

“ operation of such acts of the British Parliament as shall be restrained to the regulation of external commerce for the purpose of securing the commercial advantages of the whole empire to the mother country and the commercial benefits of its respective members, *excluding every idea of taxation* internally or externally for raising a revenue on the subjects in America without their consent.”

When we see men diligent in pointing out secret causes of public complaints, or labouring to place them to some account which the parties do not avow, we are apt to suspect a want of candour in the enquirer, or an absence of real and obvious grievance in the persons complaining. If the Americans had gone out of the way to seek for some grievance, if they had gone back to revive some ancient claim, or discuss some doubtful theorem, then indeed we might have said that the ostensible cause was not the true one, and that they sought for something which they did not avow. Nothing of this sort has happened to the Americans. Their complaints immediately followed the injuries they had received; the injuries were not trifling or imaginary, they were gross and palpable, they lay in the very road and must have been removed, else the miserable colonist must have stumbled and fallen into the very pit of despotism. Life and property were at the sole disposal of men who knew them not, who were not touched by their calamities; of men who were to gain by their