

S O M E

CONSIDERATIONS

O N T H E

Importation and Exportation of Beaver;

W I T H

REMARKS on the HATTER'S CASE.

BE A V E R has for many Years past been imported into *England*, in a greater or less Degree, from all or most of the *British* Settlements on the Continent of *North America*; viz. from *Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New-York, New-England, Hudson's-Bay*, and *Newfoundland*, as appears by the Custom-house Accounts of the Imports thereof.

The *Hudson's-Bay* Trade being in the Hands of a Company, they are obliged to bring all their Beaver to *England*: But the said other Colonies in *America* are under no such Restraint, and do manufacture the Beaver there themselves into Hats, or otherways dispose thereof, as they find it most for their Interest, notwithstanding any Law to the contrary: And nothing but the Profit to arise from Beaver in *England*, will induce them to bring it hither.

Of the Beaver imported into *England*, considerable Part has always been exported abroad, chiefly for Garments: And the lowest Prices have never induced the Hatters here, to take off any thing near the Quantity imported; so that if Foreigners had not taken off the surplus Quantity, it must have stopped the Importation.

The Hatters are now applying to the Legislature, to discourage the Exportation of Beaver from *England*, and thereby to reduce the Price of it: And, as the Grounds for such their Application, have, in a printed Case delivered by them, suggested, that the foreign Hat-trade has of late Years declined, and that owing principally to the Dearth of Beaver.

As to the Truth of which Pretence, that the foreign Hat-trade has declined of late Years, the following Remarks are made: And the Policy of giving into a Measure, to reduce the Price of Beaver, by discouraging the Exportation, is submitted to Consideration.

That the foreign Trade for Castor and Beaver Hats has not, of late Years, declined, appears most manifest from the Custom-house Accounts of the Exports thereof; which, on the contrary, shew the Exports have increased within these Twenty Years, to near double what they were.

And, in Confirmation of the Hatters Trade being increased, they are, at this Time, forced to employ therein great Numbers of Persons Non-freemen; and there is not the least Complaint of any of their Hands being out of Work.

That, further, the foreign Trade, in general, for Hats, does not depend so much on Beaver, how specious a Pretence soever that may be made by the Hatters; as is apparent from the continual Increase of the Exportation of Hats for these Twenty Years past; and the Two last Years being the greatest of all.

And though the Import of Beaver has been less of late, and particularly from *New-York*, and the Rest of the *Northern* Colonies; yet, within these Two Years, the Advance on the Price has brought a considerable Increase from thence: And a Prohibition of the Export of Beaver from *England*, or other Discouragement, to reduce the Price of it here, which is what the Hatters aim at, can never be a means of increasing the Import into *England*, but must necessarily be attended with quite the contrary Effect, to the Loss of this Nation; since all the Beaver that is imported from *America* is purchased by the Produce, Labour, and Manufacture of *Great Britain*.

SOME

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Importation and Exportation of Beaver;

WITH

REMARKS ON the HATTERS' CASE.

BEAVER has for many Years past been imported into England, in a greater or less Degree, from all or most of the British Settlements on the Continent of North America; viz. from Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New-England, the East-Indy, and West-Indy, as appears by the Custom-house Accounts of the Imports thereof.

The Hudson's-Bay Trade being in the Hands of a Company, they are oblig'd to bring all their Beaver to England; But the said other Colonies in America are under no such Restriction, and do manufacture the Beaver into themselves into Hats, or otherwise dispose thereof, as they find it most for their Interest, notwithstanding any Law to the contrary: And notwithstanding the Profit to arise from Beaver in England, will induce them to bring it thither.

Of the Beaver imported into England, considerable Part has always been exported abroad, chiefly for Germany: And the said Part has never reduced the Hat-makers here, to take off any thing near the Quantity imported; so that if Foreigners had not taken off the said Quantity, it would have sufficed the Importation.

It is now agreed by the Legislature, to discourage the Importation of Beaver, by reducing the Price of it: And as the Grounds for such their Agreement, are, that the foreign Hat-makers are to be preferred to the British, and that the foreign Hat-makers are to be preferred to the British, and that the foreign Hat-makers are to be preferred to the British.

And the Policy of giving into a Matter, to reduce the Price of the said Beaver, is, to reduce the Price of the said Beaver, and to reduce the Price of the said Beaver.

The said Policy, which has not of late Years, had any effect, appears in the Custom-house Accounts of the Imports thereof, which, on the contrary, are increased within these Twenty Years, to near double what they were in the Year 1720.

And in Confirmation of the Hat-makers' Case, it is observed, that the said Policy, which has not of late Years, had any effect, appears in the Custom-house Accounts of the Imports thereof, which, on the contrary, are increased within these Twenty Years, to near double what they were in the Year 1720.

That further, the foreign Trade, in general, does not depend so much on Beavers, as is asserted by the Hatters; as is apparent from the great Increase of the Importation of Hats for these Twenty Years past; and the Two last Years, being the greatest of all.

And though the Import of Beaver has been less of late, and particularly from New-York, and the Rest of the Western Colonies; yet within these Two Years, the Advance on the Price has brought a considerable Quantity from thence: And a Prohibition of the Export of Beaver from England, or other Establishment, to reduce the Price of it here, which is what the Hatters aim at, can never be a means of increasing the Import into England, but will rather be attended with quite the contrary Effect, to the Loss of the said Beaver, inasmuch as that is imported from thence is purchased by the Product, Labour, and Manufacture of Great-Britain.

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