

## 24 AN ESSAY ON TRADE.

tune: yet there are no Laws to ascertain the Nature of *Political* Offences, or to *circumscribe* the Power of the Judge; so that he must be *entirely* at the *Mercy* of the *Lieutenant de Police*, and his Deputies; who can *imprison* him at *will*, without assigning *any* Reason, or bringing any Evidence to confront him. And therefore his *only* Security consists, in being continually *lavish* in the *Praise* of the *King* and the *Ministry*, and in saying nothing which may afford the least Pretence to the *Spies*, who *swarm* all over the Kingdom, to *inform* against him.

II. *The second Disadvantage to the Freedom of Trade, is the Romish Religion*; which has added to its many other Absurdities, a Spirit of *Cruelty* and *Persecution*, so *repugnant* to the *Scope* and *Tendency* of the *Gospel*.—Therefore a *Protestant* Merchant, if at the same Time a *conscientious* Man, will find himself very often reduced to great Difficulties, in order to *avoid* on the one Hand the *Sin* of *Hypocrisy*, by *Compliances* against his *Conscience*, or on the other, the *Danger* attending the *Exercise* of his *Religion*, and the *Educating* of his Children in the *Protestant* Way. This, I say, will often happen, even at *present*; though the *Bigotry* of the Court of *France* is not near so great, as it was in *former* times.

## III. ANOTHER