

“ in the Year 1700, more dispos’d than ever to
 “ grant a particular Protection to Commerce, to
 “ shew his Esteem for the good Merchants and
 “ Traders of his Kingdom; and to facilitate to
 “ them the Means of making Trade flourish and
 “ extending it: And judging that nothing could be
 “ more capable of producing this Effect than the
 “ forming a Council of Commerce, to be wholly
 “ attentive to the examining and promoting what-
 “ ever may be most advantageous to Commerce,
 “ and, to the Manufactures of *France* in general,”
 establish’d a Council accordingly, which consists of
 some of the principal * Officers of State, and
 twelve of the principal Merchants of the Kingdom,
 or such *who have been a long Time engag’d in*
Trade; and of this Number two are of the Town
 of *Paris*, and each of the other ten are of the
 Towns of *Rouen, Bourdeaux, Lyons, Marseilles,*
Rockelle, Nantes, St. Malo, Lisle, Bayonne, and
Dunkirk; and they are elected annually by the Cor-
 poration, Magistrates of the Town, and the
 trading Merchants in each of the said Towns, and
 every one of these Towns has a Chamber of
 Commerce within itself, which hear Representa-
 tions concerning Abuses and Difficulties in Trade,
 and also Complaints concerning Impositions in
 Trade by Governors and other publick Officers in
 their Plantations, which are represented by them
 to their respective Deputies elected as aforesaid.

In this Council of Commerce, which sits at least
 once in every Week at *Paris*, or where the Court
 resides, are discuss’d and examin’d all Propositions
 and Memorials which are sent to it, together with
 the Affairs and Difficulties which may arise con-
 cerning Commerce, as well by Land as by Sea,
 A 4 within

* Comptroller-General of the Finances, Secretary of State,
 and other particular Counsellors of State, who communicate
 what passes at this Council to the Royal Council, as Occasion may
 require.