

T H E
LINNEN and WOOLLEN
MANUFACTORY

DISCOURSED :

With the Nature of
Companies and Trade in General.

And Particularly, that of the Companies for

The Linnen Manufactory.

O F
ENGLAND and IRELAND.

With some

REFLECTIONS

How the TRADE of Ireland hath
formerly, and may now, affect England.

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THE
LINNEN and WOOLLEN
MANUFACTURY
DISCOURSED, &c.

S I R,

THE Deference I bear to your Integrity, and great Judgment, subjects me to the least of your commands, and that brings before you my Thoughts on those several Heads you proposed to me.

1. *My Opinion of Companies in Trade, by Authority of the great Seal in general.*

A 2

2. Of

2. *Of the present Company in England for the Linnen Manufactory.*
3. *Of that for the same in Ireland.*

I doubt you may judge of my Sense in this Discourse, as Men do of Minerals, that when they appear near the day, as they phrase it, and are easily come at, that the Vein is not good. So may you judge of my forward Opinion in the following Lines; however, you that command, can pardon, and by your better Judgment, supply my Defects.

I shall begin with that of Companies in General. These I take to have been very common in the early days of Trade, when Navigation was judged a Mystery next to that of the Black Art, and such as would venture their Persons and Estates into the New World, as they term new found Countries, Heroes equal to *Alexander* and *Cæsar*.

Æs triplex circa pectus erat ——— **Horace.**

III

In these Times Kings could not exceed in their Grants and Privileges, that by them Adventures might be increased, and Trade brought to their Dominions, we see how fond Princes were of Merchants, by the great Privileges our Kings gave to the *Easterlings*, as they then called the *Flemings*; the *Stilleard* is a lasting Monument of their Grandure, and our Chronicles tell how boldly they would, upon any distast, bear on our Kings.

So were our Companies in following years courted by Foreign Princes and States, to settle their Trade in their Dominions: But as Trade and Commerce became familiar in the World, the Wisdom of Government made the Privileges of Trade universal to their Subjects: and so by degrees Companies were abated, and only such continued as were thought useful for preserving some particular Trades, that if left at large might become less profitable to the Kingdom.

There

There is another Reason for Companies in Foreign Parts, which some bring to strengthen their Opinion for them here: They tell us Companies are frequent in *France, Holland, Swedeland*, and likewise in most small Princes Dominions; but in all these Places there may be Reasons which hold not here, some of them have but little Trade and Navigation, the people not affected with Trade, but content themselves with the Product of their own Country. Now in this case there is reason for the Government to encourage Companies even to the seeming loss of the People in general, that is by placing such Duties & Prohibitions on Foreigners, as to keep them out, that so their own Subjects may set their own Rates on what they Import, otherwise they would not be able to manage a Trade that Foreigners could undersell them in, and so their Country would become a Province to other Princes, I take them to be no better who govern not their own Trade, but are beholding to Strangers, Companies in Countries under these Circumstances, seem absolutely necessary to preserve

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preserve some Trade of their own, but we in *England* are not under these Necessities.

France and other Countries before mentioned, have inducements much of the same Nature; for tho they may drive considerable Trades in the World, yet they come after us in their Foreign Plantations, and Trade, and where they are so, nothing but Companies can introduce them, but had they an open and secure Trade, they would soon throw down the Inclosure, and make the Trade common to all their own Subjects.

There is yet an other Reason for Companies, and that is all I can find which carries a pretence for any in *England*; that is, where there wants a Force and Government to secure Ships and Men, whilst they are employed in the Trade of the Country among Savages, and so have not the protection of the Country, as in other more civilized Nations. Here, if the Government of the Kingdom do not at the Publick Charge set up and maintain Force
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and Garrisons for the security of their own People that trade there, the Trade can be no other way carried on but by a Company & Joint-stock, and that Trade appropriated to them as a Fund and Recompence for their charge of maintaining a Force and Government. But this seems to proceed rather from the mistakes or neglect in Government, than a good Expedient for Trade, that any Society of Private Men should have a Regal Power to make War, or Peace, give Commissions, &c. may be thought an Indication of Weakness in the National Power they derive from, and is a Creature within a Creature that wants a Name: And however this management may secure a Gain to the Company, yet at the same time it may be a Loss to the Nation to which they belong. As that of the *African* Company, which by the best Judgment is deprecated as the Bane of our Foreign Plantations. Something of which is touched upon by Mr. *Dalby Thomas* in his *Historical Account of the Rise and Growth of the West-India Colonies*, a more Rational and Mercantine Discourse I have not met with. Now it might be thought more
 Honorable

Honorable for the Nation to secure every part of their Trade at the Publick Charge, than to leave it to the conduct of Private Men, and to set up a Commonwealth within a Monarchy: that for any Miscarriages are not call'd to account like other Offenders, but treated like an Ally; I know not how better to distinguish Men that seize Ships or Goods where they find them without Process of Law.

