
FRIDAY, June 15. 1694. NUM. XCVIII.

Beginning of stocks. India, Guinea, Hudson's Bay. Cause of them lately. The plain, honest management. Best to pay all stock-money down. The general court. Committees. Places of meeting. The business of Committees.

IN my last I promised an history of *stocks*, but when these began is not very material to know, tho' I think the *East-India* stock, that began *anno* 1600 was the first; then followed the *Guinea*, *anno* *Hudson's Bay*, *anno* and by encouragement of an Act of Parliament made *anno* a great many *stocks* have arisen since this war with *France*; for trade being obstructed at sea, few that had money were willing it should lie idle, and a great many that wanted employments studied how to dispose of their money, that they might be able to command it whensoever they had occasion, which they found they could more easily do in *joint-stock*, than in laying out the same in lands, houses, or commodities, these being more easily shifted from hand to hand: this put them upon contrivances, whereby some were encouraged to buy, others to sell, and this is it that is called *stock-jobbing*.

The plain, honest proceeding whereof is this, when some one has thought of an art or invention, or discovered some mine, or knows, or thinks of some new (or new manner of) way of trade,

trade, whereby he thinks a considerable gain may be gotten, and yet this cannot well, or not so well as otherwise, be carried on by a private purse, or if it could, the hazard of it is too great: he then imparts it to some friend or friends, who commonly consider or enquire of the learned, whether 'twill stand good in law; and if so, they contrive some articles of its constitution, whereof to give the first inventor a sum of money for his invention and charge, or some certain number of the shares, or both, is certainly, and with good reason one of the principal articles.

This done, the parties concerned let it be known, and each brings in his friend, 'till all the shares' be bought at such a price as stated, either presently to pay down all the money, which is generally found to be the best and easiest way, or only some part, which is very often troublesome, one or other being backward of paying his *quota*, and oblige themselves to pay the rest as the general court shall call for it.

This general court consists of every man who has any share, and of so many votes as men; sometimes of none but those who have such a certain number of shares; sometimes to have as many votes as shares; and sometimes to let none have above five, ten, or a certain number of votes, let their shares be as many as they will.

This general court chuses a Committee to manage the whole, except ordering the raising or dividing of money, or some other great affairs, for one year, or what time they think fit; and also a treasurer and clerk. This Committee chuses a chair-man for the time they are chose themselves, or else agree to chuse a chair-man every Committee, according as they like the Committee-men that come. Of this
Committee

Committee they commonly make five a *quorum*, and pay each committee-man that comes some small sum of money for his encouragement. In some great stocks they have twenty shillings apiece each time, in some ten shillings, some otherwise, but in a great many of the lesser stocks, all that come have half a crown apiece, or else a certain sum is allowed if all come, and whoever does not come, his share is divided among the rest that do.

JOHN HOUGHTON, *F. R. S.*

FRIDAY, *May* 22. 1694. NUM. XCIX.

Places of meeting. The business of Committees. The manner of managing the trade. The manner of refuse.

THEY commonly appoint also some certain place for their meeting; the great stocks that require houses, many offices, and much ware-house room at their house: the lesser stocks usually appoint coffee-houses, where they may have some refreshment without great charge, which charge is generally paid out of the main stock; tho' sometimes from the Committee-money.

This Committee consult the best ways for carrying on the business, examine all bills that are brought from workmen, or others that have laid out for their service, and when adjusted, payment is ordered, and a warrant to the treasurer,

surer, signed by the Committee for it, is given, and all things of moment that are done, are, or ought to be entred in the minute book by the clerk; but ordinarily ten pound at a time is paid to the clerk to discharge the Committee-money, and other petty expences.

Very often they subdivide their Committees to audit the accounts, to examine, consider, and manage particular parts of their affairs.

The manner of managing the trade is this; the monied man goes among the *brokers* (which are chiefly upon the *Exchange*, and at *Jonathan's* coffee-house, sometime at *Garaway's*, and at some other coffee-houses) and asks how *stocks* go: And upon information, bids the broker buy or sell so many shares of such and such stocks if he can, at such and such prices: then he tries what he can do among those that have stocks, or power to sell them; and if he can, makes a bargain.

