

A

LETTER

FROM

Sir *Richard Cox*, Bart.

TO

Thomas Prior, Esq.

Shewing, from EXPERIENCE,

A sure Method to establish the LINEN-MANUFACTURE; and the BENEFICIAL EFFECTS, it will immediately produce.

THE THIRD EDITION.

To which is added,

An APPENDIX.

Containing a further Account of the Increase of the LINEN-MANUFACTURE, in the Years 1749 and 1750.

PROVERBS, CH. xxxi.

- V. 10. *Who can find a virtuous Woman? for her Price is far above Rubies.*
13. *She seeketh FLAX, and worketh willingly with her Hands.*
14. *She is like the Merchants Ships; she bringeth her Food from afar.*
18. *Her Candle goeth not out by Night.*
19. *Her Hands hold the DISTAFF.*
24. *She maketh fine LINEN, and selleth it.*
31. *Give her of the Fruit of her Hands, and let her own Works praise her in the Gates.*
-

DUBLIN:

Printed for PETER WILSON, in *Dame-street*. MDCCLII.



Advertisement.

SINCE I published the first Edition of this Letter, I have the Pleasure to inform the Public, that the same hath been re-printed in *London*, and translated into *Italian*, at the Instance of his Excellency the *Sardinian* Ambassador.

Dublin Nov.
30, 1751.

Peter Wilson.



A
L E T T E R

F R O M

Sir *Richard Cox*, Bart.

T O

Thomas Prior, Esq; &c.

S I R,

Dunmanway, May 15, 1749.

MAY-DAY being past, and my annual Accounts compleated, I am prepared fully to comply with your Request of the Fourteenth of last March, That I would send you, an Abstract of the Progress of the Linen-Manufacture for a few Months, and the Effects it has produced in this Country.

Nay,

Nay, I mean to do more than you desire: For, I fit down to give you a minute Narrative of this Manufacture, from its first Planting, to the present State thereof. And in this Letter, I think you will meet sundry clear Proofs, of the Usefulness of some of those Precepts, which you have given the Public.

That you may better apprehend the surprizing Profit, it has already brought to this Country; it is necessary, I should first describe to you our Condition, before I undertook this Manufacture.

The Parish of *Fanlobbus*, in which I am seated, is at the Head of that charming Vale, in which are the Towns of *Kinsale* and *Bandonbridge*; and on each Side the River *Bandon*, near the Source thereof. It is very doubtful, whether any River in *Ireland*, in so short a Course, receives so many Rivulets, of excellent Water; or is so fit for the Use of all Manufacturers: But indeed the Land is not remarkable for its Fruitfulness; yet with Industry and proper Manure, it produces all the Necessaries of Life abundantly. This Parish, being the Western Extremity of the Vale, participates in its Northern and Western Parts, of that rude, uncultivated Heap of Rocks, Bogs and Mountains, which extend themselves hence, to the Southern Limits of the Kingdom. Under these wild, frightful Scenes, my Grandfather did, in the latter Part of the last Century, undertake to fix an *English* Colony, and to erect a Seat for his Family, directly upon the great Road, leading from *Cork* to *Bantry*. King *William*, to encourage the Work, created a Manor, Fairs and Market; and by Act of Parliament, in the beginning of Queen *Anne's* Reign, the Scite of the Parish-Church was removed two Miles, to the projected Town of *Dunmanway*; and for the Convenience of Passengers,
and

and Advancement of Commerce, a long, handsome Stone Bridge was built over the *Bandon*, by the County. Thus the Foundation was laid for his Improvement; which consisted of a small Town, a very indifferent House for himself, and many beautiful extensive Plantations of Trees. By great Expence, he brought fundry Farmers and Tradesmen, to settle in and about the Town, who, for the most Part, were a Burthen to him and his Family, instead of bringing any real Addition of Strength or Wealth. For People cannot be maintained, and rendered independent, without Trade: And this he had either not made Part of his Scheme; or, he had attempted it unsuccessfully. For in 1733, when I succeeded him in this Place, I found myself in Possession of a large Tract of Ground, inhabited by many People, very few of whom were even willing to support themselves by their Labour; by their long want of Employment, they had contracted such a Habit of Idleness, that Ability of Body produced no Inclination for Work; and their Children were universally tainted by their pernicious Example. By one wrong Step, I had near confirmed the Distemper, and made it incurable. Led by the ordinary, impolitic Practice of young Men, I encouraged Horse-racing; supposing that a Week's Diversion of that Sort would cause such a Circulation of Money, as would make my Tenants flourish for one Year at least; and that an annual Repetition would secure to them perpetual Affluence. This imprudent Conduct I pursued two or three Years; but at length perceived, that, instead of improving the Condition of my People, I had only nursed their idle Disposition; and had beside, by this Horse-racing, introduced amongst them, new, fashionable Vices, to which they were Strangers before. Thus, instead of an indolent, inoffensive, drowsy

Town, I had made mine an active, wicked one. And my Beggars, who were too numerous before, grew upon my Hands : Few being ashamed of being poor and miserable. It was therefore no uncommon Thing, for a Passenger to see himself surrounded in an Instant, by forty or fifty naked Creatures, big and little, with an Eagerness in their Countenances, nay, a Necessity too, of devouring him : And I was constrained to be very severe to foreign Beggars, not to cure begging, but to leave Room for mine own Beggars.

This hideous Picture, which is not deformed by the Painter, will easily convince you, that my Circumstances, in my then Situation, were very wretched : Yet they were truly more so than you can imagine. So many Houses, and so much Land alternately waste, for want of sufficient Tenants to hold them, that it was well when I had not more than three hundred Pounds a Year of my Estate upon my Hands, beside the proper Demesne. The Houses in that Condition, were so far from being useful, that they were a grievous Burthen ; and the Land, for want of Skill in me equal to such a Task, produced nought but a little Labour. Thus loaded, I found myself daily sinking under Debts, which my unfortunate Situation rendered unavoidable : For the little Money I received, was usually employed in repairing Houses and Farms, which always fell upon me, in a ruinous Condition. And truly, if I may judge by Appearances, the neighbouring Lands could not be in a better State : For the Inhabitants appeared at my weekly Market, as wild and uninstructed, as the Goats their Fellow-tenants ; and cloathed too almost in the same natural Manner.

My

My Education had been of that Sort, that placed me, in my younger Days, amidst People industrious, rich and free : Hence I had contracted an invincible Aversion to Idleness, Poverty and Slavery, inseparable Companions, introducing one another as certainly as any ordinary Works of Nature. I therefore beheld the Condition of this Corner, in which I was to spend my Life, with the Concern which became a Man who had a true Regard for his Fellow-Creatures, and a just Love for himself and his Descendants.

Meditating how to rescue my Family, my Dependants and myself, out of this lamentable State, the ninth *Guardian*, which I would recommend to the serious Perusal of all Gentlemen of *Ireland*, providentially fell in my Way ; which, under the fictitious Character of Mr. *Charwell*, gives an enchanting Description of an Alteration made in an Estate, by filling it with industrious People. The Advantages necessarily attending the Prosecution of a like Scheme, fired me in an instant ; and I resolved to dedicate the Remainder of my Life, to a Work, which I foresaw, if successfully executed, would bring the Country and me much Honour and Wealth. I was speedily convinced, that nothing could bring together industrious People, much less hold them, but a Manufacture : Then I took very deliberately into my Consideration, the two great Manufactures of Wool and Flax, on which all the lesser Manufactures depend.

