

But matters with IRELAND are in a situation truly delicate and perilous. I fear Ireland was lost in America ! All (if so much) that appears to me to remain is a choice, amongst difficult and dangerous expedients and hazardous alternatives.

The Navigation from Ireland can be performed during eight months of the year in open boats, in the space of the continuance of the darkness of a single night, to a very long and accessible-to-boats tract of the coast of Scotland, and to some parts, I believe, of that of Wales. This renders the illicit landing of goods from Ireland in these parts not to be prevented by any diligence or force whatever. Indeed, ships of force cost a great deal, and signify very little against Smugglers ; and what is once brought in finds its way and circulation somehow or other in tolerable safety. The seizures on land are not very considerable.

I must