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T W O
LETTERS

A N D

Several Calculations

O N T H E

Sugar Colonies and Trade;

A D D R E S S E D T O

Two **COMMITTEES** nominated

by the **WEST-INDIA Merchants, &c.**

With an **A P P E N D I X:**

C O N T A I N I N G,

1. **FOUR LETTERS**, concerning the *flourishing Condition, large Extent, and prodigious Increase of the FRENCH Sugar Colonies; the Poverty, Weakness and Decay of the BRITISH Sugar Colonies; and their vast Importance to the Trade, Navigation, Wealth and Power of this NATION.*

2. **SOME PROPOSALS** formerly presented to a *Great Minister of State, for the Preservation and Advancement of the BRITISH Sugar Colonies, and Interests in the West-Indies: With an Addition of several Notes thereon.*

By **Mr. BENNETT**, late Agent in the *West-Indies, to the South-Sea and Royal Assiento Company of Great Britain; and to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.*

Ut Ærarium Reipubl. recte florere possit, necessum est ut Negotia Subditorum recte promoveantur.
Werdenbagen. Pol. Synop.

L O N D O N.

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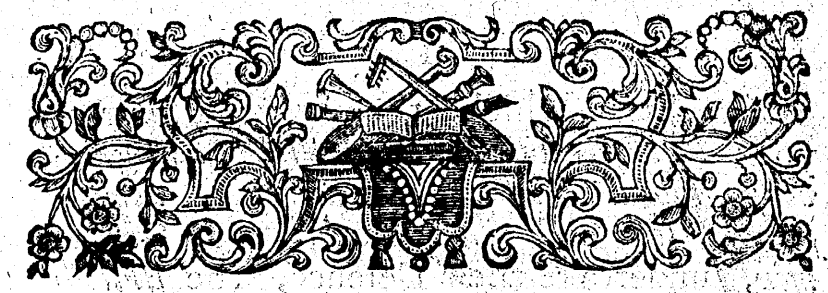
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TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
Sir *ROBERT WALPOLE*,
KNIGHT of the GARTER, &c. And

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
Sir *JOHN BARNARD*,
LORD MAYOR of London, &c.

RIGHT HONOURABLE,

A S I did myself the Honour,
about two Years ago, to re-
commend to your Protection
a few Sheets * relating to *Trade*
and *Colonies*; so now, on the
like Inducements, and with the greatest
Deference, I submit to your Judgments
the following Pages.

* The National Merchant.

A

The

[ii]

The Evils which the Sugar Planters, your Fellow Subjects, have long and grievously labour'd under, are certain, demonstrable, seen and felt: But if you, Gentlemen, undertake their Defence, the British Sugar Colonies and Trade cannot fail (their Cause is so good and so clear) immediately, and at once, to revive and flourish: The Work, though great, and intricated hitherto, is, however, very practicable, and all Men know that your Eloquence and Abilities are more than sufficient for the Undertaking.

The Measures here proposed for the Relief and Encouragement of these Colonies, are principally two.

First, To supply the Planters with a Credit on good Security, at a moderate Interest.

Secondly, To put them on breaking up fresh Lands, and enlarging the British Settlements in the West-India Islands.

And the latter, I presume, will be a necessary Consequence of the former; especially if the British Planters be put on the like Footing with their Neighbours, as to Foreign Exportation, and a few other Matters ordered, as hinted here and there in the following Papers.

By pursuing these, or the like Measures, the Planters would be instantly made easy, the British Sugar Colonies preserved, and Great Britain soon get the better of her Rivals and Competitors in this Trade: Whereas all

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all other Remedies will be found palliative and ineffectual, as not striking at the true Source and Causes of the Distemper; and the Disease, through tampering, will grow more and more obstinate and incurable.

But, Right Honourable, as there never was, nor perhaps ever will be, a Matter proposed for the Publick Good, that did not interfere with the Prepossessions or Interests, Humours or Passions, of particular Men; so in this Case (and it being in some Sort a Work of Reformation, which is often thought dangerous) I do expect more than ordinary Opposition for a while from several Quarters.

However, as the Subject I am on is important, and the Honour and Interest of the British Nation are at Stake, I assure myself of your Indulgence, whilst I offer a few Words concerning the Nature and Efficacy of the Measures here proposed.

As to the Rate of Interest for Money: I think, in all our Sugar Colonies, Money or Credit for Negroes, &c. has been at 10, or (at least) at 8 per Cent. per Annum, for many years past; which is much too high a Rate, and has been attended with more fatal and destructive Consequences, than most People can imagine, unless they give themselves leave to consider, farther than we usually do in Matters wherein ourselves are not immediately concerned in Point of Profit or Loss.

Not

Not but that History is full of the many *Convulsions, Oppressions, Seditions and Rebelions* which a *too high Rate of Interest* frequently brought on the *Grecians, the Romans,* and the very *Jews* themselves; and good Patriots, and wise Legislators, were frequently honoured and rewarded by these renowned *Antients* for destroying that *devouring Monster,* and reforming the *Corruptions* and *Disorders* which it occasioned among them.

It is recorded, to the immortal Honour of *Solon,* the *Athenian* Legislator, That he lower'd the Rate of Interest; that he removed the too heavy Incumbrances from their Estates; that he brought back from strange Countries, those who were fled from their merciless Creditors; that he released such as were in cruel Bondage at home; and that, by these Means, he made the *Athenians* FREE, who, before, had been SLAVES to one another in PECUNIARY CHAINS.

The *Romans,* to remedy and prevent in future, the like, and worse, *Evils,* ordained by a Law of their *twelve Tables,* that no Man should lend Money but after the Rate of One *per Cent.* called *Fœnus unciarium:* Yet notwithstanding this, and all Laws and Endeavours afterwards to prevent a *high Interest,* it from Time to Time encroach'd upon them, and is thought to have been one of the principal

pal Causes of the Destruction of that famous Republick. *Luxury, Extravagance, Oppression,* and bad Oeconomy, were the Parents of *Necessity, Discontent,* and *Borrowing,* at a Rate impossible to be paid.

*Hinc Usura vorax, avidumque in tempora Fœnus,
Et concussa Fides, & multis UTILE BELLUM.*

And although the *Jews,* more than all other People under Heaven, one might be apt to think would have kept themselves free from this national Curse, being so often forbidden, and warn'd against it; yet they too have left, for our Instruction, a glaring Proof of the Ravages and Havock this Devourer (*a too high Rate of Interest*) made among them: The Complaints of those People to their Governor and Countryman, placed over them by *Artaxerxes,* is much to the Purpose, and very moving. *Vid. Nehemiah, Chap. V.* which I would recommend to be read, especially by *Plantation Governors.*

Such is the pernicious, encroaching, and destructive Nature of Usury, that it has not only been severely condemn'd, by Divines, Historians, Lawyers, Politicians, Statesmen and Legislators; but the Practice thereof hath, at one Time or another, been forbidden and expelled in most Countries,

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Countries, as necessary and unavoidable, for the Preservation and Safety of the State. In *England*, by the Common Law, Usury was altogether unlawful; and in the Reigns of *Edgar*, and *Edward I.*, it was absolutely suppressed.

Yet it must be acknowledged, that the Remedy for this Evil has been some times carried too far; since in removing and preventing the Inconveniencies and Mischiefs occasioned by Usury, the intrinsic Value, and beneficial Use of Money, have been frequently unskillfully lessen'd to a very injurious and impolitick Degree: So that many, and various, have been the Opinions of Men in all Countries, and in every Age concerning Usury or Interest for Money; it being a Matter of Speculation, of a compound Nature, and much perplexed with a Variety and Vicissitude of Circumstances and Accidents.

However, I think even our most eminent and unprejudiced Divines, at present, agree, "that Usury, in itself consider'd, cannot be said to be contrary to Justice, because it is most reasonable, that the Lender should have, and contract for, a Part of the Gain and Advantage which the Borrower may make of his Money, as well as a Landlord may expect Rent for his Land; and though the *Mosaical* Law forbid the *Jews* to take Usury of their Brethren, or natural *Jews*, yet they

" were

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" were allowed to lend upon Usury to a
 " Stranger, Deut. xxiii. 20. which God
 " would not have allowed if Usury had
 " been morally Evil in itself. Indeed (say
 " they) Usury, as well as any other Deal-
 " ing, is subject to Abuse; which is to
 " be avoided, either in Respect to the
 " Borrower, who, if Poor and Necessi-
 " tous, may hope for a free Loan from his
 " Fellow-Christians; or, in respect to the
 " Manner of the Usury by exacting, and
 " thereby eating out another's Estate, which
 " is therefore termed, biting Usury, and
 " plainly inconsistent with our Saviour's Rule
 " of doing unto others as he would they
 " should do unto us. In other Cases, Usury
 " seems not unlawful to Christians, when
 " no other Circumstance makes it so. As
 " for the Law against Usury, Exod. xxii.
 " 25, and in other Places of the *Old*
 " Testament, it seems to be confin'd only
 " to the Children of *Israel* in their own
 " Country, as that other political Law
 " concerning Lands, to be released every
 " seventh Year to their former Owner,
 " Deut. xv. 1, 2. and such like judicial
 " Laws."

After all, then, here the arduous and important Question occurs: I have said, Interest for Money or Credit in our *Sugar Colonies*, has been many Years past too high; How can we make a true Judgment, Whe-

" ther

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“ *ther the Rate of Interest in any Country be
“ TOO HIGH OR NOT?”* ”

And having endeavour'd to obtain some Satisfaction in this Matter, I conceive, that the Rates of Interest for Money may be distinguished, thus: *1st*, The Current or Common Rate; *2d*, The Legal Rate; and, *3d*, The Political Arithmetick Rate. The First and Second may be *too high*, or *too low*, or (if the Expression be not somewhat unusual) *too light*, or *too heavy*; and the third is the true *Medium, Standard, or Ballance*, to measure, weigh, and try the others by.

For, Let it be supposed, that great Numbers of People in a Country, to feed their Luxury and Extravagance, were to create a Demand for as much Money as could be procured at *10 per Cent*, giving good Security for the Payment; this would raise the Current or Common Rate of Interest to *that Height*, although it were till then but at *3 or 4 per Cent*; and would certainly prove prejudicial to the State: Next, let us suppose a Law made to reduce it *at once* from *10*, to *2 per Cent*, would not this be lowering it too much; and might it not be attended with very ill Consequences? Thus the Current or Common Rate of Interest may be *too high*, and the *Legal too low*, as might be farther enlarged on: And no Doubt but the *Legal Rate* also may be *too high*; as in Case the Law permitted

Ufurers

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Ufurers and Sharpers to extort *40 or 50 per Cent*. without incurring any Penalty or Punishment. But where is an Instance of the *Current, Common, or Natural Rate* (call it which we please) having been *too low*? To which, I can only answer, that *This* is a Thing that seldom *has happen'd*; and yet it is not altogether impossible to *happen*: For if a Nation were to set a less Value than its Neighbours on Bullion, Gold and Silver, and supply all its home Uses with a vast Paper Circulation, thereby reducing the Rate of Interest (suppose) to *1 per Cent*. would not this lessen the intrinsic Value of every money'd Man's Estate, cause all the Gold and Silver to be exported to Foreigners, and, by its Operation, turn the Balance of Trade against that Country? — I believe it would. From all which, I conceive, that every Country ought carefully to observe a *due Medium* in the Rate of Interest for Money; which *Medium*, from time to time, can no otherwise be discovered than by *Political Arithmetick*; since, that which may be a *high* or *low* Rate in *One* Country, may not, *at the same time*, be so in *Another* Country; or, in the *Same* Country, at *different Times*. And in order to find out such a *Medium*, it may be considered;

1st, What are the Prices of Provisions and Necessaries? What fitting Encouragement for Labourers, Artificers, and Manufacturers?

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nufacturers? What the Profits from Agriculture, Trade, Navigation, and all useful Improvements? What the Excises, Taxes and Contributions to the Publick, &c.

2dly, What are the Rates of Interest in other Countries? That Care may be taken, as much as possible, they shall not undersell, out-trade, over-navigate, or gain in the Ballance of their respective Transactions with the Country whose Rate of Interest we would regulate.

When these Things are *known, compared, and computed*, as near the Truth as may be, *the Rate of Interest* ought to be *proportioned* by, and made *subservient* to, them: For,

Formerly, when the *English* Sugar Planters gained 20 *per Cent.* though they gave 15 *per Cent.* Interest, they grew *rich*, and the *Colonies* prospered; but if they now pay 8, or 10 *per Cent.* yet make *not so much, or no more*, by Planting, they have *nothing* for their Skill, Labour, &c. and consequently must be undone or disheartned: And if the *French* Planters have Money at 4 or 5 *per Cent.* and make 8 or 10 *per Cent.* there is a Reward for their Industry; there is Encouragement; and, consequently, *their Plantations* will flourish. I make use of these Instances, because they are present with me; but must observe, that the Disparity between the *English* and *French* Planters,

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Planters, is much stronger in Favour of the main Point I contend for; which is, That there is a *Necessity*, that the *British Sugar Planters*, at this Juncture, be furnished with *sufficient Credit*, at an Interest proportionate to the Profit which they can make by the *Cultivation and Improvement* of their Lands.

And these Intimations seem to point out, according to Number, Weight and Measure, a sure Way for discovering, whether the Rate of Interest for Money be *too high, or too low, in any Country*, and at *any Time*: For although in regulating and governing the Rate of Interest, Statesmen do regard other Circumstances, as Accidents and Emergencies require, for the Peace and Safety of the Community; yet will not this impeach the Truth of these Rules, but may be look'd on, as an *Exception made by Necessity*, from which no Maxims, in the Arts, either of Peace or War, stand exempt.

In their Beginning (as I have said) the *British* Sugar Colonies were very profitable to the Planter himself, and the Merchant, the Tradesman, the Nation, and all concerned, grew rich by them; but after the Trade of these Colonies became restricted and prohibited, in a too general and unskilful Manner, high Duties and Impositions laid, their Lands worn, and their Charges increased, then followed Poverty

[a 2]

and

and Distress; and the Planter was unable longer to pay the large Rate of Interest for Money or Credit, which before he could well afford.

Before the Year 1668, (as Sir *Josiah Child* informs us) Interest in the Island of *Barbadoes* was at 15 *per Cent*; but that Year a Law pass'd there, that no Person whatsoever, after the 29th of *September* 1668, should directly, or indirectly, take for Loan of any Monies, Sugar, or other Wares or Commodities whatsoever, above the Value of 10 *per Cent.* for the Forbearance of 100 *l.* for a Year, and so after that Rate.

Anno 1729, An Act passed in the same Island, reducing the *Legal* Interest to 8 *per Cent.* on all future Contracts; but all Debts then owing, to remain at 10 *per Cent.* as before, till paid off.

And in some of our *Sugar* Islands (I hear) they have attempted to bring it lower, but to no Effect; nor have the Planters been able to procure Money or Credit at 8 *per Cent.* wherewith to discharge their old Incumbrances at 10 *per Cent.* So that a Debt has often eaten up, or torn to Pieces, an Estate of five or ten times the Value; many Instances of which, with very merciless aggravating *Circumstances*, might be produced with the Names of the Sufferers, did I not think it might give Offence to the Relations and Friends of the

the poor Debtors; many of them being fled to other Countries; many broken hearted and dead, and many perishing by Piece-meal under a cruel Confinement, having no Statute of Bankruptcy, or Law, that provides for their Relief. — And I cannot but beg Leave to observe and repeat,

First, That whilst the *British* Sugar Planters had fresh and good Lands, a Vent for their Produce, and were not burthen'd with Impositions and Taxes, they afforded their Commodities *cheap*, grew *rich*, and yet allowed Interest after the Rate of 15 *per Cent.* — The Reason of which, in one Word, was plainly this; the Planter then gain'd 20 *l. per Cent.* or more, by the Money which he borrowed and employ'd in Planting.

Secondly, That although in 1668, the Law reduced Interest to 10 *l. per Cent.* yet the 10 *per Cent.* proved too high an Interest; because the Borrower could not employ it, to so good Advantage, as to clear 10 *per Cent.* by the Money he borrowed.

Thirdly, The Law to reduce Interest to 8 *per Cent.* in *Barbadoes*, has not lowered it to a due *Medium*, because, as appears by the following Papers, the Planters of late Years do not clear more than 2 or 3 *per Cent.* from their Plantations.