It was natural to employ my Thoughts first about the Woollen, in the Part of *Ireland* where it was most followed, and where it was the universal Support of

the Poor, such as it was. It was an easy Matter, to introduce some Branch of this Manufacture, because the People were naturally disposed to it : But as they adhere with great Obstinacy to old Customs, be they ever so unprofitable or hurtful, I was aware that a new Manufacture would be brought amongst them, against the Grain, and that I should therefore have the greatest Difficulties and Discouragements to struggle with. The natural and prudent Result of this Reflection was, to weigh soberly and carefully the Reasons for my future Conduct, before I embarked in a Business, which, if it did not produce Profit, would probably be attended by great Loss ; and that I could not well bear.

I considered the Woollen-manufacture, to be the Staple of our Mother-country, of which she was extremely tenacious, and in which she would not suffer any Rival to interfere, whom she could by any Means prevent. It never entered into my Thoughts to argue about the Natural Right ; because, it was my Business to undertake that which was most practicable : And I perceived, that the Discouragements thrown in the Way of *Irish* Woollen-manufacturers by *Great-Britain*, made the Trade so uncertain, that at one Time the Weavers, at another time the Combers and Spinners were starving : And if Manufactures grown to Maturity could not bear the least Suspension, I was sensible such an Accident would absolutely ruin a Beginner.

Indeed, he seems to be simply employed, who will spend his Time to persuade a Nation of superior Power, by his fine-spun Argument of Natural Right, if even that Point were not disputed, to admit a Nation of inferior Power, though nearly related, into a Share of
Trade,

Trade, by which the Weaker will certainly be benefited, but the stronger is not convinced she will not herself be hurted. Nor does he appear in a better Light, who persists in endeavouring to persuade such a Power, that it is her Interest to yield to his Arguments, when his being self-interested in the Question will ever be a Bar to Conviction. Time and Experience only will do the Business: Until they work the desired Effect, we shall be mad, to say no worse, if we neglect the offered Means of being rich and happy, and vainly pursue an Object, which we cannot reasonably hope, soon, if ever, to overtake. Speculative Men may entertain themselves with the airy Fancy of Natural Right; but Men of Practice and Discretion, will submit as early as possible to Power which they cannot conquer; and if they did, would thereby bring on their own Destruction: Seeing the Power they resist, will be at all other Seasons necessary to their Protection, and most certainly will be exerted for that Purpose.

Knowing then that a Manufacture, for Domestic Use alone, was never worth setting up, nor could arrive at any great Degree of Perfection; and that the Exportation necessary to make a flourishing Manufacture was at best very precarious, expensive and dangerous, for the Woollen: Being also desirous, that the minds of my People should be quite easy and undisturbed about Consequences, whilst their Heads and Hands were employed in Trade, I entered upon the Consideration of the Linen-manufacture; and was greatly pleased and encouraged to find, that in the first Instance, in which I had made a Comparison between the Linen and Woollen, the Advantage appeared clearly for the former.

Every

Every Nation has the Reputation of being rich or poor, from the Condition of the lowest Class of its Inhabitants. If they are plentifully and wholesomely fed; warmly and decently cloathed; neatly and comfortably lodged; that Country which they dwell in is esteemed wealthy and happy: Because all these Conveniencies proceed from a Surplus, remaining to their own Use, after all Demands upon them are satisfied. That Trade must be most beneficial, which in so plentiful a Manner supplies the Necessities of Persons employed in its lowest Branches. I needed not to travel far, to enquire into the Condition of the Wool-spinners; they were every where around me. Miserable Wretches! neither fed, clad nor lodged, like Human Creatures. Upon strict Enquiry, I learned, that the Flax-spinners were in a very different State. Indeed, the Causes of the wide Differences between them, will ever produce the like Effects. Wool is the Growth of rich Countries, to be purchased in large Quantities, and therefore must fall into the Hands of wealthy Clothiers, who employ the Spinners, and will pay them, whilst they depend totally upon them for Bread, such Wages only as they approve. But the poorest Country, with proper Culture, will produce good Flax; and the poor Man, who is not worth a Sheep in the World, may raise enough of this Commodity in his own Ground, to afford his Family constant Employment. Some will break, scutch and heckle; and others will spin the Flax. By this Method, the poor Man will have in his own Family, the Several Profits of the Breaker, Scutcher, Heckler and Spinner. But if he be not qualified to do all this, or any Part, but that of the Spinner, he will buy a Pound, or Half a Pound of Flax; and whilst he labours, his Females will spin the Flax: And, in either Case, he will turn the Penny quickly.

quickly. For he will get ready Money instantly for the Yarn, and the full Value: Because, in all manufacturing Countries, there are many Purchasers for every Article of the Manufacture. Beside, there are many small Creatures living upon the Earnings of the Wool-spinners, whose Work is more difficult; when such are getting their own Bread, and contributing to the Common Stock at the Flax-spinners, whose Work is easy and fit for Children, almost as soon as they quit their Leading-strings.

These known Circumstances of the Linen and Woollen Manufactures, would have determined me in Favour of the Linen, without other Considerations. For he must have a Heart of Stone, who can pass his whole Life amidst Creatures remarkable only for Misery; whose wretched Condition must shock every Man of Tenderness and Good-nature. However, other great Advantages of the Linen-manufacture moved me also much. I considered it as a Trade highly favoured and encouraged by our Mother-country, appointed for us, and guarantee'd to us by her, in Lieu of that Share of the Woollen which she had taken from us. I considered, that the Necessity and Demand for the Goods would grow faster than we could train the Manufacturers: And, which swayed not a little, I doubted not but I should be aided by the Public Fund, appointed for propagating and spreading this Manufacture. In this I did not reckon without mine Host; for I have sensibly felt the Liberality of the Trustees.

When I had thus fixed on my Manufacture, I frankly confess, I had as little skill in the Manner of prosecuting it as any Gentleman in the Kingdom; and I had not any where near me, a Precedent to lead and instruct me.

me. Yet Reason informed me, that Flax and Yarn were the first Things to be procured : For I could not imagine, that a Manufacture could be carried on successfully, or be of long Continuance, if these things were to be looked for afar off.

Upon this Principle, in 1735, I obtained from the Linen-board twenty Bushels of Flax-seed : And when I brought it Home, I had much Difficulty to prevail with any of my Tenants to sow it. At length I did prevail ; and, though they did it unskilfully, it grew well, and I procured Wheels and Reels for the Sowers ; that, at least, they might not be at the Expence of these Utensils, before they well knew what to do with the Flax.

In 1736, I obtained forty Bushels of Flax-seed ; but had as hard a Task to get it sowed, as in the former Year, the first Sowers not caring to venture again ; and the Lookers-on seeing much Nicety, Trouble and Hazard in the Management of it, and none yet knowing the Profit of it. But, by the End of 1736, those who had sowed in 1735, had manufactured their Flax, and even in the bungling and extravagant Way they had done every thing, they had profited so much, and published their Gain so loudly, that many of their Neighbours grew as eager to raise Flax, as the first Adventurers. I encouraged this Disposition, and procured all the Wheels and Reels I possibly could, even at half Value, which was the Custom in those Days, and distributed all I got, free from any Expence, amongst those, who, I believed, would make the best Use of what they received.

