

empt, is totally unfounded as to the Island of Barbadoes, of which I am the Agent. The Petitioners are altogether uninformed, or misinformed, as to the real circumstances under which the American vessels are occasionally admitted into the ports of the Islands.

"I cannot but notice the ungracious and invidious statements, not of the Memorial alone, but of other Papers also connected with it, although not of official communication.

"One of these contains a charge of illicit trade against all the Islands, and calls on a great Commercial Company of this country, to join their efforts with those of the Merchants of Halifax, in driving the Americans from our ports.

"All facts upon which this charge is founded, are denied. The Memorialists charge the West-India Planters with having a mutual interest with the Americans in the free trade to the Islands, but no free trade ever existed, except in their own imaginations. They claim the right of selling us their own articles, at their own prices, in time of war, when they cannot send us supplies at any rate, or in any quantity proportioned to our necessities; and they very reasonably require, in express terms, the West-India Colonists to postpone the accomplishment of their own confessedly just expectations, in favour of the claims of a sterile and inhospitable climate. These statements may be accounted for, but cannot be justified: as a brother Colonist, I regret the condition of things which could prompt them. I regret the imprudence which could exhibit them.

"I cannot but observe, that the Petitioners are not better agreed with their Governor on the object of their application to Ministry, than they are informed on the subject of West-India claims to American intercourse: yet are our wishes favourable to these applicants. Whenever they can supply us with fish adequately, that is, in sufficient quantities, and at reasonable prices, they are entitled to do so exclusively. The West-India Colonists expressly admit so; that the Petitioners cannot at all times do so, their own statements shew. With respect to the accommodations solicited in favour of their vessels employed in the European trade, by removing the inconvenient condition annexed thereto, according to which their vessels are obliged to touch at a port of England on their return home, I have no doubt that His Majesty's Government will give them every reasonable indulgence and facility that consistently can be conceded. As to any partial imposts or charges in the West-India Islands, from which the Americans are exempt, I have answered for the Island which I represent, and I really believe that they exist not in any other Island. I cannot account for their existence, and the reason given for the exemption of Americans, that they are invited by proclamation is not founded in fact.

"On the subject of the American right of access to the Islands, and the exclusive right of these Northern Provinces to supply the West-Indies with fish, I submit the following statement of the claims of the West-India Colonists:

"The Colonists of the West-India Islands claim the right of obtaining from America all articles of the first necessity, with which they cannot adequately be supplied from other parts of the British Empire, and of using all the necessary means for obtaining these supplies.

"The right of obtaining supplies has been admitted, and acted upon by Great-Britain, in framing the American Interchange Bill for the West-Indies, and enumerating the articles which may be imported in the West-India Islands from America. The means of obtaining supplies respect either the mode of paying for them, or of carrying them.

"The mode of paying for them by West-India produce has been settled also by an enumeration in the same statute of the articles of produce which may be exported from the West-India Islands to America, and the carriage of all these exports and imports has been confined exclusively to British vessels.

"The West-India Colonists, in their applications to Government, do not extend their claims beyond the enumerated articles of imports and exports in British vessels.

"They only complain that the means of carrying those articles are inadequate, and they solicit that American vessels may be allowed jointly with British to convey them.

"The present is not a fit occasion for canvassing this proposition; but the Colonists of the Northern Provinces should be informed, that no question has been raised respecting their fisheries by the Colonists of the West-Indies, who admit their right at all times exclusively, if they possess the power at all times adequately, of supplying the West-India markets. The question is now raised by themselves: there is a time of peace, and a time of War; if a doubt is entertained whether the Northern Provinces can, in time of Peace, supply the West-India markets with fish, it results from their own statements. They state that they find it more advantageous to sell their fish to the Americans, who carry it afterwards to the West-Indies; they therefore have no vessels to carry it, or they find this a more beneficial mode of disposing of it.

"The positive affirmation of their Memorial that these Provinces can supply the West-Indies with fish, is shaken by a subsequent observation, that the trade with encouragement might almost, if not entirely, be confined to British subjects. It may therefore be doubted whether from want of vessels, or some other cause the Provinces can in time of peace supply the West-Indies with fish, and there is no doubt, from the high rate of Insurance and the total want of escort, they cannot in war.

"They tell us distinctly, that after a Peace the West-India Islands may, and therefore not sooner or during war, receive supplies on as advantageous terms as any Foreign State can furnish them.

