Advantages and Disadvantages of Great Britain with regard to Commerce, and to other means of encreasing the Wealth and Power of a State

I. The Natural form of Great Britain

England contains according to Halley about forty millions of ~~Square~~ Acres and no point of land is distant above seventy miles from the Sea, which is an immense advantage in point of trade.

II. The natural produce of England

Grain, Wool, Cattle, and mines of various sorts.

The Cultivation of Corn is so flourishing that a good harvest is a provision for five Years, and the favorable climate and soil afford in general such a certainty of Crops that the exports great quantities, to what this branch of Commerce amounts may be seen by the extracts of the export from 1746. to 1750. comprehending wheat, rye, barley, malt, and oats, for Portugal, Flanders, Holland, France, Denmark, Russia, Africa &c.

Laid before the House of Commons in 1751.

for the Year	Number of quarters	Medium price of the Quarter for the five Years
1746	633.943.	at
1747.	817.943.	1£. 8s
1748.	1.045.656.	
1749.	1.140.848.	
1750.	1.651.417.	
	5.289.847.	7.405.786.

In the three years 1748. 1749. 1750. France extracted for others have 260.000. quarters almost all of wheat at 1£. 15s. medium price of wheat that is 455.000£.

To the 7.405.786£. clear gain to England by this Trade must be added the freight of almost the whole, and the hands employed in the Cultivation, the carriage by sea, the collecting it, the building and fitting the vessels, and what all these people contribute towards the taxes

The bounty to which this great cultivation of Corn is owing was established in 1689, and since that period the price of the commodity has lowered

Advantages of France with regard to Commerce, and to the other means of increasing the Wealth and Power of a State

I. Its natural productions

The principal ones with which it trades, are wine, brandy, silk, flax, hemp, oil, &c. as they eat much bread, corn must not be added, for though since 1766. the exportation of it has been permitted, yet the climate is subject to such variations as often destroy the harvest.

II. The subordination, docility, and sobriety of the common people.

III. The goodness of the Roads, number of Rivers and navigable canals which greatly assist the exportation of the manufactures.

IV. The Institution of a Council of Trade to whom the administration of Commerce internal and external is entrusted, and who make Trade, the Marine, and Revenue equally assist each other.

V. The great produce of the Sugar Colonies, which undersell the English 20, 30, and sometimes from 40. to 70. per cent, but this will diminish as the Islands ceded to England by the last treaty of Peace are now raising Sugar with the greatest success. the Indigo is also cheaper than that produced in the English Colonies, the Colonies do not attempt getting from other Countries manufactures of luxury and fashion as the French are so celebrated.

VI. Though France does not yield a fourth part of the wool, and raw silk it manufactures, it draws the wool from Spain Barbary Switzerland, and even from England and Ireland though the exporting Wool in England is felony.

VII. Foreigners are encouraged to come into the Army and manufactures, which spares that number to labour, and keeps the manufactures cheap, at Lyons alone there are ten thousand Swiss and Germans.

VIII. The greatest advantage is the madness of all other nations adopting the fashions, which encourages strangers to come there, which brings great sums into the Kingdom.

Disadvantages of France with respect to Commerce and the other means of encreasing the Power and Wealth of a State.

1. With respect to the propagation of the human Species and to the employment of individuals

The Priests, Clergy and Monastics of both sexes amount to about five hundred thousand, which is an enormous deprivation of population; the Army in time of peace amounts to one hundred and fifty thousand few of these marry; the nobility is numerous and not rich, most of the daughters and younger sons are placed in the Church, and as Nobility is to be bought it encreases depopulation; the great inequality of the distribution of property, the excess of luxury are also great bars against Matrimony.

France has not a sufficient number of Labourers, as it does not frequently produce the necessaries of life required, which consequently must be purchased from other Countries. This is chiefly owing to the misery of that profession, occasioned by the taxes they must pay; for though the Landowner pays it, yet the peasant is subject to the Seizure and execution, not only in proportion to his Stock and industry, but also to the Land though but the farmer or planter of it, besides he is discouraged from clearing fresh ground, augmenting his cattle, or attempting new methods of industry, as he would be then loaded with a new Arbitrary tax, though unable to pay the old one.

Many reasons combine to diminish the number of mechanics, viz, the length of Apprenticeships, the privileges of Masters and the

the multiplicity of Companies having exclusive priviledges; the taxes imposed from time to time on the Companies, and bodies corporate, or the creations of new Offices or priviledges, which happens not only in difficult circumstances of the State, but on joyfull occasions, such as Accessions of Kings of France, marriages of Queens, births of Dauphins, add to this the number of holidays prescribed by the Church of Rome.

The oppression of the Mechanics affects the Traders, who are still more diminished by the rage of acquiring nobility.

The mode of collecting and variety in the nature of the French Taxes require many Officers of the Revenue, which is a sensible loss to the King dom as they might be more profitably employed for the State.

The number of Magistrates, Lawyers, and under instruments of Justice is enormous and tend to protract the Laws.

II. In the manner of employing the genius and intellects of its inhabitants.

The number of Schools, Colleges, and Academies, raises a number of writers, who are taken from agriculture the usefull arts and trade

III. In the distributive oeconomy of property.

The unequal distribution of property through the different conditions of life is one of the principal tyes of Society, and of the chief causes of the subordination between the members of it; luxury is the effect of it, and at the same time remedies it; but the inequality may be carried too far; all excessive fortunes that are not made by land or trade are formed at their expence.

Paris attracts all the riches of the Kingdom which is very detrimental

IV. The Interest of money higher than in England.

The monarchical form of Government and the great efforts made in war have affected her credit which of course occasions high interest for what is borrowed.