As soon as the Trustees ceased to import Flax-seed, we were at a Stand, until I resolved to import for my Tenants and Neighbours. At first, I ventured upon twenty Hogsheds, then upon thirty, and am, at length, arrived at one hundred, the Importation of this Year. This Example has been so effectually imitated, that I have great Reason to believe, I am very moderate in my Computation, when I tell you, there are four hundred Hogsheds sowed in this Season, on this Side of the County of *Cork*. This amazing Increase will give you a pleasing Idea of the growing Industry of the People; which probably had not happened this Century, if the Trustees had not, in this Article, left us to shift for ourselves, after giving us a Taste of this beneficial Manufacture. For, whilst their Bounty was going, most stood gaping for the Manna: If it fell into their Mouths, they fed; but they starved, if they were disappointed.

I was in such a Hurry to fix a Manufacture, that I very early fell into the common Error, which fatally blasted the Labour and Hopes of many before me, and probably ever will have an unfortunate End. After I had tried the Humour of the People two Years, and found the Farmers and Tradesmen inclined to raise Flax, and to manufacture it, I concluded I had laid a Foundation wide and strong enough, to erect thereon an extensive Manufacture instantly, and that I might therefore set up Looms on mine own Account, and commence Manufacturer. To make the Matter still worse, I called to my Aid a Northern Weaver, who had conducted a Manufacture for a Company, which had failed in his Hands. He easily imposed upon me, by the great Advantages he promised me, from his
C Management.

Management. However, I was prudent, or lucky enough, to begin softly, and to set up, at first, but five Looms : For the Care of which, and of all things belonging to the Manufacture, I allowed my undertaker considerable Profits, which were to increase, as the Manufacture grew.

I perceived instantly, that though I had brought the Manufacture into private Families, for their own Use ; I had not yet done the Thing necessary to establish it in the Country, by making the Poor spin, by whom alone a Yarn-market will be erected : So that, when my Looms and Weavers were ready, I was at a Loss for that I ought first to have enquired for, and was beholden to *Connaught* for the Yarn to set my Looms going. When I reflect on this rash Attempt, I am ashamed, that I could so soon deviate from the right Principle I set out upon, and entertain a Notion, that I was setting up a Manufacture, for mine and the Country's Profit, when I was to send one hundred Miles, at least, for the Yarn, more than Half of the whole Manufacture ; leaving the Poor out of my Scheme, who ought first to be considered in all Manufactures, and reserving for this Part of the Country, only the Wages of Journeymen, two thirds of which commonly drop in an Ale or Whisky House. But I have told you, that I was unskilful in the Business ; and, to my Ignorance, my absurd Management must be imputed. Expence and Experience have since acquired me some Insight ; which Gentlemen must not expect to get without paying largely for. It would be well, if they availed themselves of others dearly bought Knowledge.

To

To correct my Error as quickly as possible, I raised a large Quantity of Flax, and procured a Northern Woman, to instruct the young People to spin: And when all necessary Preparations were made, I compelled all idle Boys and Girls, to go to the Spinning-school, to whom, for their Encouragement, I paid the highest Prices for spinning, and out of every Pound of Yarn, obliged them to allow the Mistress, one Penny for instructing them. The Mistress and Scholars had a comfortable Maintenance; the Undertaker was well pleased, and I added three Looms to my Shop the second Year: But, at the End thereof, upon making up Accounts, I found myself so considerable a Loser, that I thought proper to withdraw from this Method in Time, and dismissed my Undertaker.

Now I learned, (and paid for my Learning,) that nothing can be more imprudent, than to entertain an Undertaker, to carry on a Trade, of which the Principal, who bears the Expence, is totally ignorant. For the Undertaker will have Opportunities to defraud his Employer every Instant; but the Principal cannot detect him, until the Sale of the Goods be finished: Even then, it will be very difficult, to fix a Fraud directly upon an artful Operator. In carrying on Manufactures, the Expence of Goods made and making is so intermixed, to prevent a Stagnation of Trade; and a Master in the Business has so fair an Opportunity of imposing upon the Unskilful, by confused Accounts, that such an one has miraculous Luck, if he enters deeply, and ever sees Accounts fairly ballanced. The best Cure for his Misfortune, or rather the best Means to prevent a greater, will be, to pick up all he can, to cut the Knot, and get out of his Hands as early as possible.

Though the immediate Profit I expected was vanished, yet I had by this Step advanced my main Project greatly. I had made many tolerable Spinners, who were eagerly sought for, by the neighbouring Gentlemen and Farmers; who, finding the Profit of manufacturing their Linen at Home, entered more and more into it, and gave good Wages for the Service of the Spinners I had made: And two of the Journey-men Weavers I had employed married Natives, and fixed in the Town, to the great Comfort of the manufacturing Families, who were forced before, to send their Linen to be woven at a great Distance from them.

From the Time I relinquished the fruitless Scheme of being myself a Manufacturer, I continued every Year to promote the raising of Flax, and to disperse Flax-wheels, and took great Pains to prevail with the People, to cease making a Sort of Cloth, 13 or 14 Inches wide, called *Bundle-cloth*, from the Measure, two Feet long, with which it was measured. This kind of Cloth consumed most of the Flax and Yarn of the Country: But I shewed those about me, that their Profit would be much greater, if they applied their Yarn to Cloth at least three Quarters wide; nay, that it would be more advantageous to sell the Yarn in the Market, than to work it up into such narrow Stuff. Some believed, tried both Methods, and found greater Profit by the Change than they were promised: Others, observing the Usefulness of their Practice, speedily became Converts. Consequently, many of the Weavers, who usually were employed in the narrow Manufacture, were forced to provide wider Reeds, and fit Looms, and to weave broader Linen, by which the Number of Looms and Weavers increased.

In this Way we proceeded several Years, in which time a great Variety of rambling Weavers came hither, pretended to settle, and ran away: And none went off without leaving with me an ungrateful Remembrance of their having been here. But still the Flax was spreading, and Spinners making; so that my Trouble and Expence were not altogether thrown away.

At length, in 1745, I seriously considered all I had been doing, reflected on the Errors I had fallen into, and saw plainly, that, though I had not one Weaver worth a Groat, there was Matter enough to be moulded into a good Form. Then I resolved to reduce Things into such Order, as might make the Manufacture speedily to flourish, or convince me that all my Pains were vain and idle.

I perceived, that the true Cause of the Poverty of the Weavers, was, that they altogether worked for others. They had from the Beginning received Yarn from private Families, and woven it for Wages, by which they were no better than Journeymen; not even as good as those who had constant Employment. The greater Part of the Winter, whilst the People were spinning, the Weavers were idle: And the rest of the Year, they were forced to accept of their Wages, in Commodities, for which they had no Call, or not in so great Quantities, and at the Seller's Price. To make themselves Amends for their idle Days, and bad Purchases, they charged such exorbitant Rates for weaving, so greedily engrossed all the Work they could catch, though they were not able to execute it in any reasonable Time, and, to dispatch the more, worked so slightly and fraudulently, that most were discouraged,
and

and grew very feint in the Prosecution of the Manufacture ; and my Life was rendered very uneasy, by the many Complaints I was obliged to hear and determine.