"Under these circumstances, the West-India Colonists are entitled to extend their claim or necessary supply beyond the enumerated articles of the American Interchange Act, even to fish, and to request His Majesty's Government to consider their interests and necessities, also in whatever regulations they shall adopt on this subject. They join the Northern Colonists in all their reasonable demands; a bounty equivalent to the American bounty of 20s. per ton on English shipping employed in the fisheries, is fairly and properly demanded. That their exclusive right to the West-India market may be guarded, generally, against the injurious consequences of war, of inadequate supply, and of

combination, it is proposed that a sum shall be fixed beyond which when the price of fish shall, rise in the market, the market shall be open to all other importations; and eight dollars per quintal for cod fish is suggested for this purpose, as a fair limiting price. This price is indeed, distressing to the Planter, but it has therefore been selected. It has been selected as reaching one point, but securing him against the further progress of distress. This limitation of price is proposed as a regulation equally applicable to the state of peace and of war, and is recommended as a general regulation, because as such it will not be liable to hostile objection in time of war, to which opening the ports at that time only might be exposed. I have only two facts, my Lord, to add to the general statements of the Memorial.—In the year 1790, Nova-Scotia was obliged to import considerable quantities of lumber, bread, and grain from the United States; and in 1791, only 52 vessels, containing 4837 tons were employed between the British Northern Provinces and the West-India Islands according to returns, which always exhibit numbers considerably, if not doubly, greater than the true. I submit these observations and propositions, and with them the West-India interest in the premises, to your Lordship's consideration and protection, and remain with great respect,

"My Lord,

"Your very humble servant,

"G. W. JORDAN,

"Colonial Agent for Barbadoes."

"To the Right Honorable Lord Camden, &c. &c."

FROM THE HALIFAX CHRONICLE.

We have been favoured with the following apposite REMARKS, &c. on the Trade of Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick and Newfoundland, in the British West-India Islands; and that carried on by American vessels in the same ports; which, though hastily thrown together, appear to give much information on those subjects, so deeply interesting to all these Northern Colonies.

"At the commencement of the peace, 1783, foreigners were prohibited from trading to the British West-India Islands; and, in cases of scarcity, the supplies were only permitted to be brought from the neighbouring Islands and countries, in British vessels.

In '84, '85, the British Islands were supplied entirely, with fish, &c. from these Provinces, and in such abundance, that the highest price did not reach 5 dollars per quintal, and often fell to three dollars.—Lumber was from 20 to 25 dollars per M. and payment was received in rum from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per gallon.

In '86 the price of fish in the English Islands was from 3 to 4 dollars; and vessels from Nova-Scotia, &c. were frequently obliged to go to foreign Islands for a market.—Lumber was carried from these Provinces, and in British vessels from the States, in such quantities, that the price seldom exceeded 25 dollars.—Rum was then received from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per gallon.

In '87 and '88, the price of fish was much the same; and several cargoes were, unavoidably, carried to the French Islands. Lumber was brought from Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick, and in British vessels from the States, in abundance, from 20 to 25 dollars.

In '89 and '90, the price of fish from these Colonies, was from 2½ to 3½ dollars; and many cargoes were compelled to go to foreign Islands for a market; and lumber brought, as before, in such quantities, that the price seldom exceeded 20 dollars.

In '91 and '92, the prices of fish and lumber were much the same; and the Islands amply supplied with those articles.

In '93 the French war took place; and the freight, &c. in British vessels, became higher; but even then, the price of fish seldom exceeded 4 dollars, and lumber 30; and payments were made in rum from 3s. to 3s. 10d.—yet, the Islands took advantage of a clause in the Act of Parliament (merely to prevent distress;) and the Governors, with advice of their Councils (the Planters) thought proper to admit the Americans.

Ever since that period, American vessels have been constantly admitted in all the British Islands, whether by proclamation, or by petitions from the merchants and planters, is immaterial; but, it is as plain to the British ship-owners, as it has been ruinous to the merchants of Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick and Newfoundland, that, since the opening the ports of those Islands to American vessels, we have lost the Carrying Trade; and instead of at least 500 sail of British shipping that were annually employed in that trade, not 20 English vessels in a year, carry lumber from the States to the Islands.—And, it can easily be proved, that the prices of fish, and lumber in the English Islands have been greater, since the Americans were admitted, than when those articles were supplied by British vessels.

From '93 to 1801, the Islands were principally supplied from the States;—not owing to the want of fish from these Colonies; but as the Americans were enabled to carry mixed cargoes of beef, pork, butter, flour, &c. which were prohibited from being imported in British bottoms; and, which prohibition, is still so rigorously enforced by the Custom-Houses in the Islands, that a barrel of beef or pork, or a box of candles, more than sufficient for the stores of the vessel, subjects such vessel to seizure and condemnation. And thus, the Nova-Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland merchants, after fitting out and sailing their vessels at a high expence of wages, insurance, &c. find the Islands overstocked, with the only articles which they are admitted to carry thither;—And representations have even been made to the Government at home, that we are not able to supply the Islands with a sufficient quantity of fish; which the previous statements will demonstrate to be false and absurd. The price of fish, in those years, was from 5 to 10 dollars; but the payment were made in rum, from 5s. to 8s. 3d. per gallon.

At Barbadoes we find, that, in Spring, 1803, (peace) six sail of vessels belonging to Nova-Scotia called, within two months, with cargoes of fish; but could not sell, owing to the port being filled with American vessels; and were obliged to carry their cargoes to Martinique. In Autumn, the same year, such quantities of fish arrived from Nova-Scotia and Newfoundland, that but few could sell their

cargoes; and the average price was not 4 dollars per quintal.—Still, the port was open for American fish; though not by proclamation.

