

REFLECTIONS

Little to the Purpose,

O N A

P A P E R

Less to the Purpose.

By the AUTHOR of

SEASONABLE REMARKS.

Ridentem dicere verum
Quid vetat ————— Horace.



D U B L I N :

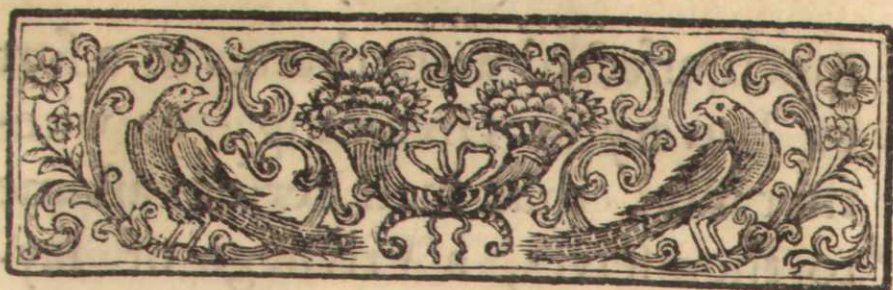
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REFLECTIONS

Little to the Purpose,

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TO THE
READER.

Courteous Reader,



Have often observed,
that Authors who as-
sume to themselves the
greatest Air of Gravi-
ty and Wisdom, are the most apt to
sleep over their Paper ; whether in-
deed it be, that Gravity and Solem-
nity are so near a-kin to dosing, that
they incline all those who are over

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much

much affected with them, to a sort of Ravery or Dreaming ; or whether it be, that such Persons assume to themselves, a Privilege of saying little to the Purpose, I can't exactly tell, but so indeed have I and you too, no doubt (curious Reader) often found it ; but what a provoking thing it is, after all, Sir, when an honest inquisitive and curious Person has lay'd out a whole Shilling upon a Title Page, to find not one Word in the Book relating to it ?

I have consider'd this Matter therefore, Reader ; I have seriously weigh'd it, and find it all a most damnable Imposture, for which Reason I am determin'd not to fill you unfairly with Expectation, but to tell you honestly, that this little Book is a little Book *little to the Purpose*, in Answer to a less Book *less to the Purpose* : So keep your Money
or

or lay it out 'tis all one to me, for I am determin'd not to cheat you of your Six-pence.

But now you will say, what a surly Dog this is, not to give us any one Item of the Matter he intends to treat of? Is a Reader thus to be served, who lays out his Money to support a Pack of poor Dogs that write from their Garrets, and cannot live without us? Why faith my Friend, the Truth on't is, you Readers are grown most damnable faucy, and like the modern *Epicures*, never sit down with any Satisfaction to a Table, unless you have first a Bill of Fare. But suppose I should bite you for once now, and tell you, that you were to be entertain'd with a Dish of Trade and Commerce, delicately sweetened to your Palates with double refin'd Politicks? Or suppose I should promise you a whole
Tea-pot

Tea-pot full of Scandal, or a Fricafy of Love Adventures, tofs'd up with Coxcombs and Palats? Could you be so unconscionable to imagine I should debase the Dignity of my Function, and descend from the high Privilege and Prerogative of a modern Author, so very much as to perform my Promise? No, no, such things might do well enough a Century or two ago, when Learning was young and wanted to go to School, but in these our Days, when Men are grown too wise to trouble their Heads with Knowledge, and when a good Title Page and a gilt Back is all that's sought for, who but a Mad-man or a Fool wou'd put himself to the Drudgery of keeping up to his Text.

Wherefore, gentle Reader, pray excuse me: If you be a Man of Sense, read on and see what I am: If a Fool,

Fool, I seek neither your Money
nor your Praise; for the Praises of a
Fool like a foul Mop, dirty always
more than they clean, and so fare-
wel.

P. S. I had almost forgot to tell
you, that this was wrote in *December*
last, but upon considering how ill
the Almanack-makers manage their
Affairs, who might be very certain
in their Accounts of the Weather,
had they not publish'd their Alma-
nacks before their due time: I de-
termined to be warn'd by them, and
avoid the Hazard of so short-liv'd
a Falshood, by keeping my little
Book by me until the Event had
proved its Truth.

N. B. I have annex'd hereto the
Paper *less to the Purpose*, that you
may

may the better judge of the Argument, and if you be minded to take things in their proper Order, you must read that first: It begins
Page 57.




Reflecti-



Reflections, &c.

S I R,

 H E N you did me the Favour of your Observations on my Seasonable Remarks, I was so fond to believe you a Person of tolerable Knowledge in commercial Affairs, that I attributed the many absurdities of your Paper to an uninform'd, tho' commendable Zeal for the publick Good; and in my Reply therefore, I not only cleared up those Points which seem'd too intricate for your Comprehension, and that in the gentlest manner I could form to my self, but invited you also to a private Correspondence through the Hands of Mr. *Ewing*, the Editor of these Papers; and surely if you had any Design to have the Truth honestly

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ly and fairly stated, you could not wish for a better Opportunity than by canvassing the doubtful Matters with the Author himself in a particular Conversation, to conclude joyntly with him on what was really the State of our Case, and the Means fit to be pursued by the Commonwealth, in order to the publick Good: But you, Sir, were so fond of shewing your Parts in Print, that you wou'd not accept of my Invitation, and taking to your Assistance the ill-grounded Jealousy which was industriously fomented against the supposed Author of my Papers, by the restless Malice of his Enemies, you endeavour'd in a most disingenuous manner to insinuate, that my Endeavours for the Welfare of my Country were the reverse of what they seem'd to be; that my whole Drift and Design was to bring Taxes upon my Country, and to plunge it still deeper in an Abyss of Want and Misery; and this you did with an Air of Knowledge so disproportion'd to your real Understanding and Capacity: an Air so like that in which Mr. *Dryden* is represented under the Armour of *Homer*, by the ingenious Author of the *Battle of the Books*, that instead of being provoked by your inervate Malice, your Paper would have

have lain for ever neglected, had I not found in it something ridiculous enough to recommend it as a Subject for the Amusement of a Melancholy, which has for some time been growing upon me.

To begin therefore with your little pretty Paper, Sir, as you most ingeniously observe “ That you may be a Merchant or a landed Gentleman, or both, “ and yet that you may be neither the one “ nor the other.” So indeed you may be an Enemy to Speculative or Book Knowledge, or to both, and yet you may perhaps be an Enemy neither to the one nor the other; but if my Opinion upon the Matter, may be of any Weight, I really believe you have a most implacable Aversion to every thing that relates to Books; for I have often made it my Observation, that Men have been very apt to conceive Prejudices against things, for no other Reason, than that they were Strangers to them, and ignorant of their Virtues.

I have heard a Story that has made me very merry, and yet it may not have the same Effect upon you, tho’ you shall have it every bit as cheap.

You know, Sir, it is very common, for People who have no Merit of their own, to take Advantage of some general

Calamity, and by feigning themselves fellow Sufferers with the Publick, to ingage the Affections of a whole Party. Thus the Beggars of our Country in *France* (let the Cause of their Absence be what it will) make Reprizals upon the Absentees of that Country, by attributing their Misfortunes to religious Grievances; thus all the modern Bankrupts lay the Fault of their Miscarriages on the *South Sea*, tho' perhaps they never ventured a Penny in it: And thus a certain Person who has trust himself into a Debate, thinks to carry off his Ignorance, by his appearance of Zeal for the Welfare of *Ireland*, tho' he knows nothing at all of the matter, and is unable to judge of a Point of much less Importance: Pardon all those out of the way Similes, dear Sir, But to conclude them for this time, even just so it was with a certain ingenious *Englishman*, soon after the Revolution: He it seems, had by a vast deal of Assiduity and Pains, bred up a little Mare to do several ingenious out-of-the-way Tricks; she could play several Games at Cards, tell what a Clock it was with her Hoof, and without Disparagement to any body, could on view of an Account tell on which side the Balance lay, as well as a certain Person has done,

done, in the Article of the *French* Trade, with several other Curiosities too tedious to be here inserted. But all this was not enough : on his arrival at *Rome* he judged it intirely necessary, in his Application to a certain *Irish* Father of some Note, to say in a merry manner, that his little Mare and he were Jacobites, forc'd to seek their Bread in foreign Parts, in order to avoid the severity of the Conquerors at home ; adding withal a Request, that he might obtain Leave from the College of Cardinals to shew. The good natur'd Father with all his Eloquence, pleaded for his banisht Fellow-sufferer, and that with so much Success, that he obtained the Leave he desired. The little *English* Mare perform'd to the Admiration of all Beholders, and to the great Gain and Emolument of her Master ; but Sights of this kind have all of them their Run, Sir ; and the time was come when she was no longer a Curiosity at *Rome*.