There was but one obvious Remedy for this : *To raise a Yarn Market, and make the Weavers the Purchasers of the Yarn, for their own Manufactures.* A Manufacture that does not stand upon this Basis, is of little Significance. He who will do himself and his Country the Service he ought to propose by a Manufacture, must give his own Labour and venture his Cash, to bring this Scheme to Perfection. All other Schemes are Chaff before the Wind. The Weavers are not fixed unless they be rich ; and rich they never will be by Wages only. Whoever will remove Manufactures from one End of the Kingdom to another, or even from one Province to another, must be content in the Beginning, to take such as will come to him : These cannot be expected to remove full handed, and therefore he must be liberal of his Money, and satisfied to lose much of that he so disposes of. But this Certainty he will have ; that when he shall have fixed out of many, by proper Methods, two industrious and skilful Families, who shall establish a Credit with him and other Neighbours, his Business will be effectually done. For these will draw after them every Body, and every thing they want ; and the Promoter of the Manufacture will have nought to do, but to stir up a generous and an useful Emulation between the New-comers, which of them shall first become rich ; this Competition will make them both thrive ; and their thriving will acquire a good Name for the Place, and make others desirous to settle there : And there will be, in a short Time, different Classes of Rivals ; until all
Emulation

Emulation be lost in the Multitude of wealthy Persons, and the Growth of Riches becomes not observable. But I treat too early of Consequences: I should first disclose to you the Means I made Use of to make my Weavers Master-manufacturers, and to advance my Project.

Though I had prevailed so far, as to establish a general Practice of raising Flax; I found the spinning was yet confined to private Families for their own Use, and to the Scholars I had formerly instructed, who were scattered through the Country as Servants. Even among these I found, by the frequent Complaints of the Weavers, that there was not that Skill which was necessary to carry the Business on successfully, and expeditiously. I therefore applied to the Trustees for a School for twenty Girls, and easily obtained it; and procured a Family from the North, well chosen and recommended, by a faithful and judicious Friend, to undertake the Care of the School. The School was opened in the Beginning of 1746, and I gave to the Mistress, the whole Profit of the School. Very early I perceived the Rectitude of this Act. For the Scholars were immediately made Spinners, there was as little Waste of Flax as possible; and there grew suddenly a great Demand for the Flax of the Country. The Husband quickly erected a Shop of Looms, to work up his Wife's Yarn; and his Stock soon grew so great, that he was not content with the Produce of the School, but went to Market for more Yarn, and increased his Looms. This single House, thus conducted, promises to extend the Manufacture considerably. Probably this good Effect had never fallen to our Lot, had I ingrossed to myself the Work of the Spinners, as I might have done; or permitted the

Scholars

Scholars to spin for Hire, and allowed the Mistres the Salary only. In either Case, she would have been heedless, in what Manner the Girls did their Business, or what Flax they destroyed: But when the whole Profit or Loss was to be her own, her Care was proportioned to her Interest; she thrives amazingly by her Care; and by her thriving my Scheme advances fast toward the desired Perfection.

I foresaw these good Effects, and that the Prosperity of this Family would make others ashamed of their Indolence, and stir up a Spirit of Industry. And that no Pretence for Sloth might remain, but that every Genius might be tried, I advanced Money to several new and old Weavers, to enable them to buy Yarn, and to start fairly with the School. Having then fixed an excellent Bleacher in a most commodious Green, and provided all Things absolutely necessary for their Purposes; to quicken that Emulation I wished for, I published Præmiums to continue for seven Years, from *May* 1746; which, with the necessary Variations they have since undergone, stand now thus.

	<i>l. s. d.</i>
1. To the Person, who shall, annually, raise and dress the greatest Quantity of Flax _____	6 0 0
2. To the Second _____	4 0 0
3. To the Spinner, who shall expose to Sale at the Market, most and best Yarn of her own Spinning, in the Week preceding _____	0 2 2
4. To the Second _____	0 1 1
5. To the Person, who shall get most of the first Præmiums for spinning, within the Year _____	1 0 0
6. To	

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 6. To the Person, who shall get two of the Annual Præmiums for spinning, successively _____ | } 3 0 0 |
| 7. To the Weaver, for whom most Linen shall be woven _____ | } 5 0 0 |
| 8. To the Journeyman, who shall weave most _____ | } 2 0 0 |
| 9. To the Apprentice, who shall weave most _____ | } 1 0 0 |
| 10. To the Person, who shall buy most Linen, at the Fair of <i>Dunmanway</i> , on the First <i>Tuesday</i> of <i>July</i> , not less than 30 <i>l.</i> worth _____ | } 5 0 0 |
| 11. To the Second _____ | 3 0 0 |
| 12. To the Person, who shall sell most _____ | 3 0 0 |
| 13. To the Second _____ | 2 0 0 |
| 14. To every Protestant Weaver, marrying a Protestant Woman of the Town, taking a House for three Lives, and settling in the Town _____ | } 5 0 0 |
| 15. For every Protestant Weaver's Child, born and christened in the Town _____ | } 1 0 0 |
| 16. To every foreign Protestant Weaver, with a Family, well recommended and approved of, settling in the Town; a good slated House and Garden, worth 4 <i>l.</i> per <i>Annum</i> , four Looms, and as many Spinning Wheels and Reels as he can make Use of, for three Lives, at 40 <i>s.</i> per <i>Annum</i> , and for the two first Years Rent-free _____ | } 4 0 0 |
| 17. To Ditto, 2300 Pounds of Potatoes, worth at a Medium _____ | } 1 4 0 |

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 18. To Ditto, for every Child he shall bring
with him. — — — | } 1 0 0 |
| 19. To every Protestant Weaver, who shall
have served an Apprenticeship of seven
Years in <i>Dunmanway</i> , and who shall marry
a Protestant Wife, shall take a House, and
settle in <i>Dunmanway</i> , over and above the
Advantages of a foreign Weaver — | } 5 0 0 |
| 20. For every Protestant Apprentice, taken
by a Protestant Weaver, Swingler, Heck-
ler or Bleacher — — — | } 1 0 0 |
| 21. To the Person, who shall employ in his
own Work, the greatest Number of
Looms, not fewer than thirty, for one
Year, before <i>May</i> 1753, and shall give
satisfactory Security, that he will employ
the same Number, at least for three Years
after — — — | } 50 0 0 |
| 22. To the Second, not employing fewer
than twenty — — — | } 30 0 0 |
| 23. To the Third, not employing fewer
than fifteen — — — | } 20 0 0 |
| 24. To the Fourth, not employing fewer
than ten — — — | } 10 0 0 |

The Rent of the Master Weaver's House makes Part of his Præmium; and I have contrived a Board, with this Inscription thereon, in Golden, Capital Letters;

DATUR DIGNIORI.

THIS HOUSE IS RENT-FREE, FOR THE SUPERIOR INDUSTRY OF THE POSSESSOR.

