

the Ministry, in their anxiety to raise a revenue from the Colonies, and to retrieve, at least in part, the errors they had committed, and the imbecillity they had betrayed, seem to have forgot, that the rule which in this second instance they had precipitately adopted, might be admissible and perfectly harmless, when applied to independent countries, but was impregnated with all the elements of mischief, extortion and oppression when extended to Colonies, which were shut out of every other market but that of the Parent Government. If a foreign Prince was so impolitic as to impose high duties on the articles of export from his dominions, he only crippled his trade and gave force and vigor to a counteracting principle ; for the purchaser, guided by the universal impulse of self-interest, would seek and repair to the cheapest market, and cease to traffic on disadvantageous terms. The Colonists had not this liberty, and they were therefore bound to resist any attempt on the part of the Mother country, to lay taxes on exports, needed for the consumption of her foreign dependencies. This bill of revenue met with no kinder reception from the Provincials than the former. In Massachusetts great discontent prevailed ; and associations began to be formed for encouraging domestic manufactures and discontinuing the import of British products which might be charged indefinitely, with impost after impost, at the discretion of the Ministry. These troubles acquired great strength and soon propagated themselves through every nook and corner of America. Ineffectual attempts to stop their progress were made more than once by the British Government, attempts that vacillated betwixt feebleness and vigor, easy concession and high handed force ; but all was unavailing, for the injuries given and received left no other alternative save the decision of the sword. The difference, as is apparent from the foregoing details, was simply this : a claim of right on the one side and a denial of that right on the other, to raise a revenue from the colonies, for the *ends and uses of the general Government* either by *internal or external taxation*.