

ferent kinds of timber therein enumerated, were allowed to be imported *duty free*, when, in the course of 1806, the injurious consequences resulting from such a system being represented to government, the policy of taking off the duties on masts, spars, and bowsprits, imported from thence; to which they had become liable after the 24th June, 1781, under the 12th Chas. 2. c. 4. and subsequent acts, was suggested; and in order to promote the trade, which had been thus nearly lost, it was proposed that the former *bounties* should be revived, and allowed on the importation into Great Britain and Ireland, and the British West India islands, of *all kinds* of timber, the growth and produce of the British colonies in America imported in British bottoms.

This suggestion was partially adopted, and by an act passed on the 21st July, 1806\*, during the late ministry, it was made lawful to import into Great Britain and Ireland in British or Irish vessels, navigated according to law, *masts, yards, and bowsprits*, (which were excepted in the lumber acts), or timber fit for *naval* purposes, the growth or produce of the British provinces in America, *free of duty*, but this act is limited, and expires on the 1st of *January*, 1809, three years before the expiration of the 8th Geo. 1. c. 12. s. 2. which is continued to the 29th Sept. 1812, so that at present all kinds of timber may be imported from the King's colonies *duty free*.

It is to be regretted the proposition to revive the bounties formerly granted on the importation of timber from the colonies had not been acceded to: for, surely, it is more politic to take from our own dependencies those articles required for general consumption than to purchase them of *foreign* countries; and if that cannot be done with so much cheapness, it is certainly consistent with sound policy to countervail the difference either by bounties on the importation from the British settlements, or by increased duties on the importation from foreign states. In another point of view, it may be said, considerations of revenue are not to be overlooked; which may, probably, have conduced to the partial and narrow system now pursued with respect to the timber trade of these provinces; yet it is presumed the advantages which the state will derive from giving full effect to this trade, by granting bounties on the importation from thence of *all kinds* of timber, will considerably counter-

\* 46th Geo. 3. ch. 116.