

IPSWICH A MART FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC.

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It appears from the Burleigh Papers preserved in the British Museum, that in 1573 objections were raised against erecting a New Mart at Ipswich. This opposition was naturally prejudicial to the trading interest, steps were therefore taken five years later to establish a Free Mart for General Traffic, and the following Petition of certain Merchant Adventurers to Lord Burleigh, the trusted Counsellor of Queen Elizabeth, will be found interesting and suggestive reading, particularly to the burghers and traders of the ancient town and port of Gypeswiz of the present day. At the time it was penned by the shrewd petitioners, Antwerp and the Low Countries were great commercial and shipping centres, and English merchants being very conservative and jealous of foreign competitors, naturally wished to divert the stream of commerce, to prevent the exportation of wool and other staple goods, and to induce foreigners to consign their commodities to an English mart. The Queen was by no means adverse to these "merchant adventurers," who opened up other countries and channels for trade, frequently by very questionable means, and by what would be called piracy in these days, particularly where Spain was concerned. If the far-sighted and imperious Tudor Queen could only see her way to enrich her subjects and kingdom, and her oft-scantily filled coffers at the same time, licence for voyaging on the high seas was given, and the "merchant adventurers" substantially encouraged, publicly or privately.

Lord Burleigh well recognized this, and the speculating Ipswich traders consequently laid their case before him.

The pros and cons are fully set out, and several of them in both columns are very curious. The fear of offending the King of Spain, the Emperor of Germany, and the French King, &c., was not chimerical, and the probabilities and fears of a Spanish war were not "vain imaginings," as was soon afterwards proved by the Armada.

The difficulties that would have to be grappled with in the deepening of the channel of the river, and in making a straighter course, have exercised the minds of the Ipswich River Conservators several times of late years. There are still monopolies with regard to the water-way from Ipswich to Harwich, which ought to be removed, and were this done and the improvements suggested in the time of "good Queen Bess" carried out, the Orwell might not only be frequented for its beautiful scenery and surroundings, but it might be a highway for corn, coals, imports, and exports, and the port of Ipswich be a prosperous mart and central market, as Antwerp was, and is, in the Low Countries.

MATERIAL OBJECTIONS AGAINST ERECTING A NEW MART FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC AT IPSWICH.

(Burghley Papers, Lansd. 16. f. 67.)

Thobjections made against the erecting of the newe Marte devised to bee att Ippswiche.

1. Ipswiche is but vij Myle. from the mayne sea, and Antwerp is L. Myle and hath flushing by the waye, as harwiche lyeth for Ipswiche now whether it be convenient the Marte Towne lye soe neare all sotheyne invasion by sea.

2. Whether the K. of Spayne Themperor and the frence kinge will not impeache the erection and contenance of this new Marte towne.

3. Whether the Italians and high Almayne Merchants wold rather trade to a staple towne neare there owne Countryee or farther of w^t the venter of the sea more then they used before.

4. Whether as trade standes the year of 1573, the Merchants of the world will not willingly wissh and prouue their auntyent and experienced trade to be renewed, then a newe staple to be erected.

5. Whether the Merchants of the world will willingly yeld to have their trade stapled wthin an Ilande or upon the firme lande as it hathe bene.

6. Whether the subjects of England will beare the confluence of soe manye straungers wthin the Realme, or it bee mete for them soe to doe beinge an Ilande, as will growe heare bye this new erected Marte.

7. Whether it be expedient now trade ys bye godds ordinaunce disturbed thorough the world to presse the Realme of England wth a further staye of trade, while bye this newe Innovacon it maye be holpen.

8. Whether the Realme of England maye bear the decaye of the Navye thereof while this new trade growe usciall.

9. Whether the carringe of wullen comodities all bye sea to the new Marte Towne, will not encrease a more charge upon the Clothe then hathe bene before when it was shipped for ffaunders.

10. Whether the free Toll at the new Marte Towne will not decaye the straungers Custome to the Quene of xiiijs vjd upon a clothe.

11. Whether London shalbe able to beare soe greate an alteracon as this new Marte Towne will make thereof.

A DISCOURSE ON THE APPOINTING A MART AT IPSWICH, CONTRIVED BY JOHN JOHNSON, STAPLER; & CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN, MERCHANT ADVENTURERS. DEC. 1578. (Lansd. 26. f. 33.)

