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expensive determination of all controversies arising in trade) was fully established. But by the fifteenth article of *Utrecht* that privilege was in effect given up. For it is therein only stipulated, *That in case any other nation have that Privilege, we shall in like manner enjoy it.* But by the fifth article of the treaty now made with his present Majesty it is stipulated, that *We shall enjoy all the rights, privileges, franchises, exemptions, and immunities whatsoever, which we enjoyed by virtue of the Royal Cedula's or Ordinances by the treaty of 1667.* So that hereby the privilege of Judge-conservators is again confirmed to us.

As nothing but the reputation of his Majesty in foreign countries, and of his fixed purposes to pursue the real good of his kingdoms, could bring about treaties of this nature: so it is impossible to reflect with patience on the folly and ingratitude of those men, who labour to disturb him in the midst of these his Royal cares, and to misrepresent his generous endeavours for the good of his people.

N^o 42. *Monday, May 14.*

O fortunatos mercatores ! -----

Hor.

SEVERAL Authors have written on the advantage of trade in general; which is indeed so copious a subject, that as it is impossible to exhaust it in a short discourse, so it is very difficult to observe any thing new upon it. I shall, therefore, only consider trade in this paper, as it is absolutely necessary and essential to the safety, strength, and prosperity of our own nation.

In the first place, as we are an Island accommodated on all sides with convenient ports, and encompassed with navigable seas, we should be inexcusable, if we did not make these blessings of providence and advantages of nature turn to their proper account. The most celebrated merchants in the world, and those who make the greatest figure in antiquity, were situated in the little Island of *Tyre*, which, by the prodigious increase of its wealth and strength at sea, did very much influence the most considerable kingdoms and empires on the neighbouring continent, and gave birth

birth to the *Carthaginians*, who afterwards exceeded all other nations in naval power. The old *Tyre* was indeed seated on the continent, from whence the inhabitants, after having been besieged by the great King of *Assyria* for the space of thirteen years, withdrew themselves and their Effects into the island of *Tyre*; where, by the benefit of such a situation, a trading people were enabled to hold out for many ages against the attempts of their enemies, and became the merchants of the world.

Further; as an island, we are accessible on every side, and exposed to perpetual invasions; against which it is impossible to fortify our selves sufficiently, without such a power at sea, as is not to be kept up, but by a people who flourish in commerce. To which we must add, that our inland towns being destitute of fortifications, it is our indispensable concern to preserve this our naval strength, which is as a general bulwark to the *British* nation.

Besides; as an island, it has not been thought agreeable to the true *British* policy to make acquisitions upon the continent. In lieu, therefore, of such an increase of dominion, it is our business to extend to the utmost our trade and navigation. By this means, we reap the advantages of conquest, without violence or injustice; we not only strengthen our selves, but gain the wealth of our neighbours in an honest way; and, without any act of hostility, lay the several nations of the world under a kind of contribution.

Secondly, Trade is fitted to the Nature of our country, as it abounds with a great profusion of commodities of its own growth very convenient for other countries, and is naturally destitute of many things suited to the exigencies, ornaments and pleasures of life, which may be fetched from foreign parts. But, that which is more particularly to be remarked, our *British* products are of such kinds and quantities, as can turn the balance of trade to our advantage, and enable us to sell more to foreigners, than we have occasion to buy from them.

To this we must add, that by extending a well-regulated trade, we are as great gainers by the commodities of many other countries, as by those of our own nation; and by supplying foreign markets with the growth and manufactures of the most distant regions, we receive the same profit from them, as if they were the produce of our own island.

Thirdly, We are not a little obliged to trade, as it has been a great means of civilizing our nation, and banishing out of it all the remains of its antient barbarity. There are many bitter sayings against islanders in general, representing them as fierce, treacherous, and inhospitable. Those

who live on the continent have such opportunities of a frequent inter course with men of different religions and languages, and who live under different laws and governments, that they become more kind, benevolent, and open-hearted to their fellow-creatures, than those who are the inhabitants of an island, that hath not such conversations with the rest of the species. *Cæsar's* observation upon our forefathers is very much to our present purpose; who remarks, that those of them that lived upon the coast, or in sea-port towns, were much more civilized, than those who had their dwellings in the inland country, by reason of frequent communications with their neighbours on the continent.

In the last place. Trade is absolutely necessary for us, as our country is very populous. It employs multitudes of hands both by sea and land, and furnishes the poorest of our fellow-subjects with the opportunities of gaining an honest livelihood. The skilful or industrious find their account in it: and many, who have no fixed property in the soil of our country, can make themselves masters of as considerable estates, as those who have the greatest portions of the land descending to them by inheritance.