My poor *Englishman* having proved the Success of the Father's Recommendation at *Rome*, made Application to him for others, to some of his Acquaintance in *Portugal*, whither he next intended to steer his Course : The Father complied, and interesting himself very much in his

Affairs, gave him Letters to his Friends at *Lisbon*; and the *Englishman* not doubting of a warm Reception, on the Recommendation of so good a Man, went off with as much Satisfaction, as if he were a Sharer in the Plate Fleet, and was just going to take his Dividend. But Fortune is ever varying: That which was a Diversion at *Rome* was a grave Matter at *Lisbon*; and the poor Man had no sooner delivered his Credentials, but the Mare and he were examined; and having taken much Pains during the Journey to instruct her, she unfortunately perform'd to a Wonder. *Ignorance is a strange thing, Sir!* these People not able to conceive how a Brute could act in a manner so peculiar to rational Beings, concluded immediately she was a Witch; the better she performed the worse she was thought of, and the Matter making a great Noise in the Town, the Officers of the Inquisition were soon apprised of it: The Mare was summon'd before them, where after a long Hearing, inspite of all the Vows and Execrations of the Owner, she was condemned to be burnt for a Witch, and the poor *Englishman* had the Mortification to see himself in one Moment robbed by their Ignorance of that which it was perhaps,

haps, the Business of his whole Life to bring to Perfection. The Story is much longer, but however (begging you to call to mind *Rockfaucot's* Story of the Puppets in *Switzerland*) I shall only add, that it was the Opinion of all discreet People, who have considered at all of the Matter, that had the wise Officers of the Inquisition known the Mare to be really what she was, that is, a poor little *English* Mare, and no Witch, they never would have condemned her to be burnt; and now, Sir, to make the Application, I can't for my part help thinking, but that all your Rants against Speculative, or Book Knowledge (to use a Phrase you your self are so very fond of) proceeds from the same Principle, and that if you had been a little better acquainted with Books, you would not have run into half those Passions against them; for which Reason I will make bold, with your leave, Sir, to give you my Sentiments upon the Matter.

You must know then, Sir, that Speculative and Book Knowledge, are two very different Things; a Man may be speculatively knowing without the Assistance of Books, as you have greatly shewn your self in these elaborate Discourses of

yours; and a Man may write Books without any Speculative Knowledge, as you have also shewn in the very same elaborate Discourses; but as you most ingeniously observe, to make the proper use of either, a sound Judgment is a very necessary thing, and I could wish you had one with all my Heart, for then you would have saved me the Trouble of turning Plagiary, and telling you in your own Words, “ You “ know, Sir, there have been Men who “ have wrote on Subjects which they “ themselves did not fully comprehend.”

As for the ingenious Author of the *Defence of the Conduct of Ireland*, whom I must still call so, tho’ you make free with him under the familiar Appellations of *Doctor*, and *Chymist*: I must reckon it amongst my Misfortunes, that I have not the Pleasure of his Acquaintance; and much more, that he did not condescend to observe upon my Papers; for so discerning a Judgment as his, and so extended a Knowledge in Commerce, would easily separate the Tares from the Wheat, and giving a Sanction to what was useful, would leave no room to doubt of those Faults which he condemned; for however you may unfairly insinuate to the contrary, I assure you, Sir, I desire no Fa-
 your

your, for my Papers, they are designed for the Improvement and Welfare of my Country ; in which I shall always reckon my self so greatly interested, that any Favour shewn to them, in Matters wherein I may be erroneous, shall always be accounted rather Injuries, than Favours to me, for I should not pretend to write on the Affairs of my Country, had I not made truth the End of my Enquiry : Going by any other Rule, would not be to serve, but to injure my Country, and that is far from me to design ; so I pray, good Sir, you may be pleased to take back the “ fantor Inepte,” for a Person whom it will fit much better.

You are pleased, Sir, to compare “ Speculative or Book Knowledge, to “ the Theory of Navagation, in which “ one (you say) may acquire a perfect “ Skill, but without practice he will be “ at a Loss to know, what happens “ in the Deep” : Indeed, Sir, you may be a very honest and a very good Dealer, for ought I know, but I assure you that going to Sea is one thing, and judging of Ways and Means whereby a Nation may grow rich in Trade is another : The first may be done without any Speculative or Book Knowledge, but the last
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requires a found Judgment, and a discerning Reason, together with a Speculative and Book Knowledge, much more than a Knowledge of what happens in the Deep, which I always thought Diving was the surest Way to attain.

But if the Truth were known, Sir, there may be a more dangerous Artifice in all this rant of yours against Book Knowledge and Political Arithmetick, than occurs at first Sight, and like a Conjuror that makes use of hard Words, and aukward Gestures, to amuse the other Senses, whilst he imposes on the understanding ; It is possible, that you only cry up the Poverty of *Ireland* to persuade us, that the Drain for Outliers cannot be so great as I make it ; and then cry down Books and Political Arithmetick, lest by their Assistance we should be able to discover how grossly you would impose upon us.

Now, Sir, Truth is drawn naked, because really the naked Truth is best ; and it is perhaps from hence, that People who say more Prayers than is common, are by those merrily disposed, said to be, the most likely to design upon their Neighbours ; I have my self been assured by a Lady of great Credit, that whilst she was rapped up in a secret admiration of the Piety

Piety and Zeal of a Person, that kneel'd just by her in Church at *Paris*, he was at the same time picking her Pockets; for he it seems had two pair of Hands, one Artificial, which were constantly lifted up to Heaven, and the other Natural, which were sunk down to the very Bottom of her Pockets: *And indeed, Sir, this is the practice of all Political, as well as natural Juglers and Pick-pockets.*

Now, Sir, I am for none of these finesses or shams, I think our Case so miserable, that we may very fairly own it, without becoming the Object of any ones Envy; for if our Gain in the Year 1725 was, as I state it in my Reply, 440-110 *l.* on the Article of Trade, and if we sent out annually 600,000 *l.* for Outliers, that made us Losers annually 159-890 *l.* this Loss on our accounts must every Day throw us farther back; and it has had that Effect already, if we may rely on your account of the Custom-House Books for 1727, which makes us at our Home-selling Prices 12000 *l.* Losers for that Year; for that is 146,021 *l.* worse than we were in 1725, and consequently 405,911 *l.* in the whole account, but you, Sir, would amuse us by saying that we
are

are poor, and could not survive such a Drain; It certainly follows well enough, that if we have nothing, our Neighbours can get nothing from us; but does it not follow every bit as well, that if *England* gets very considerably, by every Increase of our Trade and Industry, it is the Interest of *England*, to support and cherish us in those Branches, which don't clash with their own? It certainly does; and pray now, Sir, which Representation of our Affairs is most likely to serve us, that which shews that no Indulgence in Trade can make *England* the better for us, or that which demonstrates the Advantages that might arise to *England* from enlarging our Commerce and cherishing our Industry? We have made use of the former for some Ages, and are nothing the better; for I don't think it is common with our Neighbours to part with much on the score of Compassion, without a little mixture of self Interest: I am sure it is at least, a Virtue that we in *Ireland*, don't extol them over much for; pray then why may we not try what the truth will do, and shew them that the only Method they have left, to gain any thing by us, is to enlarge our Trade, and encourage our Industry, least
such