By this Account you will believe me no Friend to Companies; and I must confess my Judgment and Experience, as far as it goes, is against them; but still with a reserve to such, as by a long descent from their Predecessors, that purchased it by signal Service to the Nation, have in a manner a Freehold, as that of the *Turky*, *Hamburg*, and some other Companies in being. But that Projectors and Courtiers should be inspired with New Lights, and out of Love to the Nation, create new Methods in Trade; that none before found out; and by inclosing Commons the

B Liberty

Liberty of Trade into Shares, in the first place for themselves, and then for such others as will pay for both, is, I must confess, to me, a Mystery I desire to be a stranger unto.

And this brings me to the second part of your enquiry, my *Thoughts of the present Linnen Manufactory in England*. You know my Aversion to the Sin of this Age, Scandal and Reflection, to avoid which, I may perhaps be short in setting forth my Sense of this Company; and the Progress they make in the Design they propose, of making Linnen to the Advantage of the Nation, and Profit of the Company.

I. First then, I submit to better Judgments, that a Company and Joint-stock is not a proper way to set up and increase Manufactory. It is usual for any man that designs to take up the Trade of another, whom he pretends not to exceed, but labours to imitate, to follow the steps of him he makes his aim. Now then if we take up the Trade
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of Linnen Manufactory from *Germany*, *Holland*, and *France*, let us see if any of these Kingdoms established it by Companies; if they did not, and grew great in it by other Methods, it might then be thought our best way to do as they did.

But that the very Name of a Company and Joint-stock in Trade, is a Spell to drive away, and keep out of that place where they reside, all Men of Industry, and Business that relates to what the Company pretends unto, is not new to any man of Employment in the World. The great motive to Labour and Incouragement of Trade, is an equal Freedom, and that none may be secluded from the the delightful Walks of Liberty. Now Trade to Merchants, and Mechanick Arts to Workmen, are their Walks, which where any challenge a Right to keep the Key, they will not come; a subjection in Manufacturies where a People are obliged to one Master, tho' they have the full Value of their Labour, is not pleasing, they think themselves in perpetual

Servitude, and so it is observed in *Ireland*, where the Irish made a Trade of Linnen Yarn, no man could engage them, but they would go to the Market and be better satisfied with a less price, than to be obliged to one Master: but this of a Company is one Master to a Kingdom; and whatever they pretend unto in saying *they hinder no man*, yet they have such Advantages by being a Body Incorporated, and having a Joint-stock, that no man of a Private Purse dares engage in that Trade they call themselves a Company of: Much less will any new Stores come, where at their entrance they must put on a Shackle of the Companies forging.

2. We have the Practise of former Ages against the introducing of Manufactories by Companies. I do not find that the *Woollen Manufactory*, first introduced by *Edward the Third*, who brought in the *Flemings*, was advanced by Companies, but that he gave like Immunities to all that would employ themselves

themselves in it. And however Notions & Opinions may prevail in Schools, the plain Methods of Labour are better understood by the Practick than Theory.

There was much more reason for a Company and Joint-stock to set up the *Woollen Manufactory* in that ignorant Age, than there is for this of the *Linnen Manufactory*; that of the *Woollen* was a new Art not known in this Kingdom, it required a great Stock to manage, there was required Foreign as well as Native Commodities to carry it on, Oyl, Dying Stuffs, &c. and when the Manufactory was made, there must be Skill and Interest abroad to introduce the Commodity where others had the Trade before them. But there is nothing of all this in the *Linnen Manufactory*, Nature seems to design it for the weaker Sex. The best of Linnen for Service is call'd *House Wife's Cloth*, here then is no need of the *Broad Seal*, or *Joint-stock*, to establish the Methods for the

(14.)

the good Wifes weeding her Flax Garden, or how soon her Maid shall fit to her Wheel after washing her Dishes; the good Woman is Lady of the Soil, and holds a Court within her self, throws the Seed into the Ground, and works it till she brings there again, I mean her Web to the bleaching Ground.

Now to appropriate this which the poorest Family may by Labour arrive unto, that is, *finish and bring to Market a piece of Cloth*; to me seems an intallible Expedient to discourage universal Industry, making the World believe they will do Wonders in their Company, and by that means discourage all private Endeavours: And when all is done, themselves like the Mountain in the Fable *bring forth a Mouse*.

3. As a Company will hinder the increase of new comers, so it will destroy such as are settled there already. There are, as I am told, in several Parts of the Kingdom, Private Men that employ

employ themselves and their little Stock in the *Linnen Manufactory of Thread, Cloth, Tapes, &c.* Now tho I believe any one of these Men with *Five Hundred Pounds* Stock, shall actually *Increase the Trade* more than a Company with *five Thousand Pounds*, yet this Company drives out *five Thousand small Traders* that are now in it. Traders are like Armies in a Field, small Parties, tho numerous, yet being disjoint, give way to an united Force: And this of the *Linnen Manufactory*, above any Trade I know, if (which I must confess I doubt) it be for the *Good of the Nation*, requires more *Charity* than *Grandeur* to carry it on; the poor Spinner comes as often to her Master for *Charity to a sick Child*, or a *Plaster for a Sore*, as for *Wages*; and this she cannot have of a *Company*, but rather *less for her Labour*, when they have beat all *Private Undertakers* out.

