

according to the King's measurement (which bears proportion to the burthen nearly as 3 to 4) 375,000 tons—Now, supposing these ships to be only employed 8 months in the year, and at the freight of 10s. per ton measurement per month* it follows the whole amount will be £. 1,500,000, one-third of which, at least, viz. half a million, would center in this kingdom, as profits to the ship-holders, and maintenance of the families of the sailors.

It may be the opinion of many, that Britain should of right reserve to herself the navigation between the continental Colonies and the West Indies, as well as that of Europe, &c. The principal objection to this is, the shipping employed in that trade would have no occasion ever to come home, and in consequence, the seamen, though British, could have no families in England, and would of course become Americans as they must form their connections there. However, to prevent the growing power of the northern Colonies, who would otherwise continue to be carriers by sea for those of the south, it might be necessary to lay the trade under this restriction, that no ships, British and West Indian excepted, but those belonging to the respective Colony, should be permitted to load in that Colony any cargo for the West Indies, but to have no restraint whatever as to their place of delivery on their return.

* The freight in the transport service at the worst times is 9s. per ton per month, and is now up to 12s. 6d.