

John Adams Library.



IN THE CUSTODY OF THE
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.



SHELF N^o

Adams

243.4

John Adams

*7
Lahad*

A

SHORT HISTORY
OF
BARBADOS,

FROM ITS

First Discovery and Settlement,

TO THE

End of the YEAR 1767.

By Samuel Freere of Barbados.

LONDON:

Printed for J. DODSLEY, in Pall-Mall.

MDCCCLXVIII.

J

ADAMS 243.4

Dupl. *4296.64

P R E F A C E

THE Author of the follow-
ing treatise hath endeavoured
to present the reader with
some new and useful
concepts in the study of
logic. He trusts that
it will be found
of some service
to the student
of the liberal
arts.

P R E F A C E.

THE Author of the following sheets hath endeavoured faithfully and impartially to relate the events that concern the antient colony of Barbados. His motive to this attempt was in some degree a gratification of his amusement, by filling up some leisure hours, in a manner

not totally useleſs to himſelf or the public ; but principally to ſhew, that Barbados hath always preſerved a uniform and ſteady attachment to Great Britain, and therefore is intitled to the affection and indulgence of the mother country. All people naturally wiſh to receive ſome account of their native country ; of its conſtitution, and its progreſs to power and opulence. If then this ſhort performance meets the approbation, or adds to the amuſement, or gratifies the curioſity of the natives of that iſland, the Author will think the
time

time he has employed in this composition not mispent.

Some one, with equal leisure and greater abilities, may improve and make more perfect this work. Indeed it is strange, that not any historical account hath ever appeared of an island of so much consequence to the mother country as Barbados is, whose loyalty has often been experienced; whose assistance never was denied; and whose acquiescence to the authority of Great Britain * a late re-

* Stamp Act.

markable instance hath fully exemplified. An island too, to which belongs a merit peculiar to itself; that it has not for threescore years past cost one shilling of expence to Great Britain, except a few pieces of cannon that were granted upon application many years ago: what salaries are paid by the crown to its officers are all provided by the four and half *per cent.* duty.

The distance of time and place, and the difficulty of gathering materials, will, it is hoped, excuse any misrepresentations, or other errors that

that may appear in this work. The Author's acquaintance with many of the circumstances he relates, authentic matters of record, and the assistance of some old writers, as well as some of modern date, have enabled him to throw together the following anecdotes. He hath been particularly attentive to the relation of facts. Truth ought to be the foundation upon which every scribbling builder should erect his fabric; notwithstanding the pleasant remark of an ingenious * author, whose works

* Jenyns's Origin of Evil.

the actions of mankind give too great sanction to. " Truth," says he, " by her native beauty is sure
 " to charm ; yet from her repug-
 " nancy to most men's interests,
 " she is seldom welcome ; politi-
 " cians are afraid of her, parties
 " detest her, and all professions
 " agree, that she is very dangerous
 " if suffered to go about in
 " public."

A SHORT

A S H O R T

History of Barbados.

Of its Situation, Settlement, and
Government.

BARBADOS, the most considerable and most windward of the Caribbee islands, extends from latitude 13 to 13. 20 N. and from longitude 58. 50 to 59. 3 W. from London. Its situation gives it many advantages over the other Caribbees; particularly that of its being the first port where provision ships and others usually stop. It is strange that the English in general

B

are

are so much in the dark as they are, with regard to their original possession of that valuable island: nor can it be otherwise accounted for, than by the first colonists being so much immersed in commercial pursuits, that they gave very little attention to matters of mere curiosity. Even the origin of its name is doubtful; some attributing it to a tree, whose distant appearance resembles a human beard. Others, perhaps with more probability, think, that it was first called Los Barbados by the Portuguese, from the barbarous uncultivated prospect it afforded.

When the English first discovered Barbados, is not with certainty ascertained; but from the most probable
accounts

accounts we are led to conclude, it must have been between the years 1615 and 1624. When the great fire happened in Bridge-Town in 1668, when many records were destroyed, some papers were preserved, which were afterwards printed : by these it appeared, that an English ship called the Olive, homeward bound from Guinea, touched there, and landed some men, who set up a cross in or near St. James's Town, and marked on a tree, " James king
 " of England and this island." Afterwards, about the year 1624, it is clear, from many authentic accounts, that a ship belonging to Sir William Courteen (one of the most considerable merchants then in London) stopt at this island. About thirty of the crew landed, and

made a settlement on the westward part of the island ; although they found the country entirely uninhabited, and overgrown with thick woods.

They chose William Deane their leader, and erected the British colours upon the infant fortifications. At the return of this ship to England, the favourable report made of that island, induced Sir William Courteen and his friends to fit out two ships, with all kinds of necessaries for planting and fortifying this new acquired island ; but his design was no sooner known, than Hay earl of Carlisle applied for and obtained a gift from the crown of all the Caribbee islands. This, however, did not prevent Courteen's ships from
failing ;

failing ; for the earl of Carlisle happened at that time to be abroad upon an embassy : and Courteen availing himself of the earl's absence, prevailed on his friend and patron, the earl of Pembroke, to obtain from Charles I. a grant of this island, in trust, for Courteen.

When the earl of Carlisle returned from his embassy, he was surprized to hear of the settlement that had been made upon an island that was within his prior grant, and resolved to defeat it : to this end, he made an agreement with five or six merchants of London for ten thousand acres in the nature of a lease, to be settled under the direction of a person of their own chusing : the choice fell upon Charles Woolferstone,

who went to Barbados with sixty-four persons, to whom the ten thousand acres had been granted. Woolferstone, soon after his arrival, emitted a proclamation, in which he treated the Pembroke settlement as an usurpation, and summoned those settlers to appear at the Bridge-Town: they obeyed; and being few in number, submitted to Carlisle's authority.—The earl of Carlisle now applied to the throne to redress his grievances; complaining of the wrongs done him by Sir William Courteen.—The king hereupon annulled the grant to the earl of Pembroke; and gave to the earl of Carlisle a second patent, dated in April 1629, confirming the former, and explaining all doubts that had arisen thereto.

In

In 1629 the earl of Carlisle sent out colonel Henry Hawley governor of Barbados; and though there were then but few inhabitants in the country, yet from this period to the government of Mr. Bell in 1641 (when the civil war drove great numbers of people from England thither) we find the island to have been continually in a state of mutiny and internal dissensions; owing to the arbitrary and violent disposition of Mr. Hawley, who was, at last, sent a prisoner to England, and his possessions seized by Henry Hunkes for treasonable practices.

The earl of Carlisle confirmed and approved the conduct of Hunkes, who assumed the command of this little

colony until the year 1641, when the earl appointed Philip Bell lieutenant-governor of Barbados.

During the government of Mr. Bell, Barbados was settled, and a constitutional system established. Laws were framed for the security of property, and punishment of vice. Then it was that the calamities of England served to people Barbados. Then it was that this infant colony afforded a safe retreat to the inhabitants of her mother country, where many families, antient and opulent, having expended their patrimony in support of monarchy, or having been plundered of their wealth by usurpers, sought in this distant isle the re-establishment of that fortune they had
been

been robbed of, and the enjoyment of that peace they had been denied in their native land.—Thus was Barbados peopled and settled. * An old author, treating of this island, tells us, that Barbados was soonest peopled of all our colonies, and was settled by gentlemen of good families and moderate fortunes.

To prove this assertion, we could here mention many of the first settlers, who were tempted to migrate hither, and make this colony their asylum; whose ancestors were seated with a comfortable affluence in different parts of England, and particularly in the counties of Cornwall, Devonshire, Stafford, Worcester, Hereford, Essex, Suf-

* See vol. 2. of the British empire in America.

folk, Kent: but mankind are all of a race equally antient; and the business of history is not to follow whimsical genealogists, but to present objects, and relate facts, worthy to employ the attention of reasonable beings.

During this period the inhabitants increased so fast, that it was computed that in 1650 there were twenty thousand white men; and that the island could then muster ten thousand foot and one thousand horse for its defence. Governor Bell now thought of making proper regulations for the government of an island become so populous and important. He, by the advice of a council of his own appointing,

consisting

consisting of ten gentlemen, formed an assembly to represent the people. The island was divided into four circuits and eleven parishes.—The great increase of white men upon the island, occasioned a proportionable increase of blacks to cultivate the land : this colony therefore was obliged, like the French and Spaniards, to import from Africa large numbers of negroes. This was at that time a dangerous, because a new expedient. These negroes in a short time beheld themselves more numerous ; and therefore they thought themselves more powerful than their masters. Not being, as they afterwards were, and now are, habituated to the intercourse of Europeans, they soon entered into
con-

conspiracies : and so far were they hurried by a general spirit of discontent, that they even fixed upon a day for an universal rising ; but the day before the massacre was to have taken place, one of the party discovered the plot to his master Mr. Hotherfall, who, by sending immediate notice to the inhabitants, prevented the execution of the conspiracy, and brought the offenders to justice.

