

Moreover, colonisation, its motives and its methods, must have worn a very different aspect to the actual colonists in Virginia or New England, hard put to it to live from day to day, from that which it presented to would-be colonisers in England. In England, however, the three motives, to provide for the unemployed, to counter Spain and cripple the resources which she drew from America, and finally—in word more than in deed—to convert the heathen, were intermittently more or less operative in the seventeenth century down to the Restoration. Prior to 1660 religion, though not conversion, companies, and Cromwell were the main forces which shaped the infancy and childhood of the Empire. Of the companies, the East India Company, incorporated by Queen Elizabeth on December 31, 1600, was formed solely for trade. The primary object of the Virginia Company, incorporated by King James I on April 10, 1606, was colonisation, but with due regard to trade as a necessary consequence of successful settlement. Trade and planting were, in these early years of the Empire, close allies, and to Sir Thomas Smith, the London merchant, who was the first chairman of the East India Company, a tract of 1609, extolling the merits of Virginia, was dedicated as being ‘one of His Majesty’s Council for Virginia and treasurer for the Colony.’<sup>1</sup>

There could, however, be no question of planting—of English settlement in the thickly populated Eastern tropics, still less on the West Coast of Africa. The

<sup>1</sup> The tract is headed ‘Nova Britannia’; it is in Force’s Collection, vol. i.