The platt of stablissinge a fre Marte at Ipswicke devised bye John Johnson stapler and xpofer Goodwyn Merchant adventurers.

1. Now that troubles be in ffaunders, and therebye all trade of Merchaundises is stayed, and that our merchaunt adventurers haue heretofore receaved greate iniuries in the lowe countryes, and bye the state of the world are lyke everye daye more and more to susteyne, bye arrestes and staye of their goodes theare, and bye the practise of the holye league and other occasions, that maye bee offered them daylye, as haue bene manye tymes heretofore, The said Johnson and Goodwyn doe thincke thoppportunitie serveth well now, to erect a free marte towne at Ipswich, and is as convenient a place, for the accesse and confluence of all the merchaunts of the world, with their wares and merchandises thither bye sea, as to Antwarpe, The towne of Ipswicke having the like priviledges every waye as Antwarpe hathe, and our Countrye having the cheife staple comoditye of Clothe and wull, that all other merchaundises cheiffye seake and followe, and soe they ground their devise as followith.

2. first that our merchaunts adventure^{rs} shall staple at Ipswicke, their englisse Clothe wares and merchaundises as they did at Andwarpe, and shall transporte them thither at souche custume and subsidye as they did before unto Andwarpe, and to noe other place beyond sea, nor yet within the realme to be sold bye waye of trade and merchaundises.

3. Then that neither Englishhe Merchaunt stilliarder nor straunger shall transporte to Hanborough to the lowe cuntryes, nor to anye place on this side Hanborough nor on this side the Ryver of Seane in Normandye, from anye other porte within the Realme of England, anye Englishhe Clothe wares or commodities to breake bulke and putto sale there, but at straungers custume.

4. That the merchaunts of the stilliard shall shipp at Englishhe menss custume, when the merchaunt adventure^{rs} doe, and shall bring theire clothes to the marte towne, and unlade them there; and after they have tarryed the ende of that marte with them wthout sale, they shall transport theim beyonde sea without putting them to sale untill they come to Colleyne, and other the stede townes beyond Andwarpe.

5. That the Merchaunt adventure^{rs} shall haue like pryviledge everye waye at the marte towne of Ipswiche, as they had att Andwarp for theire owne companye onlye to trafique thither, and noe other Englishhe manne to buye and sell there.

6. That all Merchaunts straunge^{rs} shall haue like libties and pryviledgs at Ipswiche as they had at Andwarpe, and shall bringe in and carrye out from thence, all manner of wares and merchaundises free of all custume and subsidie, paying onlye theire tolles they weare wont to paye, att Andwarpe.

7. That duringe the marte tyme everye personne and merchaunte and theire goods and wares shalbe wthout trouble or arrest, for anye thing done out of the marte tyme, and yet everye manne to answeare anye debte or bargayne that he maks at, and duringe anye of the marts at the saide free marte towne of Ipswiche.

8. Noe Englishhe man to buy or sell at the marte towne, but onlye the merchaunt adventur^{rs} and free menne of the towne there.

9. Noe pson to retayle at the free marte towne, but onlye the free menne of the marte towne, and they to buye and sell there, and to transporte onlye beyond sea, and not into Englande, paying toll as at Andwarp is used.

10. Noe pson to sett upp anye manuell occupacon at the marte towne, but a freman of the same towne.

11. The Merchaunt adventure^{rs} and merchaunt straunge^{rs} onlye paying toll at the marte towne as they did at Andwarpe to transporte from thence into anye porte in England all manner of wares and merchaundises and wheare they breake bulke to paye Englishhe and straunge^{rs} custume as they did before from Andwarpe, and to carrye none from the marte towne bye lande into Englande, because her ma^{tie} shall haue bothe her englishhe and straunge^{rs} custume trulye as she had from Andwarpe.

