

of a sufficient ground for considering a duty raised by means of postage as one inconsistent with that pledge ; for if the mother-country divested herself of the right of *collecting* the duties laid on under former acts, as well as of *imposing* new ones, she has equally divested herself of the right of *levying* any old internal duty, under whatever name ; and I even contend that under the spirit of the act, by which also, "all duties that are or may be imposed for the regulation of trade shall be applied to the use of the colonies alone," all the sums of money that have been remitted from this country to the post-office in London, ought to be *claimed back from the exchequer, in order to be appropriated* for the use of the colonies. If this reasoning be correct, it would follow that the post-office acts, being revenue-acts, have no force in this country, and in fact that is my opinion ; notwithstanding all laws made in England, prior to the Quebec act, which specify that their operation shall extend to the colonies, (as the post-office acts do,) are said to be binding here ; this certainly holds good with respect to others (such as that of 14 Geo. II Cap. 37, by which banking companies in the colonies are declared to be common and public nuisances,) but not with regard to any revenue-acts, which are of course taken out of that rule by the declaratory act before mentioned. Now let us consider what consequences may be let in, if these acts are to be considered as operative here for raising a revenue.—The original act of Ann fixes all the rates of postage to be paid, & these have been augmented from time to time, partly from the increased expenses of the department, but chiefly, for raising an augmented revenue ; so that the packet postage which by that act was one shilling, is now four shillings and sixpence : what is to prevent the postage from being increased, even internally in these provinces, to a rate that will drain double or treble the sum from the country which it now does ? The present rates of postage afford, I believe, an annual surplus of nearly ten thousand pounds Sterling, including all the British North American possessions ; where is the guarantee, or the power, to restrain it from being made to yield thirty thousand pounds, or more, at the will of the government at home ? Surely this ought to be enquired into, and remedied. The money of the colonists is thus taken from them, and applied, amongst other things with which they have no concern, to the payment of sine-cure salaries and pensions at home, which are made chargeable upon that fund. ought not the surplus of £10,000, or whatever it may be, to go in aid of the civil lists of the colonies, instead of going to swell the power and patronage of the ministry in England ? I set aside the question of the expenditure of that surplus in making improvements in the post-office establishment, by better provision of horses, carriages, offices, and other objects of local importance for the "encouragement of trade, commerce. and correspondence ;" which it might naturally be ex-