Englands VVAY TO VVIN

Wealth, and to employ Ships and Martiners.

OR,

A plaine description what great profite, it will bring vnto the Common-wealth of England, by the Erecting, Building, and adventuring of Buffes, to Sea, a fishing.

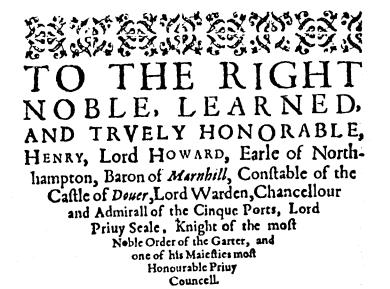
With a true Relation of the inestimable wealth that is yearely taken out of his Maiesties Seas, by the Hollanders, by their great numbers of Busies, Pinker, and Line-beaters

AND ALSO

A discourse of the Sea-ceast Townes of England, and the most six and commodious places, and Harbours that wee have for Busses, and of the small number of our Fishermen, and also the true valuation, and whole charge, of Building, and Furnishing, to Sea, Busses, and Pinks, after the Holland manner.

By Tobias Gentleman, Fisherman and Marriner.

LONDON
Printeca By Nathari-l Butter. 1614.



RIGHT HONOVRABLE,

Eeing that by Nature our Country challengeth a greater interest in vs, then our Parents, Friends, or Children can, and that

we ought for preservation thereof, oppose our lives vnto the greatest dangers: It is A 2 the

the part of enery Native to endeauor Something to the advancement and profite thereof, and not to affect it, for that wee posesse in it, but to love it for it selfe, as being the common Mother and Nourisher of vs all. For mine owne part, albeit my short fadome can compasseno such great designe as I desire, yet from a willing minde (as hee that offerd bis bands full of water to great Artaxerxes) I am bold to present this proiect of my bonest and homely labours, beseeching your L. whose vertues haue truely enobled you, to take the same into your protestion: And prefer it to the veiw of our most Royall Soueraigne, recommending the good effecting thereof to his gracious fauor and furtherance. Doubtlesse your actions and endeauours having

all bene full of virtue and goodnesse, are not the least prevailing motives whereby his Maiesty hath so endeered you vnto him. In this then you shall not thinke your selfe disparaged, the matter being both honest and commendable, and in true valew of as great substance, as the offer of Sebastian Cabota, to King Henry the seventh, for the discovery of the IV est Indies.

Humbly at your Lordships commandement,

Tobias Gentleman.

A 3 Englands



ENGLANDS WAY TO WIN WEALTH, AND TO IMploy Ships and Marriners.



Oble Brittaines, for as much as it hath pleased the Almighty God to make vs a happy Nation, by blessing and enriching this Noble Kingdome with the sweete B dew

dew of his heavenly word, truely and plentifully Preached amongst vs; and also in cytuating our Country in a most wholesom Clymate, & stored with many rich & pleasant Treasures for our benefite, which also yeeldeth in aboundance all things necessary, so that wee doe not onely excel other Nations in strength & courage, but also all other Kingdomes far remore are by our English comodities releised & cherished. It seemeth that the wisedome of our gracious God, hath referred vs as some previous gemme vnto himselfe in invironing our Country with the plenteous Ocean Seap & dividing of vs fro the whole Continent of the rest of the inferiour world, by our rich and commodious Element of warer, which in due teasons yeeldeth to vs in aboundance. For although our Champion Soile, by the dilligence of the Husbandman, be plentifull vnto vs:yet doth these watry Regions and Dominions yeeld yearely, great variety of all kind of most wholesome and dainty fishes: so that it may seeme strangeand disputable, and hard to determine, which of his Maiesties Dominions of the Landor Seas, bee richest. My selfe being the most vnworthiest of all, in that I am no Sholler, but borne a Fishermans sonne by the Sea-side, and spending my youthfull time at Sea about Fisher
affaires, whereby now I am more skilfull in
Nets, Lines, and Hookes, then in Rethoricke,
Logicke, or learned bookes: yet in those fewe
which I have read, besides the instinct of nature, which maketh me to know that every one
should endeuour himselfe the best he is able to
be beneficiall & prositable to the Kingdome &
Common-wealth wherein hee Is borne, which
was a forceable motive to incite me to thinke of
this present discourse, the penning whereof was
thus occasioned.

It was my fortune, some two yeares past, to bee sent for into the company of one Maister Iohn Keymar, who is a man very well deserving of his Country, and hee knowing me to have experience in Fisher affaires, demanded of me the charge both of Busses and Line-boates, after the Hollanders fashion, and shewed vnto mee some few notes that hee had gathered and gotten from other men of my trade, which hee seemed greatly to esteeme of: for that himselfe was altogether vnexperimented in such busses altogether vnexperimented in such busses.

all,

nesse, and surther, I deliuered to him certaine principall notes which hee feemed greatly to effective; for that hee said that hee did mind to shew them vnto the right Honourable Counsell, whereupon I entred into the cogitation of Writing this true relation out of my owne experience and knowledge, touching the Inestimable summes of money taken yearely for fish and herrings out of his Maiesties Seas by strangers, whereby they have not onely maintained their warres many yeares against the Spaniard, both by Land & Sea, he being one of the great Monarkes of the world, and at length, they haue not onely wearied him in the wars, and brought him to good termes & reasonable composition; but also it is most apparant notwithstanding the huge charge of their warres fo long continued, which would have made any other Nation poore and beggarly, they to the contrary are growne exceeding rich and strong in fortified Townes and beautifull Buildings, in plenty of money and gold, in trade and trafficke with all other Nations, and have so increased and multiplied their shipping and Marriners, that all other Nations and Countries in the world doe admire

admire them.

Moreouer, whereas one Hauen in one of their Townes did in former times containe their ships and shipping with infinite cost, now they have cut out two Hauens more to a Towne, and at this present, are all three Hauens scarce sufficient with roome enough to containe their Ships and shipping, and by reason of their industrious Fisher-trade, not one of their people are idle, nor none seene to begge amongs them, except they bee some of our owne English Nation.

And what their chiefest trade is, or their principall gold-mine, is well knowne to all Merchants that have vsed those parts, and to my selfe and all Fishermen; namely that his Maisties Seas is their chiefest, principall, and onely rich Treasury, whereby they have so long time maintained their warres, and have so greatly prospered, and enriched themselves.