It is probable, that the multiplicity of business of the British government about this period prevented that attention to the affairs of Barbados, which ought to have been given to an infant colony. Mr. Bell continued to act under the proprietary commission, until

Francis

Francis lord Willoughby not only obtained from Charles II. during his exile, a commission to be governor of Barbados, but also covenanted with the earl of Carlisle for a term of years, upon a certain consideration in the nature of a fee-farm rent, to be the proprietary governor likewise. In 1650 Francis lord Willoughby arrived at Barbados. He found the country flourishing and populous, and the generality of the inhabitants well affected to the royal cause. One of the first steps of his administration was to summon an assembly, which passed an act, intituled, “ An acknowledgment and declaration
 “ of the inhabitants of Barbados of
 “ his majesty’s right to the dominion
 “ of this island, and the right of the
 “ earl ’

“ earl of Carlisle derived from his said
 “ majesty ; and also for the unanimous
 “ profession of the true religion in this
 “ island, and imposing condign punish-
 “ ment on the opposers thereof.” The
 governor also, assisted by the island,
 acted with great spirit and success in
 fitting out ships, and raising men to
 reduce the neighbouring islands under
 his government to acknowledge the
 royal authority.

In the mean time it was notified
 to the governor, that prince Rupert,
 who commanded the royal fleet, in-
 tended to sail to Barbados, and to secure
 all the English American possessions for
 the king. But this scheme being dis-
 covered in England, a powerful squa-
 dron

dron was equipt under the command
 of Sir George Afcue, whose intention
 was to intercept prince Rupert, and
 to reduce Barbados, and the other
 iflands in the West-Indies, to the obe-
 dience of the Commonwealth. The
 16th of October 1651, Sir George
 appeared off Bridge-Town, and feized
 a few fhips that were in Carlifle-bay.
 Sir George found the fervice he was
 fent upon more difficult than he ima-
 gined. Lord Willoughby and the na-
 tives appeared determined to defend the
 ifland to the laft extremity; and indeed
 the defence made upon this occafion is
 not to be wondered at; for, exclusive
 of the principle upon which that par-
 ticular fet of men acted, we fhall find
 in general, that the inhabitants of diftant
 colonies

colonies will more readily submit to the government of one than many. The forts in Carlisle-bay protected that harbour so effectually, and so formidable a body of men assembled on the shore, that although Sir George had on board two thousand land forces, he could not effect his landing ; but his squadron was kept beating about the island till December, when he anchored in Speight's bay ; where (perceiving that his force was actually too small to reduce the island) he waited till the arrival of the Virginia merchant fleet, on board of which was a regiment of seven hundred men, and about one hundred and fifty Scotch transports : resolving to avail himself of this reinforcement, he immediately made dispositions for landing
all

all his men. The landing was effected, and Afcue's forces gained the fort at Speight's bay with four pieces of cannon; but they sustained great loss in the attack. Lord Willoughby kept the field; and though there was not any great probability of his effectually serving the cause he espoused, yet Afcue could make no impression upon his troops. At length Sir George Afcue offered to the inhabitants terms of peace that were mild and moderate. The planters, wearied out by the fatigue of the war, distressed too by the ruin of their estates, whose cultivation they were not allowed to attend to, and allured by the prospect of peace, listened to the terms that were offered. A negotiation ensued. Many of the most

considerable men of the island immediately declared for a peace. Lord Willoughby, thus apprized of the sentiments of his friends, was obliged to agree to a cessation of arms. Each party appointed four commissioners, who, upon the 17th of January, agreed on articles of peace, alike comprehensive and honourable: both parties were secured in their freedom and property; as was lord Willoughby also, though he was obnoxious in the last degree to the governing party in England. This moderation was of infinite service to Barbados; nor was the pacification followed by any acrimonious measures against the loyalists. Lord Willoughby immediately embarked for Europe, and we hear no more of him till after the Restoration.

Mr. Searle was now appointed governor of Barbados, and continued so until the death of Cromwell; when the Committee of Safety (as it was called) assumed the direction of national affairs, and gave the government of that island to colonel Modiford.

About this time the act of navigation took place in England; this, with the duties soon afterwards laid upon the manufactures of this country, reduced much its wealth. At this period too the population of Barbados began in some measure to decrease, by the conquest of Jamaica, and the cultivation of other islands in America. Just before this, Barbados was so well inhabited, that in the expedition under Penn

and Venables against Hispaniola, the Barbadians alone furnished three thousand five hundred soldiers; little foreseeing, that the casual conquest of Jamaica would prove so prejudicial to them, as it afterwards did.

Charles II. being restored, and Hay earl of Kinnoul becoming heir to the Carlisle estate, the king proposed to give him one thousand pounds *per annum* for the surrender to the crown of the late earl of Carlisle's patent for the Caribbee islands. Kinnoul accepted the offer; and thus the proprietary government was dissolved, and Barbados reverted to the crown.

The king, willing to reward lord Willoughby for his former conduct,

con-

confirmed to him the government of Barbados by a new commission, appointing him captain-general and governor in chief of this and the rest of the Caribbee islands for seven years, with a salary of twelve hundred pounds *per annum*. In this commission was inserted a new clause, giving to the king a power to approve or disallow of all laws that should pass in that island. But the advantages Barbados was to reap from the dissolution of the proprietary government she was like to pay dear for. The planters were now told, that his majesty expected the legislature would grant him a proper consideration for the benefits they were to enjoy under a royal government. It was urged too, that the earl of Carlisle had

died much in debt, and that his debts, together with the thousand pounds annuity granted to his heir, must be satisfied out of his patent. The demand was accordingly made. The Barbadians, not unmindful of their interest, appointed agents in England to remonstrate against this demand: but, alas! the agents were informed, that it was expected that Barbados would grant to the crown four and an half per cent. on the dead commodities of the produce of the island. The agents replied, that this would amount to a tax of ten *per cent.* of the clear profits of the planters estates, and that it was a burden the country could not bear. The measure, however, had been resolved upon, and the king, as well as the dependents

pendents of his court, was so greatly interested in its success, that lord Willoughby agreed to carry it into execution, by going over himself to Barbados. But his lordship not going immediately, this affair slept for a short time; and the administration of affairs was left with Humphrey Walrond, esq. — This gentleman discharged his duty with great integrity and prudence: many useful and beneficial acts were passed by the legislature during his administration; the good effects of which are yet felt and acknowledged.

In 1663 Francis lord Willoughby arrived again at Barbados. He found the inhabitants of all degrees extremely out of humour with the tax that had

been proposed. The royalists thought it an ungrateful return for their sufferings, and the others opposed it of course.

This opposition gave the governor great disquiet. He called an assembly four months after his arrival; and though the spirit of the people ran high against the proposed tax, yet the assembly were prevailed with to comply; confirming to themselves, by this purchase, the great charter of British subjects: however, they hoped, and intended that several public charges of the country should likewise be defrayed by this tax: induced chiefly by this consideration, they passed an act with the following preamble. “ As nothing conduceth
 “ more to the peace and prosperity of
 “ any place, and the protection of every
 “ single

ta!
ve!

“ single person therein, than that the
 “ public revenue thereof may be in
 “ some measure proportioned to the
 “ public charges and expences; and
 “ also well weighing the great charges
 “ that there must be, of necessity, in
 “ maintaining the honour and dignity
 “ of his majesty’s authority here, the
 “ public meeting of the sessions, the
 “ often attendance of the council, the
 “ reparation of the forts, the building
 “ a sessions-house and a prison, and all
 “ other charges incumbent on the go-
 “ vernment; we do, in consideration
 “ thereof, give and grant unto his ma-
 “ jesty, his heirs and successors for ever,
 “ that is to say, upon all dead com-
 “ modities of the growth of this island,
 “ that shall be shipped off the same,”
 &c.

&c. &c. From hence it appears, that this tax (of the annual value of more than twenty thousand pounds to the crown) was granted and intended to be applied to the payment of all public charges for the support of the government of this island. If then the public charges and expences, set forth in the above preamble, have been answered by this impost, then the Barbadians have no reason to complain: but if, on the contrary, these articles have not been complied with, surely the intent of this act hath not been answered, and the inhabitants have reason to be displeas'd with it. So ardent an opposition was made to the passing of this act, that lord Willoughby was apprehensive of a general revolt. He ordered

Mr.

Mr. Farmer, a man of consequence in the opposition, to be arrested, and sent over prisoner to England, with a charge against him of mutiny, sedition, and treason: when Farmer arrived in England, he was brought before the king and council, where he pleaded with a freedom which the temper of that court could not bear, and which lord Clarendon called insolent, and deserving imprisonment. Farmer urged the rights of an Englishman, and that he had done nothing, but in a loyal, constitutional manner. His plea became his demerit, and he was sent to prison chiefly through the influence of Clarendon: nor did he recover his liberty till after a long tedious confinement. The frailties of mankind are visible in the wisest men:

able

able as lord Clarendon was, his conduct towards Farmer must be acknowledged severe. Thus was Mr. Farmer rewarded for his patriotism. From whence we may inforce this observation, that men are to take their lots in governments as in climates, to fence against the inconveniencies of both, and to bear what they cannot alter : for vain indeed will it be, to look for perfect governments in a world governed by such imperfect creatures as men.

