

seventeenth century in connexion with English colonisation, he was referring to political, not to commercial, policy ; and, speaking of his own time, he argued that trade with a British colony was safer than trade with a foreign country, because in the case of a colony the commercial laws were under the control of the Mother Country, and therefore, the Mother Country of the British colonies being Great Britain, the commercial laws of her colonies would be good laws. He did not note that both the effect and the avowed intent of the navigation laws passed in the reign of Charles II was to subordinate the political system to the commercial ; nor again does he seem to have contemplated a British colony so free and so self-governing as to take, in the matter of customs tariffs, a line directly opposed to the commercial policy of Great Britain. Yet this came to pass in Canada within four or five years after his speech. The endowment of the colony of Rhode Island in 1663 with a liberal charter allowing the colonists to choose their own governor was, as a matter of fact, apparently dictated by desire to conciliate other provinces of New England than Massachusetts, Massachusetts being feared and suspected in England for its determined Puritanism.

The reign of Charles II was extraordinarily rich alike in activities and in writings concerned with the Empire. It was a time when new colonies were planted and new acquisitions made overseas—the Carolinas, the Bahamas, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, St. Helena (already informally acquired), and Bombay. But still more prominently it was a time of oversea trade, of outstanding prosperity for the East