

THE

WEAVER'S

LETTER

TO THE

Free and independent ELECTORS

OF THE

City of DUBLIN.

To be sold by G. Faulkner, in Essex Street, M. Williamson in Dame Street, and H. Saunders, in High Street, dedicated to the Right Hon. Arthur Onslow, Esq; by James Digges Latouche, Esq;

COLLECTIONS of Cases, Memorials, Addresses and Proceedings in Parliament, containing § 1. A State of the Case of the Merchants of Ireland with relation to the frauds committed by bankrupts.—Two Letters to a Member of Parliament on the same Subject.—The Petition to Parliament of the Merchants and Traders of Dublin to prevent Frauds committed by Bankrupts.—Heads of a Bill in 1753.—Proceedings in the House of Commons in Ireland with Relation to Bankruptcy from 1721 to 1753. § 2. Petition to the Privy-Council in 1747 in Relation to the Gauge of Wines.—Report of the Collector on a Petition for Re-payment of Excise.—Case relating to the Re-payment of Excise, with Counsel's Opinion thereon.—Case relating to the Payment of alien Duties in Ireland, on certain Duties mentioned in an English Act. § 3. The Case of Frederick Berg, Master of the Freden of Stockholm.—Petition to Parliament concerning the Manner of proceeding in the Court of Admiralty.—The Case of the Dublin Merchants. § 4. A brief State of the Case of the Commons and Citizens of Dublin, 1743.—Address to the Earl of Chesterfield.—Case of the Free-Citizens of Dublin in 1750.—A Letter from a Citizen in Dublin to the Earl of E—— in London.—Address of the Citizens of Dublin to the King's most excellent Majesty in 1750.—Address to the Duke of Dorset in 1751.—Votes of the House of Commons in 1755 with Relation to the Government of the City of Dublin. To which are added, or may be had separately, Observations on the Embargo lately laid on the Exports of Beef, Pork and Butter from Ireland. Mr. Latouche's two Letters upon Trade to H——y B——k Esq; Author of the Farmer's letters, may also be had of said Bookfellers.

T H E

W E A V E R ' s L E T T E R .

Brethren and Fellow Citizens,

AS it ought to be an invariable maxim with every Elector, to weigh maturely, and to be influenced only by the Integrity and Abilities of the several Candidates who offer themselves to represent them ; it cannot be improper for any of us to lay before his Fellow Electors the ground and Reasons upon which one Candidate may stand foremost in his opinion to another ; I shall therefore take upon me thus to make known to you my sentiments in relation to one of our present Candidates.

It is well known that our House of Commons has always been amply furnished with Gentlemen well acquainted with the Political Constitution and landed interest of the Country, but that we have always wanted others also well versed in Trade to support that important Interest. In a Trading Kingdom it must be highly expedient that some at least of it's Representatives should be eminent for their Knowledge in the Nature of Trade, that in the great Assembly of the Nation there

might be Men peculiarly Qualified to be Guardians of, to promote as far as may be, and to establish upon the best Foundations the Commercial Interest of the Country ; and it is absolutely necessary that to his advantage of Knowledge should be joined that, without which none should be intrusted with the Service of the Publick, Watchfulness to defend the Liberties, and an ardent Zeal for the good of the Community.

The most infallible Proof of these Qualifications, as of all others, is to be had not from Professions of them, but from instances of their existing manifested to us by those in whom we look for and require them.

I doubt not my worthy Fellow Citizens but that your Thought have already prevented me, and make unnecessary my mentioning to you Mr. DIGGS LATOUCHE ; this Gentleman was once the object our high Regard, and we accordingly gave him the most honourable Proof of it ; in consequence of his glorious struggles to maintain our Rights, of his unwearied labours for many Years to free us from the Oppression of a Tyranical Faction, of his always standing at the Head of the Opposition when attempts were made upon the Liberties of any of the Corporations ; in consequence of his widely extended Engagements in Traffick, and his superior Knowledge in Business, in consequence of his proposing to Authority, and his indefatigably endeavouring after the wisest measures to be taken to promote and Establish our Trade ; in consequence of his watchful Care to remove whatever obstacles might clog or annoy it ; in consequence and Reward of these Services, and in consideration of these satisfying Proofs of his Abilities and Dispositions to serve us, we invested him with the highest Honour which the laudable Ambition of such a Man can aspire to, with the important
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Trust of acting in the Legislature as our Representative. Let not his conduct among us be forgotten on the approaching Occasion of our choosing new Representatives ; call to Mind his Behaviour in our Common Council in the Memorable Years 1741, 1742, and 1743, his opposition in conjunction with another virtuous Assertor of our Rights to Usurpation of the Board of Aldermen ; his industry to good effect in finding out—in laying open—in retrieving the losses of our invaluable Liberties and Privileges ; his Labours in the service of the Corporation of Weavers, his undaunted defence of our Privileges when we had him at our Head ; his exposing himself to the menaces of a Court of Judicature on a Traverse to a Presentment of the Vindication of the Barber Surgeons ; his several labour'd Applications to the higher Powers for redress of our City grievances ; the warm love of his Country, the Spirit of Liberty, the true Loyalty, and the masterly knowledge of Trade, manifested in his writings ; let these have their due weight upon your minds, these are excellencies in the Man, which let his greatest Enemies join to counterballance by picking out and setting in the clearest and truest light every thing they can find exceptionable in his character and conduct, and then let the unprejudiced and impartial judge of him.

