

of Trade, who framed a new report upon the information of these papers and their own inquiries, which having been considered by the Privy Council, their Lordships referred all the papers to the advocate, attorney, and solicitor general, directing those great law officers to make separate reports upon the whole of what was now laid before them.

The reports of these learned gentlemen contained a great variety of propositions; but, like the opinions of most learned gentlemen, they were very different from each other. And thus it fell out, that, after all the pains which had been taken to procure the best and ablest advice, the ministers were in a great measure left to act upon their own judgement.

In this situation it was natural to have recourse to precedents; and those, which had any similarity to the present case, were carefully examined.