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Captain **Julius**'s sailing orders, 6 Nov., 1697. To sail to Barbados, touching at Dominica on the way in order to embark the English prisoners brought by the flag of truce from Martinique. $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Deposition of Captain William **Julius**, of H.M.S. Colchester. That it was at his proposal that Tankard was sent to Martinique, to fetch prisoners, on her way to Barbados. The said prisoners were to have been transferred to the Colchester at Dominica, and **Julius** had begged Tankard to give out that he was going back to Antigua, lest the released prisoners, on learning that they were to be shipped on the Colchester, should mutiny and run away with the ship. 21 December, 1697. 1 p.

431. VII. Deposition of Henry Walrond. Towards the end of September last a French flag of truce arrived at Antigua from Martinique. I was then a volunteer on board H.M.S. Jersey, Captain Edmond Bugdon, then lying in St. John's Harbour. I was ordered to attend the Captain in his pinnace to board and search the flag of truce, when finding a quantity of French wine and brandy on her the Captain seized her and reported as much to Governor Codrington. The Governor ordered him to restore the sloop and goods. The Captain answered that he could not discharge her except by due course of law and asked that she might be brought to trial. I myself saw the letters that passed. Soon afterwards the Governor sent a second order in writing to discharge the ship, which the Captain refused to do, and some days later the Governor came down to St.

John's and sent for Captain Bugdon. I was present at the meeting, and heard the Governor say, "Sirrah, I wonder how you can have the impudence to "look me in the face after being such a rogue to seize "a flag of truce and disobeying my commands." He added that Bugdon was a rascal, saying, "Get you "gone and discharge her, or I will take care of you,' or words to that effect. Bugdon thereupon left him but refused to discharge the ship. A few days later the Governor sent a message on board the Jersey to summon Captain Bugdon before himself and Council. Captain Watts and Captain Julius were both with him, and I also was present. The Governor commanded Captain Bugdon to discharge the flag of truce, and on his refusal threatened to turn him out of commission. He complained to his Councillors and the two Captains that Bugdon ought to be tried and said that he only awaited the arrival of Captain Simmonds at St. John's in order to try him. He said that the flag of truce should not be tried; and a few days afterwards she was discharged by his order and sailed away. Captain Hartman, late commander of Governor Codrington's sloop Barbuda, taken by the French outside St. Christophers, was a prisoner on board the flag of truce, and informed me that no harm could be done to him for the goods brought down in the flag of truce without doing harm to the Governor, who was concerned in them; for several of the goods in her belonged to the Governor and were bought for him. Sworn as *No. III. 2 pp.*

6 May 1698

About four years ago James Weatherhill of Antigua, commander of the privateer sloop Charles of Jamaica, took a Spanish merchantman of great value. It is credibly reported that several Spaniards were killed in defending their ship against these pirates, and those who survived were inhumanly abused. Happening to discourse with our Lieutenant-Governor, John Yeamans, I mentioned that I had heard that Captain Julius of H.M.S. Jersey and John Perrie, now Provost Marshal of the Leeward Islands, went down in a little sloop (which Julius commanded) to a Spanish town where Weatherhill was lying with his prize, that there Julius had traded with the pirate, and that I wondered why Governor Codrington had not prosecuted Weatherhill for piracy and Julius and Perrie for trading with them. Mr. Yeamans replied that he had advised the Governor to prosecute them and that he drew a general warrant for their apprehension, which Governor Codrington promised should be executed. But he never did so, and instead thereof afterwards preferred Julius to the command of H.M.S. Chester, though he had sworn in the company of Lady Stapleton and others that Julius should be hanged. He even refused to eat some bacon which Julius had bought of Weatherhill. I had this account from Mrs. Katharine Fenton, who was present, but is

now dead. Lady Stapleton, who is in England, could doubtless confirm it. When Weatherhill committed this piracy John Perrie kept a tavern in St. Johns, Antigua; and Perrie harboured Weatherhill in his house until Perrie could assure him that he might safely appear. Weatherhill has since been so impudent as to bring on his own trial at the Grand Sessions, at the same time as when Robert Arthur was tried, but the Court would not permit Weatherhill's trial to be brought on. Perrie was shortly afterwards promoted from his tavern to Governor Codrington's service. This incestuous person has married his own brother's widow, for which he was prosecuted by the Assembly of Antigua, but the proceedings were obstructed by Governor Codrington. Perrie is his prime vizier who manages the most important affairs of this high and mighty sultan, as well in relation to civil authority as to secret trade with foreigners. If such actions correspond with the character which the Council and Assembly of Antigua have given to Governor Codrington, with intent to invalidate my statements as to Captain Arthur, then vice triumphant is esteemed virtue, but their partiality is explained by their combining with him to trade with the French during the war, for which see John Clarke's deposition annexed. Colonel Rowland Williams admitted that he was concerned in the ship bought by Martyn and Roe at Martinique, and Edward Byam acknowledged that he had received excise for the brandy which they bought at Martinique. The foregoing will shew you how faithfully the King's interest has been promoted by those entrusted with the Government here. These and many other abominable practices of Governor Codrington have induced me to prefer all my complaints against him. I have had frequent solicitations from his favourites to dissuade me from proceeding therein, but I have not gone with the multitude to flatter a man whose will is law, though I have suffered much since I had my difference with Governor Codrington, but I had rather forego all I possess than submit to arbitrary power. I expect great opposition in the undertaking, but am comforted to think that my judges are men of honour and integrity. *Signed*, Edward Walrond. 5½ pp. *Endorsed*, Recd. 6 May, 1698. *Annexed*,