Fourthly, That although 8 *per Cent.* for Money or Credit be double or treble the Profit which the Planter makes from his Estate,

Estate, yet cannot there be enough of either come at to enable them to discharge old Debts and Incumbrances at 10 per Cent. so that many yet labour under the Burthen of 10 per Cent. and more have been undone by it since the passing the Act.

Fifthly, That since a Debt of 2 or 3000 *l.* often break to-pieces, and destroys an Estate worth 15 or 20,000 *l.* consequently there is a Loss to the Owner, to other Creditors (if he has any) to his Majesty's Revenue, and to the Wealth and Stock of the Nation: For if either the Negroes, Cattle, Works, Utensils, or Land, of all which a Sugar Plantation is composed; if either of these be separated, and taken away from the other, the remaining Parts will be of no more Use than a Watch without a Spring, a Wheel, a Chain, or a Dial, &c. — And this Mischief is what *France* has long been sensible of, and provided against; but in *England*, there has been quite a different Way of thinking, and quite wrong.

However, as the *Private Views*, *Pre-poffessions*, *Inclinations*, or Manner of *Dependence* of some, leads them not only to reproach the *Sugar Planters* of *Luxury* and *Extravagance*; but to represent them in *England*, as a restless, disorderly People, I hope the *Difficulties*, which it is most evident they have groaned under from a *high Rate of Interest*, will be consider'd in their Behalf;

Behalf; and that *the Blast*, *dry Weather*, *Mortality of Negroes and Cattle*, *Hurricanes*, *spring their Sugar Canes*, and other *Accidents*, which often unavoidably bring them in Debt, will not be forgotten; no more than their *Oppressions from Governors*, *Fees and Extortions of Officers*, and such as have profited by a *corrupt and wicked Administration of their Laws*, in a Time of *Necessity*, *Weakness and Fear*.

Nor can I quit the remorseless, insatiable Monster a *high Rate of Interest*, before I desire it may be remember'd, that *England* itself, in former Times, began to feel the like sad Effects from it; inso-much, that its *Glory*, long e'er now, might have lain prostrate in the Dust, and its Inhabitants been in the same wretched, oppressed Condition, as the *Sugar Planters* at present are, if the *Wisdom and Power* of its Government, from time to time, had not seasonably interposed.

The *Preambles* of several *English Acts of Parliament*, authorize and confirm *This*, and carry with them greater Weight than *Mr. Locke*, or any other Writer on the Subject, (since *Seeing and Feeling*, in the End, will prevail over the finest *Imagination* in Political Matters) — but I need only produce that of 21 *Jac. I. Chap. xvii.*

“ *Whereas*, at this Time, there is a very
“ great Abatement in the Value of Land,
“ and other the Merchandize, Wares, and
“ Com-

“ Commodities of this Kingdom, both *at*
 “ *home*, and also *in foreign Parts*, whither
 “ they are transported: *And whereas* di-
 “ vers Subjects of this Kingdom, as well
 “ the Gentry as Merchants, Farmers and
 “ Tradesmen, both for their urgent and
 “ necessary Occasions for the following their
 “ Trades, Maintenance of their Stocks
 “ and Employments, have borrowed, and
 “ do borrow, divers Sums of Money,
 “ Wares, Merchandize, and other Com-
 “ modities: But by Reason of the said
 “ general Fall and Abatements of the Va-
 “ lue of Land, and Prices of the said
 “ Merchandize, Wares, and Commodities,
 “ and Interest in Loan, continuing at so
 “ high a Rate as ten Pounds in the hun-
 “ dred Pounds for a Year, doth not only
 “ make Men unable to pay their Debts,
 “ and continue the Maintenance of Trade;
 “ but their Debts daily encreasing, they
 “ are enforced to sell their Lands and Stocks
 “ at very low Rates, to forsake the Use
 “ of Merchandize and Trade, and to give
 “ over the Leases and Farms, and so be-
 “ come unprofitable Members of the Com-
 “ monwealth, to the great Hurt and Hin-
 “ drance of the same.”

The Substance of this *Preamble*, it is
 thought, was drawn up by old Sir *Thomas*
Colepeper, esteemed a good Patriot, and an
 honest Man, of a clear and solid Under-
 standing; who was a Member of that
 Parliament,

Parliament, and had presented a Tract to
 it for reducing Interest of Money; which
 has been held in great Repute ever since:
 And with Part of the Conclusion thereof
 I quit this Point.

“ It is agreed, by Usurers themselves,
 “ that *biting* Usury is unlawful: Now,
 “ since it hath been proved, that Ten in
 “ the Hundred doth bite the landed Men,
 “ doth bite the Poor, doth bite Trade,
 “ doth bite the King of his Customs, doth
 “ bite the Fruits of the Land, and most
 “ of all, the LAND itself, doth bite all
 “ Works of Virtue and Glory to the
 “ State; no Man can deny, but that *Ten*
 “ *in the Hundred* is ABSOLUTELY unlaw-
 “ ful, &c.”

Right Honourable,

I am to ask Pardon for having detained
 you thus long, on the Nature and Ma-
 lignancy of the first and great Evil, pro-
 posed to be remedied for the Sake of the
 Sugar Colonies—But if the *Sugar* Planters
 were furnished with a sufficient Credit at
4 per Cent.—

It would enable them to pay off their
 Incumbrances at an high Interest, and pre-
 vent their running off from the Islands,
 and carrying their Slaves and Effects with
 them to the *French, Dutch, and Danish*
 Settlements:

They might clear more from the Sale
 of their Produce, since they are now un-
 der

under Obligations to *consign* it to such as they are indebted to :

They would no longer be under such pressing Circumstances, as to over-work their Negroes, or over-plant their Land, but give both a fitting Respite :

They might buy all their Necessaries and Materials at the best Hand.

This would encourage them to raise and improve all Sorts of Commodities natural to the Soil and Climate, *Cheap* and in *Plenty*.

This would make them begin to think their Possessions worth defending, and of being defended ; which few think at present.

This would be putting them on a Footing with their Rivals in the same Respect.

And, This would purify their Blood, give new Spirits, and rectify the whole Mass of their Oeconomy.

And the *old Planters* being *thus relieved* from this Pressure, and *encouraged* to take Care of their Possessions, and in a Way of living with Comfort by their Employments : The next Thing that *Great Britain* ought to do for the Preservation and Enlargement of her Sugar Colonies and Trade, would be,

1st. To fortify the several Islands in the *West-Indies*, belonging to *Great Britain*, and to settle them with poor white People.

2^{dly}.

2^{dly}. To grant the *Sugar Colonies* the Liberty of Trade, *to and from all such Ports and Places, and in such Commodities as shall not interfere with, but be advantageous to the Manufactures, Trade, and Navigation of GREAT BRITAIN.*

3^{dly}. To apply the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. (granted by) towards the Support and Defence of *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Islands*, pursuant to an Address of the House of Commons in that behalf, before the UNION of the two Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, and conform to the Account of the Revenue and publick Income of the Kingdom of *England*, printed and published with the *Articles of Union*, by Virtue of an Order of the Right Honourable the House of Lords of January 28. 1706.

4^{thly}. To reform the Abuses that are crept into the *Civil, Ecclesiastical* and *Military* Affairs of these Islands ; and to order Matters *so*, that the Grievances and Complaints of the Inhabitants may be, as much as possible, PREVENTED ; since the Difficulties, Delays, Charges, Expences and Fatigues of Appealing Home, prove oftentimes ruinous to the Persons in whose Favour the Appeal is determined, and whom all Men in their Consciences know to be aggrieved.

But having spoken somewhat to these and other Matters in the *Letters, Calculates, and Papers*, to which this Address

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is

is prefixed; tho' I have much more to say, I could wish, rather, That HIS MAJESTY'S Commissioners for Promoting the Trade of this Kingdom, and for Inspecting and Improving our Plantations in AMERICA, and elsewhere, would be pleased, to thoroughly inform themselves concerning them from WEST-INDIA GENTLEMEN, MERCHANTS, and PLANTERS of JUDGMENT, EXPERIENCE, and PRACTICE, who have lived on the Spot, and are known not to have thriven on the Spoils of the Publick, or the Grievances proposed to be redressed: And that their Lordships would thereupon draw up, and present to his MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY in Council, a full and perfect Scheme for regulating the distressed Affairs of the *British Sugar Colonies*; that the same might be made *easy and secure*, and improved in such Manner, as would render them most *useful and beneficial to this Kingdom*. Such a Scheme, approved by HIS MAJESTY in Council, and made valid by PARLIAMENT, would, at once, give new Life to our *West-India Colonies* and Trade: and their Circumstances are such, I am sure, that nothing less will do.

Right Honourable,

I hope to be excused this last Freedom: Since the Hint is perfectly agreeable to the Royal Instructions given to the LORDS COMMISSIONERS at the first Constitution of the *Board of Trade*; since it is allowed by all, that

that the Affairs of the *British Sugar Colonies* have long required some more than ordinary Reformation; since *France*, of late Years, has taken the like Method from Time to Time, contriving, restricting, encouraging, altering and disposing all Matters relating to the Government, Trade, Security, and Enlargement of her *West-India Settlements* in the most masterly Manner; and, since, should the Measures intended for the Relief of the *British Planters* be long defer'd, they will be of no more Benefit to many, than *Physick after Death*.

Gentlemen,

To conclude, I am as sure as I am of any thing in Life, that all matters here proposed for the Good of the *British Sugar Colonies*, might be effectuated with great Ease; *insomuch*, that in two Years Time we would turn the Tables on our Rivals: And, therefore, flatter myself that the Papers I now present to your Hands, may be favour'd with your Attention; which, if they be (by *Both*, or *Either of You*) I will think myself happy in having taken some Pains to write what I know to have been a Duty incumbent on me.

I am, *With all Sorts of Respect,*

RIGHT HONOURABLE,

Your most devoted, and

Most obedient, humble Servant.

JOHN BENNETT.

P.S. There is a very remarkable Passage in the judicious Mr. *Mun*, which makes much for the great and first Point I am labouring at; and will shew what mighty Things such Sort of Encouragements *have done*, and consequently *may again do*. “ I knew (says he) a Prince in *Italy*, of famous Memory, *Ferdinando I.* Great Duke of *Tuscany*, who, being very rich in Treasure, endeavoured therewith to enlarge his Trade, by issuing out to his Merchants great Sums of Money for very small Profit: I myself had Forty Thousand Crowns of him *gratis*, for a whole Year, although he knew that I would presently send it away in *Specie* for the Parts of *Turkey*, to be employ'd in Wares for his Countries; he being well assured, that in this Course of Trade it would return again (according to the old Saying) with a Duck in the Mouth. This Noble and Industrious Prince, by his Care and Diligence to countenance and favour Merchants in their Affairs, did so increase the Practice thereof, that there is scarce a Nobleman or Gentleman in all his Dominions, that doth not Merchandize, either by himself, or in Partnership with others; whereby, within these Thirty Years, the Trade to his Port of *Leghorne* is so much increased, that of a poor little
“ Town

“ Town (as I myself knew it) it is now become a fair and strong City, being one of the most famous Places for Trade in all Christendom.”—A good Pattern for all Princes and States to copy after: but we may also remember the Act pass'd in Queen *Anne's* Reign, for the Relief of the Sufferers of *Nevis* and *St. Christophers*; and then surely it will not remain a Question, Whether *Great Britain* ought to furnish her *Sugar* Planters with a sufficient Credit at 4 per Cent. on their giving Security for double the Value, in Lands, Negroes, &c.—AND, thus, these Colonies might be preserved, and *Great Britain* profit by the Measures that would preserve them: Hereafter Millions may be expended, but the SUGAR COLONIES irrecoverably lost!



THE



THE
P R E F A C E
 TO THE
West-India Gentlemen, Mer-
 chants and Planters.



THESE Papers were wrote on several Occasions, to shew the Value and Importance of the British Sugar Colonies; the Difficulties they lie under, the Dangers to which they are exposed, and the Measures proper to encourage and preserve them. They are now made publick; and, if you please to correct the Errors, supply the Defects, and improve such Things as you shall find capable of Improvement, I hope they may be of some Service. Being wrote at different Times, you will find some Matters repeated; but such, perhaps, as will bear repeating.

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There is one general Principle diffused through these Writings, and it is this, I have not (as I think) proposed one single Advantage for the British Sugar Colonies, that will be a Detriment to GREAT BRITAIN, or any the Dominions or Territories belonging to the Crown; I have considered them as Members of the same Body, and aim at making them useful to the WHOLE: And this is the Rule; this is the Test, by which I desire, all that I have offer'd, or all that I ever shall offer, may Stand or Fall.

It now only remains, Gentlemen, that I put you in Mind of a few Things, very proper, in my Opinion, to be observed at this important Juncture.

1st. That you do not rely, not only on improper, but also, not on insufficient Remedies: as a direct Exportation to foreign Ports from our Colonies; Bounties, or Drawbacks; Preventing the Importation of foreign Sugar, Rum, Melasses, &c. into any, or all his Majesty's Dominions: These all will be far from effectually relieving the Necessities of our Sugar Colonies; and Great Britain may better and easier grant you those Things that will Answer all your Purposes at once, than always be mending, patching, and botching.

2dly, That you do not deceive yourselves with an old, wrong Notion, That the less Sugar is made, and the fewer Planters there be

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be in the British Sugar Colonies, the more it will be to your Advantage; for this has been a fatal and wretched Error; and where must it end at last? If the British Plantations cannot, or will not, afford Sugars, &c. Plenty and Cheap enough; the French, Dutch, and Portuguese do, and will. We have already well nigh lost our Re-exportation, and the poor White People, through Discouragements, have deserted our Islands; nor can it be thought that Great Britain herself, Ireland, and the Northern Colonies, will always contentedly give higher Prices for Sugar, Rum, &c. to our own Planters, than those Commodities may be purchased for, from other Nations. In England there may be good Mines of Gold and Silver, for what I know; yet if the Working them should make the Gold or Silver come dearer to the Owners, than they could purchase or procure the same at from Spain, Portugal, or elsewhere, no one can think these Mines would be long wrought, after full Proof and Experiment. Perhaps this is exactly the very Case in England, with respect to Gold and Silver; and pray, how does the Business of Sugar-making in the British Colonies differ from it? And,

3dly, That You yourselves do represent to His Majesty's Board of Trade, to His Majesty's Ministers, to His Majesty Himself, and to the British Parliament, the real, true State and Condition of your Affairs without Partiality, Concealment, or Disguise:— And not leave it to other People. And

And if these Things were observed, with a dutiful and affectionate Regard to his Majesty's most sacred Person and Government, such (in my Opinion) is, the Nature of your Case, and such the Disposition, Wisdom and Goodness of the British Administration and Legislature, that you will not fail of Success. I heartily wish it; And am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient, and
Most humble Servant,

March 17. 1737.

J. B.

P. S. Should the British Sugar Colonies be regulated in some such manner, as hinted in these Papers; Planting would beget more Trade, more Navigation, more Money, more Employments, and consequently provide for all sorts of People. And as Trade begets Trade, and Money, Money; so besides, the Strength and Security it would add to your present Possessions, you would have the like or better Opportunities of making Advantages, than most others.

T H E



T H E
C O N T E N T S.

1. THE Epistle Dedicatory to the Right Honourable Sir ROBERT WALPOLE, and the Right Honourable Sir JOHN BARNARD.
2. The Preface to the West-India Gentlemen, Merchants, and Planters. xxv
3. A Letter address'd to the Committee nominated to consider of the Offers of France for Settling the Differences, and Regulating the Navigation and Commerce between the Subjects of Great Britain and France in America. Page 1
4. Another Letter to the Committee appointed by the West-India Merchants to apply to his Majesty's Ministers. and the Parliament, with Proposals for the Relief and Encouragement of the British Sugar Colonies and Trade. p.10
5. A Calculate of the real intrinsick Value of the Land and Stock of Barbadoes, Anno 1731. p.18
6. A like Calculate by another Hand, Anno 1731. p.19
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9. A Calculate of the yearly Produce and Ex-
pence of a great Barbadoes Sugar Planter. p.22
10. A Calculate of the yearly Produce and Ex-
pence of a great French Sugar Planter on rich
and fresh Lands. p.24

The APPENDIX.

