

liberties. The smallness of our country, compared with *France*, is no disadvantage to us; but the smallness of our numbers. Were our inhabitants as numerous as those of *France*, we should derive an advantage from the smallness of our Island, as we should be better able to defend its coasts, than if as large again. But as we fall short of *France* in numbers, the security that we thereby lose must be made up by the superiority of our navy. The number of our inhabitants, and the strength of our navy added to each other, must put us upon a par with the *French*; and then the circumstance of our being an Island will give us a sufficient security against all hostile attempts from that ambitious people. Upon the supposition that we increased in populousness much more in proportion than the *French*, the strength of our navy might be decreased without danger, in the same degree as the strength of the inhabitants was increased; but if on the other hand the superior strength of our navy should increase with the growing strength of the inhabitants, our security is greatly promoted: and this is what may be naturally expected; however as the increase of inhabitants will not weaken our navy, and adds strength to the community, hence it appears of what importance it is to increase them, which should be done by removing as much as possible all those obstacles to matrimony by which numbers are kept single, and by encouraging such foreigners to settle among us, whose good behaviour we can rely upon. But then, as