605. I. John Lucas to Robert, Lord Lucas, Governor of the Tower. Antigua, 25 April, 1698. Your justice, goodness and love of liberty embolden me to lay my case before you. I contracted with one Robert Edgcomb, master of the ship Dolphin of Plymouth, to bring me and my two sons to England, shipped the goods that I required for the voyage, and took out my ticket to leave the island as the law requires. The master, however, by Governor Codrington's order refuses to take me on

board, and I am imprisoned upon suspicion of having written a letter of complaints to Admiral Nevill, on which jealousy and suspicion Captain Julius, of H.M.S. Colchester, assaults me in the street and treats me very evilly, to the endangering of my life. I sought all ways and means to have reparation but could obtain nothing but menacing language from Governor Codrington, who in the Council Chamber threatened to break my head, calling me villain and rascal. I am a person of good fame and honest reputation always; I was for some years Speaker of the Assembly and have suffered much by this war, and now I am detained of my liberty in view of the world, which cries out shame on such proceedings. My family is put under great distractions, my estate exhausted, my person like to be destroyed by a withering durance; unreasonable bail is demanded—£500 at a time is nothing—my friends are encumbered with high bonds, and no crimes expressed but mere notions. I desire to be heard before the King and Council, and desired Governor Codrington to let me go, and if he had anything to object I would appear before the King in Council. The Council commanded me to give £500 security for good behaviour and then I might go for England, but it was impossible for me to perform the voyage according to the time fixed for Sessions. I submitted to all this, though I am still detained and sorely oppressed. I beg you to procure me an order to come to England with my children, that I may leave this Colony where I have suffered wrongs and injuries for many years. *Signed, John Lucas. P.S.—*Since I wrote the above, £5,000 bail is demanded or else close imprisonment, so must be forced to make over my estate. *1½ pp. Endorsed, Recd. Read 27 June, 1698.*

The same to Samuel Proctor. 22 April, 1698. I enclose a bill of lading and invoice for goods shipped in the Dolphin. I was bound home, ready to depart, and had given every security imaginable when the master refused to take me. Tell Mr. Walrond of it and make application to the King and Council, for I am sorely oppressed. Captain Julius assaulted me with intent to murder me; Governor Codrington and Council threaten to beat me, and abuse me for demanding attestations against Julius. My usage is cruel. I dare not express it. Produce this letter before the King and Council.

1698 July 1 A number of papers as to John Lucas's case were presented. Order for a letter to the Admiralty asking that Captains Julius and Edgecombe may attend on Monday

616. I. Deposition of Walter Quarme before the Governor and Council of Antigua. 14 April, 1698. That he heard John Lucas say that the Governor had not done him justice in not signing a warrant against William Julius.

Deposition of John Perrie. John Lucas being summoned before Council to answer certain matters, withdrew without orders and afterwards sent in a request for admission, when he asked the Council for attestations that the Governor refused him a warrant of arrest against Captain Julius. Among other words reflecting on the Governor he said that the Governor had not done him justice in refusing the warrant, for he was going to England to prosecute Captain Julius for assaulting him. $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Warrant of the Deputy Governor of Antigua for the Provost Marshal to bring John Lucas and his son-in-law, John Austin, before Council. 12 April, 1697. *Inscribed*, I [Lucas] appeared to this warrant and had no other comfort by the Governor's passion, who, when I demanded attestations of Julius's usage, shook his cane and threatened to break my head, calling me villain and rascal; but incestuous Perrie is a very honest fellow in the Governor's esteem. $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

House of Commons 28 Feb 1699

Irish Arrears.

Ordered, That Mr. *Hughes*, Mr. *Gurdon*, Mr. *Crane*, Mr. *Archdale*, Sir *Tho. Cook*, be added to the Committee, to whom the Petition of the Soldiers of Colonel *Coot's* Regiment is referred.

A Petition of Captain *Edmund Bugden* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, That the Petitioner was Lieutenant of the *Colchester*, and Captain of the *Jersey*: and, as such, was concerned in the taking several Prizes about the *Leeward Islands*; which *Christopher Codrington* Esquire wrested from the Petitioner, in Wrong to him, and the King; which the Petitioner is ready to prove; and, on the 5th of *October* 1697, the Lords of the Admiralty sent, by Captain *Symonds*, an Order for the Petitioner, and Captain *Wm. Julius*, to return, with his Majesty's Ships under their Command, to *Europe*, in 60 Days after, unless the General should think fit to detain them longer, for sending his Packet; which he did, for 15 Days; and that Time being also expired, the said General, and Captain *Julius*, refusing to give the Petitioner any Order for his longer Stay, he returned to *England*; and gave in his Deposition of the said Frauds to the Commissioners of Trade; after which, the Petitioner was

tried by a Court-Martial, for returning home without Order; where Captain *Julius* producing another Order than what Captain *Symonds* brought, which was shewn the Petitioner; and falsly deposing, That it was the same; the Court-Martial thereupon sentenced the Petitioner's Pay, amounting to about 260 *l.* to be forfeited to *Greenwich* Hospital, and he to be incapable of his Majesty's Service, and to be imprisoned for 12 Months: And praying, That the said Matters may be referred to the Examination of a Committee; whereby the said Frauds may be made appear, and the Petitioner justified.