CONTAINING,

1. Four Letters concerning the flourishing Condition,
large Extent, and prodigious Increase of the
French Sugar Colonies; the Poverty, Weakness,
and Decay of the British Sugar Colonies; and their
vast Importance to the Trade, Navigation, Wealth
and Power of this Nation. p.26
2. Some Proposals formerly presented to a great
Minister of State for the Preservation and Ad-
vancement of the British Sugar Colonies and
Interests in the West-Indies, with an Addition
of several Notes thereon. p.58



Adver-



ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

READER.

Because these Pieces were wrote
at different Times, and often
depend upon and illustrate each other,
the Reader is desired to peruse and
compare them together, and like-
wise, to observe the Notes refer'd
to, as he goes along.

ERRATA

Page 1. Line 8. read settling; p. 3. l. 3. for and II. r. III and IV. p. 5. l. 34. for III and IV. r. I and II. p. 11. l. 18. for designed, r. assigned. p. 44. l. 19. for North End, r. North West Part. p. 59. l. 11. r. Matters.



A
LETTER
TO THE
COMMITTEE of GENTLEMEN
NOMINATED

By the *West-India* Merchants, to consider of the *Offers* of France for settling the *Differences*, and regulating the *Navigation* and *Commerce*, between the Subjects of *Great Britain* and *France*, in *America*.

GENTLEMEN,



Take the Liberty to address a few Particulars to your Consideration, concerning the *Sugar Colonies* and *Trade*, which I chuse to do by way of *Remarks* on Part of a *Memorial* from the *Deputies* of the *French Commerce*, to their *Royal Council*, drawn up in the Year 1701, not doubting, if any thing material be hinted, that has not hitherto happen'd to fall within your Observation, but it will meet with a very favourable Reception at your Hands.

B The

(2)

The *French* Deputies of Commerce, in their said *Memorial* (presented to the *Royal Council* concerning the then present State of their *Sugar Islands* in *America*, and the Trade thereof, and the Means of preserving and extending it in THOSE PARTS) begin thus, and say, “*Le Commerce de, &c.* The Commerce of *Guinea*, &c. — But here follow the *Memorial*, and my *Remarks* thereon, Article by Article.

The FRENCH MEMORIAL.

“ The Commerce of *Guinea* has such Relation to that of the *French* Islands in the *West Indies*, that the one cannot subsist without the other.”

My REMARKS.

This Observation of the Deputies of the *French* Commerce, “ That their *Guinea* Trade could not subsist without their *Sugar Colonies*, nor their *Sugar Colonies* without their *Guinea* Trade,” was, in the main, true enough; but we ought to reflect, that the *French* *Sugar Colonies* have been well peopled with *Whites*, and stock'd with great Numbers of *Negroes*, since the Year 1701, and that, in Process of Time, there will not be the same Demand for *Blacks* in the *Sugar Planting* as at the Beginning: So the *British* *Sugar Colonies* are the *Primum Mobile* and grand Source of the *African*, *Madeira*, *Irish*, and *Northern* Colony Trades; and, if ever those Islands be lost, or abandoned, by the Inhabitants, there will, of course, be so far an End to these Trades.—Will the *British* Nation then think it necessary to give 10,000 *l.* every Year towards the Support of the *Guinea* Trade, and yet not do something more effectually than has hitherto been done, for the Preservation of her SUGAR COLONIES

[3]

COLONIES, so much beyond all Comparison, the most important? [See the Appendix, Letters I. and II.] To expend 10,000 *l.* per Annum on the Repairs of a House, yet suffer its Foundation, at the same Time, visibly to moulder into Dust, threatenng its Inhabitants, Workmen, and all, with certain Destruction—What can be more absurd! Let *Great Britain* encourage her *Sugar Colonies*, and her *Sugar Colonies* will more effectually revive, support, and encourage her *African Trade*, than all the *Aids* and *Encouragements* that hitherto have, or, perhaps, that hereafter ever can be, given by the *British* Legislature. Not that my Opinion is against the aforesaid annual Grant of 10,000 *l.* for enabling the *African* Company to keep up and maintain their Forts and Settlements: Far from it; I would have every thing attempted that might give new life and vigour to the *African Trade*; but I say, nothing can do it so effectually, as restoring our *Sugar Colonies* to a flourishing State. This would be beginning at the right End.

M E M O R I A L.

“ By those Trades (the *Guinea* and the *Sugar Islands*) we have deprived our Competitors in Traffick of the great Profit which they drew from us, and may put ourselves into a Condition, by their Example, to draw Profit, in our Turn, from them, especially from the ENGLISH.”

R E M A R K S.

What! And is it come to this? The *French* draw Profit, especially from the ENGLISH, their Instructors and Masters in Trade! How? By supplying *Great Britain*, as they lately were permitted

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to furnish *Ireland* and the *Northern Colonies*, with Sugar, Rum, and other *West-India* Commodities, instead of being furnished themselves from us, as heretofore! Yes, *Gentlemen!* — But, for shame, and in the Names of Prudence and common Discretion, let a Stop be put to this Career: For it remains yet in our Power, if an unaccountable Selfishness in a few, and a general Infatuation, are not eternally to possess us, to put this valuable Trade on as good a Footing as ever.

M E M O R I A L.

“ We may increase those Trades considerably,
 “ seeing that Nation (the *English*) in their Islands,
 “ with less Advantage than we, in Territories of
 “ less Extent, and in much less Time, have found
 “ Means to employ yearly above 500 Ships,
 “ while we do not, without great Difficulty, em-
 “ ploy 100.

R E M A R K S.

No doubt the *French* have a larger Extent of Territory in the *West-Indies* by much, and better situated, either for Offence or Defence, than ours, especially if all they claim on the *Terra Firma* of *Cayenne*, *Hispaniola*, and among the *Caribbees*, be confirmed to them; and therefore it concerns us, (and the *Spaniards* too) that Care be taken that they (the *French*) make no new Acquisitions, either by the Pen, the Sword, or clandestine Settlements (*which last has been pretty often the Case*) nor that their present Possessions, where the Right is questionable, be yielded up, or countenanced in the least, by any future Negotiation or Transaction.

And,

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And, as the *French* bend their utmost Endeavours to encourage and extend their *Sugar* Settlements, and as they never had more, and we never fewer, white People on those Islands, since they were first inhabited to any considerable Degree, surely *Great Britain* must see, that, except *new Measures be taken*, and some *Reform made*, the *English*, and their Slaves, cannot be without continual Apprehensions of being swallowed up by their *overpowerful* Neighbours.

Our Ships of War, indeed, may interrupt their Trade, and do them some Damage for a Time; but they are now too well settled, and strongly fortified, to stand in Awe of such a temporary Insult; nor may our *Ships of War* be always in a Readiness to protect our Settlements and Trade against Hostilities and Depredations: For it is certain, that the *French* have seen Things at a Distance, form'd judicious Schemes, waited the good Success thereof with Patience (every one expecting his own particular Advantage, no otherwise than in and from the publick Prosperity) and accordingly are reaping the Fruits of so generous, so wise, so honest, and so laudable a Conduct.

In the Year 1701, it seems, we employed five Ships to their one; but it would be no hard matter to demonstrate, that their *Sugar Colonies* produce more Commodities at present, both in Quantity and Value, than ours; and from our best Intelligence, it appears, the *French* have, belonging to their *Sugar Islands*, employed up and down in the *West-Indies*, more than five Vessels to every one belonging to the *British Sugar Islands*. See the Appendix, Letters III and IV.

However, notwithstanding what the *Deputies of the French Commerce* did advance in this Article, I think the *English* have all along had some Advantages which the *French* have not; but then I wish

with I could think too, that we had made as good use of them. To instance some of these Advantages just as they occur; We have more Shipping at Command, and poor People enow; our *Guinea Trade* longer established, and Slaves cheaper; our *Northern Colonies* for Supplies of Provisions, Lumber, Horses, and Consumption of Rum, &c. *Ireland* for Beef, &c. Freight cheaper; *Great Britain* always Mistress of the Sea, well stock'd with Utensils, Manufactures, &c. and her Merchants and Subjects able Men, and capable of going thro' any Undertaking they set upon in earnest.

M E M O R I A L.

“ Every body is sensible of *the Benefit of Navigation*, and that the *Happiness and Glory* of a State *very much depend upon it*: There can be no Commerce without it; it governs the Fortune of the Merchants; it maintains a great Number of Subjects, Seamen, and Mechanicks. No one is ignorant that, THE NAVIGATION OF FRANCE OWES ALL ITS INCREASE AND SPLENDOR TO THE COMMERCE OF ITS SUGAR ISLANDS, AND THAT IT CANNOT BE KEPT UP AND ENLARGED OTHERWISE THAN BY THIS COMMERCE. 'TIS BEYOND ALL DOUBT, THAT THIS COMMERCE IS MORE BENEFICIAL TO THE STATE, THAN ALL OTHERS (OF LONG VOYAGES) THAT ARE DRIVEN BY THE FRENCH; because 'tis carried on without exporting any Money, and without the Help of any foreign Goods or Manufactures; so that none but the Subjects of the *King and Kingdom* have the Profit of it.

R E.

R E M A R K S.

This Article speaks aloud of itself; and, without needing many Observations, will certainly lead us to a very just Conclusion, equally as *seasonable as important*. For, do the *Happiness and Glory of a State depend on its Navigation*? Does the *Navigation of FRANCE owe all its Increase and Splendor to the Commerce of its SUGAR ISLANDS*? Cannot its Navigation be otherwise kept up and preserved than by this Commerce? And, Is it beyond Doubt, that this Commerce is MORE BENEFICIAL TO FRANCE THAN ALL OTHERS? — If these Things are truly affirmed (ASSURELY THEY ARE, Vide Appendix, Letters I. and II.) will *Great Britain* spare one Moment longer Whip, Spur, or Aid, to save her Honour and Distance in this RACE, wherein, at first setting out, she had *so very much gotten the Start and Advantage*?

Gentlemen, I here end my Remarks on the *Memorial of the French Deputies of Commerce*, it being unnecessary to add more to *excite our Vigilance and Emulation*, if *Great Britain* ever intends to retrieve and secure her Power and Trade in the *West-Indies*: And I may venture to affirm, “ That, if *Great Britain* does not speedily regulate her *Sugar Colonies* and Trade, but sits down quiet, and suffers Things to run on in their own *wild out-of-the-way Course*;” I say, I may venture to affirm, “ That, let what *Treaty* soever be made between *Great Britain* and *France* for *accommodating of Differences*, and *regulating the Trade and Navigation of the West-Indies*, tho' it may, it is true, be of use to *them*, yet, from the very Nature of Things, it cannot be of Benefit to *us*; except (I say again) we put our *Sugar Trade* “ into

“ into another Channel, and under a better Oeconomy than it has been for many Years past.”

For you know, Gentlemen, that a Colony may be highly beneficial to its Mother-Country, as for its own Productions, so also for its Situation for Trade with other Countries: *Surinam* is now valuable to the *Dutch* for its *Sugar, &c.*; and the Islands of *Curassoa* and *Statia*, for a Trade with the *Spaniards*, the *French*, the *English, &c.*; and *Jamaica* has been a Mine of Gold to *Great Britain* on both Accounts.

Now, if a Colony may be beneficial to itself and to its Mother-Country, as well by an Intercourse of Trade with Foreigners, as by its own Productions, ought such Intercourse to be prohibited, or discouraged? No, certainly!

It is granted, at the same Time, however, that where an Intercourse with Foreigners shall be found prejudicial to the Trade and Navigation of the Mother-Country, such Intercourse ought, so far forth, to be restricted; but no farther.

There are few general Rules without Exception, and the Prohibition of foreign Trade too indiscriminately to and from our *Sugar Colonies*, as our Laws of Trade and Navigation have done, has been doing too much, in my Opinion: For, next to enabling our own Colonies to produce a Plenty of all Sorts of Commodities themselves, and giving them a large Vent for them; the wisest and best Thing we can do, is to encourage a Trade with the Colonies belonging to other Nations their Neighbours; by which Means we would (as long as not hindered) preserve our Navigation, and gain by Trade.

This therefore, Gentlemen, seems to be our present Case:

If we suffer our own *Sugar Colonies* to continue under the many great Hardships and Disadvantages, which they have long groaned under, we shall not be

be able to produce *Sugars* sufficient for *Foreign Markets*, or our *Home Consumptions*, or even to retain our Possessions in the *West-Indies*: And if we refuse to take *Sugars, Cotton, Indigo, Coffee, Cocoa, &c.* of the *French* or *Spaniards* in *America*, the *Dutch* and *Danes* will not; their Ports are open and free; we lose the Profits and Advantages of the Navigation, and perhaps may, at last, have Occasion to buy the same Goods in *Europe*, at a much dearer Rate, from our Rivals, than we might have had them for at first Hand in *America*.

I might add much more; but these Matters, for the present, are submitted to your more mature Consultations, by,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient humble Servant,

B.



C A L E T.



A

L E T T E R

COMMITTEE

APPOINTED

By the Gentlemen, Merchants, and others, to consider of the Sugar Trade, and apply to his Majesty's Ministers and the Parliament with Proposals for their Relief and Encouragement.

GENTLEMEN,



THAT our *Sugar-Colonies* have been very beneficial to this Nation; that they are at present in a *low and declining State*; and that our Rivals are *flourishing*, and have in great measure beaten us out of this Trade at foreign Markets, are Points long since and often proved, and which you, *Gentlemen*, know to be perfectly true, nor will any honest, intelligent Person deny them.

But

But what have been the *real Causes* of the *Declension* of our *Sugar Colonies*, and what would be the *adequate Means* for *retrieving* these *Islands* from their *Grievances* and *Distress*, these are *Points*, which, in my Opinion, have not hitherto been so well understood, at least, not so *publickly* and *clearly* explain'd, as their deplorable *Circumstances* seem to require.

It is this Consideration, *Gentlemen*, that has induced me to submit to your *Judgments*, some *Calculates* and *Observations*, which, I think, plainly demonstrate the *grand Cause* of the *Decay* and *Poverty* of our *Sugar Plantations*; and also the *solid Measures* that should be taken to *preserve* and *enlarge* them, by putting us on an equal footing with our *Rivals*.

I have said, *grand Cause*, *Gentlemen*, to distinguish it from many other which are designed: For, indeed, the *high Rate of Interest* may rightly be stiled the *Cause* of all the *Causes* of the *Decay* of the *British Sugar Colonies*; and *lowering* the *Rate of Interest* is the very first *Remedy* *Great-Britain* ought to apply; since this will infallibly afford immediate *Relief*, and give new *Life* to the *desponding* Planters; their *Productions* will be thereby soon increased; our *Exportations* enlarged; and, if thereupon we resolve to get the better of our *Competitors* at foreign *Markets*, *Great-Britain* must then *encourage* her *Subjects* with all such *Advantages* of *Re-exportation* and *direct Importation* to foreign *Ports*, as the *Subjects* the most favour'd by any *Prince or State* now have, or hereafter shall enjoy. And thus would *Great-Britain* soon recover her *Strength* in the *West-Indies*, and beat all *Nations* of the *World* in the *Sugar Trade*; for, in other *Respects*, her *Subjects*, her *Shipping*, and many singular *Advantages* in this *Trade*, take them all together, are not to be match'd.

C 2

As

As to the several Papers herewith offer'd to your Consideration, their Titles are,

1. (1 A.) Calculate of the real intrinsick Value of the Land and Stock of Barbadoes at this Time, Anno 1730.

2. (2 A.) Calculate, by another Hand, of the present Value of Barbadoes, considered as a Sugar Colony, drawn as near the Truth as possible, and far from any Exaggeration, Anno 1731.

3. (B.) A Calculation of the yearly Produce and Expence of Barbadoes.

4. (C.) Barbadoes, its general Annual Account Currant.

5. (D.) Calculate of the yearly Produce and Expence of a great Barbadoes Sugar Planter.

6. (E.) Calculate of the yearly Produce and Expence of a great French Sugar Planter, on rich and fresh Lands.

7. (F.) Observations and Remarks on the several foregoing Calculates, shewing, That the Ways and Means, for Great-Britain to retrieve her West-India Colonies and Sugar Trade, are, for her to extend and enlarge them both, and (thereby) to afford all the Productions of that Climate, as CHEAP and PLENTIFULLY as other Nations: And that, in the first Place, it is absolutely necessary to reduce the high Rate of Interest in the Sugar Colonies, in order to enable the present Possessors to hold their Estates, and prevent those Islands from being yet more and more dispeopled.

