

were weak and mischievous; for it is notorious to every person connected with Jamaica, that the average price of pickled and dried fish, throughout the whole of that year was only from five to six dollars the barrel and quintal, and lumber and every other article at the same proportionate low rate*.

In the intercourse, which the subjects of the United States maintain with *their other allies*, they are obliged to pay heavy duties on all the articles they carry to, or bring from *their* West-India islands; although the want of such articles must be as great, if not greater, in those settlements, than in the British islands; it is also well known that the duties imposed on cargoes imported into the *United States*, in *British* ships, are very considerable; in no instance less than £15 per cent. ad valorem, and in many upwards of £30 per cent. If, then, this indulgence is continued, and the subjects of the United States are to be tolerated in *their* intercourse in *their own* vessels, with the *British* West-India islands, why not compel them to pay proportionate duties there? It is a tribute, which without hesitation or reluctance, they pay to *other* powers, and which they exact from *British* subjects in *their own* ports; it surely, therefore, ought on principles of reciprocity and justice, to be demanded from them in British ports, in case the impolitic relaxations of the ancient system are any longer to be continued. It may not be improper to observe that in some of the King's West-India settlements, there are tonnage and other island duties imposed on *British* ships resorting there, but from which it is stated *American* shipping have in many instances been *exempted*, † particularly those *American* vessels in which are imported articles allowed by *Proclamation*!

The great change which has taken place in the condition of the British North American colonies, since the indepen-

though at the period alluded to many negroes died from the inclemency of the weather during the hurricanes, but not in very great numbers, as *Mr. Jenkinson* (now Earl Liverpool) stated in the debate on the intercourse, on the 17th February 1786. See also reports of board of trade, 1784 and 1791.

* Post, Appendix, Nos. 5 and 6.

† See Appendix, p. 104, 106, which points out the necessity of requiring the governors of the West-India islands, to transmit annually to government, statements of the *colonial* duties imposed on the imports and exports of the islands, and on the shipping employed in that trade.