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THE
Present STATE
OF THE
SUGAR PLANTATIONS
CONSIDER'D;
But more especially That
OF THE
ISLAND
OF
BARBADOES.

LONDON,
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TO THE
Most Honourable
ROBERT

Earl of *Oxford*, and Earl *Mortimer*, Lord High Treasurer of *Great Britain*, and Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, &c.

The Present State of the Sugar Colonies
is humbly Dedicated by

Your Lordships

Most Humble,

and Most Obedient Servant

William Cleland.

*The State of the Sugar Plantations
consider'd, and more especially
that of the Island of Barbadoes;*

B *Arbadoes* being the Windwardmost Island, and most valuable of the *Caribbees*, the following Considerations shall be more particularly apply'd to that, especially, seeing with respect to the Ecclesiastical, Civil, and Military Government, Agriculture and Trade; it differs but very little from the rest of the Islands, so that the Regulations that may be offer'd in the following Paper, intended to better the State of that Island, with respect to the above particulars, may with very small Variation serve the others.

The first thing propos'd to be consider'd, is the Ecclesiastical Government of that Island; indeed it can scarce Challenge the Name of a Church Government. There are Eleven Parishes, to which the Governor has the Presentation, by Virtue of Her Majesty's
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Commission, that gives him the Character of Ordinary: By this Power also the Governor grants Licences for Marriages, Probates of Wills, Letters of Administration, and Guardianship; and indeed this Power has been too often executed very illegally; some Governors of late Years having contrary to the directions of the Law, granted those things for Money, where of right they ought not to have been granted, to the great Oppression and Damage of the Inhabitants, and perverting of Justice.

The Lord Bishop of *London* is said to be the Diocefan over all the Northern Colonies, as well as the Southern Islands; but as it has appear'd hitherto, he has little more Jurisdiction over Church Affairs than an Inspection, because of the aforesaid Power lodged in the Governor; for as yet there has been no settled Form of Government of the Church in these Places. That Primitive Prelate has upon all Occasions shewn a Fatherly Affection to the Church in those Parts, both by his repeated Advice to the Governors and Ministers, and by extending his Charity, and giving Assistance in many remarkable Instances. But what ever discouragements the Ministers of the Church might lie under; or if at any time Misunderstandings might arise amongst themselves, between them and their Parishioners, or between them and the
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(3)

Civil Government; there has been hitherto no certain or legal Standard to deliberate upon, and determine these matters.

It was but a few Years since the Ministers had any certain Allowances for their Subsistence; and so were at the Mercy of their Parishioners, who were not oblig'd to allow them in each Parish above 100 *l. per Annum*; (that Money being 28 *per Cent* less then Sterling) and some Parishes not so much. Indeed during the Government of *Sir Bevill Granvill*, an Act Pass'd obliging every Parish to give their Minister one Hundred and Fifty Pounds *per Annum*; and likewise ascertain'd their Perquisites, and the manner of Payment; all which before was very Precarious. But to this Day there are but Four of the Eleven Parishes that have Houses and Glebes; so that the other Seven Ministers are in a manner Non-Residents, being sometimes under a necessity of Boarding themselves, or having Houses Remote from their Parishes, towards which their one Hundred and Fifty Pounds, will not go so far there, as Forty Pounds in any part of *England*; besides the great Inconveniences that must in consequence attend them and their Parishioners, in the Performance of the several Parts of their Function. And notwithstanding its said, that the Governors for many Years past, have had it in their Instructions from Her Majesty and Her Royal Predecessors, to take

(4)

proper Measures to provide Houses and Glebes; and that the Ministers have from Time to Time, apply'd to the said Governors for such purpose; yet they have been so far from being reliev'd from the said Hardships on them and their Families, that they have been sometimes upon such Applications, mal-treated and brought under contempt, with their Parishioners, and in many other Cases, have been by the Arbitrary Power of the said Governors Oppress'd, even with Intent to bring them in Disgrace with the People. These are the true reasons why Religion does not make greater Progress in those Parts. And until there be first, a well settled Church Government in these Colonies, it will be preposterous and in vain, to Attempt the Baptizing the Slaves; for though Religion and Slavery are not at all Inconsistent; yet the Constitution of the Colonies are such, that there will be great difficulties to surmount, and can never be overcome, till in the first Place the Church be settled, upon a good and lasting Foundation. This may bring the Masters of the Slaves, and the other Inhabitants who Profess Christianity, to more serious Impressions of Religion. This will give the Ministers Credit and Authority, and deliver them from that Contempt, that the very Negroes have observ'd they have sometimes lain under; this will make them Circumspect and Exemplary