From the first and second of these Calculates (mark'd 1 A and 2 A) it appears, that, in and about the Year 1731, the Land and Stock of Barbadoes, according to just and moderate Estimation, were really worth 5,000,000 l.

FROM the third (mark'd B) it appears, that the Ballance gain'd from the said Land and Stock of

of Barbadoes, by the Proprietors, was then Annually 100,000 l.

By the fourth Paper (mark'd C) it is shewn, that the yearly Interest of Money on the real Value of the Land and Stock of Barbadoes, at 8 per Cent. coming to 400,000 l. it over-ballances the net Profits of its whole annual Produce no less than 300,000 l. per Annum. Thus, consequently, this high Rate of Interest, or Premium, for Credit, which is the lowest there, has been destructive of the Island of Barbadoes in general, and ruinous to every Landholder, or Sugar Planter (more or less) in Proportion.

By the fifth Paper (mark'd D.) it appears, that a great Planter in Barbadoes, whose Land and Stock, at that Time, were worth 50,000 l. clear'd net but 1,000 l. per Annum (*communibus Annis*) unless he clay'd and improved his Sugar, and then he might clear 350 l. more by such manufacturing: which, in the first Case, is after the Rate of 2 l. per Cent. per Annum, on the Value of his Land and Stock; and, in the last Case, after the Rate of 2 l. 14 s. per Cent. per Annum.

By the sixth Calculate (mark'd E) it appears, that a French Planter, on fresh and rich Land, clears after the Rate of 18 l. 5 s. 10 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. per Annum, altho' he vend his Sugar at 8 s. per Hundred; Rum at 8 d. per Gallon; and Melasses at 4 d. per Gallon: which is 8 s. per Hundred cheaper than the British Planters do sell, or can afford, to make their Sugar, 7 d. per Gallon cheaper than Rum, and 5 d. per Gallon cheaper than Melasses.

In Sum, it appears from these several Computations, that a British Sugar Planter is over-power'd and borne down by Interest of Money, or Usury, being and intolerable Usury, 6 per Cent. per Ann. more than his annual Produce yields him to pay or discharge;

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discharge; and that the *French* Planter, although affording his Goods at half the Price, yet gains from his Estate 18 l. per Cent. per Ann. on the first Cost or Purchase Money.

And if this be the Case, as I think it is, where is he, who wonders at the *Prosperity* of the *French*, or the *Fall* of the *British Sugar Colonies*? Wherever he be, let him talk no more of *Luxury*, *Extravagance* and *Profusion*—but *honestly assign the true Cause*.

But, for further Satisfaction, be pleased, *Gentlemen*, to refer yourselves to the *Calculates* themselves, and the *Paper of Observations and Remarks* which follows after: And, if the Matters contained in these Papers, are true, or pretty near the Truth, the Conclusions deducible from them, give me leave to say, may prove the best and surest Guides towards assisting the *British Legislative and Ministerial Powers* in their Consultations and Proceedings on the *Sugar Colonies and Trade*.

For, as a *Gentleman* in the like Way of thinking that I am in, whose Knowledge, Experience and Writings gained him Reputation, many Years past, very justly observed, “A great Statesman, by consulting all Sort of Men, and by contemplating the universal Posture of the Nation, its Power, Strength, Trade, Wealth and Revenues, in any Council he is to offer; by summing up the Difficulties on either Side; and by computing upon the whole, shall be able to form a *sound Judgment*, and to give a *right Advice*: And this (says he) is what we mean by *political Arithmetick*.” [I beg leave to continue his Words.]

“This computing Faculty may not only be useful to Statesmen in the general and higher Affairs; but it will likewise help them in the more subordinate and ministerial Parts of Government.

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“vernment. It shall not only contribute to their well-guiding and conducting the Nation's whole Strength and Wealth trusted to their Care; but, if they rightly know how to reason upon Things, by Figures, they shall commit very few Errors in relation to their Prince's Revenues, or to the Trade of the Kingdom.

“The Faculty of computing (adds he) is not less useful in Matters relating to Trade, than in what concerns the publick Revenues.

“The Councils of a Country are always inquisitive after Truth; but to hide it from them, and to perplex Things which have Relation to Trade, is the INTEREST OF SO MANY, that in the greatest Deliberations, wise Men are often misled, by such, as in their Actings, consult more their private Profit, than the common Welfare.

“There is hardly a Society of Merchants that would not have it thought the whole Prosperity of the Kingdom depends upon their single Traffick: So that, at any time when they come to be consulted, their Answers are dark and partial; and when they deliberate in Assemblies, 'tis generally with a *Byass*, and a *secret Eye* to their own Advantage. There is hardly a Commerce but the Dealers in it will affirm, *we lose by all the rest*.” [Then this Gentleman concludes thus.]

“He that would, therefore, compute with any good Effect in Matters relating to Trade, must contemplate the *Wealth, Stock, Product, Consumption, Shipping, Exportations and Importations* of his Country; and, AT THE SAME TIME, he must consider the *State and Condition of other Places*.

“ In

“ In this Art, the most difficult Point is, to
“ find good *Materials*, and to have a *Footing*, pro-
“ bably *sure*, to fix our *Reasonings* upon; for, where
“ our *Premises* can be certain, our *Conclusions* shall
“ be almost *undeniable*.” See *Discourses on the Re-*
venues and Trade of England in 1698.

Gentlemen, in order to remove the *Difficulties* just
now hinted, and that our *Legislators* and *Statesmen*
may be furnished with *Matters of Fact* sufficient to
ground their *Resolutions* upon with some sort of *Ger-*
tainty, these *Papers* are submitted to you for *Cor-*
rection or *Improvement*; because, I am persuaded,
in either Case, you will not fail to produce some
good Effect, towards promoting the great Design
you are engaged in, viz. The *Preservation* and
Encouragement of the *British Sugar Colonies* and
Trade.

I remain,

With much Respect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient,

Humble Servant,

J. B.

POST.

POSTSCRIPT.

GENTLEMEN,

Since I wrote the foregoing Letter, I have
thought it might be of more Use to add
some Papers by way of *Appendix*, than to insert
the Paper 7, mark'd F, intitled, *Observations* and
Remarks, &c. Because I would not too much
anticipate your Thoughts; because, I believe,
these other Papers will be more acceptable to
you; because I find the *Conclusions* I have drawn
from the *Facts* and *Figures* in the *Calculates*,
must be granted by all impartial Persons, tho'
there should be found some Defects or Excesses in
them, which, however, I am not conscious of.
In short, all that I contend for is, that *Interest*
for *Credit* may not devour the *British Planters*;
that they may be put in a Way of making their
Commodities as *Plenty* and *Cheap* as other Na-
tions; and (then) that they may be allowed as
free (or freer) a Vent for them, as the Subjects
of any other Nation: And, altho' it should
clash for a while with the superficial *Interest* of
Great-Britain; yet, that they may be treated as
good Slaves, when Sick, by the most rigid *Master*,
viz. allowed a little Respite from their hard La-
bour, a few reviving *Cordials*, and somewhat a
better and nicer Diet than ordinary, till they
gather Health and Strength: For then they will
make an ample *Compensation*, and return an *Hundred-*
fold to their *Mother Country*.

D

(1 A)

[18]

(1 A)

CALCULATE of the real intrinsic Value of the Land and Stock of Barbadoes, at this Time, Anno 1730.

Land 80,000 Acres, manurable, in Barbadoes, worth, at an Average, 20 l. per Acre.	} 1,600,000
Negroes 70,000, Men, Women, and Children, worth, one with another, 22 l. each.	} 1,540,000
Stock, Sugar-Buildings, and Implements to employ the White and Black Inhabitants, to the Value of	} 1,860,000
Total.	<u>5,000,000</u>

(1 A)

[19]

(2 A)

CALCULATE, by another Hand, of the present Value of Barbadoes, considered as a Sugar Colony, drawn as near the Truth as possible, and far from any Exaggeration, Anno 1731.

500 Wind-Mills, at 800 l. each	400,000
Boiling Houses, Still Houses, Negro Houses, Trash Houses, Smiths, Coopers and Carpenters Shops, &c.	600,000
1,200 l. for each Wind-Mill Estate	
Carts, Pots, Drips, and other Utensils, at 150 l. for each Wind-Mill Estate	75,000
106,000 Acres of Land, with the Crops now growing thereon, at 20 l. per Acre	2,120,000
65,000 Negroes, at 30 l. per Head	1,950,000
20,000 Head of Cattle, at 10 l.	200,000
6,000 Horses, at 20 l. per Head	120,000
26 Pot Kilns, 80 Cattle Mills and Works	35,000
	<u>L. 5,500,000</u>

N. B. In this Calculate, all the four Towns of the Island, and all Dwelling Houses, &c. are left out ; and nothing more is brought to Account, but what merely relates to the Sugar Trade.

D 2

(B)

(B.)

A CALCULATION of the yearly Produce and Expence of the whole Island of Barbadoes.

<i>Yearly Produce.</i>		<i>Yearly Expence.</i>	
	<i>l.</i>		<i>l.</i>
Sugar 25,000 Hogheads, as the Trade now stands	320,000	Negroes 2,800 from <i>Africa</i>	80,000
Rum and Melasses 15,000 Hogheads, as the Trade now stands.	80,000	Wine from <i>Medeira</i>	30,000
Ginger, Cotton and Aloes	20,000	Refuge, Fish, not fit for any <i>Euro-pean</i> Market.	20,000
		Lumber, Boards, Staves, &c.	40,000
		Horfes, &c.	15,000
Total cleared on the Sale. — <i>L.</i>	420,000	Flour, Bread, Corn.	10,000
		Beef, Pork, Herrings, &c.	25,000
		Linen, Woollen, Iron, Copper.	100,000
		<i>L.</i>	320,000
		Ballance gained from the <i>Land</i> and <i>Stock</i> of <i>Barbadoes</i> by the <i>Inhabitants</i> annually.	100,000
			<u>420,000</u>
			(C.)

(C)

Barbadoes, its general Annual Account Current.

<i>DEBTOR.</i>		<i>CREDITOR.</i>	
	<i>l.</i>		<i>l.</i>
To the <i>Interest</i> of 5,000,000 <i>l.</i> being the lowest Value put on the Land and Stock of <i>Barbadoes</i> , at 8 per Cent. which is the legal <i>Interest</i> of the Island at present. (See Calculates (1 A.) and (2 A.)	400,000	By Profits made on the Sales of its whole <i>annual Produce</i> , (as per <i>Calculation</i> , B.)	100,000
		By Ballance, annually against <i>Barbadoes</i> , according to the lowest <i>Calculations</i> .	300,000
			<u>400,000</u>
			21
			<u>400,000</u>
			(D)

(D)

CALCULATE of the yearly Produce and Expence of a Great Barbadoes Planter.

Suppose the Planter possessed of, viz.

1000 Acres of Land (with five Windmills and three or four Sugar-works) at 20 <i>l.</i> per Acre	20,000
500 Negroes at 30 <i>l.</i> per Head	15,000
200 Head of Cattle for Work and Dung at 10 <i>l.</i>	2,000
40 Horses for Work and Dung at 20 <i>l.</i>	800
20 Asses for Ditto at 40 <i>s.</i>	40
100 Sheep, at 20 <i>s.</i>	100
100 Hogs for Ditto, at 12 <i>s.</i>	60
	<hr/> 38,000
The Buildings, together with Coppers, Stills, Worm-Tubs, Coolers, Leaden Cisterns, Wind-Mill Cafes, Brasses, Pots, Drips, Waggon, Carts, and many other Plantation Utensils, may cost	12,000
All Appraised at	<hr/> 50,000

The yearly Produce.

Pots of Sugar (at 60 lb. weight each) 7,000, at 9 <i>s.</i>	3,150
Rum and Melaffes.	1,050
	<hr/> 4,200

N. B. If the Sugar be improved by *Claying*, it is computed, such an Estate will clear to the Planter 350*l.* over and above the 1,000*l.* as *per contra*: So that the most the Planter gains from his Estate, is 2*l.* 14*s.* *per Cent.* For 1000*l.* on 50,000*l.* (the Value of the Estate) is but 2*l.* *per Cent.* and 1,350*l.* no more than 2*l.* 14*s.* *per Cent.* *per Annum.*

The

The yearly Expence.

Salaries for Managers, Overseers, Drivers, Workmen, Book-keepers, Town Agents, Doctors, Farriers, &c.	500
60 Barrels of Beef and Pork	100
60 Hogheads of refuse Fish (or Herrings)	300
Flour, Bread, and Bacon	50
Cloaths for 500 Negroes, at 6 <i>s.</i> per Head	150
Oats, Beans, and Corn	300
Lumber	200
Carpenters, Smiths, Masons, Plumbers, Brasiers, Wheelwrights	150
Charges for the Militia	150
Repairs	120
Supply of Utensils	180
Supply of Negroes	700
Ditto, of Cattle	120
Ditto, of Horses	160
Ditto, of Asses	20
	<hr/> 3,200
Ballance remains to the Planter	1,000
	<hr/> 4,200

(E)

CALCULATE of the yearly Produce and Expence of a Great French Sugar Planter, on rich and fresh Lands.

Suppose this French Planter possessed of, viz.	l.
1000 Acres of Land; the Charges of taking it up, } &c. we will say came to _____	150
200 Negroes, at 30 l. per Head _____	6,000
100 Head of Cattle (for Work and Breed) at 30 s. } per Head _____	150
Horses and Mules _____	200
Sheep, Hogs, &c. will more than answer the } Charges of keeping by their Increase _____	
Buildings, Implements, and Utensils of all Sorts —	2,000
First Cost, in all _____	8,500

The yearly Produce.

	l.
Pounds of Muscovado Sugar 420,000, at 8 s. per } Hundred Weight _____	1,680
Gallons of Rum and Melasses 21,000 (which is 5 } for every Hundred of Sugar) Rum at 8 d. Melaf- } fes at 4 d. per Gallon; the Medium at 6 d. per } Gallon, comes to _____	525
	2,205

N. B. It appears from this Calculate, that the French Planter gains a Ballance of 1555 l. per Annum, by laying out 8,500 l. which is Interest for his Money, at the Rate of l. 18 5 10 Half Penny per Cent. per Annum. Formerly, when the English Planter had the like Advantages, &c. he gained 20 l. per Cent. and then could well afford to allow 15 per Cent. Interest.

The

The yearly Expence.

	l.
Salaries to Managers, &c. _____	150
Salt Provisions, as Beef, Pork, Fish, or Herrings	160
Cloaths for 200 Negroes, at 10 s. per Head _____	100
Timber and Materials for Repairs _____	70
Workmanship _____	40
Supply of Utensils _____	50
Negroes (nothing) _____	
Cattle (nothing) _____	
Horses and Mules _____	40
Expences (that may be omitted) _____	40
	650
Ballance remaining to the Planter _____	1,555
	2,205

N. B. That France has transported her People to her Sugar Colonies, and given them a Year's Provisions, and Land for nothing; that on Hispaniola Cattle are bought for 4, 5, or 6 Pieces of Eight; that Timber and fresh Provisions, being raised on their own Lands, lessens the Expence; that Negroes, not being over-work'd, they increase, rather than decrease, and so do the Cattle, &c. Heavy Articles these against our Sugar Islands!

E

A P.



THE
APPENDIX.



LETTER I.

S I R,



As the Preservation of our *Sugar Trade* and *Colonies* is become the Subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry, and has, for several Sessions past, taken up much of the Time and Attention of our worthy Legislators, I think it a Duty incumbent on every one, at this Juncture, to endeavour to set the whole Affair in a full and clear Light; because the Wounds which our *Sugar Colonies* have received, have not been hitherto rightly search'd to the Bottom. I have therefore sent you my Opinion touching the *Sugar Trade* and *Islands*. And, I think,

1. That

1. That the Preservation of our *Sugar Trade* and *West-India* *Islands*, is absolutely of the utmost Importance to *Great-Britain*.

2. That, from the first Establishment of the *Sugar Trade* in the *Caribbee* *Islands*, to the Treaty of *Utrecht*, this Nation was most sensible of the Benefits and Advantages thereof, and was, from Time to Time, at very great Expences to secure the said Trade to itself, and exclude and dispossess the *French* from those *Islands*.

