

With this honest Intention, he endeavours to confute the Principles of that Treatise by Arguments drawn from Experience, and therefore is extremely careful to quote only such Authorities as are universally allowed. He had access to all the Offices of the Finances, he himself being a *Commissioner* in one of them; and, by that Means, had an Opportunity of verifying whatever relates to the publick Revenue. When he had finished his Book, he presented it in Manuscript to the Cardinal for his Approbation, and Leave to print it, which was granted him. This I think sufficient to establish the Credit of the Book in opposition to those who magnify the Revenues beyond all bounds of Probability. For is it to be imagined, that a *Commissioner* of the Finances would write, or the Minister suffer to be published, a Book which made *France* appear to be either weaker or poorer than she really is? Is not the Minister esteem'd wise, and is not the Author a *Frenchman*? Why must he be supposed then to run against the natural Biass of all *Frenchmen*, so notoriously partial in every thing that affects the
 Glory