

John Mottaux to Ld. Shelburne - with Memo^s
enclosed -

5113

Wallbrook 16. Dec^r 1783

My Lord

I take the liberty of sending some Remarks on the English Trade with the Mediterranean since our Enemies have been the Masters of the Navigation of that Sea. — Should Gibraltar not remain in the possession of Great Britain, that Trade would still go on, and in War time, probably in the same manner it has for the last three or four years.

The Expence of that Garrison since in the possession of Great Britain, if properly applied, would certainly have been more than sufficient to pay off the whole national Debt; but how far the Consequences of the Loss of our only Sea Port in Europe might be equivalent to such Expence, I am not able to conjecture.

Your Lordship will find some of the Remarks, of small consequence, & others rather foreign to the Subject: — I feel my inability to
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treat fully a matter of such Importance (and
for which I have not the materials,) & must
trust to your Lordships' indulgence for errors &
inaccuracy.

I shall shortly take leave
to trouble you with other remarks; having the
Honour to be with great Respect &c. &c.

John Motteux

Inclosure in the aforesaid Letter

The Trade to and from the Mediterranean
in time of Peace may be said to be wholly
carried on by English Ships, for, excepting two
or three Venetian Ships which annually bring
Cargoes of Currants from their own Islands,
scarcely any foreign Ship comes to England
from the Mediterranean. It has been
carried on in the present war chiefly by
neutral Ships, and that valuable Article
Silk

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5113(2)

Silk, has, by temporary acts of Parliament, been admitted to an entry from Ports not of the Country of its growth.

Since the investment of the Island of Minorca and Gibraltar, scarcely an English Ship has ventured into the Mediterranean, the advanced cost of Insurance being equal to a prohibition: Parliament has therefore, providently, by different acts suspended for a limited time, as much of the Navigation act, as was necessary to facilitate the Trade by neutral Vessels. - Cotton used in the flourishing Manufactures of Manchester, comes now by neutral Ships from Smyrna & other Ports. - Barkilla, and other Ashes, the principal Ingredients of Soap and Glass, come directly from the Spanish Ports to England and Ireland, and other Articles of less consequence enjoy the same Privilege.

The principal Articles of Exportation from England to the Mediterranean (under which Description may be included Cod Fish, sent directly from Newfoundland) are

are Pitchers, and Tin from Cornwall; - Neriings from Yarmouth and Liverpool; - Lead from Chester &c; - Tanned Hides from Dublin &c; - manufactured Goods of Cloth, Stuff, Cotton &c from Exeter, Leeds, Norwich, Manchester &c; - Ironmongery, Hardware, & Cutlery, from Birmingham and Sheffield; - East India and other Drugs, Pepper, Ginger, Annatto, Coffee, Copperas, Allum, Earthenware, Hosiery, Hats, printed Linens, Calicoes, and formerly Tobacco, Corn &c from London.

The Imports from Turkey consist chiefly of Cotton, Rawsilk, Mohair, Drugs, Raisins and Carpets; - from Italy, of Silks raw and thrown, oil, Wine, Coral, Marble, Drugs, and a variety of Articles of small value; - from the Coast of Spain, of Ashes, Raisins, Wine, Oil, Cork, and sometimes tho' very seldom, raw Silks.

To form a just Idea how far the Commerce, and the Consumption of the produce and Manufactures of Great Britain have

have been prejudiced in the Mediterranean during the present war, when the Enemy's force preponderated there, so as to exclude all English Ships, by rendering Gibraltar totally useless for its protection, would require many materials, fixing a comparison between the late, and the former Exports and Imports; but without them several Articles and Circumstances may be mentioned with tolerable certainty. The exportation of some Articles from England may perhaps have decreased; tho' without searching the Entries outwards it cannot be ascertained, or even then with accuracy, unless the Exports to Holland, (before the Dutch war) to Ostend, and to Hambro' are also compared with those of former years: - it is at least doubtful whether there has been a decrease of much consequence or not. - all the Pitchers and Herrings that have been taken, have found a Market; and the Exports thereof, as well as of Tin, Lead, Hydes &c. have been made

made on foreign ships. The Spaniards have (as they ever have) behaved ill in stopping Fish and other Cargoes, onboard neutral Vessels bound to Italy; some they have detained till totally spoiled; others they have released after a short detention, and the remainder have passed unmolested: — many general Cargoes of Woollen Goods, Drugs &c.^a have been sent directly from London & Exeter to Italy on neutral ships; & quantities of goods have been shipped for Ostend, & there transhipped on neutral ships; — some finer Goods have been sent to Ostend and Hambro', and conveyed from thence to Italy by Land Carriage.