3. That the true Interest of *Great-Britain*, in respect to the *Sugar Trade*, not being rightly represented to the Ministry at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, or not being duly regarded by them, a Foundation was thereby laid for the present exorbitant Growth and Augmentation of the *French* Power and Trade in those Parts, which hath now rendered all the *British* Settlements in the *West-Indies* precarious and uncertain, at least; for I will not yet say untenable.

4. That at present, as it concerns the *English*, so it does the *Spanish* Nation as much, or more, that a Stop be put to the extraordinary Progress of the *French* Power and Trade in the *West-Indies*; and that some Treaty be set on foot, by common Consent, for regulating the Affairs of the *West-Indies*, adjusting every one's Pretensions, and providing a reasonable Security to all, by fixing a Balance of Power in those Parts.

5. That the *Islands* which the *French* have possessed themselves of in the *West-Indies*, very much exceed, even beyond Comparison, those which are settled and cultivated by the *English*, in Extent and Goodness of Land, Number of Inhabitants, Conveniency of Ports and Harbours, Benefits of Situation, Discipline of their Forces, and Number and Strength of their Fortifications.

E 2

6. That

6. That from Extent of Land, Richness of Soil, and other natural Advantages, and political Encouragements, the *French*, of late Years, have been able to afford their Sugar, Rum, and Mellasses, take one with another, at less than half the Price for which the *English* have, or can, afford theirs.

7. That much of the Cocoa, Cotton, Ginger, Indigo and Coffee, (the last of which, within these eight or ten Years, has flourished to a Miracle in the *French* Islands) imported to *Great Britain* as the Growth and Production of our *English* Colonies, is purchased at first from the *French* by the Traders in our own Colonies.

8. That the *French* Sugar Colonies have even many Privileges and Advantages, in respect to their Government and Trade, which the *English* have not. To instance only one; the *French* admit of a *Spanish* Trade to and from their Islands, which we do not, whereby they have gain'd, and we have lost, the *Spanish* Silver and Gold, which was formerly so plenty in our Islands, that great Remittances therein were made to *England*.

9. That the *English* Sugar Colonies have been, and are, under greater Hardships than any other of his Majesty's Dominions; and the total Ignorance of the Christian Religion in the Negroes, and their unavoidable Labour and strict Usage, is become more deplorable than in any other Government whatever.

10. That for any one to talk of our *Sugar Colonies* setting up for themselves, and throwing off their Dependency on *Great Britain*, is more ridiculously absurd, than to imagine the Isle of *Wight*, *Guernsey*, *Jersey*, and the little Islands in these Seas, are about to do the same thing.

11. That the *Preservation, Encouragement, Peopling* and *Enlarging* our Colonies in the *West-Indies*, would

would not only be of *direct Advantage* to this Nation; but also a Tie and an Inducement to her Colonies on the *American* Continent, to continue steadfast and loyal to the *British* Crown, by the Profits and Advantages they do at present, and may hereafter, in a greater Degree, find in their Trade to them. For it must be noted, and ought to be well remembered, that our *West-India* Islands have the Labour and Slavery to produce Commodities; but that *Great Britain, Ireland*, and the *Northern Colonies*, carry on the whole Trade and Navigation, with their own Men and Shipping, and consequently are as well the greatest, as the easiest, Gainers from them: Which is a Matter of very high Importance, and though perhaps has not been so much, or so well, taken Notice of, as it ought to be, certainly should be both rightly considered and attended to. And,

12. That, should *Great Britain* lose her *Sugar Colonies*, or suffer them to decline and dwindle into *Nothing*; in such Case, the Profits and Convenience of a Commerce to be allowed and established between the *French* Sugar Colonies and our *Northern* Colonies, may be a prevailing Temptation hereafter (at some unlucky Conjunction) for these latter to cast off their Subjection to their Mother-Country; especially should they grow discontented, as they grow powerful.

13. *Spain* has her Mines of Gold and Silver, and all the rich Commodities of the finest Countries in *America*: *Portugal* has *Brasil*, a Colony profitable beyond Description: The *Dutch* have their Possessions in the *East-Indies*, at the *Cape of Good Hope*, *Surinam*, *Barbicies* and *Essequibe* (besides their Islands) in the *West-Indies*: The *French* are extending their Commerce and Settlements in all Parts: We, the *English*, had, and still have, many valuable Trades; but several of them have been lost,

lost, or injudiciously, to say no worse, given up. We have parted with *Amboina* and the *Spice Trade* in the *East-Indies*; with the *Cape of good Hope*; with *Surinam*; and if we neglect our *Sugar Islands*, we may soon become dependent on foreign Powers for every Commodity, of the Production of the Earth, that is peculiar to the Countries between the *Tropicks*, which are known to be very many, and very valuable. Thus we may be obliged to lay up much of our Shipping, and suffer our Sailors to shift for their Bread among other Nations, if we do not preserve our *Southern Colonies* to employ them: Or, we may go a begging to other Nations for Permissions and Licenses to trade to their Dominions, (as our *Northern Colonies* lately did to the *French Islands*) which, when obtained, may be on so hard Conditions, as we shall get nothing by it.

14. Every Nation of *Europe* is at present taken up with nothing more than the securing to itself all the Benefits and Advantages of Trade and Navigation; and whatever Commerce we have with them, we begin to pay dear for. Our *Sugar Islands* are the only Colonies in the hot Climates that are possessed by *Great Britain*. If we lose them, and be desirous to maintain Trade and Navigation, we shall be deemed, and must become, the Pack-Asses (if I may use the Expression) instead of the principal Navigators, Traders, and Merchants, of *Europe*.

It is presumed, Sir, that all Men must assent to most of the foregoing Conclusions, and there are Facts and Reasons to support the other: But that you may see, at one View, the Inequality between the *English* and *French Sugar Islands* in the *West-Indies*, and how necessary it is become, that an Equilibre or Balance of Power should be thought on and fix'd in those Parts, here follows a short Account

Account of them, more particular than is yet publish'd amongst us.

Sugar Islands belonging to *Great Britain*, according to our Claim.

- 1 Barbados
- 2 Tobago
- 3 St. Vincent
- 4 Santa Lucia
- 5 Dominica
- 6 Antigua
- 7 Montserrat
- 8 Nevis
- 9 St. Christophers
- 10 Barbuda
- 11 Anguilla
- 12 Aneгада
- 13 Turtola
- 14 Beef Island
- 15 Spanish Town
- 16 Santa Cruz
- 17 Crab Island
- 18 Jamaica

Sugar Islands belonging to *France*, according to their own Maps, Charts, Claim, &c.

- 1 La Martinique
- 2 La Desirade
- 3 La Grande Terre
- 4 La Guadeloupe
- 5 Marie Galande
- 6 Les Saintes
- 7 La Dominique
- 8 St. Alouise
- 9 St. Vincent
- 10 Becouya
- 11 Moustique
- 12 Cannaouan
- 13 L'Union
- 14 Cariouacou
- 15 Ilet rond le Grison; and many other small Islands near it,
- 16 La Grenade
- 17 Samberero
- 18 St. Martin
- 19 St. Bartolamee
- 20 Santa Cruz
- 21 Tobago
- 22 Espagniole
- 23 La Tortue
- 24 Cayenne.

Some of these Islands, you observe, Sir, are claimed both by the *English* and *French*; but it is certain the *French* have been making their Title good

good by taking Possession of several of them, as *Santa Lucia*, *St. Vincent*, and *Dominica*: And we have been informed, that *France* has actually sold the Island of *Santa Cruz* to the King of *Denmark*, for 250,000 Crowns; which is nothing strange (if she had a Right so to do) her Design, no doubt, being fully to people *Espagnole*, as well as *Martinique* and all the Islands under its Government; for that being once effectually done, all the Islands possessed by the other *Europeans* in that Neighbourhood, will become an easy Prey, whenever she pleases to seize them: And, indeed, we have very small Expectations from any of the Islands claimed by us, except *Jamaica*, *Barbados*, *Antigua*, *St. Christophers*, *Nevis*, and *Montserrat*. So that what are the Hopes, Fears, and present Condition of these, all little Spots of Earth, but *Jamaica*, must surely be proper Matter of Enquiry; for we find that their Inhabitants are very uneasy, grow fewer and fewer, and those that can accomplish it, remove to our Colonies on the Continent.

Whereas *Martinique* being the principal Seat of Government in the *French Caribbean* Islands, its Power, Situation and Importance, has not been enough considered by us in *England*; for it has many excellent Bays and Harbours all along its Coasts; and *Fort Royal* infinitely exceeds any thing we have in those Parts. This Island is very populous, and has upwards of 110,000 Negro Slaves on it; can muster between 15,000 and 20,000 white fighting Men, resolute in the Defence and Service of their Colonies, as the *English* have several Times experienced. It is full of fruitful Vallies and fine Rivers; and, altho' mountainous, yet their Slaves do not rebel as in *Jamaica*, but are as good as any in the World; which must be attributed to the Wisdom of their Laws, and the Lenity

of their Government. And I have been assured by Persons well acquainted with this Island, that there are near 2000 Sailors * constantly employed in Sloops and other Vessels, all registered for coasting, or trading, among the adjacent Islands, &c.

All our *Caribbee Islands* have nothing like this, not to mention *Guade-Loupe*, *Grenade*, &c.; and every one must have heard how much *Hispaniola* is more valuable than *Jamaica*, the Prosperity and flourishing Condition whereof, under the *French*, is as notorious as it is surprizing. *Cromwell* knew the vast Importance of this Island of *Hispaniola*, when *Venables* and *Pen* were sent to conquer it; so did King *William* and the *Spaniards*, when, in the Year 1695, Captain *Wilmot* was sent with a Squadron of Ships, and a Body of Land Forces, to act in Concert with the Governor of *St. Domingo*, against the *French*, unlawfully settled on it.

In short, in King *William's* and Queen *Anne's* Wars, it was seen, that our Possessions in the *West Indies* began to need the Protection and Care of the Government, and several Expeditions were made to destroy the *French* Power, and expel them from those Islands; but so it is, the *French* have got the better of us at last, and no effectual Remedy can be expected, but from the extraordinary Vigilance, Firmness, and Zeal of his Majesty and his Ministers, seconded by the Wisdom and Power of the whole *British* Legislature.

The Importance of this Subject, I hope, Sir, will excuse the Length of my Letter, which, I assure you, contains nothing but Truth, according

F ing

* I have been lately informed that *Martinique* has near 3000 Sailors at present, and that these Islands every Day increase and prosper,

ing to my best Informations. If you think it may be of any good Use to *Great Britain*, our *native Home*, dispose of it as you please.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

Feb. 23, 1735-6.

A. B.

P. S. It appears from the Representation of his Majesty's Commissioners for Trade and Plantations laid before the House of Lords, on the 13th of *February* last Year, that, in 1724, there were but 4812, white Men able to bear Arms in *Barbadoes*.

That, in the same Year, there were 3513 Men in all the *Leeward Islands*; but that they were since reduced to 3284.

And that, in the Year 1730, the Number of white Inhabitants in *Jamaica* did not exceed 7644 Persons; and the Men able to bear Arms were computed at 3000.

So that, in all these Islands, there appear to be no more than 11,325 Men; thus,

<i>Barbadoes</i> _____	4812
<i>Antigua</i> _____	1400
<i>St. Christophers</i> _____	1200
<i>Nevis</i> _____	300
<i>Montserat</i> _____	350
<i>Anguilla</i> _____	85
<i>Spanish Town</i> _____	78
<i>Turtola</i> _____	100
_____	3513
<i>Jamaica</i> _____	3000
_____	_____
Men in all the Islands _____	11325

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A very small Number to *manage* and *defend* them; and, what's worse, we have had frequent Advices, that one of these Islands has had very many of its Inhabitants fled from it since the above Accounts were taken.

In the Year 1676, in Sir *Jonatban Atkins's* Government, the Number of white Men in *Barbadoes* alone was computed 20,000 (besides Women and Children, and 80,000 Negroes) which, even by the above Account, are reduced to 4812.

So, surely, these Matters require a strict and powerful Examination; for otherwise it may happen, that a *Trade* computed to be worth * to *Great Britain* no less than One Million of Pounds Sterling *per Annum*, will be lost, and that irretrievable.

* You will please to remember, that till *England* had Colonies of our own, we gave four Times the Price for Sugars as at present, to which (or the Price we might be obliged now to give, had we not these Colonies) add the Profits by Manufactures, Trade, Navigation, Duties paid, &c. I believe you will find a Million too little rather than too much.



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LET.



LETTER II.

S I R,



It has been said by a Gentleman of good Understanding, “ That
 “ no Commonwealth or Monar-
 “ chy did ever arrive at a very
 “ great Power, but by Methods
 “ to be comprehended by the Un-
 “ derstandings of Men; and that we read of
 “ no great Empire ruined, but the Seeds of its
 “ Destruction may have been observed long be-
 “ fore in the Course of its History; there being
 “ a certain Degree of Wisdom, Industry, Virtue
 “ and Courage, requisite to advance a State, and
 “ such a Measure of Folly and ill Conduct neces-
 “ sary to pull it down”.

We have a convincing Proof of the Truth of this Gentleman's Observation in the present and former respective Conditions of the *British* and *French West-India Sugar Colonies*: For it is most certain, that the *English* were, at one Time, in Possession of the much greater Part of the *Sugar Trade*, and that it was then in the Power of this Nation to have monopolized the Whole: But at length the *French* have got the Better of us, and the *Sugar Islands* they have possessed themselves of, do very much, in many Respects, excel ours.

1st.

1st. Among the *Caribbee Islands*, (for at present we will consider these separate from *Jamaica* and *Hispaniola*) the *French* have more Harbours, Rivers, and Extent of Land than the *English*: for, in *Martinique* alone, they have several very good Harbours, as well as at least one in each of the rest of their Islands (*Marigalante* excepted); and in our Islands there are none (*Antigua* excepted) — Then for Rivers; their Islands plentifully abound with them, which is a vast Advantage to them above our Islands, especially in dry Years. — And as to Land, their Islands being so much larger than ours, as that *Martinique* alone is as large as *Barbadoes*, *Antigua*, *St. Christopher's*, *Nevis* and *Montserrat*; besides, their other Islands not only affording Land enough to their Planters and Slaves, but Room to settle new Plantations or Estates for their Children, which has occasioned such a great Increase of Inhabitants, as that in *Martinique* itself, there can be spared at any Time, for the King's Service, four or five thousand Men for a Descent on any of their Neighbours.

2^{dly}, Their Fortifications are larger, more regular, and kept in better Order and Repair, than those in our Islands.

3^{dly}, They have about fourteen or sixteen Companies of the King's Forces in their Islands, much better taken Care of than ours in the *Leeward Islands*; they are lodged in their Fortifications, and their Officers dare not to ill use them.

4^{thly}, Besides the Officers of the above mentioned Companies, they have several old Officers of the King's, with the Title of his Lieutenants, and they act as Lieutenants to the General, or as Lieutenant Generals on Occasion. These are placed in proper Places, far off the General, as at Fort *St. Pierre*, *La Trinitie*, &c. and so every where, as the General sees proper: And the General

neral has a Guard of *Swiss*, with their own Officers, at *Port Royal*. And,

5thly, Their Islands in general, especially *Martinique*, being full of Vallies and Mountains, makes it naturally very strong, by reason of the several Passes to be march'd through.

I have heard a credible Story of M. *Phelipeaux*, who was General of these Islands in the last Years of the Reign of *Lewis XIV.* viz. That being in Disgrace at the Court of *France*, and looking on himself as under a State of Banishment, he had form'd a Project to cast off the Dependency of these Islands, from the Crown of *France*, and to erect a Republican Government, much after the Model of that of *Venice*; and that he had prepared the chief Inhabitants for it; but that his Death, which did not happen without some Suspicion of foul Play, from a *Physician* sent from *France*, put an End to it. It was said, this Project was found among his Papers after his Death; and I have seen the Heads of it. This I mention, only as a Proof of the Power and Strength of the *French Sugar* Islands at that Time; and it is certain, that, not long after the Death of M. *Phelipeaux*, the Inhabitants of *Martinique* broke out into open Rebellion, seized on their General and Intendant, and by Force sent them both to *France*; and yet the Court thought proper to over-look it, with as good a Countenance as it could; for tho' it declared them Rebels, and obtained Orders from our Court, and others, that they should have no Relief or Assistance, yet their Punishment was wink'd at; and the Court of *France* thought it necessary to establish the *Swiss* Guards in *Martinique*.