If that their little Countrey of the vnited Prouinces can doethis, as it is most manifest before our eyes they do, then what may we his Maiesties Subjects doe, if this trade of fishing

3 3. Were

were once erected among vs, wee having in our own Countries sufficient store of all necessaries to accomplish the like businesse. For the Hollanders have nothing growing in their owne land for that businesse, but they are compelled to setch all their wood, tymber, and planke, wherewith they build, & make all their Ships of, out of diners Countries, and their iron out of other places, their Hempe & Cordige out of the Easterne Countries, their Hoopes and Barrell-boords out of Norway & Sprucia, their breadcorne out of Poland, & East parts, their Mault, Barley and best double drinke from England, & also all their fish and chiefest wealth out of his Maiesties Seas.

The which they doe transport vnto the foresaid Countries, & returne for the procedue of fish and herrings, the fore-named commodities, whereby their Ships and Marriners are set on worke, and continually multiplied, and into their countries is plentifull store of money and gold daily brought, onely for the sailes of fish and herrings.

And their Countrey being, as it were, a small plot of ground in comparison of great Brittaine,

Brittaine, for two of his Maresties Counties, Susfoike and Norfolke, do equall, if not exceed, in spaciousnesses, all their Provinces, & yet it is manifest, that for shipping and sea faring men, all England, Scotland, France and Spaine, for quantity of shipping and Fisher men cannot make so great a number.

Howsoeuer this may seeme strange vnto many that doe not know it, yet doe I assure my selfe, that a great number besides my selfe know I afsirme nothing herein but the truth.

Wherefore scoing the great beaufite that this busines by the Busses, bonaduentures, or Fisherships, by erecting of this profitable and new trade, which will bring plenty voto his Malesties kingdomes, and be for the generall good of the Common-wealth, in setting of many thousands of poore people on worke, which now knowe not how to line, and also for the increasing of shippes and Fisher-men, which shall bee imployed about the taking of fish & herrings out of his Maiesties own streames, as also for the imploying of ships, and increasing of Marriners, for the strengthening of the Kingdome against all forraigne invasions, and for

for the enriching of Merchants with transportation of Fish and Herrings into other Countries; and also for the bringing in of gold, and money, which now is growne but scarce, by reason that the Dutch and Hollanders have so long time beene suffered to carry away our money and best gold for fish and Herrings, taken out of his Maiesties owne streames, which his Maiesties owne Subjects do want (and still are like to doe) if that they bee not forbidden for bringing vs of Fish and Herrings: And this worthy Common-wealthes businesse of Busses fostered and furthered by his Maiesties Honorable Councell, and the Worshipfull and wealthy subjects, by putting too of their helping Aduentures now at the first: for that those that bee now the Fisher-men, of themselues, be not able to beginne.

Those poore Boates and forry Nets that our Fishermen of Fugland now haue, are all their chiefest wealthes, but were their ability better, they would soone be imploying themselues: for that it is certaine that all the Fisher-men of England do reioyce now at the very name and newes of building of Buffes, with a most ioyfull

applaud

applaud, praying to God to further it for: what great profite and pleasure it will bring they doe well understand, and I will hereaster declare.

First, I shall not neede to proue that it is lawfull for vs that bee his Maiesties owne Subjects to take with all dilligence the bleffings that Almighty God doe yeerely fend vnto vs at their due times and seasons, and which doe offer themselues freely and aboundantly to vs, in our owne Seas and nigh our owne shores.

Secondly, to proue that it is feacible for vs: for what can bee more plaine then that we see daily done before our eyes by the Hollanders, that have nothing that they vse growing in their owne Land, but are constrained to fetch all our of other Countries; whereas we have all things that shall bee vsed about that businesse growing at home in our owne Land, Pirch and Tarre onely excepted.

Thirdly, to proue it will bee profitable, no man need to doubt, for that we see the Hollanders haue long maintained their warres, and are neuerthelesse growne exceeding rich, which are

things to be admired, in so much that themselues do call it, their Chiefest Trade, and principall Gold-mine, whereby many thousands of their people of Trades and Occupations, bee set on worke, well maintained, and do prosper: These be the Hollanders owne words in a Dutch Proclamation, and translated into English, and the coppy of that Proclamation is here annexed vnto the end of my booke.

And shall wee neglect so great blessings:
O slothfull England and carelesse Countrimen, I ooke but on these fellowes that wee call the plumpe Hollanders, behold their dilligence in fishing, and our owne carelesse negligence.

Inthemidst of the month of May doth the Industrious Hollanders beginne to make ready their Busses and Fisher-sleetes, and by the first of their Iune, are they yearly ready, and scene to saile out of the Mase, the Tessell, and the Vis, a thousand Saile together for to catch Herrings in the North-seas.

Sixe hundred of these Fisher-ships, and more, bee great Busses some sixe score Tunnes, most of them bee a hundreth Tunnes and the rest three score and fifty Tunnes, the biggest of them

them having foure and twenty men, some twenty men, and some eighteene and sixteene men a peece, so that their cannot bee in this Fleete of people no lesse then twenty thousand Sailors.

These having with them bread, butter, and Holland-cheese, for their prouision, do daily ly get their other diet out of his Maiesties Seas, besides the lading of this Fleete three times a peece, commonly before S. Andrew with Herrings, which being sold by them, but at the rate of ten pound the Last, amounteth vnto much more then the summe of one million of pounds Sterling onely by this Fleete of Busses yearely: no King vpon the earth did yet euer see such a Fleete of his owne Subiects at any time, and yet this Fleete is there, and then, yearely to bee scene: A most worthy fight it were, if they were my owne Country-men, yet haue I taken pleasure in being amongst them, to behold the neatnesse of their ships and Fisher-men, how euery manknoweth his owne place, and all labouring merily together, whereby the poorest fort of themselues, their wives, and children be well maintained, & no want seene amongst the. C2

of Northerly latitude.

And thus North-west and by North hence along they steere, then being the very heart of Summer, and the very yoalke of all the yeare, fayling vntill they do come vnto the lle of of all the Or-Shorland, which is his Maiesties Dominions, cades, & lyeth and with these gallant Fleere of Busses, there of 60. degrees haue bene seene twenty, thirty, and forty ships of warre to wast and gaurd them from being pillaged and taken by their enemies, and Dunkirkars: but now the warres be ended, they do faue that great charge, for they have not now aboue foure or fixe to looke vnro them for being spoyled by Rouers and Pirates.

