

I N T R O D U C T I O N. xi

IT is fervently to be wished, That Providence may never visit Us with so terrible a Judgment, as the choking up the Mouth of our *Principal* River leading to the *Metropolis* of the Kingdom. But the bare Supposal of such a Case is sufficient to prove, I humbly presume, with irresistible Evidence, That the *Landed* Gentlemen in the Counties *adjacent* to *London*, are more *deeply interested* in the Consequences of the Trade of *London*, than the *Merchants* themselves: And therefore, That those *supposed* Distinctions of *Landed* Interest, and *Trading* Interest, in the Sense they are commonly used, are the most *idle* and *silly*, as well as *false* and *injurious*, that ever *divided* Mankind.

BUT above all, we must beg Leave to observe, by way of *Inducement* to the *Landed Gentleman* to turn his Thoughts to this Study, That his *very private Interest* is rather a *Help*, than a *Detriment* to him in the *Prosecution* of it. It puts no *wrong Biass* upon his Mind, but directs him to the *true Point* of Light; from whence to see, and to judge of these Affairs: which is a Circumstance in some respect *peculiar* to his Situation.

FOR, if we suppose the Scene still to continue in and about *London*, (though the same ~~could~~ hold true of any other Part of the