

hitherto remaining in their intercourse with the Southern removed, and even the preference shown in favour of the Mother Country, throughout all her possessions in America, reduced to inefficiency, for the sole advantage of that nation ever rival in commerce, and too often hostile in power ?

There is a difference, in one respect, much to be lamented, between the judicial and legislative administrations of Government, so far at least as the introduction of laws is virtually attributed to the executive department: by no determination of any tribunal can a man's property or industry be affected before he has had notice and opportunity given him to defend his interest even of the smallest amount: but in legislation upon questions of trade, involving the vested wealth and labour of whole classes, to an immense extent, throughout a vast and various empire, the most sudden, extreme, and critical changes may be resolved upon by the executive, and *no rule to show cause* against them be first given to those concerned—no opportunity to state their case—no warning—no time to make their defence or prepare for the event, until the minds of those upon whom the decision depends have been made up, it may be, upon defective or erroneous information. Not till after Parliament has possession of the subject, and Ministers are already committed to certain views and opinions, and it has become late either to collect reasons, or obtain a hearing, have those whose property and industry are at stake an intimation of their danger. This evil may be unavoidable, or in some measure counterbalanced in other questions, on which the representatives of those concerned have a voice and vote in the Parliamentary discussion; but in the regulations of Colonial Trade, the interests of which are too remote to be warmly espoused, or even thoroughly understood in either House,