

securing such revenue, including the numerous provisions about smuggling; with an infinitude of other matters lying within the department of the custom-house, are all excluded, as no part of this work. In short, it is intended to touch upon those topics, and those only, which compose the famous *Act of Navigation* made in the 12th year of king Charles the Second, and which has in its title the same words in the same sense in which they are here to be understood: *An Act for the Encouraging and Increasing of SHIPPING and NAVIGATION.*

SUCH is the nature and extent of the proposed design; which will comprize a history of what are usually termed *The Acts of Navigation*. This history may properly be divided into Three Periods: the First containing the laws made from the earliest appearance of any such, down to and including the Act of Navigation made in 1651, during the time of the Commonwealth. The Second will commence with the famous Act of Navigation passed in the 12th year of Charles II. and will contain all the laws passed down to the time of making the peace in 1783. The Third will commence after the peace, and contain all the laws which have been made down to the present year 1806.

AFTER we possess the text of the law, we become curious to learn what construction it has received, and what practice has been founded upon it. It is intended, therefore, to intersperse such information relative to the construction and usage, that has obtained in consequence of passing the different Acts of Navigation, as the best search has