

and impartially. If any of them continue still to oppose the acquisition of the sugar islands, every man of common sense must see that it is their own private views and interest that spirits them on; thus to oppose the only probable view of aggrandizing Great-Britain, and humbling France her greatest rival, least their private fortunes in the few sugar islands we have should suffer a little diminution or abatement.

If it was not very vain to give those gentlemen any advice, I would humbly offer one; To consider seriously whether 5000*l.* a year, upon the surest and most honourable footing, is not preferable to 6000*l.* a year upon the most precarious tenure that can be imagined. I would wish them to attend to the new favourite play, *The Siege of Aquileia*, that they may see how those great Roman people behaved; young men in the bloom of youth giving themselves up a sacrifice for their country, parents giving up their children to death for that cause, children who did so much honour to the father who begot them, as well as to the mother who gave them birth. Those West-Indians may learn from the stage, if no where else, how shamefully vain their pretensions are to imitate or equal the Romans; when they would betray their country for a little precarious and imaginary gain to themselves: however, these are but a few, and I hope never will influence the many. We may be comforted from reflecting that in the present times we have many instances of Roman virtue and fortitude in our countrymen, and blest with a ministry who may be justly placed on a level with the most eminent of the Roman consuls, Cicero not excepted.

I have in the course of these letters given you my sentiments of the interests of our country in her present situation, a period the most important and interesting of any we have seen, in which the future grandeur,