

since our Indolence is at length awaken'd, our Security alarm'd, and every Breast seems to be fill'd with those Passions, which are enkindled by the Love of our Country, not only from this Instance, but also from many other Proofs, that the *French* have of late Years gain'd very great Advantages over us in Trade, surely no Opportunity ought to be lost to excite every *Briton* to the Exertion of all his Faculties to discover the Cause of such a surprizing Change, and to find out such Expedients as may enable us to bear up against the flourishing State and ambitious Views of the Common Disturbers of *Europe*.

In Order to answer so desirable an End, it will be necessary to search narrowly into the present State, Laws, Establishments, and Rules of Commerce, as well Foreign as Domestick, and to retrench what is superfluous and inconvenient, and to supply what is insufficient by prudent Regulations.

I shall therefore shew the wise Operations of the *French* in Support of their Commerce and Colonies, and the Consequences thereof; and shall then set forth what has been done by the *English* in Behalf of theirs; and, after touching upon the *French* Superiority and the Danger we are in from any further Delay in altering our Measures, I shall point out such Expedients as I humbly apprehend will put a Stop to the late rapid Encrease of *French* Trade, Wealth and Power.

LEWIS XIV. King of *France*, * “ having
 “ at all Times been sensible of what Importance it
 “ was to the Welfare of the State to favour and
 “ protect the Commerce of his People, as well
 “ within the Kingdom as out of it: And being,
 “ in

* *Vide*, The Arret for establishing a Council of Commerce, Done in the King's Council of State, his Majesty present, at *Verailles*, the 29th Day of *June* 1700. Sign'd *Phelypeaux* and seal'd.