Now if that it happen that they have so good a winde to be at Shotland before the 14. day of their lune, as most commonly they have, then do they put all into Shotland, nigh Swinbornehead, into a Sownd called Braceies Sownd, and therethey frolicke it on Land, untill that they have sucked out all the marrow of the Mault, and good Scotsh-ale, which is the best liquor that the lland doth affoord: but the 14. day of Iune being once come, then away all of them go, for that is the first day, by their owne Law, before which time they must not lay a Net for

vntill

vntill then the Herrings be not in scason, nor sit to be taken to be salred.

From this place, being night wohundred leagues from Yermouth, do they now first begin to fish, & they do neuer leave the Skoales of Herrings, but come along amongst them, following the Herrings as they do come, fiue hundred miles in length, and lading their ships twice or thrice, beforethey come to Yermouth, with the principall and best Herrings, and sending them away by the Marchant ships that cometh vnto them, that bringeth them victuals, barrels, and more salt, and Nets if that they do need any, the which Ships that buyeth their herrings, they do call Herring yagers, and these Yagers carrythem & sell them in the East Countries, some to Revell, and to Rie, and some so far as the Narue, and Russey, Stockhollume in Sweathen, Quinsbrough, Danske and Eluinge, and all Poland, Sprucia, and Pomerland, Letta, Burnt-hollume, Statcen, Lubicke and Youtland, and Denmarke.

Returning Hemp, Flax, Cordige, Cables, and Iron, Corne, Sope-ashes, Wax, Weinskot, Clapholt, Pitch, Tarre, Mastes, and Spruce-deales, & Hoopes, and Barrel-boords, & plenty of filuer and

14 and gold onely for their procedue of Herrings.

Now besides this great Fleete of the Busses the Hollanders haue a huge number more of smaller Burthen onely for to take Herrings also, and these be of the Burthen, from fifty Tunnes vnto thirty Tunnes, and twenty tunnes; the greatest of them having twelve men a peece, and the smallest eight and nine men a peece, and these are Vessels of divers fashions, and not like vnro the Busses, yet go they onely for Herrings in the scason, and they bee called some of them, Sword-pinks, Flat-bottomes, Holland-toads, Crabskuits, and Yeuers, and all these, or the most part doe goe to Shot-land, but these have no Yagers come vnto them but they go themselues home when they be laden, or else vnto the best Market: There have bene seene and numbred of Busses, and these, in braces found, and going out to Sea, and at Sea in fight, at one time, two thousand Sailes besides them that were at Sea without fight, which could not be numbred.

It is Bartholmew-tide yearely before that they be come from Shotland, with the Herrings so high

high as Yermouth, and all those Herrings that they doe catch in Yermouth Seas from Bartholmew-tide vntill S. Andrew the Worst that be the roope-sicke Herrings that will not serue tomake barreld Herrings by their owne Law, they must not bring home into Holland, wherefore they doe fell them for ready money, or gold, vnto rhe Yermouth-men, that be no Fisher-men but Merchants and Ingrosers of great quantities of Herrings, if that by any meanes they can get them, so that the Hollanders be very welcome guests vnto the Yermothian Herring-buyers, and the Hollanders doe call them their Hostes, and they doe yearely carry away from Yermouth many a thousand pound, as it is wel known but, these Hollanders with their ladings of the best, which they make their best brand herrings to serue for Lenton store, they send some for Burdeaux, some for kichell, Nantes, Morliax, and S. Mallaus, Cane in Notmandy, Roan, Paris, Ameance, and all Pickardy, and Callice, and they doe returne from these places, Wines, Salt, Fethers, Rossin, Woad, Normandy Canuise, and Dowlas cloth, and money, and French Crownes, but out of all the Arch-dukes Countries

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Iacobus.

Countries they return enothing from thence but ready mony, in my owne knowledge, and their ready payment was all double Iacobuses, English twenty shilling peeces. I have seene more there in one day: then euer I did in London at any time, for at Ostend, Newport, and Dunkirke, where and when the Holland pinks commeth in, there daily the Merchants, that be but women, but not such women as the fishwives of Billinsgare, for these Netherland women do lade away many waggons with fresh fish daily, some for Bridges, and some for Bruffels, Iper, Dixmew, and Rissels, and at Sasse, by Gant. I haue seene these women Merchants haue had their Apornes full of nothing but English Iacobuses, to make all their payment of, and such heapes and budget-fuls in the counting-houses of the fish-brokers, which made me much to wonder how they should come by them; and Thaue feene a also I know that Capons are not so deerely sold by the Poulters in Gratious Streete in London, there for two millings axe as fresh fish is sold by the Hollanders, in all Pence: and a those Romaine Catholicke, and Papisticall Countries.

> And whereas I have made but a true relation

tion of their Fleetes of Busses, and onely the Herring-fishermen that be on his Maiesties Seas from Iune vntill Nouember, I will here also set downe the fishermenthat all the yeare long, in the scasons, do fish for Cod and Linges continually, going and returning laden with barreld fish.

And these be Pinks and Wel-boats of the burthen of fourty Tunnes, and the smallest thirty Tunnes, and these haue some twelue men a peece, one with another, and their is of this sort of fisher-boates, beginning at Vlusbing, Camefere, Surwick-Sea, the Mase, the Tessell, & the Fly, and the other fandy Hands, about fine hundred or fixe hundred Saile, which all the yeare long are fishing for Cod, whereof they do make their barreld fish, which they do transport in Summer into the East parts, but in Winter all France is serued by them, and all the Archdukes Countries before spoken of, both of barreld fish, and fresh sish, which they of purpose do keepe aliue in their boates in Wells; and to vs heere in England for loue of our strong Beare, they bring vs barreld fish in Winter, and carry away our money and gold enery day 111 in great quantities.

Besides all these Pinks and Wel boars, the Hollanders have continually in the season, an other Fleete of Fisher-man, at the North-east head of Shotland which be of an other quality, and there is more then two hundred of these, and these be called Fly-boats, and these do ride atankor all the season at Shotland, in the fishing grounds, and they have small boats within them which belike vnto Cobles, the which they do put our to lay & hale their lines & hookes, whereby they do take great store of Lings, the which they do not barrell, but splet them and salt them in the Ships Bulke, and these they sell commonly for source and fine pounds the hundreth, and these go by the name of Holland-lings, but they are taken out of his Maiesties Seas, and were Shotland lings before they tooke them there, and for these Lings they do carry away aboundance of Englands best money daily.

