

“ change in this part of our system might be attended
 “ with the most important consequences, especially to a
 “ class of people, who bear the chief burthen of all the
 “ taxes, and are the support of the state of the commu-
 “ nity. I own I tremble for the change, and should
 “ hope this matter may be a little more thoroughly ex-
 “ plored in all the effects of its operation, before any
 “ such idea becomes a leading doctrine.”

As in the body of this work, the 4th and 9th sections especially, I have pointed out the necessities of, and advantages to be derived from *an absolute free import and export of corn, cattle, and provisions*, and have at the same time shewn that the fears of the landholders are groundless, and that, on the contrary, they in the end would be great gainers by the continuance of such free import and export, it will be here unnecessary to recapitulate all those arguments.

I shall only observe, that Governor Pownall has, in my opinion, fallen into that error long since endeavoured to be exploded, “ that the landed and commercial interests of the kingdom are different.”—On this erroneous principle he evidently prefers the landed interest to every other in the state besides, and, in this, follows a direct contrary system to that of the French, who on the other extreme of the same false principle, sacrifice the landed interest to what they think to be the commercial. They almost uniformly * prohibit the exportation of grain, that their manufacturers may never be in want of it, and always have it low. But herein (a corroboration of the landed and commercial interest being the same) they defeat the very purposes they design to promote.—The farmer in a good crop having no vend for his surplus, and fearful that the next may be as good, is anxious to dispose of what he has ;—thus more being offered at market than is wanted, occasions the whole to fall so low, that the cultivators of the earth are scarce

* In 1764 an edict was issued, permitting a free commerce in grain; but in the latter part of 1767 the export was again totally prohibited.