

L. H. J.
Liber No. 52
Dec. 6

tinued to be cramped the evident Consequence must be that we should not have Credit to purchase such considerable Qties of British Manufactures as we now do the Demand will encrease with our Numbers and Necessity must invent Acts Our Province is tolerably adapted to the raising of Sheep and our Soil and Climate are suitable for Hemp and Flax with these Advantages perhaps the great Difficulty lies in the Attempt to cloath ourselves. The Importance of this Province and Virginia as Tobacco Colonies is universally allowed and the Appendix to the Considerations &c has stated that Matter in a striking Light to which may be added the great Benefit to the Mother Country from her obliging all Tobo to be carried there which being sold from thence to those Foreigners (in whose Favour the Bal of Trade would otherwise generally lie) to the Yearly Amount of upwards of half a Million Great Britain thereby either saves or receives Remittances annually to the Value of that Sum and the planters Pittance of which is at last paid in her own Manufactures

It is observable that generally when England has laid Duties and Imposts on Goods not intended to be prohibited she has encouraged the trading Subjects by the Indulgence of Time for the Payment and considerable Abatements on prompt Payment of those Duties But this Lenity has not been exercised in the late Acts towards the Americans the great Duties are thereby imposed on the Impost of common Articles not intended to be prohibited there must here be a full Payment in Specie before the Goods can be landed This Severity necessarily diminishes the American Merchants Stock in Trade and obliges him to be prepared at all Events with ready Money to lay down the Duties or else his valuable Imports are to be sold at Auction attended with the further Melancholly Consequence of ruining his Credit tho' on the Indulgence of Time for Payment he might probably have raised and paid the Duties by his own Sale of the Goods within a reasonable Time for remitting the Exchequer

Equally severe and Impolitick are the Prohibitions on the Colonies to export Iron to Europe except Great Britain and Ireland and Lumber to any part of Europe to the Northward of Cape Finisterre or and some other bulky Goods to Ireland These Articles might be expected from America with some Profit could they be carried immediately to the proper Markets but will not bear the Additional Expences of being carried to & handed and reshipped in Great Britain the Consequence is not that Great Britain appropriates these Branches of Commerce to herself but the Sweeds Danes Hamburgers &c supply the Markets is it not more eligible for Great Britain to receive the Proffits in Remittances than to destroy these Branches of her Subjects Commerce It is on this Principle that Fish is permitted to be exported from America directly to the Roman Catholic Countries in Europe The Establishment of Comptrollers by