

‘ That He did reject and frustrate a Proposal and Undertaking approved by His Majesty, for the Preservation of Nevis and St. Christophers, and the Reducing the French Plantations to His Majesty’s Obedience, after the Commissions were drawn for that Purpose, which were the Occasion of our great Damage and Loss in those Parts.’

I do not bring this forward by way of Reflection on the Memory of that great tho’ unhappy Nobleman, who was very unjustly used in many Respects thro’ the Artifice of his Enemies; but only to shew, that our Ancestors were early apprised of the *French* Encroachments. However, from what followed it appears pretty plain, that this was rather introduced in order to foment the popular Prejudice against the Earl, than any Design of Service to the Nation. — As to his Character, take it from his Son, Mr. *Lawrence Hyde*, who said in the *House of Commons* some Years after, *That, for his Comfort, he had heard he was a good Protestant, a good Chancellor; and that we had had worse Ministers since.* — But to suppose this Nobleman altogether faultless, were to place him beyond the Level of frail Mortality; for it must be allowed for an uncontested Truth, that he carried himself in his Station with somewhat a greater Reserve and Haughtiness than became him or was useful to him, seeing it created him many Enemies; there being nothing on Earth so disagreeable to