

Colonies, and cannot in any Event or by any Abuse become detrimental to either.

There was but one of Importance amongst them from which any bad Consequences to Commerce were apprehended, which was the Duty upon Molasses: But as I have had Occasion to mention that Subject more than once, and it would carry me too far were I to enter into all the Considerations which arise upon it, I will leave it to rest upon the Observations which have before occurred, and upon that general Knowledge which the Publick is possessed of, from its having been so long the Topic of Conversation. There was another Measure of the same Administration, which it would be also tedious to dwell upon at present, and which, if the Interests of this Country had been consulted, would not have been made an Object of so much Attention: I mean the Stop supposed to have been put by Orders from hence to the Importation of Gold into the Colonies: That no Orders were given for that Purpose, that on the contrary Orders were dispatched to prevent any Interruption of the Trade, and that the Merchants concerned were consulted and satisfied, are Facts which have been proved, and are now universally known: But the Clamour raised upon the Occasion may have mischievous Consequences, which they who encouraged it, must answer for. As groundless a Complaint though of a different Kind was made in Relation to the Admiralty-Courts, as if the Establishment were an Innovation; or the Use of them in support of Revenue and commercial Laws were a Grievance; whereas in fact they are coeval with the Colonies, and the Appointment of Judges to preside in them, is reserved to the Crown in the original Charters. The Trial of Offences against the Act of Navigation, and against the Act of Frauds is expressly given to them by those Acts, passed in the Reigns of *Charles* the Second and King *William*: The Jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace in *America* under the Statutes of Queen *Ann* for the Preservation of the King's Timber, is by the 8th *G. I.* transferred to the Courts of Admiralty, as being more proper Judges in Crown-Causes than Magistrates elected by the People: And in the same Courts, the Penalties under the Sugar Act of 6th *G. II.* under 12th *G. II.* for allowing the Exportation of Sugars, and under 21st *G. II.* for encouraging the Growth of Indigo, are recoverable, from all which it appears