

and transfer it to the foreigner; but would there be any harm in at least asking him for an equivalent, for something of reciprocity? It is a matter of about £8,000,000 a year we have on hand: a bagatelle! we are weary of it: it enriches us against all rules: it but serves to discredit science with the simple and practical: let us get rid of the business by all means: perish our Colonies, save our principles!—still why should we not sell it? Can we get nothing for it? May it not be exchanged at least for a reciprocity treaty? What has more excited the envy and cupidity of the foreigner than our Colonial commerce? Will none of them consent to make some reduction in their charges upon British productions, in return for so liberal an abolition and reduction of our charges upon imports into the Colonies? Or if the manufactures of the United Kingdom are quite above the need of any such stipulation, is that the case with the Colonies, or at least with the Northern? Are not their fisheries depressed by both duties and adverse bounties, too great to be contended with, both in Europe and America? Has not France, beside her heavy duties, bounties also, which, unless lately reduced, amount to nearly 10s. per cwt. on dried Fish in the West Indies? Has not Spain discriminating duties of 5s. 1d. per cwt. in favour of Fish imported in her own vessels? Have not the Americans, beside bounties of four dollars a ton on their vessels engaged in the fisheries, and of a quarter of a dollar per barrel on pickled fish, have they not duties of one dollar a cwt. on foreign dried Fish, and of from one to two dollars a barrel on pickled? Have they not also duties of five-and-twenty per cent. ad valorem upon the Wood of other countries? And thus, though they exported to the British possessions in 1840 to the value of 8,368,754 dollars, did not the Americans import thence in the same year to the value of 3,225,258 dollars