# A SHORT HISTORY OF BARBADOS: FROM ITS FIRST DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT, TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1767

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### **GEORGE FRERE**

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### SHORT HISTORY

OF

# BARBADOS,

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226 k. 218.

# [ iii ]

# PREFACE.

ing sheets hath endeavoured faithfully and impartially to relate the events that
concern the antient colony of Barbados. His motive to this attempt
was in some degree a gratification
of his amusement, by filling up
some leisure hours, in a manner
a 2 not

### [ iv ]

not totally useless to himself or the public; but principally to shew, that Barbados hath always preferved a uniform and steady attachment to Great Britain, and therefore is intitled to the affection and indulgence of the mother country. All people naturally wish to receive fome account of their native country; of its constitution, and its progress to power and opulence. If then this short performance meets the approbation, or adds to the amusement, or gratifies the curiofity of the natives of that island, the Author will think the time

### [ v ]

time he has employed in this composition not mispent.

Some one, with equal leifure and greater abilities, may improve and make more perfect this work. Indeed it is strange, that not any historical account hath ever appeared of an island of so much consequence to the mother country as Barbados is, whose loyalty has often been experienced; whose assistance never was denied; and whose acquiescence to the authority of Great Britain \* a late re-

\* Stamp Act.

markable

# [ vi ]

markable instance hath fully exemplified. An island too, to which belongs a merit peculiar to itself; that it has not for threescore years past cost one shilling of expence to Great Britain, except a few pieces of cannon that were granted upon application many years ago: what salaries are paid by the crown to its officers are all provided by the four and half per cent. duty.

The distance of time and place, and the difficulty of gathering materials, will, it is hoped, excuse any misrepresentations, or other errors that

### [ vii ]

that may appear in this work. The Author's acquaintance with many of the circumstances he relates, authentic matters of record, and the affiftance of some old writers, as well as fome of modern date, have enabled him to throw together the following anecdotes. He hath been particularly attentive to the relation of facts. Truth ought to be the foundation upon which every fcribbling builder should erect his fabric; notwithstanding the pleasant remark of an ingenious \* author, whose works

<sup>\*</sup> Jenyns's Origin of Evil.

### [ viii ]

the actions of mankind give too great fanction to. "Truth," fays he, "by her native beauty is fure "to charm; yet from her repug-"nancy to most men's interests, "she is seldom welcome; politi-"cians are afraid of her, parties "detest her, and all professions "agree, that she is very dangerous "if suffered to go about in "public."

### A SHORT