12. The staple of wull and fell to be beyonde sea as it hathe bene ever before.

13. The Cyvyle lawe to bee at the marte towne as it is at Andwarp.

14. That there shalbe iij free marts at Ipswiche everye yeare as be at Andwarpe.

15. That everye souche free marte shall contynew xl dayes which wilbe xxiiij wekes free marte in a yeare.

16. Without anye marte theare shalbe xxviiijth weeks everye yeare.

17. The first marte called Cold marte shall ever begynne the xxiiijth of December.

18. The second marte called Pasch marte shall ever begynne viijth dayes after Easter.

19. The third marte called Synsson marte shall ever begynne viijth dayes after whitsontyde.

20. The fourth marte called Balmes marte shall ever begynne vijth dayes after Michas.

21. All manner of shippes vesselles and Bottomes both Englishe and straunge^{rs} to bring goodes and wares to the marte towne frelye, and even so frelye to lade and carrye awaye the same or other from the saide marte towne to anye parte of the Realme and world with there free libties as well for theimselfes as there shippes as they ever had at Andwarpe.

22. All manner of forreyne wares and Englishe commodities maye bee brought to the said marte Towne, wull and fell onlye excepted.

23. All forreyne coyne (coins) of gold and sylver to be made curraunt at the newe marte towne bye proclamacon after there trew valewce according to or standard.

24. A mynt to be erected at the said marte Towne to buye all bullion of gold and sylver, and all forreyne light and broken monyce brought thither, and to geve curraunt monyce of England agayne for the same.

WITH THE MARTE.

1. It is supposed by experyence and reason bye these parties that Ipswiche having lyke free libties and the same that Andwarpe hathe, It maye in tyme bye travayle counsaile and provision, become as good and as ritche a free marte towne, as Andwarpe is or ever hathe bene.

2. They suppose that the situacon of Ipswich every waye, as safe good and indifferent, for all countryes and Merchaunts to com with there wares and merchandises bye sea (beyng the easiest and cheapest carriage that can be) as the scituacon of Andwarpe is at this daye, and somewhat safer and better bye having more good havene and harborough on this side and lesse perryll in storme and tempest.

3. Beside, all trade of merchandises growing first bye nature, betwene countrye and countrye, apon lacke of lynnene and wullen comdities, corne, wyne, and salte, they saye England hath ij of them by verye nature, whereof one of them being wullen commoditie, is the cheife grounde of making and preserving Andwarpe, the cheife marte and staple towne of the world, for all wares and merchandises and confluence of Merchaunts and storing of the same, and the countrye thereof, with souche welth, and ritches as it overfloweth with, at this daye, and hath done heretofore.

4. They saye more the lowe Countryes haue none of the said originall staple wares of trade and trafique by nature, but som lynnens and wullen commoditie they haue by industrie, but the substance of wullen commoditie they haue most out of England, and of lynnens commoditie they haue hempe out of Lincolneshere, and as for the rest that are wyne and salte, the plentye of the world thereof, and the transportacon of the same, is as neare Ipswich as Andwarp, with the flax and hempe that maketh all the lynnens commodities of the lowe countrye.

5. So the devisers doe inferre hereapon, howe for gayne and by good government, the Countrye of Englande all about the said marte towne of Ipsewiche and farther of by industrie and tyme, will or maye in reason growe full of making of all lynnens commoditie, new draperye of wullen and lynnens, and of all other store of manuell occupacons, walled townes, villags, and buildings, maryners, saylers, fishermen, and shipping, welthe, monye and all necessaryes whatsoever that the lowe Countryes hath at this daye or ever had before, when it was most flourishing.

6. They thinke that the fredom from all manner of excise that shalbe at the newe marte towne, and the cheapenesse of victayle that wilbe ever in England more then in the lowe countryes, and the necessitie of or wullen commoditie for the whole world, will drawe apace and of necessitie the trade from fllanders and Andwarpe, if it be good for England to bee, as welthe stronge and well furnished as fllanders is and hath bene.

7. Ffurther they saye that what inconvenience soever for the Realme maye be objected against the devise, that foresight, good government, parliament and execution (not touching the libties of the free marte towne, neither the merchaunts, their wares, goods, nor psonnes) maye healde all the same inconvenience and with tyme make Ipswiche and Englande lyke Andwarpe, and the Countryes about it, and in farre shorter space, then they have growen and increased.

