undoubtedly soon feel the continued ill Effects of their interfering with us in those foreign Markets.

And it will be in vain to flatter our selves that the Goodness of our Manufactures will prevent the Sale of theirs: This was fully answered by one of my Correspondents, No 47's, but for a further Confirmation of this idle Conceit, I shall produce the Opinion of *Sir Josiah Child* in his Discourse of Trade, Fol. 148.

All our Laws that oblige our People to the making of strong, substantial, (and, as we call it, loyal) Cloth, if they were duly put in Execution, would do more Hurt than Good, because the Humours and Fashions of the World change, and at some Time in some Places, (as now in most) slight, cheap, light Cloth will sell more plentifully and better, than that which is heavier, stronger, and truer wrought? And if we intend to have the Trade of the World, we must imitate the Dutch, who make the worst as well as the best of all Manufactures, that we may be in a Capacity of serving all Markets and all Humours. Which is likewise too often confirmed by the Experience of all Traders.

But the unhappy Consequences already occasioned

by the Increase of the French Trade, are manifestly proved beyond all Contradiction.

First, By the Fall of our Manufactures in all foreign Parts.

Secondly, By the Complaints of our honest and useful Clothiers, That their woollen Cloths (made of English Wool) from 7 to 9 s. per Cloth and upwards, lie now by the Walls hardly vendible, and for a long Time.

These are sufficient Evidences that our Trade is cramp'd both abroad and at home, by the French Woollen Manufactures, which some Ignorants and others ridicule.

And the Influences which have been occasioned by the Apprehensions of the Revival of the Bill of Commerce, are equally fatal.

Since our Weavers, who lately boasted that they had made up the Value of 1 s. 6 d. annually in Black Silks, are very justly lamenting, that that Manufacture is sunk in 12 Months past to less than half of that Sum.

How is it then possible, that those who have a just Regard for Trade can be unconcerned, whilst it thus languisheth, and whilst we are thus rivell'd, that our Eyes are not to be opened, until we feel what it is to want the Blessing we have hitherto enjoyed?

For many Years past, our Foreign Commerce has been happily extended; that upon the late Peace, nothing was more to be desired than to divert in prosperous Course from those Channels thence which it palled, nor nothing more to be wish'd for than to preserve and secure the Trades we enjoyed before the War; but for the future we must be content to chew upon the *Alchemist's* Tale, and study how to revive a decaying Commerce.

As long as we steadily pursued our Trade in Germany, and other Parts, for Linens and Raw Linen Yarn, and to Italy and Turkey for Raw and Throa Silk, we enjoyed the greatest Comfort for our Woollen Manufactures that was ever known, as is very evident by the Lucrifer of our Exports thence, from about 1,200,000; in 1661 and 1669, to 1,300,000; 17 a 6 d. in 1699, as is observed.

I may then be allowed the Liberty to affirm, that the Encouragement which has been given to our Linn, Linen, and other Manufactures, has chiefly procured us this amazing Knowledge of TWO MILLIONS per An. in our Exportations; whereas France never took from us, at a Medium of any three Years, before their Woollen Manufacture was brought to Perishing, 1,200,000. What then can we now expect, since their unreasonable and extravagant Duties, first not adjusted by the present Treaty, will be an absolute Prohibition to the fair Trader?

But since our new Projects have been set on to make Great Britain a Market for French Manufactures, these have given Strength and Vigour to the ambitious Designs of the French, and have put them upon enlarging their Trade to all Countries; and if our Trade were secure of a Liberty to import their Linen, Wrought Silks, &c. hitherto their Woollen Manufacture would be absolutely established, and our own proportion must decline.

Certainly therefore it's high Time to look about us to dissipate these Feurs which have already caused such violent Convulsions in our Home Trade, and find to great a Dump on our Manufactures, by removing all Jealousy of opening a free Trade with France, and by making the utmost Efforts possible to stave the Growth of the Woollen Manufacture in France, before it is arrived at too great a Magnitude.

The only way to compass this, is, as I have already said, to promote and encourage our Exportation to those Countries that trade with us to our Advantage; and also to exert our selves vigorously in putting an entire Stop to the Running of our Wool. In this Design I will cordially join Issue with the *Merchants*, and heartily wish that proper Measures than I can propose may be concerted, to restrain that pernicious and destructive Trade to our Country. However I shall never believe we are really in earnest to prevent this abominable Practice, until,

First, We are obliged to keep a general Register of our Wool.

Secondly, That severe Penalties be inflicted on those who transgress the Law.

Thirdly, That suitable Encouragement be given to the Informers and Seizers.

Fourthly, That a very easy Method be assign'd to receive



over the Seizures and Forfeitures without Cost or Delay. And,

Finally, That Men of Probity and Capacity, well vers'd in Trade, are intrusted with, and appointed to attend this important Affair, and to see that the Wool-

len-Manufacture of Great-Britain receives no Prejudice.

But I shall reserve the further Consideration of this Argument to another Occasion.

FROM TUESDAY, JUNE 15

TO FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1714.

A further Defence of the OLD SCHEME, from the Report of the Lords-Commissioners of Trade in 1697.

THE Mercator having attack'd the Vindication of the Old Scheme, published No. 80 and abridg'd and explained in No. 81. I am oblig'd once more to enter the Lists with that Writer, who, without any Regard to the Challenge he gave in his Paper No. 36. Instead of examining whether it's right or wrong, or confuting any one Argument which was brought to justify either the Scheme it self, or the Valuation of the Particulars, runs a-rift in the whole, and, with his usual Impunity and Integrity, asserts, No. 165. That

We have the Assurance to publish again this Scheme, without taking one Step to prove its Solidity, without making any Amendments to it where we know it to be deficient, and without making any Defence for its against those just Objections which have been made, whereby it has been proved to be a scandalous Forgery, and the Names to it being upon good Grounds supposed to be forged also.

This is a Charge to apparently false, and so readily detected by every one who has had the Curiosity to examine that Account, that it is inconceivable how the Mercator could thus indifferently expose himself to the just Censures of all his Opposers; were it not evident that this old Scheme roars out all his Arguments, contradicts all his Sophistry, and proves all his Notions relating to the Opening of a free Trade with France to be as deceitful as absurd; and therefore he is still for the *shortest* and *Modern Way*.

But since he is still distinguished with my Arguments to make good the OLD SCHEME, without answering any one, I shall give him one which he will never be able to answer, and that is from certain Extracts from the Report of the Lords-Commissioners of Trade to his late Majesty, dated the 23d of December, 1697.

From France the Importations have gradually increased from June 1670 to the Beginning of the late War, in Wines, Brandies, Silks, Linnen, and many Sorts of other Goods; for though there was a Prohibition of French Wine during some of those Years, yet it was brought in under other Names, and in the same Years our Exportations thither were decreased. The first Computation that we find of that Trade stands in the Books we have in our Custody, in a Report made by Sir George Downing, then one of the Commissioners of the Customs, to the Lords of the Privy-Council, then a Committee for Trade, dated the 9th of March, 1675, where it is calculated, that in one Year there were imported from France

As many Silks as amounted to ———— 1,300,000
Linenens ————— 500,700

Wines 31000 Tons } computed together
Brandies 4000 Tons } at ————— 317,000

which with Salt, Paper, Prunes, Vinegar, and other Commodities, upon the first Cost in France, amounted in all to 1,116,190 l. 4s. Sterling, besides Peines, Laces, and what was brought in privately.

And that our Exports to France the same Year amounted to but 171,032 l. 6s. 8d.

And although we believe that the Linnen and Silks are over-valued in the said Report, yet we suppose that the Goods then brought in privately (not there estimated) and the Increase of the Importation of Wine and Brandy after that Time are equivalent to that our Valuation.

For by other Computations we are informed, that Anno 1685 the Wines imported thence amounted to above 20,000 Tons, and the Brandies 6,000 Tons; and by the Receipt of the Excise it appears, that in the Year, ending at Midsummer, 1689, the Imports of Brandies amounted to 2,000 Tons, of which we suppose very little came then from any Place but France; and we are informed, that the Wines that Year exceeded 20,000 Tons.

And the French King having, Anno 1654, 1669, 1684, and 1687, increased the Duties on our Wool-len Goods, and on our Lead, Tin, Coals, Tobacco,

Sugar, Fish, and other Commodities which we usually imported into his Dominions; and also laid an Imposition of 10-Sols Tournois per Ton on all English Ships, and restrained the Importation of Wool-len Manufactures to his Ports of Calais and Diepe, and other Goods to some other convenient Ports, 'And in Anno 1686 laid great Duties on all East-India Goods, and restrained their Importation also to select Ports, and at the same Time, and otherwise encouraging the Consumption of the Cloth, Stuffs, Silks, and other Goods made by his own People, all which amounted to a Prohibition in many Cases in receiving Goods from England.

We are of Opinion, that we have been over-balanced in that Trade in most of the said Years about one Million per Annum.

TO REMEDY the Inconveniencies that may be apprehended by a Trade with France, being the Goods formerly imported from thence did so much exceed our Exports, and may again, if that Trade be laid open; and this Nation should run into the like fond Expence of Commodities from thence, before your Majesty be assured of a Relaxation of the Edicts there, and such Freedom allowed to your Subjects as may afford a mutual Convenience by the Consumption of your Goods there; seeing the French King did by several Edicts and Tariffs before the late War impose such Duties and Restraints upon many of the Goods usually exported thence, as amounted to a Prohibition; and hath (as we are informed) since the late Peace, by an Edict of the 19th of October last, in general Words referring to all Nations, confirmed the same with some additional Severities, and expressly prohibited the Importation of the most valuable East-India Goods; we humbly conceive that the Duties and Impositions now charged on French Goods cannot be taken off; without laying this Nation open to a great Disadvantage by that Trade, till, by a Treaty of Commerce, Matters relating to Trade can be settled upon such Conditions as may prevent the like Over-balance for the future.

And whereas Trade depends on Sale and Consumption, and that nothing but a lessening of the Expence of French Goods can probably reduce that Trade; We humbly propose, That the wearing and using of our home-made Silks, Cloths, Stuffs, and other useful Goods, may be encouraged by your Majesty's Royal Example, and the Example of your Court; and that the Manufactures in this Kingdom of Lustrings and Alenodes, and of all other Silks, and of Linnen and Paper, may be promoted; which may be a Means not only to lessen the Importations from France, but to give a large Employment to your People here.

And whereas Brandy before the Year 1666 was imported in so small Quantities, that we do not find any mention of it in the Book of Rates then made, and the Expence of it hath since increased to near 8000 Tons per Annum, which reckoning one fort with another at 20 l. per Ton, may cost in France near 160,000 l. annually, seeing it hath been found by Experience to have occasioned Debauchery, prejudicial to the Health of your Majesty's Subjects, and Loss of many of their Lives, and proved a great Hindrance to the Consumption of Malt; if it could be totally prohibited, we humbly conceive it would be for the Good of your People, and Ease of the Nation in carrying on this Trade.

I must here take Leave to make some Observations and Reflections upon the above-cited Extracts of the Commissioners Report in 1697.

And in the first Place I must observe, That the Authority of the OLD SCHEME is confirmed and established by this Report.

The Report gives us the very same Articles of Imported Goods from France, viz. of Silk, Linnen, Wine, Brandy, Salt, Prunes, Paper, Vinnegar, and other Commodities; and, just as the OLD SCHEME, makes the Cost of the whole Imports amount to 1,116,150 l. 4 s. Sterling, and that of the whole Exports to no more than 171,921 l. 6 s. 8 d.

This very Computation the Commissioners affirm they found in a Report made the 9th of March, 1677, by Sir George Downing, then one of the Commissioners of the Customs, to the Lords of the Privy-Council, then a Committee of Trade.

So that here is the Authority of Sir George Downing, a Commissioner of the Customs at that very Time, for the OLD SCHEME, against the Gentlemen who are now in that Commission. Let the Mercator then inform us to which of the two the most Credit ought to be given in this Matter, to Sir George Downing, who was a Commissioner at the very Time when the OLD SCHEME was made, and who handed it to the Lords of the Privy-Council; or to the present Commissioners, who were since constituted during the present Administration, and at so great a Distance from that Transaction? Is it more likely that the OLD SCHEME was forged, or the Custom-house Entries from whence the Report of the present Commissioners was taken? Would Sir George Downing, or the Commissioners of the Customs in his Time, have had the Confidence to have forg'd that SCHEME, if there had been Entries then in Being to contradict them? And if there are now any such Entries, is it not very natural to believe they were forg'd since that Time to serve a Turn, perhaps to procure a Repeal of that Prohibition of 1678, which is said to have been founded upon the Credit of that SCHEME.

I desire the Mercator, or the present Commissioners of the Customs, will find out some Answer to this Argument; for till they do, the OLD SCHEME is established in every Article, and the Report of the present Commissioners can never stand before it.

And yet allowing that Report to stand, my Correspondent, in No. 80, has so well justified so many Articles of the OLD SCHEME, and shew'd the Variation in the general Balance of Trade as it would stand upon the Report of the present Commissioners of the Customs, from that of the SCHEME, to be such a Trifle, that it was not worth my while to dwell upon this Argument. But when such an Opportunity came in my way, I could not forbear adding the Weight of Sir George Downing's Authority to that of the worthy Gentlemen who were the Subscribers of the SCHEME.

The next thing to be observed in the Extracts, is, That even during the Prohibition French Wines were brought in under other Names. I believe so too. The Mercator has said the same thing, and that it was done by the Order of the Court, and by the Connivance of the Commissioners of the Customs. If it was, we are not to wonder at the late Report of the Commissioners, which contradicts in a few trivial Instances the OLD SCHEME. If a Court can give such Orders, and the Commissioners of the Customs will obey them, we may very well account for the Entries from whence the present Commissioners took their last Report: They were very probably made by Order or Connivance.

A third thing to be observed, is, That the Commissioners in 1697 imagine that the Linnens and Silks are over-valued in the OLD SCHEME. They only imagine so; they have not produc'd one Argument for their Imagination. For my own Part, I believe the

direct contrary; and I shall not be long, shew'd by the Authority of the Inspector-General and Merchants, that the Linnens are not over-valued, and that the Silks are greatly under-valued.

But 4thly, The Lords Commissioners in 1697 suppose that the Goods that a privately smuggle in (and are smuggled in the Scheme) and the Smuggling in Importation of Wine and Brandy after that time are equalled to their supposed Over-valuation. How the Goods clandestinely imported for very considerable I but the Mercator does not believe any such thing; he says, the Custom-house Entries can give us a true Account of all our Imports, but not of our Exports to any Country. Then it is certain no Goods can be clandestinely imported for such as are, are never entered.

5thly, How often has the Mercator been officious with the 12000 Tons of Wine and 4000 Tons of Brandy in the SCHEME? But it seems the Lords Commissioners in 1697 are of a very different Opinion, they near double the Quantities of these Goods for every Year.

6thly, These Gentlemen are, of Opinion we have been over-balanced in the French Trade about one Million per Ann. I believe most Merchants will think them very modest: Almost that Loss may be made out by Custom-house Entries, besides such Allowance as ought to be made for clandestine Importation. The Mercator is of another; he says it was ALWAYS BENEFICIAL to the Nation, and sometimes says he has proved it. I wish I could see but any one thing that looks like a Proof, I would give over writing any more.

7thly, The said Lords Commissioners in 1697 are of Opinion, that our first Remedy against losing such an Over-balance, is to keep on our present high Duties, or procure such a Treaty of Commerce as shall let our Goods into France to as great a Value, as the French can send to England. We are sure they are in the Right as to high Duties; we can only get by the French Trade, when we keep out as much as possible the Goods and Merchandizes of that Nation. As to a Treaty of Commerce that would enable us to sell by that Trade, I wish the Mercator, or any one else, could shew what Treaty would be sufficient for that Purpose. I am very sure the late Treaty is not; it puts France on as good a Condition for trading with England as every other Nation, and leaves still standing in France all necessary Prohibitions and high Duties to the Goods and Merchandizes of England: It will certainly increase their Importations into England, but cannot increase our Exports to that Country.

8thly, I have often shewn, that our Trade is laid in this Report, depend on Sales and Consignments; and have shewn, therefore, every-where recommended the use of our own, and discontinued the use of French Silks, Linnen, Paper, &c. My chief Aim has been the Increase of our Revenues, and, as the Report says, to give a large Employment to our People; but I have persuaded the Mercator and his Abettors have nothing of this at Heart.