Another time he asks what they will have for refuse of so many shares: that is, how many guineas a share he shall give for liberty to accept or refuse such shares, at such a price, at any time within six months, or other time they shall agree for.

For instance; when *India* shares are at seventy five, some will give three guineas a share, action, or hundred pound, down for refuse at seventy five, any time within three months, by which means the acceptor of the guineas, if they be not called for in that time, has his share in his own hand for his security; and the three guineas, which is after the rate of twelve guineas profit in a year for seventy five pound, which he could have sold for at the bargain making if he had pleased; and in consideration of this profit, he cannot without hazard
part

part with them the mean time, tho' they should fall lower, unless he will run the hazard of buying again at any rate if they should be demanded; by which many have been caught, and paid dear for, as you shall see afterwards: so that if three months they stand at a stay, he gets the three guineas, if they fall so much, he is as he was, losing his interest, and whatever they fall lower is loss to him.

But if they happen to rise in that time three guineas, and the charge of brokage, contract and expence, then he that paid the three guineas demands the share, pays the seventy five pounds, and saves himself. If it rises but one or two guineas, he secures so much, but whatever it rises to beyond what it cost him, is gain. So that in short, for a small hazard he can have his chance for a very great gain, and he will certainly know the utmost his loss can be; and if by their rise he is encouraged to demand, he does not matter the further advantage the acceptor has, by having his money sooner than three months to go to market with again; so in plain *English*, one gives three guineas for all the profits if they should rise, the other for three guineas runs the hazard of all the loss if they should fall.

JOHN HOUGHTON, F. R. S.



FRIDAY, *June 29.* 1694.

NUM. C.

*The form of a contract for refuse of shares.
The conveniency of giving money for
refuse.*

LAST week I shewed the manner of giving money for *refuse* of shares in stock, and designed then to shew (but wanted room) that for security to the giver out of the guineas, the acceptor gives him a contract in these or the like words.

IN CONSIDERATION of *three guineas to me A. B.* of London, *merchant, in hand paid by C. D.* of London, *factor, at and before the sealing and delivery hereof, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, I the said A. B. do hereby for my self, my heirs, executors and administrators, covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns, that I the said A. B. my executors, administrators or assigns shall and will transfer, or cause to be transferred to the said C. D. his executors, administrators or assigns, one share in the joint-stock of the governor and company of merchants of London, trading to the East-Indies, within three days next after the same shall be demanded, as herein after is mentioned, together with all dividends, profits, and advantages whatsoever, that shall after the date hereof be voted, ordered, made, arise or happen thereon, or in respect thereof (if any shall be) provided the said C. D. his executors, administrators*

or assigns shall make demand of the said one share personally by word of mouth of me, my executors or administrators, or by a note in writing under his or their hand, and leave such note unto or for me, my executors or administrators, at my now dwelling house situated in Cornhill, London, at any time on or before the nineteenth day of September now next coming; and also pay, or cause to be paid to, or to the use of me the said A. B. my executors, administrators or assigns, for the said one share, and dividends as aforesaid, within the said three days next after demand, the full sum of seventy five pounds of lawful money of England, at the place where the transfer book belonging to the said company shall for the time being be kept, together with all advance-money (if any shall be.) But if the said C. D, his executors, administrators or assigns shall not demand the said one share, as aforesaid, within the time aforesaid; and also pay, or cause to be paid to, or to the use of me, my executors, administrators or assigns, the said sum of seventy and five pounds, and all advance-money, as aforesaid, at the place aforesaid, within the said three days next after such demand, then this present writing to be utterly void and of none effect; and the said three guineas to remain to me the said A. B. my executors and administrators for ever. Witness my hand and seal the nineteenth day of June, Anno Dom. 1694. and in the sixth year of the reign of King William and Queen Mary, of England, &c.