In St. Vincent's, the Americans have free access at all times. When an American Capt. arrives, he applies to some merchant to buy his cargo, or to get him liberty to land. The merchant can always find a few others to sign a petition with him; which, being countersigned by two or three members of the Council, (generally Planters) will accomplish the object. The resident merchants, trading to Newfoundland and Nova-Scotia, have often endeavoured to stop the importation of American fish; but to no effect. In July last, above ONE HUNDRED hogheads of fish from Nova-Scotia, were given by one house to the Planters to manure their land;—yet, still the port was open for American fish.—Indeed the Americans are allowed to retail their cargoes on shore free from duty; while a Nova-Scotia merchant is not allowed to bring a single article of Provision from the States; and, if he retails his Nova-Scotia cargo, is obliged to pay 3 per cent. which being paid in cash, is fully equal to 5 per cent. on his account of sales.

The Islands of Tobago and Grenada admit all kinds of salt provisions from the States; but neither of those Islands will admit American fish, when any British fish is on sale.

Trinidad admits all kinds of American produce, without any restriction (but British vessels are not allowed to bring an article of salt provisions from the States)—and the Americans are permitted to take sugar and coffee in return—a material injury to the revenue of Great-Britain.

St. Lucia may, almost be considered as an American Island, garrisoned with British troops. The port is not only open for the consumption of the Island; but cargoes are shipped from thence to the other Islands; and the American carries off, in return, sugars, coffee, cocoa, and cotton.

Dominica admits all kinds of American produce (as is usual in other Islands) by petition; so that the supply, in general, is from the States—and a Nova-Scotia vessel can seldom sell her cargo.

The Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Nevis, are almost entirely supplied by the Americans with salt provisions of every kind—(by petition)—These Islands do not consume much dry fish; and as the Nova-Scotia vessels are not allowed to import into them any kind of salt provision from the States, it is not worth their while to send whole cargoes of fish to any of these Islands.

It will plainly appear, by the foregoing statement (the authenticity of which can easily be ascertained) that British subjects resident in His Majesty's North American Colonies, have not been admitted to trade, in many of the West-India Islands, since 1793, on equal terms with the Americans; notwithstanding the ample proofs which can be given, that those Islands were more regularly supplied, and at cheaper rates, when not an American vessel was admitted into their ports.

N.

ON BRINGING UP CHILDREN,

With Ideas of higher Stations, and more expensive Modes of Living, than they will be able to support on the Death of their Parents.

Philosophers have often compared individuals of the human race to the various animals of the irrational creation. Some are said to resemble foxes, some hogs, and others asses; and the resemblance has been supposed to be so great as to contribute something to the support of the Pythagorean Metempsychosis. I believe the philosophers would not have erred if, while they were reciting resemblances, they had said, that a great part of mankind are like the peacock, which appears to take its greatest pleasure, and to place its chief good, in the display of its gaudy finery. As to the transmigration of souls, some have thought that so great an attention to the beautiful appearance of the body, argues something in these persons against the existence of the soul at all; so that I do not pretend to corroborate from the circumstance of their likeness to the bird of Juno, the whimsical doctrine of the old philosopher.

To make a figure, to the utmost extent of their ability, is the scope of people of fashion; as to expend the plumage of its tail in all its pride is the supreme bliss of the peacock, whose internal qualities and real value (which by the way, are in that respect like the vain votaries of fashion) by no means correspond with the ostentatious appearance.

As the desire of distinction is natural, so the wish to make a figure, even in externals, while it is limited by right reason, and urges not to the violation of prudence and justice, is innocent at least, though scarcely laudable. But it is found in this age to lead to an expensive mode of living, and to the affectation of a splendour greatly above what the rank requires, and the fortune can support.

The house must be larger, the servants more numerous, the table more luxurious, and the equipage more splendid, than either a sense of decorum, or a prudential regard to the permanent interest of the family, can admit. And what is the inducement? The hope of being received into company which assumes the envied title of the People of Fashion. The aspirants to this honour are indeed freely received; but if it is suspected that they make a show without much substance to support it, they are commonly held in low esteem; and the subtleties they are obliged to use to conceal their inferiority, renders the state, which after much difficulty, they have obtained, truly uneasy. They indeed enjoy, in fancy, the pleasure of gratified pride, and are too rapidly whirled in the circle which they have chosen, to find leisure for reflection.—But this is a state which no rational creature, who possesses the faculty of which he boasts as his noblest distinction, can deem desirable. And yet, for the sake of this distinction, what sacrifices are made? Health, peace, and the plenty of a competency, are the usual price of the dear-bought purchase. Neither do these ostentatious people enjoy themselves sincerely, for they are conscious of imprudence and injustice; and however they may attempt to stifle the voice of reason, they will sometimes be compelled to hear it: if not at the assembly and masquerade, yet on their pillows, and in their chamber, when after all their efforts to escape, they are under an unavoidable necessity of communing with themselves, and of being still.