Now having declared according vnto truth, the numbers of their Fishermen of Holland, for herrings vpon his Maiesties Seas, and also of their Pinks, and Wel-hoates, and their

courfes

courses for taking, and venting and selling of their barreld fish, and fresh-fish and also of their Flie-boates at the North-east head of Shotland, for Shotland-lings: I thinke it now best, truely to shew the true number of our English Fishermen, and how they do imploy themselves all the yeare long, first beginning at Colchester night he mouth of the Theames and so proceed Northward.

I can scarce affoord these men of that water the name of Fishermen, for that their chiefest trade is dreggin of Oisters; yet have they in the Summer some eight or ten boates in the North-seas for Cods, which if that they happen to spend all their salt, and to speed well, they may get some twenty pound in a Summer cleare: but heere by the way, I will make knowne a great abuse that is offered to the Common-wealth, and especially to all the herring sishermen of England, onely by those men of Colchester water.

For these men from S. Andrew vntill Candlemas, & some times longer, do set forth stale-boates, amongst the sands, in the Theames mouth, for to take sprats, with great stale-nets, with a D 2 great

great poake, and they standing in the Swinn: or the Kings channell on the backe of the Gunfleate, they do there take in steed of sprats, insinite thousands of yong Herrings, smaller then Sprats, and not good to be eaten, for one Sprat is better worth then twenty of those Bleakes, or yong Herrings, but because they do fill the Bushell at Billingsgate where they do fell them for Sprats, the which, if that they were let live, would all be at Midsummer a Fat Summer sull Herring, and a pecke is sometime there sold for 2-pence which number of herrings at Midsummer, would make a barrell of Summer-herrings, worth 20.0130. shillings.

If that rhey could take the Sprats it were good, for they be good victuals for the Citty, but for every Cart-load or Bushell of Sprats, they take a hundred Cart-loads, or Bushels of these yong herrings, which be the very spawnes of the Skoales of the herrings that commeth from Shotland every Summer, and when as they come into Yermouth Seas yearely about S. Luke, and sometimes before, if that it do blow a hard Easterly wind, do alwaies at that season become Roope-sicke and do spawne

spawne and become Shotten betwixt wintertonnesse, and Orfordnesse, and those frey of that spawne, those yong little creatures, by the wiledome of the great Creator, seeketh into the shoare, and shallow places, there to be norished, and also into the Theames mouth into the sweetest waters; for that the water nighthe shoare, and in the Theames mouth is not for brine salt, as it is farther of into the deepe water, where these Bleakes yearely seeking to be nourished, they be alway at that season taken and destroyed: but if that these men will needs vse their stale-boates and nets, let them go Where the good Sprats be, they must then stand at Orfordnesse, and in Denwich-bay, where there be cellent sprats, and for the good of all the Herring-fishermen of England, I wish that they might be prohibited to sell that which is not wholesome to be eaten, which is as much as to fell hemlocks for perseneps.

The next to Colchester, is Harwich water, a royall harbour, and a propper Towne, sit for the vse of Busses, no place in all Holland comparable, for their is both land and strand and dry beach enough for foure hundreth

D 3 Saile,

Saile, but the chiefest Trade of the Inhabitants of this place, is with Caruiles for New-castle coales. but they have three or foure Ships yearely that they do send to Isle-land for Cod and Lings, from March untill September, and some yeares they get, and some times loose, but if that they had but once the trade of Busses, this would some be a fine place but those Caruiles and Ships which they now have be all their chiefest wealth.

Sixe miles up Harwich water stands Ipswich, which is a gallant Towne, and rich: this Towne is such a place for the Busses, as in all England and Holland I know no place so convenient: first it is the best place in all England for the building of Busses, both for the plenty of Timber and Planke, and excellent workemen for making of Ships, there is more there, then there is in sixe of the best Townes in all England: Secondly, it is a principall place for good Huswives, for spinning of yarne, for the making of pouldauice for there is the best that is made: which Towne with the vse of making of Twine, will soone be the best place of all England for to provide Nets for the Busses.

It is also a most convenient place for the wintering of the Busses, for that all the shoares of that River is altgether oose and soft ground, sit for them to lye on in winter.

Also the lpswich men be the chiefest Mar-This Towne is chant Aduenturers of all England for all the a most strand East-lands, for the Suffolke cloathes: and they place to make haue their Factors lying all the yeare long in all a fiaple towne for corne, for those places where the Hollanders do vent their all angland, Herrings, and where the best price and saile is for the returne continually. And although that yet there bee the Barring from no fisher-men, yet have they store of Sea-faring Danie, and men, and for Mailters for the Busses they may have enow from Termouth and Sould and the Sea coast Townes downe their River, from Nacion, and Chimton, Holbroke, Shotly, and Cowines, they may get men that will soone be good fishermen with but a little vie, for understand thus much, that there is akind of emulation in Holland betweene the Fishermenthat goeth to Sea in Pinks and Line-boats, Winter and Summer, and those Fishermen that goeth in the Busses, for they in the Pinkes make a skorne of them in the Busses, & do call them Koe-milkens, or Cow-milkers, for in deed the most part of them

their

them be men of occupations in winter, or else Country-men, and do milke the Cowes themselves, and make all the Holland Cheese, when they be at home.

This place is also most convenient for the erecting of Salt-pans, for the making of Salt vpon salt, for that the Harbour is so good that at all times Ships may come vnto them with Salt from Mayo, or Spanish salt to make the brine or pickell, and also the Caruiles from New-castle with coales, for the boyling of it at the cheapest rates at any time, may come thither. To the North-east of this place, three or foure leagues is Orford-hauen, and the Townes of Orford and Alborough especially, be many good Fishermen, and there is belonging to those Townes some forty or fifty North sea boates, that yearely goeth to Sea, having seuen men a peece, and ten ortwelue Island Barkes, which sometimes get something, and sometime little or nothing; if that these mens wealth were in Busses and Nets, and had but once the trade, they would put downe the Hollander, for they be great plyers of any voiage that they do vndertake.