The attention of the Barbadians was now called to the defence of their island. De Ruyter, the Dutch admiral, appeared off Barbados in 1664, with a design to make a descent upon that
island,

island, and did actually attack some of the forts in Carlisle bay ; but he was so warmly received, and the Barbadians having drawn out their militia, made so good an appearance on the beach, that the Dutch squadron soon retired. Two years afterwards lord Willoughby undertook an expedition against the Dutch settlements to the southward : he appointed Henry Willoughby and Henry Hawley, esqrs. to be deputy-governors in his absence.—His lordship during this expedition perished by shipwreck. The new governors during their administration executed a very useful design. Their intentions were to reduce and ascertain the laws of the island, which stood much in need of a
proper

proper arrangement *. An act accordingly passed, which appointed commissioners to collect and amend what laws were in force ; and these having received the royal assent, continue among the standing laws of the island to this day.

The death of Francis lord Willoughby being known in England, the king appointed his brother William lord Willoughby to succeed him in the government of Barbados. This governor brought with him from England a regiment of soldiers under the command of Sir Tobias Bridge ; but we do not

* The laws of Barbados are now become so voluminous, that a proper reduction and arrangement of them would be very useful to that island.

find how they were destined, or what use they were of to the country. In this administration many regulations were made in regard to the law courts of the island, and its internal police : an useful act passed also, declaring negro slaves to be real estate.

William lord Willoughby died in 1674, and his place as governor was the same year supplied from England by Sir Jonathan Atkins. Thus ended the government of these two lords.

Notwithstanding the just complaints against the duty of four and an half *per cent.* and the harsh proceedings against Farmer, it must be confessed, that the administrations of those two
 lords

lords were prudent, and well calculated for the prosperity of a young colony. After the Restoration, the humour of preferring Jamaica to our other islands, which had been adopted during the usurpation, subsided : and Barbados, latterly, recovered its strength so greatly under its last governor, that when Sir Jonathan Atkins arrived, the inhabitants were reckoned to be fifty thousand white men, and seventy thousand blacks or slaves : a number scarcely credible to be supported in so small an island. But a dreadful hurricane in August 1675 changed much the face of the country : to heighten this calamity too, New England was not in a condition at this time to send hither the usual supplies of provisions and timber ; thus
the

the crop of sugar being destroyed, added to the rapaciousness of creditors, many families were obliged to retire to other countries. The legislature, among many useful plans for the relief of their island, agreed to present an address to the government of Great Britain, praying that they may be relieved from the duty of four and an half *per cent.* as the only means of preserving their country from ruin : but this indulgence was denied them, and their petition failed of success. It was in vain for the Barbadians to remonstrate upon their hardships, and to complain that none of the public-spirited purposes, for which that great tax had been granted, had ever been answered. Thus Barbados shared not the fate of an elder
D child,

child, the first offspring of her mother country, but was left to recover her losses as she could.

We find by the statutes of this island, that about this time some Quakers were very busy in their endeavours to convert the negro slaves: their principles of non-resistance were far from being agreeable to a colony, which, like that of Barbados, was every hour exposed to invasion; and therefore an act passed to prohibit negroes from frequenting meeting-houses: and the same act contained a clause against Dissenters, to prevent their teaching pupils, and keeping schools upon the island. This was a precaution perhaps not impolitic in a colony, where labour was of more utility than learning.

Sir

Sir Jonathan Atkins being recalled, was succeeded in April 1680 by Richard Dutton, esq. in whose commission the * members of his majesty's council were

* The members of council were :

Henry Walrond,	} Esqrs.	George Andrews,	} Esqrs.
John Reide,		William Sharpe,	
Timothy Thornhill,		Tobias Frere,	
John Gibbes,		Michael Terril,	
Francis Bond,		The Rev. Mr.	
John Farmer,		Will. Walker.	
George Lillington,			

The members of the assembly about this period were :

S. Mich. Parish	{ George Peers,	} Esqrs.
	{ William Wheeler,	
Christ Church	{ Thomas Maxwell,	} Esqrs.
	{ Daniel Hooper,	
S. Philip's	{ William Fortescue,	} Esqrs.
	{ Henry Markland,	
S. John's	{ John Leslie,	} Esqrs.
	{ James Colleton,	
S. George's	{ Richard Salter,	} Esqrs.
	{ Miles Toppin,	
S. Joseph's	{ John Holder,	} Esqrs.
	{ Henry Gollop,	

were first inserted : a practice, we apprehend, that hath been continued since. The governor immediately issued writs to elect an assembly. This gentleman was received with great kindness and respect by the inhabitants ; for which he made a very ungenerous return. He was tyrannical and oppressive ; and his despotism was so great, that many families, unable to endure his tyrannic sway, quitted their country : this induced the legislature to pass an act for

S. Andrew's	{ William Dottin, Richard Walter,	} Esqrs.
S. Thomas's	{ Jonathan Downes, Thomas Sadlier,	} Esqrs.
S. James's	{ Abel Alleyne, William Holder,	} Esqrs.
S. Peter's	{ Samuel Maynard, Robert Harrison,	} Esqrs.
S. Lucy's	{ Thomas Merrick, John Gibbes,	} Esqrs.

regu-

regulating the manner of giving tickets out of the secretary's office. In 1684 an act passed to appoint a treasurer of the island ; and this office was conferred upon Mr. Salter. At this time too the militia was regulated and settled by law. The rebellion in the west of England breaking out about this time, the legislature passed a severe act against those rebels that were sent to Barbados, whereby their condition was rendered almost equal to a state of slavery.

About this period a complaint was lodged in England against Henry Walrond, esq. a member of council, for a petty charge against him, on account of a trial before a court of oyer and terminer, in which Walrond presided

as chief justice. After a full trial at an assize in England, he was fined only thirty pounds; but his detention there, and the expences of his suit (his adversary being vigorously supported by the governor) hurt much his fortune. At his return to Barbados, the council and assembly presented to him five hundred pounds, as an acknowledgement of his former services to his country; and added a declaration of his just proceedings at the court of oyer.

In 1685 an additional duty was laid upon sugar; a burden upon the planters which considerably reduced the value of their plantations. It could not fail to fill the world with astonishment, to observe that the colonies, which brought
such

such wealth to the mother country, nursing her sailors, and increasing her manufactures, should be singled out as the hunted stag, and their inhabitants overloaded with taxes. The Barbadians represented their grievances to the government of Great Britain. They said, that if a tax must be laid upon trade, it might be laid upon all commodities alike; that a small advance upon all the customs would serve every purpose, as well as a great one upon some; and that this could be borne with more ease, there being a larger number to partake of it. All their remonstrances availed them not any thing. Governor Dutton encouraged every motion to distress the planters; and was so zealous a friend to the Royal African

Company (which had much hurt Barbados) that when he went to England he appointed Edwin Stede his deputy-governor, who was only an agent to the African Company, and secretary to the governor. Stede had however the address to establish a precedent, which has ever since been adopted: he prevailed with the legislature to present him with one thousand pounds; from whence it became customary to make presents to the governors, who before this had only their English salary. About this time was a conspiracy of the negroes; which however was soon discovered and stopt: this occasioned many useful acts to be passed for the government of negroes.

Soon

Soon after the Revolution king William appointed James Kendal, esq. governor of Barbados, who, soon after his arrival there, transmitted to England very satisfactory accounts of the loyalty and good disposition of this colony: so that the Revolution was productive of no change in Barbados; but all its inhabitants chearfully and willingly acknowledged king William: they loved monarchy, conscious that it was an essential part of the excellent constitution of their mother country; but they knew too, that the preservation of that constitution, and the happiness of that country, required that a Protestant king should wear the crown.

During this administration the inhabitants of St. Christopher, and the other
Leeward

Leeward islands, being much distressed by the French, applied to Barbados for assistance: the Barbadians readily complied with their request; and Timothy Thornhill, esq. having offered his service, received a commission from the legislature to raise a regiment; which he accordingly did to the amount of seven hundred men, who were all cloathed, armed, and embarked at the expence of this colony: this expedition took place in August 1689: the Barbadians also raised two regiments more of five hundred men each to assist the expedition against Martinique *: according to the best accounts this invasion was miserably mismanaged, and

* For the particulars of these expeditions see the British empire in America, vol. 2.

what little effectual service was performed, the troops of Barbados and the Leeward islands claimed the merit of. At this time the freight of sugar ran so high, and masters of ships were so exorbitant in their demands, that the legislative power was obliged to interfere, and by an act of the island regulate the freight of its commodities. This act was afterwards repealed.

In 1694 Mr. Kendal was recalled, and the honourable Francis Ruffel was appointed governor of Barbados, where he arrived with his family the same year. The council and assembly presented their new governor with two thousand pounds, and the following year gave him two thousand more.

These

These expences caused great murmurings among the people, who became alarmed at such mischievous precedents. In truth, the governors became now to be a sort of grievance by these exactions of money, which they appeared to look for as their right; forgetting that such gifts flow only from the benevolence of the inhabitants.

