

ports in the world. At the beginning of the last war, but thirty years after, they had eighteen hundred. Their losses in that war were very great; and yet their losses in this shew, that in a very little time they have more than repaired them. Wherever the vital principle subsists in full vigour, wounds are soon healed. Disorders themselves are a species of remedies; and every new loss not only shews how it may be repaired, but, by the vigour it inspires, makes new advantages known. Such losses renew the spirit of industry and enterprise; they reduce things to their first principles; they keep alive motion, and make the appetites of traders sharp and keen. While the spirit of trade subsists, trade itself can never be destroyed. This is the reason that, amidst their continual wars, and the losses all the nations of Europe suffer from each other, they are almost all thriving. And, if I may indulge a conjecture, it may be one among several of the causes which have reduced the trade of Holland, that since the treaty of Utrecht, now above forty years, they have had no war. They may, during the quarrels of other powers, appear to have derived great advantages from their neutrality. But are they not with all this declining fast? And is not this country, which grew to be a nation, and to be a powerful, trading, and rich nation, in the midst of the most bloody and expensive