If what has been often charged upon us by our neighbours has any truth in it, That we are prone to sedition and delight in change, there is no cure more proper for this evil than trade, which thus supplies business to the active, and wealth to the indigent. When men are easy in their circumstances, they are naturally enemies to innovations: And indeed we see in the course of our *English* histories, many of our popular commotions have taken their rise from the decay of some branch of commerce, which created discontents among persons concerned in the manufactures of the Kingdom. When men are sowed with poverty, and unemployed, they easily give into any prospect of change, which may better their condition, and cannot make it much worse.

Since therefore it is manifest, that the promoting of our trade and commerce is necessary and essential to our security and strength, our peace and prosperity, it is our particular happiness to see a Monarch on the throne, who is sensible of the true interest of his Kingdoms, and applies himself with so much success to the advancement of our national commerce.

The Reader may see, in my last paper, the advantages which His Majesty has gained for us in our *Spanish* trade. In this, I shall give a short account of those procured for us from the *Austrian* Low-countries, by virtue of the twenty sixth article of the barrier treaty made at *Antwerp* the fifteenth of *November* last.

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This branch of our trade was regulated by a *Tariff*, or declaration of the duties of import and export, in the year 1670, which was superseded by another made in 1680, that continued 'till this last *Tariff* settled in 1715 with his present Majesty. As for the two former, those who are at the pains of perusing them will find, the *Tariff* of 1670 laid higher duties on several considerable branches of our trade, than that of 1680, but in many particulars was more favourable to us than the latter. Now, by the present *Tariff* of 1715, these duties are fixed and regulated for the future by those which were most favourable in either of the former *Tariffs*, and all our products and manufactures (one only excepted, which I shall name by and by) settled upon rather an easier foot than ever.

Our woollen cloths, being the most profitable branch of our trade into these countries, have by this means gained a very considerable advantage. For the *Tariff* of 1680, having laid higher duties upon the finer sorts, and lower duties on ordinary cloth, than what were settled in the *Tariff* of 1670, His Majesty has, by the present treaty, reduced the duties on the finer sorts to the *Tariff* of 1670, and confirmed the duties on ordinary cloth according to the *Tariff* of 1680. - Inasmuch that this present *Tariff* of 1715, considered, with relation to this valuable part of our trade, reduces the duties at least one sixth part, supposing the exportation of all sorts to be equal. But as there is always a much greater exportation of the ordinary cloth, than of the finer sorts, the reduction of these duties becomes still much more considerable.

We must farther observe, that there had been several innovations made to the detriment of the *English* merchant since the *Tariff* of 1680; all which innovations are now entirely set aside upon every species of goods, except butter, which is here particularly mentioned, because we cannot be too minute and circumstantial in accounts of this nature. This article however is moderated, and is rated in proportion to what has been, and is still to be, paid by the *Dutch*.

As our commerce with the *Netherlands* is thus settled to the advantage of our *British* merchants, so is it much to their satisfaction: And if his Majesty, in the several succeeding parts of his reign (which we hope may be many years prolonged) should advance our commerce in the same proportion as he has already done, we may expect to see it in a more flourishing condition, than under any of his Royal ancestors. He seems to place his greatness in the riches and prosperity of his people; and what may we may not hope from him in a time of quiet and tranquillity? since,

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during

during the late distractions, he has done so much for the advantage of our trade, when we could not reasonably expect he should have been able to do any thing.

N^o 43. *Friday, May 18.*

*Hoc fonte derivata cladēs
In patriam populumque fluxit.* Hor.

ONE would wonder how any person endowed with the ordinary principles of prudence and humanity, should desire to be King of a country, in which the established religion is directly opposite to that which he himself professes. Were it possible for such a one to accomplish his designs, his own reason must tell him, there could not be a more uneasy Prince, nor a more unhappy people. But how it can enter into the wishes of any private persons to be the subjects of a man, whose faith obliges him to use the most effectual means for extirpating their religion, is altogether incomprehensible, but upon the supposition that whatever principles they seem to adhere to, their interest, ambition, or revenge, is much more active and predominant in their minds, than the love of their country, or of its national worship.

I have never heard of any particular benefit, which either the *Pretender* himself, or the favourers of his cause, could promise to the *British* nation from the success of his pretensions; though the evils which would arise from it, are numberless and evident. These men content themselves with one general assertion, which often appears in their writings, and their discourse; That the kingdom will never be quiet till he is upon the throne. If by this position is meant, that those will never be quiet who would endeavour to place him there, it may possibly have some truth in it; tho' we hope even these will be reduced to their obedience by the care of their safety, if not by the sense of their duty. But on the other side, how ineffectual would this strange expedient be, for establishing the publick quiet and tranquillity, should it
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