

tion to the islands, plantations or colonies now remaining or belonging to the crown of Great Britain in America."

The Earl of Shelburne was the minister who had concluded the peace; and William Pitt was a prominent member of his administration. 'The fragments of two great parties which had brought the British nation to the brink of ruin united upon this occasion to pull down the administration which had saved the remaining honor and resources of the nation. A vote of censure upon the peace was passed by the House of Commons; Lord Shelburne and Mr. Pitt resigned their offices, and a ministry succeeded, formed by the coalition of Lord North and Charles James Fox, which, short lived as it was, lasted long enough to demolish the whole system of friendly intercourse with America which Mr. Pitt's bill contemplated, and substituted in its place the arbitrary will of the crown.

The act of Parliament 22d George III, cap. 1, submitted the regulation of British commerce with the United States to the King's discretion. Under this act an order in council was made which placed the commerce of the United States with the British possessions in Europe on the ordinary footing of commerce with foreign nations, but restricted the trade between the United States and the British colonies to a very small number of articles, to be carried exclusively in British ships. This order was dated 2d July, 1783, and it was continued by annual acts of Parliament and orders in council till February, 1788, when the prohibition was established by a permanent statute, which took effect from the 2d of April of that year, and left the colonial ports to be opened or closed at the will of the King.

In 1794 Mr. Jay's treaty was concluded. This treaty opened an intercourse between the United States and all the British colonies in America; but with regard to the North American colonies this boon was connected with a condition which gave to the British authorities a control over the Indians within our territories. The boon and condition were unanimously rejected by the Senate of the United States.

In 1797 and '98, countervailing and discriminating duties were imposed by act of Parliament, followed by an export duty of four per cent. levied upon neutral American vessels, under the guise of defraying the expense of convoys.

"In 1801 the peace of Amiens was concluded; and in April, 1803, the war broke out afresh. The commercial articles of Mr. Jay's treaty expired the same year. In 1805 Great Britain renewed the attempt to destroy the commerce between the United States and the colonies of all the other European nations. In 1806 this attempt was disclaimed, and a treaty of commerce was signed by the plenipotentiaries of the two countries at London; but they declared that they could not agree upon any arrangement of commerce relating to the trade between the United States and the colonies, and none was made. In December, 1807, Congress passed the embargo law; and in June, 1808, the British government authorized the governors of all the North American provinces to open their ports to American vessels. 'A curious illustration of the policy of Great Britain, in the regulation of this interest, is the fact that she was compelled to abandon in war the interdict which she had promulgated in peace.' From the 2d July, 1783, till the American embargo of 1807, the vessels of the United States were excluded from the British colonial ports. So necessary to the colonies was this trade, that no sooner was it