

imports from North America; that the article of salted fish (viz. cod, mackrell and shad) to the incredible amount of 150,000 quintals, and 30,000 barrels, constituted part of their annual consumption. It grieves me to say, that this, and herrings from Ireland, made the only animal food of the poor negroes. By the late proclamation, the future import of salted fish from the United States is not permitted *even in British vessels*. As it is impossible that Ireland alone, or conjointly with the fisheries of St. John's and Nova Scotia, in their present state, can supply the deficiency, infatuation must have crept into our councils. Is it not enough that ruin will overtake the unoffending planter, — must the most wretched of all the children of affliction, his miserable slaves, also fall victims to our vengeance?

It was remarked, by Mr. Walker, in that admirable chain of evidence delivered by him, in 1775, to an unattending and unfeeling House of Commons, that “it is in trade, as in the human body, nothing suffers singly by itself; there is a consent of parts in the system of both; and the partial evil soon grows into universal mischief.” — At present I shall confine the application of this remark to the African trade. Deprived of the means of procuring sustenance for the slaves they already possess, it can hardly be supposed that the planters will think of purchasing others. In lamenting this circumstance, I speak

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