

I hope that no apology to Lord Sheffield will be thought necessary for the freedom I have taken with his opinions. I mean no personal offence; for I have heard, and believe, that he is a man of great liberality and humanity; but, drawing his conclusions, as he confesses to have done, chiefly from oral testimony, I am inclined to think, that great part of the information given to his lordship, was not given in the spirit of truth; but, in that of selfishness and malignity. His lordship, having submitted his opinions to the public, avowedly for the purpose of influencing public measures, they are fairly an object of public investigation.

One objection still remains to be considered. It is that which respects Ireland. It shall quickly be dispatched; for it is without even a shadow of foundation. Ireland has already received, as matter of right, all the freedom of trade which she claimed, or can reasonably desire, and she nobly earned it.—Happy, if she knows her own happiness! Among other privileges, she possesses that of a direct intercourse with our West India islands. It is true, she has charged the consumption of West-India produce with duties proportionate to those which are laid by Great-Britain; and she has adopted our navigation act, in prohibiting the introduction thereof from foreign plantations in foreign bottoms. This she did at the reasonable request of this kingdom; for it was obvious, that a system of smuggling sugar and rum from thence hither, would other-