Sealed and delivered in
the presence of

E. F.

G. H.

A. B.

As soon as the acceptor has receiv'd the three guineas, he signs and delivers it, with the following receipt.

R *Received the day of the date above-
written of and from the above-
named C. D. three guineas, considera-
tion-money above-mentioned.*

witness,
E. F.
G. H.

I say received,
per me
A. B.

There is by this manner of dealing this convenience, that if a Man does expect a sum of money about three months hence, and does believe that the trade or actions will rise in that time very much, he can then with a small sum in hand secure to himself as many shares as he will.

JOHN HOUGHTON, *F. R. S.*

FRIDAY, *July 6. 1694.*

NUM. CI.

The manner of putting stock, and Conveniencies. The contract for security.

A Nother part relating to *stock* is PUTTING, that is, when they give many guineas to some to have liberty to PUT upon them, that is, to make them take, and pay the money agreed for so many shares, at such a price, in such or such a time.

For

For instance: when the *East-India* shares, actions, or hundred pounds are worth each seventy five pounds, some who have occasion for money will sell to another, who for hopes of gain will buy, if he can be assured he shall have no great loss; therefore the seller, to encourage his customer, will, for a guinea and an half (more or less as they agree) oblige himself to take the action again at the same price he sold it for, at any time within three months, if he that bought will *put* it upon him, that is, will demand of him so to do; by which means he is sure (having a good Man to deal with) he can lose but his guinea and half or sum agreed for, and the interest of his money, besides brokage, and petty charges: upon this score both parties are pleased, the one ventures his guinea and half and interest for the hopes of a great gain, and the other for the guinea and half and interest runs the hazard of all the loss shall happen in the time, and has the other's money to make use of to any other purpose he shall think will be advantageous to him.

By this means many are encouraged to come into new stocks, the success whereof is very uncertain; and it is also possible that when the seller himself is diffident of its holding up, he will do this in a few shares, because it will make the market price at such a rate, at which many others will buy, running the hazard, without ensuring themselves, as aforesaid, which if many do, the seller puts off his shares at a good price, and does not then care how much it falls, that at a low rate he may again buy and take his fortune for raising it again. And thus in small stocks 'tis possible to have shares rise or fall by the contrivances of a few men in confederacy;

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federacy; but in great stocks 'tis with more difficulty.

When this bargain is made, the receiver of the *premium* for his security that gives it, seals a contract in this or the like form:

IN CONSIDERATION of *three guineas to me A. B. of London, linen draper, in hand paid by C. D. of London, grocer, at and before the sealing and delivery hereof, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, I the said A. B. do hereby for my self, my heirs, executors and administrators, covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns, that if the said C. D. his executors, administrators or assigns shall transfer, or cause to be transferred one hundred pounds credit of the general joint-stock of the governor and company of merchants of London, trading to the East-Indies, to me the said A. B. my executors, administrators or assigns, at any time on or before the nineteenth day of September now next coming; and thereof shall give or leave notice or warning in writing, at my now dwelling house situate in Cheapside, London, three days at the least before such transfer of the said one hundred pounds credit, that then I the said A. B. my executors, administrators or assigns, shall and will accept the said one hundred pounds credit, and also shall and will well and truly pay, or cause to be paid unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators or assigns for the same, at the time of such transferring thereof, as aforesaid, the full sum of seventy five pounds of lawful money of England, together with all such sum and sums of money as shall after the date hereof, and before such transfer become due or payable into the said joint-stock, on account of the said one hundred pounds credit,*

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credit, by virtue of any order of general court, or court of Committees that shall hereafter be made; and then, and in such case all dividends and profits that shall after the date hereof, and before such transfer be voted, ordered, made, arise, or happen on, or in respect of the said one hundred pounds credit shall be and remain to me, my executors, administrators and assigns, and be deducted out of the said seventy five pounds, so as aforesaid, to be paid to the said C. D. his executors, administrators or assigns. But if the said C. D. his executors, administrators or assigns shall not transfer or cause to be transferred to me, my executors, administrators or assigns, the said one hundred pounds credit, as aforesaid, within the time aforesaid, then this present writing to be utterly void, and of none effect; and the said three guineas to remain to me the said A. B. my executors and administrators for ever. Witness my hand and seal the nineteenth day of June, Anno Dom. 1694. and in the sixth year of the reign of King William and Queen Mary of England, &c.

