

Office to conquer and to govern the Colonies of other nations ; since, in a word, we abandoned the old system of Chartered Colonies and adopted the new one of Crown Colonies ; since we exchanged our ancient and successful system of colonizing—that of allowing to the colony a large share of local self-government—since we have pursued the Spanish system of governing in all things from a distance by a Council of the Indies in Downing-street,—the government of our Colonies has been far more objectionable, more ignorant, necessarily so on account of the great distance between the subjects and the seat of all authority ; more oppressive, insomuch as local power has been confided to strangers who have no permanent interest in, or sympathy with, the Colony ; and, lastly, more injurious to us at home, by furnishing a larger amount of Government patronage, or, in other words, larger means of Parliamentary corruption. A new dislike to the old system of colonial trade, and an impression made by the new system of colonial government, under which the evils and abuses necessarily belonging to all Governments from a distance had increased and become more obvious—these I believe to be at the bottom of the opinion which condemns as mischievous and absurd the old fashioned, but (as it appears to me) sound opinion which is expressed by the cry “ Ships, colonies, and commerce.” Instead of wishing to separate from our Colonies, or to avert the establishment of new ones, I would say