

in New England, three-fourths were natives. In the time of her greatest prosperity, the money she raised was trifling. She will feel the loss of 370,000*l.* a-year, which was the expence of the British establishment there, and was drawn from this country. * Pennsylvania was 18 years falling about 300,000*l.* sterling, granted for the expence of the war begun in 1755, at the rate of 18*d.* in the pound on the actual value of real and personal property. Pennsylvania, although she never paid much above 20,000*l.* a-year currency, complained greatly of her taxes.

It will not be an easy matter to bring the American States to act as a nation; they are not to be feared as such by us. It must be a long time before they can engage, or will concur in any material expence. A Stamp act, a Tea act, or such act that never can again occur, could alone unite them; their climate, their staples, their manners, are different; their interests opposite; and that which is beneficial to one is destructive to the other. In short, every circumstance proves that it will be extreme folly to enter into any engagements, by which we may not wish to be bound hereafter. It is impossible to name any material advantage the American States will, or can give us in return, more than what we of course shall have. No treaty can be made with the American States that can be binding on the whole of them. The act of Confederation does not enable Congress to form more than general treaties §: at the moment of the highest authority of Congress,

* Before the war in 1755, the expence of our establishment in America was 70,000*l.* From the peace of 1763 to the time of the Stamp act, it was 370,000*l.* yearly, although the French were driven from North America; and Canada and the Floridas only were added. The customs from the 8th of September, 1767, when the Board was established, to the 5th of January 1775, when the troubles began, amounted to about 245,000*l.* for a little more than seven years; out of which the expence of collecting is to be deducted. The only other revenue was the quit-rents, which were never tolerably paid, and barely paid the expence of collecting. If we maintain the carrying trade, half the commerce of the American States, or even less than half, without the expence of their government and protection, and without the extravagance of bounties, would be infinitely better for us than the monopoly, such as it was. If the imports into America were to the amount of four millions sterling, only two millions were British, one from the whole of the West Indies, and one from the rest of the world. Great part of the last taken through Great Britain.

§ Part of the ninth article of confederation, &c. Provided that no treaty of commerce shall be made, whereby the legislative power of the respective States shall be restrained from imposing such imposts