These poor Spinners can now come to their Masters Doors at a good time, and eat of their good (tho poor Masters) *Cheer*;

Chear; they can *reason* with him, if any mistake or hardship be put upon them, and this poor People love to do, and not be at the dispose of Servants, as they must be, where there Access can only be by Door-keepers, Clerks, &c. to the Governors of the Company.

I have seen a short Discourse of that *Labourer in Charity*, Mr. *Tho. Fermin*, and his Endeavours to promote the *Linnen Manufactory*; his work was to Relieve the Poor, God's way, not by a Tax, which at best is but Man's way, and as it is imployed in *England* not the best. But I lose Mr. *Fermin*; that he did in little, shewed what might be done at large, and that would (in my weak Opinion) have been a more probable way, to have inured Idle and the most useles Hands in the Kingdom to *spinning Linnen*, as he propos'd, than the *Formalities of a Company*.

4 As a Company destroys particular Persons, and hinders the Improvement

ment every particular Man would make in the Trade, a Company invades, or rather ingrosses, so a Company imposes upon the Nation in general: It is a Natural Consequence, and let them say what they can, all Men will believe, that as they become Masters of the Trade, so they will be of the Prices of the Commodity: And that they must have greater Rates for their Linnen, than Private Persons could afford it for, is of necessity; otherwise how shall the Grandees of the Company, Officers, &c. be maintained, and that which will be more than all the rest, the Frauds, Neglects, and miscarriages of their numerous Agents, and Instruments employed in the managing part; and it is to be noted, that this Company (to which I believe we have nothing like in Story, if considered in all its preposterous Designs and *Machins*) hath not the Advantage of Companies that Trade by Sea, for they by a Joint-stock make great Adventures in one Bottom, and so are in many things at no more charge with

with the management of Ten Thousand Pounds in Trade, than a Private Man may be with One. But here with our Company it is not so, but on the contrary, the Company must be at more charge than a private man in their several Cheques, and Controlers upon their Servants, whereas every private man doth his own Work, and as it is always done so to most Advantage, so most especially in this of the Linnen Manufactory, where there must be a particular Eye to every pound of Thread Weaving, Whitening, and a multitude of other things; all which extraordinary Charge and Difficulty the Company must lie under more than private Men, can no other way be raised, but by lessening the Wages of the Poor that make the Linnen, and raising the Price on the Rich that wear it? Our Laws provide well against Forestallers in Markets, and tho not so well as it might be, yet there is some care taken that Men have the fair buying of the Victuals they eat. This I have somtimes thought
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is like Tything Mint and Rue, neglecting the more weighty Things of the Law, we provide Men should not be cheated in buying a Pennyworth of Eggs, but make no Provision to secure them from the same Abuse in a Hundred Pounds laid out in Cloaths. The poor Artizan shall not be oppressed in laying out his penny to one poorer than himself, but he is without Remedy, shortned by a Company in his Penny as it comes in. I have heard complaints of this Nature in greater matters of the Publick Sales of the *East-India* Company, perhaps if due consideration were had of these great Ingrossers, there would be found more reason to restrain them, than a poor Woman that travels in the Country to buy up and sell in a Market a few Hens and Chickens. But to return to our Corporation for *Imaginary* Linnen Manufactory.

I shall now lay down what offers to me, that if it were possible to introduce it in this Kingdom, that yet it

would be for the Interest of the Nation to have a *Linnen Manufactory* set up as a *Trade* in the Kingdom.

Divine Providence that appoints to every Nation and Country a particular Portion, seems to allot that to *England* which was the first acceptable Sacrifice to his Omnipotency, *that of the Flock*: the Produce of which is the most universal Covering of all the civilized Countries of the World, our *Woollen Manufactory*; a Talent which no Nation hath to that perfection as we have. This hath been for many Ages the support of the Nation, imploying the poor at home, our Men and Ships at Sea. Now to decline this, and set up another Manufactory, looks like an extravagant Mechanick, who by his Improvidence hath lost his own Art, and thinks to retrieve his misfortune by taking up that of another Man's. This is condemned in particular Persons, and to be feared in a Community.

But

But it will be said, there is not Employment for the Hands of the Nation in the *Woollen Manufactory*: And since Linnen carries away so much of our Money, it seems the Interest of the Nation to employ idle Hands in that which will keep Money in the Kingdom.

Now tho both these Assertions have too much Truth in them, yet neither of them have weight enough to enforce the Conclusion, that the *Linnen Manufactory is the only Remedy*. If we search into the bottom of our Distemper we shall find another Cause of our Disease.

