

tion whereof might have happily secured this valuable island; but in the following reign it was frustrated by the agreement made between his *Britannic* Majesty and the *French* King, touching the evacuation, or neutrality, of this and the other islands. By the consequent instruction, given on the 30th of November, 1730, to Mr. *Worfeley*, captain general and governour in chief of this island, with *St. Vincent*, *Dominica* and *Tobago*, as his predecessors, governours of *Barbadoes*, had been, his Majesty declared that he had an undoubted right to it, with the islands *St. Vincent* and *Dominica*, and it would have been well for all the parties concerned, if the advisers of a conquering prince, and managers of this affair in behalf of the kingdom, had duly considered that when they gave their advice it was part of the rightful possessions of the crown of *Great Britain*, and therefore incapable of proper and rightful severance from it.

The prevailing supposal of our being great gainers by the agreement of the *French* King that we should retain and hold in full right the islands *St. Vincent* and *Dominica* is a mere political delusion. His late excellent Majesty by his royal instruction aforementioned declared he had an undoubted right to them, and they had passed by grant from the crown many years before. On the contrary his most *Christian* Majesty, in his mandate dated September 21, 1722, to the chevalier *de Fouquiere*, governour general of the islands, had declared that *St. Vincent* ought to remain to the *Caribbeans*; and by his letter to *Monf. de Champigny*, governour of *Martinique*, dated the 26th of December, 1730, he declared that *St. Vincent* and *Dominica* belonged to the *Caribbeans*, whose possession he intended to support. *Nil dat quod non habet*, and the *French* King having no right to these islands he could transfer none. As to *Tobago*, *de non apparentibus & non existentibus eadem est ratio*; and as it does not appear that the *French* had a right to it, they could give us none; wherefore upon the whole we have