

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

Effects of an Advantageous or Disadvantageous Commerce, than the Merchant himself. If this Assertion should appear a Paradox to any one, I hope a few Lines will convince him of the Truth of it.

SUPPOSE then some *General Calamity* to befall the Trade of the Kingdom: — Or, to put a more *striking Case*, Suppose the *Mouth of the Thames* to be *choked up* with *Sands and Marshes*, (as that fine River in *France*, the *Rhone*, really is) so as to afford no Port worth mentioning for the Purposes of Commerce: In such a melancholy Case, the *Merchants, Manufacturers, Owners of Ships, Sailors*, and all the *Multitudes* of Tradesmen *dependent upon* this Commerce, would indeed be the *first affected*; but they would not be the **GREATEST LOSERS**. For after the *first Shock*, they would *easily* remove with the best of their Effects, and try their Fortunes elsewhere. But the *Landed Gentleman*, what must he do? he is *bound down* to the Soil, and *cannot* remove his Estate, though the Persons are gone, who used to *consume* the *Product* of it. Thus the Evil becomes *incurable*, and *perpetual* with regard to him, and every Day *increasing*: whereas with respect to the Merchant, it was only a Shock at first, which he has the Chance of getting the better of, by removing to a more advantageous Situation.