

**The case of the manufacturers of, and dealers in
silk goods, under the new projected duty.**

[s.l.] : [s.n.], [ca. 1712].

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The CASE of the Manufacturers of, and Dealers in Silk Goods, under the New Projected Duty.

THE Value of Raw and Thrown Silk Imported into *England* for the Weavers Use, amounts to about 500000 l. per *Annum*.

This Silk wrought up, and manufactured here, may double its Value; so the whole may be computed at One Million per *Annum*, upon which the Duty is design'd to be laid.

A Duty upon all Foreign Imported Manufactured Silks, &c. is already Agreed to: But if it be extended, and laid upon the Manufacture made up at home, Nothing but Perplexity and Desolation can attend it; and it must End in the Ruin of the Manufacture it self, and the numerous Families that depend upon it.

To ruin any Manufacture, nothing more is requisite, than to put it under Difficulties and Discouragement, and to make it come Dear to the Market.

Now a New Duty, especially if continued for many Years, unavoidably subjects the Commodity it is laid upon, to all the Disasters that can fall upon it. *France, Holland and Flanders*, seem to want nothing else but this Expedient, to rob us of our Silk Manufacture; which they cannot fail to do, if they can afford a better Pennyworth than our selves; which they must do of course, if this Duty be laid. And if once the *French, the Dutch, and the Flemish*, or any one of these Nations turn the Ballance of Manufactured Silks to their own Country, the Raw Silks follow of course; and the Trade of *Turkey and Italy*, with the Woollen Manufacture depending upon them, will in a great degree be lost to this Nation, and transplanted to a Foreign Country, without hopes of Recovery.

It will be Objected, That the high Duty laid upon the Foreign wrought Silks, will be a sufficient Equivalent for the Duty laid on our own Goods. To that it's Answer'd, That by a modest Computation there are more than Two Thirds of those Foreign Goods now Clandestinely Imported; so that a higher Duty laid on them, will be a greater Temptation to the unfair Merchants to steal the Customs: So that this seeming Remedy will be of no Effect.

It is pretended, That all those Goods shall be Sealed, to hinder the Fraudulent Importation. But if we consider the long Experience the Lustring-Company hath had, by several Laws made in their Favour, to hinder the Smuggling Trade; as, a Law to Seal all Lustrings and Alamodes; another to Punish Masters of Ships, that shall Clandestinely Import them; and also to Prohibit any Importation without License; and also a very high Duty laid on them, and many others: All which have proved Ineffectual, as it plainly appears by the great Quantities of those Goods which are Daily Sold in Town, and by several Seizures that are made; and there has not been one Piece of those Goods enter'd at the Custom-House for these Four Years last past. All which consider'd, 'tis plain, that the Burthen will lie upon our own Manufacture; which in Thirty Two Years time, will dwindle away (as fast as it has increas'd) to the Impoverishing of many Thousand Families.

But the Method of laying this Tax or Duty, will add very much to the Weight and Burthen of it; and seems to be liable to a double Exception. *First*, In respect to the Crown. *Secondly*, In respect to the Subject.

It cannot possibly be Collected without an exceeding Great Charge to the Crown, because of the Number of Officers to be appointed in every considerable Town in *England*, the Sallaries of whom will eat up a great part of the Duty. And as to the Manner of it, if it is to be by Sealing and Marking, Nothing can be so Perplexing to the Fair Dealer. The Officer must come to his Shop or Warehouse, all his Goods must be laid open, Exposed and Measured, then Marked or Sealed, before they can be Sold. If the Mark or Seal be lost or dropt, he is liable to the Penalty, and the Pleasure of every Informer, as if the Duty had not been paid. Searches and Seizures will be the Work of every Officer; Suits and Controversies, Defences, Trouble and Perplexity, the Lot of every Trader. The Smugler and Unfair Dealer will be the only Person encouraged; and instead of the Punishment he deserves, meet with a Temptation and Reward at the same time for his Villainy.

For these, and many other obvious Reasons, It is humbly hoped a British Parliament will never Consent to Raise Money by these Methods.

N. B. Every Pound weight of wrought Silks made in *England* of Foreign Thrown Silk, doth pay 4s. 9d. by the present Duty on its Importation.

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To ruin any Manufacture, nothing more is requisite, than to put it under Difficulties and Disencouragement, and to make it come Dear to the Market. New Duty, especially if continued for many Years, unavoidably subjects the Country it is laid upon, to all the Distresses that can fall upon it. France, Holland and Flanders, seem to want this Expedient, to stop us of our Silk Manufacture; which they cannot do, if they can afford a better Pennyworth than our selves; and the Dutch, the French, the Dutch, and the Nations turn the Balance of Manufactured Silks to their own Country, the Raw Silks follow of course; and the Trade of Turkey and Italy, with the Western Islands depending upon them, will in a great degree be lost to this Nation, and the Country, without hopes of Recovery.

It will be Obvious, that a high Duty laid upon the Foreign wrought Silks, will be a sufficient Equivalent to the Duty laid on our own Goods. To that it's Answer'd, That by a moderate computation, more than Two Thirds of these Foreign Goods now Con- definitely imported; so that a higher Duty laid on them, will be a greater Temptation to the said Merchants to steal the Customs: So that this seeming Remedy will be of no Effect. It is pretended, That all these Goods shall be Sealed, to hinder the Fraudulent Importation. But if we consider the long Experience the Lunning-Company hath had, by several Laws made in their Favour, to hinder the Smuggling Trade; as a Law to Seal all Lunnings and Alamodes; another to Punish Masters of Ships, that shall clandestinely Import them; and also to Prohibit any Importation without Licenses; and also a very high Duty laid on them, and many others: All which have proved Ineffectual, as it plainly appears by the great Quantities of those Goods which are Daily Sold in Town, and by several Seizures that are made; and there has not been one Piece of those Goods enter'd at the Custom-House for these Four Years last past. All which consider'd, tis plain, that the Burthen will lie upon our own Manufacture; which in Thirty Two Years time, will dwindle away (as fast as it has increas'd) to the Impoverishing of many Thousand Families.

But the Method of laying this Tax or Duty, will add very much to the Weight and Burthen of it; and seems to be liable to a double Exception. First, In respect to the Crown. Secondly, In respect to the Subject. It cannot possibly be Collected without an exceeding Great Charge to the Crown, because of the Number of Officers to be appointed in every considerable Town in England, the Salaries of whom will eat up a great part of the Duty. And as to the Manner of it, it is to be by Sealing and Marking, Nothing can be so perplexing to the Fair Dealer. The Officer must come to his Shop or Warehouse, all his Goods must be laid open, Expoted and Measured, then Marked or Sealed, before they can be sold. If the Mark or Seal be lost or dropt, he is liable to the Penalty, and the Pleasure of every former, as if the Duty had not been paid. Searches and Seizures will be the Work of every Officer; Suits and Controversies, Detences, Trouble and Perplexity, the Lot of every Trader. The Smuggler and Unfair Dealer will be the only Person encouraged; and instead of the Punishment he deserves, meet with a Temptation and Reward at the same time for his Villany.

For these, and many other obvious Reasons, It is humbly hoped a British Parliament will never Consent to Raise Money by these Methods. A Every Pound weight of wrought Silks made in England of Foreign Thrown Silks, shall be valued at 100 l. per Cwt. It is humbly hoped a British Parliament will never Consent to Raise Money by these Methods.

SILK GOODS,
 Under the New Projected Duty.
 Manufactur'd here, and Dear'd here in
 O F T H E
 C O U N T R Y

