

and extend Cultivation, which is the proper Business of Colonies; but the later Regulations have no such Tendency, except in some trifling Particulars: On the contrary, the Alteration of the Molasses Duty was avowedly made for the Benefit of a Manufacture: And Manufactures more peculiarly belong to the Mother-Country: But even an Equality, which is the least that the *British* Distilleries are entitled to, is not secured to them under the present very low Duty on Molasses: And the Preference due to the Produce of *British* Plantations is lost, in the Molasses, the Cotton, and other Articles. In Addition to all these, another obvious Difference presents itself in the Conduct of the two Administrations: The Measures of the latter are founded almost entirely upon Speculation: They have been defended upon Principles repugnant to those which have been always esteemed to be the best adapted to the Management of Colonies: They are Experiments substituted in the Place of Experience; uncertain in their Event; and perhaps dangerous in their Consequences. For there can be no Assurance of the Effects immediate or distant, which may ensue from Concessions made to Colonies in a State of actual Resistance: By the Establishment of Free Ports, an opening may be made for bringing the Produce of foreign Settlements into our own; or on the other Hand, for the Introduction of *European* Manufactures into the *British* Plantations: This and the other Regulations which are intended to procure the Carriage of Commodities raised in the *French* Islands, may encrease the Consumption of those Commodities on the Continent of *America*, to the Prejudice of our *West-Indies*; or facilitate the Exportation of our enumerated Commodities to other Places than to the Dominions of *Great Britain*: And the Facilities given to the Intercourse between our and their Settlements, may either furnish the Colonists with the Means of making Returns to this Country, or of diverting the Returns they were before provided with, to other Countries. The Event in all these Instances is at least doubtful: Whereas the Measures of the former Administration were certain of their Effects: To open a Vent for the Produce of the Plantations, to encourage Cultivation there, to extend their Fisheries, to prevent their clandestine Trade, and to confine their Consumption to the Manufactures of *Great Britain*, were Measures equally beneficial to the Mother-Country, and to the Colonies,