In 1696 governor Ruffel died; and Francis Bond, esq. the senior member of the council, became president and commander in chief. This gentleman's administration was productive of many wise measures for the benefit of his country. Many useful laws were passed, which remain yet in force. The inhabitants were easy, and perfectly satisfied

fied with their president : and, in truth, we shall always find, that a man who both has an interest in a country, and is a native thereof, will be more concerned for the good government of it, and more attentive to its prosperity, than one who considers it as a temporary dwelling, whither he has procured himself to be sent to raise a fortune, or to patch up one going to decay.

In 1698 his majesty was pleased to appoint the honourable Ralph Grey (afterwards lord Grey) governor of Barbados, where he arrived the 26th of July. An act soon passed, presenting Mr. Grey with two thousand pounds, and five hundred pounds for the rent of an house ; Fontabelle house (the governor's

vernor's residence) being much out of repair. Governor Grey's administration was very popular. The Barbadians, naturally hospitable and generous, love a governor possessed of these qualities. Mr. Grey was generous and magnificent, which endeared him to Barbados; a disinterested disposition, and a particular attention to the welfare of that island, marked him a man of worth, who did not wish, through avaricious views, to distress the country he was sent to protect. His health declining, he was obliged to leave his government in 1701, when the command devolved upon * John Farmer, esq. the senior member of council; in whose time

* Son of Mr. Farmer, who was sent to England by lord Willoughby.

happened the death of king William, and the accession of queen Anne. Events which were notified in form.

In 1703 Sir Bevill Granville arrived at Barbados governor thereof: a new house was immediately built for Sir Bevill upon a spot called Pilgrim-hill, which continues to this day to be the governor's house: the assembly, soon after the governor's arrival, was so complaisant, as to appoint his brother one of their agents in England; a conduct courtly indeed, but not very politic; for the governor's brother was wholly unacquainted with that island, and its concerns: and an agent ought to be a man well versed in the constitution of the country he serves, and who perfectly

fectly understands her true interest : attentive only to his agency, he should watch for occasions to be beneficial to the country, with whose welfare he is entrusted : establishing an interest with the board of trade, he should never be ignorant of what is doing at that office : well acquainted with business, he should endeavour to connect himself with, and have a perfect knowledge of the forms, rules, and methods of the different offices he must transact business with. It is much to be wished too, for the benefit of Barbados, that the agent could always be a member of the British parliament, as his consequence would then be much enlarged, and he would probably then claim a more respectful attention from the ministry.

The frequent presents to governors having caused much uneasiness to the inhabitants, and having truly been found to be distressful to the island, her majesty was pleased to augment the governor's English salary from twelve hundred to two thousand pounds *per annum*. During Sir Bevill Granvill's administration Barbados was miserably distressed by factions. Party raged high. Complaints were sent to England against the governor by those in the opposition. Remonstrances followed from his friends; but we do not find, however, that any regard was paid to either. In the year 1705 the assembly, taking into consideration the great want of cash in the island, passed an act to allow sixty-five thousand pounds paper credit;

impowering Mr. Holder the treasurer (who was also speaker of the assembly) to give out bills for that sum. The men of greatest property in the island opposed this scheme with great violence, but with little effect. This act was severely censured in England, and repealed immediately. The governor, dissatisfied with his situation, obtained his recall, and died upon his voyage home.

In 1707 Mitford Crow, esq. arrived at Barbados, governor of that island. He, in obedience to his instructions, removed all those gentlemen from the council, and from all other offices which they held under the crown, who were concerned in promoting the paper credit act. This spread so much
discon-

discontent in the country, and rendered Mr. Crow's situation so irksome, that it was soon thought proper to recall him also.

He was succeeded in 1711 by Robert Lowther, esq. who was twice governor of Barbados. His first administration lasted till 1714, when he was recalled, and Mr. Sharpe, the senior member of the council, became president. In 1715 his majesty was pleased to appoint Mr. Lowther again to this government. Both periods of his administrations were very unpopular, displeasing to himself, and disagreeable to the inhabitants. Parties were early formed against him, which always galled him during his nine years resi-

dence upon the island; yet he both times gained a handsome settlement. During his first administration he suspended three members of council, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Berisford. The queen took off their suspension. They were nevertheless withheld for some short time from setting in council *, which consequently stopt the course of business, and was thereby of the utmost prejudice to the country. However, the three members at length re-assumed their seats, and nothing more was heard of this matter. During his second administration many complaints from time to time were exhibited against

* In the Caribbeana, published in 1741, is a very sensible opinion of Mr. Codrington, relative to this suspension.

him ; particularly for his persecution of the reverend Mr. Gordon, rector of St. Michael's parish, and the bishop's commissary ; against whom some harsh proceedings having passed, Gordon appealed to the crown. He obtained from the lords justices (his majesty being then at Hanover) an order to take depositions at Barbados ; and the governor (who was the accuser) had the same privilege. Gordon returned to Barbados, and served this order upon the governor, who paid so little regard to it, that he committed Gordon prisoner to the common gaol. At the court of oyer, where Gordon was tried, the governor presided. This step, though very unusual, is nevertheless agreeable to law. But such were the measures of this court,

that the governor even prosecuted the council and attorney who appeared in behalf of Gordon ; the former went to England, and presented these proceedings with proper complaints against the governor ; which had so good an effect, that the lords justices (in the king's absence) sent to Barbados an order conceived in the strongest terms against the governor, ordering that the proceedings at that court in this affair should all be vacated. In consequence of this and other complaints Mr. Lowther was recalled. He left the island in May 1720 ; but before his departure he suspended Samuel Cox, esq. the eldest member of the council ; and John Frere, esq. the next member of council, became president. Soon after this,

this, Sir Charles Cox petitioned the king against governor Lowther, for having removed his brother from the council in an illegal and arbitrary manner; and his majesty was pleased to send an order to Mr. Frere to resign the command to Mr. Cox: but by some means or other this order was not complied with; and Sir Charles Cox enforcing his complaints, Mr. Frere was summoned to appear before the king and council of Great Britain: he accordingly in 1721 resigned the government to Mr. Cox, much against the inclinations of the inhabitants of Barbados. He immediately went to England, where he was given to understand, that his being sent for was to

place him out of Cox's way, and to break the rage of party.

Mr. Cox acceded to the government of Barbados at a time when party raged high against him. The tranquillity act had passed; the design of which was to keep all officers, &c. in their places in spite of the president's power*: and all the chief offices of the island were filled with Cox's enemies; so that when he took possession of the command, he was so hampered by the opposition, that he thought himself obliged to have recourse to a very extraordinary step: he suspended five members of council at one time, and swore in five others in their places. The suspended mem-

* This act was repealed,

bers were immediately restored by the crown : a circumstance of such triumph to that party, that they exulted more than ever, and perplexed the affairs of government so much, that even the excise bill, which was absolutely necessary for the support of the public, was in danger of being lost. It must be owned too, that Mr. Cox did not behave with requisite moderation : he had removed from the bench of justices several gentlemen of fortune, particularly Guy Ball, esq. a member of the council, and had endeavoured to commence vexatious prosecutions against them. In consequence of the abuse Mr. Cox made of his power, in all subsequent instructions from the crown the authority of presidents was

much

much limited, and their power reduced to what it is at present. It is astonishing, that in so small a spot, party-rage should grow to such an excess: never was any country more torn to pieces by parties, than Barbados was about this period; but, alas! we find faction and its ill consequences prevailing in almost all countries; and in these little communities, where not any gain is acquired, vanity operates, as venality does in great states.

His majesty, willing to relieve the distresses of Barbados, in 1722 appointed Henry Worsley, esq. governor of that island, and gave him instructions and power to enquire into the conduct of president Cox, and to decide thereon

as he should judge most proper. Governor Worsley, when he arrived at Barbados, conducted himself with so much policy, that neither party thought him their enemy ; and therefore both parties courted him for their friend, and both were equally flattered by the governor. Each side made him large offers ; and thus was the assembly brought to give him the enormous revenue of six thousand pounds *per annum*. The governor, having gained this great point, and the heavy tax of two shillings and six-pence being laid upon each negro for defraying this salary, he proceeded to enquire into the state of the island before his accession. He summoned Mr. Cox to a formal trial ; and he determined, that

Mr.

Mr. Cox had acted, during his presidency, corruptly, arbitrarily, and illegally; and therefore he not only removed him from being of his majesty's council, but also declared him incapable of ever being a member of that board.*

This administration was marked by the death of his majesty king George I. The Barbadians had very severely felt their distress, occasioned by the burdensome salary given to the governor, which, in truth, had much oppressed that whole island: they therefore seized the opportunity of the king's death, as a plea to save their money, by refusing to pay the tax of two shillings and six-

* Mr. Cox passed the remainder of his life upon the continent of N. America.

pence laid upon negroes; asserting, that by the king's death the governor's commission ceased, and consequently the law which provided for the maintenance of the governor became void. But this fallacy did not succeed, though it caused much disorder in the country. Mr. Worsley presented a memorial to the throne, in consequence of which his majesty was please to direct (agreeable to the opinion of his attorney and solicitor general) "that in case the
 " arrears of the said tax was not paid
 " on or before the 1st day of July next,
 " that his majesty's attorney general of
 " Barbados do cause proper law-suits
 " to be commenced against all persons
 " liable to pay such arrears, &c." and
 these

these arrears were accordingly recovered.

