A

Plain and Affectionate

ADDRESS

TO THE

SHOP-KEEPERS, MANUFACTURERS,
ARTIFICERS, and TRADERS,

OF THIS

CITY AND KINGDOM.

DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY JAMES WILLIAMS.
M,DCC,LXXX.

Houses of the Oireachtas

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To the PUBLIC.

THE following Addreſs was ſent to me by a Perſon as truly Reſpectable as any of the Age we live in, who at the ſame Time honoured me with the Power of diſpoſing of it, in whatever Manner I might think proper.

Upon reading it, I was clearly of Opinion that my Duty to the Community obliged me, not only to publiſh it, but alſo, to bear Witneſs to the Character, although I was not permitted to make known the Name, of the Writer.

Well aſſured I am, that had I been at Liberty in this Reſpect, great Weight would have been added to the Contents; however, the Advice conveyed in it, appears to be ſo Salutary, ſo well ſuited to the Complexion of the Times, and ſo evidently the Over-flowing of a moſt Benevolent Heart, that much

Good muſt enſue, if it is attended to with the Regard and Candor which it ſo juſtly merits.

That God may bleſs this, and the many other Praiſe-worthy Acts of this excellent Perſon with Succeſs, is the ſincere Wiſh and ardent Prayer of

EDWARD BAYLY.

Houses of the Oireachtas

To the SHOP-KEEPERS, MANUFACTURERS, ARTIFICERS *and* TRADERS, *of this City and Kingdom.*

My Friends and Countrymen,

PERMIT me to addreſs you, at this happy Period, when a FREE TRADE (ſo long the object of our wiſhes) is at length obtained for the various Products of this fertile Kingdom, a Kingdom bleſſed alſo, with many other natural Advantages above moſt other Nations upon Earth.

Let this induce us all, in the firſt Place, to join with one Voice in Praiſe and Thanks to Almighty God, who hath opened the Eyes of thoſe, who were long blind to their own Intereſt as well as ours, to bleſs and magnify his Holy Name, and diligently to obey his Commandments; particularly that which our Divine Redeemer hath diſtinguiſhed by the Title of his own; that is, to love one another, not confining this Love to our Fellow Subjects only, in this or our ſiſter Kingdom, but extending it to thoſe of every part

Part and Member of the Britiſh Empire ; nay, not to Chriſtians only, of whatever Denomination or Profeſſion, but even to Jews, Turks, Infidels and Heretics, by exerciſing towards them every Act of Benevolence, Juſtice, Humanity or Friendlyneſs within our Power ; that ſo, by ſeeing our good Works, they may judge of our Religion, and be won to glorify our Father which is in Heaven.

Let us alſo unite in Loyalty and Gratitude to our pious and gracious Sovereign, for his Paternal Care and feeling Attention to our Diſtreſſes ; in Gratitude likewiſe, to our excellent Chief Governor, for his juſt and faithful Repreſentation of them, and to thoſe approved Friends of Ireland who ſo zealouſly exerted themſelves in our Behalf, on this important Occaſion.

Our next object ſhould be, ſeriouſly to conſider, how we ſhall beſt improve the many ſignal Advantages which we have thus providentially obtained ; for which Purpoſe, the firſt important Article which preſents itſelf, will be, a determined Reſolution to eſtabliſh the Character of Integrity, in every Branch of Commerce Manufacture, and Huſbandry ; under which latter head, is to be included, all the produce of our Lands, whether ſold by Weight, Meaſure, Number or by Hand ; carefully and conſtantly

conſtantly providing, that every particular in each be found by the Purchaſer, to be expreſsly and minutely what the Harp and Crown denote, when placed over the Figures which deſcribe the Weight, Meaſure, Contents, or Kind; adhering thus, invariably to what is, and ever muſt be, our only true and laſting Intereſt, the Reputation of fair and upright Dealing; ſo that the Arms of Ireland on every ſpecies of Goods, whether for Food or Cloathing, may be an undeniable Inſurance of their intrinſic Value.

Let my dear fellow Manufacturers for ever baniſh the diſcreditable fallacious Phraze of ——— This Piece is made for yard wide, half yard, half ell, &c. when in fact it is not ſo. Let our Goods be well fabricated in their ſeveral kinds, and of the very Materials which they are paſſed for; and as to thoſe in the Shops, let them have the Inches of their reſpective Breadths marked upon them, and Care taken, that thoſe which are to be made, may be preciſely of the Breadth which they are called; let there be rather an exceeding of a few Threads, than a want of one; above all things, avoiding the ſhameful means of bringing this to paſs, by making the Goods worſe by the Weavers chuſing a coarſe Reed to work in. In like manner in the victualling Buſineſs, whether for preſent Conſumption or Exportation,

tion, let all kinds of Food be ſound and well ſaved.

Trade, believe me, knows no faſt and conſtant Friend but Intereſt; and Self-intereſt (which never dies) will always direct the Cuſtomer to the faireſt Dealer, who ſells his Goods at a reaſonable merchantable Price.

