
INTRODUCTION.

WITHIN the last hundred years of our history, Britain has been five times at war with France, and six times at war with Spain. During the same period, she has been engaged in two rebellions at home, besides an endless catalogue of massacres in Asia and America: In Europe, the common price which we advance for a war, has extended from one to three hundred thousand lives, and from sixty to an hundred and fifty millions Sterling. From Africa, we import annually between thirty and forty thousand slaves, which rises in the course of a century to at least three millions of murders. In Bengal only, we destroyed or expelled within the short period of six years, no less than five millions of industrious and harmless people*; and as we have been sovereigns in that country for about thirty-five years, it may be reasonably computed that we have strewed the plains of Indostan, with fifteen or twenty millions of carcases. If we combine the diversified ravages of famine, pestilence, and the sword, it can hardly be supposed that in these transactions less than fifteen hundred thousand of our countrymen have perished; a number equal to that of the whole inhabitants of Britain who are at present able to bear arms. In Europe, the havock of our antagonists has been at least not inferior to our own, so that this quarter of the world alone has lost by our quarrels, three millions of men in the flower of life; whose descendants, in the progress of domestic society would have swelled into multitudes beyond calculation. The persons positively destroyed must, in

* *Infra*, chap. 1.