

Russia and Sweden are all of them useful, and that many of them are materials for manufactures of the most profitable kind ; but, surely, we ought to require those nations to take payment in our manufactures to a greater amount than they now do, or we ought to endeavour to procure those commodities from countries that would do so. Our colonies could, perhaps, furnish us with them all, and, although we should pay them higher prices, yet, as they would take payment for the whole in our merchandize, and thereby save so large a balance to the nation, the price ought not to be considered as an objection, for it would be easy to reduce it to our manufacturers by bounties. Such were the judicious measures pursued in 1764; as has been sufficiently shewn in the *Regulations of the colonies*, and to them I refer.

The decline of our trade to Portugal has been much complained of, but no sufficient remedy for restoring it has yet been discovered. Two late measures of the court of Portugal seems to have contributed much to the diminution of our exports to that kingdom: the setting up manufactories for supplying themselves with some articles, which they formerly took from Great-Britain; and the importing directly from other countries, such foreign commodities as were usually carried to them through Great-Britain. Against the first of these proceedings we can have nothing to say. Every state has a right to employ its own subjects in making their own necessities, and it is the duty of every government to confine the expences of its people within its own dominions. If our loss of the carrying trade to Portugal be owing to any indulgences granted to the ships and subjects of other nations, or to the withdrawing any heretofore granted to those of Great-Britain, there is just ground for complaint, and the honour and interest of the nation demands speedy redress; but should it come out, upon enquiry, that Portugal has not varied her conduct either to British subjects, or to those of other nations, and that her people prefer buying of other nations only because we have advanced our prices; I am afraid we must look to our own burthensome taxes for the cause of our grievance, and to the speedy reduction of them for the remedy. In so far as this appears to be the case, will it not justify the representation I have been making of the danger Great-Britain is in, of losing her whole carrying trade, and with it a full third of her maritime strength; for if Portugal wont employ us for her carriers, what other state can we hope will give us the transportation of its merchandize? It behoves us well to examine into the circumstances of this fact; for a declining trade ought at all times to be an alarm bell to British ministers, and, in the present condition of the nation, any diminution of its balance may be attended with fatal consequences.