AN ESSAY ON TRADE. 143

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outvie them in Cheapness and Goodness, or be deprived of that part of Commerce by them: If they invite Foreigners to fettle among them, in order to have the more Hands, and to keep down the Price of Labour; we must do the fame, or take the Consequence to ourfelves: If they allow of no exclusive Companies in a Branch of Trade, which interferes with our Trade; we must put down our Companies, or lose that Trade: If their Manufacturers are fober and industrious, and work for low Wages, and feldom become a Burden upon their Parishes; we must endeavour to put ours upon the same Footing, or be content with the Poverty, which will be brought upon Us: If their Government requires little or no Duties upon Importation, in order to encourage the greater Numbers to engage in Trade, and that all Merchandize may come the cheaper to the Consumer; we must imitate them in that respect, and change our Customs into In-land Duties, or administer continual Temptation to the Needy and Fraudulent to turn Smugglers, and fuffer ourselves to fink under these Evils, together with the Burden and Weight of our Customs. These are the Alternatives which are fet before Us; and one would think, That if Mankind were not greatly blinded with their Prejudices, and biaffed by private Interests and sinister Views, they need not be long in deliberating which to choose. — Not to mention, That as every Country in