Ordered, That the said Petition do lie upon the Table.

Copy of summary to Jay Hearn [highlanderglory@gmail.com] when done (Feb 2016)

The Letters of William Freeman, London Merchant, 1678-1685

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/search?query=%22Thomas%20Westcott%22&title=&page=1>

The Letters of William Freeman, London Merchant, 1678-1685

Captain William Freeman was the son of Colonel William Freeman, one of the earliest white settlers of the West Indian colony of St. Kitts (St. Christopher). He established himself as a substantial figure in the Leeward Is owning many plantations and mercantile enterprises. Aged 30 he moved to London c1675

Captain William Freeman's Atlantic 'world of business' was created in a developmentally critical period – the 1670s and 1680s – a time of economic, political, and social opportunity. Historians regard the emergence of Britain as a major Atlantic and world power as one of the principal world-historical events to be explained when studying the eighteenth century. Their analysis has consistently highlighted the contested organization and content of economic, political and social life at the end of the seventeenth century as critical to such an explanation. This disturbed world generated opportunities that William Freeman's life, activities and attitudes reflect. In taking advantage of the propitious conditions that emerged from the agitation and excitement, he also created and shaped them. His behaviour and the behaviour of men like him laid the foundations for Britain's new commercial empire, a structure that arose between the passage of the first Navigation ordinance in 1651 and the outbreak of the War for America in 1775.

William Freeman had a talent for business, and his various entrepreneurial activities had raised him well above the ranks of the Leewarders he had left behind. He quickly built up a network of Commission Agents, one of whom was **Thomas Westcott**, the son of a friend in London, whom Freeman had hired as an apprentice clerk for his Leeward plantations and then set up as the manager of his Nevis wine and drygoods store (*Freeman, Robert Helme his brother-in-law, **Thomas Westcott** and William Helme were jointly involved in the Nevis dry goods store*).

Freeman's correspondence with **Westcott** is littered with the problems created by the inability to observe his agent, the nearly continuous allegation of fraud, and the struggle to overcome accounting and shipping problems. In reading Freeman's list of what **Westcott** did not do, one wonders what he actually did, as when in 1682 he did not send a list of goods remaining unsold, he did not observe Freeman's orders to sell only for ready payment, he did not frequently adjust with planter customers and take their Bills of Exchange, he did not send home Accounts of Sales, Accounts Current and Lists of Debts, and he did not apply himself sufficiently to the recovery of debts. Two years later, the grievance was shipping: in April, **Westcott** sent 20 tuns of Freeman's sugar, but the sugar was 'so disorderly marked, and such confusion that nobody knows what to make of it'; of these, only 16 were found, and 'neither the quantity nor the markes were right'. 'Not one number comes out right'. The sugar was 'extreame bad & many of the casks half filled with sugar canes'. 'In fine', he concluded, **Westcott's** work 'must be a cheat' upon him, 'a design of fraud' all around. Later that year, Freeman reckoned that, of the £4,000 principal entrusted to **Westcott**, only £1,500 was sent to London as returns. About the only recourse Freeman felt that he had (short of visiting the island – which he briefly contemplated in 1685 – or pulling out altogether – which he never did) was to write 'sharply', and this he did often with 'the intent ... to frighten' **Westcott** into 'better compliance'. (fn. 98)

Freeman's Letters

Letter 47. [p. 46] *William Helme & **Thomas Westcott** [Nevis]*

London, December 6, 1678

This comes by the Abraham, Abraham Terry, Comander, and is to advise you that I have laden on bord s.d vessell a bale of blue and browne harfords. (fn. 21) An Invoice of its contents and cost and Bill of Ladeing you have hereinlosed, and goes consigned unto yourselfe. It is a small adventure of a particular freind of mine, who hath donn me some singular kindnesses. Wherefore its my desire that you take the s.d bale to your brothers and my joynt account at 8s p.r c.t according to the Invoice, and lade the full proceeds upon this ship Abraham, without deducting any comission, storidge, or any other charge, but what you realy pay. And lett it be in large hogsheads and consigne it to myselfe. Its a small matter that I know wee canot loose by at that rate. Therefore, fayle not to comply with my orders herein.

Wee have hired the shipp Unity, William Lester, Comander, to lade in Ireland as you will p.rceive by our joynt letters, on whome I have ordered 10 barrells of beefe to be laden for my owne account being for the use of my plantation in Mountsaratt, and consigned the same unto Mr. William Fox. When please God the ship arives, pray take care to send it up to Mr. Fox. I have alsoe by this shipp sent [blank] bundles of but, punch. and hhd. staves upon my owne account which I desire you alsoe to send up to Mr. Fox being for the makeing caske for my plant. sugar, and have agreed with my brother Baxter for 5 tunns freight home upon this shipp Abraham. That I desire you will not fayle to send up a sloop to Mountsaratt for and if any more ready to lade it alsoe upon this ship. And futher intreate you att all times whensoever that I have any sugar there in a readines, you will take care to send up a sloop for it, and ship it me home. And if any of our shippes bee there thats bound for Leverpoole, pray lade it to that port. And fayle not to advise the shippes and quantity you lade upon, that I may make insurance if needfull. Pray comunicate this letter to your brother that he may give you his assistance, according to my requests. And I am sure hee will not be wanting in. And as soone as this comes to hand, give Mr. Fox a line with the inclosed and advise him that the sugar be in a readines against you. Order him a sloop. Thus requesting your p.rformance, and alsoe that you will be further assisting to Mr. Fox in anything that concerns my intrest there as occation shall require, I subscribe myselfe.

