

This bill, after declaring in the preamble that the thirteen United States of North America had lately been solemnly acknowledged by the King to be free, sovereign, and independent States, proceeded first to repeal all the statutes of regulation or prohibition of intercourse which had been theretofore enacted. It then recited that the ships and vessels of the people of the United States had, while they were British subjects, been admitted into the ports of Great Britain with all the privileges and advantages of British built ships; that, by the then existing regulations of Great Britain, foreigners, as aliens, were liable to various commercial restrictions, duties, and customs, at the ports of Great Britain, which had not been applicable to the inhabitants of the United States.

The following remarkable language is contained in the bill:

"And whereas it is highly expedient that the intercourse between Great Britain and the United States should be established on the most enlarged principles of reciprocal benefit to both countries, but, from the distance between Great Britain and America, it must be a considerable time before any convention or treaty for establishing and regulating the trade and intercourse between Great Britain and the United States of America upon a permanent foundation can be concluded: Now, for the purpose of making a temporary regulation of the commerce and intercourse between Great Britain and the said United States of America, and in order to evince the disposition of Great Britain to be on terms of the most perfect amity with the said United States of America, and in confidence of a like friendly disposition on the part of the said United States towards Great Britain," &c., &c.

The bill then proceeded with a clause to regulate the commercial intercourse between the United States and the island of Great Britain only, and it was precisely the same system of regulations which after a lapse of more than thirty years was established by the convention of 1815, and which is still in force.

With respect to the intercourse with the colonies, *that* was to be settled on principles equally liberal.

The following were the provisions of the proposed bill with respect to the colonies:

"*And be it further enacted*, That during the time aforesaid the ships and vessels of the subjects and citizens of the said United States shall be admitted into the ports of his Majesty's islands, colonies and plantations in America, with any merchandise or goods of the growth, produce and manufacture of the territories of the aforesaid United States, with liberty to export from his Majesty's islands, colonies or plantations in America, to the said territories of the said United States, any merchandise and goods whatsoever; and such merchandise and goods which shall be so imported into, or exported from the said British islands, colonies or plantations in America, shall be liable to the same duties and charges only as the same merchandise and goods should be subject to if they were the property of British natural-born subjects, and imported or exported in British-built ships or vessels, navigated by British seamen.

"*And be it further enacted*, That during all the time hereinbefore limited there shall be the same drawbacks, exemptions, and bounties on merchandise and goods exported from Great Britain into the territories of the said United States of America, as are allowed in the case of exporta-