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plary in their Lives; this will oblige Governors to conform themselves to the Queens Commands, and deliver the Ministers out of their Clutches, and will Establish the Inhabitants in all Ecclesiastical Affairs, upon a good Foot, even as to their Property. And in the end lead all Her Majesty's Subjects in those Parts, to observe their Duty, better to God, to Her Majesty, and to one another.

And when its observ'd that the late Collonel *Codrington* has given to the Society *pro propaganda fide* Plantations, to the value of near 40000 l. to erect a College in the said Island of *Barbadoes*, for the promoting of Piety and Learning; the aforesaid Church Settlement may be thereby facilitated. Which Seminary and Church Settlement being united, will produce good Effects upon the Inhabitants, both with respect to Religion and good Manners; and so by consequence the good Government of the Place. And seeing that this is a Work so necessary, it's hoped the aforesaid Society will not deliberate long upon it, but bring it to pass very soon.

The next thing propos'd is the Consideration of the Civil Government; to begin with that, it must be observ'd, that Her Majesty and Her Royal Predecessors, ever since the Purchase of the Propriety from my Lord *Kinnoule*, (who was the Descendant of the Earl of *Carlisle*, the first Proprietor) have by Commission under the
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Great Seal of *England*, appointed Governors to take the Administration of the Government of that Island; and together with such Commission, Instructions has always been given to such Governors, for the better Performance of the said Trusts; and more particularly Twelve of the best of the Inhabitants, have been generally appointed to Constitute a Council to joyn with the said Governor, to advise him in the most arduous Affairs relating to the said Government, and by virtue of the said Instructions, the Governor has been directed to give the Inhabitants the Privilege to choose Two of the most considerable Freeholders out of each Parish, to constitute an Assembly; who, together with the said Governor, and Council, are to make the Body of the Legislature impower'd, to make Laws for the good Government of the Place, and for raising of Money for the Support and defence of the said Island; in the passing of which Laws, the Governor has a negative Voice; and if he should at any time Consent to any Act of Council and Assembly, that ought not to be passed, Her Majesty has reserv'd to Her self the Power of repealing the said Law. The Governor by Virtue of the said Commission and Instructions, and the Laws of the Island, has Power to erect a Court of Chancery, a Court of Appeals or Errors, from the Judgments of the Inferior Courts of the Island; all Matters of Equity being address'd to the Governor

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as Chancellor, by Bill, and Appeals, or Writs of Error, by Petition; so that this as the last Resort, either Affirm or Reverse, the Judgments of the Inferior Courts; such as the Court of Common Pleas, Court of Exchequer and Admiralty; and Judgments given by the Justices of the Peace, where they are by the Acts of the Island made Judges.

Since the Settlement Pursuant to the said Commission, Acts have been Pass'd & Confirm'd by Her Majesty, and Her Royal Predecessors, Establishing the aforesaid Courts. And more particularly the Courts of Common Pleas; of these there are Five, in Five several Precincts; each Judge having Four Assistants, all appointed by the Governor; by, and with the Consent, and Advice of the Council; and if any of them happen to be Guilty of any fault in their Office, they are not to be removed by the Governor, without the Concurrence of the said Council; the Justices of the Peace are in the same manner appointed to Act and Do in matters relating to the Peace and Behaviour in many Cases, as the Justices do here, or otherwise, as the particular Acts of the Island direct.

