

cannot be of less value than 600,000 pounds sterling. If to this we add the exports of the two considerable ports of Leogane and Petit Guaves, and the other inferior ones, which certainly do not send out less than the capital; on this low estimation, we find the exported produce of this island to be worth 1,200,000l. annually; which, great as it is, is certainly under-rated. But there is another branch of their trade, if possible more advantageous to the mother country, the contraband which they carry on with the Spaniards wholly in the manufactures of France, and for which they receive their returns in silver. The above-mentioned author from the most authentic information tells us, that this trade returns annually to France no less than two millions of dollars. This progress of the French colonies, and their flourishing state, after a war in which they suffered greatly, I have displayed, in order to explode a notion which prevails with many; that, by distressing the French in time of war, it is in our power entirely to destroy their commerce; but this notion, if it should prevail generally, may mislead us greatly to our disadvantage.

Nations like France and England, full of people of spirit and of industry, easily recover all the losses of war. The trade of France was in a deplorable condition at the treaty of Utrecht. She had not then five hundred vessels of all
sorts