

currency abound, until the immense quantity of the signs of wealth will be attended with worse evils than ever arose from a too great share of real wealth: the trade of paper and money will be more profitable than real commerce loaded with impositions, and subjected to the rivalship of foreigners; consequently the trading stocks will be lessened.—Another consequence will be, an *extravagant* rise in the price of all necessaries, to the great enhancing of that of labour: and however well a flourishing commerce will bear prices *equal* to those of the neighbouring nations, it is clear enough that a declining one will not endure those which are *superior*. But if, according to the opinions of many writers, an *equal* dearth is of bad effect at present, how much worse consequences, according to their reasoning, must attend it, when we have a *declining*, instead of an increasing, commerce?

In short, there is no trifling reason to believe, that the present system will be continued; viz. to let matters rub on in the old way, and take care of themselves. Our ministers will be perpetually busy and in a hurry with doing nothing; or, what is worse than nothing, plaistering over evils, and mending them by patch-work; engage in little paltry regulations and improvements; and preach up oeconomy to those who advise effectual proceedings. The national debt will be annually increased, without such measures being taken as will ensure a parallel increase of trade; the last to enable the nation to bear the first. Unfortunately, the old dilatory sleeping plan will no longer do. We are now at a crisis. Formerly it mattered but little, whether our statesmen were asleep or awake: And why? Because the increase of the colonies did the business for them: their increase occasioned the national trade to increase, and all went on silently, but prosperously. But late ill-judged measures have irritated the colonists, and at the same time, by confining them, forced them into those manufactures which their anger made them wish for. Their scheme, according to the present conduct of Britain, must succeed, and will end in the ruin of a vast part of our commerce and manufactures; so that for the future, trade will not increase, as it has done, of itself, and without attention; because the cause which operated such good effects will every day be turning against it. May we not therefore call this a crisis in the British Commerce? We have hitherto defied the rivalship of foreigners; let our American trade decline instead of increasing, and the case will be greatly changed.

T H E E N D.