

India Company, of new chartered companies, such as the African and the Hudson Bay Companies, and of navigation acts. Trade overshadowed religion as the main driving force and the leading motive at work in the Empire, trade and sea power as at once the offspring and the foster-mother of trade. The trade outlook in the Mother Country was all in the direction of uniformity, with its concomitant of domination and dependence, and the preamble of the navigation act of 1663 stated in so many words that the act was being passed 'for the maintaining a greater correspondence and kindness' between the Kingdom of England and the King's plantations overseas, 'and keeping them in a firmer dependence upon it and rendering them yet more beneficial and advantageous unto it . . .'¹

An interesting illustration of the growing importance attached to trade was the publication of 'England's Treasure by Foreign Trade or the balance of our Foreign Trade the rule of our Treasure.' The author, Thomas Mun, who had died in 1641, had been a leading London merchant, a trader in Italy and the Levant, and a director of the East India Company. In 1621 he had published a 'Discourse of Trade from England to the East Indies,' being at the time deputy governor of the East India Company. He wrote 'England's Treasure by Foreign Trade' in or about 1630, but it was not published until 1664, when his son, John Mun, published it 'for the common good,' as he stated on the flyleaf. It was dedicated to the Earl of Southampton, Lord High Treasurer of England.

Mun was very outspoken, which was possibly the

¹ 15 Car. II, cap. 7, 1663. *An Act for the Encouragement of Trade.*