

the *British Colonies* on the *Main Land* of *America*, and both from them and our *West India Islands* to *Europe*; rendered the Place of such vast Importance—that I remember while in *England*, when we came to know the *Tory Ministry* had by the *Treaty of Utrecht*, in 1713, resign'd it to the *French*; all true-hearted *Britons* who knew the Circumstance of the *Island*, most grievously lamented the Resignation, as full of teeming Mischief to the *British Trade*, *Wealth* and *Power*, and as one of the most fatal Acts of that unhappy Ministry.

And the *mischievous Consequence* has since every Year been a growing Confirmation of their judicious Prospects. (For the *French* well knowing the vast Advantage of their Acquisition, (have built a walled City) on the most convenient Port both for Trade and Fortification;) — for these *Thirty Years* been adding to its natural and artificial Strength (and by immense Sums and the utmost Art and Diligence, made it one of the strongest *Fortresses* in *America*, if not in *Europe*.) Such as was not like to be taken without a very powerful, skilful and resolute Army both by Sea and Land, or being starved to a Surrender. In short, it was the *Dunkirk* of *North America*, and in some Respects of greater Importance.

For, by Means of this *Island* and *Fortification*, the *French* have every Year enlarged their *Fishery*; and thereby their *Trade*, *Wealth* and *Shipping*: And by fishing cheaper than we, they have more and more commanded the Trade of *Spain*, *Portugal* and *Italy*; drawn away their Gold and Silver; and greatly diminish'd our Trade and Fishery, a principal Source both of the *British Wealth* and naval Power.

So pernicious a Settlement was this—that for above these *Twenty Years*, it has seem'd to me, 'twere worth the while to engage in a *War* with *France*, if 'twere for nothing else but to recover this most important *Island* to the *British Empire*. Tho' a War was dreadful, the Necessity and Hazard seem'd every Year to increase: The longer 'twas defer'd, the more powerful and dangerous they grew, and the less our Hope of their ever being reduced.

Yea, from the Consideration of such a *strong Defence*, the Advantage of *Woods*, *Sea-Coal*, *Fishery*, and *Free-Gift Land* in this and the neighbouring Islands, the Settlement of *Thousands* of People on them already, and the innumerable Poor in the *Sea-Coast Towns* of *France*, ever swarming and coming over to them; it seems highly probable, that if the *Peace* continued much longer, there would be