

bring back: it was therefore suggested by an eminent character connected with the provinces, that it would be highly beneficial if the merchants could import wine, oil, and fruit, in addition to salt; that the trade would then become an object deserving their attention, as the salt alone would not produce, in point of value, an adequate return. That such indulgence would take from the merchants of the United States, the export of the fish of the British provinces, to the European market, on which they had the profit, and the government of that country, a duty of half a dollar per quintal, and enable the British merchants to supply the King's provinces with those articles of consumption, which were then principally furnished in a contraband way from the United States, and that it would also tend to revive the fish trade to Europe, which the British merchants in the colonies had been obliged to abandon.

It was further represented, that it was an indulgence to which the province of Nova Scotia had an additional claim under the resolution of the house of commons in 1775, when the necessity of the measure was not so obvious.—“Resolved, “That it is the opinion of this committee, that it will be advisable to admit a direct importation into the province of “Nova Scotia by His Majesty's subjects, in ships and vessels “*qualified by law*, of all wines, oranges, lemons, currants “and raisins, the growth and produce of any foreign country “whatsoever, provided such wines, oranges, lemons, currants and raisins, be imported directly from the place of “their growth and produce, and provided also that the said “commodities be not imported into any other part or place “within the said province, except the port of Halifax*.”—This resolution originated in a petition from Nova Scotia, which created much debate and opposition, but was ultimately carried and a bill ordered to be brought in on the subject, but which does not appear to have been done†.

This suggestion, to a certain extent, was afterwards adopted, it being deemed expedient to depart in this instance, from a principal point of policy in our colonial system, that of confining to the mother country, the export of European articles for the supply of the colonies; but this was in an instance, where a colonial object could at the same time be greatly promoted, without injury to British Shipping or

* Commons Journal, vol. 35. p. 400, 467—16 Geo. 3. 1775.

† Parliamentary Debates, Oct. and Nov. 1775.