

INLAND NAVIGATION

A Song to Tune of the Marquis of Granby.

T'was just at the time when In sorrowful strain,
Old England was grievously groaning;
Her natives in sadness, to add to the scene,
The loss of their trade were bemoaning;
To give some redress, in this age of distress,
Some worthies (tho' few in the nation)
As a scheme that might tend, to some favourable end,
Were resolved to promote navigation.

The lovers of commerce will freely combine,
Without any kind of evasion,
To strengthen so noble and brave a design,
And gladly embrace the occasion:
What Briton that knows, what opulence flows
From this art, but with free approbation,
And spirit alert, will his int'rest exert
To support and extend navigation.

Tis this makes our isle in the eyes of the world,
A bulwark of terror and wonder;
What state, woken our shipping their sails have unfurl'd,
But what is oblig'd to knock under.
In war or in peace, all commerce would cease,
Was it not for a free navigation;
'Tis of riches the source, when such plans we enforce,
And of freedom our dear preservation.

In Lancashire view what a laudable plan,
And brought into fine execution
By Bridgewater's duke; let us copy the man,
And stand to a good resolution:
If the waters of Trent with the Mersey have vent,
What mortal can have an objection!
So they do not proceed, to cut into the Tweed,
With the Scots to have greater connection.

A free intercourse with our principal ports,
For trade must be certainly better;
When traffic's extended, and goods easily vended,
In consequence things will be cheaper:
Our commerce must thrive, and the arts will revive,
Which are now in a sad situation;
If we follow this notion, from ocean to ocean,
To have a complete navigation.

To the land what advantages soon must proceed,
When once we have open'd our sluices?
Our cattle, and even the land when they feed,
Will be turn'd into far better uses:
'Tis this will enable our merchants abroad
To vie with each neighbouring nation;
Who now, as they tell us, in fact undersell us
For want of this free navigation.