

all means to hold fast to Jamaica, and the taking and holding fast of Jamaica made history. Both the policy and the conduct of the operations against Spain lent themselves to plentiful criticism. In 'A Discourse of Trade,' published in London in 1670, the author, Roger Coke, grandson of Lord Justice Coke, wrote of Cromwell's break with Spain in 1654, after the Dutch had made peace with her in 1648, and of the consequent loss of British trade in the Spanish West Indies, as, 'a folly never to be forgiven in his politics, nor the losses this nation sustained thereby ever again to be repaired.'¹ That the difficulties of the enterprise had been underestimated; that the forces employed were a disorderly medley, ill assorted and inadequately equipped; that the colonies, or the employing classes in the colonies, were but ill content to have their manhood and their labour supply drawn off for the planting of an island which might be—to Barbados at any rate—an unwelcome rival; that Cromwell's wholesale deportations savoured of barbarism; all this must be admitted. Yet was he, in Professor Egerton's words, 'a great Imperial ruler, perhaps the only Englishman who has ever understood in its full sense the word Empire.'² Minded to oust the Dutch from New Netherlands, if peace had not come too soon for that purpose; taking and keeping while he lived the French forts in Acadia; writing to Blake and Montague as to whether an attack on the Spanish Fleet at Cadiz or on Cadiz itself was feasible, or 'whether any other place be

¹ *A Discourse of Trade*, Preface, p. B5.

² *A Short History of British Colonial Policy* (1908), second edition, p. 64.