Sealed and delivered in
the presence of

E. F.

G. H.

A. B.

JOHN HOUGHTON, F. R. S.



FRIDAY, *July* 13. 1694.

NUM. CII.

Dealers in stock sell to one and buy of another the same stock with profit. The great mystery of buying more than all. Buying and selling for time. Price of brokage. The transfer and acceptance, and charge. The million lottery.

SOMETIMES the dealers in *stock* sell to one, and buy of another, different shares of the same *stock* for different prices, and so make advantages.

But the great *mystery* of all is, that some rich men will join together, and give money for REFUSE, or by friendship, or some other way, strive to secure all the shares in a stock, and also to give guineas for *refuse* of as many shares more as folk will sell, that have no stock: and a great many such there are, that believe the stock will not rise so high as the then price, and guineas received, or they shall buy before it does so rise, which they are mistaken in; and then such takers of guineas for *refuse* as have no stock, must buy of the other that have, so many shares as they have taken guineas for the *refuse* of, at such rates as they or their friends will sell for; tho' ten or twenty times the former price.

Some buy shares and sell them again for time, at such advance as they can agree, which very often of late have been after the rate of twenty or thirty *per cent.*

The price of brokage for some shares is ten shillings a share, for the other shares commonly five shillings, except by reason of variety of circumstances they make other different agreements.

When the bargain is made, the seller goes to the clerk of the company, or some other, that is appointed to keep a book of alienations, called, *a transfer book*, and there he transfers the shares he has sold to the buyer, in these or the like words:

London, ————— July 1694.

I A. B. do hereby sell, assign, and transfer unto C. D. ten shares in the joint-stock ————— with all the present and future profits thereof. Witness my hand the day and year above.

A. B.

Upon this the clerk fills up a receipt (which is usually printed) for the money, and the seller sets his hand to it, which the clerk witnesseth. This the seller takes with him, and upon receipt of the money, gives it to the buyer, which he at his own time brings and shews to the clerk; upon which he lets him accept the aforesaid shares in these or the like words:

I C. D. do hereby accept the above ten shares. Witness my hand the ————— day of July 1694.
C. D.

This done, the company looks upon this new acceptor as a member, and not 'till then.

The usual charge for this transfer and acceptance is half a crown each, let the shares be more or less; altho' some are paid only for the

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transfers; and some have less, and others believe the lower this is brought, the more will be the transfers, because a great many when they sell, to save charges, take the buyer's note, and so successively one to another for a great while.

Some for transferring have twelve-pence a share, let them be more or less, and nothing for acceptance.

As to the *million lottery*. They give so much ready money for a blank ticket, where they are sure to have no more than ten *per cent.* for sixteen years, and so much to PUT OR REFUSE, as above; and likewise they make their agreement to *refuse* or *put* either *all* the shares agreed for, or *any*, or *all*, or *none*: And these bear different prices.

JOHN HOUGHTON, *F. R. S.*

FRIDAY, *July 20.* 1694.

NUM. CIII.

The advantages of stocks particularized.

IN my six last papers, I think, I have given an account of the main things that relate to *stocks*, and *stock-jobbing*: it now remains to shew the advantages may accrue to the nation, tho' the undertakers get or lose.

The *alorn* trade is likely to be greatly increased. From *Blyth* we may expect many coals, and it's probable a great town, beside the teaching those parts some new good husbandries. The *copper* is an improvement of a high degree; for whereas formerly we used to import great quantities both rough and manufactured, in wire, kettles,

kettles, &c. now we are likely not only to serve our selves, but in a little longer time most of our neighbours. Some good effect has been of *diving*; but if Mr. *Halley's* should succeed, of which (were the wars at an end, and the seas secure) he seems very sure, and, to my knowledge, has given such reasons for, as abundance of learned and ingenious men cannot gainsay, it would be very considerable. *Pointz's* engine I am sure, because I have seen, is very good to clear the mud that fills up the channels.