8. More they saye for an unspeakable benefit to England that the exchaung which is the merchaunte straunge^{rs} most enritcher, and the merchant Englisshes most impoverissher, by being made still under the standarde of the Realme, when the merchaunt straungers bee rulers thereof, as most commonlye they bee, saving nowe they cannot by the baseness of monye in fllanders, shall not nowe if the newe marte towne be erected, bee soe commonlye used upon or by the merchaunte adventure^{rs}, as heretofore it hath bene, having noe stocke, trade, nor counter beyond sea, but must of necessitye bee, used more and more, betwene strannger and strannger, to convey home everye of their stockes and masse of monye, and soe the merchaunt stranngers having mouche monye in their chest, that will not bee as before delyvered still over by exchaunge beyond sea, most either employe the same or steale it awaye at the length for the exchaung betwene London and the newe marte towne at usance, or double usance, which wilbe now devised,

will keape still the monye within the Realme of England, and will dryve the merchaunt straungers in our opinions to a greate mischife to enritche theimselfes one upon an other, and not upon the Englishe subiects as they haue done manye yeares bye overthrowing them upon the xchaung.

9. Lastlye the realme bye the cyvyle lawe used at the marte towne everye waye as it is at Andwârpe shall haue manye prfit cyvyle lawye^{rs}, and many men bred therbye bothe for lawe and languags to bee ambassadors into all the parts of beyond seas, and to searve in all treates and colloquyes.

AGAINST THE MARTE.

1. The scituacion of Ipsewiche is not soe safe against invasion bye sea as Andwarpe is, being more distannt from the sea, and having flusshinge a stronge towne bye the waye, to withstand souche invaders, and though the mouthe of Ipsewiche ryver on Harwich syde and on Suff syde, maye be made stronge bye fortes and bulwarkes, and bye watche daye and night, yet the charge thereof wilbe greate and muche must be bestowed at the begynning, and more must bee yearlye fasshioned, to finishe souche strength against all sodeyne invasion, that the merchaunts to bee intised thither, may see their goodes, wilbe aswell safe as without imposicon, and as redye to bee bought as before at Andwarpe, and whoe shall begynne this first charge is the matter.

2. Then are there greate charges to bee done, to take awaye impediments that maye bee in the Ryver from Harwiche to Ipsewiche, for soe greate a repayre of trade thither as a newe marte will bring, and mouche wharfrage, cranage, stowage, sellerage, and buildings must bee newe made there and provided aforehand; or merchaunt straunge^{rs} canne bee drawn from Andwarpe to Ipswich, which wilbe hardlye brought to passe before the marte towne doth feale anye proffitt.

3. The King of Spayne, Thempero^r, and the frenche King, being all of the holye league may agree together, that noe commoditie of their cuntryes shall staple ellswheare then at Andwarpe, as heretofore it hathe used, and then shall o^r merchaunte adventure^{rs} lacke bothe their sale, and haue noe retorne alsoe of wares from Ipswiche, and soe o^r Clothe the merchaunt adventure^{rs} and all our other vent of the realme shall stande upon termes and expectacon, which side canne best and longest forbear and lacke others commodities.

4. Then it is to be considered whether this devise appearing to bee in hande will not agree the lowe cuntrye men among theimselfes, and to their prynce be mete it weare in dutye, and for his ayde, against the whole devise, and then whether bothe the merchaunts of those cuntryes and all other forreyne parts of the world will not ioyn together (the Pope, Thempero^r, the kinge of Spayne, the frenche king, and their owne knowen trade and benefit psuading them thereto) to overthrowe this newe devised trade and marte towne.

5. It is alsoe to bee remembred that the Merchaunts coming to Ipsewiche with wares and Merchaundises is onlye bye sea, and into an Ilande verry quiet in dede at this daye, But if troubles shold fall therein, (bie God forbid) it weare well to bee thought on whether the merchaunts straunge^{rs} of the world, wold bee content to haue their goods and psonne soe imprisoned and mured up, yea and whether they will truste the wound of a prynt that after wares proclaymed, everye pryntes subiect being a merchaunt of the newe marte towne, againste whom the wares are proclaymed, shall haue free libtie to departe the realme with his goods and psonne, vj weeks after souche proclamacon shalbe made, Agayne there wold bee considered as the holye league is bruted, whether som merchaunt straungers doe not thincke, that a generall invasion or disturbing of Englande, bye forreyne pryntes is intended at this daye, and wilbe the rather hereafter bye this new erected marte, when oportunitie shall searve, and then howe canne wee be pswaded if soe muche bee entended or but bruted, that everye merchaunt will staple his wares or pson heare at Ipsewich in an Ilelande.