65. [p. 64] William Helme & **Thomas Westcott** [Nevis]

London, February 12, 1678/9

This searves to advise you that wee have laden on bord the shipp Unity, Arthure Hare, Comander, a cargo of drye goods for acco.tt in thirds of ourselves and Mr. Rob. Helmes amounting to the summe of L1125 07s 01d, as p.r the inclosed Invoice appeares. The Bill of Ladeing for the same goes alsoe inclosed. God sending them safe to your hands, you will finde them a parcell of the most fashonable goods thats worne here, and as good of the sorts as ever was bought, and are exterordinary cheape bought, which you mast observe in your sales and make your prices accordingly. Wee designed more hatts, a parcell of soape, and some other things that could not be had timely, but you may expect them to follow very sudently. Whatever goods you want for sortmens from time to time, advise for, that soe you may have a shopp constantly furnished of the best of all sorts of goods that are vendable. And wee hope your

care will be to hasten us good accounts and speedy returns that must give us encouragement. French linens are not to be had, but at unreasonable rates. Which hath occasioned us to suspend the sending of any at present, but shall in a little time give you a supply of those commodities. Wee now thinke it longe till wee heare from you, having had none since September Last. Wee desire you to cull over your Invoice carefully and advise if all things right. ...

Letter 108. [p. 112] *William Helme [Nevis]*

London, July 21, 1679

This accompanyes the ship Providence of London, John Estes, Master, on whom we have laden a cargo of dry goods amounting to the value of L4189 00s 09d. Invoice and Bill of Lading for the same goes heerwith and is consigned unto yourself. God sending them to your hand in safety, you will find them a parcell of extraordinary goods, well sorted and as fashionable goods as this city affords. & We desire you upon their arrivall to open them all and call over the Invoice and see that you find all things right. You will not finde that distinct prices are put upon most of the fine goods. Soe that upon calling them over, you may take of the part of the prices for sale and marke them as you see good for distinction in the prices for sale. And this cargo being soe large we conceive you may doe well to make a sortment of goods and put in the hands of some trusty person at Montserrat and another parcell for St. Christopher. And dispose of as much as you can to good paymasters before Xtmass that we may have the benefit of the next cropp. You see we repose a large trust in you which we hope you will endeavor to discharge with care and dilligence. & As our adventures have been extraordinary this last year, we hope we may expect supplies from you in returne answerable.

This ship we have hired to lade at Nevis or any the Leeward Islands and lade upon her 60 working dayes, besides 30 more on demaridge. And pray what you lade for accompts, let it be in large hhd. well filld. The Abraham we expect to heare of every day, God sending her safe. We shal put another Master in her, and endeavor to gett servants to send out upon her and some wines from Madera, which is the onely comodety we futurely designe to meddle with, unless a small sortment of goods be wanting to help off with any goods that lyes upon your hands. You need make but one acco.t of merchandize for these & the former parcell of goods being for the same account which will avoide great trouble. Suddenly after this, Mr. Clayton will follow in a ship of ours, which we

judg may carry about 60 to 70 tunns. That tunndige by whom shall send a sortment of goods that are wanting in this cargo to sute it. But we designe her to discharge at Montsarratt and to relade there, if possible you could prucure a freight for her in a readiness from any person or persons that hath goods there lyeing ready to lade. We had thoughts to have ordered her for New England, but are informed it will be to late to seize that coast; and by reason of this ships ladeing at Nevis, we judge it will be more easy to procure a freight at Montsarratt and Antigua then at Nevis. And if possible we could have a sloop to assist her in ladeing for her more speedy dispatch. But that we shall refer to Mr. Robt Helmes as well as all other things relateing to our affaires, whose advice and directions we desire you still to follow.

Thomas Westcott being now neer out of his time is the reason we consigne these goods to yourself only. But untill his time is fully expired, he will give you his best assistance we question not, and at the expiration therof to render a just accompt of all our concernes in his hands, to yourself or Mr. Robert Helmes. Pray endeavor the utmost you cann to make us speedy returnes of this& all other our concernes. And endeavor to avoid makeing bad debts, though you should keep our goods by for such as are able and honest. Spare not to trust, though you stay the longer with them. ...

109. *William Helme [Nevis]*

London, July 21, 1679

... You must now make itt your indevors to please all people in the disposition of these goods. And these being once disposed, your next business will be to put a period to our accompts, & to gather in our debts as fast as you cann, which will require at least two or three yeares time. And by that time I have a brother will be fitt to joyne with you. And it's my resolution to put the whole trade, in your hands, of dry goods, to mannidge for yourselves (and your brother and I). If not, I will myself advance a stock for you to carry it on upon your own accompts. And this I assure you we will doe for your encouragement. In the interim, I hope you will use your dilligence to mannidge our interest to our most & best advantage, & further our returns with all possible expedition. Wee have taken care to supply some linnen that are wanting in this cargo, and after that shall give you noe trouble of any other comodities but wines and lumber for our own occations. And haveing soe large a quantity of goods as this is, we conceive it may be convenient to send a supply to St. Christophers and another to M.tsarrat which you may very well doe, and find enough for Nevis markt also and make what sales you possible can at either places before Christmas, [p. 114] that wee may reap the

fruits of the next cropp. Pray follow your brothers directions in all things; **Thomas Westcotes** time expires in Decemb. Next. I should be glad to doe him any kindness I cann, and I doubt not but he will use his dilligence untill his time is fully expired. Pray continue to follow our former instructions in shiping all or as much as possible you cann of our sug.r in cargo hhds. either upon our own or hired shipp. And faile not to give us timely advises what quantities you lade on any our shipp and what elce relates to our concernes.