This

This Board I call the TABLE OF HONOUR; and on the Second of *May* in every Year, on which Day, the Præmiums for weaving are adjudged, the Table of Honour is removed and carried with all Solemnity, attended by Music, Colours flying, and all other Marks of Respect, and placed by the whole Body of the Town, over the Weaver's Door; there to remain for the next Year, to signify his Merit to every Passenger, and make his Performance more notorious. As a further Mark of Respect, this Board is hereafter to be always carried in the Procession, by the Journeyman and Apprentice who shall get the Præmiums for weaving most.

I am persuaded this Invention has forwarded the Work, more than all the Money I have expended. It is a natural Vanity to desire to be distinguished, for an Excellence in any Art, conducive to the Well-being and Happiness of Mankind; and surely ought to be indulged, since it is productive of much Good, and no Ill to the Public. It makes Multitudes strive for a Pre-eminence, which nothing beside could make them aspire to. Ribbands enchant the Great; why may not this gilded Board allure the Small? I need not say more to you in Excuse for this seeming Trifle, since you have so often experimented the good Effects of putting People's Performances in Print.

To ascertain the Work done by the Weavers, not only by those who become Candidates for the Præmiums, but by others, who will more carefully attend to their Business, when they know that their Work must appear to me monthly, I contrived a Paper with Columns of the following Sort.

William Curry—Account of his Work.

Mon. Year.

When taken out of Loom	By whom woven	Price of weaving per Yard	No. of Hun- dreds	Val. per Yard bleached	Owner's Name	Total of Yards
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This Paper is delivered on the First Day of every Month, to each Master, when the past Month's Paper is received from him. From the Nature of it you will observe, that if Justice be done, I must have a full and perfect Account of all that is done monthly in every Shop. By knowing when the Pieces are taken out of the Looms, by whom they have been woven, what Hundreds they are, and what Number of Yards, I can easily judge, whether the Workmen have been as expeditious as diligent Men should be, and whether they constantly supply their Looms. By the Price of weaving, I am informed, whether they exceed the established Rates for weaving, if they weave for others. By knowing the Value of the Linen, and the Owner's Name, I am qualified to judge whether the Weaver diminishes or enlarges his Stock, and to take my Measures accordingly.

It is difficult to invent any Scheme of this Sort, that shall not be subject to Fraud. However, to guard against it as well as I can, I have placed a Check over the Weavers. I give a yearly Salary to a Quaker from *Lurgan*, a very honest and skilful Man, whom I call my Inspector, to measure and value every Piece as it comes out of the Loom, and to make his Return to me, upon his Affirmation, in the Presence of all the

the Weavers. If there be any Difference, especially in Value, as often there is, between the Inspector's and Weavers Returns, I am always governed by the Inspector's Return.

When I proceed to determine the Præmiums for weaving, I have a full Account before me of every Man's Work, extracted out of the whole; and in a full Assembly, I give every Master, Journeyman and Apprentice, his merited Applause or Dispraise; and if I perceive any one of the Apprentices, who has done remarkably well for his Age and Strength, though he happens not to be entitled to the Præmium, I never let him go unrewarded. At this public Season, I also rebuke and advise those, who I hear are guilty of any Vices, that may affect the Peace or Order of our Society, or create a loathsomeness to work.

When, by Acquaintance and Observation, I find a Man to be industrious, quiet and sober, and I see all his Family diligently employed about what they are qualified to do, I enable him to buy Flax for his Family, and Yarn for his Looms, until his Females, by their own spinning, provide a sufficient Quantity for him; and that he may dispose of his Linen to the best Advantage, I supply him with Provisions at the Market Price, until the Time of the Sale of the Linen be past. I never have been once deceived by Persons thus treated, but have ever found them punctual in their Returns: And have the Satisfaction to see some of them from the lowest Poverty, growing fast into Affluence: Yet I cannot say I have ever given them more than the ordinary Encouragement; but by lending my Assistance, as by my constant Visits I found it was necessary,

cessary, and they deserved, I have served them and my Scheme at the same Time; have made them rich, and yet have not been one Farthing poorer. This is the rational Method of raising Persons in this Manufacture to a Condition of increasing their Looms, and vying with one another for the Præmiums, and establishing their Families in a certain Place. Men who rise into an independent State gradually, and by Labour, will hold fast what they get, and will stick by the very House, which they reckon lucky: But a poor Man put suddenly into Possession of Money, becomes giddy; he is in equal Danger with a starving Person who has Plenty of Food set before him. Surfeiting is the natural Consequence, and the Destruction of either. But to train Persons in this Manner, requires the close Attendance of the Promoter of the Manufacture. He must not receive Reports from others: For those will often be partial, through Love, Malice or Envy; and then his Favours will be refused to the Deserving, and unprofitably conferred on those who will not, or know not how to deserve them. He must himself be the Witness and Judge of Merit, as well as the Distributer of Rewards. So that a Man's Time must be dedicated to this Business, in it's Infancy, or it will fail in his Hands: And surely it cannot upon all Accounts, whether of Profit, Honour or Contentment, be better employed.

Before I had brought this Manufacture into it's present Order and Regularity, the Weavers charged every Body they worked for, in an arbitrary Manner, and therefore the Prices were uncertain, but ever extravagant. All Manufacturers, public and private, felt the Inconvenience of this Practice: And therefore
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having previously consulted all the Weavers, who seemed to be very desirous of a Reformation in this Article, a Table was soon provided, containing the Prices of Weaving, from a Six, to a thirty Hundred, and regulated to the State of Yarn, not yet arrived to the Perfection of Northern Yarn. Every Weaver who does not object to the Sufficiency of the Yarn, before he puts it into the Loom, is now obliged to work at the fixed Rates: And, if he does object, the Determination is instantly to be made by three sworn Master-weavers. This Regulation has made it as safe for a Child, who knows the Weight of his Yarn, to deal with a Weaver, as the most acute Man; has abridged Disputes, caused great Expedition, and cheapened the Linen.

The Manufacturers multiplied so fast, that the Care and Management of them grew very burthensome: Beside, as there must be very various Dispositions amongst them, and they are daily advancing in Wealth, I judged it would be a great Ease to me, and no small Pleasure to them, to give them a Share in the Direction of this Manufacture. I therefore ordered, that the Master-weavers should chuse, by Ballot, six Masters; the Journeymen, three Journeymen; and the Apprentices, three Apprentices; to serve as my Council for one Year, and to be annually renewed. This Council is accordingly elected, and assembles in the Spinning-school every *Saturday* Evening, and has already given me great Quiet. Here all Controversies arising amongst Manufacturers are adjusted. Every Class has its Representative: And the Representative lays before the Council the Grievances of the Class. The Masters being six, cannot prevail, though they combine unjustly against
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the Journeymen and Apprentices, who are also fix : Nor the latter against the former, for I hold the Balance. I have here an Opportunity of hearing all their Schemes for promoting the Manufacture ; and such of them as are good, are instantly put in Execution. They are all interested in the Execution ; for the Orders are their own : And you may easily judge they are charmed, by being as it were a select Legislature for the Place. Thus, one and all, we lay our Shoulders to the Work, and cannot fail, with continued Unanimity and Resolution, to bring it to the utmost Perfection.

Numerous Holidays are the bane of all Industry, and the Ruin of every Country where they are permitted ; and indeed there are too many allowed by Law : But as it is certain, they are not required to be observed by the Precepts of our Holy Religion ; nay, that they are rather thereby expressly forbidden, we make no Scruple to abridge even the legal Ones ; and to allow, but three at *Christmas*, two at *Easter*, and the three first Days of *May*, being the Commencement of our Year, and the joyous Season of determining the Præmiums for weaving.

