

trees into potash, ought to be considered a moment, when the domestic encrease of shipwrights, sailors, and coopers, is the object in contemplation. The colonies were originally settled to promote the navigation of England, by creating a great employment for ships. To allow the plantations (as they have been allowed for a century and a half) to enter into a competition with the mother country, in ship-building and navigation, was absurdly to sacrifice the important end to the inconsiderable means. The fisheries of New-England were, in this view of the subject, a nuisance in the British empire, great in proportion to their extent and continuance. The making of acts of Parliament to protect the New-England fishers and the colonial sailors from being pressed into the public service, like other British fishers and seamen, was to augment that nuisance, instead of abetting it.—Sailors, who reside at a distance of three thousand miles, were they subject to the press, are unuseful to Britain, because their services cannot be commanded, when they are wanted most. The sailors and fishers of Nova Scotia and Canada are entitled therefore to no favour from Britain. And still less are the American seamen, who continue our rivals in peace, and will be our enemies in war, entitled to any indulgence, when that favour is to be conferred by depriving our own sailors of employment, and the nation consequently of their service. When the West-Indians are urged to allow their slaves to raise food for themselves they constantly plead,

*abating*