such a dead Loss, upon the Ballance of our Accounts as we now suffer, should in a short time reduce us, to the circumstances we were some Years ago in, when the Revenues of *Ireland* were not sufficient to defray its own Establishment, and when *England* was forc'd annually to send over Sums of Money to make it out? You can't easily imagine, perhaps what a Change it would make, in the Complexion of our Neighbours, if we were reduced to such a State of Poverty: But I hope they will timely reflect upon it, and consider that if their Gain by *Ireland* is truly stated, in my Seasonable Remarks, and has been so great an Ingredient to support their Grandure, and Port in *Europe*, as I have there endeavoured to demonstrate; the consequence of reducing us to Poverty will be, that we can no longer contribute to their Grandure and Wealth, but must become a Load, a Burthen, and a Blemish to both: Let them think of the Farmer, that over loaded his best Ais till he broke its Back, and rendered it intirely uselefs; and let them think also of the House-wife, who not content with the daily Tribute of one Egg from her Hen, but endeavouring to
make

make it lay more, lost even the daily Tribute which she was used to pay.

But to return, Sir, from what has been said, it follows I think pretty plainly, that you could not be so grossly out in your way of Reasoning, as I at first supposed you; and I have all this while been exposing your Understanding, to hide your Insincerity. For alas! what need was there to insinuate, that I agrandised the capital Value of our Stock, and to run into such immoderate Passions at my Papers, on no other Account, than because I say we lose by Outliers annually 600,000 £? are we not really more miserable, who are not able to live on so large a capital Stock; and so great an application to Industry, but who by an unfortunate Issue of our Money, are in spight of all our Industry reduced to Beggary? Are we not more unfortunate, I say, on this view of our Affairs than upon yours which represents us as a slothful unactive People, neither endeavouring to grow rich, nor capable by any Indulgence, to be made useful to those, who claim a Power over us, and have it in their Hands either to cramp or enlarge our Commerce? In short the Question is, which is really the greater Object of our Compassion: He that is slothful,
unac-

unactive, poor, and out of Debt; or he who tho' possessed of a large and fair Estate, cultivated and improved by the careful Pains and Industry of its Possessor, is yet under such a heavy Load of Debt which was heaped upon him, by no mismanagements of his own, but by the Cruelty and Oppression of his Neighbours, that he is reduced to the sad Necessity of begging, for the Assistance of those hard hearted Neighbours, to make up the Ballance of the Debt he owes them? It is easy sure to tell who is the greater Object of Compassion, the first or the last; and how was it then possible you could so greatly err in your way of Reasoning, as to disguise our true Circumstances, for others much less moving, had you not intended something besides the good of poor *Ireland*? 'Tis too true, Sir, your whole Sketch must have been to lull us asleep, from seeing or thinking of the great and heavy Drain under which we labour'd, that the last drop of our Blood might issue before we had Notice to stop it: But I hope the good People of *Ireland* will not be charm'd by your Incantations, to neglect a matter so essential to their very being, unless they be gran-

granted some Inlargement to their Trade, that may make them able to support it.

And now, Sir, having so happily detected your whole Scheme, and laid your deform'd Inside before the Spectators, I will be so free as to give you one Word of Advice: Whenever you would impose upon your Reader, never fall into such a violent Passion; a Part over acted is never good; I have seen a Thief detected, that might have probably passed well enough, had he not taken so much more pains to assert his Honesty, than he had occasion: Whenever a Woman sets up for an uncommon share of Virtue, and envies with Severity against the Conduct of others, she gives a violent occasion to suspect her own; even so it is with Writers, whenever they rail against an Author, or any Proposition in an Author, without assigning a very good Reason for so doing, Whenever without Regard to the Rules of Decency, good Sense or good Manners, they arraign his Integrity, and dogmatically impose Notions of their own upon their Readers, it is immediately concluded, that there is somewhat at the Bottom, some Point to be gained, which is injurious to the Publick, and the reverse of what is pretended to be aimed at.

Indeed

Indeed I won't say, but it may some-time happen, that an Author who means well, may be so unhappy as to be over-born by his Passion; but whenever that happens to be the Case, such an Author will always be like a Boatswain, who while he looks one way, and tuggs at his Oar with all his might, is yet carryed the quite contrary; or like a Weaver at his Beam, who keeps his Legs in constant Motion, and never stirs out of the Place, or (to steal a Comparison from a very ingenious Gentleman) like the flying Horse at *Temple-Bar*, that is always capering, and never goes forward, or like a Taylors Goose, hot and heavy.

— *Mutato nomine, de te
Fabula narratur.*

Now Sir, be pleased to let us know, upon what Account you with so much Vehemence diswade the Gentry of *Ireland*, from a Speculative or Book-Knowledge, in matters of Trade; and I will venture to say, that if there be one Grain of good Sense, or publick Spirit on your Side of the Question, I will burn all my Books; but till then excuse me if I leave in this Place, the following Fragment, “*Latet Anguis in terba.*” And so I proceed, Sir, to the next Proposition in your Book, which
C is,

is, that the Increase of the Value of our Capital from 9, to 56,000,000 " is
 " threetimes more, than the most fan-
 " guin Computers ever asserted the
 " Wealth of the most flourishing Country
 " in *Europe*, have been increased in that
 time," (*viz.*) 52 Years, which (to let the
 beauty and justness of the Phrase, pass un-
 reprov'd) in other Words is, that no
 Country has doubled its capital Value in
 52 Years. Is it not Sir? To be sure it is; for a
 third part of six, is two as I take it, conse-
 quently your meaning must be, to dou-
 ble its Value.

Now, Sir, give me leave to treat you
 for the present, as you appear to be on first
 View, (that is a well meaning, but igno-
 rant Person) that I may be the more par-
 ticular in my Demonstrations; for to say
 the truth, I am much fonder to believe
 you such a Person than a Wizard of any
 Sort; and I assure you, when ever you
 are pleased to acknowledge your self such,
 I shall be very willing to retract all that I
 have supposed to the contrary.

We must first then consider, that the
 Increase of the Value of our Capital, is
 not only owing to our own Industry and
 Riches, but to that of our Neighbours al-
 so; for as a large uncultivated Common,
 which

which is the same this Day, that it was 100 Years ago, might sell however this Day for ten times more Money, than it would then, and that not from any additional good Quality, which it acquired in that tract of time, but from the Increase of Wealth and Industry in the adjacent Countries ; So our Capital is not only improved, by our own Industry and Labour, but by that of our Neighbours also, which has brought a plenty of Money into these Parts of the World, and consequently raised the Value of our Lands in some proportion with their own.

I confess indeed, that this Rule won't hold in all Cases : For a Man that suffers his Brain to run-fallow, and neglects to cultivate and improve it by the assistance of Books and Conversation, will be a Fool as long as he lives : Nay, every increase of Knowledge and Learning, amongst his Neighbours, will throw him yet further back ; so that tho' he should remain in the same Degree of *Sensibility*, in which he first set out, with respect to himself ; yet in respect to the Learned about him, he will be much a greater Block-head than ever. *And this, Sir, is a consideration, I would advise some Men to ponder well, before they undertake to*

run down the Credit of Speculative or Book-Knowledge in the World.

