

measure to 'the barbarous ignorance observable among the common people, especially those of the poorer sort.'¹

In 1695 the largest minded and at once the most upright and the most merciful of the statesmen of the Restoration era died, Halifax, the Trimmer, as he was proud to be known. His guiding hand had been strongly felt in the terms under which William and Mary were brought to the throne of England. 'Our Revolution,' wrote Lord Macaulay in his History, 'as far as it can be said to bear the character of any single mind, assuredly bears the character of the large yet cautious mind of Halifax';² and his verdict upon the Trimmer's political life as a whole was that he 'almost invariably took that view of the great questions of his time which history has finally adopted.'³ Always an unswerving friend of freedom, he urged with reference to the New England colonies that the same laws which were in force in England should be applied in countries overseas inhabited by Englishmen, but otherwise there is no evidence that he took such interest in colonies and colonising as was taken by his great adversary Shaftesbury. Like most of his contemporaries, he contemplated the Empire in terms of trade and sea power. In his famous 'Rough Draught of a New Model at Sea,' published in 1694, he wrote, 'It is no paradox to say that England hath its root in the sea, and a deep one too, from whence it sendeth its branches into both the Indies. . . . We

¹ *History of the Society*, 1698-1898, *ut sup.*, p. 43.

² Macaulay, *History of England* (1855 edition), vol. iii, chap. xi, p. 17.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. iv, chap. xxi, p. 544.