

the same plantation, with the same number of negroes, they could raise a crop of wheat, in addition to the usual crop of tobacco. And the West Indians ought to adopt the principle and profit from the result of this discovery; which alone consists, in making the best use of their advantages. Without the law of Jamaica the other islands had been driven by necessity to adopt the practice, of raising on their own fields much ground provisions. And this policy is so useful to the master and agreeable to the slave, that it ought to be extended and enforced by the West India Legislatures: This rural œconomy is useful to the master, because money saved is money gained, which depends on no contingencies: It is pleasant to the slave, because, while he labours his own field, and tends his own plantains, potatoes and yams, he thinks he is free. Why then should the West Indians resist a measure, which promises profit to themselves and happiness to others?

Yet, the West India merchants and planters represented to the King's Ministers in April 1783: "That in several of his Majesty's Sugar Colonies there are still great tracts of uncultivated lands, of which although a considerable part would undoubtedly under adequate encouragement be settled with sugar works, yet there will remain considerable quantities, which from soil or situation are unfit for the culture of sugar, though very fit for that of indigo, coffee, cocoa and tobacco, if proper encouragement were given thereto." And the encouragement