

rules, which experience has shown to be wise and beneficial. It esta'lishes the propriety of the observation of a great political writer, that 'Ce n'est pas la fortune qui domine le monde : on peut le demander aux Romains, qui eurent une suite continuelle des prosperités quand ils se gouvernerent sur un certain plan, & une suite non interrompue de revers lors qu'ils se conduisirent sur un autre,'¹ and it points out the necessity of *retracing* those measures which have produced so much distress on these great commercial bodies. *Permanent legislative* regulations are essentially necessary to give *energy* and *security* to trade, and to create confidence in the people. The benefits which flowed from a steady adherence to the navigation and colonial system are evident, from the progressive increase of the trade, shipping, and manufactures of Great Britain, *prior* to the adoption of the *suspending* system, which its advocates are still anxious to extend, notwithstanding the evils which have resulted from it : 'for, *if every law of regulation*, either of our internal or external trade, *were repealed*, with the exception of those necessary for the collection of revenue,' it is certain we could not rear or retain our seamen,² the grand support of our present pre-eminence, or preserve the country from falling even below the level of surrounding nations ; therefore its extension 'would' *not*, as represented, 'be an undoubted benefit to commerce, as well as to the community at large.'³

But, —, reject⁴

Such mean, such dang'rous counsels, which would blast
Your long-establish'd honors, and assist
The proud invader

Buonaparte ; who, *it is asserted*, is realising⁵ the dream of universal empire ; his force *declared* to be irresistible, and contrasted with the *total destitution* of energy and genius, which is *represented* to be opposed to him ; while the hand⁶ of

¹ Grandeur, &c. des Romains, c. 18.

² Reeves on Shipping, Introduction.

³ Mr. Baring's Examination, 133.

⁴ Glover.

⁵ Introduction to Mr. Baring's Examination.

⁶ This allusion has frequently been made, and as variously applied by persons of opposite sentiments, which generally result from the difference of religious and political education. It is admirably expressed by an old English poet whose lines are peculiarly applicable to the present power, riches, and happiness of Great Britain, as contrasted with the humiliated, pitiable, and degraded state of the European nations now under the control of France. It was the leading argument, and constantly directed, for the two first ages of the church, against the Christians : after the Reformation, the church of Rome took it up, and pointed it with *equal* propriety, and indeed with *equal* success, against the Protestants ! See also Gibbon's Roman Empire, vol. 11.