phers, St. Bartholomew's, and St. Martin's, were ſettled, and began to flouriſh, and that with very little help from home. A plain proof that almoſt every thing depends, in affairs of this nature, on chuſing proper men to command, and giving them a proper authority.

Theſe iſlands, however, were unhappily under the ſuperintendance of an excluſive company, which, in ſpite of all that could otherwiſe be done, eſpecially after the death of Richlieu, ſo neglected, or miſmanaged their affairs, that they were obliged to ſell a part of the ſettlements; and they left the reſt hardly worth purchaſing. But the government at length bought up the iſlands which they had alienated, and reſcued the others out of their hands. The trade under proper regulations was laid open, yet protected under the wings of their great India company. Theſe regulations took place about 1680, and the benefits of this arrangement were great, and ſoon apparent. Excluſive companies may probably be uſeful to nouriſh an infant trade. They may be uſeful too for a very diſtant one, where the market is to be nicely managed, and where it is under the dominion of foreign and barbarous princes. But where the trade is between different parts of the dominions of the ſame prince, under the protection of his laws, carried on by his own ſubjects, and