

To shew what may be saved to the Kingdom, as well as gained by its enlarged Trade to the Northern Plantations, 'tis to my Purpose to observe, that the Sugar-Colonies could not subsist without them : Most of the Materials for their Buildings and Works, as well as Provisions, Cask for Spirits, Sugars, Molasses, &c. come from thence, and that they constantly send the greatest Part of their Effects home in *New England*-built Ships, without which they would not be able to bear the Duties paid in this Kingdom, by reason of the excessive Price of Freights.

This, if rightly considered, will appear to be an Article of great Importance in regard to the *French West-Indies*. Mr. *Ashley* has very justly observed, That, ' should Plantation-built Ships be discouraged, Freight would be ' so dear, as to lose the *British* Nation one of the great- ' est Advantages over its Rivals in Trade,—a low Freight ; ' and from the great Traffick of the Kingdom, they ' must be compelled to buy Materials for building of ' Ships, of *Foreigners*, with Cash, instead of their own ' Manufactures, to the enriching of such *Foreigners*, and ' the Discouragement of our *American Colonies* : That in- ' stead of prejudicing that Branch of Business here, the ' refitting and finishing Plantation-built Ships often gives ' as much Advantage to the Shipwrights, as the building ' of new Ships. The *French* take the Benefit of our ' Plantation-built Ships to carry their Sugars to *Spain*, and ' commonly pay them in the Produce of their own Islands, ' and have, in this Instance, a very great Advantage of ' us, " That the saving a Shilling or Eighteen-pence on- ' ly *per* Hundred in the Article of Freight, would go ' near to enable us to under-sell them at foreign Markets, ' if the Ships employed in the Sugar Trade were indulg- ' ed with the same Privileges, as those which are com- ' monly called *Act Ships*. That the flourishing State of ' the *British* Commerce, and the Revenues arising there- ' from, are, in no small Degree, owing to a low Freight, ' occasioned chiefly from our building Ships so cheap in our ' *American Plantations*. That since the *French* struggle ' so