

would bring the general balance of trade so much more in our favour, and add to the public revenue by the proportion of taxes paid by the proprietors of the ships, so far as the profits contribute to their support, and likewise increase our population, by the acquisition of such proprietors of ships from America as chuse to continue their property in that employ.

2. The like advantages to the revenue and population will result from those sailors employed in the colony trade who have families, and from their families being resident here, and deriving their support from them or their wages.

To estimate the particular amount of the advantage to Britain from this accession of ships and seamen, it would be necessary to know pretty nearly the number employed.

Dr. Mitchel asserts that the British Colonies in America maintain 45,000 seamen, and another writer * makes it appear that Britain herself employs in that trade far short of 15,000 †: therefore, colonists employed, must exceed 30,000; now deducting 5,000 for their own coasting trade, there will remain 25,000 seamen gained to Britain, and, estimating one seaman ‡ necessary for every 20 tons burthen of a ship, be 500,000 tons of shipping, or ac-

* American Traveller.

† Sailors in the Newfoundland trade, but not the boatmen included.

‡ In very small vessels a greater proportion of hands are required, but in large vessels a less number than the average made use of.

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