

'necessity.' The necessity that the commerce of the empire should be under one direction was obvious. The Americans had been so sensible of this necessity, that they had connived at the distinction between external and internal taxes, and had submitted to the acts of trade as regulations of commerce, but never as taxations, or revenue laws. Nor had the British Government till now ever dared to attempt to enforce them as taxations or revenue laws. They had lain dormant in that character for a century almost. The Navigation Act he allowed to be binding upon us, because we had consented to it by our own legislature. Here he gave a history of the Navigation Act of the 1st of Charles II., a plagiarism from Oliver Cromwell. This act had lain dormant for fifteen years. In 1675, after repeated letters and orders from the king, Governor Leverett very candidly informs his Majesty that the law had not been executed, because it was thought unconstitutional, Parliament not having authority over us."

## ISAAC BARRÉ



ISAAC BARRÉ, a British officer and politician of French parentage, was born at Dublin, Ireland, in 1726, and died at London, July 20, 1802. In 1745, he graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, and became an ensign in the British army, taking part under General Wolfe in the capture of Quebec, in 1759, having previously served as major of brigade in the expedition against Louisburg, Cape Breton. He was one of the officers at Wolfe's side when that general fell on the Heights of Abraham, and appears conspicuously in Benjamin West's well-known painting of the "Death of Wolfe." In 1761 Barré entered the English Parliament and was a member of the Commons for nearly thirty years, during which he took strong ground against the taxation of the American colonies, and was paymaster-general of the army in Lord Shelburne's administration. In Parliament he gained considerable reputation as an orator and manifested great powers of invective and sarcasm, and was a dreaded opponent of Lord North's ministry. With Sir Philip Francis and other writers of the period, Barré was cited as one of the probable authors of the famous "Letters of Junius." A town in Massachusetts was named after him, in honor of his attitude in the English Parliament on the subject of the taxation of the colonies, while Wilkes-Barré (now Wilkes-Barre), Pa., takes part of its name from the orator. In his later years Barré was a great invalid and suffered from blindness.

### SPEECH ON AMERICA'S OBLIGATION TO ENGLAND

[Delivered in England in reply to Charles Townshend, a member of the ministry, in 1765.]

THE honorable member has asked—"And now will these Americans, children planted by our care, nourished by our indulgence, and protected by our arms,—will they grudge to contribute their mite?" They planted by your care!—No, your oppressions planted them in America! They fled from your tyranny to a then uncultivated and inhospitable country, where they exposed themselves to almost all the hardships to which human nature is liable; and among others, to the cruelties of a savage foe the most subtle, and I will take it upon me to say the most formidable, of any people upon the face of God's earth; and yet, actuated by principles of true English liberty, our American brethren met all hardships with pleasure, compared with those they



suffered in their own country from the hands of those that should have been their friends.

They nourished up by your indulgence!—They grew by your neglect of them! As soon as you began to care about them, that care was exercised in sending persons to rule them, in one department and another, who were, perhaps, the deputies of deputies to some members of this House, sent to spy out their liberties, to misrepresent their actions, and to prey upon them; men whose behavior, on many occasions, has caused the blood of those sons of liberty to recoil within them; men promoted to the highest seats of justice, some who, to my knowledge, were glad, by going to a foreign country, to escape being brought to the bar of a court of justice in their own.

They protected by your arms!—They have nobly taken up arms in your defence!—have exerted a valor, amidst their constant and laborious industry, for the defence of a country whose frontier was drenched in blood, while its interior parts yielded all its little savings to your emolument. And, believe me,—remember I this day told you so,—that same spirit of freedom which actuated that people at first will accompany them still; but prudence forbids me to explain myself further. God knows I do not at this time speak from motives of party heat. What I deliver are the genuine sentiments of my heart. However superior to me, in general knowledge and experience, the respectable body of this House may be, yet I claim to know more of America than most of you, having seen and been conversant in that country. The people, I believe, are as truly loyal as any subjects the King has; but they are a people jealous of their liberties, and who will vindicate them to the last drop of their blood if they should ever be violated.