

may be made to any country whatever, Great Britain and its dependencies only excepted.

But it would seem that that repeal took place from the 5th of July, 1826 only; and Mr. Canning having stated that it had taken place from the 5th of January, 1826, I have addressed a private letter to Mr. Planta, acting Secretary of State during Mr. Canning's absence, asking an explanation of that apparent discrepancy, to which, however, not much importance can be attached.

From the tenor of your instructions of the 19th June, and 8th of August, 1826, it appears that even to the last date, you were under an impression that both the limitations of the act of Parliament of 24th June, 1822, on the indirect or circuitous intercourse with the British Colonies, were still in force; this, considering the manner in which the repeal of the limitation in question has been effected, is not a matter of surprise; and there was another circumstance calculated to strengthen that opinion.

It appears, from your instruction of the 19th June last, that the two acts of Parliament on that subject which had reached you or attracted your notice, were the act of 5th July, 1825, (6th Geo. 4th ch. 114,) to regulate the trade of the British possessions abroad, and an act of 27th June, 1825, (6th Geo. 4th, ch. 73,) entitled "An act for the further regulating the trade of His Majesty's possessions in America, and the West Indies, and for the warehousing of goods therein." By the sixth section of the last mentioned act, the permission to export in foreign vessels, goods from any of the British Colonial free ports to any foreign country, taken in the most extensive sense of which it is susceptible, applies only to countries in Europe, Africa, or Asia, within the Mediterranean Sea, and to ships belonging to such countries. It does not extend to America, and does not embrace American ships. And it was, therefore, a natural inference, that the 4th section of the act of 5th July, 1825, (6th Geo. 4th, ch. 114,) when stating that foreign ships were permitted to export goods from the British possessions abroad, to any foreign country whatever, referred to the last mentioned sixth section of the act of 27th June, 1825, and had no reference to American ships. It is proper here to add, that this act of 27th June, 1825, has since been repealed, not by the act above mentioned, of 5th July, 1825, (6th Geo. 4th ch. 105,) "to repeal the several laws relating to the customs," but by a subsequent act of 26th May, 1826, (7th Geo. 4th ch. 48.)

It seems to me, that the intricacy of these several acts of Parliament, and the difficulty of understanding their precise meaning, might have been considered by the Government of Great Britain, as a sufficient reason, why that of the United States might not have been disposed to accept the conditions on which, by those acts, the intercourse was opened with the British Colonies, without having previously, at least, come to an understanding of their true intent and meaning. In point of fact it was understood by the American Government that one of those conditions was a prohibition to export goods in American vessels, from those Colonies to any other country than the United States."