

future incapacity and poverty of those settlements. But the case was different. The wide extent of unmeasured forests, and the inexhaustible fertility of seas that may be almost said to live, from the swarms which they produce, are surely not to be estimated by the export of a few feet of timber, or a few barrels of fish; and, therefore, the first question proposed in the discussion of Mr. Edwards,—“how much of the annual consumption of the West India Islands had Canada, &c. supplied,”—might have been artful in the design, but was most absurd in the calculations which it invited, and the inferences to which it led.

The inferences were not merely absurd. They were in utter hostility to existing fact. At the very period when Canada, as was intimated, was able to supply but twenty-four bushels of corn, that is, in the years 1772, 1773, 1774, it was largely contributing to the food of Europe; and it was admitted by persons little likely to exaggerate on the occasion, “that, in consequence of the demand from the southern parts of Europe, a large exportation of corn had been made from Quebec, and, even in one of the years mentioned, to the amount of—not 24 bushels, but—400,000.”

Such a fact could scarcely have eluded Mr. Edwards’ research; yet I observe that the same mode of argument, by which that gentleman would prove the poverty and barrenness of the British establishments in North America, has been again adopted in a subsequent page. But he is not here more fortunate in his observation. That very page, which has been adverted to, evidently proves that, in one instance, at least, the capacity of supply had been designedly or ignorantly mistaken; and that Newfoundland, instead of being capable of furnishing for the West Indian market but a little more than 12,000 quintals of fish, in three years, was able, as soon as it began to enjoy a direct demand from the West Indies, to furnish, in the same number of years, 241,935 quintals!

Of the other circumstances stated by Mr. Edwards (and indeed of all the leading circumstances included in the whole question of supply) it is well known that they had undergone a rigid but candid scrutiny, before his history was published. In 1783 a bill was introduced into Parliament by Mr. Pitt, by which an actual surrender would have been made to America of the leading principles of the Navigation and Colonial System of Great Britain. Discussion being thus excited, men were taught to consider the question in its true light. The bill was therefore opposed, as it deserved to be, and accordingly dropt; but, in order to afford a full opportunity for an ample and dispassionate consideration of a subject of such magnitude, the whole question of the supply of the British West India market, was referred to a Committee of the Privy Council for Trade. The most intelligent merchants, whether favourable or otherwise to the American and West Indian claims, were, consequently, examined, custom-house details were produced and investigated, comparative facts were stated and weighed, and a mass of evidence was collected, greater and more decisive, perhaps, than could have been procured on any other political and commercial subject.

A paper in the first instance was laid before the Committee, which was stated to be—“The representation of the West India planters and merchants, purporting to shew the distressed state of his Majesty’s sugar colonies, by the operation of His Majesty’s order in council of the 2d July, 1783, and the necessity of allowing a free intercourse between the sugar colonies and the United States of America, in American bottoms.”

In this representation, which was sustained by all the evidence which the West India merchants and planters had to produce, and which contained four distinct allegations, it was affirmed;

1st. “That his Majesty’s sugar colonies are in so great distress at present, for want of a free intercourse between them and the United States of America, in American ships, that not a moment should be lost in granting further relief.”

In support of this position, evidence was produced; and it was maintained, on the authority of

various documents, that, in consequence of the restrictions on the trade of the sugar islands, the prices of provisions, *recently imported*, had risen nearly 50 per cent.;—that the provisions *then* at market would not answer the consumption of the islands for more than *two* months;—that lumber had advanced in Barbadoes from 7 to 25 per cent, and had fallen only in consequence of an incidental supply from the French West India Islands;—and that in Jamaica, the several articles of supply were still at a *war price*, owing to the uncertainty of procuring them.

In opposition to these facts and observations, there was evidence laid before the Committee to the following effect. That whatever distress *might* have ensued upon the publication of his Majesty’s aforesaid order in council, was stated to have been principally owing to the planters not having expected that any restrictions, in this respect, would take place, and having omitted, therefore, to make provision of those several articles by other means.

