

Four and Twenty Queries

Relating to

The East-India Trade.

1. **S**ince some very good Friends, of both *Old* and *New Stocks*, are endeavouring, by all honest ways, together to joyn, and in order thereto, are *Writing, Pleading, and Printing* their Cases; and since *Losers* have always the Liberty to speak, why may not I as well *Print and Plead* my Case; For I am sure I have as much, *nay more* reason to do it than they?

2. If these two contending *Stocks* be made one, and the *English Manufacturers* Case be not taken some care of, I can, without *Star-gazing*, plainly foresee, That they, and some *other Folks*, soon *Ruin'd* will be; And therefore pray, Mind what I say; If not for their sakes, for your own, be pleas'd to take care on't.

3. Is it not much more demonstrable, That the *East-India Trade* is of greater advantage to *England* than 'twas two Years ago; For since that time, it has in a great measure Ruined the *Canterbury Silk Trade*, and obliged most of the *London Silk Weavers, Throwsters, &c.* to give over their several Trades and Employments?

4. Will not this be of great Advantage to all the *Clothing Counties* in *England*, because some of these poor People, rather than starve, are gone to *Ireland*, and set up Trade there; others fall'n to *Comb, Card, and Spin*; make *Clotbs, Stuffs and Serges*; who being at the Principal Market, can make and sell them as well, or better, than the Country Weaver and Clothier can do?

5. Does not Sir *Jos. Child*, who is well known to be Skilful in Trade, prove plainly, That the *East-India Trade* ought to be greatly Encouraged, when he tells us in Print, That *the Expence of Foreign Commodities, especially Foreign Manufactures, is the worst Expence a Nation can be inclinable to, and ought to be prevented as much as possible?* Discourse of Trade. The Preface.

6. Has not the *Author* of the *Essay on the E. India Trade*, as sufficiently proved it Gainful, not only to us, but all *Europe*, when he tells us, *They had been Richer by a full Third than they now are, if that Trade had never been Discovered or Undertaken; and that it bears hard only upon those Countries that Consume those Commodities?* Essay on the East-India Trade page 14.

7. Is it not plain, That it bears not hard upon *England*, since it could never be proved (and I challenge any now to do it) That we Consume at *Home*, in *Ireland*, or our *Plantations*, above nine parts in ten: Or that in Foreign Parts (except our *Plantations, &c.*) the *Consumption* above one eighth part of the *Wrought Silks, Bengals, and Printed Callicoes?*

8. Since 'tis allowed this Trade is hurtful to *Europe*, and all are agreed in a General Peace, What if they should agree to Banish it out of all their Dominions? But if not, Why should we restrain any part, Since *we have nothing from thence of solid Use, (but) Materials for Luxury, and perishable Commodities, for our Gold and Silver, which is there buried, as the same Author tells us?* Page 1.

9. Is it not better we should be at four or five hundred thousand Pounds Charge *per An.* for *Indian Vanities*, having such plenty of Money, than for the sake of employing our own *Poor*, upon our own *Wooll*, disoblige several *Maid*s and their *Mistresses*, who would then be at a loss how to Dress up themselves, their *Chambers, Parlours, and Closets?*

10. Is it not our Interest (as the *Essayer* tells us) to wear these *Indian Manufactures*, because they would soon bring down the price of our own so low, *That we may Export them to all Foreign Markets, and be able to under-sell all Nations; For (surely) they neither can, or will ever think of falling in their Prices as we do.* Page 29.

11. Or if they should, rather than leave off and starve, sell their Commodities as cheap as we, Pray what shall we get by this *Learned Advice*, since after all our Reducing, the *Indians* that Work for a Penny a Day, will outdo us all, unless we're resolv'd to Work as Cheap, or Cheaper than they?

12. Will not the Falling the Prices reduce the Wages of the *Poor*, and by that means make the Nation grow Rich, since Sir *Jos. Child* has very well observed, *That where ever Wages are high, throughout the whole World, it is an infallible Evidence of the Riches of that Country; And where Wages for Labour runs low, 'tis a proof of the Poverty of that Place?* Preface.

