

AN ESSAY UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ENGLISH PLANTATIONS, ON THE CONTINENT OF AMERICA.



HAVING in course of a hunt through the parliamentary library at Ottawa, come across an old manuscript volume bearing the above title, we have ventured to make a few extracts from it. It is written in a fine bold hand, by whom, it is not known, save from the following marginal note in another handwriting "Supposed to be writt by Mr. Blaire, a minister in Virginia, March 10th., 1639, or by B. Hamson, Junior." It is interesting as having been written by a native of Virginia, as the following paragraph clearly shows :

" It may be objected that I being an inhabitant of the Plantations, may probably be too much byassed to their interest, and therefore am not to be relyed on."

From the part relating to the circulation which we here produced in full, we find our essayist strongly objecting, (something unusual for a colonial politician of those times), to raising the standard of the colonial currency ; which arguments, while in the right direction, still hold to the falacy, then believed by colonists in general, that raising the standard ment in some way raising the value of money, and by that means drawing it too and retaining it in the colony.

" As of late many controversies have arisen in the English Nation, as 'tis observable, that the two great topicks of trade and plantations have had their parts in the dispute ; and indeed it must be confessed, that considering the present circumstances of the world they are of the greatest importance to all nations, but more especially the English. * * *

The design of these papers is not to treat of the trade, but the government of the plantations, not how to make them great and rich by an open free traffic, but happy by a just and equall government, that they may enjoy their ob-