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About three leagues to the Northward is Sowld-hauen, and in the Townes of Sowld, don-Donwichin wich, and walderswicke be a very good breed of hach bene the Fishermen, and there is belonging vnro those kings of the three Townes, of North-sea Boates some 20. East Angles, but now all ru-Saile, and of Island Barkes some fifty Saile, ned. which yearely they fend for Cod and Lings to Island: This Towne of Sowld, of a Sea coast My father li-Towne, is the most beneficiall vnto his Maie- ued in this Towne, vntill sty of all the Townes in England, by reason all hee was 98. their trade is vnto Island for Lings, and his and gauethese Maiesties Seriant Carer hath yearely gratis, out Lings seventy of enery Ship and Barke, one hundreth of the yeeres, vnto choylest and fairest Lings, which be worth viz K. Edward, more then ten pound the hundred, and they lizabeth, and call them Composition sish: But these men of vntill the sixt this place, are greatly hindred, and in a manner raigne of our vndone, by reason of their Hauen is so bad, most gratious and in a minner often stopped vp with Beach which cometh and Chingle stone, that the winde and the tide then one thouand the Sea do beate thether, so that many forone man of time, in the season, when they be ready to go that Towne to Sea, they can not get out when time is to go to Sea, neither can they get in when they returne from Sea, but oftentimes do cast away

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braue buil-

dings.

their goods and themselves: This Hauen if that it had but a South peire built of Timber, would be a far better Hauen then Yermouth Hauen, with one quarter of the cost that hath bene bestowed on Yermouth Hauen, they be now suiters unto his Maiestie, God grant they may speed, for it is pittifull the trouble and damage, that all the men of these three Townes do daily sustaine by their naughty Harbour.

To the North-ward of Sowld-hauen, three leagues is Kirkley and Layest of decayed Towner, they have fixe or seuen North-sea Boates, but them of Layestof make benefite yearely of buying of Herrings of the Hollanders, for likewise these Hollanders be Hosted with the Layestof men, as they be with the Yermothians.

To the North-ward 2. leagues is the Towne In all his Ma- of great Yermouth, very beautifully builded, vpon a very pleasant and landy plaine of three mile in length, this Towne is a place of great refort of all the Herring fishermen of England, for thether do resortall the Fishermen of the Cinque Ports, and all the rest of the West Countrimen of England, as far as Burport and

Lime in Dorcetshire, and those Herrings that they do take they do not barrell, because their Boates be but small things, but they sell all vnto the Yermouth herring-buyers for ready mony, and also the Fishermen of the North-countries beyond Scarborough and Robin-hoods bay and some as far as the Bishopricke of Durham do thether resort yearely, in poore little Boatescalled fiue men Cobbles, &all the Herrings that they do take they do sell fresh vnto the Yermouth-men to make red Herrings. Alfo to Yermouth doth daily come in to the Hauen, vp to the Key, all or the most part of the great Fleet of Hollanders, which before I made relation of, that go in the Swoard-pinks, Holland-toads, Crab-Skuits, walnut shels, and great and small revers, 100. and 200. Saile atone time together, and all their Herings that they do bring in they do sell them all for readdy mony to the Yermouth men: And also the French men of Pickardy * some hundred Saile of them at a rime do come thither, and ail, the herrings they catch they sell fresh vnto these herring mongers of Yermouth for ready gold; so that it amounteth vnto a great sum of mony, that the Hollanders & Frenchme do cary away, from

And Nor-

Lime

E 2

from Yermourh, yearely, into Holland and France, which mony doth neuer come againe into England: This Towne is very well gouerned by wife and cinell Magistrates, and good orders carefully observed for the mainetenance of their Hauen and Corporation, and this Towne, by reason of the cituation, and the frech Rivers that belongeth to it: one vp to the Citty of Norwich, and another that runneth far vp into Suffolke, a butter and cheese country, about Bunga and Betkels; and a third that runneth far vp into Flegg, a Corne Country, by reason whereof this Towne of Yermouth is alwaies well ferued with all kind of prouision at all times plentifully, at good and cheape rates, whereby they of the Towne do relieue the strangers, and also do benefite themselues: To this Towne belongeth some twenty Island Barkes, which yearely they do send for Cods and Lings, and some hundreth and fifty Saile of North-sca boates, they make a shift to liue, but if that they had the vse of Busses, and also barreld fish, they would excell all England and Holland, for they be the onely fishermen for North-seas, and also the best for the hand-

ling

ling of their fish that be in all this land.

The Herring buyer of Yermouth doth profite more then doth the Fishermen of Yermouth, by reason of the resort of the Hollanders, for that they are suffered to sell all their roope-sicke Herrings at Yermouth, to the Merchants there, and also the barreld fish that the Flemmings do bring in Winter to London, tofwich, Linne, do also gale them, but for that our Fishermen and Hull, may, if they please, make barreld fish themselves, and therefor: I will not mone them.

The Merchant herring buyer of Yermouth that hath a stocke of his owne, so long as hee Yermouth Hacan make his gaines so certaine with buying of wenis the one-Roope sicke herrings of the Hollanders, will distresse of neuer lay out his mony to build or fer forth all the Fisher-Busses, and the Fisher-men be now so poore, men of the by reason that they onely do beare the whole and all other charge of that costly Hauen; the Merchant her-those seas, and ring-buyers being not at any charge thereof, it is built all of but all that great cost commeth out of the Fi-the violence of Thermens labours, for the maintenance of that it is now in wodden Hauen, which amounteth to some ro come to come to fine hundred pound a yeare, and some yeares ruine, if they have not help more: so that though they be willing, yet there in time.

ability

ability will not suffer them to do it, neither can they forbeare their mony for to aduenture their herrings into the East Countries where the best salvaies be.

To the North-wards of Yermonth eight leagues, are the Townes of Blakney and Wels, good Harbours and fit for Busses, and they have good store of fishermen, and these townes have some twenty Saile of Barkes, that they do ye rely send vnto Island; but these Townes be greatly decaied, to that they have bene in the times passed, the which places, if that they had but 20. Busses belonging to them, would soone grow rich Townes in short time.

Then is there Lin a propper gallant Towne for Sea-faring men, and for men for Illand; this is a rich Towne, and they have some twenty Saile of Island ships, that they yearely send for Cods and Lings, and I am in hope to see them fall to the vse of Bussess as soone as any men.

To the Northward is Boston, a propper Towne, and like vnto Holland soyle for low grounds and sands comming in, but yet there is but sew Fishermen, but it is a most sit place for Busses, if that they had but once the taste of them they would soone finde good liking.

Next to Boston some 20. leagues to the Northward, is the great river of Humber, wherein there is Hull, a very proper Towne of Saylors and Shipping, but there be but sew sishermen but it is a most convenient place for to adventure Busses.