There are several Laws concerning the good Government of Covenant Servants, the Poor, the Vestries of each Parish, the High Ways, the Fortifications, to be executed by the Justices of the Peace, or other-

(8)

otherwise, as the said Laws direct: So that in Her Majesty's Commission and Instructions, there's good Provision made for the good Government of Her Majesty's Subjects, provided there is a just and honest Execution of them. But the Governors tho' pretty well limited in manner aforesaid, yet being the main Hinge upon which all the rest must move, by Avarice and Love of Power, often put the whole Machine out of Order; who not being content with the Provision made by the Crown for their Maintenance and other legal Advantages, sufficient to support the Honour and Dignity of the Government, run into many indirect Measures to grow Rich, dividing the Inhabitants for that purpose into Parties, selling Justice in all, or most Cases, where they have Power to Administer it, or can Influence the same; of this many remarkable Instances can be given; so that instead of supporting the Frame of the Government Establish'd in manner aforesaid, and improving of it for Her Majesty's Honour, and the benefit of Her Dominions; they are intent upon nothing but their own private Gain, to the great prejudice of both.

There are in the said Island several Offices held by Patent from Her Majesty, under the Great Seal of this Kingdom; such as the Secretary of the Island, who is Publick Notary; and

(9)

and in whose Office all Deeds, Conveyances Wills, Administrations, Letters of Guardianship, are recorded; indeed it is a publick Office of Record, and from this Office Issues Licences for Ships, and Tickets for People that leave the Island: The Secretary by the said Patent is appointed Secretary to the Governor, and Clerk of the Councils, and of the Court of Common Pleas. The next considerable Office is the Register of the Court of Chancery, who keeps all the Records of that Court, and from whence Issue all the Writs of the said Court of Chancery. This Officer is also Clerk of the Crown and Peace, and as such attends the Grand Sessions, Court of *Oyer and Terminer*, and Quarter Sessions of the Peace; which General Sessions are held twice a Year, by Virtue of Her Majesty's most Gracious Instructions to the Governors: In which Courts all Treasons, Felonies, Breaches of the Peace, and Misdemeanors, &c. are tryed in the same manner as they are here. The Attorney General who of late Years has his Patent from Her Majesty, and the Solicitor General appointed by the Governor prosecutes these Crimes in the Queens behalf; Her Majesty by Her Instructions is also graciously pleased to grant to the Inhabitants the benefit of the *Habeas Corpus*.

The next Office is the Provost Marshal, and Ser-

(10)

Serjeant at Arms ; who by his Patent is Marshal of all the Courts of Common Pleas ; he Executes all the Writs of the Court of Chancery, and Court of Common Pleas, all Warrants of Arrest, and indeed all State Writs ; he also attends the Person of the Governor on all publick occasions.

There is a Naval Officer, and the Officers relating to the Duty of the 4th, those Two are appointed ; the last for Collecting the said Duty, and in the first all Ships are Enter'd, and Searchers are appointed to see that the Acts of Trade are observed.

The Officers of the Exchequer and Court of Admiralty, are much after the same manner as they are here, the first of these appointed by the Governor.

There is also a Court of Escheats, to enquire into Forfeitures to Her Majesty.

There is likewise a Clerk of the Market, who has the Inspection into Weight and Measure, as it is here.

All the Offices in the Island but Two or Three, held by Her Majesty's Patent, have no Sallery annex'd to them ; but have Fees, which Fees are most of them appointed by the Laws of the Island, and taken by Custom ; but those Laws are not so clear, nor the Fees so well settled as they ought to be, which has given most of the Governors hitherto occasion to make the Patent Officers very uneasy, by Illegal Ex-
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(11)

actions of Money from them ; from thence have arisen Contentions between the Governors and the said Officers ; and Complaints have been made to Her Majesty several Times, by the said Parties, so that it would be very necessary to adjust and settle these Fees and Demands, and the differences about them, by a Law ; and it were well also that the Fees of Attornies, and the Gentlemen of the Law, were better regulated.

There is but one valuable Employment in this Island, which is not held of the Queen ; and that is the Treasurer : He is an Officer appointed to Collect the Excise, and other Taxes, laid on the Inhabitants by the Governor, Council, and Assembly ; he is nominated annually in the Act that lays the Excise : There have been great Contentions about nominating this Officer ; sometimes the Governor, sometimes the Governor and Council ; and at other Times the Assembly have nominated ; by which means great Parties have been made, and Divisions have arisen, not only to the interruption of the publick Business, but to the Loss of many Thousand Pounds at Times ; for thereby the Excise Act has been delayed, and great Importations have been made of Wines and strong Liquors, without paying any Duty ; so that it might be a great ease to the Inhabitants, and advantage to the Publick, if Her Majesty put an end to this Annual Contention,
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tion, by granting a Patent for the Execution of this Office ; and this seems to come as naturally under Her Majesty's Care, as any of the other Patent Offices ; this Officer being only Collector of the publick Money, which is the Queens Money, whatever the uses may be that it is appropriated to ; and which is at last to be accounted for to Her Majesty, according to every Governors Instructions. This would likewise prevent misapplication and sinking of the publick Money, which is often practiced by a confederacy between the Governor and the Treasurer, who is a Creature made by his own Power and Influence.

