

made frequent mention, and who has clearly given it this interpretation, has himself furnished an answer; for he repeatedly affirms, that the French islands can supply, not only the American consumption, but that of all Europe besides, on far cheaper terms than our own. Does the noble Lord suppose, that America will buy *dearer*, with a view to sell *cheaper*, than the French? Their past conduct has afforded no proofs of such egregious folly. I must observe too, that our islands have already permission (by 12 Geo. II.) to send sugars to the southward of Cape Finistere; yet, during a residence of 15 years in the West Indies, I never heard but of two vessels that tried the experiment, and the owners had no encouragement to repeat it. If the objection signifies, what I believe it was meant to signify by some who urged it in the House of Commons in the debate of Mr. Pitt's provisional bill, namely, *That American ships, having discharged their cargoes in our West India islands, will enter into a Competition with British vessels loading there, for freights to Great Britain*; it is, I confess, a matter deserving consideration; but Great Britain surely may administer a *preventive* less dangerous in its effects than the project of starving her sugar colonies, by interdicting all intercourse whatever between them and the United States. The disease, in this case, is, indeed, by far the lesser evil.

-I hope