Mr. Worsley left the government of Barbados in 1731, and Samuel Berwick, esq. president of the council, succeeded him. Mr. Berwick (as several of his predecessors had done) executed his commission without any salary or present from the assembly: a circumstance much to his honour.

He died the year following, and James Dottin, esq. the next member of council, became commander in chief. The legislature, by an act of the island, settled four hundred pounds *per annum* upon Mr. Dottin; a proof at what an easy

easy expence the business of this government was then carried on.

In 1733 lord viscount Howe was appointed governor of Barbados: he arrived in that island the same year. The legislature settled four thousand pounds upon his lordship: a large sum indeed for the circumstances of the island at that time! but which, however, the governor generously expended in the island. The universal good character of this nobleman filled every heart with joy upon his arrival: his lordship did not disappoint the hopes and expectations of Barbados. By a generosity of temper, and a complacency of deportment; by an equitable distribution of justice, and a steady adherence

herence to the constitution and true interest of the country he presided over, he preserved the island free from faction, and gained the affection and esteem of all the inhabitants. So pacific a period affords little matter for history to transmit. The good agreement between the governor, council, and assembly, produced the best effects for the mother country, as well as for the colony : and surely never was there an experiment made with so much success of what importance the right choice of a governor is to the prosperity of this or any other of our sugar islands ; yet it has been said, that if this nobleman had lived a few years longer, he would have ruined Barbados by the introduction of luxury : but, alas ! experience.

perience hath fully taught us, that if the inhabitants of that country possess the means of indulging luxurious dissipation, the practice will be obtained in the mother country, if the times forbid the enjoyment of it in their native isle : but (for a moment) suppose the charge to be in some degree true ; Was it not an honest policy in the governor, to divert in pleasures and amusements that wealth which had formerly so often kindled the flames of party ? Lord Howe died in March 1735 ; the council and assembly (applauded by all their countrymen) to testify their grateful remembrance of his lordship, as well as to distinguish virtuous merit, presented two thousand five hundred pounds to lady Howe.

Mr. Dotin succeeded again to the command, and received a settlement of six hundred pounds *per annum*: his administration was gentle and inoffensive.

In 1739 the honourable Robert Byng was appointed governor of Barbados, where he arrived soon after his appointment. The times were unfavourable to Mr. Byng. He came to the government at a time when the house of representatives seemed pertinaciously devoted to the will of their speaker Henry Peers, esq. a gentleman who had been disappointed in his hope of procuring the government of Barbados for himself, and whose imaginary interest and real intention it was to distress

the

the new governor. "From men" (says the great Sully) "all things may be expected: they are not to be kept firm to their duty, integrity, and the laws of society, by fidelity and virtue, but by their hopes and wishes." Mr. Byng was by the first address of the assembly, as well as by private conferences, entertained with declamations of the poverty of Barbados, and the steadfast resolutions of its representatives concerning his appointment, which, they said, could not be equal to his predecessors. The governor observed, "that the country was now in a more flourishing condition than his predecessor found it in; he was conscious of having brought with him as good

F 2

"inten-

“ intentions as the best of his prede-
 “ cessors, but that if he was less con-
 “ sidered than his immediate prede-
 “ cessor, he could not avoid thinking
 “ it was setting an ignominious mark
 “ upon him ; an indignity under which
 “ he could not sit easy.” But he could
 not obtain more than two thousand
 pounds *per annum* ; yet to render this
 more palatable, an additional present
 was added of two thousand five hun-
 dred pounds to repair the governor’s
 losses at sea, the ship in which his
 baggage was, having been taken by the
 Spaniards. This was certainly an act
 of generosity in the assembly. The
 breach between the governor and
 speaker was now notorious, and faction

again reared its head. * At length the speaker was stript of all the posts which he

* Henry Peers, esq. speaker of the assembly, was lieutenant general, master general of the ordnance, president of the council of war, colonel of a regiment of militia, and a justice of peace. He was succeeded as lieutenant general, master general of the ordnance, and president of the council of war, by Thomas Applewhaite, esq. one of the members of his majesty's council, and who had been major general and colonel of the Windward regiment: these two gentlemen were many years contemporaries. They both gained honour and reputation in their country; but with very different tempers, they attached themselves early to opposite parties, and frequently espoused contending interests: yet, strange to say! they lived together in a close intimacy. Mr. Peers had good sense, and strong natural abilities, and acquired a peculiar dexterity in the management of a party. His fondness of power plunged him deep in faction. He was

he held under the crown. A circumstance that affords a remarkable æra in every man's enemy that opposed his party, and was often served through fear. His passions were impetuous and unmanageable. He was generous, lively, sanguine, intrepid, ambitious. In friendship warm : in resentment implacable. He claimed the title of a great man. By his death a powerful party lost their friend and patron. Mr. Applewhaite possessed a sound judgment, and an amiable disposition, and was too candid and disinterested for the intrigues of faction. His moderation disengaged him from the inconveniencies of party-zeal. He was every man's friend that needed his friendship, and men were attached to him by affection. His passions were under the command of his reason. He was compassionate, affable, sincere, calm, resolute. In friendship steady : in resentment placable. All men, with a united voice, called him a good man. By his death the poor lost their father and support.

this

this administration. Mr. Peers died soon after, and tranquillity was re-assuming its empire throughout the island, when death snatched from the world the governor himself. Mr. Byng's administration was short and active. He lived only ten months in Barbados. His resolution and activity; his laborious and indefatigable turn for business, and an application which nothing could divert; his attention to the defence of the island he commanded by forming its militia, and repairing its fortifications; and his schemes for the extension of trade, joined to his prudent discernment, which produced the best commission of the peace ever issued in that island, led many to regret the death of a governor, of whom they had enter-

tained great expectations, notwithstanding the early opposition he encountered *.

In 1740 Mr. Dotin again became president, and continued so until the arrival of Sir Thomas Robinson in 1742.

* Mr. Byng's good sense shewed itself very strong in this remarkable instance. The assembly presented an address to him of the 8th of July 1740, which, from a previous knowledge, he thought was extremely severe and unkind towards him: he, nevertheless, with a gracious smile, received it, made no reply to it, but with great cordiality and apparent friendship caressed the assembly-men who presented it, and all others that fell in his way; and actually did give a lucrative employment to one of them the next day

When

When Sir Thomas Robinson arrived at Barbados, an unusual shyness prevailed in the assembly towards their new governor. The preceding assembly had resolved not to make any settlement whatever upon a future governor: nevertheless, the then assembly granted to Sir Thomas three thousand pounds *per annum*. The inimitable Sully, the ablest politician, and (what is more to his honour) the most unprejudiced man that history furnishes us with an account of, remarks, “ that the
 “ word parliament carries with it an
 “ idea of equity, and even wisdom;
 “ yet in these bodies we meet with
 “ such instances of irregularity, that one
 “ cannot help concluding, that if in-
 “ fallibility may be hoped for among
 “ men,

“men, it will be found rather in one
 “than a multitude.” To Sir Thomas
 Robinson Barbados is indebted for an
 excellent armoury; the best in the
 West Indies, which he built at his own
 expence, and the utility of which that
 island hath experienced ever since.

Sir Thomas remained at Barbados
 until the arrival of his successor the
 honourable Henry Grenville in 1747.
 The council and assembly settled three
 thousand pounds *per annum* upon Mr.
 Grenville, whose administration was
 during the calm of peace, consequently
 not very interesting. The Barbadians,
 taught by experience the mischievous
 effects of party, united to render Mr.
 Grenville's situation agreeable to him-
 self,

self, which his address rendered not displeasing to them. Abroad, he maintained the honour of his royal master, particularly by the successful effort he made to prevent the French from settling Tobago, then a neutral island. At home, unattached to any faction, he supported his commission with a pompous state; and though all confessed the haughtiness of the man, they could not but admire the dignity of the governor. In governments, as well as in courts, all things are brought about by artifice. The governor had the success; at the close of his administration, to obtain those public marks of approbation which were never before lavished upon any governor; for so far did the then assembly proceed in their professions

fessions of esteem to this gentleman, that they voted a statue of him (one member only dissenting) to be erected, in the town-hall, where the courts of justice are held, in honour to his memory, and to exemplify to posterity a pattern of justice and integrity. Mr. Grenville continued governor of Barbados till May 1753, when he applied for and obtained leave to return to England.

Ralph Weekes, esq. the senior member of the council, was then invested with the command. The assembly gave him twelve hundred pounds *per annum*, to support the honour and dignity of the king's commission.

