

Nothing so prosperous is to be found in the annals of all nations. These Colonies have a population of but 2,600,000 persons, and their imports are now of £10,500,000; of which above £8,000,000 are from British possessions, and £7,000,000 from the United Kingdom. The whole navigation employed by their exports exceeds 2,000,000 tons; of which almost the whole is purely British; and which, besides all the wealth of their freights, maintain an immense body of the best and hardiest seamen. To institute any comparison of this vast amount of commerce and navigation with that of the Eastern Colonies would be futile. With reference to any foreign country, the superiority in trade of the Western Colonies is so great, that, even compared with the United States, the prosperity of whose commerce and its extent with this country is so much and justly vaunted, if only respect be had to the greater population of the Americans, not only do they proportionately import far less of our manufactures and productions, but their trade with all the world bears no proportionate comparison with the whole trade of the British possessions in America. For though more than six times greater in population, those States import far less than three times as much in value from all countries; and the tonnage employed by their exports is even less than a fifth more in amount than that so employed by these Colonies. Seventeen millions of Americans import from all countries to the value of about 130,000,000 dollars a year, and the whole tonnage employed by their exports is, or was in 1840, the year of its greatest amount, 2,353,595 tons, of which tonnage 1,647,009 was American; while two millions and six hundred thousand Colonists import to the value of £10,500,000, and the tonnage employed by their exports exceeds 2,000,000 of tons, and these are almost entirely British. These are great interests to tamper with. It would probably be no easy task, by any change