

Decker proposed 'to lay one tax on the consumers of luxuries and take off all our other taxes, excises and customs, and when that is done to make all our ports free.'¹ He was eloquent as to the harm done to British trade by high customs duties and, like Roger Coke, attacked the monopolies of chartered companies, their 'past villainies,' as he pleasantly phrased it. He attacked also the navigation act. 'As this act makes our navigation dear, it for that reason deprives us of the fishing trade, the great nursery of seamen.' He advised that the British colonies should be allowed to export their raw products direct in British ships to any part of Europe, inasmuch as if they were given such a field for their unmanufactured articles, they would cease to wish to manufacture, and it would result in 'preventing the people in our plantations on the Continent rebelling for ages to come.'

Writing when rebellion had already begun, Adam Smith advocated giving the colonists representation in the British Parliament; and for many years past others had given similar advice. Benjamin Franklin had favoured such a course, and it was very strongly urged by Thomas Pownall, who wrote with authority as having been Governor of Massachusetts and other American colonies. The first part of his book on 'The Administration of the British Colonies' was published in 1764, the year after the Peace of Paris was signed, confirming to Great Britain the rich fruits of the Seven Years War. He pleaded 'that Great Britain may be no more considered as the kingdom of this isle only, with many appendages of provinces,

¹ Second edition (Dublin, 1749), pp. 45, 53-4, 75 and 179.