Lastly, The Commissioners in 1697 would totally prohibit Brandy, the Expense of which they suppose might formerly cost the Nation 160,000 l. per Ann. and hinder a vast Consumption of OUR MALT. These Gentlemen were for the Interest of the Nation; and for the same Reason I could wish effectual Care could be taken to prevent the Importation of foreign Brandy under any Duties less than the present. But the Mercator would gladly have France as much favoured as any other Nation.

From FRIDAY, June 18. to

TUESDAY, June 27. 1714.

An Answer to all the Exports to France at the End of the Mercators.

Foreign Goods exported now to France no Argument for the Bill of Commerce, rather an Argument against it.

Corn and other Provisions, as also Lead and Tin in those Lists, no Argument for it.

Neither are our woollen Manufactures.

The whole Exports of woollen Manufactures to

I Believe I have suffered the Mercator to go on for 40 or 50 times with a List of Goods exported to France at the End of his Papers, without vouching any Answer to this Argument; or rather to these Pieces of an Argument; for I could never think them worth an Answer.

France last Year not 100000 l. Value.

The whole exported to Dunkirk Custom-free, and that Place sufficient to consume all that is sent to France.

The Mercator convicted of Forgery or Folly.

The French have Wool sufficient for all Parts of the woollen Manufacture without applying to England.

At the End of the Mercator it is common to be in Capital Letters.

FROM THE CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Goods exported to France in our way, there a Year, four, five, six or seven Days.

And then follow his Pretels of woollen Manufactures

tures, dying Goods, *Lead*, Tin, Corn, and other Provisions, which in that Compass of Time are entered on to *France* from the Port of *London*, to smother his Readers, and make them believe our Exports to that Nation are prodigious, even now, tho' the Treaty of Commerce is not made effectual, and under the Disadvantage of the present Duties and Prohibitions.

And how much then are they to imagine our Exports shall be increased, when by rendering the Treaty effectual the French Prohibitions shall be repealed, and their Duties shall be reduc'd to the moderate Tariff of 1664?

To answer, I they are not likely to be increas'd at all; for, 1st. As I have often said, no Prohibitions on foreign Goods exported from this Kingdom are repealed by this Treaty; since by the very Words of the Treaty, the Prohibitions to be repealed are only such as concern the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, *Bené Mercey*, *Magne Britannique*, since after a whole Year's Solicitation *France* has not yete defended to explain, that by Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain* shall be understood those of foreign Growth, or Manufacture exported from *Great Britain*; so that all Prohibitions on these Goods are to remain in their full Force, not any one of 'em is repealed by any Clause in the late Treaty, and consequently we shall send no greater Quantities of *East India* or *Turkey* Goods to *France* than we do already; no greater Quantities of *Dying-Goods*, for these also are the Growth of foreign Nations.

It is indeed true, that some Parcels of these Goods are exported even now to *France*. That Prince is accustomed to dispence with his Prohibitions to supply any present Wants or Exigencies of his Subjects, and it is not improbable that he dispences with them at this Time as a Shoeing-horn to the Bill of Commerce, and to get the Treaty made effectual. But he is not obliged to repeal or dispence with them by this Treaty; and when it shall be made effectual by a Law, when we shall have obliged our selves to let in an Inundation of Wines, Linnen, Silk, Paper, and other Commodities and Manufactures of that Nation, he will then enjoin a more strict Execution of his Prohibitions on our foreign Goods, he is under no Obligation not to do it by the late Treaty.

The Goods therefore of the *East Indies* and the *Levants*, the several sorts of *Dying-Wares* which we read in the *Mercator's* Lists of exported Goods to *France*, are no Argument at all for the Bill of Commerce. Our Exportation of these Goods will not be increas'd by the Treaty; on the contrary, if his most Christian Majesty suffers greater Quantities of them to be imported now, than he will be obliged to do after the Treaty shall be made effectual; if he does this that we may be his Bubbles, and oblige our selves to let in an Inundation of Manufactures from his Countries, that when this Point is gained, he may then be more strict than he is at present in the Execution of his Prohibitions; then all the foreign Goods which we read in the *Mercator's* Lists are so many Arguments why we ought never to pass the Bill of Commerce, since the passing of that Bill, instead of increasing, may prove a Means to lessen our Exportations in respect to foreign Goods. He suffers us to export them now, because he has Turn to serve; when the Turn is served, he may without any Breach of Treaty prevent our Exportation.

2^{dly}. We read great Quantities of Corn and other Provisions exported to *France* in the *Mercator's* Lists; but what Argument is this for the Bill of Commerce? The French People, when they are almost starving for want of Bread, buy great Quantities of Bread from *England*; and his most Christian Majesty, to save the Lives of his Subjects, suffers it to be imported Custom-free. What Reason is this for rendering the Treaty effectual? He suffers his People to buy Bread from us Custom-free without this Treaty; and shall we import it upon better Terms than Custom-free when the Treaty shall be made effectual? The not rendering it effectual does not hinder our selling such Quantities of Corn as are wanted in the French Nation, and the rendering it effectual will not enable us to sell any when they do not want it. The Corn therefore and Provisions which we read in the *Mercator's* Lists of exported Goods are nothing to his Purpose, are no Argument why we should pass the Bill of Commerce.

There are among the *Mercator's* exported Goods some Parcels of *Lead* and *Tin*; and as *France* has none of

these Commodities of her own Growth, has constant Occasion for about 30 or 40,000 *l*. Value of these Goods per Annum; and can no otherwise be supplied than from this Kingdom, she must have them at all Times whether of War or Peace; and even during the last War, she procured as much as she wanted by the way of neutral Countries. It is of no great Importance therefore to us, whether the French Duties on our *Lead* or *Tin* are by the Tariff of 1664, or by any higher Tariff, *France* must take from us what she wants, and the easiest Tariff will not make her take a much greater Quantity, since it would be ridiculous for her to import much more than is necessary for the annual Consumption of her People. I verily believe the least Duties or none at all on our *Lead* and *Tin*, would hardly enable us to sell to *France* above the Value of 10 or 15000 *l*. of those Commodities more than we do at present; and would it be worth our while for this Profit to pass the Bill of Commerce, and to let in an Inundation of Wine, Silks, Linnens, Paper, and other Commodities from *France*, as we did heretofore, and for which we shall be forc'd to pay not with *Lead* or *Tin*, but with the vital Treasure of the Nation?

The Thing which I have referred to speak of in the last Place, is that which always stands first in the *Mercator's* Lists, *viz.* our Woollen Manufactures.

In the Front of all his Daily Entries for *France*, there are constantly several Parcels of Woollen Manufactures, without any Valuation, that his Readers may believe the whole Year's Value is prodigious.

Besides, he often takes care to inform us they are now exported to *France* under a heavy Load of Duties, about 70 per Cent. as he sometimes tells us of their full Value; but by the Tariff of 1664, he often tells us the Duties are not above 10 per Cent. and that the late Treaty of Commerce reduces all to that Tariff, two Species only excepted, *viz.* Cloth and Mill'd Serges; nay, in his Numbr. 75. he makes a Correspondent of his from *Paris* value the Duties by that Tariff at no more than 5 per Cent. [but 'tis no great Matter whether he is consistent with himself or his Correspondents, the Readers to whom he applies are not very nice, and they must not be so unnecessarily as to remember his Contradictions] and if such prodigious Quantities are exported under the present Load of Duties, how much greater would be exported by the Tariff of 1664, to which they are reduc'd by the late Treaty?

Now I ask every one of the *Mercator's* Readers what he thinks of his Daily Entries of our Woollen Manufactures for *France*? What does he think they will amount to in a Year? Would it be worth the *Mercator's* while to fill every Paper with a long Catalogue; if the Catalogue of a whole Year would not amount to 20000 *l*. Can any Man imagine he does not delight to impose upon them a Belief that our present annual Exports of Woollen Manufactures for *France* from the Port of *London* are above 20 times that Value?

I shall therefore present my Reader at once with all the Entries of Woollen Manufactures that have been made for *Fr.* from the Port of *London* in one whole Year from *Christmas* 1712. to *Christmas* 1713. which are as follow-

Species of Goods.	Enter'd to Dunkirk.	To other Ports.	Total to France.
Stuffs	1641	37	1678
Serges	134		134
Penitons	10		10
Double Bays	13		13
Single Bays	6		6
Spanish Cloths	132		132
White Cloths	2		2
Long Cloths	23		23
Short Cloths	65		65
Double Dozens	59		59
Single Dozens	54		54
Kerseys	99		99
Ericks Yards	200		200
Cotton Goods	3800		3800
Flemish Yards	2970	669	3639
Woollen Cloth	110	20	130
Hoze Doz.	291	51	342
Hats Doz.	31	6	37
Perpets	30	2	32
Blankets		6	6

Besides Garments for *Dunkirk*, which may be presumed to have been exported chiefly for our own Garrison, and not as any Part of our Trade to *France*.

Now I will defy the *Mercator*, or any other Person whatsoever, to make the whole Value of all these Goods amount to the Sum of 10,000 *l.* And is this a Sum for a whole Year to be distributed to us in Parcels almost three times every Week? But doubtless his Intent was that his Readers should believe, and many, no doubt, are so unwary, as to believe from his Weekly Scraps, that our Exports of Woollen Manufactures to *France* for the whole Year are many times the Value of 10,000 *l.* even under the present Burthen of high Duties.

But such a Trifle as it is, what Reason have we to believe that it is exported to *France* under the present heavy Duties? I desire my Reader will cast his Eye back to the above-mentioned Table; he will there see that almost the whole Exports are made to *Dunkirk*, which is a free Port, and where no Customs at all are paid; and that it is a Trifle indeed, not the Value of 100 *l.* which was exported to all the other Ports of *France*. It looks as if an Essay had been made to export our Woollen Manufactures to other Ports of *France*, but that it was found impracticable and given over.

Dunkirk, as I have said, is a free Port; no Customs are paid there, and it appears that almost all our Woollen Manufactures entered for *France* are exported for that City: How then can the *Mercator* pretend that our Woollen Manufactures are exported to *France* under the present Load of Duties, or indeed under any Duties at all?

Yet the *Mercator* has pretended this in a Letter which he has counterfeited from a Correspondent in *Dunkirk*, which is to be seen in his Numb. 75.

He makes his *Dunkirk* Correspondent say, That they have great Quantities of the Woollen Manufactures of England in that City; That they get them there two Ways by running them on Shore clandestinely; That this was the way to do by the great Number of Ships laden thither with Corn, and Coal since the Peace, all which brought Woollen Manufactures, which were run ashore without paying the Duties; that the Farmers of the Customs perceiving this, thought it their best way to treat with the Merchants, and accordingly agreed to take 25 per Cent. less than the full Duties; that now all sorts of our Woollen Manufactures are sold in *Dunkirk* almost as openly as in any Town in Flanders, and are forwarded from thence to all Parts of *France*, and even to Paris itself; and the Correspondent says, he had just then received 32 Spanish Cloths ashore, which he had bought by Commission in London, and was then forwarding to Paris.

Several Things are to be remark'd on this Letter, and the foregoing Exports to *France*.

And 1st, That the Letter never came from *Dunkirk*, but was forged here by the *Mercator*; or if it really came from *Dunkirk*, it was sent on purpose to abuse him. For a *Dunkirk* Man to tell us, that Goods are run clandestinely ashore in a free Port to save the Duties, or that our Merchants there agree with the Farmers of the Customs for an Abatement of 25 per Cent. of the Duties in a Place where no Duties at all are paid, is ridiculous. No Man that lives in *Dunkirk* could be guilty of saying this. Some such thing might be expected from the WILD IRISH, and I believe that either the *Mercator* or his Director was a Native of that Country.

2^{dly}, As for the Value of 10,000 *l.* in Woollen Manufactures to be sent to *Dunkirk*, where we had an English Garrison, and where it will be presumed that our own Officers would chuse to appear in the Manufactures of their native Country, it is nothing. It does not prove that we have sold any Woollen Manufactures at all to the French People.

3^{dly}, But if we had not had an English Garrison, how

inconsiderable a Thing is the Value of 10,000 *l.* in Woollen Manufactures to be consumed by the Inhabitants of that City, where the *Sieur Turgot* in his Memorial says there are 12,000 Families? It is not above 12 *per* Head; but whatsoever is consumed in *Dunkirk* is consumed without paying any Customs, and will not prove that our Woollen Manufactures are sent at this Time to *France* under a heavy Load of Duties. It vain therefore does the *Mercator* tell us that our Goods are forwarded from *Dunkirk* to all other Parts of *Fr.* and even to Paris itself. No Man living will believe him, and how ridiculous is it to tell us he was just then forwarding 32 Spanish Cloths to Paris, when no more than 12 were imported into *Dunkirk* in a whole Year?

But lastly, What is 10,000 *l.* Value of Woollen Manufactures to be sent to so great a Nation as *France*? it is not one farthing *per* Head for every one of their People. It might well be sent to *France* under any Duties; that Nation, which has not been so long at this Manufacture as our selves, may be thought to take off as much as this for meer Patterns. It is melancholy Consideration, that we find neither openly nor clandestinely at this Time to that Kingdom above the Value of 10,000 *l.* in Woollen Manufactures; it is a Sign they are very much improved; and for my own Part I expect but little Help from the late Treaty of Commerce, which leaves from 30 to 50 per Cent. Duties on our Woollen Manufactures in that Kingdom. It is plain therefore the French have Woollen Manufactures enough of their own to stand in no need of any at all from us; if they had not, no Duty would be sufficient to prevent our sending among them, either fairly or clandestinely, greater Quantities than the Value of 10,000 *l.* so small a Trifle for so great a Nation; and yet by the Entries it does not appear we send them any, since our People at *Dunkirk* were sufficient to take off all we sent thither.

I think therefore, for my own Part, the *Mercator* had best keep to his Arguments against Owling, and recommend as much as possible the keeping our Woollen Materials to carry on this Manufacture.

But, 2^{dly}, this will not do the Business; they can be in no Want of Woollen, though they should not be supplied with any from this Nation.

Yes, says the *Mercator*, No 168, they may have Spanish Wool for fine Cloth and fine Drapery; but what is this to the Grease of our Woollen Manufactures? is our Saddle and Saddle Girth, our Yorkshire Cloth, our Western Wines, our Kestons, Bays, Norwich Stuffs, Exeter Serge Sops, Perpetuans, Shadons, Sagachies, and various Drapery, &c.

One Point then, with much ado, I have at last gained of the *Mercator*, That there can be no Want of fine Wool in *France*. This is a very considerable Step indeed.

I must inform him now, that they can have sufficient coarse Wool either to mix with their fine, or to make those other Manufactures without coming into England.

I have shewn often that they have a good deal of their own; and if they had not, they could be supplied with this also from Spain and Portugal.

We take from Spain only their fine Segovia Wool, which is sorted into Firsts, Seconds, and Thirds.

But the Spaniards have several other Sorts, such as Wool of Castile, of Aragon, and other finer Sorts, from 5 *l.* to 6 *l.* *per* *lib.* which after being picked and cleaned, and thrown into proper Sorts, is worth from 6 *l.* to 10 *l.* *per* *lib.* and answers all the Uses of English Wool. We buy only their best Segovia Wool, but the French great Quantities of all their other Sorts. The Portugal Wool runs higher than the ordinary Sorts of Spain, so that *France* without coming to us cannot want Wool for any part of the Woollen Manufacture.

The British Merchant;

OR,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D:

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From TUESDAY, June 22. to FRIDAY, June 25. 1714.

*The Importance of the Manufacture of Turkey
Raw Silk to this Kingdom.
500 l. Value of Wooll exported to Turkey pays*

*5000 l. to the Lands and Labour of the Nation.
The French Trade deprives us of this, and gives
us nothing.*

THESSE are the Men (says the Mercator, Numb. 153. speaking of the British Merchants) who have debauched the Nation, imposed upon their Country, enslaved the People, and raised even a Sedition against setting the Commerce. Sometimes we are accused of a Conspiracy to raise the Mob against the Administration for having made such a Treaty with France, as must in its Consequence, if it should be made effectual, take the very Bread out of their Mouths.

The Administration, as I have often said, has very prudently referred the finishing of this Treaty to the Consent of the People, so that they cannot be ruined by it without their own Consent, without passing a Law by which it shall be made effectual. They have a Right to consider all the Consequences of such a Law, and to pass it or reject it as it shall appear to be beneficial or detrimental. And now if we will shew them that they cannot render the Treaty effectual but at the Price of their daily Bread, shall this Fellow tell us that we are raising the Mob upon the Administration?

