

into so strong a *Prejudice* in favour of the Conquest, as we have experienced.

But tho' the Conquest of *Cape-Breton* may have answered the Purpose of the Ministry at that time, I could not help looking on them as very bad *Englishmen*, should they postpone so desirable and necessary a Work as Peace for the Sake of indulging to a sickly *Prejudice* they themselves had industriously created, to serve private Ends; should they, I say, affect to detain that useless, expensive Island, to the Obstruction of Peace in our present Situation, I should look on them as the least discerning and unfaithfullest Servants the Publick ever had in these Nations.

For, I assure myself, they are by this Time highly sensible, as I doubt not you are, and every other intelligent Adventurer in the Kingdom, that the Benefits arising from our Possession of that Island for fifty Years to come, would not compensate for the Expence of maintaining it for a single Year. The Soil produces nothing, or next to nothing; the Climate is so excessively bad and unwholesome, that not many survive a very few Months Residence there; and the Nature of the Stone is such as well as that of the Air, that the present Fortifications