

endured only through being evaded. Though the first three-quarters of the eighteenth century included British successes overseas, most memorable alike in number and in kind, trade in its ugliest forms darkened the path of Empire. When the British Government of the day cast up the accounts of the Seven Years War and decided which of the spoils taken from France should be retained and which should be restored, it was decided to keep Canada and to give back the rich sugar island of Guadeloupe. The reasons for the decision were various and complicated, but the fact of very common knowledge remains that Guadeloupe was set in the balance against Canada, so omnipresent and overpowering were trade considerations in the eighteenth century.

Yet no such considerations, no thoughts of gain of any kind, were in James Oglethorpe's mind when, in 1732, he set his hand to the colonisation of Georgia. His was a very long as well as a very noble and useful life. Born in December 1696, he lived for eighty-nine years, and died on July 1, 1785, having survived the Old Empire. The respect and affection with which he inspired Dr. Johnson, who was avowedly willing to be his biographer, was a great tribute to his worth. He was a soldier of distinction and a philanthropist, having, as a young member of the House of Commons, fathered and presided over a Parliamentary Committee of inquiry into the condition of the debtors' prisons; and he conceived the plan of a colony which would at once provide homes and livelihood for paupers from these prisons, and be of value from a military point of view. These conditions were fulfilled