The Judges of the aforesaid Courts being appointed out of the Inhabitants, by the Governor, and few of them being bred to the Law, it is some difficulty for them to be right in their Judgments, in some intricate Cases; the Council at the Bar being of late Years Men brought up at the Universities, and Inns of Court ; but if the Governor wou'd impartially appoint those, who are the most skilful, and have most experience, the Business might be well enough done ; especially if any Sallary were allotted to the Chief Judges ; for then there might be found amongst the Inhabitants, those who are bred to, and who understand the Law ; who wou'd undertake such Trust, and considering that the great Business of those Courts depends on the Customs and Laws of
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the Island, much more than the Common Law ; the present Constitution under some Regulation will do much better than a Chief Justice from hence, who will be to seek in the greatest part of the Business, though he may better understand the Common Law of *England* ; for indeed all the Judicial Writs have their rise and form from the Laws of the Island, and Antient Custom ; so that a Stranger wou'd be at a Loss, unless there were a great alteration in these things, and so a great subversion of the Constitution.

The same reasons may be given against a Chancellor, for indeed if a Chief Justice and a Chancellor were to be sent from hence, there wou'd be little or no use for the Governor and Council, and then Her Majesty's Commission and Instructions must have a very great alteration ; and the Laws Establishing the Court of Chancery, Court of Errors and Grievances, and Common Pleas, must be at an End ; unless there were an Appeal from those Two Judges to the Governor and Council, which would seem to contradict the design of Establishing them : And if there has been occasions for complaints against the Governors for wrong, and sometimes corrupt Judgment ; what Security have you for the last of these Two Evils from these Two new Judges ; its very observable that its oftner for want of Honesty than Skill, that Judgments are wrong in the several Courts :
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If the Governor be an honest Man, and when any Complaints are made by the People, they are redressed, there is little fear but the Law will have a due course in that Island, as well as in other Places: It has been said some Tryals of this kind have been made to very little Advantage in some other Colonies.

There's nothing that can conduce more to the Preservation of the Liberty and Property of the Inhabitants, and the good Government of these Colonies, than the exact Determination of the Appeals and Complaints sent hither. By Her Majesty's Instructions to the Governors, no Appeal is to be granted from any Judgment given there, under the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds; and yet sometimes on Petition to Her Majesty, Appeals have been granted for a less Sum. This gives uncertainty in Appeals, and seems to defeat the purposes of the said Instructions, which are to prevent multiplicity of Appeals, and the difficulty that may attend the poor Inhabitants, who want Money and Friends here to prosecute such Appeals: Besides, upon Appeals, there's seldom more cost given here than Five Pounds, and the Prosecution falls under little less Charge than Fifty Pounds, sometimes double that Money; so that if an Appeal be allowed for 100 l. if the Charges be so high, a poor Man will rather submit to the loss of the Judgment given in his favour, than Prosecute an Appeal. Then

(15)

Then as to the publick Complaints from the Colonies, which generally are referr'd to the Lords Commissioners for Trade, there has been great difficulty in the impartial Determination of these Complaints, because they are seldom represented to them in a clear Light. The Information from Merchants, and the Proprietors that live here, being very uncertain, for they must depend on the Account they have from their Friends in the Colonies; however these of the best Credit here, are most to be relied on. But its a good Rule for the Lords Commissioners, that in all Cases of Complaint, such as Suspensions of Patent Officers, Members of the Council, or others, the Parties have the Charges against them given to them, and their Defence taken; and so both the Charges and Answers transmitted hither under the Seal of the Island, or if it be refused by the Governor, then under the Hand and Seal of one or two Justices of the Peace, or a Master in Chancery, for the Governor Affixes the Seal of the Island to all Papers himself, and that no Affidavit be taken, but when the Parties are Summon'd to cross Examine, and all these things fairly enter'd upon Record, and transmitted; will put such Complaints in so clear a Light, that Justice will be done impartially; for want of such proceedings the Innocent have suffer'd, and the Guilty instead of being censur'd have had their Conduct approv'd of: And

(16)

And such Methods are also conform to Her Majesty's Instructions, which direct that all Her Subjects shall be heard before Judgment be given; and this is also natural Justice.