And having premised this, I proceed to show how it comes to pass, that a Country doubles its value faster, in the first Years of its Industry, than it can after. Suppose therefore a Million of People living idly, on the simple produce of the Earth, with only one industrious Person amongst them, and suppose that the good Example of this single Person, in the Compass of one Year, induces ten of his Neighbours to become like himself industrious; there will then be amongst these People the second Year, eleven Examples, as alluring to Industry as the first, and if these work on the Minds of their Neighbours, with the same proportion of Efficacy as he did on theirs, there will be the third Year 121, so that allowing the same Efficacy to good Example; in the following Years, the whole People will be at Work, in less than six Years; But when all Hands are employed, the Increase of Industry can bear no proportion to that of the foregoing Years, when it was helped forward by a daily Accession of Hands; for when all the People are at work, it is only by a prudent Application of their Industry to such Branches of Business as are most beneficial,

neficial, by becoming more assiduous in their Business, and by a proper Regulation of their Trade, that they can increase their Gain.

But you may perhaps say, that this is but a meer supposition, that it is highly improbable such an increase of Industry could be, and so proceed to find as many Faults with this Supposition, as you did with my Calculations in your former Papers; but I shall only desire the Favour of you, to take a Survey of our own particular Affairs, even from Sir *William Petty*, and you will find by the slow Increase of the Value of our Stock, from 1676. to 1728. when compared to its rapid Increase from 1653. to 1676. that there is some Truth in the Account I give of that Matter in my *Reply*.

It may perhaps clear the Point a little, to let you know, that in 1676. the whole Manufacture bestow'd upon the Exports of *Ireland*, did not exceed 8000 *l.* in Value, *vide* Page 90. *Political Anatomy*, whereas the exported Linen Manufactures of 1728. alone, exceeds in Value 300,000 *l.* which is thirty seven times more; and pray now, Sir, what wonder is it, if the Capital which produces such an Increase of Gain on one Branch only of its Industry, is
fix.

fix-fold more valuable than it was when it produced on the Whole 37. times less.

But you are pleased to say, “ This is
 “ three times more than the most sanguin
 “ Computer ever asserted the Riches of
 “ the most flourishing Country in *Europe*
 “ have been increased in that time.” In-
 deed, Sir, you shew a vast deal of Pene-
 tration and Judgment in this matter, for
 by your Quotations it appears plainly,
 that you have read Sir *William Petty’s*
Pol. An. and it appears plainly too, that
 you have understood and digested him to
 great Advantage; for Sir *William* says,
 that in 1653. the whole Territory of *Ire-*
land was worth to be purchased 1000,000.
 but that in 1676. it was worth to be pur-
 chased 9000,000. *vide* Page 21. and Page
 113. of the second *London* Edition: This
 was but in a Space of 23. Years, and yet
 in my Way of Calculation, here is a Ca-
 pital increas’d nine fold in that time: I
 fear my Reader will be inclined to think
 as I do, but you, Sir, will particularly
 oblige us, if you lend us the Rule where-
 by you reduce it below a two-fold In-
 crease, for it may be of singular Service
 to us, when we come to consider of our
 Drain by Outlyers.

But

But you may perhaps say, that what you mentioned of the most sanguin Computers, was only in relation to the most flourishing Countries, and not at all to the purpose of poor Countries; and indeed I must do you the Justice to say, I believe you; for in both your Papers, you have said many Things very little to the purpose, and this may well be allow'd for one of them.

You know, Sir, it is much easier to make 1000 000. nine Millions, than to make 56000 000. 504 000 000. which is but nine-fold 56 000 000. and the Reason is, that to double one Million requires a Gain only of one Million; but to double 56 000 000. requires 56. times a greater Gain than the double of 1 000 000. which is consequently 56. times harder to be done, so that your Sophistry was extreamly cunning, in fixing upon the most flourishing Countries as slow Doublers of their Value; but as we have no manner of Title to come within that Description, so I think we are intirely out of the Case.

I am sure I have wearied my Reader with this long Dispute about nothing: This *Lana Caprina* Matter, tho' I can't really venture to think I have yet satisfied you, for next to one that can't hear, he is certainly

rainly deafest that won't hear, and this Rule will hold for Understanding every bit as well.

But you say that I design to agrandise the Riches of our Country, in order to bring Taxes upon us. Good now, Sir, how does that follow from any Thing I have said? if you have a Million of Money and owe two, I'll uphold it that you are a Beggar still, notwithstanding your Million, unless indeed you intend to plead the Statute of Bankrupcy; and pray may not this Rule hold of a Country as well as of a single Person? tho' we have this fair Capital, tho' we have Lands, and Industry, and Manufactures, do we not owe more than all our Earnings by 150 000 *l. per Annum*, *vide* Reply, and are we not therefore Beggars? poor miserable needy Beggars! the Fate of the *Danaids* alas is ours! we are continually labouring to fill our Vessel, but it leaks faster than we can fill it: These ill-natured cruel Outlyers, these Vipers that destroy the Mother which gave them Being, have pierced it with so many Holes, that it is now a meer Sive, and leaks even our very Vitals through it.

This is the best of our Case, even if you condescend to allow my Calculation in its whole extent, even to that very 56
Million

Million which you have so greatly Quarrelled with ; for if we be in the State described in my Reply (to which I refer) a few Years will bring us to nothing ; and is not this bad enough, without making us Bankrupt all at once ?

Quest. Pray, good Sir, will not you allow us one poor Year more to expire in ?

Ans. No, not one ; “ For we are
 “ Losers by the Custom-house Books
 “ for the Year 1727. 12000 *l.* our circulating Cash is but 500 000 *l.* *vide* Observations : We pay annually to Outlyers
 “ 600 000 *l.* and the Consequence from
 “ these Premises must necessarily be, that
 “ by *Lady-day* 1728. there will not one
 “ Penny of Gold, Silver, or Brads be
 “ left to circulate in *Ireland* : All Rents
 “ must be paid in Kind, all Dealings must
 “ be reduced to Barter, and we must
 “ mortgage 112 000 *l.* worth of our Capital Stock to pay the Ballance of these
 “ intolerable Outlyers.

I must confess, Sir, you are very severe, and yet this must be the Consequence if you state the Case aright, but I am in great hopes your Passion made you overlook a Figure or two in that Calculation, and that this vanishing of our little Stock will be put off for two or three
 D Years,

Years, in which time it may please God to open either the Eyes of our Neighbours, that they may see their own Interest, and enlarge our Commerce, to enable us to support so great a Drain in their Favour, or else our own Eyes, that we may in time devise some Means to allure these Fugitives back, or make them pay towards the Support of their poor Country, which they have reduced to Beggary, if they obstinately refuse our Calls.

Now, Sir, a very short time will shew if your Calculation be right or not, for if you be right, all the Miseries above described will be upon us in less than nine Months: I shall therefore omit any farther Diquisition of the Matter, and leave it to so short a Time to determine of the Truth of your Assertion; but before I have done with this Capital Matter, I must beg your Patience, till we consider a little about the Value per Acre, which you would impose upon me as 6 s. 4 d. in a most obliging Manner, and that with a most agreeable Compliment, in these Words, *viz.* “ The Error (that is of
 “ asserting the contrary) will appear to
 “ lye on your side, in not comprehend-
 “ ing what you your self have wrote.

I am afraid, Sir, you are not much used to Rent-rolls, or you would readily understand what is meant by a Valuation of Land at four and six pence per Acre, Landlords Rent; and I will therefore explain it to you in as few Words as I can.

The Words of my *Essay* are, “ at present
 “ (considering the great Improvement of
 “ Lands, and the very favourable Survey in general) the nine Millions of
 “ Acres, good arable Pasture and Meadow, may be worth at a Medium
 “ 4 s. 6 d. per Acre, or 2 025 000 *l. per*
 “ *Annum*, and his Majesty’s Quit-rents,
 “ the Tythes, and Tenants Improvements, at a modest Computation,
 “ 790 870 *l. per Annum*; so that without making any Allowance for 1500-
 “ 000. Acres of Bogs, Woods, &c. the Rents publick and private arising from
 “ the Rest, is 2 824 870 *l. per Annum*.