But let us attend. — Nothing more, I think, demands the Attention of *Great Britain*. — How unhappily was her Interest at the *Treaty of Utrecht*, with

with respect to the *Caribbee* Islands, over-look'd, or disregarded!

I would avoid every Party and Personal Reflection; — I believe the Interest of *Great Britain*, with respect to these Islands, was not set before the Ministry and Parliament in any reasonable Degree of Light, either at the *Treaty of Ryswick*, the *Treaty of Gertruydenburgh*, or the *Treaty of Utrecht*.

But some will say, was not the *French* Part of the Island of *St. Christopher's*, yielded up to *Great Britain* by *France*? And is not that whole Island become our sole Property by the *Treaty of Utrecht*? Yes, yes! There lay the Game! The *French* understood it — we did not.

To explain what I mean (since Truth requires it) it is necessary to advance what, I fear, at first Sight, will look like a Paradox, viz. *That even this very Cession of the FRENCH Part of the Island of St. CHRISTOPHER'S to us, was a Point that turn'd more in Favour of FRANCE than GREAT BRITAIN;* — which I prove thus,

1st, *France* has for very many Years had two Things in View, one, the fully peopling *Martinique* *Guadelupe*, and the adjacent Islands in the *Caribbees*; the other the possessing herself of *Hispaniola*, and peopling that Island also with great Numbers of Inhabitants. Secondly, to remove all her Subjects off from the smaller Islands in those Parts; such as *St. Martin's*, *St. Bartholomew's* and *Santa Cruz*; and to settle them in the great Islands aforesaid. But *St. Christopher's* being the first of her Settlements, she found it no easy Matter to remove her Inhabitants from thence. They would not leave their old Habitations and Neighbours for new ones, being too well fix'd, notwithstanding all the Temptations and Encouragements that were offer'd them. This Cession, therefore,

therefore, of the *French* Part of *St. Christopher's* to *Great Britain*, exactly answer'd the Wishes and Designs of *France*, by furnishing the aforefaid Great Islands with such a Number of season'd and experienc'd Planters, who have been of excellent Service to strengthen them, instruct the raw *European* Supplies of Inhabitants in the making of Sugar, &c. — And the Wisdom and Politicks of *France*, in looking towards Futurity, leaving the small Islands to others, and possessing herself of the great ones, surely needs not be spoken to — : We begin to be but too sensible of it; yet I hope not quite too late.

Further to confirm what I have said in Relation to *St. Christopher's*, and at the same Time let you see by what Steadiness and Application *France* is become so powerful in those Islands; I will give you a Passage out of a *French* Historian that lived among these Islands, in the Infancy of their Settlement (by the *French* and *English*); who well understood, and has particularly related the Competitions and Struggles that were then between us. 'Tis *Father Tertre*, in his General History of the *Antilles* Islands, where he resided as a Missionary from the Court of *Rome*. He relates (in *Tom. I. p. 146*), That the *Sieur de Louvilliers de Poincy*, Lieutenant General of the *French* Islands in *America*, did, in the Year 1639, make a Proposal to the *West-India* Company in *France*, to sell to the *English* all the *French* Lands in *St. Christopher's*, and to transport himself with the Inhabitants, and their Slaves, to *Guadeloupe*, which he esteemed the finest and most fruitful of all the *Caribbee* Islands; and by making this the Capital of them all, and possessing himself of five or six other Islands in the Neighbourhood, he assured them of several Advantages, and that the *French* would thereby become impregnable and invincible in those Parts; and this Project

Project was thought at that Time to have been of the utmost Importance. For the Historian acquaints us, that *M. Renou*, who was then a Judge at *St. Christopher's*, and a Confident to *M. de Poincy*, mentioning this Project to *M. Fouquet*, in a Letter dated the 12th of *December* 1639, tells him, in short, “ That the only Way to make the King's Name ring in those Parts of the World, and to make his Subjects live in Peace and Safety, would be to separate himself as soon as possible from our neighbouring Enemies, and to render ourselves impregnable, and invincible, by the Possession of five or six Islands that are in a manner contiguous.”

And pray, Sir, after all this, don't you think it as plain to be seen as the Sun, that at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, we took the very Bait the *French* had prepared for us, and thereby also took off all the Odium from the *French* Court? For the *French* Subjects at *St. Christopher's*, look'd on the *English* as the sole Authors of all their Troubles, and the Cause of their Removal from their antient Habitations in that (to most of them) their native Island. In short, by this Treaty of *Utrecht*, we did more for the *French*, than they could do for themselves: We contented ourselves with four or five small Islands, for the Sake of a present Advantage which the *French* did not think worth their keeping — How long we may be suffer'd to retain them, is now the hard Question!

Perhaps it will be here ask'd, “ How is it possible, that the true State of our *Sugar Colonies* has hitherto been so little, or not at all understood in *England*; since great Statesmen have always taken Care not only to know the exact Posture of their own Dominions, but likewise to understand perfectly the Power or Weakness

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ness of their Neighbours? — I shall give you the true Reasons for this, Sir," — And,

1st, A Desire in our *Sugar* Planters to preserve their Credit, and not to be thought in such bad Circumstances, as, in good Truth, they really are, *is one*.

2^{dly}, It is not the Business of our Governors (who go abroad to get as much Money, and as fast as they can from the Inhabitants) to let all the World know, *That the poor People are sent to Gaol to raise it for them, or obliged to fly from the Islands*.

3^{dly}, When a Colony is reduced so very low, Divisions ensue, and then the most unfociable and merciless of Men, prey on the Innocent, and thrive by publick Destruction — These Men therefore, whatever they pretend, never, or very rarely, represent to the King, or his Ministers, the true Condition and Circumstances of the Colonies — They busy themselves in the publick Disorders; — They say too much, or too little; — They disguise the Truth; — They live on the Calamity and Distress of others; — And they cry out against it, but desire it should continue.

4^{thly}, The Inhabitants of the *British Sugar Colonies*, have hitherto, or till very lately, entertain'd quite contrary Views to the *French Sugar Planters*. The *French* have been for extending their Settlements, and increasing the Numbers of their People: The *English* have been desirous only to make the most of the Lands they had already broke up and under Occupation. Hence the Proceedings and Encroachments of the *French*, have not been sufficiently regarded, or complained of: Our Planters, till within these few Years, not apprehending the dangerous Condition they must needs be reduced to by the Growth of the *French* Power so near them; nor believing the Quantity of

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of *Sugar* they would make, could so greatly injure our Markets, as it is now found they have done. We have been intent only on the present Time; and I am sorry to own a certain Truth, that is, that the *English* Planters have wanted a Share of that Publick Zeal, which the *French* give Proofs of on all Occasions. — There are many Instances to be given of this; but I shall only observe that it is from thence, that our *Sugar Islands*, I fear, have been backward in making the requisite Addresses, Representations, &c. to His Majesty, the Board of Trade, &c.

5^{bly}, It is the Custom of *France* to appoint able and experienced Men to govern her Colonies, and they are paid by the King, and rewarded according to their Merits at the End of their Commissions: *Whereas I do not remember, that many of our English Governors have, at their Return, expected much for their good Services, whilst honoured with his Majesty's Commission abroad*.

And, 6^{bly}, many that have been called on, and more that have officiously undertaken, to give true Accounts of our *Sugar Colonies*, and Trade, have been frequently partial, and often, incapable Persons.

Having said thus much on the *Caribbee Islands*, I proceed to *Hispaniola* and *Jamaica*. I shall only first add, that the *French Caribbee Islands* lie more contiguous than the *British*, and that they are all under one Government, *viz.* the General who resides at *Fort Royal* in *Martinique*, which lying to Windward of *Guadeloupe*, is one great Reason it has been preferred to it, and the aforesaid Project of *M. De Poincy*, on their first Settlement in these Islands, has been improved for the better, and all the Ends answered that were proposed thereby. Whereas our *Caribbee Islands* are not only small and weak, but their Power is divided

into two Governments, at an inconvenient Distance from each other, in case of any Surprise or Attack from an Enemy, &c. — But now, as to

Hispaniola: Every one that knows any thing of the *West-Indies*, either by their own Experience, or from Books, Charts, Maps, &c. must be sensible, that this Island is so much preferable to *Jamaica*, as to Extent, Situation, Harbours, Wind, and in all other Respects, that it is needless to increase the Length of this Letter with the Comparison. It is certain, that, in *Cromwell's* Time, this Matter was well consider'd, and that the *English* Forces were under the Necessity of contenting themselves with *Jamaica*, after being repulsed from *Hispaniola*. It may be of more Use to *Great Britain* to inquire by what Ways and Means *France* possessed herself of this valuable Island; for few consider any other Danger than that of *Jamaica*, tho' from the North End of *Hispaniola*, a Squadron of Ships, with People for a Descent, can be at *Georgia, Carolina, &c.* in a few Days.

It is agreed, I think, by all, and particularly confirmed by *P. Tertre*, the *French* Historian, whom I have before quoted, that the *French* Settlements on *Hispaniola* were first begun by the *Buccaniers*, (that is to say) some *English* and *French* Men that settled themselves on the Island of *Tortuga*, at the N. W. End of the Island of *Hispaniola*, who victualling themselves to Sea with smoak-dry'd, instead of salted Meat, from thence had the Name of *Buccaniers*. As to the Government they were under, the same Author says, that the *English* had possessed the Island of *Tortuga* several Years, and did so increase there, that the *Spaniards* apprehended they might, in Time, attack *Hispaniola*, and therefore the *Spanish* General surpris'd them with an Army in 1638, put all to the Sword that

that were in Arms, and hanged those who surrendered after the Battle: But by Degrees the *English* re-possessed themselves of it, and prevailing on some *French Buccaniers* to join them, they made in all 300 Men, commanded by an *Englishman*. And a *Buccanier* having informed *M. de Poincy*, General of the *French* Islands before spoken of, that there was a great Number of *French* among the *English*, and that the *English* Commander was only a Vagabond (says the Author) *Poincy* conceived it would be easy to make himself Master of that Island; and to that End he sent one *M. la Vasseur*, with some Forces, who, in 1640, landed on *Tortuga*, and sent to the *English* Governor to let him know, that if he did not retire with all the *English* in 24 Hours, he would give Quarters to none. Whereupon the *French* Inhabitants of the Island also took up Arms against the *English*; so that they embarked in Disorder with their best Effects, and quitted the Island to the *French*, who seized what they left, with one Brass and two Iron Cannon.

But the same Historian says, That some *French* Adventurers from the Island of *Tortuga*, procured a Commission from the *English* Governor of *Tortuga*, and sailed with 400 Men, and a *French* Frigate, to *St. Domingo*, where they landed and march'd to *St. Jago*, twenty Leagues through the Woods; and that they attack'd it by Break of Day, on Good Friday 1659, killed about thirty that opposed them, surpris'd the Governor, &c. — That this Enterprize was complain'd of by the *Spanish* Ambassador to the *French* King, who answered, They had no Commission from him; that the *Spaniards* might punish them as Pirates, or apply to the *English* for Redress, since they had a Commission from them.

And

And here, Sir, you see there is much to be said; but this Letter, I fear, is of too great Length already; I therefore shall end it in a very few Words, viz. That it is evident the Affairs of the *West-Indies*, must be brought under a better Regulation than they have been for many Years past. Secondly, that the Parties principally interested in it, are the *English*, *French*, and *Spaniards*. Thirdly, the *Spaniards* are more concerned than the *English*, that a speedy and final Stop be put to the *French* Encroachments in those Parts. And Fourthly, if a Triple Treaty cannot be set on Foot between the said Powers by common Consent; — We ought surely to examine into our Pretensions, and not to depart from one Inch of them, on any Account.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

Mar. 28, 1736.

A. B.



L E T.



LETTER III.

S I R,



IN what high Esteem our Colonies were held at the Restoration, is evident from the Acts which were passed about that Time; a Time very inquisitive; wherein all Matters relating to our Trade and Plantations were closely examined with Solidity and Penetration; most of our fundamental Laws and Regulations relating thereto, were then made and enacted; and the Principles and Reasons which then governed, have ever since almost universally prevailed.

One of those Laws, passed in 1660, sets forth,
 “ That your Majesty’s loyal and obedient Subjects,
 “ the Lords and Commons in this present Par-
 “ liament assembled, considering of how great
 “ Concern and Importance it is, that the Colo-
 “ nies and Plantations of this Kingdom in *Ame-*
 “ *rica* be defended, protected, maintained and
 “ kept up, and that all due and possible Encou-
 “ ragement be given unto them; and that, not
 “ only in regard, *great and considerable Dominions*
 “ *and Countries have been thereby gained and added*
 “ *to the Imperial Crown of this Realm*; but for
 “ that *the Strength and Welfare of this Kingdom*
 “ *do very much depend upon them*, in regard of
 “ *the Employment of a very considerable Part of its*
 “ *Ship-*

“ Shipping and Seamen, and of the Vent of very
 “ great Quantities of its native Commodities and
 “ Manufactures, as also of its Supply with several
 “ considerable Commodities, which it was wont for-
 “ merly to have only from Foreigners, and at far
 “ dearer Rates.”

And another Act for the Encouragement of
 Trade, made three or four Years afterwards, de-
 clares, that, “ In regard his Majesty’s Planta-
 “ tions beyond the Seas, are inhabited and peopled
 “ by his Subjects of this his Kingdom of England,
 “ for the maintaining a greater Correspondence
 “ and Kindness between them, and keeping them
 “ in a firmer Dependance upon it, and rendering
 “ them yet more beneficial and advantagious unto
 “ it, in the farther Employment and Encrease
 “ of English Shipping and Seamen, Vent of En-
 “ glish Woollen and other Manufactures and Com-
 “ modities, rendering the Navigation to and
 “ from the same, more safe and cheap, and mak-
 “ ing this Kingdom a Staple, not only of the Com-
 “ modities of the Plantations, but also of the Com-
 “ modities of other Countries and Places, for the sup-
 “ plying of them; &c.”

Such was the Sense of this Nation of the Ad-
 vantages and Importance of our Plantations at the
 Restoration, when its Eyes having been lately purged
 by Affliction, probably it might then see and distin-
 guish as clearly as at any Time since; especially if
 we consider the Things which followed, viz. Lux-
 ury and Profuseness in the Court and Nation, the
 first and second Dutch Wars, the Plague and Fire
 of London, Plots and Disorders of all Sorts, Arbi-
 trary Government, Insecurity in Matters of Trade,
 Property and Religion, the Revolution, two French
 Wars for our All, and the Debts and ill Conse-
 quences entailed on us: For these Things may pos-
 sibly have since obscured or interrupted our Sight, as
 well

well as diverted our Attention from Matters of Trade
 and Plantations.

But although it should be agreed in general,
 that our Sugar Colonies have been more advanta-
 geous to this Nation than any other belonging to
 it; yet perhaps we cannot have just and practical
 Ideas concerning them, without a competent and
 distinct Knowledge of the several Particulars from
 whence their Value and Importance do arise.

His Majesty’s Lords Commissioners of Trade,
 in their Representation to the Right Honourable
 the House of Lords of the 8th of Febr. 1734-5,
 report, that the annual Amount of the Imports
 from our Sugar Colonies (as computed in the Cus-
 tom-House-Books) at a Medium of four Years, from
 Christmas 1728, to Christmas 1732, were as
 follows,

	l.	s.	d.
From Jamaica ———	539,499	18	03½
From Barbadoes ———	246,599	13	10½
From the Leeward Islands	642,269	09	06½

Total of the annual Im-
 ports (at a Medium) from
 all our Sugar Colonies } 1,428,369 01 08
 into Great Britain ———

To which Sum of 1,428,
 369 l. 1 s. 8 d. must be
 added, the Sugar, Rum,
 Melasses, Cotton, Gin-
 ger, Piemento, Indigo,
 Aloes, Cacao, Coffee,
 Woods of divers Sorts,
 &c. exported from our
 Sugar Colonies into our
 Northern Colonies, Ire-
 land, &c. which at a
 moderate Computation
 amount to 500,000 l. per
 Annum ———

Total Sterling, — 1,928,369 01 08

So that the annual Produce of the *British* Sugar Colonies, over and above their own Consumption, may be estimated at about One Million Nine Hundred Thousand Pounds, according to this Calculation.