In August 1756 Charles Pinfold, esq. governor of Barbados, arrived in that island. He obtained a settlement of three thousand pounds *per annum*. A quiet, easy governor suits best a colony; such was Mr. Pinfold, whose qualities were wholly negative. His administration was long and interesting. During this period the Barbadians bore no inconsiderable share in the glorious events which distinguished the British arms during the last war. A resolution having been formed in England to reduce the island of Martinique (the key of the Caribbees) the same was communicated to the governor of Barbados. The governor immediately called together the council and assembly, and having communicated this intelligence,

a law

a law passed for assisting his majesty's forces; when the inhabitants, regardless of the injury their trade must receive, and which it afterwards did receive, by the acquisition of the large and valuable island of Martinique, gave their assistance with a zeal, unanimity, and spirit, scarcely to be paralleled. Five hundred and eighty-eight white men (volunteers) were expeditiously raised, clothed, and paid by the country; to these were added five hundred and eighty-three negroes. They joined his majesty's forces, and assisted at the reduction of Guadaloupe. This expedition cost Barbados * twenty-four thousand pounds currency, besides a

* Ten thousand pounds were repaid by the government.

large supply of provisions, which the Barbadians sent to the forces while they were besieging Guadaloupe. During this administration the stamp act passed the parliament of Great Britain. This act threatened a precedent big with fatal mischief; yet this colony submitted to its validity, and trusting to the equity of the British legislature for its repeal, when its pernicious tendency should be perceived, was content with remonstrating against its oppression. This act was soon repealed; but during the few months it was in force, the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds was collected at Barbados, and remitted to England. Governor Pinfold, having obtained leave to return to England, embarked

embarked on board the *Britannia*, capt. Davis, the 27th of May 1766.

Samuel Rous, esq. the senior member of council, then resident upon the island, acceded to the command, and took the oaths of office immediately after the departure of the governor. The council and assembly settled fifteen hundred pounds *per annum* upon the president during his residence at Pilgrim-house; nor do we find that this gentleman hath proved himself unworthy of the generosity of his countrymen. He hath supported the dignity of his station with a splendor and magnificence equal to the unusual largeness of his salary, and hath acquitted himself in other respects to the satisfaction

fatisfaction of his country, notwithstanding he has been engaged in a point of some delicacy with the present speaker of the assembly. John Gay Alleyne, esq. having been chosen speaker of the house of representatives, and approved of by the commander in chief, immediately claimed from the king's representative the allowance of certain privileges, which he alledged the representatives of the people were intitled to. These privileges are, first, exemption from arrests to themselves and servants.

Secondly, Liberty of speech.

Thirdly, Access at all times to the king's representative.

To this demand the president said, "He would give his answer at the next sitting of the assembly," cautiously taking time for consideration and advice: and his answer being at length given, was, "That, as far as lay in his power, he granted the demand." The observations that arise from this answer are too obvious to be illustrated here; however, it is but justice to acknowledge, that it was the most prudent the president could have given: for if he had absolutely and unreservedly granted the demand, he might (and perhaps with justice too) have been censured by the government in England; and indeed it must have been confirmed by a higher power than the president's, before it could have had effect:

effect: on the other hand, had he rejected the demand entirely, the remaining short period of his administration might have been embittered by dissensions and disputes. In regard to the privileges thus demanded, it may be observed, that the exemption from arrests was never claimed, consequently never possessed by any preceding assembly. If it is meant an exemption from arrests at all times, the precedent must have a fatal tendency to affect the credit of Barbados; nor would the injury be much less prejudicial, if confined to the day of the assembly's sitting; for under the protection of servants, May not the power be given to screen from debt, and to find an opportunity to convey from off the island,

a number of slaves? The police of Barbados is not altogether similar to that of Great Britain: but even if it was, How could the community in general, by any means, be benefited by their representatives being exempt from arrests? Much indeed might be said upon this subject; but what however would with more propriety adorn the speech of a legislator, than grace the pen of an historian. What has already been or may farther be said on this subject, is offered with all imaginable respect and deference to the present honest and upright assembly of that country, who can have no interest divided from that of their country. The privilege of speech to the representatives of a people is a constitutional privilege, inherent in that body: it is strange then, that a gentleman

man

man of the speaker's lively imagination should appear not to know he possessed this valuable privilege, by making a demand of it. As to access to the king's representative, this privilege is in itself of so innocent and harmless a nature to the public, that no more prejudice could arise from refusing its admission, than good could accrue by granting of it.

To conclude. These fallies of the speaker's genius bring to our remembrance a saying of king James the First, as related by lord Bacon: "When cardinal Evereux (says Bacon) having in
 " a subject of divinity sprinkled many
 " ornaments of learning, the king said
 " they were like the blue, and yellow,
 " and red flowers in corn, which

“make a pleasant shew, but hurt the
“corn.”

On the 1st of September 1767, at a meeting of the general assembly, a committee of that house was appointed to prepare a petition (in conjunction with a committee of the council) to be presented to the commons house of parliament of Great Britain, representing the distresses of the island by the two last dreadful fires in the chief town, the intention of the inhabitants to rebuild the town on a safer plan, and to make convenient wharfs, and cleanse the Mole-head; and further representing the great expence attending these works, and the inability of the country wholly to provide for them :

and

and therefore praying the assistance of that honourable house on the occasion. This is a representation just and necessary, and this a conduct much to the honour of the legislature of Barbados: no doubt, the reception that this petition will gain from the commons of Great Britain, will reflect equal honour upon that respectable body. The cleansing of the Mole-head, and erecting proper wharfs for the convenience of trade, are works of the utmost advantage, and therefore of the greatest consequence to this trading island; but whose utility will not be confined to this spot alone, but must spread its influence throughout all the British dominions. * The

* The Mole is a river that runs through the south east part of Bridge-town, and falls into Carribe-bay; and is now choaked up by sand and mud brought into it by the tides.

Mole, when effectually cleaned, will again afford a safe retreat to ships of burden in the most tempestuous season; whereas now it cannot protect the smallest vessel: add to this, the alarming and increasing inconvenience of landing and shipping all kinds of merchandize.

His majesty hath lately been pleased to appoint William Spry, esq. governor of Barbados*.

* The present members of his majesty's council of Barbados are:

Sir John Gibbons, Bart. and K. B.			
Samuel Rous,	} Elqrs.	Conrade Adams,	} Elqrs.
John Dottin,		Gedney Clarke,	
Edward Jordan,		Francis Ford,	
Henry Thornhill,		Rob. Brathwaite	
Abr. Cumberbatch,		Irenæus Moe,	
Henry Frere,			

The present members of the assembly of Barbados :

S. Mich. Parish	{ Samson Wood, Patrick Lynch,	} Esqrs.
Christ Church	{ Thomas Ince, Henry Beckles,	} Esqrs.
S. Philip's	{ John Gittens, Thomas Drake,	} Esqrs.
S. George's	{ Samuel Sedgwick, Eyre Wallcot,	} Esqrs.
S. John's	{ Richard Downes, Benjamin Malony,	} Esqrs.
S. Joseph's	{ Henry Holder, Benjamin Mellowes,	} Esqrs.
S. Andrew's	{ John Gay Alleyne, James Maycock,	} Esqrs.
S. Thomas's	{ William Alleyne, George Sanders,	} Esqrs.
S. James's	{ Reynold Gibbes, Thomas Alleyne,	} Esqrs.
S. Peter's	{ John Denny, Joseph Leacock,	} Esqrs.
S. Lucy's	{ Hillary Rowe, Hillary Rowe junior	} Esqrs.

Of

Of its Constitution.

THE government of Barbados consists of a governor, who is appointed by the king; a council of twelve men, who are also appointed by his majesty, by letters of mandamus; and an assembly of twenty-two freeholders, chosen by a majority of freeholders from the several parishes. Two representatives are returned from each parish. The members of council (as privy counsellors) advise and assist the governor in all matters relative to the government: they are also a check upon him, if he exceeds the bounds of his commission: they (as part of the legislature) form the upper house, and in passing

all laws, act as the house of peers in Great Britain : they also, with the governor, constitute the courts of Chancery and Errors, where each member gives his opinion in all causes. The governor hath power to appoint and displace all military officers, and to dissolve the assembly ; and also to place a negative upon all bills : judges of the courts and justices of the peace cannot be appointed, but by and with the consent of the council, whose approbation or concurrence must be obtained when a judge is removed from his office. No member of council can be removed by a governor, without the consent of the majority of the council, unless on some very extraordinary occasion not fit to be divulged to the whole body. In such a case,

a case, the reasons for such suspension (or removal) are immediately to be transmitted to the king in council, where the member suspended may make his defence. A member of council vacates his seat, by absenting himself seven years from the council-board, without leave of absence obtained from the king, or from the commander in chief of the island. If there are less than seven members of council resident upon the island, the commander in chief hath power to fill up to that number, until his majesty's pleasure is known, that the business of the island may not be retarded. The governor always sits in council, even when acts are passed; a practice that seems to have been established by custom only; for

for it appears to be unconstitutional. It is not a custom adopted by all the colonies. The governor, besides his salary of two thousand pounds sterling, payable out of the four and half *per cent.* is intitled to a third of seizures; but he is restrained from receiving any present from the assembly, unless as a settlement made by the first assembly he meets after his arrival. This settlement has latterly been three thousand pounds *per annum* currency. In the absence of a governor, the senior member of council acts as commander in chief; but he cannot dissolve an assembly: nor can he remove or suspend any officer, civil or military, without the consent of seven members of council. In other respects he has the same power as a governor.

