

The late expedition had been much in the Protector's mind and great store he set by it, to judge from his letters and speeches as given us by Carlyle. 'I have, by advice of the Council,' he wrote to Speaker Lenthall on September 2, 1654, 'undertaken a design by sea, very much (as we hope and judge) for the honour and advantage of the Commonwealth.'¹ In December 1654 the ill-fated expedition under Penn and Venables started for West Indian waters; in April 1655 came the fiasco at Hispaniola; and in May the capture of Jamaica. Cromwell's letters show how bitter was his disappointment at the failure at Hispaniola, which was in his eyes a divine chastisement for sin; but they also show how resolute and practical was his character, holding fast to the aim which he had proposed to himself, and making the most of such slight gain as had been achieved. 'We think, and it is much designed among us, to strive with the Spaniard for the mastery of all those seas,' he wrote to Jamaica in November 1655.² In the previous month he had written to Barbados of his determination 'to people and plant' Jamaica,³ and from every quarter he sought and procured settlers, free or forced, for his newly acquired island. 'We have sent commissioners and instructions into New England, to try what people may be drawn thence. We have done the like to the Windward English Islands; and both in England and Scotland and Ireland, you will have what men and women we can well transport.'⁴ He was resolved by

¹ Carlyle, *ut sup.*, Appendix No. 28, p. 225.

² *Ibid.*, Part IX, p. 148.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 148.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 146.