But without being in the least afraid of his Resentment, I shall go on to tell my Countrymen, That such a Law would prove their Ruin.

The Rules by which I always judge concerning the Value of a Treaty of Commerce with a foreign Nation are, the Treasure of the Nation, and the Subsistence of the People.

If it is likely to add to our Capital Stock, if it shall add to the Rents of our Landed Gentlemen, if it shall increase the Employment and Subsistence of the Poor, it must needs be beneficial.

On the contrary, if it shall diminish our Gold or Silver, if it shall prove a Means to introduce the Product of foreign Countries to interfere with our own, if it shall lessen the Demand of our own Manufactures at our own or foreign Markets, and bring our Manufacturers to the Parish and the Lands for their Subsistence, every Man is able to determine that a Treaty which shall do any of these Things is detri-

mental to the Kingdom. And 'tis by these Rules that I have so often condemned our Treaty of Commerce with the French Nation.

Though 'tis a troublesome Task to be every Week taken up in answering to dull a Wretch as the Mercator, yet I am very often enraptured by the Materials which are sent me for this Purpose.

It would certainly be worth the While of any Gentleman to understand the whole Progress of a Manufacture from its Commencement to its Consumption, and how much it pays to the Subsistence of the People. This, I think, is handsomely made out in an Instance from one of my Correspondents of 100 broad Cloths sent to *Ta-ky*, and the Returns of Raw-Silk that are manufactured for our own Consumption, which is as follows.

* A Clothier buys at Market 50 Packs of Wooll pick'd and sorted, at 10 l. per Pack	500 00 00
* With which Wooll he makes 200 Broad Cloths, and the Manufacture thereof in Carding, Spinning, Weaving, Milling, Dressing, &c. as they are usually brought to and sold <i>White</i> at <i>Blackwell-hall</i> , will amount to about the first Cost of the Wooll	500 00 00
* So that these 100 Cloths are sold by the Clothier to the Merchant at 10 l. per Cloth	1000 00 00
* And the Merchant pays for Dying of the said 100 Cloths, viz. one 3d Part in Grain Colours, at 7 l. and 2 Thirds in ordinary Colours at 30 s. per Cloth	333 06 00
* Also for Setting, Drawing, Pressing, Packing, &c. 15 s. per Cloth	75 00 00
* The said 100 Cloths will cost the Merchant 14 l. 1 s. 8 d. per Cloth on Board, which amounts to	1400 00 00

Y y

And

* And to repay him their Cost and Charges here, and their Charges abroad, with a bare Allowance for Insurance, and the Interest of his Money, they cannot purchase less, I should think, than 22 great Pounds of Sherbafice (or *Perfa fine* Raw Silk) for every Cloth. Thus he probably receives for the said 100 Cloths 2100 Pounds Weight of the said Raw Silk.

* Now if the Half-part of this Silk is wrought up into plain coloured Tahies, the Manufacturers will receive 132

7 *d. per lib.*

747 01 08

* And if the other Half-part is wrought up into rich flower'd Silks brocaded, the Manufacturers will receive 5 L 19 s.

9 *d. per lib.*

2186 05 00

* And the Additional Charge of Dying, supposes but of one 8th Part of the said Silk into Grain Colours at 9 s. per lib.

123 15 00

* Then the Cost and Charges of 100 Woolen Cloths shipped from London to Turkey, and the Manufacture of the Raw Silk brought from thence in Returns thereof, must amount to

4465 08 84

* The Freight of the said 100 Cloths, and of the said 2500 lib. of Raw Silk, is computed at

40 12 05

* Her Majesty's Customs on the said 2500 lib. of Raw Silk is

556 15 00

* English Factors Commissions abroad on the Sales of the Cloth, and on investing the Returns in Silk, as aforesaid, computed at

500 00 00

It is here clearly represented to the View of every Reader, that every 2200 lib. wt. of Raw Silk imported from Turkey, and manufactur'd here for our own Consumption, without paying any thing to the Merchants or the Mercers Gain, pays to the Land holders, the Labourers, and the Queen the Sum of

4762 15 20

If any thing is to be added for the Merchants and the Mercers Gain, (and we may depend upon it they will not be at the Trouble of driving their Trades for nothing) we may very well affirm that the whole Cost of this Manufacture for Consumption cannot be less than the Sum of 5000 l. to that 2200 lb. Weight of Turkey raw Silk manufactur'd here, pays the Sum of 5000 l. to the Subsistence of our own People.

This Account takes the Returns upon 100 Cloths exported to Turkey, and makes them pay 5000 l. to the Subsistence of our People. But we have exported annually 200 times as many Cloths for Turkey, and receive for about half that Quantity of Cloth the same kind of Returns in raw Silk for our own Consumption, and consequently our own Consumption of Turkey Silk paid for the Subsistence of our own People the Sum of 500,000 l. per Annum, besides what is paid by the other Half of that Trade. But if the Consumption of 5000 l. Value of Turkey Silk manufactur'd pays 500 l. to the landed Interest for the Wool that is exported to Turkey in Manufacture, then the annual Consumption of 500,000 l. Value of that Silk must pay 50,000 l. per Annum to the landed Interest.

And yet this is not all that the landed Interest receives annually by Means of this half Part of the Turkey Trade; the Queen and her Subjects, which receive nine times as much for Customs and Labour, pay perhaps a ninth Part of what they receive to the landed Interest for Cloaths and Provisions; by which Means the Consumption of Turkey Silk manufactur'd in England, either directly or indirectly pays a fifth Part of its whole Value to the landed Interest, that is, it pays directly one tenth Part of the Value of the Silk by

the woollen Manufacture exported, and as much more by enabling the People to purchase necessary Cloaths and Provisions, of which much more than a tenth Part is paid to the landed Interest.

It will be objected here, that the 20 l. above-mentioned upon a Pack of Wool is not paid to the landed Interest, since a Part of it is paid to the Shepherd's Wages, and a Part to the Labour of picking and sorting that Wool.

It is very true; but then considering how much of the Product of the Lands is exported to purchase Dying-Goods, and especially Cochineal, (tho' very little Care is taken by our Treaty of Commerce with Spain for our purchasing Cochineal with English Manufactures) the tenth Part of the Price of the whole Silk Manufacture may be very well said to be paid for the Product to the landed Interest.

But what a Condition would the Lands be in if it were not for this Trade?

It is evident, that of every 5000 l. Value of Manufacture from Turkey Silk, 500 l. is paid for the manufacturing of the English Wool that is sent abroad, 333 l. 6 s. and 8 d. to the Charge and Labour of dyeing, 75 l. to other Labour bestowed on that Manufacture, 747 l. 1 s. 8 d. for manufacturing one Half of the Returns, and 2186 l. 5 s. of the other, besides 123 l. 15 s. for dyeing the same in Grain Colours; add to this the Freight of 40 l. 12 s. 6 d. besides the Charges to Factors abroad and Merchants and Masters at home, and it will appear that near 4000 of every 5000 l. Value, or that near 400,000 of every 500,000 l. Value of Turkey Silk wrought in England, is paid to the Labour of the People bestowed upon it.

Now what shall the People do for Subsistence, if they should be deprived of this 400,000 l. Certainly they must come to the Parish and the Lands for their Maintenance. We are obliged therefore to this Part of the Turkey Trade, this which imports raw Silk from that Country, that it pays 100,000 l. per Annum to our Lands, and saves them from maintaining as many People as are now subsisted at their own Charge to the Value of 400,000 l. per Annum.

I think this is enough to shew, that the Turkey Trade ought to be the Care of every Gentleman in England.

The *Mercator* seems to be of another Opinion, and that our Trade to France is worth all our other Trades. *Will these Professors of Commerce* (says he, *Other 25*) *tell us how many poor Families would have been employ'd by such a Trade?* that is by the French Trade, if the Bill of Commerce had pass'd.

Yes I will tell him: For 500,000 l. Value of Silk imported from Turkey, and manufactur'd in England, we should have consum'd such a Value of French wrought Silks, for which we should have paid with ready Money, and not with the Product of our Lands nor the Labour of our People. Our Trade to Italy has been generally carried on by exporting Manufactures and not Money; and I think many of my Papers have demonstr'd, that that to France has been carried on by exporting Money and not Manufactures.

The exporting our Money to France pays nothing at all to our Lands, nothing to the Labour of our People.

If we should leave off the Consumption of our Turkey wrought Silks to the Value of 500,000 l. per Annum, and consume such a Value of the French Silks, the landed Interest would lose the Finding that 500,000 l. Value of Wool to Turkey, without finding any new Market for her woollen Manufactures in France.

The French Silks too are already manufactur'd to the utmost Perfection, so that nothing at all is left for the Labour of our own People, they would lose the Wages they now earn in the manufacturing the Turkey Silks, which I have shewn before amounts to 400,000 l. per Annum, from the Labour bestowed upon the Cloth exported for Turkey to the Silk upon the Ladies Backs. And what must they do when they shall be deprived of all these Wages? The Answer is very easy, they must be maintained at the Charge of the landed Interest.



The Difference is only this: The half Part of the Turkey Trade pays and saves to the Lands 500,000 *l.* per Annum. If that Trade shall be given up to make way for that of France, the landed Interest must lose the selling annually 50,000 *l.* Value of her Wool, and

must also be burthened with 25 many Poor as are now subsisted for 400,000 *l.* per Annum without any Charge at all to the Lands; for France, which by the Supposition is only to receive our Money, cannot by any Possibility ease us of any Part of that Charge.

From FRIDAY, JUNE 25. to TUESDAY, JUNE 29. 1714.

The Argument of the Turkey Trade adjourn'd, and why. An Arrest of the French King of the 11th of

June, against using the Stuffs of India, China, or the Levant. Reflections on the said Arrest.

THE Importance of one Half of the Turkey Trade, and the great Sums of Money it annually pays and saves to the landed Interest, are so clearly represented in my last, that I had resolv'd to proceed in this to the other Half of that Trade, and to represent the great Advantage of it to the Nation; and then to shew that the French Trade, as it stands upon the Foot of the late Treaty of Commerce, is utterly inconsistent with our Trade to Turkey, must lessen all the Advantages we receive from it, and procure us no new ones in their Stead.

But since the *Mercator* goes on still to amuse his Readers with his daily Entries for France, tho' in my No. 92 I had so fully answer'd all that he had given from the Custom-house from Christmas 1712 to Christmas 1713, without offering the least Reply to any one of the Arguments in that Paper; and since even in his last there are some Entries of East India Goods for France, to make his Readers believe that we shall make vast Exportations of those Goods when the Treaty of Commerce shall be made effectual; to undecieve those unwary Persons, and also to represent to the East India Company how little they will be benefited by that Treaty, I shall give them a Translation of an Edict of his most Christian Majesty of the 15th of this Instant June (new Style) which is as follows.

Arrest of the King's Council of State, containing Regulations on white and painted Calicoes, Mullins, and Stuffs, from the Indies, China, and the Levant; and Orders to mark all HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE made of the same; With new Prohibitions not to trade in them, nor to sell them either in Cloaths or HOUSEHOLD FURNITURES.

The 15th of June, 1714.
Extracted from the Registers of the Council of State.

THE King having been informed that the trading in, and the use of the Stuffs, Mullins, and white and painted Calicoes of the Indies, of China, and of the Levant; and of all other Sorts of Linnen Cloth and Stuffs dyed, painted, and stained either within or without the Kingdom, was not absolutely ceased, as well in Household Furnitures as in Cloth and wearing Apparel, but that some Persons still continue to make use of them in their

Houses and other Places, notwithstanding his Majesty's Prohibition by divers Arrests, and renewed by that of the 17th of August 1709; As also that sundry of the said Calicoes and Stuffs that are seized and condemned, are oftentimes not burnt nor exported into foreign Countries; and that the Seizers and Informers are sometimes deprived of Part of the Recompence they should have had according to his Majesty's Intentions; against which his Majesty being desirous to provide, in order to secure the Execution of the said Arrest of the 17th of August 1709, entirely to abolish the trading in and the use of the said Stuffs and Calicoes, which are so sensibly prejudicial to the Manufactures of the Kingdom: To prevent that those which shall or may happen hereafter to be seized and condemned, be not sold and used in the Kingdom, and to procure to those who shall have informed against the Offenders, or made any Seizures, some speedy and certain Gratifications that may excite their Zeal and Vigilance; having heard the Report of the Sieur Desmarais, Counsellor in ordinary in the Royal Council, Comptroller-General of the Finances.

Article First.

His Majesty in his Council has ordain'd, and ordains, that the Arrest of the 17th of August 1709 be executed according to its Form and Tenour; and in Consequence thereof, his Majesty very expressly prohibits and forbids on the Penalties therein contained, all Merchants, Traders, Brokers, Taylors, Sewers, Upholsterers, Embroiderers, and other Workmen, and all other Persons of what Quality and Condition soever, to trade in, expose to Sale, sell, vend, buy, either by wholesale or retail, to wear, to cloath themselves, employ, or cause to be employed, in Household Furnitures, Cloth and wearing Apparel, either within or without their Houses, Places priviledged or not priviledged, any Stuffs of all Silk, or mixed with Gold and Silver, Herbs, Wool, Cotton, and all other sorts of Stoffs; as also any Mullins, and white Calicoes or stained, within or without the Kingdom, new or old, of the Growth of the Indies, of China, and of the Levant; except notwithstanding the Mullins and white Calicoes imported from the Indies by the East India Company, and

and marked according to the Arrests of the 28th of April 1710, and 29th of March 1712.

30. His Majesty forbids to all his Subjects, on the Penalties mentioned in the said Arrest, to stain, print, or cause to be stained and printed on any white Calicoes, Linnen, Cloth made of Hemp, Thread and Flax, Silk or woollen Stuffs, or other sort of Stuff new or old, even of the Growth or Manufacture of the Kingdom; and to trade or traffick in, or to use the said Cloth and Stuffs stained and printed, either in the Kingdom or in foreign Countries.

31. His Majesty ordains, that when, and as soon as any of the said Stuffs and Cloth are seized, the same be brought without Delay to the nearest Office of the Farms, and put into the Hands of the Receivers and Comptrollers, who shall be charged with them at the Rates of the Information of Seizures, and shall cause the same to be entered in their Registers.

32. After Judgment passed on the said Stuffs and Cloth, the said Receivers and Comptroller shall be obliged to send them immediately to the Custom-house of the City of Paris, together with a Copy as well of the Judgment as of the Information of Seizure, and of the Inventory that has been taken of the said Goods, containing the Quantity, Quality, and Length of the said Stuff and Cloth; of which the Receiver and Comptroller of the Custom-house at Paris shall keep a Register on Purpose, and they shall give to the Receivers and Comptrollers of the Provinces for their Discharge a Receipt perused by the General Farmers of his Majesty.

33. His Majesty wills, that over and above the Two Thirds of the Forfeiture granted by the Arrest of the 27th of August 1709 to the Informers, and to the Inspectors of the Manufactures, Officers of the Farms, and other Persons who shall make Seizures, there be made out to their Benefit by the Farmers-General within 8 Days after the said Stuffs and Cloth shall have been brought to the Custom-house at Paris, an Order on the Receiver-General of the Farms where the Seizure was made, to pay them the Gratifications following.

34. 10 Sols for every Ell of white or stained Calicoe, new or old, of what Sort soever they be.

35. 10 Sols for every Ell of Mullin, or Stuffs called Herbe, painted Polongs, Ganses, or Taffeties.

36. And 3 Livres for every Ell of Damask or Silk Stuff mixed with Gold and Silver.

37. There shall be transmitted by the Farmers-General to the Comptrollers-General of the Finances a Duplicate of the Inventory of the said Stuffs and Cloth to be by him certified, the one Half to be sold on Condition to be exported into foreign Countries, the Value of which shall be paid into the Cash of the Farms; and the other Half to be burnt by Order of the Lieutenant-General of the Police of the said City, who shall enter Information of it, and cause a Copy thereof to be delivered to the Officers of the Customs for their Discharge.