It is not because there is less *Woollen Manufactory* used in the World than formerly, that our Trade declines, nor yet because we make more than formerly; for it is demonstrable, that from the year 1673. to the year 1680, there was much more Wool wrought up in *England*, than in eleven years since: Nor

is it altogether to be assigned to the present War; for that our Trade decayed in the latter part of King Charles the Second, and all the Reign of the late King. The Reasons then for our Decay in the Woollen Manufactory seem to be these.

1. *The Growth of course Woollen Manufactory in Germany, with which the Venetians Trade to Turkey.*
2. *The Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactory into France.*
3. *The Increase of our Woollen Manufactory by our Neighbours with the help of our Wool, so that in some things they out-do us in the price they can sell at.*
4. *By the great Wear of East-India, and other Silks, and the use of Calicoes, which was formerly supplied by our Tammies and Sashes.*

5. *The*

Ido 3
 5: *The want of the Consumption of Ireland,
 which abated with the Reign of the
 late King.*

There is yet a cause as valid as any
 of the former, which for some Reasons
 I forbear to mention.

Now to me it seems possible to coun-
 terpoise all these, and to retrieve our
 Manufactory, and that by Two ways.

First, *By preventing the Transporting
 of Wool* which if done, the French and
 others, which now furnish markets
 abroad, would not be able to supply
 their own Expence.

It may be thought a vain Assertion,
 after all attempts that have been made
 to prevent the Exportation of our Wool,
 to say there is yet a way that may ef-
 fectually do it. Yet I am morally sure
 it may be done both in *England* and
Ireland; and if this were done, there
 is

is another thing that might oblige the French, when there is a Peace, to take off their Prohibitions on our Manufactory.

The other way to bring our *Woollen Manufactories* into esteem abroad, is, to make them so cheap as to undersell the *German* coarse Manufactories; and that may be done with ease, which I can make out upon occasion.

These two things if practicable, as I persuade myself they are, will set the *Woollen Manufactory* on so good a Foot, as together with a Consumption, not yet practised in *England*, will find employment for the meanest Hand in *England*. So that there will be rather want than superfluity of Hands in the *Woollen Manufactory*.

Now if there be any thing in all I have said, it seems reasonable to consider well, before the Nation gives up its staple and long continued Trade for

a shadow, as I take the Linnen Manu-
 factory to be: for altho I believe it can
 never come to effect, yet so far it may
 go as to injure that of the Woollen, by
 diverting some that are now in it, and
 so raise the price of Spinning, than
 which nothing can be more prejudicial;
 for as I mentioned before, nothing can
 retrieve our lost Trade abroad, but un-
 derselling our competitors: so then we
 must labour to make ours as cheap as
 we can, and not set up an other Ma-
 nufactory, to bid who gives most for
 Spinners; a ready way to Ruin the
 Clothing Trade of *England*, but not to
 set up the Linnen; which whenever it
 thrives must have a better way than the
 methods the Company takes.

but because some pretend this Com-
 pany may be of good use to the Nation
 in laying a Foundation for a *Linnen Ma-
 nufactory*, for Argument sake allow it doth
 take. Let us consider, beside what
 hath been said before of injuring the
Woollen Manufactory, how it will affect
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the Kingdoms in the two Pillars that support it, that of the Rents of Land, and the employing our Ships and Men at Sea, which are thought the Walls of the Nation.

For the Rents of Land they must certainly fall, for that one Acre of Flax will employ as many Hands the year round, as the Wool of Sheep that graze twenty Acres of Ground. The Linnen Manufactury employs few Men, the Woollen most; *Weaving, Combing, Dressing, Shearing, Dying, &c.* These Eat and Drink more than Women & Children; and so as the Land that the Sheep graze on raiseth the Rent, so will the Arable and Pasture that bears Corn, and breeds Cattle for their subsistence.

Then for the Employment of our Shipping, it will never be pretended that we can arrive to *Exportation* of *Linnen*; there are others and too many before us in that; And the Truth is,
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he that cannot thrive at his own Trade, will hardly in that of another mans. If we are beat out of our Inheritance, the *Woollen Manufactory*, by Foreigners, over whom we have such Advantages in our Wool, Fullers-Earth, and long continuance in the Trade, it can be nothing less than a miracle for us to take from them the *Linnen Manufactory*, in which they have so much the Ascendant over us.

I shall end this part of my Discourse with the answer of a West Country Man to his Neighbour, that asked what Voyage he had made in a Fishing at *New-Found-Land* that proved not good, I have made, said he, a brave Voyage, as you may guess, for I have sold my Bible and bought a Tobacco-Box. Would it not be so to this Nation, if they should change the noblest Manufactory in the World, for the poorest, and most despicable? So are those People in all Parts of the World that are employed in the *Linnen Manufactory*, which

which only thrives where the Country is crowded with Poor, and Bread not to be had at the charge of the Parish; where the Tenant is but a Vassel to his Lord, and there is no power in any to Relieve, but in the Lord, who is a stranger to the practice.