There is also Grimsbey, Paul, and Pattrington: in all these places now there is great store of poore and idle people, that know not how to line, and the most of all these places be decayed, and the best of them all grow worse and worse, which with the vse of Busses would soone grow rich Merchant-townes as is in Holland, for to these places would be transported out of the East-lands all manner of commodities, for the vse of Busses, and houses, and worke-yards crected for Coopers, and Rope-makers, & great numbers of Netmakers, and with the recourse of the Ships that shall bring falt and other commodities, & ships that shill lade away their Herrings and Fish, these places will soone become populous, and mony stirring plentitull in these places returned for

22 for the procedue of fish and Herrings which places now bee exceeding poore and beg-

garly.

In all these fisher Townes that I have before named, as Colchester, Harwich, Orford, Alborough, Donwich, Walderswicke, Sowld, Yermoust, Blackney, well, Lin, Boston, and Hul: These be all the chiefest Townes, and all that yseth the North-seas in Summer and all these Townes it is well knowne be ruinated.

In all these Townes I know to be o-o Island Barkes, and o-10 North-sea Boates, and all these Fishermen having o-o men a peece, amounteth to the summe of o-o. But admit that there is in all the West Country of England of Fisher-boats, tag and rag, that bringeth home all fresh fish, which seldome or neuer vieth any sale: say that they have one men a peece, which make the summe of o-o in all I craue par-England; but in all these I have not reckoned

omit the par- the Fishermen, Mackrel-catchers, nor the bers and totall Cobble-men of the North-country, which hafumme, which uing o-o men a peece, commeth to so many serdowne, if I men in all England. were comman-

But so many in all England, and I have truely shewed

shewed before, that the Hollander hath in one Ficete of Busses twenty thousand Fishermen, besides all them that goeth in the Sword-pinks, Flat-bottomes, Carbskuits, Walnut-shels, and great Yeuers, wherein there is not lesse then 12000 more, and all these are onely for to catch Herrings in the North-seas.

Besides all them that goeth in the Flye-boates, for Shotland Lings, and the Pinks for barreld fish, and Trammell Boates, which commeth

vnro 5000. more.

So that it is most true, that as they have the summe of o-o Fishermen more then their is in all this Land: and by reason of there Busses, and Pinks, and Fishermen that set their Merchant Ships on worke, as that they have o--o Fishermen more then we have, so have they 0-0 and 0-0 ships & Marriners more then we.

Now in our summe of o-o Fishermen, let vs see what vent haue we for our fish into other Countries, and what commodites and coine is brought into this Kingdome, and what Ships are set on worke by them, whereby Marriners are bred, or imployed, net one: It's For

pittifull.

34

thing,

For when our Fishermen commeth home, the first voyage from the North-seas, they goe either to London, Ipswich, Yermouth, Lin, Hull, or Scarbrough, and there they do sell at good rates, the first voyage, but the second voyage, because that they which be now the Fishermen have not yet the right vse of making of barreld fish wherewith they might serve France, as doth the Hollanders, they be now constrained to sell in England, for that it is staple fish, and not being barreld the French will not buy it.

But if that our Fishermen had but once the vse of Pinks and Line-boats, and barreld fish, then they might serue France as well as the Hollanders, which by this new trade of Busses being once erected, and Pinks, and Line-boats, after the Holland manner, there will be Fishermen enow to manage the Pinks for barreld fish, from Nouember vnto the beginning of May, onely the most part of those men that shallbe maintained by the Busses, for that when the Busses do leave worke, in the Winter their men shall have employment, by the Pinks, for barreld fish, which men, now, do little or no-

thing, for this last Winter at Yermouth, there was three hundreth Idle men that could get nothing to do, living very poore for lacke of imployment, which most gladly would have gone to sea in Pinks, if there had bene any for them to go in.

And whereas I before said, that there was not one Ship set on work by our Fishermen,

there may be obiected against me this.

That there doth every year commonly lade at Yermouth 4. or 5. London Ships for the Streights, which is sometimes true, & the Yer-No more English, but two mouth men themselves do yearely send 2. or 3. small shippes, Ships to Bourdeaux, and 2. or 3. Boates laden this yeare laded there with herrings to Roan, or to Nance, or S. Mallaus, whereby there is returned, Salt, Wines, Normandy Canuice, whereby the King hath some custome, but there is no mony returned into England for these Herrings, which cost the Yermothians ready gold before that they had them of the Hollanders, and Frenchmen, to lade these Ships, and therefore I may boldly say not one.

And this last yeare, now, the Hollanders themselves have also gotten that trade, for these did

F 2

Note heere how the Hollanders employ themsclues and their Ships, tent but catch theirs.

them againe after they bee worke, and English ships ye vp a rotting,

did lade twelue Sailes of Holland Ships with red herrings at Yermouth, for Ciuatauechia, Ligorne, Genoa, and Marsellis, and Talone, most of them being laden by the English Merchants, of the herrings so that if this be suffered, the English owners quick, and yet of Ships shall have but small imployment for

Now to shew trucly, what the whole charge of a Busse will be, with all her furniture, as thips and Mar- Masts, Sailes, Ankors, Cables, and with all her Fishers implements, and appurtenances, at the first provided all new, is a great charge, she being betweene 30. or 40. Last, will cost some fiue hundred pound.

By the Grace of God the Ship or Busse will continue twenty yeare with small cost and reparations, but the yearely slite and weare of her tackell, and war-ropes, and Nets will cost some eighty pounds.

And the whole charge for the keeping of her at Sea for the whole Summer, or three voiages, for the filling of a hundred Last of Caske, or Barrels.

100.Last

100. Last of Barrels -- 72 A hundreth Last of know all the For salt 4. months ---- 88. Barrels, filled and sold perticulars of Beere 4. moneths ---- 42. at 10. pounds the Last or barrels of Forbread 4. months -- 21. Baken and Butter----- 18. commeth to one thou-dreths of Bif-For pease 4 months -- 03, sand pound. lingly resolue For billet 4.months --- 03. Herrings 1000.li. them, but here is all the whole For mens wages 4.M. 88. The whole charge 335. charge, and with the most. gatten.0665.

Heere plainly appeareth that there is gotten and I have 665. pounds in one Summer, whereout if that rated the heryou do deduct one hundreth pounds for the 10, pound the weare of the Ship, and the reparations of her with the leaft, Nets against the next Sninmer, yet still there is for they bee 565. pounds remaining for cleare gaines, by one by the Hollanfor 15. and 20. Busse, in one yeare.