38. The Buyers of the said Stuffs and Cloth shall give Security to the Farmers-General to bring, within three Months at farthest, a Certificate from the Officer of the Farms established at the last Office on the Frontier, by the Buyers first named, to justify the Exportation of the said Stuffs and Cloth out of the Kingdom, and a Certificate signed by the Council of the French Nation, or by two French Traders and Merchants, to prove that the same have been landed in foreign Countries; His Majesty ordains, that they shall not be sent into any other Countries or States, but to Sweden, Denmark, Hanse-Towns, the Sea-Ports in the Baltic, Spain and Portugal, excepting notwithstanding the Ports of Bilbao, St. Sebastian, and others of the Provinces of Guipuzcoa, Biscay and Catalonia. His Majesty very expressly prohibits and forbids the said Buyers to do any thing in Contravention to this Ar-

ticle; to the Execution of which, as likewise to the Payment of the Purchase-Money thereof, together with the Masters of the Ships, shall be jointly obliged, and forced by all manner of Ways and Means, even by Seizure of their Bodies.

39. His Majesty likewise ordains, That within three Months from the Day of the Publication of this present Arrest, all Persons of what Quality and Condition soever, shall deliver to the Lieutenant-General of the Police, or those deputed by him, in the City, Suburbs and Bailiwick of Paris, and in the Provinces to the Intendants and Commissaries respectively, their Deputies, or other Persons by them appointed for that purpose, exact Accounts of all Household Furniture in their Possession, of what Nature or Sort soever, made with any of the said Stuffs and Cloth; and to cause to be fixed to them the Mark which shall be appointed by the said Lieutenant-General of the Police, Intendants, or Commissaries respectively, His Majesty wills, That after that Time all the said Household Furniture not marked be seized and condemned in the Hands of the Offenders, who shall over and above be condemned to pay a Fine of 1000 Livres.

40. His Majesty permits the Proprietors of the said Household Furniture to sell and dispose freely of them during the said Term of three Months; after which Time his Majesty forbids, under the same Penalties to be incurred as well by the Buyer as the Seller, to sell any of them, even those Household Furnitures to be marked, unless it be by public Authority.

41. His Majesty enjoins all Judges, Commissaries, Notaries, Sergeants, Ushers, and other Officers of Justice, even to them who belong to the Lords, on Pain of Suspension, one thousand Livres Penalty, and to answer in their proper and private Names, and the Penalties to be absolute; to give notice to the Lieutenant-General of the Police, Intendants, and Commissaries respectively of all the Household Furniture made of the said Stuffs and Cloth, marked and not marked, that shall be found among the Household Goods and Effects of the Parties seized, or of Persons deceased, the same to be perused whether they are in the Accounts which shall have been delivered by the said Parties seized, or Persons deceased; and that the same be not delivered now for any Cause, or under Pretence of any Execution whatsoever, nor proceed to a judicatory Sale, or to the Inventory of the same, until after such Examination is made.

42. His Majesty likewise enjoins the said Lieutenant-General of the Police, Intendants, and Commissaries respectively, on Notice given them of Offences committed against this Arrest, to nominate Commissaries of the Chateaux, Deputies, or other Persons, to assist without Cost and Expence to the making the Inventories of the Household Goods only; And this present Arrest shall be read, published, and affixed where Need shall be, that none may be ignorant thereof. Done at the King's Council of State, held at Paris the 15th Day of June, 1714.

Signed Dejaridan.

Can any Man now that reads this Arrest believe that his most Christian Majesty has put his own Subjects under this severe Prohibition, that England may have the Monopoly of those Goods? No certainly; but he knows very well that this Arrest, even if the Treaty of Commerce should be made effectual, will as well prohibit the English Sellers as those of France. The Treaty of Commerce does not provide against it by repealing his Prohibitions *Quod non Moribus Magna Britannia*. After a whole Year's Solicitation he is not yet brought to explain, that Goods of foreign Growth, and Manufacture are the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain; and therefore he is at Liberty to prohibit these as he thinks fit, notwithstanding any Words in the late Treaty.

But to show how resolved and determined his Majesty is against suffering the Use of these Stuffs, &c. in his Kingdom, he will not so much as endure that any Household Furniture should be made of them; and that there may be no Possibility of wearing or using any of these Goods, and pulling them upon the Officers for the Growth and Manufacture of France, Printing and Staining of all Manufactures, whether new or old, whether made within the Kingdom or without, are so expressly forbid in the second Article. He has in the fifth Article too made the Penalties for the Informer so very great, and taken such Order for the Paymeot, that this is an Artelt which cannot fail to execute it self. In the sixth and seventh he has taken such strict Order too for the burning one Half of all Seizures, and the Exportation of the other to foreign Countries, that we may see he is fully determined that a single Yard of them shall not be used in his own Dominions.

But one Thing is remarkable in the Article of Ex-

portation: He allows it only to be made to Sweden, Denmark, the Hanse Towns, the Sea-Ports in the Baltic, Spain, and Portugal, excepting the Ports of Bilbao, St. Sebastien, and others of the Provinces of Guipuzcoa, Biscay, and Catalonia; so that 'tis plain he not only forbids the Use of them in his own Country, but will not suffer them to be exported to any other where they may interfere with the Manufactures of his own People, which would be the Case if they should be exported to Guipuzcoa, Biscay, and Catalonia. This perhaps may look strange if he cannot hinder other Countries from being otherwise supplied. However it shows his Majesty's Zeal for promoting his own Manufactures.

The English Nation, and especially the East-India Company, may now hope, if they can, that France is to be the Market for our East-India Manufactures; but I believe they had before given over all such Hopes.

From TUESDAY, June 29. to FRIDAY, July 2. 1714.

An Extract of a Letter from Cadix, Spain by the late Treaty, concerning our Loss of our Trade to Remarks on the said Letter.

Extract of a Letter from CADIX, dated June 3d. 1714. N. S.

I Am sorry that the State of Publick Affairs does at present so manifestly prejudice Trade. Our Commerce here (that is the Factors) have made Remarks on the Articles of Peace and Commerce, and represented that in many Particulars we are in a worse Condition than in the Reign of King Charles II. and not half so much favoured in Duties as the French Nation. It is likewise set forth, that in the Interim excessive Customs are exacted, more than even in time of War; by which Means no Goods are dispatch'd, and all Trade stop'd. It is made appear that the French continue a clandestine Trade to the Spanish Indies by the King's Commission, expressly contrary to the Treaty. It is hoped, when these Matters are fully understood, that the Parliament will fix in the Matter; and if IT BENT TOO LATE, remedy those Grievances, and prevent the bad Effects of several Over-sights in the late Negotiations. There are at present in this Bay an Aviso or Pacquet-Boat, and four other Ships fitting for Vera-Cruz, and the Havanas, laden entirely with French Effects, besides some other French Ships for the South Sea-Mexico Plate Form. 7 per Cent. Exchange for London 53 d. to 52½ per Piece of Eight.

The Reader has here an Extract of one single Letter from Spain; if I were to give him the Extracts of all the Letters to the same Purpose from the English and Irish Merchants in that Kingdom, they would make a Volume 53 as all the British Merchants bound together.

The Complaints of every one are, that we are not so much favour'd in Duties as the French; that we are in a worse Condition than we were in the Reign of King Charles 2d; that more excessive Customs are exacted now than when we were in actual War with the Spanish Nation; that none of our Goods are dispatch'd, and that all our Trade is stop'd; that the French in the mean time have a full Trade, by the Commission of the K. of S. to the Spanish Indies; and that whole Ships are entirely laden with French Effects for those Countries, besides many which the French themselves send directly for the South Sea. There are the Complaints which our Merchants residing in Spain singly represent to their Correspondents here, and also jointly as a Body with their Consul to the Government.

Now what is the Answer to all this? It is possible we may be told, that these Things have for a long time past been the Town Talk of this City; that they have been transmitted hence to the Spanish Nation, and are represented back again by our Factors in Obedience to their Principals; so that the Town give to them may be, that they are only the unreasonable Murmurs of the City of London, and that our Factors in Spain write just as their Masters dictate to them.

What? Are all Mankind become a Faction? Tories and Whiggs, Christians and Jews, English as well as Irish, all our Spanish Traders both at home and abroad agree in the same Compliments, and are they all a Faction? Are all these Things false, because they all affirm that they are true?

If a notorious Highway-Man should be arraigned and indicted at the Old-Baily, of twenty several Robberies, and the Persons he had robb'd and their Servants should all come in as Witnesses against him, should all swear to the several Robberies, and that this was the very Man, would he be suffered to make his Defence in this Manner? Would it be thought a good Defence, that he was long before accused by publick Fame, that this had rais'd an Odium against his Person, and that the whole Cloud of Witnesses were prevail'd with upon this Account to bear their Testimony against him? Yet just such a Defence as this is that of the Spanish Treaty of Commerce; the Spanish Treaty is innocent, because every one says it is guilty. No Highway-Man would be suffered to escape so.

But should the unanimous Complaints of all our Merchants now at last bring some Gentlemen to change their Language; should they say now, if we have made an ill Treaty, we must retrieve this Error, and make a good one; should they say, that if Had over Head we have given up our Spanish Trade, we must now take the Advice of the Merchants by what Means it may be recovered; I must ask what Advice are they able to give, which will be agreed to by the Spanish Nation? We have already bound our selves by a Treaty, and can we oblige the K. of Spain to give us a better? Or what Equivalent shall we give him for it? But this should have been thought of before we had made our Peace, and while at the Head of a numerous Confederacy we were every Year carrying on

a successful War against *France* and *Spain*, such a War as we might reasonably have expected would have ended in a better Treaty of Commerce than this, which is universally complain'd of by every *Spanish* Merchant both within and without the Kingdom.

And yet one would think if we should now desire of the *K. of Spain* a better Treaty of Commerce, it could hardly be deny'd us: One would think we had deserv'd it by securing to him the quiet Possession of the *Spanish* Throne, and all the Riches of the *Indies*, by abandoning the unfortunate *Catalans*, whom we had taken under our Protection, to be plundered and destroyed as Rebels; by dissolving a Confederacy which was upon the very point of shaking his Crown from off his Head. One would think in mere Gratitude he should now, even now, give us a good Treaty of Commerce; but the Lords have Mercy upon us, if we have left our selves nothing to depend on but the Gratitude of Foreign Princes. I hope it is not yet too late to obtain a good Treaty of Commerce with the *Spanish* Nation, and I believe we shall obtain it, when the Advice of proper Persons shall be taken for a new Treaty, and not of such ignorant ones as advis'd the last. *Spain* may perhaps stand in awe of us, when her Friends and our Enemies shall have lost all Credit in this Kingdom.

For what was it, that we gave over prosecuting so successful a War? That we ended the Confederacy to which we were oblig'd by the Grand Alliance? That we gave up the *Catalans* whom we had taken under our Protection? That we establish'd King *Philip* on his Throne, which was every Day sinking under him? Why, we were told we should be made Amends for all by a glorious Treaty of Commerce; a Treaty of Commerce which was to reimburse us all our Charges.

Behold then what we have got by our Treaty, all we have got is to pay higher Duties than the *French* pay higher than we paid in the Reign of *K. Charles II.* who was not oblig'd to us for his Crown; higher than we paid while we were in actual War with this very Prince. We have got a Stop of all our Trade to *Spain*, while *France* has as open a Trade to the *Spanish* *Indies*, as if they were her own. We have the Authority of all the *Spanish* Merchants both at Home and Abroad, that this is our very Case.

For our paying higher Duties than the *French*, we must take the Information of our Merchants residing in that Country. They live upon the Spot, and publicly and privately they all agree in the same Thing. This is our Usage from a Prince of the House of *Bourbon*. Should we have been used thus by a Prince of the House of *Austria* on the *Spanish* Throne? Would such a one have favoured *France* more than *Great Britain*? Would it have been his Interest to have done it? Had not *France* been his nearest and most dangerous Rival? And would he have enrich'd her against himself? But we are already brought to feel, that which every wise Man before was afraid of.

There is not an old *Spanish* Merchant who was a Trader in the Time of *K. Charles II.* but what knows to a single Marquede, what Customs were exacted on our Goods in that Reign; we have the Testimony of all these that they are vastly higher now. They all agree, they show by their Books, that for all manner of Duties by whatsoever Name, whether by the Name of *Almoxarifago*, *Alcavalas*, *Cientos*, or any other, they paid 30 per Cent. on some of our Goods, and not above 20 per Cent. on all the Rest; and in *Valencia*, *Jurgon*, and *Catalania*, not so much. But 'tis manifest by the very Articles of our late Treaty, as it now stands, that our very first Duty to be now paid in *Spain*, in all Places except *Bilbao*, is 20 per Cent. besides which we are also to pay the *Alcavalas* and *Cientos* Nothing in the Treaty obliges the *K. of Spain* to levy less for these Duties than he did before. And the *Spanish* Merchants are able to shew, that more than half the Sums that were formerly levied, were under the Name of *Alcavalas* and *Cientos*; so that if over and above the first Duty of 20 per Cent. to be paid by our late Treaty, we are also to pay by that Treaty the *Alcavalas* and *Cientos*, we must pay above 50 per Cent.

on our Customs more than we did before. The Merchants therefore will be believed, when they tell us that our Goods are heavier loaded than they were in the Reign of *K. Charles II.* their old Books, and the new Treaty will make good their Part of their Accusation. Have we preferred *K. Philip* before the Emperor, that he should serve us after this Manner? Have we given him Peace, and the quiet Possession of his Throne, to be thus used? Then all the World must confess we have deserv'd it.

But it appears also by their Complaints, that we are now more heavily tax'd since the Treaty, than we were even when we were in actual War with this very Prince. Surely one would think by this that the War was ever prosperous to *K. Philip*, and that we were oblig'd to sue to him for a Peace. Certainly, if we would return to our old Measures, if according to the Advice of the Lords, we would cultivate a good Friendship with the Emperor and the *K. of Prussia*, *Spain* would not dare to insist on us any longer in this Manner. The Friendship of these Princes might not only secure to us the Protestant Succession, but a good Treaty of Commerce with *Spain*, which is so much wanted.

The Merchants tell us, that there is now a universal Stop of all our Trade to *Spain*. This that was formerly esteem'd as the best Flower in our Garden, that took off more of our Woollen Manufactures, and made us greater Returns of Money than any other Trade; that enabled greater Numbers of our People to live without help from the *Foreign*, and paid greater Sums for the Product of our Lands than any Foreign Trade whatsoever, quite stop! How dismal must this sound in the Ears of every *Englishman*? Yet this is represented by the universal Consent of all our Merchants as the Effect of the late Treaty.

But *France* in the mean time loads whole Ships for the *Spanish* *Indies*, by the Connivance of the *K. of Spain*, and from the very Ports of his Kingdom, besides what she sends for the *South Sea*. The whole Riches of the *Spanish* Nation are thus given up to *France*; yet the *K. of France* could not secure his Grandson on the *Spanish* Throne; so far from this, that he was every Day losing some Branch of his own Dominions. Is he to be used so much better who could not save him? And must we for saving him be so ill rewarded? It is hard to read such Representations from our Merchants without the utmost Indignation. It is a great Aggravation of what we suffer, that we have fast still for two Years together even before any Peace was made, and at the last suffered such a Treaty of Commerce to be imposed upon us; and that yet in the mean time we have raised every Year such Sums as were sufficient to have carried on the War, and to have forced the *Spanish* Nation to grant us such Terms of Commerce, as God knows now whether we shall ever be able to obtain.

The Merchant is outrageous that any Trade should be carried on from *Jamaica* to the *Spanish* *Indies*. Yet I cannot find that we ever had disabled our selves to do this at Sea, (keeping our selves out of their Port) by any Treaty with *Spain*, unless we have done it by the last. Before this, if at any time they seized any of our Ships, it was always granted to our Merchants to make Reprisals. This was done even in the time of *K. Charles II.* only this last Treaty can have deprived us of this Liberty.

But he insists upon it, that it is better for us to be wholly debarred this Liberty of trading from *Jamaica* to the *Spanish* *Indies*, and that it is more profitable for us to trade only to *Old Spain*. I shall not dispute this Matter with him. But what then will he say for the Permission to the *South Sea* Company, to send 500 Tons of Goods per Annum, to the *Spanish* *Indies*, if yet they are ever to have this Liberty? But let the Merchant say what he will, I am not able to understand how it can be for our Advantage to be entirely debar'd trading from *Jamaica*; and also to have lost our whole Trade to *Old Spain*, as it appears we have done by the Representation of the Merchants.

The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D.

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

From FRIDAY, July 2. TO TUESDAY, July 6. 1714.

