

and the sole motive of attacking it, (as appears by the accounts published by authority) was, the destroying the nest of privateers, which continually infested those seas, to the great annoyance, and almost destruction, of the trade of our own islands. It is surprising, that now we are in possession of it, we should so soon have forgot, in what view it was considered when in the hands of the French. If we restore this Dunkirk of America, most probably we shall repent it in another war. On the contrary, by keeping it we may not only annoy them by privateers at the beginning of a war, but in the course of it; the island may be of great utility in facilitating our enterprizes in those seas. It would have been much better for the nation this conquest had never been made, than to restore it now; for since we have had the possession of it, the planters have been the chief gainers. They have sold their sugars and other products so dear, and bought their negroes so cheap, that it is computed they have nearly doubled their fortunes. If after this we should give up the island to the French, should we not be in the situation of a jeweller, who having received a diamond in the rough; should return it beautifully polished, without requiring any consideration. The generous capitulation
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