

be prefer'd to that of any one Man or Set of Men. And, if I am not mistaken in the Law, and the Reason of it, all Agreements and Combinations to support any Branch of Trade, upon the Produce whereof great Numbers depend, and whence the Society in general derives considerable Advantages, and establishing it upon such a Foundation, as that those who make, or manufacture it, may be capable to carry it on, is not only *lawful*, but *laudable* and *Praiseworthy*, for the self same Reason that Attempts; or Combinations of the first Sort are illegal and punishable, *viz.* Because *punishing the Former*, and *encouraging the Latter*, are equally Advantageous and Beneficial to Society.

Is it not a Truth well known, that many Thousands of our Fellow Subjects in *Great-Britain*, and elsewhere; get their Livelihood by Tobacco, besides those who are actually employed in the Exportation of it, from Place to Place, and in the Manufacturing of it? Have we that make Tobacco, any Thing more in Return for the Produce of it, but such Necessaries as our Mother Country can furnish; and which it would be a Disadvantage to It, not to part with? Is it to be imagined that the People who are employed about, and traffick in such Necessaries as we want, in Return for the Produce of our Tobacco, would not be great Sufferers if we were not to take them? They have sufficient hands to answer all other Calls. Would it not be a Prejudice to our Mother Country, if the Revenue which becomes due on, and is paid to the Crown for Tobacco, should be laid on some, or all other Branches of Trade, which are supposed to be already burthen'd with as many Duties and Imposts as they can well bear? Can any Thing be more plain and evident, than that a People, whose only Dependance is on the Produce of Tobacco, or any other Commodity, must leave it off in Time, or starve; which will render it impossible for them to carry it on if they cannot get the Necessaries of Life by their Labour and Industry? And can any Thing be more absurd, than to say that an Agreement to establish the Tobacco-Trade upon such a Foot as may prevent the Evils that cannot but happen to the *British* Nation, should so valuable a Branch of its Trade be lost, is a Breach of the *British* Law? If it be, then this certainly follows, that the *British* Law, and the *British* Interest, are not only inconsistent, but destructive of each other.

Having said enough (I hope) to shew how little the Case stated to Mr. *Reece*, resembles the real State of our Case; I cannot help thinking, that making use of that learned Gentleman's Opinion to justify the most treacherous and dishonest Conduct; is, instead of an Excuse, a very great Aggravation; it being a treating of us as if we were incapable to distinguish between a just Representation of Things that relate to our selves, and such a pretended One as wants even the Appearance of Common Sense. In a Word, as if we were Idiots.

I am

March 10, 1728.
No. 2.

Your humble Servant

P. P.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Vienna, July 24. Some Days ago a dreadful Fire hap- pen'd in the Town of *Weytersfelt*, situate a few Leagues from this City, which reduced to Ashes 137 Houses, almost in a Moment, and the Flames breaking out at the same in different Parts of the Town, there is Reason to suspect that some hired Incendiaries set it on Fire. The Turkish Aga, or Consul, who is in this City, bought a great many Manuscripts particularly in the Oriental Languages; and 'tis assured he has purchased them with no other Intent than to send them as a Present to the Prime Minister of the Ottoman Porte, who 'tis believed will have them Printed at the Printing-Office he has built at Constantinople: 'Tis believed that his Example will likewise be followed in the other great Towns of the Ottoman Empire, and that Printing Houses will also be erected in them.

Vienna, Oct. 30. An Express arriv'd three Days ago from Count *Zinzendorf*, to inform the Court, That the Plenipotentiary Ministers are very pressing to have the

last Plan for a Truce; and the said Express was Yesterday dispatched back to Paris.

Warsaw, October 2, N. S. Here arriv'd lately an Office dispatch'd by the General of the Crown, with Advice, that the Rebellious Tartars, under the Command of Sultan *G...*, having assembled in the *Ucrain*, in Number about thirty six Thousand, threaten an Irruption into Poland; and that the said General has posted 40 Companies of Polish Militia and 4 Regiments of Regular Troops along the *Dniester*, to hinder them from coming over that River; and that the *Bashaw* of *Chocim* being no less apprehensive of an Invasion from these Tartars, has sent several Thousand Men to the Frontier, and offers to join his Troops, with those of the Republick, to act in Concert against the Rebels. A Courier has been dispatch'd for *Dresden*, to give an Account of this Kingdom, and beseech his Majesty to hasten his return here, that the General *Dyets*, which was to have been held this Month at *Grodno*, is prorogued to December next.

Moscow, Oct. 2, N. S. Yesterday an Edict was published here, under the Sound of Trumpets and Beating of Drums, by which this City has declared a free Port: The Duty to be paid is not entirely cancelled, but reduced to 5 per Cent. and 'tis believed the Duty on the Exportation of Silk will be taken off.

Moscow, Oct. 4. We see here a Project for an Accommodation between Russia and Great-Britain; also a Copy of a Letter wrote to the Emperor by the Sultan *Ezref*, containing some Propositions for an amicable Accommodation between the two Empires. The Sultan *Ezref* styles himself in the said Letter, Monarch of Persia.

Stockholm, Octob. 6. The Men of War newly launched here are to be sent to *Carlesroon*, where the King is expected to take a View of the Fleet. Mean while some other Men of War have been put upon the Stocks here. The Duke of *Holstein's* Minister has made Instances here for the prompt Payment of the yearly Subsidy granted to his Royal Highness *Baron de Stackelburg* Governour General of *Finland*, has sent an Officer hither with Advice, that he has passed in Review all the Troops in that Dutchy, amounting to 10000 Men, the two Regiments of Militia included. We see here a Copy of the Memorial the Deputies of the Protestants of Poland have presented to his Majesty, containing in Substance, That notwithstanding all the Efforts and the Pains taken by the King of Sweden, to keep up the Ballance in Poland between the two Religions, it is notorious that the Grandees of Poland leave now no Stone unturned to extirpate the Non-Conformists; to prevent which, his Swedish Majesty is intreated to be pleased to take in Hand the Cause and the Defence of the oppressed Non-Conformists, by Virtue of the Treaties made on that Subject.

Mentz, Oct. 16. We see here a List of all the Imperial Troops both Horse and Foot, consisting of 160,000 Men.

An Extract of a Letter from an English Gentleman at Lisbon, to his Friend in London, dated October, 19.

Notwithstanding the great Talk there is of Warlike Preparations in Spain, we are not here without well-grounded Hopes of a speedy Peace; at least of such a Truce for 14 Years, upon the Plan of the last Project brought by the Duke de *Bourbonville* to Madrid, as may not be unacceptable to all Parties.

The Exchange of the *Infantas* is again put off for some Months, some say, till next Spring; but whether these Delays are pleasing to both Courts, or no, is not so plain, as that the People here in Portugal are by no Means dissatisfied.

There is no great likelihood of a speedy Accommodation between the Pope and the King of Portugal. Most of the Clergy, contrary to Expectation, inclines to the Royal Side, except the Patriarch of East-Lisbon, who has just now publish'd a dull, heavy, common-place sort of Mandate, zealously recommending an implicate Reverence and Submission to the Priesthood, as the Main of a Christian's Duty, without saying one Word of Honouring the King; at which indiscreet, if not seditious Step of the Patriarch, in such a Critical Juncture, his Portuguese Majesty, who will bear no Rivals, has taken great Offence.

Hague, Aug. 17. Major General *Sutton*, Envoy Extraordinary of the King of Great-Britain to the Courts of *Hesse-Cassel*,