The Interrogatories to the Spanish Merchants concerning our Treaty of Commerce with Spain. Answers shall be given to the said Interro-

gatories in the British Merchants. This an Answer to the Reasons for depriving us of the Privilege of a Judge-Conservator.

THE Rewards which were promised to the Nation, if we would but make our Peace with France and Spain, were Mountains of Gold in the Spanish Indies, a Treaty of Commerce with France, which was to be worth the Lord knows what, and the Restoration of our Trade to Spain, which was always beneficial to this Kingdom:

Our Mountains of Gold are now at last dwindled into the Title of the South-Sea Company: The Moths have been these two Years eating up their Cargoes of Woollen Manufactures which were to be sent to the South-Sea to be exchanged for those Golden Mountains.

As for our glorious Treaty of Commerce with France, it has been rejected by a Parliament of Great Britain. Thanks be to God, it cannot be render'd effectual without the Parliament: For it is such a Treaty as would impoverish and exhaust the Kingdom. Every Man begins to be sensible of this.

And lastly, For the Restoration of our Spanish Trade, it appears by the Consent of our Merchants that we have little or no Trade to that Country. Some of the Articles of our Treaty with Spain are found to be so very fatal to us, that instead of promoting our Trade to that Kingdom, they must destroy it.

But since the French Treaty is now so well understood, that the Fear of its being render'd effectual is almost vanish'd, and since the Answers of our Merchants concerning several Parts of the Spanish Treaty are become the chief Subjects of Discourse, they shall for some time be made the chief Subjects of my Papers.

The Spanish Merchants have been interrogated concerning the Use and Necessity of a Judge-Conservator, and the Right they had to such an Officer; whether they did not of themselves discontinue the Choice of such an Officer at Cadix; and then what Mischief it could be if the Treaty has given it up in other Places? What were the ancient Duties of Alcabalas, Cientos, and Millones? and what are to be paid by this Treaty? What were the whole Duties and Payments in the Reign of King Charles the Second, and what to be paid now? What were the ancient and present Customs on Goods exported out of Spain, as well as on those imported into that Kingdom? Whether the Favours shewn us by the late Treaty on the Goods we bring from Spain, are not an Equivalent for the Duties being raised on the Manufactures we shall send thither? Whether we are now able to carry on an advantageous Trade to Spain as the Customs stand by the late Treaty? and which of the

two is now the more favoured Nation in Spain, France or Great Britain? The Answers to these Questions shall be the Subjects of some of my Papers; and all of them together will shew how little we have got, or rather how much we have lost by the Spanish Treaty.

I shall begin with the Privilege of choosing a Judge-Conservator.

First then, It is plain we had a Right to choose a Judge-Conservator, one of that Nation, to whom we paid a Salary.

The Office of this Judge-Conservator was to enforce the Execution of the Treaties between the two Crowns, to take Cognizance of all Causes in which English Merchants were Defendants, and to represent the same to the Council of Madrid for the Determination of that Court; to inhibit all other Judges or Officers that presumed to intermeddle in any of the said Causes; but above all to take care that no other Officers should at any time enter or search the Houses, or seize the Books of our said Merchants upon any Pretence whatsoever without his Consent.

This perhaps will look like a very strange and unnatural Jurisdiction; but if we will please only to remember that Spain is a bigotted Popish Country, that the Will of the Prince is above all the Laws, and that the Inquisition prevails there, which by a secret and sudden Process can destroy any Man in a Moment, and by Evidence to which he is never suffered to give an Answer; if we will but remember that our whole Nation are Heretics in the Opinion of the Spaniards, and as such exposed to the Fury of that People, we must needs thank the Privilege of choosing our own Judge-Conservator but just sufficient for our Protection. I am almost confident no Man would ever trust the Value of 100 l. of his Effects in his Factor's Hands, if he did but know how much they must be exposed for want of such an Officer.

The Privilege therefore of choosing a Judge-Conservator for our necessary Protection was granted to us by several Cedulas in *Ann 1665*, which were all confirmed by the 9th Article of the Treaty between the two Crowns in the Year 1689, and has been enjoy'd ever since, till the Accession of the present King to the Spanish Throne, and even during his Time till the breaking out of the War. So that I think I have fully shewn the Necessity of our choosing a Judge-Conservator for our selves, and also our Right to such a Privilege.

But the present Treaty determines otherwise. The Words of the 15th Article are, *As to the Judge-Conservator, and others to be substituted by him, if this Privilege be granted to any other foreign Nation whatsoever, the Subjects of G. Britain, shall likewise enjoy it.* It is manifest by these Words, we are not to enjoy this Privilege, we are not to have any Right to it, if it shall not be granted to any other Nation. The present Treaty has given away a Privilege we had before, a Privilege to which we had a Right by the solemn Stipulation of a former Treaty.

It has been objected against the Importance of this Privilege, that even in *Cadix* it self, where we ever had the greatest Trade, we never but once chose a Judge-Conservator, and got rid of him as soon as possible, as being rather a Charge and Incumbrance than any real Advantage to our Merchants.

To this I answer, That from the Grant of *K. Philip IV* to the Beginning of the last War, we always chose a Judge-Conservator for *Seville*, *Malaga*, and other Places, and found it necessary so to do. We had a Right to do it by the former Treaty, and we have parted with this Right by the latter.

But s'dy, 'Tis true, we have discontinued the making Choice of this Officer in *Cadix*: And for what Reason?

Our Judge-Conservator was always to be one of the graduated Lawyers, too inferior a Person to contend with: for great a Man as a Governour of *Cadix*, who, as the King's chief Military and Civil Officer, would hardly be restrained from entering the Houses of our Merchants. The Cost and Trouble of keeping him from doing this was so very great, that we rather chose to make the Governour of *Cadix* a present of the same yearly Salary; and then, tho' he was above accepting the Title of the Office, he was contented to act as our Judge-Conservator, and to give us the same Protection. Yet surely this could not be a Reason for our giving up, by a formal Treaty, our very Right to the Choice of such an Officer. The Governour of *Cadix* might indeed do us the same Justice, as long as we preferred the Power of choosing a Judge-Conservator, who perhaps was able, tho' with some Difficulty, to contend him. But now we have parted with this Privilege, the Governour of *Cadix* cannot for shy Salary we would give him, protect us from any Officer who shall enter our Houses, and take away our Books.

A Judge-Conservator therefore was of the greatest use to us in every other Place; and my Reason for by this time how we came to discontinue the choosing one in *Cadix*. It is by no means such a Reason as will justify our parting with so necessary a Privilege by a solemn Treaty.

But it is objected in the next Place against our insisting upon this Privilege, that we have Neighbourhood, we shall have our Judge-Conservator, if any other Nation shall have one. And how can we talk of having any greater Privilege than the French, who have so near a Relation to *K. Philip*, and who have placed him on the Spanish Throne?

To this I must answer, That our having Neighbourhood is no answer to the Charge against this Treaty, of giving away a Privilege to which we had a Right. The Treaty has given away this Privilege, a Privilege of that Importance, and so necessary for our Protection; and shall it be said in Defence of those Parties that framed or advised this Article, that the Spaniards have taken away this Privilege also from other Nations? The Privilege was our own, it was our own by a solemn Treaty, what have we to do to refer our lives to other Nations?

Again, if we are to come after other Nations, it is plain we are not so much favoured: The Treaty is said to be *Safe, Honourable, and Advantageous*. I have sufficiently shewn that the depriving us of a Judge-Conservator was not for our Safety or Advantage, but the enviling *England* to this Privilege only since other Nations, is to the Dishonour of the whole Kingdom.

France may value herself upon having placed *K. Philip* on the Spanish Throne; but 'tis visible to all Europe, that he owes his Establishment on that Throne to *G. Britain*; he sat but very tottering before, till we deliver'd him from his Enemies. And do's he thus gratefully reward us, by taking from us an ancient and necessary Privilege? by telling us we shall then enjoy it when he will please to grant it to any other Nation?

But it takes our Indignation, when we are told that *K. Philip* is as kind to *England* as he is to *France*. We hear of Ships continually firing out at *Cadix* for the Spanish Indies, with entire Carriages of the French, directly contrary to the very Treaty of Peace; while all the Goods we send thither lie motionless on Board the Ships, or in the Custom house, while none of them can be sold neither in Spain, nor the Spanish Indies. And shall we be told now that *K. Philip* favours *Britain* so much as *France*? *K. Philip*, who can suffer *France* to openly to run away with the whole Trade of his Indies, in direct Contravention to his Treaties, can only save that Nation the whole Charge of a Judge-Conservator, and yet secure to her all the Advantage of such an Officer. Let but his Pleasure be once known, and

it will be received every where as his Command. Not an Officer in Spain shall dare to enter the House, or seize the Books of a French Merchant. He is as secure without the Privilege of a Judge-Conservator, as if it were granted to his Nation by express Treaty. And the King seems to have granted it not to France for this only Reason, that he may excuse himself from making the like Grant to any other Nation, and especially to Great Britain. But the Difference is very great, France does not want the Privilege, her open Trade to Cadix, and from thence to the Spanish Indies, is a Demonstration, that France does not want a Judge-Conservator, but all our Merchants know that England cannot Trade without one.

To deprive us then of so great and so necessary a Privilege, and then to tell us that it is not granted to

France, is, instead of giving us an Argument, to insult us. -By the Pleasure of King Philip, which is a Command to all his Officers, France has the Substance of this Privilege without the Form; and she very contentedly abstains from the Form, to keep all other Nations from the Substance: So that not accepting the Form of this Privilege by France, on purpose that the Substance of it may more speedily be denied to England, and other Nations, ought to be looked upon as one of her Artifices by which she intends to engross the Trade of Spain and the Spanish Indies.

I think, I have said enough to shew the absolute Necessity of a Judge-Conservator, that we had a Right to this Privilege, and that our late Treaty has depriv'd us of this Right.

From TUESDAY, July 6. to FRIDAY, July 9. 1714.

An Answer to another Question to the Spanish Merchants.

How much we are worsed by the Treaty of Commerce with Spain with respect to Duties.

A Second Question put to the Spanish Merchants was, What Duties our Manufactures paid in Spain during the Reign of King Charles the Second, and till the Beginning of the last War? and what are to be paid by our late Treaty of Commerce with King Philip?

To this their Answer was, That on some of our Manufactures the whole Duties amounted to not above Nine and a Half per Cent. and not above Eight and a Half on all the rest; that these included all manner of Duties, whether Almozarifagos, Alcrvalas, or Cientos, or by whatsoever other Names, and this even for the Kingdom of Castile, where they were highest; for in Valencia, Arago, and Catalonia they were more moderate. But now by the Retification it is explained;

that not only in Castile, but also in Valencia, Arago, and Catalonia, the first Duty to be paid shall be 10 per Cent. ad Valorem; and that besides this our Manufactures are also to pay the usual Duties of Alcavalas and Cientos. This the Merchants unanimously agreed amounted to near double the Duties they paid before, and was utterly inconsistent with our carrying on any Trade to Spain, or vending any Manufactures in that Country.

To this I have heard it was replied, That indeed it might be true that our Manufactures paid only the Sums first above-mentioned, some of them no more than Eight and a Half per Cent. and the rest not above Nine and a Half per Cent. as the Merchants say; but that this was in the Reign of King Charles the Second, which

which was a very weak Administration; and that it was not to be expected that such Indulgence would be shewn to them whenever a wife People came to be at the Head of the Spanish Affairs. It was said, that even in their Reign the established Duties on our Manufactures in Spain were a great deal higher; that they were between 24 and 25 per Cent on some, and between 26 and 27 on the rest; that these Duties were reduced by several Grattias or Allowances both of the King and the Farmers to the Sums left before mentioned; that the Farmers had a Custom to tell no more than 60 or 80 Picces to the Hundred, and consequently took only the Duties of a Part upon the Woole; this was called the Farmer's Grattia, but was in Reality no other than a Fraud; that the King's Grattia was an Abatement of one fourth Part of the Customs which were already so much reduced by a short Sale of the Goods; that by these means our Merchants paid so much less than the established Duties; but could they claim this as their Right? Had they a Right to the Farmer's Grattia? Had they a Right to the King's? This is as ridiculous as it would be to affirm, that a Man may have a Right to a Favour. Our Merchants had little Reason to expect any such Favours when that Administration came to be in wiser Hands; they might then justly expect the full legal Duties would be levied without any Allowances or Grattias. This happens to be the present Case; King Philip is not so weak a Prince as his Predecessor; he insists upon his full Right, and will not suffer himself to be cheated and defuded by his Farmers. Our Merchants are now no longer suffered to pay a Part of the Duties for the whole, and of this it is that they complain; but their Complaints ought to be very little regarded. Are not our Legislators sufficient to judge for themselves and the whole Nation, without calling in the Advice of Merchants to their Assistance? Are these Meas Judgments to be taken in a Matter that concerns themselves? Have they not private Views and separate Interests of their own? And ought they not to be suspected upon this Account? The Merchants complain of the Spanish Treaty, and the exorbitant Duties in that Country, and no doubt they would have complained though the Duties by the Treaty had been a great deal less, tho' they had been less than they paid by Favour or Indulgence, by Fraud or Cognazene in the Reign of King Charles the 3d. No Administration can ever have it in their Power to oblige them; but certainly then their Opinions ought never to be taken against any Administration. It is plain the Treaty has provided, that the Duties on Goods exported out of Spain shall be a great deal less than they were before; yet of this too the Merchants have complained. If they complain of high Duties and of low Duties, we may depend upon it they are never to be satisfied, and the Administration must have a very unhappy Time, tho' should be obliged to please such a complaining Generation. To deny the late Treaty of Commerce with Spain, they applaud that of 1667; but this had left all the Duties uncertain, and the Merchants to agree with the Farmers as they could; so that the Favours or Grattias allowed to them were unequal. This surely was not for the Interest of the Nation, that one Merchant should be more favoured than another? The late Treaty has settled all the Spanish Duties; it has made them alike, or the very same, for every one of our Merchants; the least Merchant has Justice done him, and the greatest can claim no more; he has not the Privilege of trading to Spain upon better Terms than the least. The Distinctions that were made heretofore were certainly a very great Discouragement to Trade. The Treaty therefore has restored us to our

Spanish Trade, which was wholly lost, and to a better Trade than we ever had before.

For my own Part, I will not presume to know any thing that is said or done in the highest and most honourable Assembly in this Kingdom; but in the Charge of the Spanish Merchants against the Treaty, I have heard the above-mentioned Reply without Doors, and without Doors I have also heard the following Answer to that Reply.

If the Administration of King Charles the Second was so very weak, and that of his Successor King Philip the Fifth so much wiser, that we had no Reason to expect the same Indulgence to our Merchants that we had before, then it is plain we have suffered by the Transfession of that Crown to the House of Bourbon. Every Man of Understanding might have seen that such would be the Consequence of that Transfession, that we should not be suffered to enjoy our former Privileges of Commerce; but one could hardly expect so soon such a Confession out of the Mouths of the very Authors of that Transfession. We owe this Loss to the Persons who have thought fit to place so wise a Prince at the Head of the Spanish Nation.

But they quite mistake the Matter, who make the Payment of no more than Eight one Half per Cent on some of our Manufactures, and of not above Nine one Half per Cent, to be the meer Indulgence of the Prince and the Farmers. To conclude this from the Name of Grattias is ridiculous. It shall appear hereafter that our Merchants had a Right to pay no greater Customs, till this Right was given up by the late Treaty.

It must therefore be insisted on, that the Allowance which were made, howsoever improperly called Grattias, were the Right of our Merchants; and that they paid only Eight one Half on some Goods and Nine one Half per Cent on others, because no more could be levied on them with Justice.

But now it seems we are very unfortunate in the great Wisdom of King Philip the Fifth. He has had the Dexterity to get us into a Treaty by which he has doubled the Duties on our Goods. We have given him a Right to do this by a solemn Treaty.

Again, what strange Persons are those that think our Merchants ought not to be advised with in Matters of Trade? Who else then are so proper to be heard upon this Subject? Are Soldiers or Statesmen meer strikers of what the Merchants feel than themselves? Do they feel the Loss of the Merchant's when the high Duties in a foreign Nation shall obstruct the Sale of their Goods? The Merchants are unanimous that the old Duties are doubled by this Treaty, that their Goods lie Mould-stewen in that Country, that it is utterly impossible to sell any Manufactures there under the Duties of that Treaty.

