

# A Discourse how to render the Plantations on the Continent of America, and Islands adjacent; more Beneficial and Advantageous to this Kingdom.

**T**HERE are great numbers of Firr, Pine and Cypress-trees, growing in all the Colonies and Provinces upon the Continent of *America*, nigh Navigable Rivers, fit for *Masts*, *Yards*, and *Bowsprits* of the largest Dimensions; and *Oaken Timber* for *Plank* and building Ships, &c. As also, that *Pitch*, *Tarr*, *Rosin*, *Hemp*, and *Flax*, are already made, and grow there: And that Materials for making *Salt-Petre*, are found there in great plenty, which may be there made, and brought from thence to *England*.

The Wealth and Security of this Kingdom, has all along depended upon the Trade and Navigation thereof, but the *Masts* and *Timber* for Building Ships; as also, all other *Naval Stores*, of *Pitch*, *Tarr*, *Rosin*, *Hemp*, *Flax*, and *Salt-Petre*, being through a long Consumption, become very dear and scarce Commodities, are not to be had from the neighbouring Kingdoms, but at excessive Rates and Prizes, and that in time of Peace with those Countries only; so, that upon any sudden Rupture, either with *Sweden* or *Denmark*, *England* is debarr'd of that Trade, and her Navigation in danger to be lost, unless supply'd with those Commodities from *France* or *Holland*, but not without difficulty, and upon Rates proportionable to the necessity and want thereof.

Our present Trade and Commerce, with the *Swede* and *Dane*, makes greatly to their advantage; Our Merchants and Factors bought formerly in those Countrys, *Masts*, *Ship-Timber*, and other *Naval Stores*, at easy Rates in Barter and Exchange, for our course, ordinary, English Manufacture; but they have of late years set the Dice upon us, and oblige us to pay above two Thirds in Money for those Commodities, at much higher Prizes, but not nigh so good in Quality as formerly, which unavoidably dreins *England* yearly of vast Sums of ready Money; neither is our Trade to the *East Indies*, so well secur'd, from whence the greatest part of our *Salt-Petre* is brought, but it may unexpectedly be ingross'd by our Neighbours, and we must then depend upon them, to supply us with *Salt-Petre*, as now with *Spice*, &c.

Therefore, for preventing these growing Mischiefs, of such dangerous Consequence to this Kingdom, It is Humbly Propos'd, that *England* may in a little time, be plentifully supply'd with *Masts*, *Ship-Timber*, *Oaken Plank*, *Pitch*, *Tarr*, *Rosin*, *Hemp*, *Flax*, and *Salt-Petre* from her own Colonies and Provinces in *America*, and Islands adjacent.

1. Trees fit for *Masts*, &c. grow in great plenty in the Provinces of *New Hampshire* and *Main* in *New-England*, but very much destroy'd by *Saw-Mills*, and *Canoe-makers*; some *Masts* are yearly brought from thence, but now very few such Trees are to be found in either Province, nigh the Water, and therefore more chargeable, to carry them 7 or 8 Miles by Land, and afterwards floated to the Ships; insomuch, that in a little time, necessity will force us to make *Masts* of *Cypress-Trees*, which are very large, and in great plenty nigh Navigable Rivers, as in *Virginia*, at *Chicobomini* in *James River*, at *West Point* and other places in *Tork River*, and *Rappabanock*, and several Rivers in *North Carolina*. Masts in New-England.  
Masts of Cypress Trees in James River, &c.

At *Kennebeck River*, about 50 Miles Northward from *Pascataqua River* (the only place from whence the great *Masts* are brought) are abundance of very large *Firr-Trees*, fit for *Masts*; And at *Abigaduffet* (Ten Miles from the Mouth of it) is a place for a *Saw-Mill*, and such plenty of *Pine* and *Firr*, enough to Load 40 or 50 Vessels yearly, with *Masts*, *Board*, *Plank*, &c.

On *Bear-Island* likewise, lying N. E. and not far from *Kennebeck*, are large *Firr-Trees* fit for *Masts*; but the *Indians*, supported by the *French*, did, in the year 1689 drive the *English* out of *Kennebeck*, and places inhabited more Northerly demolish'd and burnt all the new Forts built by Sir *Edmond Andros*; and destroyed, or made prisoners, the greatest number of the Inhabitants in the Province of *Main*; and since destroy'd the Towns of *Dover*, and many of the People in the Province of *New-Hampshire*; so that the River *Pascataqua*, where the few *Masts* remaining in these Two Provinces can be shipp'd off, is the only place to depend on for great *Masts* of *Firr*, at this time from those Northern parts of *America*.

2. *Plank* and *Timber* for Building Ships. There is growing upon every Navigable River and Creek, from *Pemaquod* in *New-England*, Northward, to the Southern parts of *Virginia* (above 700 Miles in length) vast quantities of *Oaken Timber*, both *Straight* and *Compass*, with convenient Places and Depths of Water, to build Ships; so that 60 Sail of good Ships, from 200 to 500 Tuns, and upwards, may yearly be built in those Colonies, at one Third less Charge than in *England*; as at *Pascataqua*, where the *Faulkland* Frigate (above 700 Tuns) was built 3 or 4 years ago; and at *Salisbury*, *Salem*, *Boston*, *Charles-Town*, *Hingham*, *Road-Island*, *New Bristol*, in *New-England*, *New England*, *New England*: As also at *Mamaronock River*, 12 Miles to the Southward from *New-York*, and in the Provinces of *Pennsylvania*, *Maryland* and *Virginia*. Plank and Timber.

3. *Pitch* and *Tar*, great quantities of which are already made at several places, as in the Colony of *New Plymouth*, and *Connecticott* in *New England*, which serves not only that Country, but some hundred Barrels are sent yearly to the *West-Indies*. There are likewise, several Islands near the Eastern