The next thing to be treated of, is the Military Part in this Island; there are Six Regiments of Foot, Two Regiments of Horse, and a Troop call'd the Troop of Guards which consists chiefly of the Merchants and Inhabitants of the principal Town; This is the Militia of the Island: The Landed Men, *viz.* the Proprietors of the Land, being obliged for every 100 Acres of Land, to Accoutre Three Footmen, and one Horseman. So that for every 20 Acres of Land a Footman must be fitted, with a Musquet, Sword, and Cartouch Box and Ammunition; and if the Proprietor has Forty Acres, then he either Rides his own Horse, or sends a Horseman accoutred. The Officers are or ought to be of the best of the Inhabitants, and the Regulation and Discipline of the Militia, is directed and appointed by an Act of the Island: In Time of War they generally in the several Precincts are exercised once every Month; if any number of Ships appear in Sight of the Island, above Twelve; then the Island is alarm'd, so that the whole Militia repair to the Sea Shore, all along the Bayes where Boats can Land, there are Forts or Batteries, containing about
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(17)

Two Hundred Guns; very few of which are above whole Culverins. And its observable that there is no Landing upon the Eastermost Parts of the Island, and very little to the North or South; most of the Landing Places being towards the West, or Leeward Part of the Island. The Government of these Forts is given to the several Colonels of the Militia, according to their several Districts; the Officers are all appointed by Commission from the Governor, or Commander in Chief; for it must be understood that in case of the Death or Demise of the Governor, the Government Devolves on the Council, and the eldest Councillor Acts as Commander in Chief; and Executes the Queens Commands and Instructions, which direct how the said Council shall proceed: The Act Establishing the Militia, directs how those Batteries shall be defended; and what Measures also are to be taken to prevent Insurrection of the Negroes, and the like, but this Law is very Defective, and might be made much more easie to the Inhabitants. The Batteries in this Island are much out of Repair; indeed there is not one regular Fortification; though some Years ago one was carry'd a great length by Colonel *Lilly*, a very expert, ingenious, and diligent Engeneer, and that at a vast Expence, but it's not Finish'd yet; the

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Government lay'd an Excise every Year, and a Powder Duty on Ships, towards the maintenance of these Fortifications, but that goes but a little way in the Expence. There is in this Island no Harbour for Shipping, which is a great Disadvantage both to Her Majesty's, and the Merchant Ships; especially in a Hurracane and War Time; there is an Inlet near *Carlisle-bay*, that might be made an Harbour, with some Expence; some have offer'd to undertake it, but cou'd never meet with Encouragement from the Publick; it having been hitherto the constant Practice of almost every Governor, to frustrate those things to carry on their own private Advantage and Gain; it wou'd be of prodigious Advantage, and great Security to the Colony, to Her Majesty's Ships, and also great Encouragement to Trade, if such an Harbour were made.

But that which is very remarkable in this considerable Island, there never yet has been a publick House Built for the sitting of the Chief Courts of the Governor and Council, and for the General Sessions; nor indeed a publick Prison; the reason that the Inhabitants give for this is, that they say the Duty of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ was rais'd for this purpose; and this is really the Fact, and it was so recogniz'd in Parliament some Years ago; it were to be wish'd that this Duty as it is Collected, might

(19)

might be applyed there, and not Ship'd for *Britain*, contrary to the purpose in the said Act and great loss of that Revenue; this wou'd encourage and enable the Inhabitants to finish the regular Fort, upon which so much Money has been already laid out, to Build or make this Harbour; to erect a Session-house, and a Prison; for want of a sufficient Prison, many Criminals and Debtors, daily Escape; which is a great hardship upon the Provost Marshal, who is keeper of the Goal, and in danger of being subjected to Suits for Escapes; all which wou'd be for Her Majesty's Honour, the good of Her Subjects, and the Advancement of Trade.