13. But if bringing down the Prices will be such an Advantage, Why may we not as well send for the *Corn* we spend to the *East Country*, for theirs is much cheaper than ours? And then we may send our own *Corn* with our own *Cloth, &c.* to seek Abroad for a Market; Would not this soon Raise the Value of all the *Rents and Lands* in *England?*

14. And to save yet the more, employ the *Dutch Shipping*, for they always Sail much cheaper than we do, and then we may send our own *Ships* to all Foreign Nations, that either want, or will hire them, or else save the Building of more, to the much greater Preservation of both our *Seamen and Timber?* 21

15. And if nought but cheap Working will vend our Commodities, let's to't in good earnest, and Employ the *Twelve hundred Thousand* which the *Essay* tells us receives *Alms*, which by the way is a very great Number, and shews how much we want the *poor Indians* to Work for us, and they sure will Page 27.



will bring down the Prices so low, that when our Money is gone, the *Indians* will take some *Stuffs* for their *Callicoes*;

16. What if the *Landed-Men* should apprehend, that this would *Begger* their *Tenants*, and *Fall* all their *Rents*. Can't we by another *Essay*, with *Rhetorical Flourishes*, amuse them, and then by *imaginary*, or *fabulous* Computation, &c. prove this cannot be; Or that 'tis our *Interest* it should be so, rather than restrain the *East-India* Trade?

17. Has not this Nation been great *Gainers* for many Years by the use of *Muslings* and *Callicoes*, which are worn in the room of *German Linnens*, *Silesia Cambricks*, and *Lawns*? For the first we have had for our *Money* and *Bullion*: The last were the Return of our own *Woolen Manufactures*, which now we can keep for our own use at Home.

18. Were not the *Silesians* very great *Fools*, when we would not take off their *Cambricks* and *Lawns*, to set up the making of *Woolen*, with which they now supply both themselves and their *Neighbours*; Whereas we could yet have very well served them both for their *Money*? And may not some others soon follow such *foolish* Examples?

19. If the *Parliament* would be so kind as to take off the Duty from coarse *Callicoes*, which being from twenty to fifty *per Cent.* is a very great *Clog* upon them; We could then also soon beat them out of most of the rest of their *Linnens*, which might be as much more for the *Profit* and *Gain* of this Kingdom.

20. But if this will lessen the *Customs*, we're content they should double the Duties on all *Wrought Silks*; for they may well bear about 25 *per Cent.* And being such *Bulky Commodities*, sure none will Run them to save such small *Customs*, or the *Ladies* wear them when they'll be so dear: And will not this please the *Clamorous Silk Weavers*?

21. Or if they *complain* still, Can any one think the *Parliament* may not have some regard to so considerable a Company of *poor Manufacturers* as they are? When as, with no very great *difficulty*, they lately pass'd an *Act* for *Relief* and *Support* of the *Hair* and *Silk Button-Makers*?

22. If the *East-India* Company had Imported these *Commodities*, would it not have been easier for these *Button-Makers* to have gained their *Bill*? And since the *Parliament* have pass'd an *Act* in favour of the *Trimnings*, may they not in time do as much for the *Principal Parts* of the *Garments*?

23. And now to conclude: To your selves be so kind, These *Quericals* mind, For they are *design'd*, To inform all *Mankind*, So as Truth they may find, If not willingly *Blind*: But whosoer by private *Interest* is *sway'd*, Or *Money* has *paid*, To the *East-India* Aid, I am very much *afraid*, That for all I have *said*, They will me *upbraid*, And cry out I am *Mad*.

24. But if they do, I must tell them plain, I find in my *Brain*, So much *Sense* still remain, As the Cause I'll maintain, 'Gainst them and their *Train*: Therefore don't *disdain*, My *Querical* Strain, And I shall remain, Your *Friend* as before, To stand at your *Door*, To plead for the *Poor*, And have yet in *store*, Of such *Quericals* more, At least a whole *Score*: Which you may have when you please.

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