We generally value our Rents, Sir, as they come clear to us. There are but few I believe, that add to their Rent-rolls; the Quit-rent, Tythes, and Tenants Improvements, these are other People’s Properties, and a Multitude are to be supported by them. It is known, I believe, to almost every Body that knows any thing at all of *Ireland*, that our Landlords Rent

is higher, in proportion to our gross Rent, than that of any other of our Neighbours, because our Tenants are the most rack'd, and the most miserable Wretches in *Europe*: Do we not even begrudge them their Potatoes and Water, and give them the shortest Leases we can, that we may every Day have it in our Power to rack them closer and closer? And is not this bad enough, Sir, but you would fain rob them even of that, and add it to the Landlords Rent? *you may do what you please with these poor Wretches to be sure; Sir;* but I can scarce believe, that either the Crown or the Clergy will ever submit to your Regulation; the former is every Day incroaching more and more upon us: Some People talk of Taxes extraordinary, so that tis not to be hoped, that the Crown which is daily desiring, will readily part with what it has already in its Hands; and as for the Clergy, every one knows who has heard of the famous Statute of *Mortmain*, that they never part with what they have once got into their Clutches; I am therefore very much afraid Sir, your Project will fall to the Ground, and we must be content with 4 s. 6 d. per Acre, out of the 6 s. 4 d. notwithstanding all your friendly Endeavours to serve us; but I must

must not omit however, in the Name of all the Lay-Landlords of *Ireland*, as well foreign as domestick, to return you our humble and hearty thanks, for a Scheme so greatly to our Advantage.

But to return for the last time, to this self same Matter, and to do you Justice in all things, I freely and openly confess, that my Quotation of Sir *William Petty*, in the matter you point at, was not in the Words of Sir *William Petty*; for he says as you do, that the nine Millions consisted of 1 500 000. Acres of very coarse Land, commonly call'd unprofitable, and 7 500 000. Acres good Meadow, Arable, and Pasture; but does he not also make an Allowance of 1 500 000. Acres over and above for Highways, Rivers, Loughs, Bogs, &c? Does that not imply, that the 1 500 000. Acres were Pasture Lands, tho' not good Pasture Lands? for if they were absolutely unprofitable, he would have added them to the tother 1 500 000. and leaving out the Word Good, would have said, there was but 7 500 000. Acres of Meadow, Arable and Pasture.

Conformable to this are his own Words, Page 5. when he says, " the said 7 500-
" 000. Acres of good Land, and 1 500 000
" of

“ of course, making in all 9 000 000.
 “ are worth *per Annum* 900 000.

But since we have turn'd to this Page, be pleas'd to go on a little, and you will find he also, as I have done, has made separate Articles of the several Rents, of which his 900 000 *l.* consisted, for he says, out of which the King's Quit-rents, &c.

	90 000 <i>l.</i>
Rests	810 000 <i>l.</i>
The Tythes thereof are } one fifth, <i>viz.</i>	162 000 <i>l.</i>
Rests	648 000 <i>l.</i>
The benefit of Leases and } Tenants Improvements, one } third, <i>viz.</i>	216 000 <i>l.</i>

Rests for the Landlords 432 000 *l.*

And by the by, Sir, begging Pardon for the Digression, be pleased to take Notice, how well we Landlords look to our selves; the Landlords Rent, as valued by me, Page 37. of my *General Essay on Trade*, at 4 *s.* 6 *d.* per Acre, is 2025 000 *l.* which is more than four times and a half as much as it was then; whereas the Crown-rents, Tythes, and Tenants Improvements, as rated by me in the same Place, amount at present, only to 799-870 *l.* which is not near double the Allowance made by Sir *William Petty* on the same Articles in his time: So, Sir, if
 you

you are inclin'd to be angry, *let me beg it may be with the Landlords, for not making Freehold Leases, and encouraging the Tenants thereby to improve their Holdings,* and raise the Article on Leases, and Tenants Improvements to some Proportion with the clear Landlords Rent.

But, Sir, what have you gained by this Confession of mine? even just nothing; you are but where you were, and have only given me an Opportunity to shew that I have followed very closely a very good Example, and computed the 9000000 Acres in a Lump, as Sir *William Petty* has done, with this Difference, that I have made the Rents Publick and Private now arising out of them, 2824870*l.* per Annum, whereas he estimates them only at 900000*l.* and I submit to my Reader, whether I have done unreasonably, in making the general Rental of *Ireland* three times more in 1728. than it was in 1676. when Sir *William* made his Calculation.

I am very sorry, Sir, to find you upon all Occasions, so fond of undervaluing our Numbers; I really thought that I made that Matter so plain in my *Reply*, that there was no room to doubt of our being 2500000. Souls; and whatever
you

you may intend by supporting your self in this Matter, with the Authority of a certain unknown Person, I must insist upon it, that I have not very much exceeded ; But I must own you did wisely, to call in that self same unknown Person to support you---foreseeing well that it would never pass upon your own Authority, after the many Errors you have been guilty of, through the Course of your two little Books.

I believe it can't be contradicted but that at 6. Persons to a House, and 416,667. Houses to the whole Kingdom ; the Number of Souls in *Ireland*, must necessarily be about 2,500,000. but at *Lady-Day 1727*, there were returned 386,000, Houses paying Hearth-money ; Exclusive of Barracks, Hospitals, Colleges, Certified and Beggars Houses, and the Hearth-money is in the two following Years increased 700 *l.* which at a Medium of 2. Hearths to the House, is an Increase of 3,500 Houses ; so that there must now be in *Ireland* 389,500 Houses, Exclusive of Barracks, Hospitals, &c. and there remains to compleat the above number of 416,667 Houses, only 27,167. and if we allow that there may be as many Souls in all the Barracks, Hospitals, Colleges, Certified and Beggars Houses of the whole Kingdom as divided by six, may be equal to 27 167 Houses, then my Estimate of 2,500,000 Souls must be right, if indeed the allowance of 6. to a House be a moderate Allowance.

But as to the Allowance of 6. to a House, Sir *William Petty*, Page 114. *Pol. An.* says, the said 1 100-000. People do live in about 200 000. Houses, so that he computes even then five and a half to a House, but by his Calculation, Page 75. he seems inclinable

inclinable to think it rather six, and I am very confident, what ever it was then it cannot now be less than six, because Luxury and Industry which are apparently increas'd in this Kingdom, have this in common with each other; that they croud many Persons into a House; the first for Pomp and Grandure, the last in order to have a sufficiency of Hands for their Business; and as for the poor and idle Part of our Country, they are to be sure fonder than ever of keeping together, to avoid the increasing Expence of building new Houses upon uncertain Leases, as well as to save upon the Article of Hearth-money; for which Reasons it must follow, that if $5\frac{1}{2}$ was a reasonable Medium in 1667, six may not be extravagant in 1729; and if this be so, there remains no Objection to my estimate of our Numbers, save only, in the allowance at the rate of 27, 167 Houses for Barracks, Colleges, Hospitals, Certified, Insolvent and Beggars Houses, &c. And now, Sir, after considering the Numbers of Certificates, granted to Widows at the Quarter-sessions all over the Country, pursuant to the Statute, and the Numbers of Beggars, or insolvent Poor, that abound every where, and after adding

E ding

ding them to the Numbers that live in Barracks, Colleges, Hospitals, &c. you think I have been too large in this Article, you may refine what to you shall seem proper, and the remainder must be the Number of Souls in this Kingdom.

But you think your self very happy, Sir, in an Argument which you have hit upon. It may indeed, Sir, pass with those, who are too indolent for a pursuit after Truth, and who to save themselves that Labour, take all things for granted, which they find positively asserted by an Author: The Argument is this. “ Sir
 “ *Will. Petty* says, that the whole Ter-
 “ ritory of *Ireland*, contains but 9,000,-
 “ 000 Acres, and if we be 2,500,000 Per-
 “ sons, that is, but 3 Acres and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an
 “ Acre *per head*; and this is less than is al-
 “ low’d in any of our neighbouring Coun-
 “ tries, which are so much more populous
 “ than *Ireland*.