The Circumstances of his being rejected after we had chosen him our Representative are well known to us all ; he was driven from the seat to which we had promoted him upon a charge brought against us of having acted under, and against him of having used *Undue Influence* ; true, he did influence us, and we may glory with him in it ; he did influence us by principles of Virtue and Liberty ; what could his and our Persecutors mean by *Undue Influence*, but that
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an evil Spirit possessed us? Corruption or Bribery, the Injunctions or Threats of the Great, were never laid to his or our Charge; and when it was proposed that accused as we were in an unheard of manner, we should be admitted to be examined by our Judges, and to declare our motives for electing him, that was deny'd us; because as one of the Council for the Petitioner alledged, our minds had been poisoned, and that persons in such Circumstances could not give any testimony; and because (as the other Council argued) we were not only interested but criminal. And shall we not lay hold of the Opportunity which now offers itself to vindicate ourselves from the odious Imputation? shall we not in justice to this injur'd Man join to reinstate him? shall we not shew the World what spirit we were of in the year 1749? for unless we can produce good reason for a change in our good Opinion of him, a change in our conduct will be regarded as a change of principles; it must be look'd upon as a confession that we before acted under Undue Influence, or that we acted without any principle at all.

An Objection is made by many of this Gentleman's former Friends to his being a Resident in *London*. Is not his past Conduct amongst us, his Zeal upon all Occasions to serve the Publick, fully sufficient to be relied on as Proofs, that, at least during the Sessions of our Parliament, he would never absent himself from his Duty as our Representative? and that, whenever his personal Appearance amongst us may be necessary, he will, with Readiness, with Pleasure, attend upon our Service? But we have his own express Assurance of it; and That we may depend upon: That ought to satisfy us. And can it be doubted that it might be of the highest Advantage to us that there should be, during the Intervals between the Sessions, a Representative

a Representative from among us, so much engaged in, and so conversant in Trade, residing in *London*? one too, who has a House of Business in this City, and whose Connexions with us are still so strong? His several Attempts to serve us in our trading Interest during his Abode in *London*, and which, probably, he would have succeeded in, had he been invested with the Dignity of our Representative, are Proofs of what I have observed to you; and they ought to be sufficient to convince us too, that he lets pass no Opportunity in which he can hope to serve us; that even in Absence he is not unmindful of our Interests: And in his Absence let *us* not be unmindful of his, of our own Interests; had he not even offered us his Service, it would be our true Wisdom, our Duty, to elect him. His not being present with us on this Occasion, should prompt the Noble-hearted to be the more zealously engaged in his Cause, the more industrious to make known his Claims to our Favour.

I have been told by some, that giving their Votes to this Gentleman, would be of no Avail; that it would be only throwing away, what would have been of Service to another: But let not this artful Plea of his secret Enemies discourage us; and let not his Friends, the Friends of Truth and Liberty, abandon the Cause, by disponding of their being powerful enough to support it, despairing of Success, will the soonest of all Things *prevent* Success. Let us guard, then, against this Enemy to every gallant and virtuous Enterprize, notwithstanding the Pains that are taking to oppose it to us. But, my Friends, shall we act contrary to our Duty and Opinion, merely for the Sake of going with a Majority? If I stand *single* in giving my Voice, and am conscious of giving it as the Merits of the several Candidates call

call upon me, will I not have acquitted myself as becomes a Man of Virtue, and to the Approbation of my own Heart? and shall this be called throwing my Vote away? Let us not, from a Fear that we shall not be sufficient to elect the Persons whom we once thought, and must still think, the fittest to represent us, decline the only Opportunity which may, perhaps, be ever offered, of vindicating our Characters and Principles.

I shall take the Liberty of concluding in the Words of a Gentleman, who is, deservedly, the Darling of his Fellow-Citizens,

Whom Crowds do follow, and a People love.

I recommend these Matters to your cool Thoughts, and wish you to judge for yourselves with becoming Freedom and Independence; Mr. DIGGES I see offers you his Service, and declares himself ready to attend your Calls. This, in mine Opinion, leaves you without Excuse; and therefore I make no doubt, whatever a few forward Citizens might have done, the whole Body collected will support their own Interest and Dignity.

I am,

Your sincere Well-wisher and humble Servant,

A Weaver.

Dublin, 21st March, 1761.