It is a mistake in them that believe the *Linnen Manufactory* in *Holland* to be the Product of their own Country: it is only the easie part, that of Weaving and Whit'ning, most of their Thread comes from *Saxony*, where there is both Laws and Necessity for Industry, both of which, one as the blessing of God, the other by the Impunity of our Government, this Kingdom is free from. And thus you have my Opinion and Grounds for it, that if it were possible to raise a *Linnen Manufactory*, it is not Profitable to the Kingdom, but of most dangerous Consequence to put that in the Heads of the Poor, that may alter the Employment of their Hands. I know some Countries

Countries where they would have ill Entertainment that should on any pretence change the Hands of the People; and this at least gives a pretence to the Spinners of Woollen to stand on their terms with their Masters.

I now come to your Third Enquiry, *my Opinion of the Company for the Linnen Manufactory of Ireland*; and for that I have the same Value as for this of *England*, but for different Causes, and they are these:

First, Tho it must be allow'd that *Ireland*, every thing being considered, is the aptest part in the World for a Linnen Manufactory, yet under its present misfortunes, I cannot see how it can be great in it, and that which may be set going in the Kingdom towards so good a Work, a Company seems the ready way to blast; for at the first Planting of a Country (and as *Ireland* now stands, so it must be considered) every man comes with his
design

design in his Head; some perhaps with a little Money in their Pockets, lay a Scheme for making Linnen Cloth; they intend to settle themselves where they may find most Spinners, and spend their time in Riding the Country round to incourage them, and buy up the Linnen Yarn. These Undertakers have their Friends and Partners in *England*, to whom they send over their Linnen, and have back in Returns Tobacco, (for by the way it is to be noted, they of *Ireland* are forbidden any but what comes directly from *England*) Hops, and *English Manufactures*. This now is a Trade, and probable Incouragement to make a growing Manufactory that *England* may gain by, and this way was begun the later end of *Charles* the Seconds Reign with hopeful success. But here these honest Men will meet with an invincible Enemy; with their Standard the *Broad Seal* set up, giving notice that they are the Men that will incourage and set on foot the *Linnen Manufactory*; and this being proclaimed
puts

puts an end to our English Undertakers, and Foreign supplies of Poor that might be drawn to *Ireland* by the Incouragement of a Universal Freedom & Liberty, in setting up the *Linnen Manufactory*. But however a Company may operate to the driving out the Poor that are already in that Business of *Linnen* I know not, but sure I am there is experience of other Places, that *Companies* keep out new Stores.

But the *Company* will tell you, they hinder none from Working, or buying *Linnen*; this would not be believed, if they had not the *Broad Seal* to tell us so. They are the first Men I ever heard of that were at the charge of passing a Patent, only to tell us, they intend to do nobody wrong, nor proceed in the Trade they Incorporate themselves in: Whatever belief the first part of their Declaration may gain, I leave the Squires of the Company (I mean those that pay the Reckoning) to judge: but for the last part, that they intend not to proceed in the Trade,

Trade, most believe, and yet they equally do mischief, as if they did; since in the Opinion of the World, these Men that Incorporate get great Privileges, great Men to head them, and of their Fraternity raise great Sums of Money of one half of the Company, to be admitted in with those that pay nothing but a Trifle for a pretence. I say all this gives Ground for honest Men that know not the Original Design, to believe that they intend to do as much mischief as they have power for; that is, proceed in buying *Linnen Yarn*, &c.

2. As the time is most improper for setting up a *Linnen* Manufactory in *Ireland*, so are the Methods and Constitutions of Companies in *Ireland* destructive to both Kingdoms.

Ireland I take to stand in its Relation to *England*, much in the same Nature with our Foreign Plantations, and might be made more Beneficial than them

them all. But if *Ireland* be at first setting out, after this late Devastation, begun with Companies that will, as I said before, be a barr to the peopling that Kingdom with Foreign Protestants, and *Ireland* can never be safe whilst the *Irish* so over-balance the *English*, as they do to this day. So then there seems Reason to preserve *Ireland*, as a Foreign Plantation, from the implacable Enemy of *England*, the *Irish*, but Companies in Trade will hinder new corners, and that makes for the *Irish*; this is against the Security of *England*.

The next thing *Ireland* may be considered in, is how it stands as a Foreign Plantation to *England* in point of its Trade, and Consumption of our Woollen, Iron, and other Manufacturies; and in that, by an Account I have seen, it exceeds all the *West-India* Plantations, as also in that of our Natural Product, Corn, Hops, Salt, &c.

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Now then, that which hinders the Increase of People (and that does Companies) abates the Consumption of the Product of *England* in *Ireland*.