The Laws against Vagabonds and stroling Beggars, are here strictly put into Execution ; and no Intercession or mistaken Compassion can prevail, to remit the least Part of their Rigour. If even a male or female Child of the Town, or it's Neighbourhood, able to do any kind of Work, be found idle, it is immediately and publicly chastised.

The Morals of Young and Old are carefully inspected : For nothing makes a Man so quickly an useful Member of Society, as being good and virtuous. The antient Idleness and Dissoluteness of this Place
made

made it difficult, to weed it effectually: But it is at length done. Some perceiving there was no Mercy or Indulgence to be expected for their Offences, forsook the Place of their own Accord: Others, not so modest, were driven out. When new Persons arrive, unless they bring unexceptionable Recommendations, they are not suffered to make a Settlement, until they have proved, by some Months Trial, that they are fit Persons to be made Members of this quiet, busy Colony.

Nothing is more taken Care of than to keep all the Inhabitants from Litigiousness and Contention, which generally end in Poverty, or the Loss of Credit and Reputation. The Promoters of these Mischiefs are every where in the Country so numerous, and so active, that it requires a very watchful Eye, a strong Hand, and resolute Heart, to prevent the successful Operation of the Machinations of these Wretches, who grow rich under the Pretence of procuring Right, but are indeed ever doing Wrong. The only sure Method that can be used, to preserve People effectually from these Enemies to their Peace and Unity is, steadily and firmly to refuse them an Abode amongst them. He, who plants in his Colony a Creature, who lives by setting the Inhabitants together by the Ears, acts just as prudently, as a Cheesemonger would, in rearing and cherishing Rats in his Shop.

Having thus given you a Narrative of the Means I have principally used, to establish the Linen-manufacture in this Place; I proceed next to describe to you the Effects of all my Labour and Expence. And first, I will present to your View, a Table of the Work done by the Weavers, in the three Years since the Præmiums have been fixed.

	1746.		1747.		1748.		Total in the three Years					
	Yards.	Value.	Yards.	Value.	Yards.	Value.	Yards.	Value.				
May.	798	£. 54 12	2	940	£. 52 6	4	983	£. 63 14	0 ¹ / ₂	2721	£. 170 12	6 ¹ / ₂
Jun.	1247	73 10	5	1085	79 18	0	1230	93 7	5	3562	246 15	10
Jul.	829	59 9	10	856	69 3	10	1006	76 19	7	2691	205 13	3
Aug.	997	64 0	7	731	53 1	1	1396	92 12	1 ¹ / ₂	3124	209 13	9 ¹ / ₂
Sep.	727	43 17	4	638	48 17	1	1330	88 0	5	2695	180 14	10
Oct.	561	41 6	11	686	63 8	6	1372	81 6	2	2619	186 1	7
Nov.	515	38 10	0	591	38 5	8 ¹ / ₂	1644	96 15	10	2750	173 11	6 ¹ / ₂
Dec.	1286	66 1	10	860	59 14	6	1330	89 1	1	3476	214 17	5
Jan.	921	52 3	2	838	65 3	4	1517	93 4	8	3276	210 11	2
Feb.	900	45 7	3	639	38 9	1 ¹ / ₂	1713	107 18	3	3252	191 14	7 ¹ / ₂
Mar.	955	55 9	3	952	80 8	2 ¹ / ₂	2390	153 7	2	4297	289 4	7 ¹ / ₂
Apr.	1438	82 7	5	863	69 12	0	3270	241 17	11	5571	393 17	4
	11,174	676 16	2	9,679	718 7	8 ¹ / ₂	19,181	1278 4	8	40,034	2673 8	6 ¹ / ₂
Weavers Property.	6,804	—	—	6,153	—	—	14,053	—	—	27,010	—	—
Property of others.	4,370	—	—	3,526	—	—	5,128	—	—	13,024	—	—

This Table shews, that the Quality of the Cloth in 1747 and 1748, excelled that in 1746. And the Alteration must be expected to be much greater in future Times ; as the reeled Yarn increases, and the Pound-yarn decreases ; which must be the Consequence of the Improvement of the Spinners, who will learn to do Justice to the Flax.

And here it naturally falls in my Way, to take Notice of the Impracticability of bringing any free Manufacturers into the making of coarse Cloth altogether. Where Weavers of various Abilities are collected from different Places, they will prosecute that Sort of Manufacture they are accustomed to : For their Profit ; it being notoriously a great Loss to a Man, who can make fine Work, to descend to making of coarse : And for their Credit ; it being daily seen, that a Man need serve no Time to the Trade, to enable him to weave *Osnaburghs* ; for even Men bred to weave coarse Camblets, become presently Artists in this Way. We may therefore as well think to persuade a fine Face-painter to become a Dawber of Sign-posts, as to make a Man, who can weave a thirty hundred, condescend to weave a six hundred. Another thing there is that will also obstruct such a Scheme. A Country that produces Flax, and doubtless a Manufacture ought to be in or near such a Country, will have great Variety ; and if Flax be not spun to or near it's Staple, the Owner and the Nation will lose considerably of it's Value. Nay, it will be impossible to bring the Spinners to favour such a Scheme. Those indeed, who begin at ripe Years, after their Fingers are grown callous with Labour, will hardly be brought to spin fine ; but where Spinning shall be planted, there will

be but one Set of such Spinners : For the young Ones will be used to it from their Cradles, and their soft, tender, sensible Fingers, will draw the Flax as far as it will go ; and therefore to restrain them, would be an Attempt improvident and vain. He who carries on a Manufacture by his own Stock, may sort his Yarn as he pleases, and make what kind of Goods he likes ; but this will be a Manufacture, in that Place, for his Life only. My Scheme is far different : I mean to make every body a Manufacturer, that it may not only remain after me, but to the End of Time, and not depend upon the Humour and Disposition of the Proprietor of the Land. Whether there be a Probability of succeeding, you will be apt to judge from the following Table, containing the Work of the Weavers, who got the Præmiums, and shewing the Increase of their Stock.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>May 1, 1747. John Wallis</i> got the Præmium, and wove 2360 Yards, Value	145	18	8
<i>May 1, 1748. William Curry</i> got the Præmium, and wove 3830 Yards, all his Property, Value	181	9	1½
<i>May 1, 1749. William Curry</i> got the Præmium, and wove 6290 Yards, all his Property, Value	342	2	3½
<i>John Browne</i> , who was next, wove 4717 Yards, all his Property, Value	324	5	10
			But

But the Effects of this Manufacture will still appear in a stronger Light, from the Increase of the Inhabitants.

The Town, as it is laid out, and designed at length to be united, is terminated in the East, by the Charter-school; in the West, by a Bleach-yard; in the South, by another Bleach-yard; in the North, being the hilly Part, there are but a few scattering Cottages. The most distant Part, within these Bounds, is about Half a Mile from the Church or Market-house, which are near the Center of the Whole. In this Compass, there were, in 1735, not more than fifty Houses, most very indifferent: Twelve not at all inhabited, or by Beggars only; and thirty, very thinly, and by People for the greatest Part idle and poor, merely for Want of Employment.

