

My Lord

I am very much beholden to your Lordship for the Perusal of these Papers, which are very well reasond as well as well wrote; and contain in many Parts, some new Opinions, which, tho' ever so solid, will probably be contested.¹ I am sorry to be obligd to write my Sentiments on so delicate a Subject in so great a Hurry: But your Servant tells me that he is to call me early to morrow Morning; & I am obligd to be abroad to Night.

Banks are convenient by the safe Custody & quick Conveyance of Money; but as to the Multiplication of Money, I question whether it be any Advantage either to an industrious or idel Country. It seems to prevent the Importation of as much Bullion (which has a real intrinsic Value) as the Paper amounts to. The Bank of Amsterdam does not multiply Money.

There seems to be some Foundation for the common Opinion, that the Encrease of Money encreases the Price of Commodities; tho' it ought not to be supposed that the one Encrease is always exactly proportiond to the other. The Encrease of the Money encreases the Demand; but if the Encrease of the Demand encreases as much the Industry, the Prices will remain the same; and this Encrease of Industry will always have place in some Degree.

I wish your Lordship woud look again into Sir H. Spelman: For if my Memory serves me, he takes Notice of the great Encrease of Prices, since the Discovery of the West Indies.² Fleetwood³ wrote his Chronicon pretiosum in order to prove the same Point. Bishop Goodwin⁴, who wrote in the latter End of Elizabeth, says that things had doubled in his Memory. Cambden⁵ says, that the continual Encrease of Prices, was the Reason why some of the Colleges, in giving Leases, stipulated a Power of returning to the Commodity

of

Corn &c, according to the antient Payments.

I believe the Commodities, that wou'd rise, woud be such as requird little Art to raise them; such as Cattle, Poultry &c. Corn requires a great deal of Art; & by the Improvements in Agriculture during the last Century and a half has both been kept low, & kept at a more fixd Price. Bishop Godwin says that he has seen a Quarter of Wheat sold for six Marks; a Price which it has not risen to within these 70 Years. I us'd to think, that a Cargo of Manufactures woud cost dearer in James the sixth or first's Reign than at present; and have ventur'd to say so in my History; which was thought a Paradox But I find that Dr Tucker of Bristol,⁶ a sensible Man, carries the Matter much farther than I dard venture to do: He says, a Cargo, such as woud be fit for the East Indies, woud then cost double; and yet the Merchants at that time carryd out to as great Value, as they brought home.

There are Acts of Parliament in Harry the 7th time, fixing the Rate of Commod:

ities; & the Prices are curious. The Price of Scarlet Cloath was limited to 26 Shillings a Yard of our present Money; plain Cloath to 18. But the Wages of a Tradesman such as a Brichlayer, Mason, Tiler &c was regulated at ten pence a day.

As I have not time to throw together more Materials, I shall conclude after having used the Freedom to mention, a small Affair to your Lordship. There is one Liston,⁷ a young Divine, (whom I used to see frequently with our Friend, Wilkie⁸) who has a great Desire to see Mr Charters's⁹ Orrery; because he has an Intention of teaching Mathematics next Winter, & would be glad to show his Scholars a model of it. He says, that Mr Charters is somewhat shy of admitting People to see it

but that a Letter from your Lordship would remove all Difficulties. He is not willing, however, to run the Risque of presenting himself with such a Letter, unless Mr Charters were advertised before hand, & had given his Consent. I must therefore beg the favor of your Lordship, the first time you have Occation to see Mr Charters or write to him, to ask this small Favor: And after he has given his Consent, be so good as to write a Line, which Liston may present, & which may inform Mr Charters, that the Bearer is the Person you spoke to him about: And this Line, I must beg your Lordship to enclose to me.

I have wrote to Capt Wedderburn¹⁰ the enclosed to the same Purpose that the first who sees Mr Charters may obtain this Request; and I use the Freedom to enclose it to your Lordship: I am

Edhiburgh	My Lord
6. April 1758	Your Lordships most obedient & most humble Servant
	David Hume

P.S

Your Servant calld before I had had time to write to Capt Wedderburn; and I was unwilling to detain him

注 1 疑いもなくエリバンクの『貨幣、手形および紙幣に関する考察』(*Thoughts on Money, Circulation, and Paper Currency*. Edinburgh, May, 1758) への言及である。それゆえ、ヒュームは、校正刷りの形でエリバンクの論文を読んでいた可能性がある。

2 古書収集家のスペルマン (Sir Henry Spelman)。おそらく、*The English Works of Sir H. Spelman Relating to the Laws and Antiquities of England*, ed. E. Gibson (Oxford, 1698)である。

3 William Fleetwood, *Chronicon Preciosum* (London, 1707).

- 4 Francis Godwin, *Rerum Anglicarum Henrico VIII, Edwardd VI, et Maria regnatibus, Annales* (London, 1616), Engl. transl. 1630, 1676, 1706.
- 5 William Camden, *Britanica* (London, 1586), Engl. transl. 1610, 1637, 1695, 1722, 1753.
- 6 神学者、経済学者そしてパンフレット作者のジョサイア・タッカー (Josiah Tucker. 1712-1799)。言及部分はおそらく、『商業要綱および租税論』*The Elements of Commerce & Theory of Taxes* (Bristol, 1755)である。タッカーからのヒューム宛書簡 3 通が現存している。だが、ヒュームからのタッカー宛書簡は現存していない。
- 7 身元不明。おそらくは、後の外交官でヒュームの友人となるロバート・リストン (Robert Liston) 家の一員である。
- 8 聖職者、詩人で、後にセント・アンドリューズの自然哲学教授のウィリアム・ウィルキー (William Wilkie. 1712-1772)。彼の叙事詩『エピゴニアード』*Epigoniad*に、ヒュームは賞賛を惜しまなかった。
- 9 身元不明。
- 10 身元不明。だが明らかに、後の大法官、ロスリン伯アレクサンダー・ウェダバーン (Alexander Wedderburn, later Lord Chancellor and Earl of Rosslyn) とは異なる。アレクサンダー・ウェダバーンは前年、イギリス弁護士資格を取っていた。