

frail and precarious tenure—namely, the permission of America, and the generosity of France. But, in return, have we not restored to her an island, which, in a military point of view, is above all price, and beyond all calculation? Is there a man, however uninformed, who does not know that St. Lucia is the key to the whole chain of the Carribbee Islands? Its natural strength, its windward position, its artificial force, nay, the very circumstances of its capture, have rendered it as dear to the pride as to the policy of the English nation. The unwholesome nature of the climate, which after its first conquest was found to be highly pernicious to the troops, is not to be adduced as a reason or a justification for restoring it to France. That circumstance no longer exists. The late hurricane in the West Indies, while it spread desolation round, operated as a most salubrious restorative to the Island of St. Lucia, by clearing the woods; and superadded to this, the exertions and labours of the experienced officer who has commanded there for these last two years, have so ameliorated the air of the Morne Fortunée and its vicinity, as to render it one of the most