We will next consider *Ireland* in its Natural and Artificial Product as a Foreign Plantation, and as such how we should use it. I have before mentioned how they consume our Product, we will now see what becomes of theirs, and in that we use them as Foreign Plantations, prescribing them Rules, Methods, and Prohibitions in some of their Commodities, as their *Wool*, *Linnen*, *Tarn*, &c. we oblige them to send no where but to *England*; and if they be kept to it in their *Wool*, as I am sure they may, *England* would find it wants, not abounds in *Wool*, for the seeming Excess of *Wool* in *England* is not because we have too much from *Ireland*, but because we have not all; for one pound of their *Wool* works up ten of Foreign, and that enables them in their Manu-
factories

factories abroad, to furnish the Trade we formerly had intire to our selves. But to return, as we prescribe Rules to *Ireland* what they shall send here, so we do what they shall send to other Parts; To our Foreign Plantations they may not send any *Manufacturies*, but have liberty to send their *Provisions*, *Servants*, and *Horses*; and as we confine what, how, and where they may Export, so we do in many things their Imports; that they shall Import none of our Foreign Plantation Commodities from thence direct, but all from *England*. After all this, it may be thought *Ireland* is so intirely a Plantation of *England*, that it may deserve the care of the Nation, to People that Kingdom, but the noise of *Companies* will keep out Planters, and therefore to be suppress'd.

Therefore we never see *Companies* set up in our Foreign Plantations, every man is master of his own Invention, Labour and Designs; so it seems the

Interest of *England* as well as *Ireland* to have the like freedom there; for if Companies are once admitted in *Ireland*, it is not the Subjects of either Kingdom shall be Masters of them; there are those in the World that know how to use such Advantages better than we do; and with their Money will soon purchase the *Ruling Shares*, especially when the Grant is design'd for selling, not Trading Shares, and being so bought, the Purchasers have Authority to set up a Joint-stock, can Sue, and must be Sued as a Body Politick, with all the other Privileges usual in such Grants. Being thus Established, they shall ingross all the Trade in the Kingdom, let their Company be called what you please; and these Men may live in what part of the World they think fit, and Govern the Trade of *Ireland* by their Factors, tho the Company bears the Name only of the *Linnen Manufactory*.

And however the generality of Men
see

see not the hidden Myſteries and Influences Companies have in Trade, yet Merchants and Handicrafts do; and that is the reaſon I find thoſe of *Ireland* give, why that wonderful Statute, (for ſuch I take it to be) which gives greater Privileges to Foreigners, than Native Subjects, had no effect, brought not ten Families, ſome ſay not one into *Ireland*, and all becauſe Men love not Incloſures in Trade, tho they may be in them themſelves; for by the Statute before mentioned, any Foreign Proteſtant that would ſettle in *Ireland*, might upon his demand, taking the Oath of *Allegiance and Supremacy* before any Juſtice of the Peace, be made Free of any City, Trade, or Company in the Kingdom, paying *Twenty Shillings*, and was alſo by the ſame Statute declared, and was *Naturalized*. But all this would not do whiſt there was *Companies* in the Kingdom, tho they are not of ſo appropriate a Conſtitution as this of the *Linnen Manufactory* and all Companies of Joint-ſtocks are.

I now

I now come to shew how in particular the *Company for a Linnen Manufactory in Ireland* will affect England.

1. It will prejudice *England* in its *Manufacturies of Fustian, Tapes, & Manchester Ware*, much of which are made by the *Linnen Yarn of Ireland*.

Now tho this *Company* cannot promote a *Linnen Manufactory in Ireland*, yet they may, and if they design any thing, it must be that, ingross the *Linnen Yarn* in the *North of Ireland*, which was formerly sent to *England*, and imployed as aforesaid, the want of which or setting a price upon it, must be of prejudice to the *Manufacturies of England*, with some other disadvantages that would swell this Discourse here to mention.

2. If this *Company* should prevail, of which there is no Reason to fear, they by their compact made with the *Company*

Company here, have agreed that all the *Linnen of Ireland* shall be sold by the Company here, so then the People of *England* must pay for their Linnen what they please, and that which is yet worse, the *Linnen* and *Linnen Tarn* hitherto purchased by the Manufacturies and Commodities of *England*, the Company will be paid for in Money: And then where is the difference to have it from *France* or *Ireland*? Nor will the Companies selling for Money be an advantage to *Ireland*, but to the contrary enable the Company to impose on the Kingdom what Goods, and at what Rates they please, when they have beat out the numerous Chapmen that use daily the Irish Trade: Even the Farmers of the West of *England* would come for *Ireland* with their Hops, Cyster, &c. and so the English of *Ireland*, who are our Bone and our Flesh, dealt with us as Brethren, but it will not be so when the Trade of *Ireland* is managed by Foreigners in Companies, as it seems now design'd.

3. The

3. The admitting this Company for Linnen Manufactory will be a president for the same in all other Trades, and Employments of the Kingdom. It is said there is a Patent now passing for the *Fishing of Ireland*, there may with as much reason be another for Plowing.

