

of *America*; in other Branches of Trade, they will not pretend to a Competition: For excepting the Bounty upon *British-made* Cordage, and a few minute and official Regulations, I do not recollect any Steps taken by them for commercial Purposes, or for the Encouragement of Manufactures; for the Prohibition of Foreign Silks was not I understand a ministerial Measure; and I have therefore passed it unnoticed. \* Against this single Bounty then when the Comparison is drawn, stand all those many and important Measures of the preceding Ministry, which are not partial, or local, or speculative, but extensive as our Commerce, various as our Manufactures, and certain of their Effects, upon Principles and Experience.

But the different Management of the Finances during the two Periods will not even admit of Comparison: They are direct Contrasts: The one as distinguished for Oeconomy as the other for Profusion: The former was all Activity and Vigour, exerted to oppose Encroachments on the Revenue, to detect Frauds, and to rectify Abuses: And Researches were made on every Side for encreasing the Capital or the Income of the Nation: During the latter there was not Energy enough in Administration to enable the Publick to avail itself of its own Property; but universal Relaxation, Concession, and Negligence prevailed: And the Revenue, wherever they touched it, shrivelled before them: The Resources which had been lately opened, were cut off: Means already provided, were diverted from their proper Application: Others immediately in view, and distinctly pointed out, were overlooked; and Sums which might have been brought in Aid, were disregarded; Improvements which had been begun, were checked; and all Expectations of more, were disappointed; the Endeavours which had been used to prevent a licentious Dissipation of the public Money, were frustrated: Though Estimates were swelled, Debt was accumulated: And the Sinking Fund which had been fostered with so much Care by the preceding Ministers, which was raised to such a Produce, and promised still more while it continued under their Management, now, incumbered with additional Establishments, deprived of collateral Support, and wasted by Diminutions in the Revenue, is labour-

\* For the same Reason I omitted the Prohibition laid on foreign Silk Stockings, Mitts and Gloves in 1765, the then Administration having only consented to, not plan'd that Measure.