

the King was restrained from acting as he inclined to do, at least during some Part of his Reign, in Favour of *France* ; and on the other Hand, it kept the Nation from launching too far into Wars upon the Continent, about the Concerns of other People, for which even at that time, there were some who had too warm an Inclination. It obliged his Majesty to great Circumspection in his Conduct, and perhaps constrained him to do many Things that were highly for the Benefit of his Subjects ; such as sending strong Fleets into the *Mediterranean*, and forcing the pyratrical States of *Barbary* into Treaties, that have secured our Commerce ever since. By these Methods the publick Revenue was kept within just Bounds, and Ministers were compelled to make up fair Accounts ; the Money of the Nation was kept at Home, for except a very few Subsidies during the *Dutch Wars*, we did not feed the Avarice of such Princes as make a Market of their People. It secured to us an extensive and beneficial Trade, and as we had then no great standing Army, no formidable Number of Officers belonging to the Revenue, no publick Debts or Taxes out of the Reach of Parliamentary Inspection, the Nation grew immensely rich, as appears from the rising of the Customs, for as these had been farmed at 400,000*l.* in the Year after the Restoration ; which in the last Year of Queen *Elizabeth* had been let for 36,000*l.* so before the Death of King *Charles II.* they arose to 800,000*l.* which shews how much Trade was improved in so little a Time, our Navy was greatly increased, and the Tonnage of our trading Ships doubled, according to the Computations of Dr. *Davenant*, who likewise says that our Coin was encreased four Millions and a Half, which shews what a mighty Ballance of Trade