

guine advocate for exclusive companies, will not insist upon either of these. Is it then the fourth?—This, I am aware, will be chiefly insisted on.—Not that it can be pretended at this day, that private adventurers are either unable, or unwilling to engage in any trade carried on by a company, were it laid open; but the pretence is, that a recompence should be made them, before they are dissolved, for the expences they have been at. And doubtless, if the original adventurers, or their representatives, can make it appear, that they have not yet received a reasonable profit for the money advanced by them to make a capital stock, the public will consider them so far, as to make good the deficiency. They have a plea of right and equity for this.—But they have no colour of right for any imaginary value, which they may put upon their stocks. Nor is the public concerned to regard it: nay, the very plea defeats itself: for if their stocks have been really sold in the market greatly above par, this is a plain proof, that they have received a reasonable profit already, for the money advanced to make a capital.—And therefore, ought not to have any farther compensation.