And why not some Publick Spirited Projector have a Patent for a more excellent way of cutting Turf, a Fuel much used in *Ireland* ?

This way of appropriating the Trade of *Ireland* is happily of worse Consequence to *England*, than at first sight appears. Perhaps it will not be thought a prejudice to *England*, that a Patent is granted for a *Fishing in Ireland*, when it shall be in the Name of Men of *England*. But when this Patent is transferred to Foreigners, and they with their Men and Ships manage this Fishing, what will *England* or *Ireland* get by it ? Several Small-crafts that use to come from
Eng-

England to the West of *Ireland* will be beat out of their Trade, and in conclusion *Ireland* made a Province for Trade to any Foreigners that will buy from our projecting Patentees.

As I said before, *Ireland* is more than one of our Foreign Plantations, only I think it will be allowed the first place, and more than any other in nearness of Blood, and that of our Nobles, there being many Families in that Kingdom descended from the antient Families of this, and most of the Estates in *Ireland* held by the Descent from our Brethren, who purchased it with their Blood. These Reflections may prevail for our care of them, at least equally to any Colony abroad; and we never think it our prejudice to have them thrive, nor would the Growth of *Ireland*, if rightly disposed or understood. And here give me leave to make a Digression, if it may be call'd so, but you may think it Foreign to our Discourse.

I find it generally believed, that *Ireland* is as mischievous to our Trade in time of Peace, as it is destructive to our Men and Treasure in time of War. And tho' this Opinion never went far with me, yet something I did doubt was in it, until I met with that which gave plain Demonstration to the contrary, and it was this.

I fell into an entire Acquittance with a Gentleman of *Ireland*, whose Experience and long continuance in all the Foreign Trade of that Kingdom, furnished him with Arguments I could not Answer, to prove that *England* was a great Gainer by the Trade of *Ireland*. When I could not confute him, nor he prevail with me, he told me he would shew me that which carried Authority with it, and so he did; being, as he assured me the work of some years, as he could spare time to compose it. The whole Discourse takes up many sheets, upon the Trade of *Ireland*

to all Parts, and particular *Remarks* upon every Commodity Exported and Imported into that Kingdom, and where, and how it affects *England*. Some other things he reserved as Secrets from me, as he doth the rest to others; for it was never seen by any but one beside my self. Out of the whole he hath extracted an exact Account of the Exports and Imports for one year in a medium out of six; and then distinguished what related to *England*, by what Ships brought in, and out; then computed the Value of each Commodity, and to what they were improved being Manufactured in *England*; and then what Money in Specie, or Bills of Exchange, which is the same, was retained from foreign Parts to *England* out of the Proceed of Goods sent from *Ireland*, all which being brought to a Sum, it appeared, that *England* gained by *Ireland* more than Two Millions sterling *per annum*. It seemed to me an incredible thing, but being, as he affirms, Matter of Fact,

for which he hath the Account of the Customs, it is not to be denied, the Breviat is drawn in so plain and Intelligible a Method as renders it easie to any Understanding, therefore to mine. I would fain have prevailed with him to Print the whole Matter, but he thinks it may be made better use of another way; and affirms, that as great as this looks, yet it might be improved to much more, if the Trade of *Ireland* were disposed, as it might be, to the Advantage of *England*. But he said that Kingdom was in no Reign since the first Conquest of *Ireland*, consulted in its Trade, but left to its self, or treated like an Enemy, all the use made of it, was for Courtiers, Men of Projection and Necessity, to Traffick, and dispose it into Grants, Imployments, and Offices, and so made it rather a Forest for Game, than a Plantation of Trade and Commerce; and that which continued it so in the Reign of *Charles* the Second, was the Jealousies and Mistakes of *England*, believing it grew too
fast

and incroached on their Trade, tho it is Demonstrable, *Ireland* doth us no hurt, but where we by our own Laws force it; and that Act, pardon the expression, *like Lunaticks that strive to suppress their shadows, for fear they should assault them.*

None will say *England* would be worse, if it were double the Acres it now is, and tho the Sea parts us from *Ireland*, may not Laws make us one, in our *Interest and Trade*, and so that *Ireland* may be more profitable to *England* in general, than *Wales* or any County in *England* is to the whole in its proportion; There never was so
fair

fair an Opportunity for enriching this Nation by *Ireland* as now; it is by *Divine Providence* once more put a Blank in our Hands, in which His Majesty may *stamp* what He pleases: And we have reason to believe, that He who ventures His Royal Person so freely for the Preservation of these Kingdoms, will not deny us any thing that can contribute to our Growth in Trade and Treasure. One thing I must not omit, which I had from this Gentleman of *Ireland*, that to me seems valid for confirmation of all he asserts, That *Ireland* neither *interferes* nor *gains* on England: For that in the last Twenty Years of *Ireland's*

lands greatest Prosperity, not one Man of *England* purchased in *Ireland*, but numbers of *Ireland* have in that time purchased in *England*; as they of that Kingdom, I mean the English always do, as they increase their Fortunes. This being so, *Ireland* is to *England* a *Mine of Treasure*, and affects (tho in a much larger Proportion) as *Newfoundland* and *Hudsons Bay*, whatever is gain'd in them terminates in *England*:

