

that a numerous Company of People, composed of Individuals of all the different Nations of *Europe*, should be actuated at one time with the same identical particular Passion: Such, in Reality, it appears throughout the whole People here at present. The richer Tradesman, the Artificer and Peasant seem as unattentive to *Cares* and *Sorrow* as the *Baron*, the *Count* or *Prince*. This happy Propensity to Pleasures and Forgetfulness is not more conspicuous among the Youth than the Aged, nor among the Men of Dress and Gallantry, than the Men of Business, Politics and Intrigue. In short, 'tis one universal Calm all over the Place, one general Suspension from all manner of Functions that employ the Head, or affect the Heart.

This general, but unusual Serenity, made me suspect it rather artificial than natural, notwithstanding the uncommon Warmth and Clearness of the Air, which undoubtedly continue to inspire Mirth and Chearfulness. I know you will look upon this Suspicion of mine to be owing to an Oddity in my Temper, or to that Propensity to Speculation, which you often told me would create me much Occupation and Trouble in the Course of my Life. All I shall say in my own Defence; is, that my Oddity or Propensity to speculating has often been of Use to me in tracing out *Truth*, when it appeared so enveloped as to seem out of the Reach of human Understanding; and that any Trouble attending