

However that be, the Colony trade has always been highly beneficial^e to the Mother Country; and also, if we may judge from their rapid growth in wealth and power, to the Colonies themselves. Again, whether the system of monopolies be wise or no, is of little consequence to our present argument. Most countries have received benefit from their Colonies, ven though their trade was carried on by exclusive companies. A free trade might perhaps have produced more benefit, but at any rate the effect of Colonization has, even under present circumstances, been decidedly salutary.

It is possible however that the view of the question hitherto taken may to many appear unsatisfactory. Admitting the truth of our whole statement, acknowledging that Colonies do indeed promote the commerce and the riches of the Parent State, they may consider them as on that account only the more prejudicial. Scared by the phantom of luxury, and taught to attribute to that cause the downfall of empires, they will earnestly deprecate a system, which tends in their opinion to gratify unnecessary desires, and foster unbounded profligacy: they will regret that the low and mercenary^f clamour of buyers and sellers should be