

In the Settlement of our old Colonies, proper Cautions were not taken to prevent the *Monopoly* of large Tracts of Land, which are still engrossed by a few rich People of *Jamaica*, as well as in the Provinces of *Virginia*, *New-York*, *Carolina*, *New-England*, &c. This is the only Cause why that Island is not well peopled at this Day. The Northern Colonies above mentioned are under the like Disadvantage, for the same Reason ; particularly towards the Boundaries most remote from the Sea. Those Lands which are thus reserved by monopolizing Grantees, or their Successors, for the Profit of a future Sale, cannot be purchased by poor Settlers at an exorbitant Price, who would gladly cultivate them, if they might do so upon reasonable Terms : And thus, for want of Occupants the *French* have made, and are still making, Encroachments upon the Back of all those Colonies.

For this growing Evil there are but two Remedies practicable ; consistently with Justice, and the Constitution of a free Government. The first and most obvious is, by laying an high Tax upon every uncultivated Acre of Land, by the Legislature of each Colony. Such a Tax may contribute to the Support of Government, instead of other heavy Imposts upon