

Trincomalé is the most invaluable possession to the Crown of England, which she can retain in the East-Indies. Its central position near the southern extremity of the peninsula, protecting both coasts, overhanging Negapatam and Pondicherry, while it secures Madras, and all our establishments in the Bay of Bengal;—the excellence and security of the Bay, in which the whole navy of England may ride secure during all the fury of the Monsoon, at a time when the French must be under a necessity of returning to the islands of Mauritius——Even all the adventitious circumstances attending it—the uncommon salubrity of the air, the immense quantities of excellent fish taken in the harbour, the prodigious plenty of fowl and animal food with which the surrounding woods abound—All these local qualities conspire to render the possession of Trincomalé an object of the highest national importance. But these advantages, numerous and essential as they must be confessed, are eclipsed in the recent and inestimable benefit, derived from its being in our possession during the present war. I will venture to assert, that had Trincomalé been in the hands of France, or even