6. The over confluence hither of merchaunts, and of their servitors, wives, and famyles, that must of necessitie over swarme heare, if Ipsewich shold become Andwarpe, will soe enhauncè vittayle; take up habitacon, and disperse artificer^s of straunger^s among us, which will loke to bee kepte and cherished wth libtie of vyce, fredome of buying and selling, fredome from all disciplyne and punishment of or lawes, and with souche lose priviledgs and prehemynce after Andwarpe fasshion, that our Englishe people will not beare their vyce, fredome, enritching, pryde, slight and fayrè speeches, nor yet will endure to be made able to lyve bye them.

7. The staye that maye come of trade in England, while wee are stablissing and alluring of merchants to this newe marte towne, maye perhappes make Clothier^s unable to paye their worcke folks, and is like to bring or put a feare of souche a staye of buying and selling in London, and chaunging of their trade with chapmen gentlemen and the subiects of the Realme, as it will brede mouche trouble, speach, slaunder, and offence.

8. The more the trade of Merchaundises encreaseth at the newe Marte towne, the lesse will the shipping of the lowe Countrye be used, about anye trade thither or from thence, The more then will it bee offered to other Countryes, and offered shipping always is cheaper then sought shipping, and soe thereby and for the more stoage that is in their shipping, being hulkes, the same wilbe sett the more a wonck (?) and before oures that is dearer, of lesse burden, of more charge, in wags, vittayle and number of men; and the flemyngs being put bye their usiall trade of lading they wilbe ever at hande to carrye to the marte towne cheaper lading bothe for the merchaunte adventurers and for all straunger^s then or Englishe saylers wilbe from or owne porte, the voiage being but a longe the coste and wthout necessitie, to haue anye chargeable shipping for wether or enemys, but soe longe as these

troubles of the world, the fleebutters and pirates contynew on the sea, it cannot bee denyed but that our Englishe shipping wilbe sought for strength and safetie, And it is most manifest that Hanborough voyage and the flemings trade our merchaunts haue taken up into Spayne to carrye necessaryes for the Indyas, hathe bred more tall shippes and good, then ever wee had before, which shipping of oures, if it happelye might bee contenewed in longe voyags from y^e marte towne, (but bye souche accidents ever it is verye unliklye,) then were it likelye our shipping wold encrease and growe.

9. Theare wilbe a more charge a while apou the clothe transported to the marte towne of Ipswich then was to the towne of Andwarpe, untill free porters and all necessaryes may be gotten theare togeather, and to the buyer theare, wilbe a more charge of clothe theare, beinge twyce landed and laden, then was before, viz. at the porte towne for the first sale, and at Andwarpe for dying and dressinge for the seconde sale, the lacke of which at the marte towne will pull downe the sale of our Englishe clothe at Ipswich, and will cleane overthrow it, if good colours and good dressing of cloth shold not spedelye followe the merchaunt adventure^{rs} trading thither, either for Andwarpe or bye our owne cuntrye men alate better practised and skylled therein then they haue bene heretofore.

10. The small toll appointed at the marte towne apou wares and Merchaundises, will a longe tyme untill trade be settled, bee farre under the benefitt of straunge^{rs} custome to her maiestie, and chaung thus of stapling our commodities, is like to prolong shipping bye our merchaunt adventure^{rs}, and soe to make a plonging of the payment of Englishe custome alsoe, and thus both the Prynce and the Realme must have a lack of monye, while tyme bryngeth on our wounted trade, and that wee bring it on against all devises and power^{rs}, that maye bee sett to encounter it.

