

notion that all who bear the name of French must be natural enemies of Great Britain; the second, from views of interest and other relations, and those, so affected, though in public they can run down these inhabitants; yet, underhand, favour them, and are partial towards those by whom they find their being originally from another nation, and differing in language, manners, relation and religion, no better than in a continual state of rebellion, and are ever talking of outing them, transplanting or destroying them, without considering the circumstances this Province has lately been, and still is, in, and the fatal consequences that might have ensued from any violent measures. Your Excellency may judge there has been no little difficulty accrued from the managing these different tempers.

What seems most wanted here is proper persons to form a civil government, there being no British planter or inhabitant that can properly be so called in this Province. The French, of that denomination, as their religion will not allow of their taking the oath of supremacy, are, besides, generally of the lowest class of farmers or husbandmen, poor and unlearned, there being, as I mentioned before, not one in a hundred that can either read or write.

By all which, I hope your Excellency will have a true notion of our state and constitution, and be enabled to point out means to amend it. In which I beg leave to remind you, that the state of a commanding officer is not very advantageous, not only to himself, but even to the public service, where he has nothing wherewith to reward those who behave well, and a coercive power, clogged with many difficulties, over those who behave ill.

I am, with great esteem and respect,

Sir,

Your most humble and most obedient Servant,

MASCARENE.

