

A writer on trade, who died in 1681, at the time when Penn received his patent, Samuel Fortrey, a French Protestant refugee, contended that 'to increase the people of this nation permission should be given to all people of foreign countries, under such restrictions as the State should think fit, freely to inhabit and reside within this kingdom,' and that the Protestant religion of England would be an inducement to immigrants. Any exodus from England would thus be made good by immigration into England. But Fortrey, like almost all the writers of this period, looked on colonies in the light of trade. 'I conceive no foreign plantation should be undertaken, or prosecuted, but in such countries that may increase the wealth and trade of this nation.'¹ A later writer, Charles Davenant, taking up the same objection, that the colonies drained the kingdom of its people, gave the same answer, that emigration should be balanced by immigration, that England should be made 'the Azilum for all oppressed and afflicted persons.'² A man of a very different stamp from Penn, Sir Josiah Child, the well-known autocrat of the East India Company, shared Penn's view that emigration to the colonies had not weakened and depeopled England. He argued that, if there had been no plantations, the kind of people who emigrated would have gone abroad in any case, that, since the plantations had come

¹ *England's Interest and Improvement considered in the Increase of the Trade of this Kingdom*, first published in 1663, fourth edition 1744, pp. 4 and 40.

² *Discourses on the Public Revenues and on the Trade of England, which more immediately treat of the Foreign Traffic of this Kingdom*, Part II, Discourse III, *On the Plantation Trade* (1698), p. 202.