11. It semeth bye the devise of this marte that London is everye waye provided for, to bee receyvov of all forreyne wares and merchaundises, from the marte towne, as it was before from Andwarpe, and at souche custome and subsidye as before it hath used, But when the fremen of Ipswich bye the devise, bee all becom merchaunt adventure^{rs}, to carrye from the marte towne bye sea wares and merchaundises, to anye porte of the world save into Englaunde, howe many merchaunt adventure^{rs} of London will they first eate out, or be equall with in trade beyonde sea, and how manye will they breede more to these of London that are alredye to manye; Then howe manye cuntrye subiects of England that weare wonnt to buye at London that bee nearer Ipswich now then London, shall underhand bee served bye lande and stealth out of Ipswich, of anye forreyne wares, they lacke at the free mennes handes of Ipswich, that are suffered to bee retayle^{rs} and howe can it possibleby bee beleved that all Englaunde besides maye com to the marte towne to see it, and yet shall buye nothing theare to the hurte and hinderance of London.

12. Heare is a chiefe mischeife and founde bye experience a late yeares, howe the ffleming that bye this newe marte towne, must be occasioned to habite more heare than before, wth his wife and familie, and becom denizen or inter marrye wth us, and having his children borne under thallegeanncce of the Quene, and bounde prentise at the marte towne, or at London, will in tyme bye the greate stocks of their forreyne ffathe^{rs} and forreyne alliaunce becom the cheife merchaunt adventurer, the cheife fremen of the Citie of London, and the marte towne, and the greate occupie^{rs} of their owne stocke, and of their forreyne allyes wthin the Realme of England, And soe in tyme will eate out the merchaunt adventure^{rs}, as they haue wth their greate bancks and wylynes eaton out and gone beyond, all the merchaunts of Europe and in thend shall decaye all straunge^{rs} custume in England, and mere English mennes trade of all manner of merchaundises.

13. The barrenness of the lowe countryes, save for butter chese hoppes and madder, hath made the same a longe tyme industrious, and from our first trade with them, devisers of new draperye bothe of wullen and linnen, as worsteddes, sayes, and mockadoes, ffrisados, hollands, and Gentshe clothe, yea and setters up of all manuell occupacons for a marte towne, and they haue with charge, travayle, care, and pollycye, made themselves manye stronge walled townes, Ryvers, Cutts, and water carriags, They contynewe alsoe all wourke and occupacon in their townes, and all manner of manuring and making profitt of their groundes, bye the education of their youth, hanging up of Rogues, and Idell psonnes, and by naturall desyre they haue to be ritche bye any labor, payne, and sparing; The magistrats alsoe thereof, bee verye politique for enritchng of the same, they make lawes and ordinnances still to that ende, and execute them thorouglye, without any tolleracon to anye psonne, They take excises on the people thereof, wherby they make their countrye soe commodious for trade and to drawe merchaunts thither, and haue of their owne wrought commodities bye industrye manye wares and things, whereupon their marts doe stave, and is kept, and not least mainteyned bye them, most of all which the Realme of Englande lacketh in it, being most necessarye for a free marte to bee sett up, And besids, England will never endure anye impositcons to make at comon chargs the marte towne commodious, nor the countrye about it industrious, to make sale ware and marte ware, as the lowe countryes doe to mainteyne their marte towne, besids the naturall commodities of Clothe, leade, tynne, pewter, and leather, that the Realme of England hath, and soe I feare the devise will never bee executed.

Bound up in the same volume with the foregoing, are other letters addressed "To the Right Honourable the Lord of Burleigh, Lord Treasurer of England." One begins thus, "Right Honourable, pleaseth your honour to

understand that I never thought but the device for keeping the martes in England, wold be disliked of soche whose private gaynes is touched &c. Whereas I knowe your honours pleasure wilbe to consider thereof as the same may be to the Queen's Majesty's Honour and the Benefit of the whole Realm, and therefore am boldened agayne to put your honor in Remembrance thereof &c.

Signed y^r honors most humble suppliant

John Johnson."

John Johnson also wrote a long address w^{ch} he called "a discourse touching losses sustained by English Merchants: of the contention with straungers for priviledges and liberties: upon Losses sustain by merchants, by wars, troubles, arrests, & restraints upon their goods in the Low Countries, &c."