The *night* engines may secure us from thieves. And Mr. *Loftings* has had such success in quenching of fires, that the usefulness of it is past dispute; and when it comes to be known, 'twill be of a thousand times more use for watering and dreining of lands. The *Greenland* fishing I hope will out-do the *Dutch*. And the *German balls* will preserve all sorts of strong leather.

The *glass* and *glass bottle*, altho' not new, have *stock* enough greatly to increase the trade; and our windows and looking-glasses by their means much out-do what was done before by our selves or neighbours.

Altho' the *Guinea* company be low at present by reason of their losses, yet without it I verily believe the trade would be in a great measure damaged. The *Hudsons Bay* have re-taken three forts of four that were taken by the *French*, when single men would ne'er have recovered them or preserved the other. The *japan* is brought to that perfection that it not only out-does all that is made in *India*, but vies for its lacquer with the *Japan* lacquer itself; and there is hopes of imitating its best draught and figures. The *India* has traded openly, beside private trade, for a million a year; and I don't doubt if they

were not hindred but they would make it ten-fold.

For *lead* we are like to have more than ever. And if they bring the tanning of *leather* like *Turky* or *Russia*, 'twill be a very considerable improvement. The *linen* have caused many a thousand pound to be spent in this kingdom, and I do not doubt but proper methods will much encrease it. The *lutestring* is a trade we wanted very much, and 'tis gotten to such a height, that the proprietors talk of out-doing any of the rest. *New Jersey* will improve without question; as *Pensylvania* by the like means already has; and *paper* is a great manufacture.

As for *salt petre* I know not what to say, because they shut up their gates, and keep all close; but they have laid out a great deal of money in building. The *sword blades* near *Newcastle* is very considerable, when before we bought most from *Holland* or *Germany*. *Tapestry* for the gentry's second or third rooms, and ordinary folks first rooms, are pretty adornments. For *water*, tho' the *new river* did greatly help us, and was a contrivance for which *Sir Thomas Middleton* deserves a statue, yet seeing we grow very great, the variety thereof is much to be esteemed. And that from the city conduits that's now laying into houses, will make us abound not only with useful, but more pleasant waters than ever.

I hope the rest of the companies in due time will appear profitable; and forasmuch as I can see, if an hundred stocks more arise, we have no reason to be offended.

Yours,

JOHN HOUGHTON, *F. R. S.*
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FRIDAY, July 27. 1694.

NUM. CIV.

History of wheat the most perfect I know extant. The names of kine. A reference to the breed for dairy. The cutting and breeding of oxen for draught, and the butcher. The cure for the fowls and core in udders. The fattening of calves, and cure for their scowering. Kine with horns like harts-horns. Of one horn bending backward, with a bunch on the back like a pumpkin.

IN my last volume I ended my history of *wheat*, being the instance I took for a *vegetable*, as I did before *clay* for a *mineral*; both which are more perfect than any I can learn have been done before me: and they have not been altogether collected from books, but in a great measure from the knowledge and practice of men of this age. Since I have given you the history of *stocks*, and *stock-jobbing*: and I shall now, according to my former promise, endeavour the carrying on the *historia boum* (history of *kine* or *neat*) and do it with the most exactness I can, and as much brevity as the nature of the thing will allow.

Bos the dictionary tells me signifies a beast, as *ox*, *cow*, or *steer*. *Neat*, I presume, is also meant a *bull*, a *calf*, and *heifer*. The Greek word is Βῆς, or Βῶς ἀπὸ τῆ βόσκου, *pascendo*, from feeding; as if 'twere a sort of beasts that were the

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STS.002 Finance and Society
Spring 2016

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