But if we reckon that these Colonies have produced not more than One Million Five Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Ann.* (*communibus Annis*) from the Restoration; even this, is *One Hundred and Fourteen Millions of Pounds Sterling*; which has been a great Help to enrich this Kingdom, to make good our Balance in Trade with other Countries, and to support us under the vast Weight of our Wars, Debts and Expences.

Our *Sugar Colony* Trade is not a *Foreign* Trade, a Trade with Strangers, altho' it be *Maritime*: It is rather of the *Domestick* Kind. In a Word, *This Trade has hitherto yielded us all the Profits and Advantages that usually belong both to the one, and the other, free from the Fluctuations and Incommodities incident to the former.*

Nor would the Loss be less to *Great Britain*, (were we ever to lose our *Sugar Colonies* in *America*) but greater, than if they lay contiguous to our Coal or Tin Mines in *England*; because of the Navigation, &c.

Whoever thinks otherwise, has not given himself Time thoroughly to consider the Matter; for all that has been here said, may be fully proved to every one's Conviction, by *undeniable Facts* and *Figures*.

And it must be reckoned a great Misfortune to this Nation, that her *West-India* Affairs were not better understood at the Treaty of *Utrecht*. — We say *understood*; for we cannot find that either Party knew much of her *Interest* in regard to the *Sugar Colonies* at that Time: For the Gentlemen concerned in writing the *British Merchant*, which was a Cri-

a Critick on the Treaty of *Utrecht*, did not discover one Flaw in it as to this Trade. “ Has the *French King* (say they) taken such Care to render easy the Navigation of his Rivers? Has he applied the greatest of his Care for the encouraging Navigation also without? Has he laid such Impositions on Strangers Ships, discharging at the same Time those of his own Subjects? Has he been at the Charge of Convoys to secure the Navigation of his Subjects against Pyrates? Has he created a Council of Trade for the Increase and Encouragement of Trade both within and without his Kingdom, and also of Manufacturers? Has he employed a Million of Livres yearly for the Settling of Manufactures, and the Increase of Navigation? And does the *Mercator* [a Paper published by the Direction of the *then* Ministry] go on to tell us, that *France* is incapable of Trade and Navigation? — And after a great deal more, say they, *Cape Breton* is yielded to her, which will prove a perpetual Nursery for Seamen.” *British Merchant*, Vol. II. p. 256, 257. — Yet not a Word of the *Sugar Colonies* here, or elsewhere, tho' so fair an Occasion offered!

If therefore the Earl of *Halifax*, the Earl *Stanhope*, *Henry Martin*, Esq; *Inspector General* of the *Exports* and *Imports*, *Sir Charles Cooke*, *Sir Theodore Janssen*, and other able and worthy Merchants concerned in writing the *British Merchant*, did overlook this great Affair; we hope our Letters will appear, at this Juncture, when all Nations are improving their Colonies, Manufactures and Commerce, the more seasonable and necessary on this important Subject, and are,

Sir, Your very humble Servants,

Octob. 22, 1736.

The SUGAR PLANTERS.

H 2

L E T-



LETTER IV.

S I R,

IN our last we computed that our *Sugar Colonies*, since the Restoration, have produced to the Value of *One Hundred and Fourteen Millions of Pounds Sterling*, and hinted that *these Colonies* are of *more Importance to Great Britain*, in respect of their Situation, than if they joined it: That they give Employment to a great Part of our Shipping and Seamen; that they create a Vent for our Native Commodities and Manufactures; and (which compleats the whole) they make this Kingdom a *Staple*, not only of the Commodities which they produce, but also of the Commodities of other Countries and Places for the supplying of them, &c. And, for our Guide in these Matters, we had our own Experience, the Custom-House-Books, and the repeated Sense of the Legislative Power of the Nation at a right Season, *viz.* at a Time of *Re-collection and Fore-thought*.

Our *Sugar Colonies* take off annually about, *viz.*

	L.
From the <i>African</i> Traders in Negroes	240,000
From <i>Ireland</i> in Beef, Pork, Herrings,	} 100,000
Butter, &c. _____	

From

	L.
From our Northern Colonies in Horses	} 250,000
Lumber, Fish, Bisket, Flour, Corn,	
&c.	
From the <i>Madeira</i> Traders in Wine	80,000
From <i>Great Britain</i> directly in Goods	} 400,000
and Merchandize _____	
And they pay in <i>Britain</i> , on their own	
Produce, about	
For Duty _____	200,000
For Freight _____	275,000
For Commission, Brokerage, &c. to	} 195,000
Factors, &c. _____	
	1,740,000

And the Balance of their Produce [which Produce of late Years has been about 1,950,000 l. as nigh as we can calculate, which nearly agrees with our last, and might be more particularly illustrated] all Centers in *England*, being for Interest of Money, for Expences of Absentees residing here, Education of Children, Governors and other Officers Salaries, &c.

210,000

1,950,000

And whereas *Great Britain*, before she was possessed of *these Colonies* in the *West-Indies*, was wont to purchase, for her own Use, every Sort of their Productions from Foreigners (at much higher Prices than they have been since sold for) to her great Disadvantage; now these Colonies have not only supplied her with all those Commodities *cheaper*, but also have made her a Magazine or Staple for them, whereby our Trade, Shipping, Riches and

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and Publick Revenue, have been prodigiously increased.

The Trade wherewith these Colonies have enrich'd this Kingdom is immense; and there is not a Mine belonging to the Kingdom of *Spain*, or the Kingdom of *Portugal*, that has afforded, either of them, the like Emoluments and Advantages, which these *Sugar Colonies* have brought to *Great Britain*.

The Value of the yearly Transactions in the Circle of this Trade, may be computed as follows;

By the annual Produce of our Sugar Colonies	} 1,950,000
By their annual Expence and Charges	1,740,000
By Balance centering in <i>England</i> as above-mentioned	} 210,000
To which add,	
* By Sugar and other Productions of these Colonies re-exported	} 600,000
* By Returns made for the said re-exported Goods	} 720,000
Total L. 5,220,000	

Five Millions Two hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds. A vast Sum! and it is not easy to calculate how many Ships, Sailors, Merchants, Factors, Tradefmen, Manufacturers and People of all Professions and Denominations, are concerned in, and do subsist by, these great and diffusive Transactions. Some have computed, that the annual trading Stock of Shipping from *Britain*, *Ireland*, and *North America*, employed to *Africa*,

* *Great Britain* has of late lost these beneficial Articles, by the *French* and *Dutch* underselling them, and for Want of giving her Planters Encouragement to produce their Commodities cheaper, and in greater Plenty, and permitting them as quick and easy a Vent for them at foreign Markets.

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Africa, *Madeira* and the *West-Indies*, hath amounted to 70,000 Tons; and that every Family in the *West-Indies*, at an Average, gives Employment to Five Seamen, and to many more Artificers, Manufacturers, Tradefmen, &c. and that every white Person there inhabiting, brings in 10*l.* per Head per Annum clear to the Benefit of the Navigation, Revenue and national Stock of *Great Britain*: Whereas it is computed, that every Person in this Kingdom, one with another in the Gross, does not yield above a Twentieth Part of that Sum Profit to the Nation, besides their own Maintenance.

It may therefore, we think, be very fairly concluded, that the *British Sugar Colonies* and Trade, are exceedingly beneficial to this Nation, and profitable to the Crown, and that their Preservation and Encouragement, is of the highest Importance and Concernment to us.

1. Because of the great Value and Extent of the Circle of Trade which these Colonies create, and are the sole Source and Cause of.

2. Because they increase our Navigation, not only in so large, but also in so convenient and useful a Manner, the Voyage being neither too near home, nor too far off, every Ship performing it once or twice a Year; so that all the Sailors belonging to this Trade are constantly maintained by it, and yet in a Readiness for the manning our Ships of War almost on any Occasion.

3. Because they formerly did, and might at present, take off many useles and necessitous People from *Britain* and *Ireland*; — and in these Plantations such Persons have been, and still might be, made of five Times more Value to their Mother Country, than they can possibly be to it, by any suitable Employment that is to be found for them at home.

4. Be-

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4. Because they supply us with all Sorts of their Productions so much cheaper than formerly, when such Commodities were purchased from Foreigners.

5. Because the Inhabitants of these Colonies, do stand in Need of all Utensils and Necessaries for carrying on their Sugar Works, &c. and of most Things that they eat, drink, or wear; — with which Things *Great Britain* doth, or might, supply them.

6. Because the Productions of these Colonies are peculiar to them, in so far, as they are not to be had from any other of the *British* Dominions.

7. Because these Colonies never did, nor ever can, in any Manner lessen or interfere with the Produce, Manufactures, Trade or Navigation of *Great Britain*; whereas it is very well known, that some other of her Colonies do, or may, injure her in some, or all, these Matters.

8. Because they give Being and Support to an infinite Number of Mechanicks, Manufacturers, Tradesmen, Ship-builders, Supra-Cargoes, Factors, Merchants, &c.

9. Because they afford a plentiful Provision for Governors and other Officers, and to Lawyers, Divines, Physicians, &c.

10. Because they greatly augment the publick Revenue.

11. Because all their Superlucration, or Gain, over and above their Expences, ever hath, and ever must, center in *Great Britain*.

12. Because the Re-exportation of their Productions, hath helped us to make good our Balance in Trade with other Countries.

13. Because of the real Value of their Buildings, Utensils, Stock of Negroes, Cattle, &c. worth a great many Millions Sterling.

14. Be-

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14. Because, if we do not uphold our Sugar Trade and Plantations, this golden-Prize will fall into the Scale of our powerful and most formidable Neighbour, which will turn the Balance of Trade, Navigation and Power in her Favour, beyond the Possibility, in our humble Opinion, of its ever being regained by us, though at the Expence of ever so much Blood and Treasure.

15. And should the white Inhabitants of these Colonies desert them, nothing is more obvious, than that the *French* and *Spaniards* will, *ipso Facto*, be Masters of all the *West-Indies*, and the Trade thereof. — *A fatal, if not a finishing Stroke, to the Liberties of Europe, and the Navigation and Commerce of the World!*

We remain, as always,

S I R, Yours, &c.

Nov. 13. 1736.

The SUGAR PLANTERS.



I

P R O.



PROPOSALS,

Presented to a Great Minister of State in the Year 1736, for the Preservation and Advancement of the British Sugar Colonies and Interests in the West-Indies: With an Addition of several Notes on the said Proposals.



WHEREAS the *bad Circumstances* of the *British Sugar Colonies*, and their *great Importance* to this Kingdom, are universally acknowledged; and the whole Nation, at present, appears very desirous to have the Disadvantages they complain of, removed by the *most speedy and effectual Measures*, provided such Measures do not tend to the Detriment of their Mother-Country Britain: And *whereas* it is conceived, that the *Remedies*, which have hitherto been proposed for the Relief of these Colonies, are, not only *most of them improper*, but, even *all of them together, inadequate* to the *wish'd-for End*: It is therefore, Sir, with all Sorts of Submission and Respect, that the following *Proposals* are humbly offer'd to your mature Consideration, by a Person of Application, and some great and long Experience

Experience in these Matters. He is very sensible, however, that the forming just *Ideas* of the Nature of our *West-India Colonies*, as they relate to the Good and Welfare of this Nation, and the Improvements they are capable of, requires a large Compass of Thought; and he fears that his Judgment may be too weak, and his Comprehension of Circumstances and Things not sufficiently extensive for *so GREAT A WORK*: But if you, Sir, will be pleas'd to think that the Matter, which I am here going to present you, are worthy of your Notice and Correction, then all Defects of mine will be more than abundantly supplied.

S I R,

THE *Proposals* which I now do myself the Honour to lay before you, relate,
First, To the TRADE.
Secondly, to the GOVERNMENT, and,
Thirdly, to the SECURITY and DEFENCE of the BRITISH SUGAR Colonies and *Dominions* in the WEST-INDIES.

I. As to TRADE.

I propose,

1st. "That the Interest of Money, which at present is 10, or at least 8 per Cent. per Ann. in all the *Sugar Colonies*, be reduced to 3½ per Cent."

[Notes.] When the *British Sugar Colonies* were in *Prosperity*, the Planter might well afford to allow 10 per Cent. Interest; but since their *Decline*, nothing has so much contributed to their *Oppression*

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sion and Depopulation: Yet this is a Matter that may be remedied to the Satisfaction of all; and there is not any thing that relates to these Colonies, which, in my Opinion, can add more Popularity and Applause to those that shall perform it.

When I first drew up these Proposals, I thought $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. might be sufficient, because the great Companies borrowed at 3 per Cent; but since then, and for the greater Encouragement of the Lenders, I propose, that the *Sugar Planters* allow 4 per Cent, and give satisfactory Security for double the Value, paying the Interest Half-yearly in *London*.

And thus the *Sugar Planters* would be enabled to pay off and discharge their Debts and Incumbrances of 10 and 8 per Cent.

2dly, Matters will be so ordered, that the Security for the Money shall be as good as in *England*, and the Interest as punctually paid in *London*.

3dly, Those that lend, will encourage Trade and Industry; and for 1000 *l.* will have an Annuity of 40 *l. per Annum*, and so in Proportion for a greater or less Sum: Whereas they can have but 30 *l. per Annum* in the Stocks, and these Stocks not to be bought, but at an advanced Price. So that here is an immediate Advantage to the Lender of 25 *l.* in the Hundred at least.

4thly, The Gentlemen that complain so much of having their Money out at 10 and 8 per Cent. will have it paid off.

2dly, " That the Negroes, Cattle, and necessary
" Utensils, shall not be separated, or taken off
" the Plantation or Estate to which they belong,
" by Virtue of any Execution, or other legal
" Process, for the Satisfaction of Debts which
" such Estate may be subject to the Payment
" of :

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" of: But that the Land, Negroes, Cattle, and
" all necessary Things belonging to it, shall be
" preserved *entire*, and sequester'd into the Hands
" of a proper Person to be managed for the Pay-
" ment of its Debts. The Person or Persons
" to be chosen for that Purpose, by the Debtor
" and Creditor jointly; and in Case of Dispute
" or Difference between them, the Court from
" whence the Execution or Process issues, to de-
" cide it; and whilst the Estate is working itself
" out of Debt, the Owner to be allowed a Com-
" petency for his own and Family's Subsistence,
" in such Degree and Measure, as the Circum-
" stances of his Affairs will reasonably admit of."

[Notes.] This Article will have some Opposers; but we have Reason and Precedent on our Side.

It is the Law and Practice of the *French*, in their *Sugar Colonies*, and consonant to the Reason and Scope of our *English* Laws, which regard the publick Utility in the Execution of Justice, and do, or did, give Remedy and Satisfaction to the Creditor or Plaintiff, with as little Inconvenience as possible to the Borrower or Debtor: For our Books inform us, " That by the Common Law
" one could have Execution only of Goods and
" Chattels, and of Corn, or other present Profit,
" that grow upon the Land, not of the Body,
" or future Profit of Land, till by Statute of
" *West. 2 Chap. xviii. 13 Edw. I.* it was enacted,
" that he that recovereth a Debt, or Damage,
" or upon a Recognizance in the King's-Court,
" may, at his Election, have a *Fieri Facias* of the
" Goods and Chattels of the Debtor, (except Oxen
" and Beasts of the Plough) and the Moiety of
" his Lands, by reasonable Price and Extent, till
" the Debt is levied: And further, that this *Ap-
" praisement* and *Extent* upon an *Elegit* must be
" found

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‘ found by Inquest of twelve Men return’d of
 ‘ Record; and that the Goods are not to be sold,
 ‘ but are to be delivered to the Party at a rea-
 ‘ sonable Price and Appraisement; that if the
 ‘ Party pays, and satisfies the Debt of Record,
 ‘ he shall enter into his Land; and that the Tenant
 ‘ of the Land may enter, when the Tenant, by
 ‘ the *Elegit*, is satisfied by the *Extent* or Receipt
 ‘ of the Profits, or Rents.—Since therefore, the
 Wisdom and Spirit of our *Laws*, and the Usage of
 the *French*, in their *Sugar Colonies*, are such, why
 should a few Traders be gratified at the Ex-
 pence of the Publick Good, the Destruction of
 the Planter, and Depopulation of the *British Su-*
gar Colonies? For it will be granted, that the
 levying an Execution, on a *Sugar Plantation*, worth
 15 or 20,000*l.* though it be but for the Satisfa-
 ction of 1000*l.* as Matters now stand, will break
 it to-pieces, so as to make it impossible to pro-
 duce Sugar from it: Whereas, if such an Estate
 were only sequestred for the Payment of the Debt,
 it might produce 100, or, 150, or, 200 Hog-
 sheads of Sugar *per Annum*, and discharge the
 Incumbrance, without such intolerable Detriment
 to the *Planter* and the *Publick*.

