

to the increase of their numbers, their wealth in proportion to their commerce, and the capacity of the national force in proportion to their wealth. The Venetians and Genoese no longer were able, by their superior naval strength, to engross the trade of Turkey and the Indies ; and the Powers colonizing, having thus rose from a state of poverty and weakness to that of opulence and strength, nearly in the same proportion, were enabled to maintain a balance among themselves, and to preserve their respective sovereignties and independence among nations.

It is impossible for a person who is acquainted with the commercial history of Europe, and will trace the progressive rise of the different societies from poverty to opulence, and from weakness to strength, not to acknowledge these truths, or not to see what must have been the fate of this island, had not the wisdom of our ancestors promoted the settlement of colonies, and acquired foreign dominions. The power of *France* and *Spain* would have been constantly growing to their present magnitude