

The P R E F A C E.

preserving a very beneficial Trade we enjoy'd, in lieu of attempting one precarious in its Nature, a certain loss to its Undertakers, and ruinous to the most gainful Branches of our Trade; for should the *English* be dispossest'd of *Jamaica*, which they may soon be, if that Trade be ruin'd, however some People may believe, we shall not only lose an Island of very great Consequence to us in point of Trade, but must never afterwards expect to be formidable by our Naval Force, in that part of the World, as we have been for many Years past by means of that Island; for, as * *Dr. Davenant* has justly observ'd, 'The loss of *Jamaica* must probably be follow'd with the Ruin of our Interest in *America*.

In these Letters the Dangers arising to *Jamaica*, and other our Sugar Colonies, are shewn really to proceed from the Encrease of the *French* Power and Settlements in their Islands in *America*, especially on *Hispaniola*; and 'twere heartily to be wish'd, the Consequences thereof, to the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, were but more seriously attended to, and consider'd.

It has been long since remark'd, that the Breed of Seamen, with the Encrease and Encouragement of the Navigation of this Kingdom, does chiefly depend on our Plantation Trade, and *Newfoundland* Fishery; therefore their present State and Condition deserve the immediate Consideration of our best Patriots, for preventing the Decay, Loss, or Destruction of the Trade and Maritime Strength of *Great-Britain*.

The Merchants and Planters trading to, and residing in *Virginia* and *Maryland*, have laid their Case before the Parliament this present Sessions, wherein

* *His Discourse on Trade and publick Revenue.*

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