

it, says, that the Philippine trade is very pernicious to Spain, as the silks from China, and cottons from Coromandel, hinder in America the sale and exportation of the silk and woollen manufactures of Valencia, and other cities in Spain; and that don Joseph Patinho was in the year 1725, for abolishing this trade; but the interest of the jesuits averted the blow. Could I be diverted by slender considerations, when a great advantage to our nation is called in question, I should be silent on this head, lest it should be thought that my apology for the Philippine trade proceeds from the jesuits having, according to mr. Walter, the capital concern in it. Possibly he may have known that the jesuits in treating of their missions being reminded of it by the very situation, might awaken the former anxieties, or endeavours of the Spanish nation, for obtaining the advantages offered to it by the East-India commerce, though well regulated betwixt the several branches of the nation; and by that political finesse was for imposing upon them by this fear. However it be, this is too mean a motive to make any impression on me. These are facts known in Asia, America, and Europe; of a nature not to be hid; and of which any one may easily acquire information. The bare assertion of mr. Walter will not preponderate against the
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