

MSS.
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of G Britain as well as of these Colonies that it should be pursued argue thus. "If We do not purchase & carry to Europe the Produce of the Enemy's Part of Hispaniola the Spaniards, Dutch or some other Neutrals will, in which Case perhaps the French will not get quite so much for their Commodities as they do at present but then We shall gain Nothing, Now as the Trade is at present carried on we give them suppose One hundred (part Goods & part Money) for the produce of their part of the Island, which produce we transport to Europe & sell for four times as much, so that for every pound that the French receive for the Produce of their Lands & Negroes the English engaged in this Trade get or Clear at least two. It hath been alledged against these Gentlemen that they will in a very short time export all the Gold out of N America but to this they answer that if that should be the Case enough Silver & paper Money will be left to answer all Occasions & that for the Gold they export great Quantities of Goods are daily imported from their Mother Country even the whole Amount of the Nett Proceeds of all the Sugar which they send to Holland & elsewhere." For my own part I must acknowledge that there seems to be some Reason in what the Merchants advance, but at the same time as I much question whether the Ministry will be of the same Opinion or approve of the Conduct of His Majesty's Governor's in granting Flags of Truce for such a purpose or indeed on any Account whatever, I decline granting one for the Transportation of the Prisoners mentioned at the Beginning of my Letter nor shall I take any Step relative to them till I have the Satisfaction to receive Your Answer which be so kind as to send me by the Packett or first other Opportunity that offers & I should be much obliged to You if at the same time You will transmit me a Copy of the Oath which is always administered to His Majesty's Governors at the time they qualify. Before I conclude I think it proper to inform You that since the War broke out I have by Advice of His Ldp's Council sent to Domingo at two different times a Number of French Prisoners that were taken at Sea by some of our Ships & brought directly into this province but I did not grant Flags even for this purpose untill I had first recommended it to the Assembly to provide in some manner for the prisoners Support untill I could send them to G. Britain which the Assembly refusing to do the poor fellows must have suffered Want had they been any longer detained

[Horatio Sharpe]

[To Philip Sharpe Esq, London]