

the Board of Trade during the late administration, but without success.

Under the operation of some of these statutes the injury to the British merchant was manifest, and to the revenue very great. The British merchant, in the course of regular importation, entered his goods on their arrival, and paid the duty immediately. The foreigner warehoused his goods without paying any duties, and they were allowed to remain in his own warehouse, under no other care than that of an ordinary custom house officer, till the foreign merchant chose to declare whether he would take them out for home consumption or for exportation; he therefore, in the first instance, was spared the use of so much capital as the duties would have amounted to on the importation of the goods, and actually saved the duty on that part of them which was wasted, or clandestinely taken out of store, between the landing and regular delivery of the goods. Thus, it is clear the relaxation did not* produce any advantage to the trade of the country, or any benefit to the revenue; on the contrary, in all importations from countries in amity with Great Britain, which were warehoused, a certain loss accrued from waste, or from the goods being clandestinely taken thereout, which was often done. The injury sustained by the British merchant, under the operation of these regulations, is now fortunately obviated by an equal and wise system established by a subsequent act, which is beneficial to the merchant and not injurious to the revenue (except by the postponement of the payment of the duties), as the goods are deposited in security, and the public interest cannot suffer by waste or plunder, the duties being payable according to the measure or weight of the goods when first imported.

In order to countenance and give effect to the new system, it is likewise stated "that in the *American war*, if "we had rigidly adhered to the laws of the 17th century "we should not have been able to defend ourselves against "the formidable confederacy by which we were assailed †". This assertion is, however, calculated to mislead; for the departure from the old system in the *American war*, cannot justly be compared with the suspension of it during the late war, under the acts before mentioned: for the act of the

* See Mr. Cock's Answer, p. 8.

† Ibid.