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T H E A L A R M.

N U M B E R II.

My dear Fellow Citizens,

IT was fully proved to you in my first Number, That the *East-India* Company obtained their exclusive Privilege of Trade to that Country, by Bribery and Corruption: Wonder not then, that Power thus obtained, at the Expence of the national Commerce, should be used to the most tyrannical and cruel Purposes. It is shocking to Humanity to relate the relentless Barbarity, practised by the Servants of that Body, on the helpless *Asiatics*; a Barbarity scarce equalled even by the most brutal Savages, or *Cortez*, the *Mexican* Conqueror.

The Difficulty is not in recounting their Acts of unheard of Inhumanity, but on which of them to fix the public Censure. Have not the English Prints, for no short Time, been replete with the Accufations of base Delinquents, against each other?

Taught by the Monopoly of Trade they had wickedly acquired, with Impunity from their Countrymen, they were lost to all the Feelings of Humanity, and monopolized the absolute Necessaries of Life in India, at a Time of apprehended Scarcity.

Thousands perished by this black, sordid, and cruel Avarice. But that did not satisfy their more than insatiable Thirst for the Property of this miserable People. What the nominal Christians could not extort from these wretched Mortals, for the Wants of their Bellies, they determined to torture from them by the Pains of their Backs. They were stripped naked, and suspended to Posts, and in that excruciating Condition, Mastiffs and Cats, suspended by their Tails, were applied to the Backs of the miserable Victims, until they gave such Sums to these more than cruel Tyrants, as they were pleased to exact.

This, and more than this, has been charged upon them in the Face of the Sun, in the London Papers, where they might if innocent, exculpate themselves. Have they done that? No. Or have the Directors for their own, and the national Honour, brought them to a publick Trial, or displaced them? No. Can the Directors then be innocent of this matchless Extortion and Cruelty? No. Can the numerous Millions collected in India, by those rapacious and cruel Servants, be justly accounted for to the Company, and their Affairs be as they are represented? No. Can the Directors be uninterested in the Plunder, and the Firm keep the Wages of Iniquity, and their Places? No. Turn your Eyes now to London. Do not many of the Speakers in the Court of Directors, publickly charge many of the Members with Collusion, with the contracting Carpenters for Shipping; paying for more Tonnage than the Ships Measure, and hiring more than are necessary? Yes. Do they not charge them with numerous Frauds, to the Ruin of the Widows and Fatherless interested in the Company's Stock? Yes. Turn your Eyes now to the Trade of England. Would it be the Interest of that Nation, that one Man should have the exclusive Trade of it? No. Neither can it be the Interest of the Nation, that the India Trade should be in few Hands; unless in the Cases excepted in my first Number.* Nor let it be said that the Company pays an Equivalent to the Nation in

* *The Advocates for the Monopoly of Commerce, will see the ill Effects of their Principle, in the Foreign Trade of Spain, which is wholly in the Hands of a Few—the Ruin of the Nation. So far therefore as the Trade of England is monopolized, so far it is prejudicial to the Kingdom.*

Duties. This is an Error only of a Pettifogger in Trade, whose Theory is as confined as his Practice. For let it be remembered, that no Sett of Men, will long pursue a Trade in which they do not find their Account. And the Company have found their Account in that Commerce, or they would not have continued it.

As they have continued it, the People have ultimately paid the Duty; for it is a known Axiom, that the Consumer, in general, pays the Duty. Had the Trade then been more diffused, there would not have been such matchless Abuses; and the People would in this Case, have been more able to pay a Tax, equal, nay superior to the Duties paid by them; because as there would have been more Oeconomy, there would have been more to give the Public.

Equally futile is it to assert, that an exclusive permanent Privilege, and Incorporation, was necessary (other than has been granted) to enable the Company to defray the Expence of the Trade; because every Man of Observation knows, that the larger and more extensive the Concern of any Company is, the more Servants; and consequently the more Abuse. For such a Concern falls under the common Adage, that what is every Body's Business is Nobody's Business; and therefore, the Designing, Fleece the Stock. But very different would it be with Co-Partners in a few Ships: They would have such a Concern, that the Principals might easily superintend the principal Transactions, and therefore, Co partners would have carried on that Commerce with more Advantage to themselves, to the Nation, and to its Honour, than the Former. Turn your Eyes now the Constitution. When the Harpy Servants of the Company, had by unprovoked Wars, Rapine, and unparrelled Cruelty, easier to be conceived than described, accumulated Wealth that would enable them to vie with the Nobility; they returned to their native Country. Accustomed to figure in the Indies with the Spoils of their Neighbours; dethroning one Prince, and setting up another; they ill brooked their sinking into the State of private Citizens, in the Land of their Fathers. A public Character was therefore necessary, and sought for, to raise them out of their Obscurity. They could easily part with what cost them no Labour; the Boroughs were purchased by the Founders of the Company; and the Servant's Guineas were as powerful as their Master's. The First, contended with the Nobility, in the Purchase, and vied with many of them in Equipage, and all Manner of Extravagance. The Last, chagrined at the Splendor of these once obscure Commoners, whose Ancestors were unknown among the Gentry, were stimulated to endeavour to be as superiour to them in Point of Figure, as they were in Rank. In this Contest, both became necessitous, their imaginary Wants continually increased with the Struggle; their Necessity made them Mi-nions to the Court. The Boroughs, purchased by both, were sold to the Ambition of Ministers: By this Sale, the Independency of both Houses of Parliament was sacrificed to the Necessity of both. And thus the Constitution, purchased by the stern Virtue of their Ancestors, was converted to a System of Corruption. Their Necessity was supplied out of the public Money, by Pensions, or otherwise.

This Supply impoverished the Nation. The Poverty of the Nation by these corrupt Means, forced venal Ministers to be regardless of the Ways and Means to support their Creatures. To support these Creatures, the Stamp, and Revenue Acts originated; Acts pregnant with Chains, and the Loss of all that's dear to these Colonies. Will you my Countrymen suffer these Miscreants, who ruined the Constitution at Home, to rivet the Chains their Wick-edness has by the matchless Means recounted, forged for you? Now the Minister hitherto unable either by his cajoling Art, or the Thunders of the Parliament, to execute the Project of subjugating this Country to his lawless Rule; the Purchase of the *Company's* Iniquities, *Tea*, must be sent to the Colonies, the Profit of which is to support the Tyranny of the Last in the East, enslave the West, and prepare us fit Victims for the Exercise of that horrid Inhumanity they have in such dread Abundance, and with more than Savage Cruelty, practised, in the Face of the Sun, on the helpless Asiaticks.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER }
9th, 1773.

H A M P D E N.