

we had any security for its performance) would be of great importance to a commercial people, who seem to set no bounds to the number, or length of the credits, which they have always given to too distant customers. In confirmation of that remark they have mentioned, as the greatest infelicity, which perhaps has resulted to Britain from the independence of her colonies, that it had virtually repealed the statute *; which had enabled British merchants to prove their debts before any Mayor of any corporation, and subjected all property to the payment of all debts.

The observation is in some measure just: But the inference cannot be admitted in all its extent. It has been established as a foundation, whereon much may be built, that the United States had wisely established it as a rule for the government of their courts of justice, *to regard all laws of England theretofore used and approved, as still in full force.* But, the statute of George II. before mentioned had been long used and approved. And unless the judges, in the absurd spirit of Walton, the Georgian Chief-justice, do violence to their own system, that law must be allowed in every tribunal; not from the vigour of the British Legislature, but from the wisdom of their own adoption. The establishment of this inference, however, and the introduction of a convenient practice under it, must ultimately depend on the temper of the Judges and the appro-

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* 5 Geo. II. ch. 7.