

But to keep close by the Subject of Commerce---How little Men in general understand the Nature of it, may be seen from this Circumstance; that many Nations have Laws still in force against the Exportation of Corn? Is not this infinitely absurd? What signifies any such Law. If we import more from any Nation than we send them, must we not pay the Ballance, or give up the Trade? I am persuaded it is scarcely possible to make any Law on the Subject of Trade, but what shall do more harm than good, excepting those which are directly intended for preventing Fraud. These are absolutely necessary and highly useful. Of the same Nature are all such Laws as tend to make our own Commodities cheap and plentiful---But those which aim only by Force or Prohibition to keep out the Commodities of other Nations, have an inherent Weakness in them, and seldom or never answer the End proposed.

There is an Assertion in some Part of the Writings of a well known living
 Author