The last things under Consideration are the Agriculture, and Trade of this Island; as to the first of these Two, no Country that is known to Europeans ever exceeded this in Agriculture; it has been said that if the Soil of this Island had not been improv'd, but Digg'd and put aboard of the Ships and Vessels that have traded thither since the Settlement, they might have been sufficient to have carryed the whole Island away; but however this may be thought an incredible and vulgar report; certainly this Island has, and may be again capable of employing annually above Five Hundred Sail of Ships and Vessels; the Growth or Product of this Island are chiefly

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Sugar, Rum, Moloffes, Cotten, Ginger, Aloes, Cassia, and some other things of less Value. There is great Industry in planting and manuring the Sugar Canes, infomuch that the Land being Poor, the Inhabitants are forc'd to dung and improve their Plantations, like so many Gardens: There are in this Island several sorts or species of Pepper, and it is not to be doubted, but all the Spices that grow in the Spice Islands wou'd grow here; its not many Years since a Cinnamon Tree was brought to *Barbadoes* from the *East-Indies*, and was planted grew very well, and if it had not been by the unskilfulness of the Person who pretended to manage it, who killed it; that Island might have been flourishing with several Cinnamon Trees at this Day. Therefore its worth the consideration of the Government, whether an Importation of such Plants might not be necessary into an Island, where there is the greatest Husbandry and Skill that way, that has been seen or heard of; it has been but of few Years since, that any Caroa has been planted here; and its very plain, that when the Inhabitants find it their Advantage, they can soon raise a good Quantity of that Commodity; and if such Improvements can be made from our own Plantations, certainly some Applications may be needful that way.

The last thing that is to be treated of, is the

(21)

the Trade of this Place, under that Head are comprehended the Import and Export, and the several Places or Countries concern'd in this Trade. The Acts of Trade made chiefly in King *Charles's* Time, confin'd the Trade of this Island, principally to *England*; excepting the Importation of Provision and Servants from *Ireland* and *Scotland*; but every thing else, especially of the Manufacture of these Kingdoms, are by the said Laws prohibited, under severe Penalties, excepting *Scotland*, since the Union of the Two Kingdoms. This Island was by the same Act restrained from the Importation of Sugars, and other the Product into *Ireland*; unless first Entry made in *England*, and the Duty Paid here; several other Prohibitions are made in the said Acts, as may appear upon Perusal of them, which remain still upon *Ireland* and all other Nations, but *Great-Britain*; excepting the Northern Colonies, with whom the Sugar Plantations have a great Trade, for Sugar, Rum, Moloffes; and all other the Product of the Sugar Colonies, and in return from thence, have Beef, Pork, Mackerel, Cod Fish, Oyl, Horses, Oates, Beans, Bread, Flower, Bear, Butter, Candles, Tallow, Cyder, and indeed all such Commodities as are produced in *Great-Britain*. The Product of *Barbadoes*, and the rest of the Sugar Plantations, Pay but a small Duty in the
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Northern Plantations, especially Rum; those Northern Parts consume many Thousand of Hogheads of that Spirit; whereas in *Britain* there is so great a Duty and Excise upon it, that it Amounts to a Prohibition; and it may not be an improper enquiry, whether if the Excise and Duty on Rum, which is better than Four Shillings *per* Gallon, were brought down to one Shilling *per* Gallon; it might not only advance the Revenue, but bring great Profit to the Kingdom: This great Tax on Rum lessens the Importation so much, that there are not above one Hundred Hogheads enter'd at the Custom House from *Barbadoes* in one Year, by a modest Computation; this does not bring to the Crown above Two Thousand Pounds *per Annum*; whereas if the Tax was lower'd to one Shilling *per* Gallon, it might Produce an Importation of Ten Thousand Hogheads, which at one Shilling Excise and Custom, each Hoghead containing at least one Hundred Gallons, will make to the Crown Fifty Thousand Pounds Sterling; and if this Rum were to be Sold at Two Shillings more *per* Gallon, which is a low Price, then the Importation hither wou'd amount to one Hundred Thousand Pounds more; the only Objection that has any Appearance of Truth is, that this Importation of Spirit from the Plantation, wou'd hinder the Consumption