The Exports for Turkey have found their way by Ostend & Leghorn.

The Consumption of Newfoundland Cod Fish, in the Mediterranean has certainly decreased: the fishery cannot be carried on, during the War, so extensively as in time of Peace; — the scarcity of Seamen & the increased risk
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5114(2)

of capture renders it impossible: — some of that Fish does however go to Italy, for on the arrival of the Newfoundland Fleets in Portugal many Cargoes are purchased and transhipped on neutral Vessels bound thither: some is purchased for Marseilles, & for French Ports in the Bay; possibly also for Spanish Ports.

The Imports from the Mediterranean are next to be considered; the articles of the greatest consequence are Silk & Cotton; the Silk Manufacture is considered by many as the second in the Kingdom; the number of hands employed in the different Branches of it, such as, throwing, winding, warping, weaving, dressing, dyeing &c. is very great; and it has a peculiar advantage of giving employment to persons of all Ages from six to seven years of age. The most valuable Silk, raw and thrown comes from Italy.

The encouragement given by Parliament ^{to import} Silk in its raw State, has had the happiest

happiest effect, for the quantity of Silk now
thrown in England far exceeds what could
have been expected: the number of Silk
Mills in England is considerable; and on
the Increase; if a Judgement can be
formed from new ones that are constantly
erecting in one part or other of the
Country: - they have the peculiar
Advantage of finding Employment to
numbers of Women and Children. It
is not probable they will ever be able to
exclude totally the importation of fine
thrown Silk or Organdyne, but they have
already excluded that of Tram. The
King of Sardinia does not permit the
exportation of raw Silk from Piedmont;
the Country of all others where the finest
is made; if he did, it is scarcely probable
the Throwers in England could vie with
those of Piedmont in the excellence of
the workmanship.

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The encouragement that has operated so favorably, is the difference of Duty on Raw & thrown Silk; the former pays under $1/6$ the pound of 24 Ounces, & the latter about $5/16$ the pound of 16 Ounces. In another point of view the Silk Manufacture is also valuable; as it affords an opportunity of bringing home & employing a raw Material, the produce of Bengal, where the quality of the silk is much improved since Workmen from Italy have been sent there by the India Company; hitherto the experiment has been costly to the Company, but in time, great benefit ought to result from it; particularly if the Servants should become more attentive. The importation of Raw Silk from China is highly useful to the Manufacture, and the Company imports annually a sufficient Quantity; considering it must chiefly be purchased with Bullion.

The Industry & ingenuity of the Manufacturers of Manchester have increased surprizingly in few years.

5115

the Consumption of their Stuffs; and there is scarcely a Country of Europe where they are not in request: A plentiful supply of Cotton is therefore necessary; and the Parliament has secured it by suffering the Importation in foreign Bottoms from all, or most places. Other Articles, such as Oil, Marble, Drugs, Anchovies, Wine &c. are imported in Tuscan & other foreign Vessels; and London cannot with Justice Complain of any Articles being excluded in consequence of the War. Silk is not even enhanced in Price; for the Land Carriage scarcely costs more than the Freight by Sea.

A Bale of Silk of the value of £200.0, of the weight of 8 175, or 100. is brought from Turin, and delivered in London, by the Ostend Merchants for about 3 Guineas.

Oil and bulky Articles pay a higher Freight and Insurance on neutral Ships in War time, than on English Ships in peaceable times; but

5115 (2)

but it's a trifling evil, for which there cannot be a remedy whilst Seamen are so much wanted in every Country.

Silk has also of late been brought by Land-carriage from Turkey thro' Vienna to Ostend.

In mentioning Land-carriage, it is proper to observe that Water-carriage is also used; for wherever there are navigable Rivers, people avail themselves of them, as a cheaper and an easier conveyance.

From the above Remarks, if just, a conclusion may be drawn, that England has not suffered extremely in her Mediterranean Commerce, during the present War, by Gibraltar's having been rendered useless.

Had an English Fleet, superior to that of the Combined Enemies, been stationed there, the French Trade to Turkey might have been interrupted; & perhaps Ships from Toulon & Marseilles might have been taken in attempting to pass

pass the Straights: Those are however
political, rather than commercial
considerations; and of course improper
in these remarks.