

#### iv INTRODUCTION.

of them, and Merchants themselves so *divided* in their Sentiments about them.

As to the *first* Case, perhaps it may be accounted for, if we consider what *disadvantageous* Notions Men of a *liberal* and *learned* Education have *imbibed* of this *noble* and *interesting* Science; on which the *Riches*, the *Strength*, the *Glory*, and I may add, the very *Freedom* of our Country, so essentially depend. Yet it has been represented as a dry unenterprising Subject, dark and crabbed, perplexed with endless Difficulties, not reducible to any fixed and certain Principles; and therefore fit for none, but the *Mercantile* Part of the World, whose Subsistence depends upon it, to give themselves any Trouble concerning it. But upon a fair Examination it will perhaps appear, that this Representation is very *false* and *injuriously* in every particular.

As to the *Second* it must be indeed confessed, That *Merchants* themselves are very often *divided* in their Sentiments concerning Trade. Sir \* *Josiah Child*, Mr *Gee*, Mr *Cary* of *Bristol*,

\* The Words of Sir *Josiah Child* strongly corroborate what is here alledged. " Merchants, says he, while  
" they are in the busy and eager Prosecution of their  
" particular Trades, although they be very wise and  
" good Men, are not always the best Judges of Trade,  
" as it relates to the Power and Profit of a Kingdom.  
" The Reason may be, because their Eyes are so continually