That the distress which had been stated, as existing at the date of the representation, was *imaginary*, there having been entered in the three months preceding that date, in the port of Kingston alone, 73 British built vessels, containing 18,000 barrels of flour, which were equal to the consumption of the island, not for *two* months, as asserted, but for *nine* months, together with 559,050 staves and heads, 796,253 feet of boards, scantling, &c. 1,450,790 shingles, and 632 packed or shaken hogheads.

That not only had the price of provisions and lumber fallen to the *usual* rate, at which they had been sold *before* the American disturbances, but that every species of goods in Jamaica, instead of being at a *war price*, were in the utmost plenty, and it was even feared there, as well as at Barbadoes, that flour would become, from the quantity in hand, a *losing* article.

And that, in respect to the apprehensions of the assembly of Antigua, of the mischiefs and calamities which it had been supposed would follow from the restrictions of his Majesty’s order in council, they also have been thought to be *imaginary*, for that in the space of little more than *one* month after the publication of the said order in council, 21 British built vessels had entered there, with sundry articles of American produce, containing among other things, 1,679 barrels of flour, 606 barrels and 174 kegs of biscuit, 580 bushels of corn, 256,000 feet of lumber, 34,650 staves and heading, 1,928,000 shingles, and 484 cedar posts, besides other smaller articles.

[To be Continued.]

LONDON, JUNE 20.

Although we have personally felt for the dignity of our Government, so grossly insulted by the petulant and impotent Proclamation of the Frenchified President, and more Frenchified Secretary, of the United States, yet we feel ourselves called upon, on behalf of nine-tenths of the respectable citizens composing the American Republic, to request our Countrymen to preserve a manly, temperate, and dignified view of the situation of that Government, which has been compelled by the venality of some of their Merchants, and by the operation of French Gold among their Leaders, to assume a tone and colour of proceedings, intemperate and indecent, if their means of a naval War had existed—and despicably contemptible, if it be true that that Government is, at the very same moment, under the direction of the same President, and Secretary, paying Tribute to France!!!

JUNE 22.

We are relieved from much solicitude on the subject of the pending differences with America, by an assurance from very respectable authority, that our Ministers, while they are inclined to do ample justice to the legitimate claims of the United States, are determined not to concede a tittle of our rights to the braggard clamours of their

Government. Should the Bill for the Non-importation of British Manufactures be persisted in, it will be encountered on our part by measures of equal hostility. Should the right of search (which can be denied only for the purpose of giving facility to the commerce of the enemy) be resisted, it is to be enforced; the forces in our Northern Provinces are to be strengthened, although we incline to think they are at present fully competent to their defence, and arrangements are making with a view to obviate as far as possible any inconvenience which might otherwise result to our Islands from the suspension of their accustomed supplies from America.

The Atlas, of 74 guns, Commodore to the Jamaica Fleet, on Thursday arrived at Plymouth, without any part of her convoy, having parted from it soon after sailing.

JUNE 24.

The Hamburgh Mail due on Wednesday arrived this morning. No official declaration has yet been made of the adjustment of the difference, between Austria and France. The French troops preserve their respective positions, and Branau is yet in their hands.

M. D’Oubril does not appear to have set out for Paris, nor do the Vienna articles say a word upon the subject. The Court of Vienna is about to send an Ambassador to the new King of Naples. Count Kaunitz, however, is to remain at Palermo, as Ambassador from the Austrian Government to the legitimate King of Naples.

A Letter is in circulation at Vienna purporting to be from Bonaparte to the King of Bavaria, requiring him, on account of incapacity, to abdicate the Throne in favour of his son. It were absurd to believe the letter to be genuine. The incapacity of the King of Bavaria would rather be deemed a favorable circumstance than otherwise.

The funds declined considerably yesterday, towards the close of the Market.—Omnium fell 1 1-2 per cent.—The fall was attributed to a rumour that letters had been received *via* Holland, “stating, that the Emperor of Russia had made a separate Peace with France.”—Another report was, “that a negotiation for that purpose was only on foot.

We do not attach credit to these rumours—any negotiation that would be entered upon between Russia and France, would probably be conducted