This Argument could not possibly be withstood, Sir, had it been certain that the whole Territory of *Ireland* contain’d no more than 9,000,000 Acres, strict Measure; but as this might have led you astray, in your Opinion of our Numbers, I shall beg leave to be something particular in my Reflections upon it.

The

The ingenious Mr. *Davenant*, in the 2d. Vol. of his *Essays upon trade*, p. 367 computes, that there are in *England* 7 Acres and $\frac{1}{4}$ *per* every Soul, and in *France* $9\frac{1}{2}$; so that if we, (as there is very good reason to believe) are 2,500,000 Souls, then supposing our Country, as populous as *England*, we must have 18,125,000 *English* Acres to inhabit; but we are not near so populous, as even *France* itself, and get at $9\frac{1}{2}$ Acres *per* head, we must have 23,725,000 Acres of the same *English* Measure, which is near double what Sir *Will. Petty* seems to estimate them at.

You will perhaps, Sir, think it arrogance in me, to attempt you under the cover of so great a Name, but as truth is the end of all my enquiry, and as there is very good Reason to believe, that the Gentleman, whose Words you have wrested to a purpose so dishonourable and disparaging to our Country, never meant them in the literal sense, to which you endeavour to confine them, I shall make bold to attempt you even there, and to show you unworthy of his protection.

Our Author in his *Verbum sapienti*, computes *England* and *Wales* at a medi-

um of 24,000,000 of Acres, worth 6 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.* per Acre, not that he thought they were, but so many Acres strict measure, or that every Acre in *England* and *Wales* was worth 6 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.* but because he addresses his discourse to the wise to whom a hint might be sufficient; and indeed in this particular, I must own, Sir, you discover a virtue, which through the whole course of your Works, you have taken much care to conceal; I mean your Humility, in as much as you seem to believe, that the very Title of this little Work, gave you no right to inspect it.

If you please, Sir, to look into the present State of *England*, or into any other Author, which gives its contents at the Acre, you will find it computed by something more than 40,000,000 of Acres; and you can't imagine sure, that a Person who entred so deeply into the Politicks of a Country, as Sir *Will. Petty* did into that of *England*, could so greatly err in a Matter of the chiefest consequence, as to imagine it not much above half what it really was? He must have known it, Sir, and his intent was, to reduce the whole territory to so many several parcels of Land, equivalent to an
Acre

Acre of Ground worth 6 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.* and if you read his Chapter on the *Coelum* and *Sollum* of *Ireland*, you will easily understand, that he applies the same way of Reasoning to our Lands in *Ireland* also, and means by the number of Acres, not so many strict Acres, but so many parcels of Ground equal in Value to a strict Acre, which gives 192 Gallons of Milk, and which is worth 2 *s.* 6 *d.* Rent *per Ann.* And indeed it is but reasonable to take him in this Sense, for if we should take him strictly, our Hearth-money Books alone, would charge him with a gross Ignorance of the Extent of our Country, and rob him of the Character he has so long, and perhaps so justly born in the World.

How much more reasonable would it be then, Sir, when we can't reconcile him to the present Situation of Affairs in a literal Sense; to give ourselves the trouble of accounting, for his meaning in a Political way, and to conclude, that since there must be in *Ireland* twice the number of Acres which he mentions, his Calculation was not of strict Acres, but of parcels of Ground, equal in Value to each other.

Perhaps, Sir, you may be inclinable to take him in this Sense, if you consider that the several surveys of *Ireland*,
were

were made for the better and more equal apportionment of the Crown Rents, on the several occasions when they were reserved; for wou'd it not be highly unreasonable, that an Acre of course Land, which might not perhaps be of a tenth part of the Value of another Acre, should however be loaded with as great a Tax? To be sure, Sir, it must, and this in my humble Opinion, was what that ingenious Gentleman should be understood to mean, when he says that there were but 9 000 000 *Irish*, or 14 000 000 *English* Acres in *Ireland*, wherefore I hope you will no longer advance his valuation *per* Acre, as an Argument against our Numbers, nor quarrel with the Sum of 4 s. 6 d. *per* Acre, which I have taken, as a medium of the Landlords Rent, for the 9 000 000 which he has so estimated.

I shall proceed in the next Place to consider, what Sum may reasonably be fixt upon, as a medium of the Freight, Expence and Profit, on the *French* Trade: But in order thereto, I must pray you to consider, that all Duties or Customs paid, on Exportations or Importations in *Ireland*, though they are indeed an Expence to the Merchant, are however none at all to the Nation: They are a Commutati-
on

on only amongst our selves, and fall very properly under the general head of Merchants Expence ; with this difference, that whether the Merchant be a Native or a Foreigner, it makes no variation ; for the Duties, Customs, &c. are always to be added to the home rates of our Exports, and to be deducted from the selling Price of imports in our Markets.

I find therefore, that in the Custom-House Books for the Year ending *March*, 1725, our Beef is rated at 18 s. *per* Barrel, of which eight Barrels make a Tun, and at what Rate, the Tun is worth 7 l. 4 s. 0 d. so that 100 l. Stock laid out in Beef, would at that Rate buy close upon 14 Tuns ; and I find by the Book of Rates, that the Duty upon exported Beef is 8 s. *per* Tun, for which Reasons I state the Freight, Expence and Profit on that Article as follows, *viz.*

For the Duty of fourteen	}	05 12 0
Tuns of Beef, exported at 8 s.		
<i>per</i> Tun		

For the Freight of <i>Ditto</i> ,	}	28 00 0
at 40 s. <i>per</i> Tun		

For Interest of 100 l. im-	}	12 00 0
ploy'd in the Stock for Insu-		
rance, Incident Charges, and		
Profit upon the same <i>per. Cent.</i>		

Wherefore the Merchants Freight, Expence	}	45 12 0
and Profit upon the whole 100 l. Stock in the		
Beef Trade		

I find also, that Butter is rated in the same Account at 18 *l.* *per* Tun, and the Duty on Butter is 10 *s.* 0 *d.* *per* Tun, wherefore the Freight, Expence and Profit on Butter as follows

For the Duty of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tun of Butter, purchas'd for 100 <i>l.</i> _____	} 02 15 4
--	-----------

For the Freight of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tuns <i>Ditto</i> , at 40 <i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Tun._____	} 11 00 0
---	-----------

For Interest of Money, Insurance, incident Charges and Profit upon the same_____	} 12 00 0
--	-----------

Wherefore Freight, Expence and Profit on this Article <i>per</i> Cent._____	} 25 15 4
---	-----------

I find Tallow rated in the same Account, at 1 *l.* 10 *s.* *per* C. and the Duty is 1 *s.* 6 *d.* *per* C. or 30 *s.* *per* Tun, wherefore I state the same Articles on this Branch, as follows_____

For the Duty on 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tun of Tallow, bought for 100 <i>l.</i> _____	} 05 05 0
---	-----------

For Freight of <i>Ditto</i> . at 40 <i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Tun_____	} 07 00 0
---	-----------

For Interest of Money, Insurance, incident Charges and Profit upon the same_____	} 12 00 0
--	-----------

Wherefore Freight. Expence and Profit on this Article <i>per</i> Cent._____	} 24 05 0
---	-----------

I find in *Ditto* Account, that Raw-hides are rated at 12 s. *per* Hide, and I suppose that 3 Hides may weigh at a Medium 1 C. weight, and I find that Raw-hides pay a Duty of 6 d. *per* Hide, or 1 l. 10 s. *per* Tun, and I therefore state the Account for Raw-hides thus—

For the Duty of 3 Tun of Hides, purchas'd for 100 l. _____	} 04 10 0
--	-----------

For the Freight of <i>Ditto</i> . _____	} 06 00 0
---	-----------

For Interest of Money, Insurance, incident Charges and Profit upon the same _____	} 12 00 0
---	-----------

Wherefore Freight, Expence and Profit on this Article <i>per</i> Cent. _____	} 22 10 0
--	-----------

These are the grand Articles of our Exports to *France*, the rest not amounting to above 9350 l. Value in the Year, ending *Lady-day* 1725, and if we strike a Medium on these, it will give us about 29 l. 10 s. 7 d. *per* Cent. for the Freight, Expence and Profit, on the first Costs of our Exports in the *French* Trade.

