

Commerce, than any Thing we met with either in Ancient or Modern History; the Power, Influence and Riches of *Tyre*, *Carthage*, *Venice*, *Genoa*, and *Holland* not excepted. By the prudent Regulations of the *German Hanse Towns*, they not only secured 'all the Trade of their own Country to themselves, and managed that of the *North*, without Rivals, but they likewise associated Foreign Cities so as to have the Direction of Trade every where, but particularly here, where their Privileges were so extensive, that it was with great Difficulty the Natives broke through them; and nothing but the Spirit of *Henry VIII.* and the Wisdom of some Counsellors about his Son *Edward VI.* could have delivered us from their Oppression, or opened a Passage for the *English* Traders, to export their own Commodities and Manufactures, or import those of foreign Countries freely, without paying such exorbitant Tribute, to these *German* Monopolizers, as was absolutely inconsistent with our Interest as a free People, and a trading Nation. Such as are curious may apply themselves for Information to *Strype's* Memorials, *Hollingshead*, and other Writers, who have recorded, though very imperfectly, the Struggles of our Ancestors upon this Subject. From hence it clearly appears how deep Reach the *Germans* have always had, and how zealously they have bent their Endeavours to aggrandize themselves at the Expence of other Nations, and to bind them by Treaties, Alliances, Charters, and every other possible Method, to sacrifice their own natural Interest, to their Friendship for the *German* People. In the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*, the Power of the *Hanse Towns* was upon the decline, and yet their Spirit remained unbroken; they saw, and took Advantage of