

them: and although in these last the interests of the British Ship-Owner seem more distinctly pursued, yet they extend some further advantages to our Commerce, which proper representations may perhaps realize.

With these favourable impressions of the new System, the Committee proceed to notice such parts of it as more immediately bear on the Question of the Customs Establishment. The principal Statute is the 6th Geo. IV. Chapter 114, entitled, "An Act to regulate the Trade of the British Possessions abroad." This imposes duties on the Intercourse with Foreign Countries—restored by the repeal of the Prohibitory Laws,—and contains numerous regulations for the security of the Revenue. As these Duties are levied for the *regulation of Trade*, they appear plainly within the saving of the Declaratory Statute of the 18th year of His late Majesty, concerning Taxation in the Colonies; and although the rate on many articles is, perhaps needlessly, very high, and although the regulations are in some instances of a nature totally repugnant to Colonial habits and feelings, yet the Committee conceive it unnecessary on these grounds to remark upon the Act. But they deem it their duty to point out, to the most particular attention of the Honourable House, the tendency of this Statute, perhaps unperceived or undesigned by its framers, to impair the most essential of the Prerogatives of this House—*Its controul over the Revenue raised in the Colony*. In its present shape, it may be asserted that this Act places at the disposal of the Executive a very large sum of duties, not annually but permanently granted; it diminishes in no moderate degree that indispensable and constitutional protection which the right of originating and applying the taxes raised on the People affords to their Representatives; and in times of excited feeling, happily as yet foreign to *Us*, may restrain within narrow limits that legitimate influence which this House, as the proper source whence the wants of the Provincial Government are supplied, ought ever to retain. Surely, if such results be possible under any circumstances, measures of prevention now become indispensable; and it nearly