

fit for sugar, as all the other islands put together almost; besides the vast quantities of *indigo*, and other commodities that come from it. By this island alone, which the French have settled since the treaty of Utrecht, they have gained a greater trade perhaps, than all they had before that treaty; by which they are now able to vye with us so much in trade and commerce every where, and to do so much mischief.

Notwithstanding this, the French still endeavour to enlarge their dominions in the Islands; have seized the island of *St. Lucia*, and lay claim to all the other neutral islands, *St. Vincent*, *Dominica*, and *Tobago*; and will no doubt take the first opportunity to secure them, if they have not in a great measure already, by means of that strong fortress they have on the island of *St. Lucia*, that is reckoned to be one of the most impregnable of any in America, from which they are always ready to march out, and make a conquest of all the islands round it.

All this power and vast trade, the French have gained chiefly by means of the island of *Hispaniola* (*St. Domingo* they call it for a blind) the largest, most convenient, and most fruitful of all the sugar-islands; which they seized entirely by fraud and artifice, and hold it only from usurpation. The English were formerly

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