

When Rome had
were to its origi-
nally while the

the taste of Asiatic
of commerce and
Three centuries
prepared the way
afterwards arose,
of the East Indies,

the noble the African
shed the great cape
d; but in 1497
proceeding by the
ues sailing on the
richest countries of
e their conquests.
ng the mercantile
chases them, Gold
ot only a vehicle,
in want of them,
rpe, altered the
e that it extended
tugueze who had
arts and agricul-
thing, they never
ys gold, and were
ad lost was more

ds became poor,
er lands or mines.
but who sells her
ad not a sufficient
er inhabitants, she
ved to enjoy it by
rafting all nations
buy up from one
e merchandize of
al of part of their
hole profit of their

opened the eyes of
ceived, that traffic
of the Dutch, and
science and sup-
pirit of their Go-
In other monar-
but here by the
The

The French situated under a more favourable sky, and upon as happy a soil, had for a long time flattered themselves, that they had much to bestow upon other nations, and scarce any thing to ask from them. But the great *Colbert* thought otherwise: He opened Manufactures for all the Arts. Woolen stuffs, silks, dyes, embroideries, and gold and silver stuffs were brought to such an exquisite degree of refinement in the hands of the French, that the preference was given them every where. The chance of navigation had given France some possessions in the new world. The ambition of a few individuals formed Colonies there, which were soon aggrandized by the trade of the Dutch and English. A naval force was then established, upon the strength of the national commerce, to restore to the mother country its natural connexion with the Colonists, and so they necessarily made a double profit upon the materials and workmanship of the manufactures, and France still enjoys a superiority over other nations in all those arts of Luxury and ornament, which procure riches to industry.

It would be an easy and agreeable task to describe the Romans with the single art of war, ruining all other arts, and subduing all other nations, indolent or commercial, civilized or savage; but it is more pleasing to view all Europe peopled with laborious nations, who are continually going round the Globe, to cultivate and make it fit for mankind; who are put in motion by the vivifying breath of industry, seek in the abyss of the ocean, and in the bowels of rocks, for new supports, or new enjoyments; stir and raise up the earth with all the mechanic powers invented by genius; establish between the two hemispheres, by the happy improvements in the art of navigation, a communication of flying bridges, as it were, that unite one continent with the other; pursue all the tracts of the sun, overcome the annual barriers, and pass from the tropics to the poles on the wings of the wind; in a word to see them open all the streams of population and pleasure, in order to pour them upon the face of the earth through a thousand channels. It is then, perhaps, that the *Divinity* contemplates his works with Satisfaction, and *does not repent himself of having made man.*

The trader takes in both worlds at one view. Nothing must escape him; he must foresee the influence of the seasons upon the plenty, the scarcity, and the quality of commodities; upon the departure or return of his ships; the influence of political affairs upon those of commerce; the changes which war or peace must necessarily occasion in the prices and run of merchandize, in the quantity and choice of provisions; in the state of the cities, and ports of the whole world; he must know the consequences that an alliance of the northern nations may have under the torrid zone; the progress either towards aggrandizement or decay, of the several trading companies; the counter stroke that the fall of any European power in India may give to Africa and America; the stagnation that may be produced in certain countries, by the blocking up of some channels