

make Commerce the Interest of all Nations, has provided effectually against this supposed Evil of trading till we have nothing left to trade with.

But, besides this, we owe many other great Advantages to this Commerce in the East. For, in the first Place, it is the great Support of the Maritime Power of *Europe*; it makes us Masters of all other Parts of the Globe, who, if it had not been for this Maritime Power, might, long ago, have been Masters of us. Let any Man consider the wide Difference, in Point of Dominion, Number of Subjects, and whatever else contributes to Grandeur, between the little Republick of *Holland* and the great Empires of *Turky*, *Persia*, and *India*; and remember that this Commerce has rendered a Company in that little Republick formidable to all those great and mighty Empires, and capable of maintaining herself, and protecting her Concerns against them all. And then let me ask him, does not this plainly shew the Importance of this Commerce, and that it was a very wise and right Thing to promote and encourage it: Can there be a clearer and stronger Demonstration than this, from Reason or from Experience? Or might we not safely rest the Point here, without running into any farther Considerations? I dare say, every rational and intelligent Reader will confess we might; and yet, for the better explaining the Matter, I am content to go still a little farther.

The only Answer that can be given to this, or, in other Words, the only Means left for supporting this Objection, is, to suppose, that, instead of two or three, all, or the greatest Part of the Nations in *Europe*, should fall into this Commerce, by which Means the Exportation of Silver would be extravagantly increased, and, consequently, the *Indies* be vastly enriched at the Expence of *Europe*. At first Sight this seems to be very clear and plain; but closely considered, the Supposition is very fallacious; for, if the Powers at present interested in this Commerce, bring home as much of the *Indian* Goods and Manufactures as serve all *Europe*, then there is already as great an Exportation of Silver as could happen, if this Supposition took place, and the only real Consequence that could happen from the Extension of this Commerce would be this, that the present Possessors of the *India* Trade would be deprived of

their Profits, and every Nation would import as much as sufficed itself, and no more. This, I say, will be the only Consequence, with respect to the Evil apprehended; but other Consequences there might, and would be many, but particularly these. The rising of such a Spirit of Trade would necessarily produce new Discoveries, inasmuch as it would beget new Maritime Powers. The *Southern Indies* would be then explored, as well as the *East*, and those Countries that are now hid from us, would become as well known as the Coasts of *Malabar* and *Ceylon*. Various Nations would, in this Case, either find or force a Trade to *Japan*, and the Countries beyond it. The *Dutch East-India* Company would be obliged to open her secret Resources, and indemnify herself by a Trade to *New Guinea*, for the Losses sustained by other Nations interfering in her Trade to the *Indies*. And thus, instead of weakening or impoverishing *Europe*, this very Thing will prove the Means of making her infinitely richer, greater, and more powerful than she now is, and might take away the Temptations which mislead her Monarchy into quarrelling and destroying each others Subjects about Provinces, scarce worthy of being compared to the mighty Empires that, by the Help of Commerce and Maritime Power, they might share among themselves.

It is one Thing to consider the Trade of a particular Nation, to argue in Favour of it, and to point out the Means of protecting or improving it, and quite another to launch out into such wide Enquiries as these. The former may, indeed must, be conducted by the narrow and confined Notions of human Policy; for the Advantages of particular Societies must result from the Contrivances of particular Men. But when we quit these, and consider Things only in general, the Scene changes, the Prospect enlarges, and we find ourselves lost in the View of these prodigious Benefits, which the Wisdom and Goodness of an infinite Being has placed within the Reach and Capacity of human Kind. These, though we discern, it is impossible we should comprehend, and therefore we ought always to suspect such mean and narrow Principles as would persuade us, that right Measures may be pursued too far, or that the earnest Prosecution of Good should run us upon Evil.

The END of the FIRST VOLUME.