

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

v

the latent mischiefs which it contained, and which on a future day were to break forth and operate to their prejudice. The prospect of immediate gain renders us indifferent to distant danger. A temporary advantage should neither be neglected nor abandoned; and self-interest must be pursued though thirty thousand of our fellow-creatures expire by famine in Indostan, or, thrown out of employ in America, are left to the dreadful alternative of starving, or of taking up arms against their country! It is neither my intention to revert to the barbarities of my countrymen in Asia, nor to examine the equity and policy of the present contest with America. Humanity wishes to draw a veil over the one, and the world and posterity will decide on the other.

The object of this address is to apologize to parliament for the severity and freedom of the following observations on an act of their own; and which they unquestionably intended for the encouragement of the fishery.

Sacred as it is the duty of a good citizen to respect the laws of society in general, and of his own country in particular, I trust that an exception will be allowed me in the present instance, and that it will be permitted to consider Sir Hugh Palliser as the *sole author and contriver* of those clauses, which the merchants have unanimously complained of, and for a repeal or an amendment of which, they have petitioned the House of Commons.

I do not mean to reflect either on the capacity or conduct of ministers. They applied for information where they had a right to expect they might find it; and if they have been imposed upon, they are unfortunate, but not criminal. Sir Hugh Palliser proceeded to Newfoundland, with an unfavourable opinion of the merchants concerned in the fishery; with an opinion too general to have been just, and highly incompatible with the dignity of his local character. Thus prejudiced, it is no wonder that he should disagree with them, or that they should resent his behaviour. All ranks of people were displeas'd; he was first troublesome, then oppressive, and finally, ridiculous in prescribing to the merchants what quantity, and what species of provisions they should allow their servants.

b

The