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cessful than either of them separately. If the One should happen to be *less* self-interested, by means of his Situation in Life, and more open to Conviction in Cases relating to the *general* Good; the Other, for the very same Reason, is more *skilful* in the *Practice* of Trade, and a *better* Judge, whether the Project, perhaps so fair in *Theory*, is *feasible* in *Fact*.

As to the *Private Interest* of Merchants, which is here supposed to be a *Bias* upon their Minds, this, most certainly, coincides, *for the most Part*, with the *General* Interest of their Country: and *so far* it can be no Argument in their *Disfavour*. But nevertheless, Truth obliges Us to acknowledge, That in *certain* Cases, \* “ A Merchant may have a *distinct* Interest from that of his Country. “ He may thrive by a Trade which may prove “ her Ruin.” Nay more, He may be *improved* by a Trade that is *beneficial* to her. But undoubtedly, the Moment he perceives he is carrying on a *loosing* Trade, he will quit it, and employ his Thoughts and his Substance in the Prosecution of some other. Moreover, as it is a *Balance* in *favour* of *himself*, which is the *principal* Object of his Aims and Endeavours, it cannot be expected, but of two Trades,

\* *British Merchant*, Vol. II. page 141. 8vo Edition, 1721. See likewise the Instances there given to confirm this Observation,