

erected and garrisoned, are of no strength, were they attacked by an European enemy; and only serve to subject the Indians to the command of the company.

withstanding their forts. And the same sort are again revived with regard to the Embden company established by the king of Prussia.—If the trade was now to be laid open, subject only to the single restriction, that the private traders should not come into the same ports or harbours, where the companies have forts:—what would be the consequence? plainly this; That the companies would be ruined: and the private adventurers, though destitute of forts, would get all the trade from them.—If it is said, that these forts are necessary to guard and defend their magazines against thieves and robbers; how then comes it to pass, that the East-India company themselves have none on the coast of China, where the people are said to be as thievish and dishonest as in any place in the world?—And how did the Bristol and Liverpool traders maintain their ground along the coast of Guinea, without forts, where the natives are much more warlike than in any part of India. Besides, the affair of Madras has sufficiently opened our eyes, as to the use and importance of these pretended forts,—and the national advantage arising from them. And as to the forts in Hudson's Bay, Father Charlevoix observes in his history of Canada, that when a French vessel with about fifty hands, appeared before the best of these forts, the brave English governor surrendered without firing a gun! Thus it is, that forts, in the hands of exclusive companies, have defended the honour, and preserved the commerce of Great Britain!

But even allowing, that they are necessary and advantageous to the general trade of the nation; what need then of a company? is it not a national concern? If so, why should they not be erected and supported at a national expence? Take the argument therefore either way, what reason is there for an exclusive company?

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