

on paper. In any case in the middle of the eighteenth century the remedy, if remedy it could be accounted, was proposed too late. What had been wanting and what might conceivably still have held the Empire together was set forth in Burke's noble speeches. The time cried aloud for relinquishment by the Mother Country of all dictation in any form to the American children of her household, and for full recognition of the plain fact that those children, having come to manhood, must be accorded the freedom inherent in British citizenship, and be subject to no restraint or payment, unless imposed by themselves in their own lands and in their own way. The subject is beyond the scope of the present book, but it is not beyond its scope to note that freedom of trade for and with the colonies and political equality for the colonies presented themselves to writers and thinkers at the time of crisis as close akin, as two aspects of one and the same fact. Conversely, under the mercantile system trade domination meant political domination also. What killed the Old Empire was dominance of trade in its most vicious, insolent and godless guise, exulting in the appalling wickedness of the slave traffic, instilling poison into the heart of the Empire, from the West through the West India interest, from the East through the nabobs. Since the Restoration trade had always, with constantly growing strength and insistence, called for and supported the specious but most disastrous principle of uniformity in the dealings of the Mother Country with the colonies, which meant a dominant Mother Country and dependent colonies. In the course of the friction and the strife which tore