It is a vain thing to think we can be made Amends for this vast Increase of Duties on our Imports into Spain, by the Abatements made by this Treaty of the Duties on Goods exported from that Kingdom.

The Treaty indeed has made it more easy for us to buy their Wine and Fruit for our Consumption; if, on the contrary, it had made it more difficult, it had been our Interest. What does our Nation get by the Consumption of Spanish Goods? King Philip has made the Exportation of these things more easy than it was before; he has done this for the Benefit of Spain, but not at all for the Benefit of England; no Man in the Interest of England would desire this of him, or accept it as a Favour.

Every wise Nation by all possible ways will endeavour to increase the Exportation of their own Manufactures, without being desired to do it. England has done this by taking off the Duties on our woollen

Manufactures, and even by giving a Bounty on Corn. But we did this for our own Sakes, and not of any other Nation; we wanted no Treaty for this Purpose: And Spain no doubt in Time, and for her own Sake, will do the same; but we shall not be at all obliged to her, we shall pay her so much the more for our Consumption.

Yet one thing is remarkable; Spain by this Treaty has lessened the Duties on Wines and Fruits, and it had been better for us they had been doubled; but Cochineal and Indigo, so useful in our Manufactures, the former indeed absolutely necessary for the dying in Grain Colours, are raised 10 per Cent. by this Treaty; so high a Duty is laid upon them: So that we must find our one Half of our woollen Manufactures to Turkey 3 or 4 per Cent. the dearer on this Account; and is this one of the Favours, one of the Graciers of this Treaty? Upon the whole Matter it is manifest, the

Reduction of the Customs on the Spanish Exports, are no Equivalent for the heavy Load of Duties which is laid on all our Goods that shall be imported into that Country.

The Advisers of this fatal Treaty may now decry that of 1667, they may charge it with Uncertainty, with leaving Spain at Liberty to favour one Merchant more than another, but no Man in his Senses will believe them.

They may if they please applaud their own, they may value themselves upon the Equality of Duties which it has laid on all our Goods, and upon having secured that no greater Favour shall be shewn to one Merchant than another: They are certainly in the Right, they have made a very impartial Treaty, such an one as shews no Manner of Favour to any one of our Merchants, such an one as equally debars every one from carrying on any Trade to Spain.

From FRIDAY, July 9. to TUESDAY, July 13. 1714.

The British Merchant drawing to a Conclusion. An Argument in Numb. 96. farther prosecuted.

Affiento Contract ruinous to Jamaica, and no Benefit to England.

I Hope the *Mercator* is not so vain as to think I will hereafter bestow my Time upon so ridiculous a Writer as himself. It was for the Trade of Great Britain I have been writing, and especially to represent to my Countrymen the ruinous Consequences of our Treaty of Commerce with France. As for the *Mercator*, he was never worth a single Answer on any other Account.

All England was alarm'd with that Treaty; our only Happiness was, that it could not be render'd effectual without the Parliament. A Law was necessary for that Purpose, and one would hardly imagine a British Parliament would ever pass a Law which must have entail'd so much Ruin upon the Nation.

Yet we narrowly escap'd this Ruin in the Time of the last Parliament; and some Men had the Assurance to threaten us with it from the present. Thanks be to God, one Session is past over, and no Man has dar'd to move for the Bill of Commerce.

The *Mercator* was the Person found out to set the World so Rights in this Matter. Before his first Appearance, we were taught by the *Gazette*, the only authorized *State-Paper*, that he was an Oracle. He has now peev'd the Town with his Weekly Writings for above a Year, but I verily believe he has not made one single Convert to the *Franch* Treaty.

Nothing could have engag'd me against this Fellow, but our common Danger from this pernicious Treaty. I hope this Danger is now quite over; yet, to the utmost of my Power, I shall always watch against the Enemies of my Country. And those Persons who advis'd this Treaty, and who have most industriously promoted the rendering it effectual by a

Law, are conscious to themselves I have offer'd some Arguments against it which are never to be answer'd. Though I am drawing to a Conclusion, I may give them a Hint of this before I have done, and therefore I will not promise that this shall be my last.

For this shall be wholly taken up in the Defence of my self, in Answer to the following Letter.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,
IN the Beginning of your Numb. 96. are these Words; *The Rewards which were promised to the Nation, if we would but make our Peace with France and Spain, were Mountains of Gold in the Spanish Indies, &c.* And a little after, *Our Mountains of Gold are now at last dwindled into the Title of the South-Sea Company.* What! then is the *South-Sea Company* a Title only? And do they not intend to trade to the *Spanish Indies*? Had they bought great Quantities of Goods for these Provinces, when the Queen had reserved a Quarter-part of the Profit of that Trade? And do they not intend to send them now, when the Queen has made a Grant or her Quarter-part to the Company? This is a very great Reflection on the Company, if they are not in earnest to trade, though Her Majesty has so graciously given them this Encouragement; and if even with this Encouragement they cannot trade to Profit, it is a very great Reflection upon the Advisers of the *Affiento Contract*. Your Answer is expected, and will oblige
Your very humble Servant.

In answer to this I must frankly own, I aver look'd upon the South-Sea Company, considered as an Institution for carrying on a Trade to the Spanish Indies, as a romantic and chimerical Project, and ruinous to our present Commerce, though the Author and Founder of it has been cry'd up by his Flatterers as a Person of uncommon Genius, as a Person remarkable for his Learning, Experience and great Sagacity in publick Affairs, and a world of such nauseous Stuff, by which I am never to be convinced. But I desire now to give the Reasons of my Opinion.

The Preamble of the Act for erecting this trading Company is as follows: *Whereas it is of the greatest Consequence to the Honour and Welfare of this Kingdom, and for the Increase of the Strength and Riches thereof, and for the widening the Product and Manufacture, Goods and Merchandizes of, or brought into this Kingdom, and Employment of the Poor, that a Trade should be carried on to the South-Sea, and other Parts in America within the Limits herein after-mentioned; which cannot be lawfully and successfully carry'd on as by a Corporation with a Joint-Stock EXCLUSIVE OF ALL OTHERS. Now for the better Encouragement of all and every the Person and Persons who shall be or become Members of the said Company or Corporation to be erected as aforesaid; And to the End and Intent that a Trade to the South-Sea and other Parts of America within the Limits herein after-mentioned, may be carried on and prosecuted for the Advantage and Honour of this Kingdom; Be it enacted.*

It is plain here, that the Company by its first Institution was to have an exclusive Trade, and that our People of Jamaica by this very Act are deprived of the Trade to the South-Sea, which was to the great Advantage of themselves and the whole Nation: So that this Act for erecting this exclusive Company of Traders deprived the Nation of a very beneficial Commerce: And therefore, whatever might be the Gain of the Company, it could not be all Profit to the Nation; only so much could be esteem'd the Gain of the Nation, as the Gain of the Company exceeded that of the Jamaica Merchants. The Loss of these Gentlemen ought to be deducted out of the Company's Gain, and then I believe that very little would be coming to the Nation.

But was the Company to hope for any Profit by this exclusive Trade? They were to build Forts and Castles in the South Sea, for their Security in Countries already fortified by our Enemies, at such a Charge and at such a Distance from this Kingdom. They might as well have thought of building Castles in the Air. For this Reason therefore I might well be allowed to esteem this Project as romantic and chimerical. It was giving up the Profit of the Jamaica Trade to a Company, which was so far from any Prospect of Advantage by it, that they were in a fair way of losing Stock and Black.

It is true, the Jamaica Traders were not excluded but only from *Some* direct Southwards, and from the South Sea; they had still left the Places in the Atlantic Ocean for themselves. But the Profit they annually introduced from the South Sea was considerable, and the Companies Act has given it up for nothing.

This was the Case of the South-Sea Project till the Peace was made, and till the Assiento Contract made an Alteration.

By this the Jamaica Traders are entirely excluded from the Spanish Indies, and the Companies Castles in the Air are turned into an Obligation to sell the Spaniards 4800 Negroes per Annum, and a Permission to send 500 Tons of Goods to *Porto Rico*, but this under such Limitations and Restrictions, and paying such Duties to the King of Spain, that they rather suffer their Goods to lie Mouldy on board the Ships, than export them on such Conditions.

Of late, to encourage the Company to go on with their Business, Her Majesty has been graciously pleas'd to grant them Her Quarter-part of this Trade; but still they must have Shares G—— and the King of Spain; and the former has assur'd to some of the Companies Directors, that Her Majesty cannot grant away Her Quarter-part; and that this is the Sense of the Spanish Court, that the King of Spain will have no way to compel the Company to account with him for the Profits arising from his Part, unless they shall be oblig'd also to account with Her Majesty.

Well, notwithstanding this, Her Majesty has granted Her Part, and the Company has address'd that G—— may advance his Share of the Adventure in proportion to the Profit he is to receive; but the Profit some Men expect'd by Her Majesty's Grant is so diminished, that their Address has been carried from one great Man to another, it seems it is not now worth any Person's while to deliver it.

Is this the Case of a Trade which was to do such Wonders for the Nation? Is this favourite Company so little regarded, that so reasonable an Address cannot find a Man to prefer it? Does any Man now believe that this Company will ever trade to the Spanish Indies? or that it is the Desire of any Person that they should?

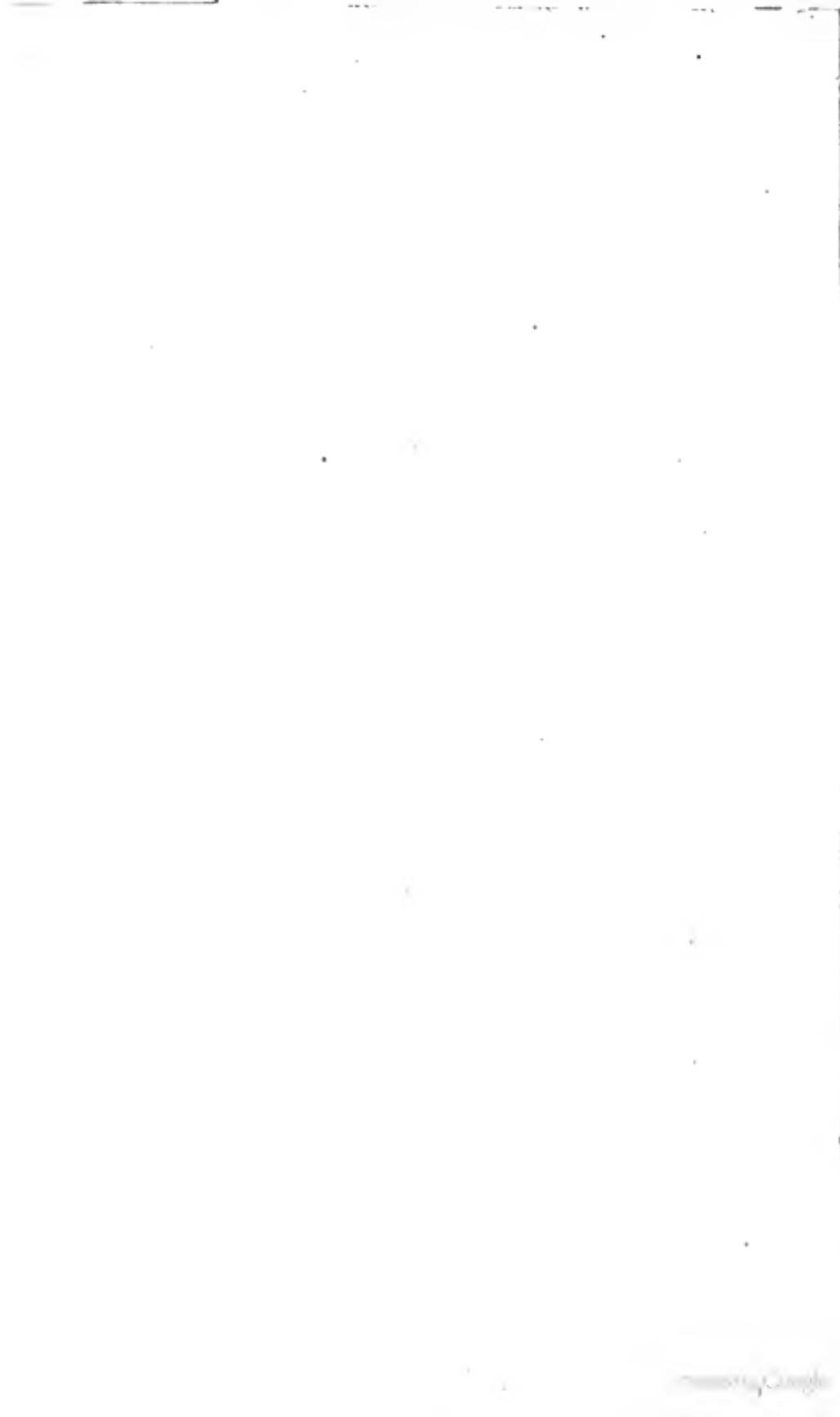
In the mean time this Assiento Contract is like the Dog in the Manger, it neither trades it self, nor will suffer those that would. In all Probability that once valuable Island of Jamaica must soon fall into the Hands of the French: There could not have been a better Contrivance than this of the Assiento Contract, to throw this whole Island into their Possession.

It is situated among such Neighbourhood, that it had need of much greater Numbers of People than are there for its Defence. Yet our false Maxims of suffering our People there to possess greater Tracts of Land than they can plant, must needs hinder their Increase; and this Assiento Contract, by depriving them of their best and most valuable Trade, must make them desert space; this in a little time may expose the little Remainder in our Enemies. Was the Assiento Contract contriv'd for this Purpose?

Yet I am afraid this will not be our whole Loss: Dr. Davenant has said, if his Authority is good, that our Loss of Jamaica must probably be followed with the Ruine of our Interest in America.

The Act for erecting the South-Sea Company deprived Jamaica of trading to the South-Sea, but the Assiento Contract has shut them out of the Spanish Indies; yet their Returns of Gold and Silver from the Spanish Indies in Exchange for Negroes and other Merchandizes were 2 or 300000 *l.* per Annum. Let the Spaniards have deprived us of this Trade! but was it fit for our selves to give it up? How vast must be the Number of Defectors from that Island? It was at least half the Value of its whole Trade, therefore half the People must desert; for it will be allow'd that no Body lives there for the Air, or for anything but their Trade: And will the Island after this Desertion be able to defend it self?

Thus there is no Prospect of the Companies trading under this Contract, or getting any thing by it if they did. Can their Goods that are to be kept three Years in the King's Ware-houses, and under his own Lock and Key, and in so hot a Climate, be brought to a good Market? or will not one Half of them be perish'd? Can the Assiento's hope for Profit from their Negroes, that are to pay a heavy Load of Duties to the King? Certainly there is not a Drawer, nor a Footman in the Kingdom, could have contriv'd a Treaty so little for the Benefit of the Nation. It could be contriv'd for no other End than the Ruine of Jamaica, and that we might be made Amends no other way.





The British Merchant;

O R,

COMMERCE PRESERV'D.

In Answer to

The Mercator, or Commerce Retriev'd.

*The Cloſe of the British Merchant; or Commerce Retriev'd.
A Letter from LIMA in the South Seas.*

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 the Authority of the same.

Wide Prohibition Act. 30. Car. II.

FRIDAY, July 30. 1714.

IT was not to be imagined there could be much Connection between so many Papers as I have published, twice every Week for almost a Year, every one upon some new Subject to which I was drawn by the *Mercator*; but now at the Cloſe of the Work, it will be expected I should give some Account of the Whole.

The Design then of the several *British Merchants* will be better understood, if they shall be considered as Answers to the following Questions.

Do we export more Goods and Merchandizes to *Portugal* than we import from that Nation? And what Benefit is it to us if we do? Do we export more Goods and Merchandizes to *Portugal* than we did before our Treaty of Commerce with that Nation? And is our Gain an Equivalent for what we have yielded *Portugal* by this Treaty?

Again, Did we formerly import more Goods and Merchandizes from *France* than we exported to that Nation? How great was the Excess? And what Mischief was it to this Kingdom? Do we export now more Goods and Merchandizes to *France* than we import from thence? And to what Cause are we to

ascribe the Alteration? If our Treaty of Commerce had been made effectual, should we have carried on a losing Trade to *France*? And how great would have been our Loss? What Loss of Manufactures at home? And what will be the Loss upon the Balance which now we gain from Foreign Nations?

