

Court has ever succeeded better by *Negotiation*, or *Encroachment*, than by its Victories; as may be demonstrated by a fair Induction of Particulars for a long Series of Years. The former Topic I expect to see treated by some abler Hand; and shall therefore take Leave, only to present to the Publick, a short Sketch of *French Policy*, by *Encroachment in America*; a distant Scene of Operation, out of the short Sight of modern Politicians; but perhaps not less conducive to the Advancement of *French Power*, and Wealth, than any in *Europe*.

Before the Treaty of *Utrecht* was ratified, and in the very Interval between the Cessation of Arms in *Europe*, and the Time when it was to take Effect in *America*, a *French Squadron* and Armament was equiped, and dispatched privately, to invade, take, and destroy the *British Leeward Islands*, as the envied Rivals of *France* in the Sugar Trade; and first *Antigua* was the destined Sacrifice, as the principal and most important of those Islands to *Britain*, for its excellent Harbours, and Situation in the Track of Navigation to the other Leeward Islands, and to *Jamaica*. But Monsieur *Cassart*, who commanded the Expedition, failed in the Attempt, partly by the Vigilance of the Inhabitants, and partly by some lucky Accidents, and not by our naval Power; and afterwards attacking *Montserrat*, he ruined it so effectually, that it is hardly restored to its former Condition at this Day. The Plunder of that Island falling very short of the Expence of