3dly, “ That poor White People from *England*,
 “ *Scotland* and *Ireland*, be encouraged to re-people
 “ and strengthen these Islands; and that the rais-
 “ ing of Provisions, Cattle, Horses, Cotton,
 “ Ginger, Indigo, Cocoa, Coffee, and other *West-*
 “ *India* Commodities, be more encouraged than
 “ of late Years.

[Notes.] White People of Industry, being
 granted a competent Property for their Subsistence,
 are the true Strength of a Colony; for it is plain
 enough, that little can be hoped from the Negroes
 in

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in Case of an Invasion, but much may be feared:
Barbadoes, *Jamaica*, *All the Islands*, and parti-
 cularly *Antigua* of late, are too sensible of this
 Truth. And in these Climates a white Man and
 his Family may live most comfortably (provided
 he be suffered to enjoy Liberty and Property) and
 lay up Money from fifteen or twenty Acres of
 Land: And this will be the Way to increase and
 multiply the various Commodities of the Growth
 and Produce of these Colonies, and be of great
 Benefit to the *Sugar Planters* in lowering the
 Price of Provisions, Cattle, and many Necessaries
 of Life. The *French* and *Spaniards* have well
 observed this; and the *English* have as unaccount-
 ably neglected it; but, are now, I believe,
 thoroughly convinced of their Mistake.

Atbly, “ That Care be taken to preserve a suffi-
 “ cient Quantity of *hard Timber* (which cannot be
 “ had from our NORTHERN COLONIES) for the
 “ building and repairing of Mills, Houses, &c.
 “ such as *Green Heart*, *Bully Tree*, *Mastick*,
 “ *Fustick*, *Purple Heart*, and the like; because
 “ these Sorts of *Hard Wood* are absolutely ne-
 “ cessary for the *Sugar Mills*; and we now do,
 “ or soon shall, lie at the Pleasure and Discretion
 “ of the *French* and *Dutch* for it, who have suf-
 “ ficiently shewn what their Inclinations and Views
 “ are in this Point.

[Notes.] The *Dutch* have long since prohibited
Surinam, *Essekebe* and *Berbicies* supplying us with
 Timber; and the Order is dispensed with at the
 two last Places, only, because the *Dutch* Planters
 need our Horses for their *Sugar Works*, without
 importing of which, we are not permitted to Trade:
 But if Care be not taken of the *Caribbee* Islands,
 which are unsettled, and the *Dutch* find it their In-
 terest

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terest to deny us hard Timber, pray, to what a Height will the Price of Timber rise in *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward* Islands?

5thly, " That the Duties and Impositions on
" *Sugar* and *Rum* be moderated, *when the Circum-*
" *stances of the Nation will permit.*

[Notes.] I would here observe and inculcate to the utmost of my Power, That not only all possible Relief and Encouragement for the present be given to our *Sugar Colonies*, till they recover Strength; but also, that it will be ever best for the Crown, the Mother-Country, and the Colonies, *ALL*, to *gain and thrive together*; and, farther, that many *Littles* from a prosperous Trade will be found, *More*, and more advantageous to the Revenue, than *much* out of a *small one*, and be of *longer Duration*.

6thly, " That Liberty be given to carry
" from these Colonies, *Sugars directly* to all
" the *European* Markets to the Southward of
" *Cape Finisterre*, provided *such Liberty can be*
" *granted without too many Inconveniencies.*

[Notes.] As to this Article; See, the *Preface* to these *Papers*.

7thly, " That *Sugar*, *Mellasses*, *Rum*, and
" other foreign *Commodities* of the Growth of the
" *West-Indies*, be made contraband and prohibited
" in all the *Dominions* and *Territories* belonging
" to the *British* Crown, with a Power to his Ma-
" jesty's *Ships of War* to seize on the Seas, as
" well as *Custom-House Officers* on the Land,
" and in Port; for that, the Act made in the
" *Sixth Session* of Parliament, in the Reign of
" his

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" his present Majesty, for the *encouraging* and *se-*
" *curing* the *Sugar Colonies*, has hitherto been
" eluded and ineffective.

[Notes.] When a Law is made, it ought to be duly executed, and no Holes left to creep out at; otherwise Encouragement is thereby given to the *Smuggling* and *clandestine* Trader, and the Merchant, fair Dealer, the Crown, and the Nation will be prejudiced by it.—Yet I cannot too often repeat what I have delivered, as my Opinion, elsewhere; which is, that in the first Place, and before all Things, *Great Britain* take Care to raise and produce all Sorts of *Commodities* as *cheap* and *plentifully* in her own Colonies, as any other Nation can and will afford them to us: Otherwise, such Restraints as these, may, in a little Time, be attended with more and greater Inconveniencies than there is Room to set forth in this Place.—However, I say, if all fitting Encouragements be given to the *British Sugar Colonies*, such an Act, well observed, and strictly executed, would be of infinite Service.—But, if we will not, *or do not*, take Care of our *Sugar Colonies*, pray let not *Great Britain* give up and destroy the *Sugar Trade* also, and all the Navigation and Advantage thereof, so well of late known to the *Dutch* and *Danes*.

8thly, " That some *one or more* of our *Sugar Islands*
" be made and declared a *Free-Port*, under pro-
" per Regulations and Restrictions; for which the
" *Dutch*, *Danes*, and (in part) the *French* have set
" us excellent Examples in the *Islands* belonging
" to them.

[Notes.] I would propose, that *Barbadoes* and
Jamaica should each of them have *one, such Port*,
K where

where the Ships of any Nation in Amity with *Great Britain*, might touch for Wood, Water, Provisions, and many of the Manufactures of *England* (to be particularly enumerated) paying for the same in Gold, Silver, precious Stones, Bills of Exchange, or such Commodities (to be also particularly enumerated) as may promote the Trade, and not interfere with the true Interest of this great Nation.

9thly. " That a *new Office* be erected in every of our Sugar Colonies for many good Purposes hereafter to be mentioned: The Person supplying it to be appointed by Commission from his Majesty, and to be stiled, or called, by the Name of *Inspector and Guardian of the Manufactures and Trade of the Colony*; to be a Member of his Majesty's Council there, and to have Precedency next after the Governor or Commander in Chief; and to keep an exact and regular Correspondence with the *Lords of Trade*, according to proper Instructions to be given him; so as a Report of his Proceedings, and a State of the Affairs committed to his Care, may be made once a Year to his Majesty in Council before the Meeting of the Parliament.

[Notes.] The *French* and *Spaniards*, &c. in the principal Ports of their Colonies, have Intendants, Councils of Commerce, or some Curators or Inspectors of Trade: But ours is left entirely to the Governors, who are too often unexperienced in these Matters. For, I think, the Collectors, Custom-House Officers, &c. concern themselves little in the Regulation and Advancement of Commerce and the National Gain.

10thly. " That

10thly. " That our Laws and Methods of Proceeding in *maritime* Affairs be revised and reformed; and the Judges of the Admiralty Courts be responsible Men of Character and Capacity.

[Notes.] What Sort of Gentlemen I have seen, in my Time, fill this Seat of Justice, the Honour of my Country forbids me to name.—But, surely, their Power is very great, the Proceedings most expensive, and the Costs and Charges commonly observed to fall on those that are best able to pay: A vast Grievance to the Merchant, and an Encouragement to the very worst of our Sailors.

II. *As to the GOVERNMENT.*

1st. " That the Governors of these Colonies be Men of Capacity and Morals, full of Zeal for the publick Good and Honour of their Master: And, that, on their Recal Home, they be well rewarded and suitably provided for.

2dly. " That their Salaries be *fixed and certain*, neither to be *diminished* or *augmented* by the People or Assemblies.

3dly. " That their Behaviour and Conduct be strictly enquired into, after the Determination of their Commission; and that exemplary Justice be done, as by Honours and Rewards (before recommended) so, no less, by Disgrace and Punishments, according to their Demerits.

4thly. " That neither Judges, or any military Officer, but under the Degree of a Captain, be removed or displaced but by the Governor and his Council, and they to give their Reasons to his Majesty and Council for it; of which

“ the Person removed or displaced to have an
“ authentick Copy, if he shall think fit to de-
“ mand the same.

5thly. “ That
* * * * *

6thly. “ That the *religious Affairs*, in which there
“ are many Defects, be taken into Consideration ;
“ so as they may *promote*, and *not clash* with, the
“ *civil Polity* ; but that both may co-operate for
“ the *common Good*.

[Notes.] Instead of my own Remarks on what
relates to the Government of our *Sugar Colonies*,
I borrow a few Lines from a Gentleman, who
was many Years the Representative in *England* of
one of the *British North American Colonies*, because
I have Reason to speak of this Matter elsewhere :
They are in a Discourse of his, presented to One
of his late Majesty's principal Secretaries of State,
in *Defence of the Charter Governments*. He says,

“ It is a generally received Opinion, that the
“ People in the Plantations have an *Interest distinct*
“ *from that of the Crown* ; when it is supposed, at
“ the same Time, that the Interest of the Gover-
“ nors, they being the King's Representatives, is
“ *one with the Crown* ; and from these Premises it
“ is concluded, that there can't be *too much* Power
“ given to the Governors, or *too little* to the Peo-
“ ple. Whereas, with humble Submission, I con-
“ ceive this to be a very wrong Judgment ; and,
“ that the Reverse of it is true.—The only In-
“ terest of the People is to thrive and flourish in
“ their Trade, which is the true Interest of the
“ Crown and Nation, because they reap the Profit
“ of it : When, on the other hand, the View that
“ Governors generally have, is private Gain, which
“ being too often acquired by discouraging and
“ oppres-

“ oppressing Trade, is not only an Interest distinct
“ from that of the Crown, but extremely pre-
“ judicial to it.

“ The Trade of a Plantation is like a tender
“ Plant, and should be cherished with the *fondest*
“ *Care* ; but if, instead of that, it meets with the
“ *rough Hand of Oppression*, it will soon die. The
“ proper Nursery for this Plant is a free Govern-
“ ment, where the Laws are sacred, Property
“ secure, and Justice not only impartially, but ex-
“ peditiously distributed. For to what Purpose
“ shall the Merchant expose his Estate to the
“ Dangers of the Sea, the Enemy, and many
“ more Accidents, if, *after all, he can't save it at*
“ *Home from Rapine and Violence* ?

“ As this is evident ; so is it, that whatever
“ Injures the Trade of the Plantations, must in
“ Proportion affect *Great Britain*, the Source and
“ Center of their Commerce, from whence they
“ have their Manufactures ; whither they make
“ their Returns ; and where all their Superlucra-
“ tion is lodg'd. The Blow, then, may strike the
“ Colonies *first*, but it comes Home at *last*, and
“ falls *heaviest on ourselves*.

“ That Governors are apt to abuse their Power,
“ and grow rich by Oppression, Experience shews
“ us. We have seen, not many Years since,
“ some Governors seized by the injur'd People,
“ and sent Prisoners to *Whitehall*, there to answer
“ for their Offences. Others have fallen Victims
“ on the Spot, not to the Fury of a Faction, or
“ a Rabble ; but to the Resentment of the whole
“ Body of the People, rising as one Man to re-
“ venge their Wrongs. Others, after being re-
“ call'd, have been prosecuted at the *King's Bench-*
“ *Bar*, pursuant to an Act of Parliament made
“ in the Reign of the late King *William*, whereby
“ it is provided, That Governors shall be im-
“ pleadable

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pleadable at Home for any Injuries done in their Governments abroad. We have had more than one flagrant Instance of this very lately, where Governors have been convicted and censured, not so properly for oppressing, as for a direct plundering their People, and such other Acts of Mis-rule and lawless Power, as one would not have thought it possible they should have committed, if Experience had not shewn it to be more than possible.

In those Plantations, which never had any Charters, but are immediately dependent on the Crown, there Governors, in a manner, have the intire Legislative and Executive Powers, or, at least, so great an Influence on the constituent Parts of the former, as leaves them little more than nominal Sharers, serving, rather, as Screens to the Governor, than a Defence to the People. The Militia is absolutely vested in the Governors, which influences all Elections of Representatives: They appoint Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, and other Civil Officers, with the Consent, it's said, indeed, of the Council; but that such Consent voluntary or involuntary will ever be refused, seems too much to be expected.

I must farther observe, that where there are no Charters, there are Courts of Equity establish'd, in which the Governor is always Chancellor, and, for the most part, Chief Justice, and Ordinary at the same time, *which puts the Estates, Lives and Liberties of the Inhabitants, saving the Liberty of Appeal Home, intirely in his Disposal;* and even an Appeal in all Cases under a considerable Sum, in all Cases of the ordinary Jurisdiction, and in all Cases Capital, is either disallowed by his Instructions, or wholly in the Governor's Breast to allow or not.

The

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The Sum of my Argument (concludes this Gentleman) is, That the Benefit which *Great Britain* receives from her Plantations, arises from their Commerce: That Oppression is the most opposite Thing in the World to Commerce, and the most destructive Enemy it can have: That Governors have, in all Times, and in all Countries, been too much inclined to oppress: And, consequently, it cannot be the Interest of the Nation to increase their Power, and lessen the Liberties of the People.—Burnt Houses may rise again out of their Ashes, and even more beautiful than before; but 'tis to be fear'd that *LIBERTY once lost, is lost FOR EVER!*—
Herewith I end these *Notes*, leaving the Rest to be supplied by such as are experienced in these Matters, and, who, *by carefully speaking or writing useful Truths, will endeavour to deserve well of their KING and COUNTRY.*

III. *As to the Security and Defence of these Colonies.*

1st. “ That the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Duty payable in *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward* Islands, be more frugally collected and duly applied towards the Fortifications and Defence of these Islands: Or, that the same be taken away, and some *Equivalent* granted in Lieu thereof, that may be more effectual, and less burthensome.

2^{dly}. “ That Care be taken of the King's Soldiers, Militia, and Matrosies, and that poor People be encouraged and made easy.

3^{dly}. “ That the rebellious Negroes in *Jamaica* (if not to be reduced by War) be civilized and made Friends by the Arts of Peace
“ and

and mild Government, which the sooner attempted the better.

4thly. " That some Stop be put to the French Settlements on Hispaniola, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Dominico.

5thly. " That the Fortifications in all the Islands, especially in Jamaica, be forthwith repaired and enlarged: For, on one Hand, as its Situation is very advantageous, so, on the other, it is the most exposed to Danger that can be; it lying not far from the Spanish Continent, and within the very Jaws of Hispaniola and Cuba.

6thly. " That all the Islands in the West-Indies belonging to Great Britain, and particularly the Bahama's, be peopled, and a Fund to be appropriated or provided for that Purpose; but that, instead of entering on the Sugar Manufactory, they be confined, at first, to Cotton, Ginger, and other Commodities; this being the Way to strengthen us with People in the West-Indies, where, for any Expedition, one Person seasoned to the Climate, is as good as three, directly from Europe.

7thly. " That in Case of a War * * * * *
" * * * * *
" * * * * *

S I R,

The foregoing are the Heads and Substance of the Measures which I do humbly propose may be pursued for the Preservation and Advancement of the British Sugar Colonies and Trade in the West-Indies.

If I have started some Points entirely new and unthought of by others; If I fling common Talk and vulgar Opinions; if I prefer the National Good to the private Views of self-interested and

and designing Men: 'Tis not out of Affectation or Vanity; but, because, Truth, the Course of the Trade of this Kingdom, the Evils to be remedied, and the exorbitant Growth of our Neighbours in the West-INDIES do, in my Judgment, require, indispensably require, that I should do so.

These Proposals, Sir, are to be supported by Reasons taken from their Expediency, their Usefulness, their Efficacy, the successful Practice of foreign Nations in the like Cases, the present Circumstances of our Commerce and national Affairs, and the Facility wherewith they may be carried into Execution, &c.

I am, S I R,

With all Sorts of Respect,

Your most, &c.

December 30. 1736.

J. B.

F I N I S.



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