

has contended that there is no difference in substance, between these words. I leave this grave question to be settled by those learned senators, and will proceed to show what those pretensions were, and which I can hardly restrain myself from pronouncing, were puerile in the extreme.

During the Session of 1832, Congress was informed, that an Act was pending in Parliament, for the opening of the Colonial Ports to the commerce of the United States. In consequence, an Act passed authorising the President, in case the Act of Parliament was satisfactory to him, to open the Ports of the United States to British vessels, by his proclamation. The Act of Parliament was deemed satisfactory, and a proclamation was accordingly issued, and the trade commenced. Unfortunately for our commerce, and I think, *contrary to justice*, a treasury circular issued, directing the Collector to charge British vessels entering our Ports, with the alien tonnage and discriminating duties; this order was remonstrated against, (I think) by Mr. Vaughan. The trade however went on uninterrupted. Congress met, and a bill was drafted in 1823, by Mr. Adams, then Secretary of State, and passed both Houses, with little, if any debate.—I voted for it, believing that it met, in a spirit of reciprocity, the Act of Parliament. This Bill contained, however, one little word, “elsewhere,” which completely defeated all our expectations. It was noticed by no one. The senator from Massachusetts, (Mr. Webster,) may have understood its effect.—If he did so understand it he was silent. The effect of that word, “elsewhere,” was to assume the pretensions alluded to in the instructions. What were they? “That the produce of the United States should be received in the West Indies, on payment of the same duties as were payable on the produce of the North American Colonies.” The British Minister said, “as well might we ask that our sugar should be received free of duty, as is the sugar of Louisiana.”

The result was, that the British Government shut their Colonial ports immediately, and thenceforward. The act of 1822, gave us a monopoly of the West India trade: it admitted, free of duty, a variety of articles, such as—Indian corn, oats, Indian meal, peas, beans, &c. &c. &c.

The British Government thought that we entertained a belief, that they could not do without our produce, and by their Acts of 27th June, and 5th July, 1825, they opened their ports to all the world, on terms far less advantageous to the United States, than those of the Act of 1822; and these are the pretensions which the instructions say had been *abandoned* by the late administration. They were abandoned, Mr. President, by the following words in the instructions to Mr. Gallatin:—“That the United States consent to *wave* the demand which