

tors to the *Dutch*, who carried on, not only the Foreign, but even the Coasting Trade of *France* in *Dutch* Bottoms. The *Dutch*, contented with the great Gains they made by this Traffick, never turned their Thoughts to Manufactures, and the *French* satisfied with the immense Riches brought into their Country by Foreigners to purchase their Commodities, intirely neglected Navigation. But when *Colbert* came to have the Superintendancy of the Finances and the Marine, and found it impossible to execute the ambitious Plan of Conquest and Dominion his Master had form'd without a Naval Force, he soon gave the Genius and Activity of his Countrymen a new direction, and applied himself to the Business of the *Marine*, with a Dexterity and Success that amaz'd all *Europe*: For in less than twenty Years he rais'd or rather created a *Naval Power* capable of disputing the Empire of the Sea against the *English* and *Dutch* united. All his Abilities were equally eminent in both his Provinces, he so improved and regulated the Finances, that the ordinary Revenue produced