

as likely to be subject to *French* Influence and Direction now the Peace is concluded, as she would have been, had not the Peace been made. If then we were not under an absolute Necessity of making Peace, let us in the next Place consider if it would not have been greatly for our Interest to have continued the War against *France*. In order to bring this Matter to a fair Decision, it will be necessary to take a short Retrospect of our commercial Affairs before the Commencement of the War. It is to be observed then that *France* was grown so formidable a Rival to us in Trade, that had she been suffered to carry on her Trade much longer, unmolested, she probably would, in a few Years more, have totally ruined ours, by underselling us at Foreign Markets. As it was, she had in a Manner beat us out of our *Levant* Trade, our Fishing Trade, and our Sugar Trade: For tho it has been said that our Colonies vend now near as much Sugar as they did formerly; which nevertheless I cannot admit to be a Fact, yet as that Circumstance, if true, arises from the Use of Sugar becoming more general than it was formerly, it is so far from being a negative to what I have alledged in regard to the Diminution of the Sugar Trade, that it is in some Measure a Confirmation of it. For our Trade ought to have encreased in proportion, and necessarily must have