

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
LEEWARD ISLANDS UNDER THE
RESTORATION, 1660-1688; A
STUDY OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF
THE OLD COLONIAL SYSTEM**

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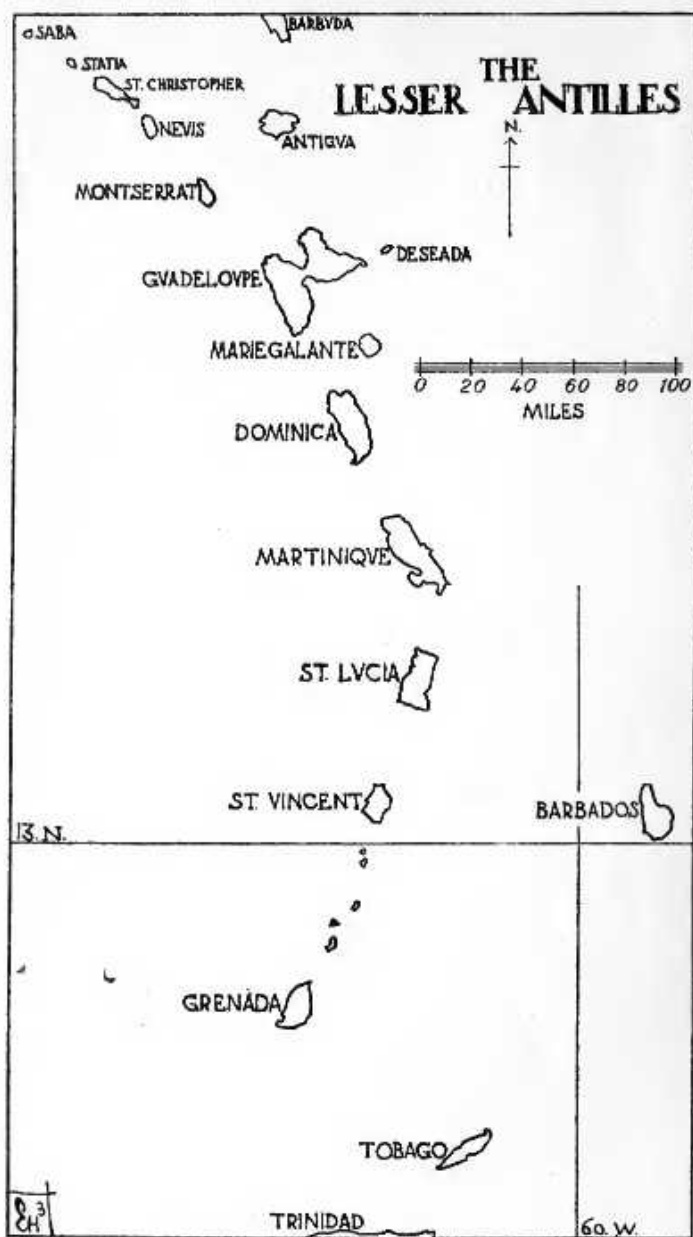
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OF THE OLD COLONIAL SYSTEM

BY

C. S. S. HIGHAM, M.A.

SOMETIME SCHOLAR OF TRINITY COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE

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TO
MY MOTHER

PREFACE

THE completion of this essay has been delayed, and its form considerably altered, by the war. At first I intended to study the life and governorship of Sir William Stapleton, and by the summer of 1914 I had most of my material in hand. When I rediscovered my papers in 1919, and began to pick up the threads again, I soon realised that a biographical treatment of the subject had many drawbacks. It did not appear to give room for a careful analysis of the various problems of colonial administration which Stapleton was called upon to face. I also found that several important monographs and articles had recently been published in America which threw much light on other aspects of the subject. I therefore determined to alter my plan, and to attempt a study of the general development of the Leeward Islands during the first sixty years of their existence as an English colony. I have, as far as possible, verified my references again, but for any crudeness of form, or for any inaccuracies which may have crept into text or footnotes, I must ask indulgence and plead the length of time during which I have been forced to leave my work untouched.

The story of the Leeward Islands in the seventeenth century is not merely of local interest, for the islands at that time were part of the wealthy Sugar Islands whose growing importance in the economic system of the day often made them bulk more largely in the minds of Imperial statesmen than the bigger colonies of the mainland. In the Leeward Islands we can trace the growth of the various problems of colonial government, and study the early organisation of the slave trade and the beginnings of a definite system of colonial agencies; here, too, we can best examine the simultaneous attempts of the French and English governments to establish a self-sufficing system of trade, for the island of St Christopher was divided between France and England for many years. Thus the history of the Leeward Islands is the history of the experiments of Restoration

ministers in their endeavours to organise a definite system of control over both the trade and the growing self-government of the plantations.

For the choice of my subject, and for help and advice, I have to thank Professor H. E. Egerton, of Oxford. I have also to thank Professor T. F. Tout, of Manchester University, for much helpful criticism. From Professor Ramsay Muir, too, I have received several stimulating suggestions, while Mr G. L. Beer, whom I was fortunate enough to meet at the Record Office, most kindly gave me the benefit of his vast experience. I am deeply indebted to Mrs A. E. Jeaffreson for her kindness in permitting me to examine a seventeenth century MS. letter book in her possession, and also to Sir Miles Stapleton for courteously allowing me to search the MSS. preserved at Greys Court, for documents relating to his ancestor, Sir William Stapleton.

I have received most courteous assistance from all whom I approached, and must thank the officials at the Public Record Office, the map department of the British Museum, the Library of the Colonial Office, the Bodleian Library, the Cheetham Library, Manchester, and particularly Mr Goode, the map librarian at the Cambridge University Library, for his help in my search for old maps and charts of the Leeward Islands. I am also indebted to the Senior Bursar of Trinity College for permission to examine the College archives, and to Mr W. H. B. Bird for his assistance in my searches in the muniment room. For the maps and diagrams I am indebted to my brother, and lastly I have to thank my friend Mr Bruce Dickins, of Magdalene College, for his kindness in reading my MSS., and for the invaluable suggestions which he made.

C. S. S. HIGHAM.

MANCHESTER.

April, 1920.

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ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in the footnotes:

- C.F.P. Council for Foreign Plantations, 1670-1672.
C.T.P. Council for Trade and Plantations, 1672-1674.
L.T.P. The Lords of Trade and Plantations (Privy Council Committee, 1675-1696).
C.S.P. I. *Calendar of State Papers (Colonial)*, 1574-1660.
C.S.P. II. *Calendar of State Papers (America and West Indies)*, 1661-1668.
C.S.P. III. *Ib.*, 1669-1674.
C.S.P. IV. *Ib.*, 1675-1676.
C.S.P. V. *Ib.*, 1677-1680.
C.S.P. VI. *Ib.*, 1681-1685.
C.S.P. VII. *Ib.*, 1686-1688.
P.C. Cal. I. *Acts of the Privy Council (Colonial Series)*, 1613-1680.
P.C. Cal. II. *Ib.*, 1680-1730.

The full title of other books cited will be found in the Bibliography (Appendix I).

For convenient reference all documents are cited by their number in the *Calendar*, unless the *précis* there is too compressed to illustrate the point. In that case the document is cited by its call number at the Public Record Office. Documents in the first volume of the *Calendar* are cited by the page, as the practice of assigning serial numbers to the documents had not then been adopted.

ERRATA

page 42, lines 7-8, for St Vincent read Dominica.

page 213, lines 3, 4 and page 219, lines 13, 21, for Russel read Russell.