

number of resolutions respecting the American trade; upon a number of which, a bill was brought in, and passed into a law, laying heavy duties on the articles imported into the colonies from the French and other islands in the West Indies; and ordering these duties to be paid, in specie, into the Exchequer of Great Britain. As to the Spanish trade, the Court of Madrid had always been against it; and in complaisance to that Court, as well as in compliance with the old law, and treaties with Spain, it continued to be prevented, as much as possible.

The Americans complained much of this new law; and of the unexampled hardship, of first being deprived of obtaining specie, and next being ordered to pay the new duties, in specie, into the Treasury at London; which they said must speedily drain them of all the specie they had. But what seemed more particularly hard upon them, was, a bill brought in the same session, and passed into a law, "To restrain the currency of paper money in the colonies."

At the end of the session, the King thanked the House of Commons, for the "wise regulations which had been established to augment the public revenues, to unite the interests of the most distant possessions of his crown, and to encourage and secure their commerce with Great Britain."

*Extract of a letter from Pensacola, West Florida, dated Dec. 13, 1764.*

"Every thing here is put into a dull state, by the men of war obstructing the Spaniards from trading with us. We had four vessels here lately, but they were not permitted to trade, which is the greatest misfortune that could have befallen us in this young settlement, and which I think at the same time will be no small loss to our mother country,

being thereby prevented from vending a very considerable quantity of its manufactures."

Letters to the same purport came from all the colonies.

*Extract of a letter from Kingston, in Jamaica, dated Jan. 27, 1763.*

"Kingston, which used to be a place of great trade and hurry, is become as still as a desert, since we were so wise to banish our best friends the Spaniards, and now the current of that valuable commerce is turned in favour of the French and Dutch, who have made their ports free, and taking the advantage of our misconduct, have promised them safety, and so deal with them for all the European goods, upon the same terms the English did. Were I to depend on the sale of goods I had from you, I should not be able to remit the money these two or three years."

*Part of a letter from Jamaica to a friend in London, dated May 12, 1775.*

"We are in the most deplorable state ever known in this island: that channel through which all the money we had came among us, is entirely stopped up; and, what is most astonishing, is, that this measure should be taken with you, who receive so much benefit from the encouragement of it."

The Continental Colonies were exceedingly offended. In several places the inhabitants had meetings, and they resolved, in resentment, not to buy any cloathing they could possibly do without, that was not of their own manufacturing. Several associations were formed, and it was resolved, every where, to consume as few British manufactures as possible; and to set about manufacturing some articles themselves, the materials of which they had in great plenty of their own production.

*Boston,*