

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

are to govern yourself, whenever there shall be Occasion, according to the Commissions and Instructions granted in this Kingdom; But you are not to grant Commissions of Marque or Reprizal against any Prince or State, or their Subjects, in Amity with Us, to any Person whatsoever, without Our special Command.

70. Whereas We have been informed that, during the time of War, Our Enemies have frequently got Intelligence of the State of Our Plantations by Letters from private Persons to their Correspondents in Great Britain, taken on board Ships coming from the Plantations, which has been of dangerous Consequence; Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, that you signify to all Merchants, Planters and Others, that they be very cautious, in time of War, whenever that shall happen, in giving any Accounts by Letters of the public State and Condition of Our Province under your Government; And you are further to give Directions to all Masters of Ships, or other Persons to whom you may entrust your Letters, that they put such Letters into a Bag, with a sufficient weight to sink the same immediately in Case of imminent danger from the Enemy; And you are also to let the Merchants and Planters know, how greatly it is for their Interest that their Letters should not fall into the Hands of the Enemy, and therefore that they should give like Orders to Masters of Ships in relation to their Letters; And you are further to advise all Masters of Ships, that they do sink all Letters, in case of Danger, in the Manner before mentioned.

71. And whereas, in Time of War, the Merchants and Planters in Our Plantations in America did correspond and trade with Our Enemies, and carry Intelligence to them, to the great Prejudice and Hazard of Our said Plantations; You are therefore by all possible Methods to endeavour to hinder such Trade and Correspondence in Time of War.

72. And You are to report to Us, by Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations,—

What is the Nature of the Soil and Climate of the Province under your Government. If it differs in these Circumstances from Our other Northern Colonies, in what that Difference consists? And what beneficial Articles of Commerce the different Parts of it are capable of producing?

What Rivers there are, and of what Extent and Convenience to the Planters?

What are the principal Harbours; how situated, of what Extent; and what is the Depth of Water, and Nature of the Anchorage in each of them?

What Quantity of Land is now under actual Improvement and Settlement? What are the chief Articles of Produce and Culture; the annual amount of the Quantity of each; and upon what Terms and Conditions the Inhabitants hold their Lands, either of Cultivation, Rent, or Personal Service?