

viii INTRODUCTION.

Trades, both advantageous to the Community, he will embrace *that* which is most profitable to himself, though it should happen to be *less* gainful to the Publick. It is a Maxim with Traders, and a justifiable one, *To get all that can be got in a legal and honest Way.* And if the Laws of their Country do give them the *Permission* of carrying on any particular gainful Trade, it is their Business, as *Merchants*, to engage in the Prosecution of it. — As to the great Point of *National Advantage*, or Disadvantage, this is properly the Concern of others, who sit at the *Helm of Government*, and consequently whose Province it is, *To frame the Laws and Regulations relating to Trade in such a Manner, as may cause the Private Interest of the Merchant to fall in with the General Good of his Country.*

FOR these Reasons therefore the *Appointment* of the BOARD of TRADE, must certainly appear a very *wise* and *necessary* Institution. The Intent and Design being, as I humbly conceive, to answer this *very End*. And the *Honourable Members* of it may be looked upon in this Light, as the GUARDIANS of the PUBLICK WELFARE. In *presiding* over the *General Commercial Interests* of the Kingdom, they are to *inspect* the several Branches of Traffick, that are carried on, and to give *Notice* to the *Legislature*, whether the *Profit* of the *Kingdom*, or of the *Merchant*, is most *promoted*.