

into being, the population of England had increased, not decreased, and that 'every Englishman in Barbados or Jamaica creates employment for four men at home.'<sup>1</sup> But while Child had the good sense to see the fallacy of the contention that the plantations had robbed England of people who might have been put to more profitable use if they had remained at home, he was very far from being in love with the New England type of plantation. 'New England,' he wrote, 'is the most prejudicial plantation to this kingdom,'<sup>2</sup> and 'a more independent government from this kingdom than any other of our plantations.'<sup>3</sup> The same, we have seen, was the view of the Council of Trade and Plantations, over which Lord Shaftesbury presided, and of which John Evelyn was a member. Child saw a menace to England in the fact that New England was good for shipbuilding and was breeding a race of seamen; 'in my poor opinion there is nothing more prejudicial and in prospect more dangerous to any kingdom than the increase of shipping in her colonies, plantations, or provinces.'<sup>4</sup> Holding these views, he was consistent in being a strong supporter of the navigation laws. 'I am of opinion that, in relation to trade, shipping, profit and power, it is one of the choicest and most prudent acts

<sup>1</sup> *A New Discourse of Trade*, by Sir Josiah Child. He was born in 1630 and died in 1699. The first edition was in 1665. It was largely expanded in subsequent editions in his lifetime. The quotations in the text are from an edition of 1804. This quotation is from chap. x., *Concerning Plantations*, p. 178. Among *Select Tracts relating to Colonies* in the British Museum, B.M. 1029c, 15, is *A Discourse Concerning Plantations*, by Sir Josiah Child, published 1692, and expressing the same views as above. The Tract follows the Tract by William Penn on *The Benefit of Plantations and Colonies*.

<sup>2</sup> P. 198.

<sup>3</sup> P. 188.

<sup>4</sup> P. 201.