

Trade, which was almost the only object of Export during that period from the Province. The French Government seems to have been totally unacquainted with the Mercantile Resources of the Country and to have esteemed the possession of it merely as being favourable to their Views in distressing the neighbouring British Colonies; the Inhabitants were miserably poor, and the Province was a dead weight on that Kingdom. But, Sir, the Province has greatly changed since it was ceded to Great Britain at the Peace of 1763, the Commercial Spirit and Genius of those Britons who have resorted to, and settled in that Country, have by promoting Industry and Cultivation discovered to the World the value of that Province; and though the Efforts of a few Individuals have not been sufficient to counteract all the pernicious consequences of an arbitrary System of Government, and an uncertain Administration of Law, yet they have produced a wonderful change on the Face of that Country, the Towns and Villages are greatly increased; the number of the People is nearly tripled; there is a double quantity of Land cultivated; the Farmers are more comfortably lodged; and a great number of Ships are annually loaded with a variety of Articles the produce of the Province: If such amazing progress has been made in the period of 25 Years, not only without any Assistance from Government by Bounties or Encouragements, but while the Province was labouring under Oppression, and the people scarcely assured of enjoying the Fruits of their Industry, what may not be expected from the Country if encouraged by a Generous System of Government, and assisted by the fostering hand of Great Britain? When, in consequence of the People being enlightened by Education and Science the effects of ancient and narrow Prejudices are destroyed, and the Farmers have been induced to change their present wretched System of Agriculture, I have no doubt, Sir, but the Province will be considered as a valuable Appendage in the line of Trade; and instead of exhibiting a weak Government and impoverished Country, it will acquire that degree of respectability which its situation, soil, and numbers ought to command.

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