

It has been the Policy of the different Nations of Europe, with regard to their Colonies, to secure to themselves respectively the most important of their Productions, and retain exclusively the great Advantage of supplying them with European Produce and Manufactures; Commercial Monopoly is therefore the leading Principle of Colonial Intercourse.

The British Colonies in the West Indies (in so many respects dissimilar in Nature and Situation from those in North America) are of great Value and Importance, for their Cultivation is devoted to Objects which the Mother Country cannot produce, and yet cannot do without; and which, from their extensive Consumption, afford the surest Means of balancing her Foreign Trade.

They answer in every point of view all the Purposes and Expectations for which Colonies have at any Time been established. Their Productions are not only sufficient for the Consumption of the Mother Country, but afford the Means of a large Export to Foreign Markets, of many valuable and most necessary Commodities, none of which interfere in any respect with her own Productions, and most of which she cannot obtain on equal Terms elsewhere; and, as many of these Commodities yield a Profit so much beyond what can be obtained from the Cultivation of Grain, it is true Economy in the Planter to buy Provisions from others rather than raise them by his own Labour. The Trade of the West Indies, therefore, supports and increases British Commerce and Navigation in Time of Peace, and very eminently tends to invigorate her Operations in War.

A Series of Regulations, Restrictions, and Prohibitions have therefore been devised, to secure to Great-Britain the exclusive Trade of her Colonies; no Goods are to be imported or exported in Foreign Shipping; no Commodity whatever, the Growth or Production of Europe, is allowed to be imported into the Colonies, unless laden in the Mother Country, except certain Articles and Implements for the Fisheries, and Wine from the Madeiras or Azores. Before the lading Sugar, Coffee, and many Articles of Colonial Production, Security must be given to convey them to some other British Colony, or to the United Kingdom. These latter Articles being enumerated in the Navigation Acts, have, for that reason, been called "*Enumerated*:" Other Articles, not included in the Enumeration, may be exported directly to any Countries of Europe, not being to the Northward of Cape Finisterre.

Amongst other Regulations for securing the due Execution of the Navigation Acts, a Duty was imposed upon the principal Enumerated Commodities, when
not