I shall close this Discourse with the complaint I have heard from the generality of Merchants, 'That when all the Governments of Europe have for
more

‘ more than Twenty Years past
 ‘ been consulting their *Interest*
 ‘ *in Trade*, and *how they might*
 ‘ *Improve it*, we of England
 ‘ make no Provision for ours,
 ‘ but leave it to the Ravage of
 ‘ Strangers, and the worst con-
 ‘ fusions of an ungovern’d Mul-
 ‘ titude in Trade; whereas, *if*
 ‘ *we had a Council of TRADE*
 ‘ *composed of Merchants from all*
 ‘ *Parts of the Kingdom*, set apart
 ‘ for searching into the several
 ‘ *Prattises of Trade, & Miscar-*
 ‘ *riages therein*, England would
 ‘ have grown beyond any part
 ‘ of the World in *Trade and Na-*
 ‘ *igation*, and might have pre-
 ‘ vented thereby the wonderful
 ‘ Rise of *France*; whose prodigious

gious Advance in Navigation
 and Commerce is assign'd to
 the experience and conduct
 of *Colebert*, that was originally
 bred a Merchant, of whom it
 is said, that when he was
 prime Minister of *France*, he
 he would say *he did his Master*
better Service in a Committee
of Merchants, than at the Coun-
cil Board. We have much
 greater Funds for Trade than
France can pretend to; and
 tho we may want *Coleberts*,
 yet lesser Men with greater
 Helps than he had, might at
 least retrieve, if not increase
 our lost Trade, which in se-
 veral Branches are decayed al-
 most to a total Loss; as that

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of

of *Muscovy Greenland, Newfoundland,* and others.

And if Fame be true, we are in a ready way to lose what we have left; the Exchange being filled with Projects, Wagers, Stock Jobbing, upon Imaginary Wrecks, Pharee Companies of Manufacturies, &c. all which bode ill, and is a *Green Sickness* in Trade; when Men are taken up with Rubbish, like Maids feeding on Chalk and Cinders, rejecting wholsom Food.

This Evil looks like a spreading *Leoprosie* over the Nation when Merchants and Tradesmen
live

live like Gamesters on the Spoil of each other, setting up Projects instead of Merchandize; which cunning Men cut into Shares, and so manage their Designs as to fix their *Ignis fatuus* at last on innocent and well meaning Men, to the Ruin of them and their Families. I name not Men or Things to avoid Reflections; but wish those that are faulty in this matter would consider, that such Artifices, however the hand of Justice in this World cannot reach, yet the Cries of Widows and Fatherless ascend a Tribunal that brings all things to Judgment. Those Frauds are of a new stamp, not known in former

mer Ages, and therefore want a Law to restrain them: which it is hoped, the *Great Council of the Nation* will look into; and that there may never more appear amongst us any of these Syrens, that a Council of Trade may be the standing *Probationers* of all new Inventions and Expedients for Trade; that so *Quacks* in Trade may be suppressed, and honest Industry and ingenious Discoveries encouraged.

By which means a stop may be put to those Men who like *Cadmus's* Serpents Teeth sowed in the Ground, bring up Men in Armour killing one another: I wish the Moral prove not truer

truer than the Fable ; we see
 Losses between private Men in
 Gaming often ends in Blood ;
 and *National Gaming, Projects*
and Deceits, with Wagers on the
Success of Companies, taking
Cities, and Success of Monarchs,
 must needs alienate the Affections
 of the Subject one from ano-
 ther, and some from the King.
 This to me seems not an acci-
 dental Misfortune, but an Ar-
 tifice of *France*, to raise Divi-
 sions amongst us, and bring
 our Trade to confusion ; for
 the French have as well Jesuits
 in Trade, as in Religion, to
 distract us. But we have not
 such invincible Champions for
 the first, as blessed be God we
 have

have for the latter : In my weak Judgment and Reflection on the present Condition of this Nation, nothing hath a worse Aspect than the Trade, Navigation, and Manufacturies of it, and all for want of Publick Spirited Men, that would, like our Ancestors, who whatever they were at home, every Man, when in Parliament, was no less than a County or Borough, and spake not himself, but them. If this bravery of Mind were in our Senators now, the Commerce of *England* would not look like a Scramble, for want of due Regulation ; which can't properly be without men of Practical Heads in Trade appropriated to the Work
 nor

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nor is the present War a valid
Pretext for the Neglect, since
there seems as much Reason to
provide for Trade in time of
War against Times of Peace, as
there is for Armies in time of
Peace against a time of War,
*Which God in his due time put an
end unto.*

F I N I S.