

whose writings have excited the public attention. As the reasoning of those eminent writers is well known, it would be a trespass upon the reader's time, if I was to state their arguments at full length. I shall only state in few words, the result of what they appeared to me to have completely proved.

1. There seems great reason to doubt, whether the trade of America was ever so beneficial to Great Britain as has been commonly imagined. That the advancement of Britain, as a commercial country, has kept pace with her progress in the settling the American Colonies, cannot I think be denied. But it seems also evident, that when those Colonies became considerable, our merchants were induced, by the prospect of monopoly to quit the trade of Europe, in which they had been formerly engaged, and to turn their capitals into that of America; and though this latter trade was evidently more profitable to the merchant, there is good ground to suspect that it was not so to the nation; because, as it yielded a more distant return of commodi-

ceived opinions, upon many points; and in spite of all that has been written upon political œconomy, he has greatly improved and added to that important science. If the reader, who is unacquainted with this work, shall find me dark and unintelligible, he has only to consult it, B. 4. C. vii. part 3. to receive perfect satisfaction and great instruction.

ties,