In *May* 1747, I personally made a Survey of the Town; and found there were 87 Houses, which contained 250 *Protestants*, and 307 *Papists*, in all 557. There were reckoned in the Houses, 87 Flax-wheels, and 51 Woollen-wheels.

I have this Day finished this Year's Survey, (intending to make a new one every second Year,) and find there are now 117 Houses, containing 405 *Protestants*, and 402 *Papists*, in all 807. I reckoned in the Houses, 226 Flax-wheels, and 28 Woollen-wheels. The *Protestants* have increased, in two Years, 155; the *Papists*, 95; in all 250. The Increase of the *Protestants* is entirely by Tradesmen and their Families, and generally from the *North*: But that of the *Papists* is, by Labourers and their Families, who are,
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in their Way, as necessary, and by good Discipline, are turned to the best Use, and give us many excellent Spinners. There are now in Hand 17 Houses to be slated, which are already taken, and will, before next *Christmas*, contain a large additional Body of *Protestants*.

You will observe, that by the Survey of 1747, there was but one Flax-wheel to a House, and that there are in 1749, near two. The Wheels of the School are not reckoned, unless the Children happen to be Inhabitants. You will likewise take Notice, that the Woollen-wheels are greatly decreased: None being suffered to be used here, but for cloathing the Inhabitants. The same Policy spreads through the Country. For I furnish every poor Female, whether upon mine or a Neighbour's Land, with a Flax-wheel, provided she gives me the required Security for ten Shillings, that the Wheel shall be produced, in good Order, as often as I demand the View thereof.

By the monthly Returns of the Weavers, I presently discover, whether the Wheels are employed, to the private Use of the People themselves, to whom I lend them; or, by the Sale of Yarn, whether they spin for the Public. If they make no Figure either way, I call them in, and dispose of them elsewhere. But this rarely happens; for whoever once tastes the Sweet of the Manufacture, will hardly quit it, if the Person be inclined to do any Good at all.

Beside, I appoint a general Review of all the Spinning-wheels in the Parish, upon a pretty Green of three Acres, within the Town, on the First of *May*, yearly: And if a good Spinner does not attend with

every

every lent Wheel, it is taken back. This Review makes great Part of the Day's Entertainment: And a very high Entertainment it is indeed; to see so many young Creatures rescued from Idleness and Want; dressed in decent Garments, earned by their Fingers; and shewing their Innocent and becoming Pride, as well as their Taste and Fancy, in adorning and setting off their Wheels according to their Abilities. I must not conceal from you any Art I make use of to press my Scheme forward: And therefore you must know, that my Daughters make Part of the Show; and I have prevailed so far, as to make it fashionable, for the young Women of the best Distinction about me, to exhibit, in this public Manner, their Skill in spinning. By this, the inferior Class is not only kept in Countenance, but highly encouraged; and to spin, is looked upon to be the greatest Honour and Perfection of the Female Sex, next to being a Wife and Mother; which are, through sound Policy, Characters highly revered in this Place: But to be worthy of them, they must first be good Spinners.

Flax, Yarn and every Material or Instrument for the Manufacture, have ready Sale and immediate Payment. My Countenance and Favour, which are distinguished to the Farmers who raise Flax in great Quantities, and encourage others to enter briskly into the Manufacture, have their intended Effect.

The Country has already changed its Face. An old, large Farm is divided into many. The Land increases fast in Value in the Hands of the Tenants; which will be the Landlord's Profit in the End. Fields of great Extent are dividing into small Inclosures. There are Tenants to choose for every Spot. There is no
more

more any Trouble or Expence for the Landlord in repairing old Houses : The Occupiers keep all in Repair ; or New-comers are eager to repair, and to increase the Rent. Those who heretofore were obstinate, in not binding themselves by Leases, become Petitioners for Leases of the longest Duration, that the Landlord may be bound. And Persons in my Neighbourhood, who, a few Years ago, could not prevail with their Landlords to take their Lands off their Hands, and talked like Men in Despair, suddenly have changed their Notes, value their Interests high, and wish to have their Leases lengthened ! But the Landlords have, I suppose, too changed with the Times, and have learned from their Tenants how to prize the Situation. My Business is to build ; and that I cannot do as fast as Houses are demanded from me. My Demesne is invaded by new Inhabitants, who will streighten me to a Corner of it : However, that, by Improvement, must be made to do as much as the whole did.

The People of the lowest Class are well clad, and begin to despise their smoaky, sooty Cabbins. We see an amazing and a pleasing Cleanliness and Neatness creeping into their Houses. The Improvement and Wealth of a Country, ever first appear in these Instances. Nothing but Pride will, in the Beginning, produce these Effects ; the Pride of shewing they are grown rich. It will indeed be a second Nature in their Children ; and so will remain upon Principles very different from those which moved the Parents.

There is not an Excuse left for Idleness ; none are therefore suffered to be idle. None indeed, but Children, desire to be idle ; and they are compelled to Labour

bour. The Consequence of all this is, that there is not one Beggar upon my Land, or in its Neighbourhood. A delightful and a sudden Change, brought about by giving the People something to do ; and by seeing that they do it. Foreign Beggars would, if they dared, incroach upon us : But they are treated, when caught, with the utmost Rigour of the Law. Work they may have, if they please ; but that is not their Trade : And I have learned by Experience, that none need beg, who have Eyes and Hands ; and therefore Beggars of that Sort never move my Compassion. It is, beside, very unreasonable and unconscionable, that the superior Industry of one Place, should burthen it with the Maintenance of the Poor of an idle Place. I am very sure, that feeding the Poor at our Doors, has made as many Beggars, as even a natural Idleness : And from the past and present Circumstances of this Place, I am thoroughly convinced, that it is not Charity to indulge this begging Tribe. Some of the old Inhabitants, who remained, I had indeed a hard Task to cure of their idle Habits : But Necessity and I have done it between us. For Property is now precious to every Body ; and he must starve, who will not work ; for beg he must not ; and he will certainly suffer the Penalty of the Law if he steals.

Even the Bogs, which were open to every Body a few Years ago, now yield a good Rent ; and the Owners make Money of Trifles they despised heretofore. The Fairs and Market are wonderfully increased ; and Farmers, who were formerly twelve Miles from a good Market, find as good an one at their Doors, as they can go to. This encourages Tillage, and causes a Reformation in many filthy Customs, that prevailed here, which no Power of the Law could effect.

fect. The numerous Dairies, which had near depopulated the Country, and are a sure Mark of the Poverty and Misery thereof, are now likely to give way to the human Species. Every body is a Gainer by this Change. The Vicar has raised his Dues, without Oppression, in two Years, from 130 to 180 Pounds by the Year : A more certain Proof cannot be given of the Benefit arising from this Manufacture.

The Language, the Dress, the Address, the Behaviour of the Common People, are already pleasingly altered. We see no more any naked, wild ones in our Streets. The very Mountaineers sow Flax, spin, make Cloth, and grow polite, by having an Intercourse with civilized Creatures. Good Tradesmen of all Sorts gather about this Manufacture ; and begin to make a Return, for the Expence of fixing the principal Manufacture. The proud Beggars of the Country, (and very few were not so before this Manufacture came among us) who despised all Trades, while they saw the Artificers poor and ragged, wish now no better Fortune for their Children, than to see them Tradesmen.