You need not make distinct acco.tts for our severall cargoes of dry goods, but let this & the formers be brought all into one acco.t of merchandize, which will be less troublesome to you, and will give us the same satisfaction as long as it's all for the same acco.t. Pray be more frequent in your advises and let us know how our goods vends and at what rates, espetially wines and grose goods.

I have noething further to add, haveing none of yours to answer, which am now in dayly expectations off. Capt. Deane ariveing this day, but not a line from any you which is strange. The Abraham parted with them 14 dayes since at sea, soe hope the next post may bring advise of his arrivall at Leverpoole. ...

160. [p. 167] *William Helme [Nevis]*

London, January 2, 1679/80

Yours of the 9th of October with duplicates of yours by Tiddeman I received yesterday. But as yett have noe assurance of his arivall, though a week since we had a reporte from Leverpoole of his being arrived at Dublin. But have great reason to suspect the truth of itt in regard the winde hath been fair ever since & its but 24 hours sayle betwixt Dublin & Leverpoole. (God grant he may be well.)

Wee take notice of Estes being arrived with you & that it will be difficult to lade him within his time, which is tenn weeks. Wee cannot imagine but it may be easy to accomplish the ladeing of soe small a shipp either upon freight or our acco.ts in soe long time, though the scarcety of sugar should be as greate as ever yett was knowen. But wee no wayes doubt your indevors therin. & I also hope my plant. at M.tsarratt will afford pritty considerable towards his ladeing.

Wee also observe you thinke the cargo we have sent to greate at once because the alteration of fashons may occation it's lying upon your hands. But few of those goods depends upon the fashons, being for the most part substantiall goods that are never out of fashion heer, except

some small matter in toys, which as yett the fashons are noewayes alterd in. & For your speedy disposall therof, wee have by severall conveyances since sent you our desires to disperse the goods on the severall islands, espetially to send part to Antigua, if you can find any trusty p.rson to imploy for selling them there, which pray be very carefull off, & pr.caution whomsoever you imploy upon that acco.t to be carefull to trust none but such as are responsible. For we had rather our goods should lye by than make bad debts.

I also take notice of your disgust at my dischargeing **Tho. Westcott**, believeing the trouble of our business to great for any single p.rson to mannidge, as indeed I am of the same oppinion, and did hope you had good assistance from your brother & W.m Hearne, who I p.rceive by yours is no assistance to you. How Richard Watts may pr.ve I cannot tell, but I never had any great expectations from him, though I wish for his own sake he would betake himself to buisness that may be his advantage heerafter. & If you find him inclynable to itt, I desire you to give him the best incouridgment you cann, & let him know he shall want noe incouridgment from me if he deserve itt. But why you should wonder at my dischargeing **Tho. Westcott** I cannot imagine, in regarde you cannot but be sensible that noe Master can confine an apprentice longer then his indenture doth, w.ch is now expired with him. & Whether he did inclyne to stay any longer in those parts or to remove himself to any other part of the world, I could no wayes be assured, untill I have it from himself. & Therefore, it was requisite for me to desire he should settle all things that had past through his hands of our concernes before the expiration of his indenture (hee being noewayes oblided to it after, unless good nature prompt him thereunto) further than to deliver up his trust. Yet, at the same time that I sent orders to discharge him, I writt to your brother to continue to imploy him in our concerns if he would stay in those parts and accept of such termes as is reasonable & noe worse then the greatest & best factor in Nevis hath, as I am well assured by his imployer. You may guess who I meane. & If your brother hath thought fitt to come to any resolution with **Mr. Westcott** on that acco.t, its our desire & orders to you to supply [p. 168] him with as much of our wines or any other goods as he can finde a good vent for. He shall never want any assistance that I can give him in recompence of his good service. But imployers must live by their trade, as well as factors, & that trade is growen soe dull that, if full comissions with all other advantages should be drawen, there is noething to be gott for imployers. Wee take notice you have disposed a considerable p.rcell of our goods at a penny p.r pound, first cost, which we take to be without any addition of charges. That will very much augment the price. & Indeed at that rate wee shall

