

the British Possessions abroad will look in vain for many zealous and competent advocates, unless among the Ministers of the Crown. The Board of Trade and Plantations was, perhaps, instituted for that very reason among others ; and certainly it is only in that and the other executive departments of the Imperial Government, that on this occasion, as on most others, the Northern Colonies can expect a full investigation of their case, and a favourable and parental decision.

From the foregoing facts and reasons, the following conclusions seem to arise.

That the Duties now existing for the regulation of Colonial Trade are so moderate, as to have neither restricted the industry, nor excited the complaints of the Colonies ; and so efficient, as to have increased the commerce and employed the navigation of both Great Britain and her dependencies, far beyond all example of any system, in any country, at any age.

That the Measure now proposed, as far as it affects the trade between the Northern and Southern Colonies, is most injurious to the former, as it will deprive them of either all, or all adequate, protection in a commerce, which is worth £1,300,000 a year, and employs yearly about 240,000 tons of shipping : the measure is inconsistent in itself, as it deprives of all protection in the Southern Colonies the chief staple of the Northern, their Wood ; an article of which the present importation in the West Indian Provinces amounts to nearly £500,000 a year ; while upon other articles of far less importance to either commerce or navigation (upon Butter, for example, in which no diminution of duty is made) the principle of protection is still, though more or less inadequately, sustained ; the measure is unequal between the Northern and Southern Colonies, as, while the protection of the former is thus diminished in the