

*French* authors, who complain that their colonies suffered much less from our naval force, than they did from the loss of this trade; which is strongly confirmed by the complaints of the *Jamaica* merchants against commodore *Ker*, who was very negligent in protecting their sloop trade, by which they were great sufferers. The reason they assign also for his negligence, is yet a stronger proof; for they alledge, that he would not grant them convoys, without sharing in their profits; and if these had not been very considerable, they could never have tempted an officer of his rank to run such a risque. The same thing may be said of the complaints of the other colonies, which, however just in themselves, yet if they, as evident it is they did, grew richer, more populous, and carried their trade farther than in former times, then it is surely as evident, that the nation in general gained considerably in this branch; to which I may add, that the act for giving a bounty upon hemp imported from our plantations, and other laws, were sufficient instances of the inclination of the ministry to promote commerce and navigation as far as it lay in their power.

THERE is another remark that naturally arises upon this subject, and that is the mighty spirit which appeared amongst our merchants, and enabled them to carry on all their schemes with such vigour, as kept a constant circulation of money through the kingdom, and afforded such mighty encouragement to all manufactures, as have rendered the remembrance of those times grateful in worse. Our successes abroad, our victories by land and sea, the respect paid to us by all the states of *Europe*, served to heighten and sustain this spirit, which is at once the source and soul of prosperity, and a nation grows low and lifeless, as soon as it is taken away. There were indeed some accidental advantages which attended the latter part, especially of this period, that have not been always visible in preceeding or succeeding times. Amongst these I reckon, in the first place,