never see our principall money. For severall p.rcells of sugars that we have had home hath not cleared us above 10s p.r c.t & some less. Soe that you may judge of our pr.fitt when goods is soe sould. & We had much rather our goods that is not p.rishable should lye by than be sould to noe advantage, & wee noewayes doubt (if you could meet with such as are trusty to imploy) but our goods would sell to much more advantage upon Antigua, or some other the adjacent islands. & Good part being soe disposed off, you will find more leasure to pr.secute the getting in our debts, which above all things wee desire you to follow, that we may receive something answerable in returne for our many great adventures that by your care & industry we doubt not but this yeare to reape the fruits of our adventures for some years past. We shall take care to take freight sugar for our goods home. That we alwayes desire you to comply with in loadeing whatever we take on our own accompts if possible. & Let our goods be all shipt in large hhds., as we have formerly desired. By what butt staves we send, it's our desire they should be cutt to such. & If you vend any of our goods at Antigua, its our request that you should send up a cooper or coopers as occation requires with truss hoops of the same dimentions of such hhds. as you make in Nevis soe that all our suger there may be laden in such large caske of our owne & made at the cheapest cost. & For freight if any offers at that island, you may lade it from thence direct & save the charge of sloop hire. Or if there be at any time a considerable quantety, you may send some of our own or hired shipp there to take them. We are now sending by the shipp Providence, Jonathan Estis, Master, that touches at Antigua, a p.rcell of packt staves that, if you think fitt, you may order them to be landed there. But then you must send your sloop timely there to meet the shipp.

My brother Baxter hath communicated to mee your letter to him, which I cannot but take notice off soe farr as to let you know that I never intended but to rewarde you for your serviss by advanceing a stock for you to imploy upon your own accompt as soon as our concernes are settled & that we had good part of our returnes home for what already sent. For more goods I never did designe to send unless to be employed for your own accompt. For which reason I sent that by Estes as a concludeing cargo, as I then writt you. W.ch covenants are betwixt you and your brother or what his pr.mises were to you, I know not. But he alwayes told mee you were with him as an apprentice for 7 yeers as all young men [p. 169] are usually bound. & Is noe disparagement to the best gentlemann in Engl. to serve too long, none being bound to any merchant for less time. & I had soe layd my designes that our business might have concluded with your time, that at the expiration therof you

might have begunn for yourself when you should have wanted no assistance that I am capable of giveing you. But if you are under noe covenants with your brother & that you thinke that time to long for you to serve for nothing but meat, drinke, & clothes, as you write, I desire you to deliver up all our charge remitted to your trust into the hands of your brother, to whome I referr you to make such covenants as he & you shall judg convenient. By which I shal be concluded. For I never intended you should serve me for noething. But I intended to doe the same by you, as for my own brother & only waited your brothers comeing home to consult with him the best way to advance you both. But if you are not content therwith, I referr myself wholly to your brother to dispose of all our interest there, as he shal thinke fitt to order itt, being well assured of his justice. But if I might be thought fit to advise you, I would advise you not to disoblidge your brother & other your best freinds, who may be capable of putting you in a better way to advance your fortunes then ever you can otherwise expect. & Be not to conceited of your own abillities, for you may see men of good understandings often wants employment. Which I referr to your consideration. & Be assured whatever serviss you doe your brother & mee shall not goe unrequited. But I would have you be sensible when you are well. ...

167. [p. 183] **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

[London, March 10, 1679/80]

The foregoeing is a cobby of our last & we are now at the 10th of March. & What I have to add is to advise of the receipt of yours by Capt. Estes who (blessed be God) is safely arrived, but the sugar not yet landed. I observe your care in the mannadgment of our concerns which shall be awnswered with all the kindness we are capable of shewing you. & When yourself & W.m Helmes have inabled us with something in returne of what we have already sent, shall give you what further supply you will desire. But at pr.sent wee are constrained to desist, our adventures haveing been soe very large & our returnes soe slow that we must be content to be idle a little while. Wherefore we intreat you to use your utmost dilligence to gett in our debts & hasten home what you cann of our effects; & in case at any time when wee have shipps there loading, I meane at Nevis, if you have a quantety of sugar lying by for our acco.ts that is worth there while to goe down to take it in, it's our desires you should send upp to W.m Helmes to order them downe or, if we have noe shipps there, & you have good oppertunetyes of takeing freight at St. Christophers on good shipps bound to this port, & on moderate tearmes, it's our desires you should imbrace such oppertunetyes as you shall judg convenient, alwayes adviseing us what shipps you loade upon & the quantety as neer as you cann that we may make insurance as we judg

convenient. & Pray be carefull to observe our directions in the foregoing lines as to caske & c.

Wee have now given orders to W.m Helmes to supply you with wines when we have any there, whatever quantety you require & find a good vent for. I hope Rivet will be arrived, & we will order another supply of that comodety to be with you before Xtmass. Also please advise what acco.t the brandy, dowles, canvis, & c. turnes to, & what quantety you can use, which we will endeavor to supply. In the interim, as long as W.m Helmes hath any brandy or other goods, it's our desires you should be supplied. But pray be carefull to make noe debts but such as are good ones as neer as you cann. & Above all things, endeavor to hasten us returnes, for we are greatly in want therof. ...

172. William Helme [Nevis]

London, April 20, 1680

I have receivd yo.rs of the 1st & 14th February, adviseing of Mr. Rivetts arrivall on the 12th of January. But by a letter I have seen from his own hand, he arrived the 9th, which 3 dayes I suppose he spent at some other the Windward Islands. I am the most mistaken in him that ever I was in any man. He had a positive order not to take in a pipe of wine upon any acco.t whatsoever but upon our owne. Soe that what he hath donn upon that acco.t is but like the rest of his transactings. Pray heerafter inspect what wines any of our Masters of shippes or hired shippes or others brings (I meane all wines). For we will endeavor to tye them upp from itt if possible. But we finde that generallty of Masters of shippes such knaves that there is noe dealeing with them. We take notice the price you generally sell wines att is 1,900 lbs. sugar p.r pipe, which price they cannot now be afforded att, since the danger of the Turks is soe great. Yet what you have contracted for shall endeavor to send you supplies to make good. But after this yeare, would not have you contract for more at that price, since there is an advance upon the custome. They cannot be afforded under 2,160 lbs. the lowest. We had rather stand the hazzerd of the markt for what we send. Wee shall not glutt the markt soe much as you imagine, for what we now have sent is in conformety with the contract wee have made with severall to supply them. Otherwise had not sent this shipp.

