

also too well answered their Design. The inconsiderable Amount of their *Exports*, and consequently of the *Returns*, have kept the Trade in such Obscurity, as to seem beneath the Attention of Government, whereby it has remained, according to the Letter, however contrary to the Spirit of their Charter, *exclusively* in their own Hands.

It must be owned that the Temptations to this Conduct were powerful. Without hazarding, or even advancing more than a comparative Trifle, they have long reaped, and do still reap a Profit, which a Capital ten Times as large could not produce in any other Channel of Commerce; a Reason, which too many Instances prove sufficient, in the present Times, to over-balance national Advantage, and justify Breach of Faith; for by no other Name can so manifest a Violation of the Professions of promoting that Advantage, upon which all such Charters are granted, be called, without as manifest a Violation of Truth.

I am aware, that it will be objected to this, by those who are interested to keep these Affairs in their present State of Darknes, that the *Imports* prove the Sufficiency of the Capital for the Trade, and that it is absurd and unnatural to think any Men should be so blind to their own Advantage, as not to make large *Exports* could they have adequate Returns for them. The latter of these Objections has been already obviated. I shall now shew the Fallacy of the former, and in what Manner the *Imports* are kept down to their present low Stand; low, I mean as to what they might be, for they are high beyond all parallel, considering what they cost.