Lastly, Did we export more Goods and Merchandizes to *Spain* in the Reign of King *Charles II.* than we imported from that Nation? Or more than we export now? And what is the Reason of the Decrease of our Exportations to that Country?

There are very few of the *British Merchants* that will not be found to be an Answer to one or other of these Questions; or some Argument to fortify the several Answers, or to clear them from the Objections of my Adversary.

It's clear then we export more Goods and Merchandizes to *Portugal* than we import from that Nation; the Payment of such vast Armies in that and other Places, with the Money due from that Country, and without any Remittances made thither, the vast Quantities of *Portugal* Gold in the Tower, and the great Quantities of the Coin of that Nation still current in our Coun-

tries, are Demonstrations of this Matter. All this Money must have been a Balance due to us for the Excess of Goods exported to that Nation.

It is not possible to determine the exact Quantity of our Gain by this Commerce; the Custom-house Accounts have been kept too carefully from our Perusal. But we are sure the Gain must have been very great, that was sufficient to pay such Armies, bring such Supplies to the Mint, and furnish some whole Countries with almost all their current Coin; and all these Sums paid to us for the Product of our Lands and the Manufactures of our People.

Nothing more need be said to show, that we did not export before our Treaty such an Overbalance of Manufactures than this, that we never before had any Armies to pay to Portugal, yet we brought none of their Coin to our Mint, not such a thing as a Portugal Piece was seen in England, or if it was, it was almost as great a Curiosity as our Medals.

That this prodigious Overbalance of Exports is owing to our Treaty with that Nation, no Man living can have the least Doubt that does but give himself the trouble to read it. Before the Treaty, our Woollen-Cloths, Cloth-Serges, and Cloth-Dropnets were prohibited in Portugal, they had set up Fabricks there for making Cloth, and proceeded with very good Success, and we might justly apprehend they would have gone on to erect other Fabricks, till at last they had serv'd themselves with every Species of Woollen Manufactures. The Treaty takes off all Prohibitions, obliges Portugal to admit for ever all our Woollen Manufactures; their own Fabricks by this were presently ruined, and we exported 200,000*l.* Value in the single Article of Cloths only, the very Year after the Treaty, as appears even by the *Mercator's* Scraps of Accounts from the Custom-house. It is visible we have gained by the Treaty, so great an Exportation of Cloths to Portugal, and secured our selves against her erecting any other Fabricks for the making other Woollen Manufactures. If our Exports have increased every Year since the Discovery of their Gold Mines, we owe it to the Treaty that we have such large Returns from those Mines. It is natural for us to buy every thing we want at the Shop where we are obliged to buy anything; the Treaty has forced Portugal to buy our Woollen Manufactures, and as for many Years they have wanted Corn in that Country, they have taken very large Quantities from us. Upon the whole Matter, it ought to be serv'd to the Treaty that we have made such vast Exports to that Country, and brought that People every Year in Debt to us in so great a Balance.

Our Gain by the Treaty, and so vast an Enlargement of our Exports to Portugal, is, that we have serv'd vast Sums of Money, which otherwise might have gone out of the Nation to pay our Armies in Portugal and other Countries; and have also greatly added to the Treasures of the Kingdom. That the Balance annually due from Portugal has substituted great Numbers of our People which we have been annually employ'd in making Manufactures to the Value of that Balance. The Product of the Lands is a considerable part of every Manufacture; the Balance therefore due from Portugal has paid great Sums for the Product of our Lands; and our Rents are nothing else but the Value paid for the Product of the Lands, and consequently all that Part of the Portugal Balance which has been paid to the Product of the Lands, is so much added to the Rents of the Kingdom. Yet this is not the whole Profit the Landed Interest has received from this Balance; the People that have been substituted by that great Overbalance of Manufactures, might otherwise have come very great Numbers of them upon the Profit it is a Gain to the Landed Interest to be serv'd from this Charge. Our Gain then by our Portugal Treaty, and our Excess of Exports on that Account, is a vast Increase of the Nations Treasures, the Employment and Subsistence of great Numbers of manufacturing People, an Augmentation of our Rents,

and the saving the Landed Interest from the Charge of maintaining such Numbers of Poor, as have substituted themselves by that Excess of Exports.

This Gain was certainly worth our buying, if we have not bought it at too great a Price; and the next Thing therefore to be considered is the Price, and what we are to do for Portugal by this Treaty.

All that we are to do for Portugal is, that their Wines are always to be admitted here, and to pay no more than two Thirds of the Customs which are to be paid by those of France: Nay, We have not absolutely bound our selves to do this; if we will break the Treaty, and part with the Gain we receive by it, if we will be contented to leave our Woollen Cloths, and all our other Woollen Manufactures at the Mercy of the King of Portugal, as they were before, to be free or prohibited at Discretion, we may admit the *Fr. Wines*, paying the very same, or even less Duties, if we think fit. Now the Question is, what we lose by not allowing equal Favour to the Wines of France? To which I answer;

In the first Place, the Treaty of Commerce with France, cannot be rendered a Success; unless the Wines of that Country shall be so much favoured as those of Portugal. Whether the Want of the Treaty is any Loss to us, will be seen in the Answers which are given to the Questions that relate to France.

But why, At the Time of making the Portugal Treaty, the Disproportion of the Customs was a great Inconvenience to the Disadvantage of France; and, FAVOUR was shewn to the Wines of Portugal, than we are oblig'd to by this Treaty; so that we did not undertake to do any thing more for Portugal by the Treaty than we actually did without it. Portugal has granted to us Favour which we had not before, viz. the Admission of our Woollen Cloths into her Ports, and have serv'd Portugal, viz. to pay no more than two Thirds of the *Fr. Customs*, is a Favour she possess'd before, which we thought it our Interest she should possess. One would think we could never have made a cheaper Purchase.

2dly, If we had disabled our selves to drink French Wines by this Treaty, what Loss is it to the Nation? What we drank we consumed, the Companies of our own People paid the Price of them, the Price was paid to France, our own Nation gain'd nothing, an Increase of her Treasures, no Employment for our People, no Value for the Product of our Lands; France, indeed gain'd all these Things, but England gain'd nothing by the Consumption of *Fr. Wines*, and therefore we have at the worst only parted with that she was worth nothing.

3dly, It has been objected against keeping the Treaty with Portugal, that it is a Violation of our Constitution, by having fixed the Proportion of Duties between foreign Nations, which could only be done by the Legislative Power. But this is not true; the Legislative Power may alter the Duties at its pleasure; the Legislative Power, may Favour the Goods of *France*, as much as those of the Nations the most favoured. All the Consequence is, that Portugal may then prohibit our Woollen Cloths as she did before, she may prohibit all our Woollen Manufactures as she might have done before. The Legislative Power can at any Time restore us to this blessed Condition.

Lastly, Great Pains has been taken to find our some Breach of the Treaty on the Part of Portugal, in order to justify a Breach on our Part. If the thing were true, the Revenge would be extraordinary; the King of Portugal has not observed the whole meaning of his Treaty, he has not let in so many of our Woollen Manufactures into his Country, as he ought to have done, and therefore in Revenge, we should put it in his Power to prohibit our Woollen Cloths, and all the Rest of our Woollen Manufactures. But the King of Portugal has exactly performed his Treaty; the Payments of our Armies, the Coinage in the Mint, the Quantities of Portugal Coin still current in the Country, are so many Demonstrations, that we have exported and

Quantities of Woollen Manufactures, and other Goods, and Merchandizes to that Kingdom; and all this is owing to his Observation of his Treaty. It remains then, that we are great Gainers by the *Portugal* Treaty; and that the Equivocal that Prince has accepted for it, is no Loss to us, or rather it will appear in the Answers to the Questions concerning *France*, that the very Equivalent we have granted to *Portugal*, is also a Gain to this Kingdom.

I am come now to another Question; Did we formerly import more Goods and Merchandizes from *France*, than we exported to that Nation? We are able to give a certain Answer to this Question, here we have some Custom-house Accounts to assist us, though many have been with great Care withheld from us.

The OLD SCHEME was a Custom-house Account, delivered in almost 40 Years ago by the chief Officers of the Customs, and therefore more likely to be a true Account of the Exports and Imports of that Time, than any that shall be produced now to serve a present Turn. Besides, that both the *Mercator* and myself have given just Reasons to suspect that some Changes have been made in the Entries of that Time. To this ought to be added, that some of my Papers have justified not only the whole, but almost every Article of the Old Scheme. They have fortified the Scheme, and cleared it from all Objections that have been made to it.

By the Old Scheme then thus established, our Imports from *France* exceeded our Exports to that Kingdom in the Sum of 900000*l.* and upwards, for the Year 1689.

The Account of our Exports and Imports between *England* and *France*, from *Michaelmas* 1685, to *Michaelmas* 1686, delivered into the last Parliament by the present Commissioners of the Customs, proves the Excess of Imports to have been almost as great in that Year. There has been no Attempt to deny the Parcels, and as for their Valuations, they have been in many Instances so much to the Disadvantage of my Argument, that if ever there should be Occasion to clear the few Mistakes, it will appear that our Excess of Imports was greater than I have made it.

These are all the Accounts of Exports and Imports between both Nations. Indeed, the two succeeding Years from 1687, were called for by that Parliament, and got ready; but since they were not produced, it must be taken for granted these Accounts were not sufficient to confront the Former; and that no other Accounts could be produced from the Custom-house, to lessen the Excess of our Imports.

The first thing then to be observed is, That it stands proved by undeniable Vouchers, by Custom-house Accounts, that our Imports from *France* heretofore exceeded our Exports in about 900000*l. per Annum.*

But slyly, This was not all; I have justly supposed that a great Allowance ought to be made for clandestine Importations, for Goods run to save Customs, and never entered at the Custom-house, that the Value of these was paid by *England* to *France*, and that this added very greatly to the Loss of *England* by that Trade.

The Authorities of *Puffendorf*, *de Wit*, *Tierry*, and other Writers, render this very credible.

But I think I have also demonstrated in only two Articles of French Linnen and wrought Silk, that our Importations of those Commodities were annually greater than they appear to be by the Custom-house Accounts in the Sum of 500,000*l.* which therefore ought to be added to the annual Excess of our Imports from that Nation.

Besides, Gentlemen knew that they drink French Wines upon all the Coasts of *England* at less Cost than the Customs; so that they may be sure that these Wines are never entered at the Custom-house. The Customs indeed were a great deal less in 1685, yet so much even then was saved by clandestine Importations of Wine, and all other French Commodities, that there is just Reason to believe that the Excess of our

Imports from that Nation was not 900,000*l.* as appears even by the Custom-house Accounts but 1,500,000*l.* by the just and necessary Additions to be made to those Accounts.

I have answered then the two first Questions that relate to *France*, to the first that our Imports from *France* exceeded our Exports to that Nation, to the second that this Excess was 1,500,000*l. per Annum.*

The next is, What was the Mischief to this Kingdom? The first Mischief is, That so much of the Nation's Treasure was exhausted. Gentlemen will do well to consider whether our Gain was so great from other Nations, that it was a Trifle to us to part with such a Sum as 1,500,000*l.* that we could afford to pay such an annual Tribute to that Kingdom.

But slyly, The Thing was worse than if so much Money had been paid as an annual Tribute to that Nation; for it was paid for the Overbalance of Wine, Brandy, Linnen, Silk, Paper, and other Manufactures of that People for the Consumption of this Kingdom, the like of which might either have been manufactured by our own People from the Products of our own Lands, or imported from other Countries in Exchange for the Products and Manufactures of our own.

Whichsoever was the Case, it is plain our manufacturing People and our Land-Owners were deprived of this whole 1,500,000*l. per Annum*; whether the like Quantity of Goods had been produced in *England*, and manufactured by our People, or procured from other Nations in Exchange for our own Manufactures, the whole Price of the Consumption of so great a Value of Goods had been paid to the Land-Owners and Manufacturers of our own Nation. The Introduction of these Goods from *France* to be consumed instead of our own, deprived our People of their Employment, deprived our Land-Owners of the Value of their Product, it deprived both of 1,500,000*l. per Annum.* I believe Gentlemen would not now be easily induced to part with their Share in so great a Value of Manufactures; but certainly the poor Manufacturers could not bear so great a Share of the Loss as must belong to them. But I need say no more to show the Mischief of such an Excess of Imports from *France*, than that it exhausted annually 1,500,000*l.* of our Treasure, and deprived our Land-Owners and manufacturing People of the whole Value.

The next Question is, Do we export how a greater Value of Goods than we import from that Nation? I make no Question but we do; the Course of Exchange between the two Nations has for a long time been so much to the Disadvantage of *France*, as renders it very probable that *France* has greater Debts to pay to *England*, than *England* has to *France*. And this Excess of Debts could no otherwise be due to us, but for an Excess of Exports to that Nation. But I need not labour this Argument with the *Mercator*; his Extractions from the Custom-house in so many of his Papers are given to persuade us, that we export more Goods to *France* than are imported from that Kingdom.

To what Cause then is to be ascribed so strange an Alteration? Certainly to the high Duties which the Legislative Power has laid on the Goods and Merchandizes of that Country. Can any great Quantities of French Wines, Brandy, Linnen, Silk and Paper be sold here with the present higher Duties, than are laid on the like Commodities of other Nations? There are some few Things that *France* wants, and must take from us, whether in Peace or War, and which during the last War they received from neutral Countries. While then they are obliged to take some Goods from *England*, and can import few either but under the Disadvantage of our high Duties, it is not much to be wondered at that we have now a profitable Trade to *France*, that she cannot import upon us a greater Value of Goods than she takes of ours, and that the present Excess, whatsoever it is, is on the Side of this Kingdom. But

But this Advantage would soon end, if the Treaty of Commerce should be made effectual. We import even now under the present Duties such Quantities of French Goods as render it credible, that if they should be taken off, and that if, according to the Eighth Article, *France* should be as much favoured as the most favoured Nations, our Importations from other Countries would be given over, and the greatest part of them would be supply'd from *France*. And though the Duties on the Goods of other Nations are even now considerably higher than those heretofore on *France*, when our Importations were so large from that Country; yet under these higher Duties, whether it is that our Luxury or our Riches are increased, we import now such Quantities from other Countries, that if the greatest part of those Imports should be left off to make Room for those of *France*, our Imports from that Nation would be much greater than in the Time of the Scheme, or in 1685, or any Time before the French Goods and Merchandizes were prohibited.

The next Thing then is, to enquire what is likely to be the Extent of our Exports to balance so great an Importation?

In the first place, the foreign Goods were exported to *France*, especially East-India and other Manufactures, were heretofore a great part of our Exports to that Nation; the Prohibitions to be taken off by the Ninth Article of our late Treaty are only to be taken off from the *BONA MARCESQUE MAGNE BRITANNIE*. We have often urged, that *France* will certainly interpret the Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain to be only those of our own Growth; so that our foreign Goods, notwithstanding the late Treaty, would be excluded: does it appear now that we were in the wrong? OUR COMMISSARIES have laboured this Matter very much, and with all the Reason the thing would bear they have urged, that the Goods and Merchandizes of *Britain* are all that belong to the Subjects of Great-Britain. But the FRENCH COMMISSARIES would not be convincing: What part with their Sumptuary Laws? give leave to *Britain* to import East-India Manufactures, which is not permitted to their own Subjects? endanger their own Manufactures? An excellent Instruction this for Great-Britain: We, it seems, are to ruin our Silk, our Linnen, our Paper Manufactures; but *France* will not endanger her own Manufactures: And I think 'tis clear that not one of them will be endangered by this Treaty. For,

Secondly, From the Goods allowed to be imported under the Tariff of 1664, which is had enough of all Confidence, yet there is an Exception to Woollen Manufactures, a great Part of which are by a subsequent Declaration left to the Tariff of 1699; to pay the heavy Duties of that Tariff; to be admitted but at three Ports; and to be subjected to Visitation; that is, never to be sold in *France*. What is to become of the rest the Lord in Heaven knows; for *France* has not yet explained. Our Commissaries urged very well here, that we, even as to our excepted Species of Goods, by the very Terms of the Eighth Article, ought to be favoured as much as the Nation, the most favoured. The French Commissaries would not yield to this; they granted that the *Whims* Manufactures of Holland were not subject to be visited; But this Favour they would not yield to us. They would not yield so much Favour to *England*, though it is well known that *England*, and not *Holland*, had the Honour of saving *France*. What is this but their UTMOST SCORN of the English Nation? But they are determined not to endanger their Manufactures!

