

cessary commodities, if the balance of trade is against you. While we deal with foreign states, there must be upon the whole, that balance of trade in favour of our country, that shall enable us to purchase naval stores and the like, or a main part of our defence must fail us; for we have no gold or silver mines to supply us. Now whatever branch of commerce tends, after all that can be said in its favour, to lessen this balance upon the whole, such commerce is certainly prejudicial, and ought to be declined.

The above thoughts, though they will hold good with regard to our trading with foreign states, will not do it when applied to our colonies. Was the trade of the mother country and its colonies to be confined to each other, and could they in each other meet withall that either wants for its security, however divided by distance, they would still be as one nation: the interfering ocean should be only as a large river dividing between two countries; and the ships employed in navigating between them, as bridges and water-carriages. In this case gold and silver would be no more necessary, than if they were absolutely one nation: but if the use of it is adopted out of conveniency, as a measurement by which to judge of the value of each others commodities, the mother country is not prejudiced by any balance of trade that is against her, supposing that she does not suffer her bullion to be exported to her colonies, but obliges the colonist to come and enjoy the balance in the mother