

of men of very different natural characters and morals. And so different is the spirit of commercial honesty from that of justice, as it is an independent virtue, and influences the heart.

The English at present are the most interested, both in the trade of Portugal for home consumption and of what they want for the use of the Brazils. And they deserve to be most favoured, as well from the services they have always done that crown and from the stipulations of treaties, as from the consideration that no other people consumes so much of the products of Portugal. However, partly from our own supineness, partly from the policy and activity of France, and partly from the fault of the Portuguese themselves, the French have become very dangerous rivals to us in this, as in most other branches of our trade. It is true, though the French have advanced so prodigiously, and there is a spirit of industry and commerce raised in most countries in Europe, our exports of manufactures or natural products have by no means lessened within these last forty years; which can only be explained by the extending of our own, and the Spanish and Portuguese colonies, which increases the general demand. But, though it be true, that we have rather advanced than declined in our commerce upon the whole, yet we ought to take great care not to be deceived  
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