We are to export NO FISH to *France* but in Barrels; we have set up the French for Fishermen by giving them *CAPE BRETON*; and that no English Fish may interfere with them in their Markets, the Treaty is so burthenome to us in this Article, that Fish can be no Part of our Exports to that Country.

Our Foreign Manufactures, Woollen Goods and Full

are none of the Merchandizes we shall send to *France* by this Treaty; there is no Hopes of our exporting to *France* a fourth Part of the Value of the Goods we exported formerly to balance our Importations from that Country; for we shall have few Goods to send to *France* but such as are useful for perfecting their Manufactures.

If our Importations upon the Foot of this Treaty shall be as great as ever, and our Exportations shall be so much reduced, then we shall lose more than we did formerly by that Trade, we shall not come off with the Loss of 1,500,000 *l. per Annum*. But Thanks to God, the Persons that advised it had it out in their Power to render it effectual; that Work was refer'd for the Legislative Power: And this Affair is now so well understood, that they durst not offer it to the present Parliament.

I have already shewn how much our Manufactures and our Land Owners must suffer by the Payment of so great a Balance to the French Nation for the Consumption of this Kingdom. But is this Loss in any Likelihood of being repaired by other Countries? Shall we enlarge our Exportations to other Nations? Shall we recover the Balance? Shall we be able to regain the Treasure that is exhil'd? shall our People be employ'd in Manufactures for foreign Countries in Proportion to the Numbers that will be deprived of their Employment by the Introduction of French Manufactures to be consumed instead of our own? Will the Product of our Lands which shall lose the Markets of our own, find a Vent in foreign Countries?

Nothing of all this: First, as to the increasing the Balance we receive at this time from other Nations, it is a Contradiction to Reason to expect any Increase of a Balance from other Nations, upon our paying a greater Balance than we do to *France*; to expect that we shall export more of our Manufactures to *France*, by the Consumption of a greater Quantity of the French Manufactures, instead of those of our own and other Countries.

It is certain our Balance from other Countries has increased, since our Consumption of French Manufactures has been lessened. Our Balance from *Portugal* has increased 500,000 *l. per Annum* before, that from *Lady* and *Germany* is also increased in the general Opinion of all People, and we have the Testimony of the Inspector General, that the Balance from *Holland* is prodigiously increased. For my own part, I am of Opinion that our Balance from the rest of the World has increased to as great a Value as that which we formerly paid to *France* is lessened. I believe I may venture to affirm that we receive 1,500,000 *l. per Annum* more than we did before upon the Balance of our Trade to other Nations, since we have left off paying 1,500,000 *l. per Annum* more than we did before upon the Balance of our Trade to *France*.

That I may not be thought extravagant in this Account, I shall repeat here what I have mentioned in some of my Papers, which is the Account of our Imports and Exports between us and the whole World in two Periods of Time, one when we had an open Trade with *France*, and made so vast a Consumption of the Goods and Merchandizes of that Nation, the other when the Goods of *France* stood prohibited here, or charged with such Duties as amounted to a Prohibition.

The former was in the Years 1664 and 1665, and is to be found in the Inspector General's first Report, Page 46.

For the Year 1662 the Imports from all the World were 4016000 *l. 0*
The Exports to all the World were 2001000 *l. 0*

The Imports exceed the Exports 1995000 *l. 0*

For the Year 1668 the Imports from all the World were	4196139 17 0
The Exports to all the World were	3063274 19 0
The Imports exceed the Exports	1132864 18 0

In these two Years we had a full Trade with France, and IN THE FORMER A MUCH BETTER TARIFF THAN THAT OF 1664; neither was France grown up so much in Woollen Manufactures; she had not then prohibited any of our Goods, neither Foreign nor of our own Growth; yet in the former Year we lost near two Millions, and in the latter above by our Trade with the whole World.

The Period of time when the Importation of French Goods was either prohibited or charged with the peculiar high Duties, was in the Years 1699 and 1703; the Imports of both are in the said Inspector-General's second Report, pag. 43 and 71. and the Exports I have by me in an Account, from whence the Inspector-General seems to have had his Intelligence.

For the Year 1699 the Exports to all the World were	6788166 17 6
The Imports from all the World were	545906 05 9
The Exports exceed the Imports	1147600 10 9

For the Year 1703 the Exports to all the World were	6644103 00 0
The Imports were	4326529 11 1
The Exports exceed the Imports	2317573 8 10

'Tis manifest by the Medium of the former two Years, we lost by the Balance of our Trade 2051036 61 above two Millions per Annum, when we consum'd so great a Value of the Goods and Merchandizes of France; and that by the Medium of the last two Years, when we consum'd little of the Goods of France, and more of those of other Nations, we gain'd by our Trade to the whole World the Sum of 612591 l. 19 s. 9 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ above 1600000 l. per Annum.

This renders it very credible that by our losing 1600000 l. per Annum we lost the gaining as great a Balance from other Nations, and that whenever we shall offer our selves to pay again by the French Treaty such a Balance to France, we should probably lose in gaining as great a Balance from the Countries I have mentioned; so that France by this Means would be the Cause of our losing at least 3 Millions per Annum. It is impossible to part with this Subject without observing,

First, That the rendering the Treaty effectual would be the Cause of our losing three Millions per Annum, one of which would be so much Treasure exhausted on the Nation, the other half would be the Loss of great a Balance we gain now by the Excess of our exports to other Countries.

Second, As this whole three Millions is either paid our selves for the Manufactures we did consume as we, or by Foreign Nations for the Excess of the manufactures we now export, it is manifest the whole cost must fall upon the Manufacturers and Landowners, since the whole Sum is now paid for the goods our own People manufactured from the Product of our own Lands. It is impossible to conceive a Desolation this must bring upon the Nation.

But I ought here to be a little more particular in examining the Loss that will accrue both to our Manufacturers and our Land-Owners, our consuming so at a Quantity of French Manufactures, and by other nations consuming so much a less Quantity of ours. 'Tis obvious to every one, that the whole that is lost to our Land-Owners, and Manufacturers is paid by Consumption of our own, or foreign Nations. If we consume French Brandy for which we pay the dear Price to France, 'tis plain this pays nothing to our own People. The same thing may be said of French

Wine, Linnen, wrought Silk, Paper, and other Manufactures of that Nation.

But if we use our own Malt-Spirits instead of Brandy, the whole Price is paid to our Land-Owners for the Corn, and to our Distillers, and other Labourers for the Manufacture.

The Price of our own Woollen Manufacture is paid to our Land-Owner; and the Clothier, if this is exchanged for the Wines of Portugal, the raw Silks of Turkey, the wrought Silks or Paper of Italy, or Linnen of Germany, for our own Use and Consumption, 'tis manifest the whole Price of these things is paid to the Land-Owners, and Manufacturers of our own Country, 'tis paid to them by the Consumption of our own People.

But if Foreign Nations purchase our Woollen or other Manufactures for their Consumption, and pay the Price in Money, 'tis manifest that Foreigners pay this Price to our Land-Owners and Manufacturers.

And therefore if Foreigners that pay 1500000 l. per Annum in Gold or Silver for our Manufactures upon the Balance of their Trade with us, should cease to buy so great a Quantity of Manufactures, or to pay us so great a Sum, 'tis certain this whole Balance must be lost to our Manufacturers and Land-Owners; and as great a Sum must be lost to them, if it should be paid to France for the Manufactures of that Country to be consum'd here instead of our own. The French Trade then by passing in upon us an Excess of Manufactures to the Value of a Million and a half per Annum, and by depriving us of the Power of selling the like Excess of Manufactures to Foreign Nations, deprives our Manufacturers and Land-Owners of three Millions per Annum.

I have given my self the Title of British Merchant, or Commerce Prefer'd; but my Reader perceives that the only Rule I have taken to measure the Value of any particular Trade, is the Increase or Decrease of the Nation's Treasure; the Employment and Subsistence of our People; the Rents of the Kingdom, or the Value of the Product of the Lands; as for the Merchant, in his private Capacity, I have ever thought he was only to be regarded in the second place, and as he was subservient to those Ends.

It is possible the Merchant may grow rich by exhausting the Treasure of his Country; he may get his 1000000 l. by exporting a Million of Gold or Silver to purchase Manufactures for our Consumption; but the Gain is not from abroad; 'tis no Gain to the Nation, 'tis only shuffled from the Hands of his Countrymen into his own; but the Million was exported from the Nation, so much of her Treasure is exhausted.

It is possible too the Merchant may find full Employment for himself by such a pernicious Trade; but 'tis visible that Multitudes of Manufacturers must be driven from their Employment and Subsistence.

Lastly, It is possible the Merchant may purchase a great Track of Lands, and the sooner by reducing the Value of the Product, and bringing down the Estate to his Purchase; for the Value of the Product must be reduc'd by bringing in that of other Countries to interfere with it; but I never could believe that the Gain of the Merchant, and the Gain too not from abroad but from our own People, could compensate for any one of these Losses.

But I must speak it to the Honour of our Merchants, they have not asked any such thing of the Legislative Power as a Reduction of the Duties on the Goods and Merchandizes of France; nay, many of them have argued against it as ruinous to the Nation, tho' certainly it must be beneficial to themselves, it must be the Interest of the Merchant in his private Capacity, to introduce his Goods under as easy Duties as possible; but still the Questions occur, Do they increase or lessen the Nation's Treasure? The Employment or Subsistence of the People? The Rents or Value of the Product? The Value of a Trade cannot be measured by any other Rule.

But I forgot the Spanish Trade; my Questions concerning that, are, Did we export more Goods and

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Merchandizes to Spain in the Reign of King Charles II. than we imported from that Nation? Or more than we export now? And what is the Cause of the Decree of our Exports to that Country?

These Questions are easily answered: 'tis so notorious, that our Supplies of Gold and Silver were formerly wholly owing to our Trade with that Nation, that I shall vouchsafe no other Answer to the first. To the second, the Spanish Merchants have unanimously answered at the Bar of the House of Lords, that we have dispatched no Goods in Spain of late, nor can dispatch any by the late Treaty: And so the third, the Merchants that reside in Spain, both Spaniards and others, roundly tell us there can be no Encouragement for us to send any of our Goods to that Country, even now tho' King Philip has given Orders for the dispatching our Goods upon the Terms of his Predecessor. They assign two Reasons for this, one is the extreme Poverty of the People, the other that all the Riches of the Spanish Indies are intercepted by the French.

This was the very Thing that all Europe was afraid of, when his most Christian Majesty seized the whole Spanish Dominions for his Grandson. They knew that the Treasures of the Spanish Indies were sufficient of themselves to give him the Dominion of the whole World: The fear of this formed that potent Consideration that brought him often to the Peace; but still he could keep Spain, and the Spanish Indies for his Grandson, he must keep back the very thing for which we fought, and which it was not impossible for us to leave in the Power of France, with any Security to Europe: But it went to his very Heart to part with Spain, and the Spanish Indies from whence his Subjects in so very few Years had drawn those prodigious Treasures, that enabled him to maintain so long a War against so mighty a Confederacy.

At last an Expedient is found out to solve the whole Difficulty, and it is the old one of Renunciation, of which the House of Bourbon have been such religious Observers. King Philip is to keep Spain and the Indies, and renounce his Title to France: His most Christian Majesty, with the Dukes of Berry and Orleans, are to renounce Spain and the Spanish Indies; and thus the Crowns are divided for ever, and the Treaty secures it self.

But St. Maler from a poor baggaly privateering Town at the End of the first War, is now in so short a time become the richest City of its extent in the whole World by her Trade to the Spanish Indies. Port Louis has its share, and we have not heard of such rich Subjects in all Europe, as the French Traders to the Spanish Indies. Almost every News Paper from France gives us an Account of some prodigious Cargo from those Provinces, so that even England it self begins at last to be alarmed.

But to make the People entirely easy in this Matter, the Gazette of last Saturdays, July 24, comes out with a flaming Paragraph in the Article of *Neddy*, that very *still Orders have been sent from Time to Time to the West-Indies, and Government in the West-Indies, to put a Stop to all clandestine Commerce which Foreigners, particularly the French, may endeavour to carry on in these Kingdoms. And a World of rigorous Statutes to this Purpose. And then after a long Account of French Ships that had seized other, notwithstanding these Dispositions, and were seized and confiscated in almost every Sea-Coast Town in these Provinces. The last Paragraph gives us hopes that when the Agents General made with Great Britain shall be put in Execution, the Powers therein granted will be a further means of sufficiently preventing this clandestine Trade.*

Several things in this Paragraph deserve our Observation.

And first that Fr. Ships do really go to the Spanish Indies. We are sure of this; for we have it by the Authority of the Gazette.

But then they are seized and confiscated when they come there. This is a little cruel to the Subjects of his Grandfather; but I believe the Spaniards at Cadix have never heard of this Cruelty, for they assure us that Fr. Ships are fitted out from Cadix for those Countries, with entire Cargoes of the French; and that they will not suffer Spaniards to be concerned with them. But all this while we hear of no Spanish Ships

returning from the Indies, but great Numbers of French Ships that come from thence; so that 'tis a Mercy that all are not seized and confiscated.

But the pleasantest thing of all is, that the African Company are to cure this Evil, so this now I have great Hopes they will return home with very rich Cargoes: We are sure they will if they can make Passes at the French Ships.

Surely such a Banter was never imposed upon a Nation as this, by the Article from *Madrid*. I wonder the Gazette could be imposed on by such a Piece of Intelligences.

But I am amazed better case was not than of *John Raper*, who in his *Post-Boy* of the same Date with the Gazette, in his Article from *Paris*, has brought 3 Ships from those Provinces, to Port Louis, with 12 Millions of Livres in Logots of Gold and Silver.

The *Post-Man* of the 17th and 22d, has brought 7 Millions of Pieces of Eight to St. Maler, and 3 Millions of Florins to Port Louis. But 'tis enough to read the News-writers, 'tis the News of almost every Week.

But in answer to this Gazette, I must present a Letter from *Lima*, which cannot fail of giving great Comfort to the South-Sea Company, and with that, I will take leave of my Readers.

Sir, Cadix, June 24, 1711.
These being lately arrived at Cadix, from the West-Indies, I send you a Letter, which Dr. D... gave me, setting forth the deplorable State those Kingdoms are reduced to by the French trading thither, &c.

Sir, The great abundance of all sorts of Goods which the French have brought from Time to Time into these Indies, have occasioned such a Confusion of Trade, as is almost incredible, and will require large Space of time for their Consumption; entered above what has been already introduced, there are in several Ports in these Kingdoms 4 Ships, which have not yet broke bulk, and which for want of Port is impossible to be dispatched, and being drawn out another three, that after their Cargoes were sold, sailed for the East-Indies, and are returned thither laden with Silks so abundance from *Canton* and *Amoy*, all which remain without finding any Market at any Rate, these Kingdoms being glutted with these sorts of Goods, and finally there is no sort of Merchandize, of what Quality soever, that is not sold down to the lowest Value; and if the King permit the Continuation of their Trade any longer, I assure you under my Hand, there will not remain in these Indies any one Man that shall be worth a comfortable Estate; for they are already almost all broken and lost from the lowest to the highest; and even the Ecclesiastics suffer exceedingly, for there is not a Piece of Eight to be seen, the French being Authors of all the Gold and Silver, and they have now quite drained these Kingdoms.

The Oppressions we miserable Spaniards are labour under, both here, and in all other Provinces, being deprived of our Native Right, which is our Measure I cannot but confess too many of us have deserved, for having so tamely admitted the French without foreseeing the Consequences which would follow from the pernicious Introduction of that Nation into these Parts; but the worst of it is, that the French, who have no Way is open to this, have now Leagues.

We have Notice of the arrival of the Gallies from *Porto Bello*, but the miserable State of these Parts thro' the false Measures here collected, must certainly prove the ruin of their Voyage; for five cannot one of this Commerce, can go down to trade with them as usual: So that if our Court does not alter the Cause of these Affairs, it will be cutting away the Rope with the Buckets; for they are thoroughly convinced in the first Place, that the Spaniards are not cleared of the French, these can enter any Commerce for the Spaniards to these Indies, not even in a Year, after they are expelled from here. In short, all is reduced here to a confused Chaos: Credit is lost, Reputation sunk, Traders at the Loss of their Shifts; but God is above all, to whom Protestants commit you. Lima, the 7th of December.







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