

impatient of injuries or disgrace? In what one circumstance have the present period cast a stain upon the glorious ancestry from which they are derived? The reign of Edward the Third was not more glorious for its Audleys, its Salisburys, and its Warwicks, than that of George the Second for Wolfe's, its Townshends, its Granbys, and its Howes; or in what one instance does Ruffel, Drake, or Blake, soar superior to our Saunders, our Pocock, our Tyrrel, or our Hawke?

The ridiculous inconsistency which appears in the arguments of our ministerial politicians would be truly contemptible, if it was not calculated to impose upon the credulity of the well meaning, and contrived to cast a false lustre upon proceedings, which can by no means appear to the eye of observation, in any thing of a tolerable light. They tell us that had the West-Indian conquests been detained, we should have been too rich, and absolutely ruined by the superabundance of our wealth; then, insist that it was a point of good management in the ministry to give them up. Yet, notwithstanding this declaration, they tell us the administration took every method to make us as great and as rich as possible: Tho' it was possible an increase of riches would be the foundation of our ruin, and that our destruction would inevitably take its rise the moment we beheld this terrible increase. *Risum teneatis amici!*—I suppose we shall soon see an essay to prove the necessity of setting the bank of England on fire, and have arguments published to shew the expedience of living upon oatmeal; together with a panegyric on the itch.

Having thus endeavoured to expose the fallacy of this ministerial invective against opulence and power, I shall next proceed to take some notice of the mighty acquisition of territory which is so emphatically dwelt upon, by the consistent set of gentlemen by whom the former argument is advanced.

An extensive and important tract or territory (we have been informed) three times as large as the colonies about which we make so much bustle and dispute, has been lately ceded by that very peace which we take such uncommon pains to condemn. I believe 'tis a point which even none of the *Scottish* writers will deny, that the richness of any country does not proceed from the greatness of its extent, but the number of its inhabitants. Of this the

United Provinces are a convincing proof, which tho' of a very contracted and inconsiderable space, are nevertheless from the number and industry of subjects, equal in opulence to any nation in Europe. That we have acquired a large extent of territory, nobody will deny, but we are to consider, first of all, how this territory is to be peopled, before we think of raising its importance, or making it of any account. The country ceded to us is for the most part totally uncultivated, over-run with woods, and destitute of inhabitants; and in some places a man might travel a whole month, without ever meeting the least vestige of a human foot step. To supply it with inhabitants from the mother country is utterly impossible; we are every day in our manufactures and our commerce complaining of the scarcity of inhabitants ourselves, not to take any notice that the territory in question is five times as large as the mother country itself. Of what importance then can we reasonably imagine this acquisition, or of what service can we suppose an extensive tract of dominion, which there is not the least probability of turning to any account? But, indeed, the opinion which the French themselves entertain of this circumstance, will set the whole affair in a pretty clear light. I was lately discoursing with a French man of quality, with whom I have the honour of an intimate acquaintance, on this subject, and lamenting the incapacity of the Scotch administration, particularly in this very point; when my friend addressed me in the following manner:

“ It has been long acknowledged, Monsieur, by the gentlemen of England, and that pretty justly, that we are much better politicians than themselves. I shall deal very candidly with you in this affair, and give you my sentiments without constraint or disguise. Great a concession as your court may imagine the administration of Versailles have made, in allowing you so extensive a range of territory, yet it does not penetrate the ultimate view which we had in making this cession, nor foresee one half of the folly it has been guilty of, in thinking it a compensation for the return of the various settlements which you conquered in the West-Indies. We are very sensible, Sir, that you can never people this country sufficiently to make it answer any tolerable purpose, without stripping yourselves of all
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