

Indies. Under the new System, this Market is relieved by the demand for that produce in more distant Countries, heretofore seldom visited by Colonial Vessels; and to Foreign Ships, against which they had, with few exceptions, been always closed, our Ports are now freely opened. The convenience of Warehousing Merchandise, as practised in England, is extended hither; and, for the first time in the History of British America, its navigation participates in the conveyance of Foreign Produce, wholly or partially, to its ultimate destination.

These privileges present a very gratifying contrast, not only to the ancient system of restriction and prohibition, by which a barrier was interposed against all Intercourse between British and Foreign Possessions, but also to the later and changeable policy, which periodically, and in a limited degree, afforded openings for Colonial enterprise. And whatever may have been the immediate objects of the Imperial Parliament in conferring these privileges, whether for the promotion of the Manufactures, Navigation or Commerce, of the Mother Country; or for the more liberal and generous purpose of restoring to the Colonists their equal rights with the native British Subjects, it cannot be questioned, that the new System must become fruitful in benefits, wherever it can freely operate. But it was accompanied by these further advantages: The intricate, confused and indigested code of Plantation Laws, was succeeded by simple and perspicuous enactments:—and the abolition of all Fees, with the vexatious and illegal exactions in too many Ports attending them, gave general relief to all engaged in Navigation, and effected an immense saving to the Shipping Interest. In all these points of view the new System of Inter-Colonial and Foreign Intercourse came recommended by powerful claims on the approval and gratitude of the Colonists; and entitled His Majesty's Government to their sincerest acknowledgments for the benefits thus conferred.

The principles developed in the Statutes of 1826 are adhered to in the later Acts that modify or amend