(23)

of Malt that the Distillers make here. But there are Two considerations that will not only Answer this Objection, but Demonstrate the Weakness and Fallacy of it, and the reasonableness and Advantage of this Importation of Rum; and that if we cou'd consume Forty Thousand Hogheads, which the Sugar Colonies make Annually, it wou'd in proportion advance the Revenue and Trade of this Kingdom; for if its consider'd that beside the great addition to the Revenue, thereby all the Profits of this Rum must be laid out by the Merchant and Agent for the Planters, in the Produce and Manufacture of this Kingdom; such as Herrings, Cod Fish, Beef, Pork, Bread, Beans, Oates, Flower, Ale, Beer, Cyder, Butter, Tallow, Cask Hoopes, Iron, Pewter, Brass, Copper, Woollen, Linnen, Shooes, Hats, Stockins; and indeed, in all the Manufacture of this Kingdom; and that many more Ships must be employed in the Importation of this Rum, and exporting the Effects thereof from hence, the greatest Part of which the Sugar Colonies have from *New England, Pensilvania, New York, Virginia, Carolina, &c.* then it is not doubted, but that this will infinitely over Ballance the small Consumption of Malt made by the Distillers, which is more pretence than a Reality; but the next consideration will further remove all that

(24)

that difficulty or doubt: And that is, if the Planters were encouraged to improve their Sugars in the Plantations, which can only be done by lowering the Duty on white Sugar, imported from the Plantations; and rather laying a Duty on all Sugar improv'd here; then the Refiners and Distillers wou'd require more Malt to carry on their distilling Trade; for the Molasses or Surrups, that in the refining is separated from the brown Sugar here, carries on the Fermentation with a very small quantity of Malt; for the Consumption of Malt wou'd be so much the more, that the Refiners were confin'd to less quantities of Sugar to be refin'd, which must be the consequence of encouraging the Planters, by taking of their Duty on improv'd Sugars, and put the Foreign Trade (upon which depends the greatest Consumption of that Commodity) of Sugars into the Hands of the Plantations, who certainly are more capable of carrying it on against other Nations that make the Sugars, then a few Refiners here; and yet there might be room enough for Refiners to Work sufficient for this Kingdom; but the Exportation of the Sugar improv'd here is a great discouragement to the Plantations, while the heavy Duty lies on the Sugar imported from the Colonies; if the Duty on all improv'd Sugar in the Plantations,

(25)

tations, were reduced to Four or Five Shillings *per* Hundred, the Importation wou'd arise so much, that the Revenue wou'd increase in proportion; whereas this high Duty amounting to almost a Prohibition, the Importation is the less, and so the Revenue the less, and the Improvement thrown into the Refiners Hands, who Pay no Duty on such their Improvement, to the enriching of them, and discouraging the Planters, who are of much more Consideration to the Kingdom.

Certainly the Plantation Trade is the most considerable Branch of the British Trade, that is the Sugar Plantations; because the whole Product of the Sugar Islands may be center'd in this Kingdom; for if the Importations by the aforesaid Encouragement are encreas'd, then here must all the Money arising from thence be lodged; unless what is return'd to the Colonies in Manufacture as is above expressed, and the more the Sugar Colonies are improv'd, the greater the Importation must be, and so by consequence more Wealth Accrue to the Nation: Whereas the Inhabitants of the Continent of *America*, though on some other Account they may be Advantageous, yet they are in the above Manufactures Rivals to this Kingdom, will in a little Time want nothing from hence, and are already become the very Carriers of Merchandize, and can lay out their

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Improvements and Riches in their own Country, and so extend their Dominions; whereas the Inhabitants of the Sugar Colonies must have almost every thing they Eat, Drink, and Wear, from this Kingdom; and all the necessaries for carrying on the Sugar Works; and what Money may be over and above such Charge and Expence, is laid up in *Britain*; therefore its indispensibly necessary for the Government, to cherish and support this valuable Trade, and to discourage all Attempts to wrest it out of our Hands; in order to this, some Inspections may be necessary into the Trade from *New England*, and the Northern Colonies, to *St. Thomas's Curasoa* and *Surinam*; to the last they send Horses, by which they carry on their Sugar making, which promotes that Dutch Colony in that Manufacture; there is a Law or Order in *Surinam*, that these Northern Vessels shall not be admitted to Trade with them, unless they bring such a number of Horses; and besides they Import from these Colonies dry Goods; by which means the Consumption from *Britain*, and the Southern Plantations is much lessen'd; upon an exact enquiry some prejudices to our Trade may be found, that ought to be remedied and prevented for the future.