The Hollanders do make the profite of pounds the their Busses so certaine, that they do lay out their owne childrens mony, given them by their deceased friends in aduenturing in the Busses, and also there is in Holland a Treasury for Orphants, opened and laydout in aduenturing in the Busses.

The Hollanders do make both a profitable, and

and a pleasant Trade of this Summer fishing, for there was one of them, that having a gallant great new Busse of his owne, and he hauing a daughter married vnto one which was his Mate in the Busse, and the owner that was Maister of this Busse did take his wife with him aboord, and his Mate his wife, and so they did set saile for the North seas, with the two women with them, the mother and the daughter, where having a faire wind, and being fish. ing in the North-seas, they had soone filled their Busse with herrings, and a Herring Yager commeth vnto them, and brings them gold and fresh supplies, and copeth with them, Ready money and taketh in their herrings for ready mony

which are a, and delinereth them more barrels and falt, and away goeth the Yager for the first Market into paid at his Sprucia, and still is the Busse fishing at sca, & soone after againe, was full laden, and boone

home, but then another Yager commeth vnto him as did the former, & delinering them more prouision of barrels and Salt, and ready mony and bid them sare well, and still lyeth at Sea with the mother and daughter so long and not very long, before they had againe all their

Barrels

Barrels full, and then they sailed home into Holland, with the two women, and the Busse laden with Herrings, and a thousand pounds of ready mony.

If that any man should make any question of the truth of this, it will be very credibly approued by diverse of good credite that be now

in the Citty of London.

Now to shew the charge of a pinke of eighteene or tweene Last, the Pinke being builded new, and all things new vnto her, will not cost two hundred and sixty pounds, with all her Lines, Hookes, and all her Fisher appurrenances.

And 15. Last of Barrels will cost	
Fine weves of falt vpon falt	•
For Beere and Caske	•
For bread ——————————————————————	•
For butter ————or	•
For the Petty tallyor	٠
For mens wages for 2 mo.M & all toge: 20	•
57	•

Fisteene last of barreld fish at 14. pound, and 8. shillings the Last, which is but 24. shillings the

the barrell amounteth vnro two hundreth and fixteene pounds, whereout if that you do deduct fifty and seuen pounds, for the charge of setting her to sea, their is still resting one hundreth fifty and eight pounds cleere gaines, by one Pinke, with fifteene Last of fish for two months.

Wherefore, seeing the profite so plainely, and by the grace of God so certaine, both by the Busses and Line-boates, whereby the Hollanders have so long gained by, Let all Noble Worshipfull, and wealthy Subjects, put roo their aduenturing and helping hands, for the speedy lanching, and floating forward of this great good Common-wealth businesse, for the strengthening of his Maiesties Dominions, with two principall pillars, which is, with plenty of coine brought in for fish, and herrings from other Nations, and also for the increasing of Marriners against all forraigne Inuasions, and also for the bettering of Trades and Occupations, and setting of thousands of poore and idle people on worke, which now know not how to live, which by this Trade of the Busses shall be imployed, as daily we see is done be-

forc

fore our eyes by the Hollanders. And as alwaies it hath bene seene, that those that be now the Fishermen of England, haue bene alwaies found to be sufficient to serue his Maiesties ships in former time, when their haue bene employment, which fellowes, by this new trade of building, and setting forth Busses will be greatly multiplyed and encreased in this Land; which fellowes, as we see the Hollanders, being well-sed in Fisher affaires, and strong and lustier then the Sailors that vse the long Southerne voyages, that sometimes are greatly surfeited, and hunger-pined Butthese couragious, yong, lusty, fed-strong yonkers, that shall qe bred in the Busses, when his Maiesty shall have have occasion for their service in warre, against the enemy, will be fellowes for the nonce, and will show themselves right English, and will put more strength to an Iron Crow, at a peece of great Ordinance intrauerfing of a Cannon, or Culuering, with the direction of the experimented Maister Gunner, then two or three of the fore named surfeited Sailors, and in distresse of winde growne sea, and fowle Winters weather, for flying forward word to their labour, for pulling in a topsaile, or a spret-saile, or shaking of a bonnet in a dark night, for wet and cold can not make them shrinke nor staine, that the North-seas, and the Busses, and Pinks have dyed in graine,

for such purposes.

And who focuer shall go to Sea, for Captaine to command in Marshall affaires, or take charge for Maister in trade of Merchandize, (as in times past I have done both) will make choice of these sellowes, for I have seene their It is not vn-resolution, in the face of their enemy, when

knowne, that they have bene legramenta, and frolicke, and as there was a ge-forward as about their ordinary labours, or

nerall presse a- businesse.

18.leagues.

And when his Maiesty shall have occasion of England, fro Hullin Yorkefire voto s and imployment for the furnishing of his Na. Michaels uy there will be no want of Maisters, Pilots, Mount in Corne-wall, Commanders, and sufficient directors of a lors, to furnish course, and keeping of Computation, but now but 7. Shippes, there is a pittifull want of sufficient good men over of the to do the offices and labours before speken of, Count Palla-tine, and his all which, these men of the Busses and Pinks, most Noble Princes, but Will worthily supply.

And to the Art of Sayling they may hap-

pily

pily attaine, for hitherto it hath beene commonly scene, that those men, that have beene brought vp, in their youth, in Fishery, haue deserved as well as any in the land for artificiall Sayling; for at this time is practifed all the proiections of Circular and Mathematicall skales and Arithmeticall sayling, by divers of the yong men of the Sca-coast Townes, cuen as commonly amongst them as amongst the Theamlers.

Besides all the Hollanders besore spoken of, the Frenchmen of Pickardy haue also a hundred Saile of Fishermen, onely for Her-some of these rings, on his Maichties Seas cuery yeare, he 3. and 4. in the Summer season, and they bee almost the burthen. like vnto the Busses, but they have not any Yagers that commeth vnto them, but they do lade themselues, and returne home twice

euery yeare, and finde great profite by their making but of two voyages euery Summer scason.

And it is much to bee lamented, that wee having such a plentifull Countrey, and such store of able and idle people, that not one of his Maiesties Subiects, are there to

 G_{2}

The Hollan- be seeine all the whole Summer, to fish, or to ly take some take one Herring: But onely the North-sea boats ny, as they do of the Sea-coust Townes, that goeth to take then two milli- Cods, they do take so many as they do need to baite their hookes and no more.