There are two Bleach-yards in a most flourishing Condition ; and many of the Weavers talk of laying out new ones, for which they have fine Grounds.

Even the Labourers scorn to be bound to Tyrant Masters, for whom they must work, though they almost starve ; since they are now courted to take good Wages in Money. And I am convinced, that Trade will operate more effectually than any Law, to release the inferior People from a State of Villenage, and to create a Yeomanry at last in the Kingdom.

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To keep any Holiday, except those allowed by the Rules of the Place, is looked upon to be as scandalous almost as to steal: Because it is supposed, and very reasonably, that a Necessity to steal, will at last grow from a wanton Practice of keeping Holidays.

In short, all the good Effects that you can conceive to be worked by Industry, in a Place where reigned all the bad Effects of Idleness, we see here from the Linen-manufacture, little as it is at this Time.

Since it has already brought us to this happy State, though it is yet grown but to the annual Value of 1278 Pounds; what may we not expect, when the Hundreds are changed into Thousands? This cannot be far off, unless some unforeseen Accident befall us. What then will every Gentleman have to answer for, who is properly situated, and able to set about such a Work, and has *your excellent Essay* for his Guide, and does it not? Nothing can move him, if his own Honour and Profit, the Happiness of all around him, and Charity, the shining Characteristic of a Christian, will not do it.

Riches are a Providential Blessing in the Hands of a good Man; when they are applied as they ought, to the comfortable Support of him and his Family; to the making a decent and reasonable Provision for his Offspring; and to the improving, beautifying and strengthening his Country, the most profitable and most charitable Method of maintaining the Poor. He who adds twenty Shillings in the Year to the real Value of Land, by mending the Ground; or saves so much to the Kingdom by Timber of his planting, or

by any Art or Manufacture introduced by him, is a better Friend to the Government and Nation, than all the Purchasers therein, who hoard their Wealth to make their Purchases, and rack them afterwards to make them good Ones.

It is astonishing, to see so many eager to increase the Quantity of their Land, and so few desirous to correct the Quality. What a happy Country would this shortly be, if Men would think of purchasing their own Estates, before they suffered their Eyes to wander to another's? And this peculiar Advantage they would have, that twenty Shillings would, without criminal Usury, presently turn into forty; and every twenty Shillings would produce Interest at that Rate, without waiting to make a round Sum to purchase more Land: Beside, they would purchase Titles which would not cost one Farthing to examine or defend: These Things should really be Considerations to Men who know, or pretend to know, the true Value of Money.

When a Man has been long intrusted by Providence with the Management of great Wealth, and makes up his Account with *Items* of the Feasts he made for the Rich; of the Train of Servants he maintained for the Gallies; of the gaudy and glaring Equipage he kept to break the Hearts of his envious Neighbours; of Side-boards of Gold and Silver he restrained from circulating in Cash, and forwarding the Trade of his Country; can he imagine, that somewhat else will not be required from him? Should not common Sense tell him, that a Man with a little is a better Steward; who, by giving Employment to part of a
poor

poor Family, has rescued the whole from Want, and made them useful Members of Society?

Of all Methods of mending an Estate, that by filling it with industrious People is the most eligible; because it is the most certain and least liable to Decay; and after it is effected, produces perpetual and growing Profit, without the repeated Expence of the first Improver. Of all Employments to promote and reward Industry, a Manufacture is most excellent; because it will continue to succeeding Generations, and diffuse its good Effects far and near. And upon all Accounts, but especially as it takes in Persons of all Ages and Ranks, and is not an envied but a favoured Trade, it is undoubtedly most prudent and beneficial to prefer the Linen-manufacture in this Kingdom.

But he who will undertake this great Work, must resolve not to be put out of his Road, by any Difficulties or Discouragements that may be thrown in his Way. He will find every Scheme of Industry, (if all Parts of *Ireland* be like this,) will have an Army of Enemies to contend with, who will invent every Method to defeat his good Intentions, or to retard his Progress.

Every Dealer in Oppression will be his Enemy; because Ignorance and Poverty readily fall before him; but Wealth and Knowledge, which always attend Industry, will resist his Tyranny.

All Persons who make a Trade of taking Land to set again, either with Dairies or to poor Cottagers, cannot see an Increase of manufacturing Inhabitants
with

with Patience : Because able Tenants will become numerous ; the Lands will be divided into small Parcels, and every Body will take from the Owner in the first Instance, and his pernicious Practice will be interrupted.

The Natives ever hate Strangers, especially industrious Strangers : Not only because they are not of their Clan, but because they will raise the Price of Land ; the old Inhabitants will be forced to earn their Bread with the Sweat of their Brows, and to fence the Ground they possess.

Many will envy even a generous Attempt to serve Mankind, much more the Success of their Neighbours. But these never are able to impede a good Work : For the Envious do not any public Good themselves, and therefore never acquire Authority or Weight ; and happily for the World, they overset their own Schemes, by too early discovering the Venom and Rancour of their wicked Hearts.

There are a Sort of People, who through a very narrow, incomprehensive Capacity, ever despair of a new Undertaking having a successful Event ; and therefore would discourage all Mankind from venturing upon any. If Persons of this lowly Genius could have prevailed, the World had been still a Chaos. They are never to be convinced but by the Effect ; for they understand not Causes ; and therefore are always to be disregarded, except in this useful Particular : That by their Manner of making Objections eternally, they may sometimes serve for Monitors, to warn People to escape very costly Errors.

On the other Hand, he will have on his Side, all Persons of neighbouring Estates, Spiritual and Temporal, who understand their own and their Country's Good: All Men of a true public Spirit, who sincerely wish Happiness to be the Portion of every one of their Fellow-creatures; or of benevolent Minds, who wish all honest and laudable Undertakings may be rewarded with Success,

With such Assistance, nothing will be wanting, if the Undertaker begins upon right Principles; (such as you have, from your generous Love to Mankind, published for all who will wisely make use of them;) and will attend personally the Growth of his Undertaking, until it has acquired Strength, and made more Friends for itself; which it will soon do, to the Satisfaction and Honour of its Supporters, and the Disappointment of its ill-minded Adversaries.

I am, Sir,

Your most obliged,

and most faithful Servant,

RICHARD COX.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

Account of the Number of Yards, and Value of the Linen manufactured in the Years 1749 and 1750.

1749.				1750.			
	Yards.	Value.			Yards.	Value.	
May	—1397—	£. 90	18 11½	2060	—£. 138	6	3
Jun.	—2263—	166	8 4¼	1539	— 106	14	7
July	—1243—	88	5 7	2247	— 150	5	0
Aug.	—1617—	114	15 0	2432	— 161	11	0
Sept.	—1284—	83	16 7½	2314	— 153	2	3
Oct.	—1287—	76	16 1	2764	— 174	12	2
Nov.	—1241—	71	15 5	1910	— 128	12	0
Dec.	—1512—	88	8 6	2353	— 132	7	6
Jan.	—1818—	104	10 5	2137	— 123	5	3
Feb.	—1753—	106	5 7	2156	— 139	15	1
Mar.	—2014—	119	8 2	2403	— 160	8	9
April	—1842—	108	16 10	2526	— 161	18	10
Total	19,271	—1220	5 6½	26,841	—1730	18	8