

Account of some of the late Proceedings of All or Most of the Governors in the Northern Provinces, & beg the favour of You to Consult & ask the Opinion of such as You shall think proper to be advised with upon what I am about to communicate to You Very soon then after War was declared against France a Number of Privateers were fitted out at New York & other Ports in the Northern Colonies & sent to cruize among the French Sugar Islands, they met in general with great Success & brought their Prizes into North America to be condemned; After Condemnation their Cargoes consisting principally of Sugar were entered at the Custom House for Exportation & were really exported to Amsterdam, Leghorn or some other Neutral Port. The Prisoners that were taken in the captured Ships were soon after their Condemnation sent back again to the French West Indies in Carteels or Flags of Truce granted by the Governor of the Colony into which such Prisoners had been brought to some of his particular Friends. The Masters of Commanders of such Carteel Vessels carried with them sometimes Prize Goods as Claret &c. & sometimes Spanish Pistoles wherewith having obtained the French Governor's Leave they purchased Sugars to load their respective Vessels back to N America; when they arrived on the Coast it was usual as I have been told for their Owners to send out a little Vessel with a Letter of Marque to capture them & then the Sugars being libelled as French Property were in the Courts of Vice Admiralty condemned as legal prize. Since the French Trade has been so much ruined that None or very few Captures were to be made in the West Indies & consequently no Prisoners brought into the Northern Provinces the Merchants there have pursued the following method, they sent their Vessels to Monte Christo a Port in that Part of Hispaniola which belongs to the Spaniards where they purchased such Sugars as the French brought thither for their part of the Island & imported the same into N America in the manner abovementioned. The Expence however of conveying the French Sugars from the West End of Hispaniola to the Mount being very considerable Sugars were consequently sold at Leoganne much Cheaper than at that place, which being represented to my Neighbour Governor Denny he found out a Remedy & granted a Flag of Truce to every Person that applied for one which (the Enemy being desirous to encourage the Trade) impowered the Captains that carried them tho they had no Prisoners on board to go directly into the French Ports & purchase their Cargoes, for each Flag or Commission for Exchange of Prisoners M^r Denny received a handsome Douceur & I have been told that Governor Bernard in particular has also done Business in the same way—By what I can learn all the Lawyers here are of Opinion that this Trade with the French is not illegal, & the Merchants in order to shew that it is for the Interest

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