I proceed then to consider our Imports; and I find that that the selling price of <i>French</i> Wines on our Key, in the same Year, is highly rated at a medium of 40 l. <i>per</i> Tun _____	} 40 00 0	F
---	-----------	---

Brought over 40 00 0

But we must deduct thereout for the
Duty and Key-charges *per* Tun - - - - -

13 00 0

For Freight - - - 02 00 0

For Interest of
Money imploy'd in
the Stock, for Insu-
rance, incident Char-
ges and Profit about

08 00 0

Wherefore to be deducted
for Freight, Expence and Pro-
fit - - - - -

23 00 0

Remains for the first Cost 17 00 0

But if we buy a Tun of *French* Wine
for 17 *l.* we shall buy for 100 *l.* close upon
six Tuns, wherefore the Freight, Ex-
pence and Profit upon 100 *l.* worth of
Wine, is about 138 *l. per Cent.*

A Tun of Brandy contains
252 Gallons, and might be
bought on the Key in that Year,
for 4 *s.* 4 *d.* *per* Gallon or *per*
Tun, for - - - - -

54 12 0

But

Brought over 54 12 0

But Brandy pays
the Crown *per* Gal-
lon 2 s. 2 d. $\frac{3}{4}$ or } 28 01 9
per Tun - - - - - }

For Freight of a
Tun of Brandy - - } 02 00 0

For Interest, Insu-
rance, incident Char-
ges, and Profit on the
same - - - - - } 08 00 0

In all to be deducted for
Freight, Expence and Profit - - } 38 01 9

Remains for the first Cost of
a Tun of Brandy - - - - - } 16 10 3

Wherefore a 100*l.* employ'd in the Brandy
trade, may buy six Tuns and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Tun, and
the Freight, Expence and Profit thereon,
must consequently be about 238*l. per Cent.*

These two are the grand Articles of our
Imports from *France*, all the rest of our
whole Importation in the forementioned
Year, not amounting to above 42 762, on
which we may by the same way of account-
ing, estimate the Freight, Expence and Pro-
fit, at about 35 *l. per Cent.* and if we strike
a Medium on these three general Heads of
our Imports, we shall find that the Freight,
Expence and Profit on the *Inwards* of the
French Trade, may reasonably be esti-
mated at a Medium of 137 *l. per Cent.*

wherefore if we strike another Medium between the Exports and Imports, we shall find it come out at about 83 *l.* 5 *s.* 3 *d.* *per Cent.* which we may therefore very reasonably fix upon as a general Medium, for the Freight, Expence and Profit on that Branch of our Business : By what sort of Arithmetick you have reduced it to 12 *per Cent.* I can't tell, but I shall be much obliged to you, and so no doubt will the Nation in general, if you let us into a Secret so greatly to our Advantage.

Now you will no doubt, Sir, stare with Amazement, and perhaps frown too, when you hear that this Article is like to run so much higher on the *Irish* Commerce, than on the *English*, which you say has the *East-India*, the *African*, and the *Levant* Trades annex'd to it : But if you will let your Passion subside a little, you will find that any addition to be made to this Article, on account of these Trades will appear but very inconsiderable, when the Profit arising from them how great soever it may be, is thrown into an Average with all the rest of the *English* Commerce.

I shall instance this, Sir, in the *East-India* Trade, the most beneficial and flourishing

rishing of them all; Mr. *Davenant* computes that in the Year 1695, when that Business was in a very thriving Condition, the whole Export to the *East*, did not exceed in Value 500 000 *l.* but he tells us that the Returns on account of the same, were sold at the Company's first Sales for 1 000 000 *l.* *vide* Vol. 2d. of his *Essays*, page 384, so that the whole Profit on that Trade out and home, after deducting the first Cost of the Export was but 500 000 *l.* but if we divide this between the first exported 500 000 *l.* and the first Cost of the Import, which I will suppose to be 500 000 *l.* also, then the Gain on that whole Branch will be but 50 *l.* *per Cent.* out of which, if we deduct 25 *l.* *per Cent.* for the ordinary Medium of Freight, Expence and Profit on the whole Commerce of *England*; there will then remain an extraordinary sum of 250 000 *l.* to be divided between 10,000,000 at which the whole *English* Commerce was in that Year estimated, and then the Profit on the *East-India* Trade, will cause but a Difference of $2\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* in this Article; by which you may see, Sir, that these particular Branches of Trade, with which you make so great a Bustle in your former Paper, to swell the Expence of the
Eng-

English Trade above ours, appears upon Examination to be a very trifle when divided amongst the shorter Voyages, the Coasting Trade, and all the rest of the *English* Commerce.

There are many things, Sir, which swell this Medium on the *Irish* Commerce above that on the *English*; for in the first Place, a great Part of the *English* Business consists, in coasting Voyages, on which there is no Duty, and on which the Freight, Expence and Profit must be very inconsiderable, whereas there is in *Ireland* very little, if any at all of that sort of Business, to swallow up the the Profit on the more costly Branches.

Secondly. The most considerable and bulky Articles of their Imports are free, whereas ours at a Medium, pay close upon 5 *l. per Cent.*

Thirdly. Our Business is more embarrassed, and consequently loaded in the Hands of the Merchant, with a greater Expence than theirs, as may be particularly instanc'd in the *West-India* Trade.

But *Fourthly*, And above all, the perpetual and heavy Drain which we suffer by Outlyers has caus'd such an universal scarcity of Money, and consequently such a high Price, or Interest for the little

tle which is left, that it lies a dead Weight on every Article of our Business, even from the Importation of our Flax Seed, to the Sale of the finished Linen in the *West-Indies*.

It is not easy to conceive what a Load, a high Interest of Money is upon the Business of any People; and yet, though our legal Interest is at so great a Disproportion with that of any of our Neighbours, tho' it is double the Price for which Money may be had on good Securities in *England*, yet even this Misfortune is inconsiderable, when compared to the greater Calamity of wanting even at that, or any other Price a Sufficiency of Money to manage our Affairs: and that this is our Case, I appeal to all the Traders of this great City: our stately Metropolis, in which three Parts in five of the whole national Expence is made: I appeal to them I say, if Money be not so scarce in this our unfortunate, forlorn Country, that no Premium, no Interest can procure a Sufficiency of it to carry on our Business; the intire Ballance of our Trade, and a great part of the honest acquired Gain of past Years, issues annually to support our Profligates abroad, and there is nothing left at home to work upon. The Bulk of
our

our Business is carried on by small and inconsiderable Stocks, and the Merchants are forc'd to exact high Prices *per Cent.* in order to support themselves on such slender Capitals; whereas, had this unfortunate Drain been stopp'd, or even reduced to any Proportion with our Business, Money wou'd grow plenty amongst us, the Merchants might enlarge their Stocks in Trade, and consequently content themselves with a less Gain *per Cent.* than they can at present; and of how much Advantage that wou'd prove to the Business of our poor Country in general, I hope I need not here relate. It shall suffice therefore, only to observe, that considering all these Matters, it is no Wonder if the Freight, Expence, and Profit upon the *Irish* Trade, incumber'd as it is, with innumerable Difficulties, may be estimated at as high a Medium as that on the *English* Commerce.