The

The president is allowed one half of the salary and emoluments allotted to the governor. Five members of council make a quorum to transact business, and to constitute a court of Chancery and court of Error. The commander in chief collates rectors to the parishes of the island, which are eleven. The rectors perquisites are considerable; their income established by law is one hundred and fifty pounds *per annum*, exclusive of all presents, and other benefits. The clergy are all of the church of England. The representatives of the people are chosen annually by virtue of a writ (or commission) issued by the governor in council, directed to the eldest member of council in each parish, authorizing him to convene the freeholders,

holders, and to receive their votes : afterwards, a return of the writ, with a certificate of the choice of the freeholders, is made to the governor in council, when the representatives take the state oaths and oaths of office before the governor and council ; which they also do upon the accession of a new governor or president. The assembly chuse their speaker, who cannot act as such before he is presented to and approved by the commander in chief. The speaker and eleven other members constitute a house for transacting of business. They chuse a clerk and marshal of their house. They may expel any of their members, and may give leave to two of them together to go off the island for six months. for recovery

very

very of health. They have power to try and determine all controverted elections, and can adjourn themselves from day to day ; all longer adjournments are made by the commander in chief, or with his leave. They, together with the governor and council, annually nominate the agent, the treasurer, the store-keeper of the magazines, the comptroller of the excise, the gaugers of casks, and an inspector of health.

* Disagreements have formerly arisen
between

* About the year 1728 a dispute arose between the council and assembly concerning the method of issuing orders for the public money ; the former insisted upon that which was established by the king's instructions to the governor ; the latter had discovered, as they thought, a method more beneficial to the country, by making a previous
application

between the council and assembly concerning the nomination of these officers, and also concerning the method of issuing the public money from the treasury; their disputes have gone so far,

application to themselves necessary. Accordingly they framed an excise-bill in pursuance of this scheme: this bill the council rejected, and gave their reasons for their conduct: these reasons were drawn up by a committee, and were sent, together with a draught of the bill, to the secretary of state. The conduct of the council was approved, and an order was sent to the governor to reject the draught of the excise-bill, as contrary to the constant usage of Barbados, &c. Again, in president Berwick's time the same topick was started, with some others equally prejudicial to the authority of the governor and council; and the like stagnation was given to public business: but the conduct of the council was again approved, and that of the assembly censured.

that references have been made to the throne. In passing all laws, the house of assembly forms that part of their constitution which the commons house does in England. Four of the council nominated by the governor, and six of the assembly named by the speaker, are a committee for settling the public accounts of the island; among which number is the treasurer's account. The treasurer cannot pay any public money, nor make any particular appropriation of money, without an act of the island, or an order from the governor and council. Three of the council and four of the assembly are appointed a committee to correspond with the agent in Great Britain. The court of Exchequer is held by a chief baron, and four

assisting

assisting barons, appointed by the governor and council. Any three make a court. Barbados is divided into five precincts, though there are eleven parishes; a judge and four assistants preside in each precinct. They hold a court of Common Pleas for trial of all causes once every month, from the last Monday in January to the latter end of September. From these courts appeals lie in all causes above ten pounds value to the governor and council; and from them in all causes above five hundred pounds to the king and council of Great Britain. The chief judges of the courts of Common Pleas take the probate of all deeds. The governor appoints the two masters in Chancery, the escheator, and solicitor general. The

attorney general is appointed by patent ; the judge of the vice-admiralty court, the register, the clerk of the crown, the secretary, and clerk of the council, the provost marshal, and naval officer are appointed by patent. The casual receiver and auditor general have their commissions from the crown ; the surveyor general, and other officers of the customs are appointed from the department of the treasury ; and upon a vacancy in the customs the surveyor general nominates *pro tempore*. The justices of the peace are appointed by a commission issued by the governor with the consent of the council ; which commission is generally issued soon after the appointment of a governor. The governor, by and with the advice of the council,

council, appoints a chief justice of the court of grand sessions, or general gaol delivery; which court is appointed by law to be held twice in every year. This court generally holds four days, and is formed by the chief justice, and any other five justices of the peace. Six freeholders from each parish are returned by the eldest member of council resident in each parish, by virtue of the governor's writ (or commission) to serve on the grand inquest, and petty juries. This court acquits or condemns all criminals, * the commander in chief having

* Governor Lowther once in the case of Brennan granted a pardon to the criminal before trial. A procedure unheard of in the British constitution, inconsistent, and unprecedented; however, the

having a right to respite those condemned from time to time. The justices in their several parishes hold a quarter session for the appointment of constables, and rectifying of abuses. The governor appoints a coroner to each parish. Gunners and matrosses belonging to each of the five divisions are under the command of the colonels of foot to which each division belongs ; but they are appointed by the commander in chief, at the recommendation of the said colonels. The commissioners for taking care of the fortifications are the members of council and assembly, and field officers belong-

culprit (whose crime was killing his antagonist in a duel) was wise enough to retire to England, and obtain a pardon from a higher power.

ing

ing to each precinct. The governor, as captain general, usually presides at the councils of war; but the commission of president of the councils of war is often granted to the lieutenant general. There are six regiments of foot militia in the island, and four of horse, besides a troop called the horse guards. There is an excellent armoury, and also a good train of artillery in Barbados.

Of the Trade, Soil, and Climate.

NATURE hath been bountiful by fortifying the coast of Barbados, and rendering the greatest part of that island inaccessible to ships of fifty tons and upwards. An extensive reef of rocks runs from the south point easterly to the north west. The other part of the coast the inhabitants have at a very great expence fortified, by erecting forts and batteries within gun-shot of each other; the repairs and maintenance of which amount to a great charge: an expence so heavy to the country, that it is to be hoped the government of Great Britain will some time or other by their assistance alleviate.

The

The plantations of Barbados oppressed by taxes, impoverished by mismanagement, and loaded by the great and necessary expences of their management, yield not now the profits they formerly afforded : notwithstanding the high estimation Europeans may set upon West India estates, yet it is an indisputable fact, that the landed interest of Barbados (that is throughout the whole island) does not clear *communibus annis* four *per cent.* estimating the principal at what land usually sells for : the destruction of the woods of that island, though it renders the country more healthful, hath decreased the quantity of rain, and hath been thereby detrimental to the
 plant-

planters *. The soil of Barbados is in general fruitful, but very different in different

* To bear up against so many discouragements the utmost skill ought to be exerted in adjusting the business of an estate; and though it is true, that the want of seasonable weather is sufficient to baffle the greatest abilities of the planter, yet it is equally true, that the failure of these estates proceeds very frequently from unskilful management; so that when some estates that are well attended to yield a very profitable income, others again afford little or no profit. Indeed it may be said with justice and propriety, that an estate as often fails from the unskilfulness of the proprietor in not maintaining a full quantity of stock upon it, as from the unskilfulness of the steward (or manager): for the former, however, some reasonable excuses may be made, as the want of credit (a circumstance always destructive to the good condition of a West-India estate) or the want of opportunity to purchase stock: but for the latter

different parts of the island, and frequently in the same estate. Some spots
afford

latter no just apology whatever can be offered. Thus, notwithstanding the uncertainty of profit, the unavoidable expence attending an estate is certain, and is inconceivably great. Suppose, for instance, an estate of only two hundred and fifty acres: to work this properly must be maintained upon it one hundred and seventy negroes, one hundred horned cattle, twelve horses, forty sheep, three tenants (or militia men) suppose with three in each family, who support themselves from the profits of the ground allowed them: a steward (or manager) whose annual salary may be from one hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds: an under steward (or driver) a d'shiller, and two apprentices, whose salaries together may be forty-five pounds *per annum*: add to this the salaries of a town agent and book poster at fifteen or twenty pounds each; of an apothecary at thirty, or forty pounds *per annum*; of a farrier at fifteen or twenty;

the

afford a heavy clay soil, others a light sand; some a dark heavy, others a light red earth; some parts wet and swampy, others dry and gravelly: but the land, almost every where for the production of sugar, requires rich manure; the preparation of which shews the skill of the planter, as some parts of the island require a light, others a heavy manure; the commissions of an English agent at two and an half *per cent.* freight of sugars, taxes, duties, repairs of buildings, and many incidental expences: nor must we forget the maintenance of the proprietor and his family, with eight or ten servants. From these particulars may be learnt the reasonableness of the above assertion, that the landed interest in general does not neat four *per cent.* annually. The land, though long worn, will, it is thought by many good planters, produce as much as ever it did, assisted by manure.

and

and sometimes both in the same estate. The manufacture of sugar is ingenious as well as useful. It is attended with great labour and expence, and requires skill and industry to perfect it. It was very early introduced into this colony.

The trade of Barbados is yet flourishing and considerable, notwithstanding the discouragements given to it by taxes, by duties, by the accession of the large island of Jamaica, by the conquest of Grenada, by the acquisition of the late neutral islands, by granting a free port to Dominique, by the distillation of spirits upon the continent of America, by the want of a proper standard or regulation of the value of gold throughout the West India islands; and lastly,

by

by the clandestine trade, which the Dutch of St. Eustatia have formerly been famed for.