And wee his Maiesties Subhookes

We are daily I korned by these Hollands, for iests doe take being so negligent of our profite, and carelesse doe baice our of our fishing, and they do daily floute vs that be the poore Fishermen of England, to our saces at Sea, calling to vs and faying, ra English, ya zall, or cud scoue dragien, which in English is this: You English, we will make you glad for to weare our old shoes.

And likewise the French-men they say we are apish, for that we do still imitate them in all needlesse and fantasticall iagges and fashions, as it is most true indeed, for that they have no fashion amongst them in apparell, nor Lace, Points, Gloues, Hilts, nor Garters, euen from the spangled Shoe-lachet, vnto the spangled Har, and Har-band, be it neuer so idle, and costly, but after that we do once get it, it is far bettered by our Nation.

Wherefore, seeing that we can excell all other Nations, wastfully, to spend mony, let

And to imploy Ships and Marriners. Vs, in one thing, learne of other Nations, to get thousands out of his Maiesties Sea, and to make a generall profite of the benefites that Almighty God do h yearely send vnto vs, in far more greater aboundance then the fruite of our trees, which although they be more chargeable in the gathering together, yet is the profite far more greater, vnto this Kingdome, and Common wealth of all his Maiesties Subjects, increasing the wealth of the aduenturers; as also for the enriching of Merchants, and maintaining of Trades Occupations, and employing of Ships, and encreasing of Marriners, which now do but little or nothing: as also for the setting of poore and idle people on worke, which now know not how to live, and to teach many a tall fellow to know the propper names of the ropes, in a ship, and to hale the bowline The Sailore that now for lacke of employment many such, The Sea and by the inconvenience of idle living, are com-the Gaslower refuse none. pelled to end their daies, with a rope by an vntimely death, which by the employment of the Busses might be well anoyded, and they in time become right honest seruiceable and trusty Subiccts.

G 3

Here

Here since my booke came to the Presse, I Mr. William have bene credibly certified, by * men of good nelling, M. tephen Topley, worth (being Fishmongers) that since Christand divers of the mas last, vnto this day, there hath bene paid to company of the Hollanders, here in London, onely for barishinongers. reld fish, and Holland Lings, the summe of

twelve thousand pound.

this 18.0f February.

And last of all, if that there be any of the Worshipfull Aduenturers, that would have any directions for the building of these Busses, or Fisher ships, because I know that the Shipcarpenters of England, be not yet skilfull in this matter, wherefore if that any shall bee pleased to repaire to me, I will bee willing to give them directions, and plaine projections, and Geometricall demonstrations for the right building of them, both for length, bredth, and depth, and also for their mould vnder water, and also for the contrining of their roomes, and And for pro- the laying of their geare, *according to the Hollordige, and landers fashion, any manshall heare of me ar lets, aster the M. Wathaniel Butters, a Stationers Shop at Saint heapestrates. Austens gate in Paules Charch-yard: Farewell

F 19 1s.



The States Proclamation, Translated out of Dutch.

De States generall of the United Provinces of the low Countries but all those that Chall see or heare these presents greeting, weelet to weet that whereas it is well knowne, that the great filling, and catching of herrings

is the chiefest Trade, and principall. Gold-mine of these United Lountries, whereby many thou-sands of Housbolds. Families, Handi-cristes, Trades and Decupations, are set on worke, well maintained, and prospec; especially the Sailing and Nauigation, as well within, as without these Countries, is kept in great estemation: Moreoner many veturnes of Money, with the increase of the meanes, comopes, customes, and venenues of these Countries are augmented thereby and prosper, and so as almost as there is made from time to time many good. Orders conserving the catching, salting, and beneficial

beneficial ottering of the faid Petrings, to the end to preserve and maintaine the said cheife Trade, in the United Broninces; which Erade, by diners encounters, of some that seeke their owne gaine is ennied, in respect of the great good it bringeth to the United Countries: and wecare informed that a new device is put in practife to the prejudice of the Trade, to transport out of the United Countries, into other Countries, Staues for herring-barrels made heere, and halfe herring barrels, put into other Barrels, and Nets: to crosse the good Deders and Pollicy here intended to them of these Countres, for the catching, falting, and feiling the herings, dreffed in other Contries, after the order of these Coun= tries, wherebythis chiefe Erade sould be decaled here, and the Inhabitants of these Countries damnified, if that we make not provision, in time against such practiles, therefore nees, after Mature Judgement, and Beliberation have fozbidden and Interdicted, and by these Presents do forbid and interdict, all, and enery one, as well Home-borne and Inhabitants, as frangers frequenting these parts, to take tp any herring-barrels, or halfe ones pre= pared, or any kinde of Mets. in any Ship, Comme.oz Hauen, of the buited Prouinces, to be sent into other Countries, ox Places, upon paine of confiscation of the same, and the Ship also wherein they shall be found, besides a penal=

ty of 200.0f Petherlandish silver Royals, for the first time, and for the second time aboue confiscation of Ship a Goods, 7400. of the faid Royals of filmer, and for the third time, aboue confiscati= onof Ship and goods, and 600, of the faid 130yalg of filmer, a corporal punishment: all which confiscations, and penalties, shall be distributed one third part to the profite of the Plantife, one third part to the pooze, and one third part of the Officers, where the caid confiscation thall be demanded: and not onely they wall incurre this pe= nalty, which after wall be taken with the deed, but they also, that within one yeare after the deed Wall bre convicted, and that none may pretend ignozance, and that this order may be in all places duely observed and the offendors punish= ed according to Justice, wee will and require. our deere and welveloued Effates, Mouernours. Deputies of the councell, and the Estates of the respective Proninces of Gilderland, and the county of Satfill in Holland, West-Freesland, Zeland, Virices, Freefland, Merizel, the Towns of Groyning, and the circumiacent places, and to all Justices and Officers, that they cause to bee published in all places, and proclaimed, where the bluall Proclamation and Publication is made: we do charge also the chancellors, and Prouinciall councell, and the countell of the aldmiralty, the Admocatificall, and the Procuratois generall, and all other Officers, Judges, and n

and Justices of these united Provinces, and to all general colonies. Admirals, and Tice-admirals, captaines, Officers, and commanders, to performe, and cause to be performed, this Order and commandement; and to proceed, and cause to be proceeded against the Offendors, without grace, favour, distinulation, or composition: because we have found it necessary, for the good, and benefite, of the said United Provinces, dated in Hage this 19.01 July.

FINIS.

