

worth is better still, because more would be saved to the nation. Suppose therefore, that the company, and every other exporter in the kingdom, (for every other has the same right of arguing in this manner) suppose, I say, that all exporters could lessen the exportations of our own manufactures by nine tenths, and yet could get as much money, or effects in return, as they had before; what would be the consequence? why, only this, that these exporters would become princes; and the rest of the kingdom beggars. They would be like a Spanish Don in Mexico, or Peru, who has a prodigious rich mine, which required but few hands to work it. And therefore he indeed would be a great lord; but all his wealth would not enrich the neighbourhood, so much as a single manufacture here in England, which being branched out into various hands, gives a comfortable subsistence to many families, causing a general circulation of labour.

It is not therefore gold and silver, considered merely in themselves, that can make a kingdom flourish, but the parceling them out into proper shares, by means of the divisions and subdivisions of different trades. Without this the more riches in a few hands,