

cessaries with which they cannot supply themselves; and yet afford revenue or employment to the parent state; and without which supplies to those settlements from the other colonies, the parent state could not receive such benefits; for instance, the West Indies and Newfoundland.

6th. Relieving the parent state from a distressed population.

7th. By receiving from the colonies those articles which she does not or cannot herself produce.

8th. As an advanced post, to keep the enemy in check at home, and shield the parent state itself from that annoyance in war, which the experience of the *last* American hostilities, not less than the *first*, proved could not be prevented, when that enemy was not, as he might have been, more effectually attacked in his own ports.

9th. As a nursery for seamen, which in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c. for instance, very far exceeds the custom-house returns, by those who are, or were formerly, occupied in the gypsum, and are now in the coasting trade and the fisheries; and in Canada by persons employed in the navigation of the rivers and lakes, and by the North-west company.

50. I beg leave to add a few words on the last of these articles, as it respects the impressment of seamen. The present colonies have never denied, as the old colonies did, the right of the navy to impress seamen in war time; it is a great political question, to solve which they think themselves incompetent; but they claim the same exemptions, and none other, which are, in every exigency or indulgence, allowed in Great Britain; and yet in all the numerous instances which have occurred within the present colonies of excessive infringement of those rules which are laid down by acts of parliament, court decisions, and admiralty orders; (I speak not of trifling instances) I have never known one in which that spirit of resistance was so conspicuous as it appeared on every similar occasion in New England; though we read in history, that impressment was the usual practice in those colonies, to raise forces even *for land service*, when volunteers proved insufficient for the expeditions against the Indians. But, Sir, you may be assured, the indiscriminate manner in which impressment in the Atlantic colonies is generally conducted, is a great evil; and requires the most energetic enforcement of orders from government, if there is any serious intention to apply a remedy to practices