Wee observe the difficulty you make of loadeing Rivett, & complying with what other demands we have issued, & that we are not like to receive any sugars from you by Clayton. Which doth not a little startle us when we take into consideration the vastness of our concern in your hands. For we find that others that have not half our concerns there lades double the quantety of sugars; & indeed, our returnes comes soe short

that we deeme them next to nothing what we receive. Nor can we expect above [blank] tunns to be laden by you on Rivett, according to our advice from Mr. Rob.t Helmes, wherin he saith will loade 20 tunns himself from our own plant., & upon another concerne 15 tunns **Tho. Westcott** will loade, & doubtless Rivett will not have less then ten tunns, & the whole shipp burthen is not above 75 tunns.

Wee also observe the reason you cannot loade from Antigua upon Clayton upon our own acco.ts is you must loade upon acco.t of a New England merchant that you receivd goods from 12 mo. since. Did we finde the like complyancey from you, should not thinke much of itt, but we desire our effects may not be loaden upon other mens acco.ts. For we finde noe returnes for what your receivd 2 yeares since, & why you should study to oblige other mens interest with our concerns, we doe not imagine. We thought you might have as much regarde to our interest as to other mens.

Wee have now ordered 50 pipes of this shipp loadeing to be consigned to **Tho. Westcott**, the remainder to yourself and Richard Watts [p. 194] to whom I have given orders to negotiate my parte of the concern. For I doe not thinke itt reasonable for mee to allow comission & keep servants there to share in the trouble. If you agree to such pr.posalls as I have made you, you shall then finde me to doe as much as your own brother for you. But on the contrary, I shall have a regard to my own interest. ...

The shipp formerly called the Tho. & Sarah, T.T., Master, now the W.m & Robert, Tho. Brown, Master, I hope is ready to sayle out of Ireland by this time. They advise us will have a good p.rcell of servants on bord, which is all wee send upon her on our own acco.ts. Have ordered the Master to dispose therof & bring us the pr.ceeds with him, which we desire your assistance in, & to supply him with hoopes & staves of our own to make caske for us. & Have desired Mr. Carpenter to let him have the use of our storehouse to receive his sugar in as it comes in, also his & your assistance in anything needfull. Have ordered him to apply himself to yourself & **Tho. Westcott** att his first arrivall & what sugar you or either of you advise him you shall be able to loade upon him in a mo. for our acco.ts, to reserve tunnidg for the rest to enter outlying freight. Pray advise us p.r first after his arrival what you & **Tho. Westcott** lade upon him as also upon this shipp for our acco.ts that we may make insurance accordingly, the danger of the Turks being now greate. ...

Freeman's Letters, 1681: nos 208-229

208. *William Helme [Nevis]*

London, January 11, 1680/1

Wee have rec.d your empty letter of the 18th of October p.r Huchinson which gives us an acco.t of the new settlement of factories you have made for us on each island & your great pr.posalls of advantage we may reap therby. But the settlement of new factories without supplies to carry them on can conduce but little to our advantage. For if you had at the same time taken into consideration the consignations we have made you & T.W. (all in your own hands now) this 4 years last past & that we are at this pr.snt instant twelve thousand pounds sterl. principal money in disburse, besides all the pr.fitts of upwards of twenty five thousand pounds adventures, haveing given your acco.t credit for every penny that ever [p. 249] we receivd in returne, you will then judg us in a very ill condition to settle new factories or to supply old ones. When from this vast concern you could not load us one pennyworth of goods upon a ship we have had lying there 8 mo. & part of the time on demoridge for want of a loading, after payment of soe much dead freight, as on the last shipp you loaded upon, & now on this to pay 150£ outward bound fr.t & neer £100 proviso money & not to receive a pennyworth of goods upon her doth not a little startle us, espetially when we consider that Mr. Ed. Dendy on the 15th of August Last had sent you from Antigua 6 tunns of sugar on our acco.tts that was left out of a shipp att Antigua that we contracted freight for heer, & that you should keep that lying by you in the storehowse & keep a shipp of ours there on demoridg seems to us a riddle. Your brother (on whom you have some dependency, I pr.sume, if none upon us) though he hath been heer but a little time, beginns to find the want of supplies as well as ourselves. Which pray take into consideration, & if you expect his compliance with your contract, or any future incouridgment from us, wee must be inabled by your supplies from our own concern in your hands. Otherwise, we are not in a condition to support a trade nor ourselves much longer. This now comes p.r the shipp Lyon of Leverpoole, John Compton, Master, on whom we have contracted 44 tuns freight homeward, w.ch we have ordered **Tho. Westcott** to loade. But in case he should not be able to comply with the

same in dew time according to contract, afford your assistance, & loade what he may soe fall short. Otherwise we shall be greatly damnified by the contract we have made to give the sume to Mr. Anth. Henthorn, sugar baker in Chester, to whome you are to consigne what you lade. If you lade any part of the aforesaid quantity, you may put on bord what is in a readiness from our plant., for which use you will receive p.r this shipp 10 very large barrells of beefe, 100 lbs. in each cask bigger then ordinary, together with 6 half or 3 whole barrells of porke & a box of candles, w.ch let be applied to noe other use then aforesaid.

