

settlements in the back ground as much as possible, it is natural to enquire, why the British government has not authorized a comprehensive survey to be made, of the capacities and population of its remaining colonies in America? Or, rather, what has been done for the benefit and improvement of those colonies? The answers to these questions will throw great light upon our present discussion.

At the close of the American war, the *commercial connection* was suddenly revived, though the dependence of the United States upon the mother country was rent asunder. Accordingly, the eyes both of politicians and of mercantile men, were directed to the *future* operations of a people who had entered upon the grand theatre of human legislation, on their own account, and with their own capital, industry, and talents. Many of our great commercial houses renewed, and even courted the American connection; and in their anxiety to cause the commerce of the kingdom to flow in its ancient channels, no notice whatever was taken of those colonies, which had remained faithful in their allegiance during the war. The definitive treaty of peace between His Majesty and the United States of America was signed at Paris, on the third day of September, 1783; and, on the 27th of December following, so eager were we to gratify the desires of our late enemies, that a declaration of His Majesty in council, was published in the London Gazette: which, not only gave the first blow to our navigation system, but laid the foundation of that neglect and indifference, with which our remaining colonies in North America have been treated. By that hasty and improvident concession, we made the United States *necessary* to the West India colonies; and a system has grown out of it, which has been the fruitful cause of the greater part of our disputes. Indeed it has so entangled, so completely beset us, on all sides, that it is difficult to convince, even unprejudiced and rational minds, that the West India islands *CAN* exist and flourish without *ANY* communication with the United States. By the declaration to which we have alluded, the commerce between the United States and the West Indies, which had been completely suspended for eight years, was suddenly revived by *public authority*; and as its revival had the infallible tendency to *discourage* the British settlements in North America, by introducing into the commerce of the West Indies, an enterprising and active competitor, the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c. were thenceforth deprived of a market, which, if they had enjoyed until the present time, would have rendered them as valuable as any of the possessions under the British Crown. By giving the United States this preference, we gradually made our West India islands tribu-