

SUGAR WORKS AT GLASGOW

Edinburgh, 17 September 1681

Forasmuch as there being a petition presented to the King's Majesty and estates of Parliament by Frederick Hamilton and John Corse, for themselves and in name and behalf of their partners, masters of the two sugar works at Glasgow, representing that upon the encouragement given to them by the acts of Parliament made anent manufactories, they did employ a great part of their stocks and fortunes in setting up the said two works, which are now brought to that perfection that they are able and do sell the sugar at a third part cheaper then the same can be imported from abroad, by which many people are kept at work and a great stock of money, which used to be exported, kept within the kingdom; and whereas by the twelfth act of His Majesty's last Parliament, the former acts anent manufactories are ratified and approved, and it is thereby declared and ordained that if any strangers shall come or be brought in to this kingdom by natives to set up work and teach his art of making of cloth, stuffs, stockings, soap, or any kind of manufacture, that he shall enjoy the benefit of law and all other privileges that a native does enjoy; with power to erect manufactories, either in burgh or land, as they shall think fit, and there to dwell and exercise their trade without any stop or trouble; and that they shall have liberty and freedom of trade, and to buy and purchase lands and heritages and all other goods, moveable and immoveable, and all other privileges, liberties, and capacities that do belong to any native subjects born within this kingdom; and for the further encouragement of manufactures all oil, dying stuffs, foreign wool, potashes, or any other materials whatsoever useful for manufactures that shall be imported are declared to be free of custom and excise and all other public dues in all time coming, and that all cloths, stuffs, stockings, or any other commodities to be made and exported by them, shall be free of custom and excise for the space of 19 years after the date thereof; and it is further declared that any stock employed or to be employed for erecting and entertaining any manufactories, the same shall be free of all private and public taxes whatsoever, and all quartering and levying of soldiers, and that all the servants of the said manufactories shall be free of watching, warding, militia and levies during their actual service therein, for the space of seven years after the date of the said act; with power to the masters, erectors, or entertainers of the said manufactories to meet for making of ordinances for the right ordering of their services, sufficiency of their stuffs, cloth and others, and for appointing visitors of their work. And therefore humbly supplicating that the said two sugar works might be declared to be manufactories, and that they may have, possess, and enjoy the whole freedoms, privileges, and immunities contained in the said acts of Parliament, and particularly that the collectors, customers, and waiters may be discharged from exacting of any custom, excise, or other public dues for any of the materials necessary imported for the said manufactories in all time coming, or of any commodities, as the product of the said manufactory for the space of nineteen years after the date hereof, conform to the said act of Parliament; and that the masters of the said manufactory may be allowed to grant transfers for the product of the said manufactories without application to the custom-house of Glasgow. The King's Majesty and estates of Parliament having heard and considered the foresaid petition, and report of the lords of the articles theranent, do hereby declare the said two sugar works of Glasgow to be manufactories, and ordains the petitioners and their successors to have, possess, and enjoy the whole freedoms, privileges, and immunities contained in the foresaid acts of Parliament, and discharges the collectors, customers, and waiters, present and to come, from exacting of any custom, excise, or other public dues, for any of the materials imported for or made use of be the said manufactories in all time coming, or of any commodities being the product of the said manufactories, for the space of nineteen years after the date hereof, conform to the said act of Parliament; and gives warrant to the masters of the said manufactories to grant transfers for the product of the said manufactories without necessity of any application to the custom-house of Glasgow.

James D. Marwick, ed. *Charters and Other Documents Relating to the City of Glasgow* (1906), II:214–216.