

ments in the East Indies, from this single Circumstance, that they ingross the Spice Trade. But whatever it be to them, it seems to be granted by all who understand the Subject, that the East-India Trade is hurtful to the rest of Europe.

I fancy to myself that some of my Mercantile Readers will have long ago perceived that I am no Merchant, and therefore will be saying within themselves in the most contemptuous Manner, What has this Author to do with Trade? How can he take upon him to write upon a Subject he does not understand? I am sure if I was a Merchant, I should reckon myself utterly unqualified for speaking on the Question which stands at the Head of my Paper. Actual Merchants are so ingrossed by the Gain or Loss of their own particular Branches, that it is impossible for them to perceive the Hurt or Benefit of the whole Body. These proceed upon general principles, on which any Man of common Understanding may write clearly, and those who are not Traders themselves must be supposed to judge with the
greatest