

R E P O R T.

BY THE LORDS COMMITTEES appointed a Select Committee to inquire into the existing Facilities for Intercourse between the United Kingdom and the Colonies of North America, and the Expediency and Means of improving them ; and to report to the House ; and to whom were referred the following Papers ; (viz.) Copy of such Portion of the Evidence taken before the Commissioners of Revenue Inquiry as is complete referring to the Western Harbours of Ireland ; and also the First, Second, and Third Annual Reports on Public Works, Ireland :

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee have, in discharge of the Duty imposed upon them, proceeded to inquire from the best Authorities, both into the Advantages which as well in a Military as a Commercial Point of View might arise from the Establishment of a more certain and speedy Intercourse between His Majesty's European Dominions and the American Colonies, and their Attention has more particularly been directed to the Western Coast of Ireland, as affording the nearest Points of Communication between the Two Continents.

Although they have succeeded in collecting much valuable and authentic Information on these Subjects from various Sources, they feel that before they could be justified in submitting any specific Recommendation for the Adoption of Parliament or of His Majesty's Government they must extend their Inquiry on Points with respect to which, notwithstanding the Number of Witnesses they have examined, they have not hitherto been enabled to come to any satisfactory Conclusion.

Into such an Examination they would not hesitate, even at this advanced Period of the Session, to enter, were they not convinced that on some of the most important Points, and more particularly that of the beneficial Application of Steam to Voyages of long Duration, some further Experience, which cannot fail soon to be obtained, is necessary, before they could satisfy their own Minds so far as to suggest any considerable Alteration