

the Nerves, unmanned the Vigour of our Marine; is a Prodigy, which I hope future Ages will wonder at as much as the present; for I hope it will never be parallel'd while Time endures. Whence this Disgrace, in that Part of our Strength which used to be our Glory and Pride, the Envy and Terror of the rest of the World? The Extinguishment of Liberty, usually extinguishes all Virtues together with it. Nay almost all Virtues must be extinguish'd before Liberty can be so, or the People made to bend to the Yoke; yet personal Bravery is generally the last. But in a Country where Virtue and Liberty go Hand in Hand, where National Probity and Freedom support each other, how came these abject Sentiments to prevail? Particular Instances other Times have afforded, but this general Defection is entirely new; in former Days the Evil was timely prevented, but since that unhappy *Æra. February 1743-4*, it has been nursed up and encouraged by Impunity. This has been the Root of that Evil which has so distressed our Naval Affairs.

The Protection given by principal Men of the State, the Honours shewn immediately on his Arrival to an Officer of considerable Rank, sent Home under an Accusation of Crimes of the highest Nature, were enough to confound all Ideas of Right and Wrong. And what has since been done, has but * increased the Evil. But this is not the Sum Total. If on one Hand there are Complaints of Acquittals, on the other Hand there are Complaints of a quite different Nature. With how much Grounds let Captain *West's* Defence tell as well as the 19th Article of the fighting Instructions, which requires the Van of our Fleet to steer with the Van of the Enemy, and appoints no Signal, because it is always to be done, when the

Enemy

* See the Remarks on Mr. *Leacock's* Sentence. Printed for *W. Webb*, near *St. Paul's*.