

pened : and artful designing men found it no difficult task, to excite or cherish suspicions, that the colonies were already aiming at this, and that checking their growth, and abridging their liberties, was the only method of defeating their schemes. But an able writer, no way biased in favour of the colony claims, and who had the best advantage for knowing facts, hath born ample testimony, that the Colonists in general were loyal to their sovereign, well affected to the mother country, zealous for her prosperity, and far from harbouring any rebellious designs against the just rights of government. Their merchants are, and ever must be, in a great measure allied with these of Britain ; their very support consists in this alliance, and nothing but false policy here can break it (*a*). Their political and religious principles are incompatible with submitting to the government, or asking the protection of France or Spain. No one colony could by itself shake off dependence on the mother county : and no two had any common magistracy or principle of association, till the attempting to connect them to us by power, connected them to one another in policy. Before this, their different charters, forms of government, manners and customs, religious sentiments, jarring claims and interests, and the rivalry and jealousy arising from all these, prevented any such union among them one with another, as all of them had with the mother country (*b*). That there might be amongst them men of republican principles, or men ambitious to be the heads of a new kingdom or commonwealth, is no unnatural supposition : But had Britain left them in the happy situation in which they were before the stamp act, these would have been few in number, and could never have persuaded twelve provinces to revolt from a government, under which they felt themselves easy and secure.

In

(*a*) Pownal's administration of the colonies. 4th edition, Lon. 1768. p. 40. and dedication, p. 6 and 8.

(*b*) Pownal's administration, p. 35, 38, 93.

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