

prevent the establishment of tenure by the sword in any part of it. *Principiis obsta* is doubtless the best maxim where the public right is violated or endanger'd; for they who have said A, if not prevented, will soon say B, and in time, themselves or their followers, will go through the whole alphabet.

By the partition of the neutral islands it hath been supposed that we gained great advantages; whereas *French* policy in this case really prevailed over our right, our interest, and our honour. *St. Lucia* was of great importance by reason of its situation relative to the other *Caribbee* islands, *English* and *French*, more especially by its vicinity to *Martinique*; and by reason of its good bays and harbours, of which the chief, called the Little Careenage, so named from its convenience for careening ships, and where great numbers may lye safe at all times, is the most commodious in all the *Caribbee* islands, and in time of war might well serve as a place of rendezvous for the Kings ships appointed to check the armaments at *Martinique*, and the ravages of our trade by the *French* cruizers. A much less advantage may be mentioned, which is that after the defeat of the duke of *Montagues* intended settlement it was computed this island might in few years by its product and commerce have yielded to *Great Britain* £200000 a year. Upon examining the claims of both nations, it appears to the author that our possession of it, when our ministers agreed to deliver it to *France*, to be held by her in full right, was accompanied with a good and fair title, according to the *European* mode of acquiring dominion and property in *America*, and, *in foro conscientiae*, by the purchase of it from the *Caribbeans*, the native and true proprietors of it.

In the year 1722, his late excellent Majesty King *George* I. granted this island, with the island of *St. Vincent*, to the late duke of *Montague*, who to his great honour proceeded directly to make a good and effectual settlement there, expending thereupon £40000 at least, the comple-