I muſt next apply myſelf to you my Friends, the Journeymen of this City, whether to Manufacturers or Artificers, earneſtly beſeeching you to reflect, how pernicious the frequent Combinations for raiſing your Wages have ever been, they have always put a ſtop to your own Buſineſs; they have put your Families into Confuſion and Diſorder, and, in many inſtances, been the Cauſe of your utter Ruin.

Conſider calmly the Subject; I entreat you, for your own ſakes: If the Wages of the Journeyman are too high, the Employer cannot poſſibly ſet his Goods to ſale at an inviting Price, the Conſequence muſt be, that they will lie upon his Hand, and for want of a return of his Money, he cannot employ you to make more; the Trade, of courſe, goes into another Channel, and we know by ſad Experience, how difficult it is, (when once loſt,) to recover it again.

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It is an undeniable Truth, that an even conſtant Flow of moderate Profit ever produces to the ſober and induſtrious Workman a ſure and comfortable Support, ſuppoſing (what ſhould always be) that he is paid on the delivery of his Work in due Time and honeſtly performed.

The great Diſpoſer of all Things has, in his Mercy, diſtributed Contentment, and conſequently Happineſs, more equally than Wealth: Contentment, (the trueſt kind of Riches which this World affords) is oftner found under the humble Roof of the loweſt honeſt Villager or Tradeſman, than under the lofty gilded Ceilings of the Great: The former are free from all Anxieties, except thoſe which relate to the providing the actual Neceſſaries of Life, and theſe Neceſſaries are generally, within the Reach of their own Induſtry, and that of their growing Families to procure; the labouring Man's Bread is ſweet, and his Sleep refreſhing. The Children of the Induſtrious are their Wealth, as they are brought up ſo as in a very few Years to contribute, in ſome Degree, to their own Support; their little Hands are ſoon able to manage the knitting Needle as well as the Primmer, and as that Occupation requires not a ſedentary Poſture, they may at the ſame Time be in the wholeſome open Air, and enjoy the

the Benefit of Exercise, so necessary for their Health and Growth.

The Children of Carpenters at Nuremberg, at six Years old, make various little Articles, known in England and Ireland by the name of Dutch Toys, which are chiefly wrought out of the Chips and Shavings of their Father's Work; the Boys shape them, and the Girls paint them, and (if I am well informed) it appears from the Custom-house Books, that of these Toys, there are yearly imported into this Kingdom, to the value of six or eight thousand Pounds. What a surprizing Profit then, from even Childrens Work apparently must arise! besides that the Boys, by this means, are far advanced in the Use of their Father's Tools, by the Time they are of Ages to be apprenticed to their Trades; Another Advantage arising from this is, that the Parent, by making this wise Use of this Seed time of Life has the Pleasure of leaving his Children capable of acting the same kind Part to their Offspring, when they come to Maturity and are settled in the World, whilst Contentment, (that Sunshine of the human Mind) which gladdens its Possessor, and enlivens all his rational Pursuits, springs from a Consciousness, that He is endeavouring to do God's Will on Earth as it is done in Heaven, feeling himself under the divine Protection, and rearing his Family with

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the certain Hope of his Bleſſing on their future Induſtry and Labour.

Or, if it is the Divine Will to try him by Misfortunes, he has Authority for believing, that all Things work together for Good to thoſe that love God; without whoſe Knowledge not a Sparrow falleth to the Ground.

But, to return to the Manufacturer; let him by all Means avoid, as much as poſſible, thoſe Diſputes which I fear too often happen in that Branch of Buſineſs, between him and the Weaver.

I have indeed often wiſhed to ſee a Committee formed of knowing and creditable Perſons, choſen every Year, and to meet two Days in every Week, for a certain Number of Hours, to paſs Judgment on any Piece of Work which the Employer complains of, as ill made; for as the Neceſſity of the Weaver calls for prompt Payment, ſo the Credit of the Employer, (nay, I may ſay, of the whole Nation) calls for fair Work in every reſpect.

What Ireland has ſuffered by the ſingle Article of double Worſted Stuffs being unfairly manufactured, has been ſeverely felt; and indeed a Reſolution at this critical Period to ſuppreſs all ſuch Practices, is the only Thing that can give us a Chance of recovering our former Credit; it is therefore to be hoped, that

that the Dealers in all other Branches of Manufacture in the Kingdom, may take warning from the Evils which fraudulent Practices have produced in that. If every Piece of Manufacture, made under its proper Breadth, or ill Woven, was Cut into Pieces of a Yard long, and the Weaver puniſhed, by forfeiting the Price he was to have had for weaving it, the ſending it Abroad, (to the manifeſt Injury of the national Character,) might be prevented in ſome Meaſure; but its being reduced to Bits of one-fourth of a Yard, and ſold to the Paper-mills, would be a ſurer Method. In ſhort, our Intereſt, our very Being as a reſpectable commercial People in the Eyes of Europe, depends on baniſhing all Manner of Fraud in Trade or Manufacture; and it reſts upon you, my fellow Citizens, who are engaged in any Branches thereof, to take eſpecial Care, that no Charge of this Nature may ever be brought againſt us.

