

penetration, or appear insignificant in the eyes, of those who may be entrusted with the interests of the empire on this momentous occasion.

To "ships, colonies, and commerce," no one will deny, that the inhabitants of the British islands owe their wealth and prosperity, the government its preponderance and stability, and the imperial crown its lustre. Whatever, therefore, tends to augment the numbers of our mercantile and warlike fleets, of our seamen, and our traders; whatever can give increased extent, security, and value to our colonies; whatever can promote the commercial interests of the nation at large; must be an object of the warm solicitude of every patriot statesman. It will be contended in these pages, that no occurrence has for a series of years afforded so great an opening for enhancing these inestimable privileges, for correcting the errors of former times, and for making ample and stable provision for the future, than the result of the war, we are at present engaged in with the United States of America; for by that, all former treaties, all impolitic concessions are abrogated; every thing may pass in revision; and we shall, whenever a peace is concluded, be entitled, supposing the events of the war to give us that commanding attitude which we ought to possess, to claim and enforce those advantages, which nature and policy point out as belonging to the possessors of Canada.

The importance of our possessions in North America, has never been duly estimated. Though the abundant supplies of timber, masts, &c. which our navy has, for years, derived from Canada, have, as to that point, now opened the eyes of the country; though the nursery for our seamen, which the fisheries on those coasts have constituted, has long been acknowledged, as almost a vital part of our naval existence; yet are there other advantages to be derived from the productions of nature and industry, which encouragement and protection from the mother country would incessantly call into action, that have been mostly overlooked, or greatly underrated.