The last thing offer'd towards consideration of the Trade of the Sugar Colonies, is the Trade

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Trade to *Africa*, for these Two Trades are like the Cause and the Effect, without one, the other cannot stand; that is, if the Colonies are not furnish'd with Negroes, they cannot make Sugar; and the more and cheaper they have Negroes, the more and cheaper they will make Sugar; and according to this Rule, they are to Decay or Flourish, either to keep the Trade or lose it; so that from hence it may be presum'd, that the Government here will fall suddenly, on proper measures to secure the African Trade to this Kingdom, as the principal means to secure the Sugar Trade, and the Sugar Plantations, which are so valuable to the Crown, and to *Great Britain*.

There have been different Opinions, various Speculations, and many Contentions about this Trade to *Africa*, and in the mean time the Plantations languish for want of Slaves; it is not proper in this Paper to enter into so large a Field, only this Observation may not be Impertinent, that it is the Opinion of almost all the Planters in *Barbadoes*, that an exclusive Company under proper Agreements, is the only means that can ever Recover, Support, and Secure that Trade; and this Opinion they found on Experience, and more especially in one principal Point, which is, that if there

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are many Buyers on the Coast of *Africa*, the *Africans* take the Advantage of it; so that they must buy Dear, and if so, then they must sell Dear; this will Ruin the Planter, if he buys Dear, or the Merchant if he sells Cheaper than he buys; whereas, if there be one buyer upon the Coast, the Negroes will be under a necessity to take what the single buyer will give, when they bring the Slaves to Market; the Objection to this is, that as there is one Buyer, there is but one Seller; so that the Planters will be at the Mercy of this Seller.

This has an appearance of Truth; but in the first case there is an unavoidable and necessary Consequence, and in this last hardly a probability for a Company united, who buy Cheap may sell so, and have a reasonable Profit; and if so, its not to be suppos'd when they have Embarked a great Sum of Money in their Stock, that they will sell their Negroes so dear, that the Planters are not able to buy them; this wou'd determine the Company in a few Years, besides an exclusive Company are capable by their great Stock, to make proper Confederacies with the Negroes, and disunite them from other Nations, and so secure the Trade to *Britain*, what ever have been the views of private Men, and may again be their Motives and Pretences for an
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open Trade; the general Experience of the Colonies is for an Exclusive Company. Its true in the Colonies, private Interest or Designs have prevail'd over some of the Inhabitants, to declare for an open Trade, and more particularly the Island of *Jamaica*; but its to be consider'd, that the Spanish Trade gives them this turn, but if they were only consider'd in manufacturing Sugar, they wou'd find reason from their small Profit on that Commodity, to rectify their Judgment; and seeing the Sugar Trade is the principal Interest and Concern of this Kingdom, with respect to Trade; its hoped the Government will take proper Measures to secure it, by putting the African Trade quickly under the best Establishment, and fall on proper Expedients, not only to recover the Plantations from the languishing Condition they have been brought under by the War, some of them especially, that have by the Enemy been Ruin'd, their Houses and Works Burnt, and their Slaves carried away from them, but put them under such an Establishment for the future, that when they have the Blessing of a general Peace, they may be also secure from other Oppressions, that they have labour'd under, even to the distracting and impoverishing the most considerable Planters amongst them.
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These are things that much concern Her Majesty and Her Dominions; it was the extraordinary Genius and diligent Application of the great Minister *Colbert*, to Trade and Navigation, that advanc'd the Grandeur of the French Nation, together with his excellent Regulation of the Finances, more than all the Undertakings of the preceding Ministers of that Prince, and yet the French were a People very little dispos'd to Trade; therefore the British Subjects who have exceeded all other Nations in their Capacity towards Settlements abroad, cannot fail of making greater Progress in Trade and Navigation; and more especially seeing Her Majesty has at present a Ministry, who are remarkable for their Learning, Experience, and great Sagacity in publick Affairs; and that such a Foundation has been already laid for enlarging the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, as will in spite of all Malice shew the superior Genius of the principal Founder thereof.

F I N I S.