Another Matter of great Importance, which I muſt moſt earneſtly recommend to you, is, reſolutely to diſcontinue the Uſe of all Spirituous Liquors, which ſo unhappily prevails, and is almoſt daily productive of ſuch pernicious and fatal Conſequences. If theſe were totally rejected, and good old Ale made the Beverage at ſocial Meetings, the Temper (even in an

Exceſs

Exceſs (which may ſometimes happen without Deſign) would not be raiſed to ſavage brutal, Cruelty, but a ſound Sleep would generally be the Conſequence of, perhaps, an Over-indulgence, when now and then, with your honeſt Friends and Neighbours, you refreſh yourſelves after the Day's Work with a moderate Share of wholeſome Liquor.

I cannot quit this Subject without intreating you to obſerve, how many emaciated Objects you daily ſee, reduced to that ghaſtly Appearance by the Uſe of Spirits, the beſt Kind of which operate as a ſlow Poiſon, when taken after Meals; but when thrown into an empty Stomach, are beyond deſcription deſtructive to Temper, Health, and Fortune.

This leads me to recommend to you, in the ſtrongeſt terms, Peace, Harmony, and Union among yourſelves, carefully avoiding all Occaſions of Strife and Diſſention; but, on the contrary, ſtudying (as St. Paul wiſely adviſes) "to be Quiet, to do your own Buſineſs, and to Work with your own Hands," which will be the ſureſt Proof of Patriotiſm, (a Character now ſo univerſally aſſumed,) but which, be aſſured, can properly be given to that Man only, who contributes to the Welfare of his Country, by doing his Duty to it, in whatever Rank or Profeſſion the Providence of God has placed him; who is ready to ſerve his King

and

and Country when his Aid is wanted; who is amenable to the Laws, which protect his Life, his Religion, his Liberty and Property, and which were enacted for the Safety and Encouragement of the virtuous, and for the punishment of evil Doers, thus providing, (as far as in him lies,) that there be no Tumults, Outrages, or Violence, as we have all imaginable Reason to hope, there will soon be no Complainings in our Streets.

I shall now, my Friends and Neighbours, trouble you but with few more Observations, addressed to All in general, in regard to this Free Trade, which presents such pleasing prospects to us.

Do not then, I beseech you, vainly imagine, that the bare name of a FREE TRADE will instantaneously make you Rich and Flourishing, as if there was some Charm or magic Virtue in the Words; believe me, the bare Title to it will not, like the pretended Philosopher's Stone, transmute your Halfpence into Guineas, the mere Sound will not load or navigate your Ships; it will not cover your barren Heaths and Bogs with yellow Harvests; it will not convert your smoaky Cabins to neat commodious Dwellings, your little scattered fishing Villages to large and crowded Ports; it will not fix your Correspondences, negociate your Bills,

or

or eſtabliſh your Credit: In a word, it will not ſhower Wealth into your Laps, without proper Efforts and Endeavours of your own. No; a free Trade is the Means, indeed, the certain Means of acquiring Affluence and Wealth, but perſonal Induſtry, Spirit, Application, and a competent Knowledge of Buſineſs in your ſeveral Occupations, Theſe, and theſe only, can cauſe this Means to be productive of thoſe deſirable Effects.

A Free Trade to a Nation may very properly be compared to a rich Mine in a private Eſtate, if properly opened, and judiciouſly worked, it may treble the Purchaſe of the whole; but if indolently ſuffered to remain untouched, in the Bowels of the Earth, it is of no more Value to the Owner than the worthleſs Clay that covers it. In ſhort, my Countrymen! your future Proſperity or Diſtreſs will now depend upon yourſelves: if you are ſtrictly juſt and true in all your Dealings, Sober, Provident and Active, by the preſent happy Change in your Condition, you will, (with the Bleſſing of God,) be Rich and Happy; but if Thoughtleſs, Tumultuous, Diſſolute, and Idle, you will, you muſt, as certainly continue Poor, and in that caſe be doubly wretched; becauſe you will be ever tortured with the cutting Reflection, that to your own Supineneſs, vice,

vice or Folly, you can now only, charge your Ruin.

But the well known Character of the Iriſh Nation (confirmed by my own Experience through a long Courſe of Years) ſaves me from any Apprehenſion of ſuch diſagreeable Events. You are my Countryment, naturally Brave, Generous, Compaſſionate, and Hoſpitable, Docile and Benevolent, Active and Ingenious, and the moſt affectionate Parents upon Earth. Theſe Diſpoſitions, aided by a juſt Senſe of our being accountable to our Divine Maker for our Conduct in this our preſent ſtate of Exiſtence, raiſe my Expectations very high. To juſtify them, let us all, then, on the approaching Day, appointed for a general Faſt and Supplications to Heaven, with Truly devout Hearts, déplore and renounce our paſt Tranſgreſſions, ardently praying to Almighty God, for his divine Influence upon us, in all reſpects, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. And from this Moment let us exert the Powers we have, ſo as to acquit ourſelves in our ſeveral Occupations and Profeſſions, as ſincere Chriſtians, and uſeful Members of Society; conſequently, as true and real Patriots. This will afford more heartfelt Satisfaction than moſt Things in this World can give to a

FIRM FRIEND OF IRELAND.