I should have now proceeded, Sir, to state the Account of our Trade with *France*, but that I fear you may think I have already dwelt too long on the Subject of your little Paper; I shall therefore defer that Matter, till I can be able at more Leisure, to furnish the Publick with a Scheme of their Loss and Gain by Trade

Trade in general, for these last twenty Years, and of their Drain by Outliers in the same Space of Time: But I can't however, pass by your ingenious Manner of accounting for the Disadvantage, which the *English* lie under, in their Exchange with *France*, by our Loss, on the Ballance, to *France*.

You are pleased to allow, that the Exchange is actually against *England* in all Remittances to *France*: This indeed you could not conceal from us, because we see as much every Packet, by the course of Exchange in the publick Papers; but you say 'tis universally allow'd, however, that *England* is gainer on the Ballance of its Dealings with *France*: Now I must beg leave to deny your minor Proposition, for I will venture to say it with as positive an Air as you have asserted the contrary, that *England* never was Gainer on the Ballance of Trade with *France*, since we were first debauch'd with their Luxury. This is notorious, Sir, any one that has inspected the *English* Accounts will tell you, that inspite of all their Prudence and Care, they are still Losers to *France*, and that in more than the difference in Exchange discovers; for the Ballance of our Dealings with *France*,
 G (which

(which at a medium of any reasonable Number of Years, is not inconsiderable,) is always pay'd us in *London* where we have a Debt to pay, and where the *French* Trader knows that he can pay us with Advantage: This Sum therefore, whatever it be; which is pay'd us by the *French* in *London*, is a Draw-back on the Money payable from *England* to *France*, and keeps the Exchange between *France* and *England* so much lower than it wou'd be, had the whole Balance been annually drawn off.

Now, Sir, I would not be understood to mean, that the *French* Trade is so perfectly well regulated, that it can't be made more advantageous, by proper Excises on the Luxuries imported from thence, and by prudent Incouragements to such Branches of our Business, as furnish our Exports to that Country: No, Sir, on the contrary, I would have it known to all those who are in a Station to protect and incourage Trade, that such a Management is much wanting; but I must however, say, that the *French* Trade is one of the most valuable Branches of our Business, in as much as it takes off from us, in a Medium of a few Years, close upon 200 000 *l.* worth *per Annum* of the Produce

duce of our Black-Cattle, and inables us to pay for an immoderate Consumption of Wines and Brandies, for which we should never be able to make an Equivalent, had we lost so commodious a Vent for those Goods.

There is nothing, Sir, more dangerous to a trading People, than to be led into wrong ways of judging of their Commerce: and I shall make bold to instance it to you, in the very Matter which is now the Subject of our Contest. Suppose therefore, that your Representation of our Trade with *France* were taken for granted, and that the Legislature, misled by you, should prohibit the Importation of all sorts of *French* Goods: This would no doubt disoblige the *French*, and they would not fail to return the Compliment, by prohibiting the Importation of *Irish* Beef, Butter, Tallow, &c. But what wou'd the Consequence be? Why truly all those Commodities wou'd remain a Drug upon our Hands: 200 000 *l.* worth *per Annum*, of those Lands which are at present employed in that Business, wou'd become uleleis, and of no Value to us, and yet, I very much fear, good Sir, that

we should still drink Claret, though we mortgag'd the Remainder to pay the Reck'ning.

All Matters, Sir, that relate to Trade, ought to be cautiously handled; the unprofitable Branches ought rather to be prun'd than lop'd intirely off, for the Tree often bleeds to Death by so cruel an Amputation, which under the hand of a skilful Gard'ner, might be made to yield a plentiful Increase, by gentle prunings only.

It was this Consideration, Sir, that made me ingage so warmly in defence of the *French* Trade; for I found all People disposed to receive a bad impressiion of it; and when I consider'd, how easily a Branch of Trade is lost, when once it is undervalued, or oppress'd, and of how fatal a Consequence the loss of this wou'd be to all the Proprietors of Rearing, Fattening, or Dairy Grounds, and indeed to the Nation in general: I thought I could not do my Country a better Service, than to set them right on so important an Article.

But to conclude, Sir, after all our Disputes, give me leave to observe to you, how little Grounds you had to raise your self up against my Papers? The principal thing

thing you quarrel with, is my State of the *French Trade*, for the Year ending *Lady-day 1725*: you have objected very little to any other part of my Papers, notwithstanding the violent Ill-will which you discover against the Author of them; but this Account which you object to, happens to be declared by me at the very time of my giving it to be no exact Account.

My Words are: “ But as my present
 “ Intent, is not so much to be exact in
 “ the Account it self, as in the Manner
 “ of stating it, that the Reader may understand
 “ the Method which I propose,
 “ for the more exact Discovery of the
 “ Ballance.

’Tis true indeed, the Ballance in the Custom-house Books was just for that Year what I mention it to be, *viz.* 72 772 *l.* but as for the Freight, Expence, and Profit, and the Division thereof, between Natives and Foreigners, that was intirely Suppositious, and intended not for an exact State of that Account, but for a Scheme only, whereby to state such Accounts, in order to the discovery of the Ballance on our Dealings, with each particular Country.

But

But if the Truth were known, Sir, you were offended, not that the Account was either right or wrong, but that any Person should meddle with Trade but your self; and you were resolv'd therefore, like a Bully, when you had no Provocation, to shew what you would do if you had a Provocation; and this puts me in mind of an Accident which diverted me much when I was a Boy: It is this, Sir;

Having a Curiosity to see a Country Fair, I happen'd to amuse my self upon a Bridge, where the Barron of the Fair stood, to take his Toll, or Custom. There came up to him a furly Fellow, who seem'd prepared for Mischief, (*for in great Fairs as in great Towns, Sir, there are many that have no other way to be talk'd of, but by picking Quarrels with the sober part of Mankind*) he ask'd the Barron why he stood so long in one Place. The Barron reply'd very civilly, that he kept that Pass, in order to take the Customs for all Cattle which pass'd that way. But Friend, sayst'other, how can you pretend to take Customs from such a Multitude of People, when I my self, that am but a single Person, could drive an hundred Sheep through in spite of your Teeth. Nay, reply'd the Bar-

Barron, that would be impossible, Sir, for Sheep are very fearful Animals, and when you had done all you could to drive them through, I would only take off my Hat thus, and fright them back again. Why then, says tother, I would take off my Hat too, and fright them back upon you, in this manner. But in short, the two Heroes proceeded to shew how they would drive the Sheep, and approach'd each other very regularly, with a thousand Clamours and frightful Gestures, as if they had the Sheep really between them, till at last coming up to each other, they began first to jostle, then to kick and cuff, crying out all the while, *thus wou'd I drive my Sheep, and thus would I fright them back again,* 'till all the idle part of the Fair gather'd about them to behold the Sport, and all the Buyers taking Advantage of their Dispute, drove off their Cattle in earnest, without paying any Toll or Custom at all.

Now, Sir, I fear it may thus happen to us, we are ingaging our selves in a Paper Quarrel, and employing that time in battling with Shadows, which might be much better imploy'd in guarding the Pass, and looking that nothing should be concealed

cealed from the Publick which is detrimental to its Health and Welfare, for which Reason I shall here drop the Contest, and conclude,

S I R,

Your humble Servant.

P. S. I had almost forgot, Sir, to let you know, that the Scheme which I gave in my *Essay on Trade*, of the National Export and Import for the Year ending *Lady-day* 1725. was erroneous; and I think proper to acknowledge it to the Publick, though it pass'd your curious Observation: For though I have stiled it *An Abstract of the Exportations and Importations of Ireland, for the Year ending 25th of March 1725. estimated at a Medium of the selling Price in our Markets*, It really ought to be stiled *An Abstract of the Exportations of the Year ending 25 March 1725. at a Medium of their selling Prices in our Markets, and of the Importation at a Medium of their selling Prices, in the several Places of their Growth and Production.*

F I N I S.