The annual internal expence of Barbados amounts to sixteen thousand pounds, besides the considerable duties paid to the mother country. Bridgetown *, the metropolis of that island before the two destructive fires in 1766, consisted of about fifteen hundred dwelling-houses and stores, chiefly built of brick and stone, and which were in general spacious, and elegantly decent: the rents of the houses amounted to

* Bridgetown is now rebuilding with a decent elegance and uniformity, some useful measures having been taken by the legislature for that purpose.

above

about forty thousand pounds *per annum*. There are in that island three other towns of smaller note, called Ostin's, St. James's, and Speight's.

The great value of Barbados to Great Britain is best known from its vast consumption of British and Irish manufactures and commodities: add to this the wealth expended by, and the consumption of Barbadians who reside in England: nor must we forget the large amount of the king's customs arising from the produce of this colony. It is judged, according to an accurate calculation, that four hundred ships of one hundred and thirty tons and upwards are employed in the trade of this island: from hence a nursery and support of
 seamen.

seamen. It is supposed too, that the value of the exports from Great Britain alone, imported into this island, in certificate goods, British produce, and manufactures, is about eighty thousand pounds *per annum*. The goods sent from Great Britain are chiefly woolen, linen, Manchester velvets, silk, iron, brass, copper, leather, laces for linen, hats, wigs, shoes, stockings, china, glass, earthen wares, pictures, clocks, watches, jewels, plate, gold and silver lace, medicines, oats, pease, beans, cheese, bacon, starch, oatmeal, gunpowder, bricks, tiles, lead, paint, oil, coals, cordage, sugar pots, and drips, hoops, pewter, soap, candles, snuff, cut tobacco, pipes, cards, refined sugar, wine, beer, ale, cyder, perry, spice, fruit, tea, pickles, guns, swords,

fwords, pistols, walking canes, horses, mules, grind-stones, paving-stones, books, toys, stationary, cutlery, Birmingham, and haberdashery wares, coaches, chariots, chaises, all sorts of household goods, &c. besides the supplies from Ireland, and the very considerable importations of timber, fish, &c. from the northern colonies: add to this the trade to Madeira and the coast of Africa, from which last place the importation of negroes is very great: a trade that employs many ships belonging to Bristol, Liverpool, Lancaster, and Glasgow, as well as from London.

As to the exports of Barbados, sugar is its staple: the following is a computation, taken from good authority,

of what may have been the exports of Barbados *communibus annis* *.

22000 hhd. of sugar,	}	Shipt to London, Bristol, Liverpool, Lancaster, Falmouth, Whitehaven, and most other parts of Great Britain; the rum is usually re-shipt to Ireland.
6000 hhd. of rum,		
4670 bags and barrels of ginger,		
600 bags of cotton,		
500 hhd. of sugar,		
1650 hhd. of rum,	}	to Philadelphia.
10 of molasses,		
580 hhd. of sugar,	}	to Virginia and Maryland.
2580 of rum,		
22 of molasses,		
700 hhd. of sugar	}	to New England.
2020 of rum,		
50 of molasses,		
100 hhd. of sugar,	}	to New York and Jersey.
450 of rum,		
280 hhd. of sugar,	}	to N. and S. Carolina.
1050 — of rum,		
120 hhd. of sugar,	}	to Newfoundland.
1500 — of rum,		
20 — of molasses,		
40 hhd. of sugar,	}	to Bermudas.
180 of rum,		

* 2200 hhd. of sugar, and 7000 of rum, are supposed to be consumed annually in the island. An hhd. of sugar weighs from 12 to 1600 wt. an hhd. of rum contains 100 gallons.

From the above calculation may be learnt the great utility of this colony alone to the mother country; not only by the supply of its manufactures, which prevents large sums of money from being carried out of England to purchase these commodities in foreign countries, but also by employing and supporting a very great number of seamen, artificers, and manufacturers, who are concerned in the several branches of trade dependent on the sugar islands. If then this small colony is so useful to Great Britain, as from hence it appears to be, of how much more consequence must all her colonies together be found? Surely of so much benefit, as to be intitled always to her protection, encouragement, and assistance. From their

I 2

resources

resources the colonies claim a share of the merit of having raised Great Britain to be one of the first kingdoms in Europe for power and opulence, as she is undoubtedly the first country in the world for affording every convenience and blessing of life.

The white inhabitants of Barbados are computed to be about twenty-two thousand, and the slaves to be about seventy-two thousand * : a large number
to

* A state of slavery naturally fills an European mind with ideas of pity and detestation, and furnishes a plausible objection against those countries that admit it : but when we consider (what really is the case) that the negro slaves are constantly supplied with food, with cloaths, with houses, with apothecaries to inspect their health ; all which

to be maintained in an island not more than thirty miles long, and twenty broad. In Barbados, in St. John's parish, about ten or twelve miles from Bridgetown, is a college for the education of youth; and a very large estate, capable of clearing three thousand pounds *per annum* English (or Sterling) money, was left by Mr. Codrington to support

create a large annual expence to their masters; that though they labour much, yet that they have their hours, and sometimes days of recreation, we are excited to conclude their situation to be less miserable than that of the poor inhabitants of many European countries: nor have the slaves that idea of liberty which European nations have; and which, if they possessed, would tend much to heighten their wretchedness; but their ignorance in a great measure alleviates their unhappiness, and adds to their content.

this charitable institution: from whence, under proper regulations, many advantages might be enjoyed by the inhabitants of that island. There are two streams in Barbados called rivers (besides the Mole-head) one in the east, and the other in the south west part of the island. In the center are several bituminous springs, some of which furnish the green tar, of great use in many distempers, and often supplies the want of pitch and lamp oil.

Barbados abounds with wells of exceeding good water, and contains large reservoirs of rain water: the woods that formerly did grow here have been destroyed, and the land converted into corn and cane fields; and thus the
island

island presents to the eye the most beautiful appearance of spring, summer, and autumn : nor is there any place in the West-Indies comparable to Barbados for the elegancies and conveniencies of life. The fruits are seldom or never out of season, and are by no means inferior to the European fruits*.

The climate, though warm, is by no means unhealthful. The heat is much alleviated by a constant cool sea breeze. The glass (or thermometer) seldom exceeds 88, but it is as seldom lower than 72. Regularity here, as in almost all countries, will preserve, and sometimes will give, good health. Europe-

* For their description see Hughes's Natural History of Barbados.

ans, when they first come to this island, are too neglectful of the necessary care required in a hot climate, and often feel the fatal effects of such inattention; but the natives enjoy good health, and frequently live to a very old age. There were living in this island a few years ago, within six miles of each other, five men, whose ages together exceeded four hundred years; and there lately died in this island, at the advanced age of one hundred and ten years, Mrs. Vaughan, a gentlewoman who had always resided upon the island. She had eight brothers, and one sister, who all lived to see the youngest upwards of sixty years old: the longevity of its inhabitants proves the healthfulness of a country. Nor must the author
of

of these sheets neglect to relate what has fallen within his own observation on this subject. He knew two gentlemen, whose extreme ill health would not permit them to live in England, the one on account of a rheumatic, the other on account of a gouty complaint, much relieved, and their health preserved, by exchanging the climate of England for that of Barbados. From hence let us be taught, not to judge too rashly of the inconveniencies of a warm climate. God made all countries to be inhabited, and probably he has bestowed some advantages upon those climates between the tropicks, which colder regions want.

A LIST of the Commanders in Chief of Barbados from its First Settlement.

Anno

1629 Colonel Henry Hawley appointed Governor

1641 Philip Bell, Esq. Lieutenant Governor

1650 Francis Lord Willoughby,

1652 Daniel Searle, Esq.

1660 Thomas Modiford, Esq.

1661 Humphrey Walrond, Esq. President

1663 Francis Lord Willoughby,

1667 William Lord Willoughby,

1674 Sir Jonathan Atkins, Knt.

1680 Richard Dutton, Esq. Governor

1685 Edwin Stede, Lieutenant Governor

1690 James Kendal, Esq.

1694 The Hon. James Ruffel,

1696 Francis Bond, Esq. President

1698 The Hon. Ralph Grey, Governor

1701 John Farmer, Esq. President

1703 Sir Bevill Granvill, Knt.

1707 Mitford Crow, Esq.

1711 Robert Lowther, Esq.

1714 William Sharpe, Esq. President

1715 Robert Lowther, Esq. Governor

1720 John Frere, Esq. President

1721 Samuel Cox, Esq. President

1722 Henry Worsley, Esq. Governor

1731 Samuel Berwick, Esq.

1732 James Dottin, Esq.

} Governors

} Governors

} Governors

} Governors

} Presidents

1733 Lord

A LIST, &c.

- 1733 Lord Viscount Howe, Governor
- 1735 James Dottin, Esq. President
- 1739 Robert Byng, Esq. Governor
- 1740 James Dottin, Esq. President
- 1742 Sir Thomas Robinson, Bart. } Governors
- 1747 The Hon. Henry Grenville, ... }
- 1753 Ralph Weekes, Esq. President
- 1756 Charles Pinfold, Esq. Governor
- 1766 Samuel Rous, Esq. President
- 1767 William Spry, Esq. Governor.

F I N I S

[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

B

[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]





