

remains; and indeed where the Government is Arbitrary, and the Glory of the King is the principal Object, there is but little Attention to the Misery of the People any otherwise than to proportion the Efforts of the State to their utmost Ability of *Suffering*: But to compute what Sums of Money that will produce, is as difficult as it is to estimate the Patience of an enslaved Nation.

FROM what has been said, I draw this general Conclusion, that the Power of *France*, in the present Situation of her Finances and Credit, is far from being formidable; and, whatsoever they may boast, is incredibly less than it was threescore Years ago, as I shall make more fully appear, when I come to examine into the past and present State of her Commerce. But then Power is to be estimated by comparison, and whatever her own Circumstances may be, the Folly and Weakness of her Neighbours, give her both Strength and Wisdom. Witness the present Desolation of the Empire, far less owing to the Arms of *France*, than to the fatal Obstinacy, and hereditary Pride of some of its Princes;