

been drained, notwithstanding, what with regulars and militia. Our navy, I apprehend, has not received any thing like the advantage from our colonies, that the army has done. But in a future period, both may receive a much greater, from the *fruitfulness* of our colonies: I intend not, the fruitfulness of the land, but of the inhabitants. How it is in the *southern* colonies I know not, but the people of the *northern*, independent of foreign recruits, double themselves in twenty-five years, as is allowed by the *Examiner* *. We may reasonably conclude then, that, in the space of fifteen years, we may raise out of our continental colonies, an army of twenty thousand men (especially if they have no enemy at their back) which may be employed, in case of a fresh rupture with *France*, against her *West-Indian* islands, or upon other services, while our own manufacturers are spared. Whoever is acquainted with the situation of places, knows that it is much safer and easier, to carry on expeditions, against the *West-Indies* or parts adjacent, from our colonies than from hence; and then, a great saving may be made in the article of transport service, by hiring what ships can be got upon the spot, which will cut off the enemies supplies of provision. The strength, which in a few years the fruitfulness of our colonies will give them, if not diverted by defending their back settlements, and rendered unnecessary for the security of their