tionable to the Expence it coſt us, and therefore the Bulk of the Nation were not at all ſenſible of the Danger of running into ſuch a War again; and as this Method has been purſued ever ſince, we have gone on increaſing, in all outward appearance, in Trade and Riches, which has given Countenance to the mighty Demands made upon us, for the Support of the Ballance of Power, when in reality we have been in a Condition leaſt able to comply with them; and as this is a Matter of the laſt Importance, as it is indeed the one Thing neceſſary to be underſtood, I hope the Reader will bear with me, if I lay out a large proportion of my own Time, and take up ſome of his, in order thoroughly to explain it.

It is a thing very evident, that the Increaſe and Decreaſe of Coin and Bullion, are the true Signs of a flouriſhing or decaying State of any Nation; and the Reaſon is plainly this, becauſe if the Inhabitants of any Country live within Bounds, their Frugality, with a reaſonable Proportion of Induſtry, muſt neceſſarily draw great Sums of Money into that Country, by various Channels; whereas if any People through Luxury, Idleneſs, or foreign Wars run into ſuch Expences, as they cannot afford, the Conſequence muſt be, that as a Nation they will grow poor, of which the Scarcity of Coin and Bullion will be a certain Mark. This happened frequently in former Reigns, and forced our Princes upon ſtrange Expedients: King *Henry* III. granted Letters Patent to the Archbiſhop of *York*, to impower him to pawn his Jewels; and the great *Edward* I. granted the like Letters Patent to *Giles Andover*. *Edward* III. pawned his Jewels to pay certain Foreign Mercenaries their Wages, as appears by the cloſe Rolls, in the Tower, of