Wee desire you, at any time that we have a shipp of our own with you, to loade upon that at such time you take fr.t on any ship or shipp for London, as occations offers for our acco.tts that soe you may hasten our returnes as speedy as possible. ...

Pray omitt not to send us an acco.t of all such goods as you have putt into the hands of **T. Westcott** to dispose of since his time expired, viz. the cost of the same according to Invo. either out of Estes cargo or any other, that soe we may give your acco.t credit for the same. Likewise such part of Claytons cargoes as you have deliverd him. & Also send us a cobby of the list of debts you have assigned him to receive on St. Christophers, w.ch adjust with him before you send itt, & let s.d **Westcott** attest the s.d list of debts with his own hand as receivd from you, that soe we may give your acco.t credit for the same. Also faile not to send us all our Acco.tts of Sales p.r first.

209. [p. 250] *Captain John Compton [Commander of the Lyon]*

¶ *London, January –, 1680/1*

Being advised p.r Mr. Clayton that he hath hyred your ship Lyon wherof yourself is Master, for a voyage to Waterford, St. Christophers & the rest of the Leward Islands on acco.t of myself & partners, persuant to the said contract, I send you these our orders & instructions, w.ch you are to bee observe & follow dureing the voyage. Viz., you are to sayle with the first conveniency as wind & weather shall pr.sent to the port of Waterforde in Ireland, & at your first arrivall there to apply yourself to Mr. Rich.d Seay, merch.t (our freind & corrispondent there) & to receive on bord your shipp all such merch.dz & pr.vitions as he shall lade or cause to be laden upon you, according to the tenure of your agreement. & Haveing receivd all such goods on bord your shipp with the needfull dispatches from him, you are to imbrace the first oppertunety of winde & weather that offers without any loss of time, & sayle directly to the island of St. Christophers. & Imdeiatly after your arrivall there to del.r all such letters goods & merchandize as are directed or consigned to Mr. **Tho. Westcott**, merch.t, or any other p.rson on the s.d island. & After you

have delivered all such goods, in case the said Seay should lade any provisions or other goods that p.r Bill of Ladeing are consigned to Nevis, you are to goe up to that island & doe the same according to Bill of Ladeing (alwayes pr.vided that it is not some small inconsiderable p.rcell, not exceeding 5 tuns, that may not be worthwhile to goe up with the shipp, but may as well be transported on a sloop). & After you have soe discharged your outward bound ladeing (w.ch you are to doe with all conv.t expedition), you are then to apply yourself to the aforesaid Mr. **Tho. Westcott** for the reladeing of all such tunnidg as we have contracted for on your shipp homewards & to follow such orders as from time to time you shall receive from him & to receive on bord your shipp all such goods & merchandize as he shall lade or cause to be laden, according to the tenor of our Charter Party. & Further, if he the said **Westcott** shall judg itt convenient to order you to goe up to Nevis with your ship or any other the Islands mentioned in the Charter Party, to receive or take on bord any of the ladeing aforesaid, you are to observe & follow all such orders from him or any other that he shall think fitt to give your p.rsuant to the intent & meaning of our s.d Charter Party. & After you have p.rformed the s.d contract there & receivd your dispatches from the s.d **Tho. Westcott**, you are to sayle from thence to the port or city of [p. 251] West Chester or as neer thereunto as you can conveniently come &, atr arrivall thence to deliver all such goods & merchandize as shall be laden on bord you as p.r Bill of Loadeing they are consigned.

211. [p. 254] **Thomas Westcott** [Nevis]

London, January 11, 1680/1

This accompanyes the shipp Lyon of Leverpoole, John Compton, Mast.r, on whom we have hired 44 tuns, Nevis tunidg, out & home. A copy of our contract or Charter Party you will receive from Mr. Tho. Clayton of Leverpoole who hyred the ship for us. & Upon her you will find a competent time for the ladeing of such a p.rcell of goods. Your compliance therwith we desire you not to fayle of, in regarde we have entered into contract w.th Mr. Antho. Henthorn, sugar baker in Chester, for the said quantety of sugar & have oblided ourselves in a considerable penalty for the same to be delivered upon returne of the shipp to Chester, to w.ch port the ship is bound to returne. Wherefore we desire you to take your Bills of Loadeing accordingly & to consign all the sugers to the s.d Antho. Henthorn, & pray take care to loade as large tunnidg as you cann, & to fill the caske well & take care of the weights therof, & likewise to loade as good sugar as possible you cann. For if you receive any thats extraordinary bad, we had rather you should load it for London then that port, in regard of our pr.mise to him. That we will give

directions for the lading good goods. Now if it should soe happen (w.ch we hope the contrary) that you should not be able to comply fully with the lading the s.d 44 tuns on our own acco.tts, then we desire you to give timely notice therof to Mr. W.m Helme to pr.pare & put on bord in dew time as much therof as you may fall short, either from our plant. at Nevis or otherwise, or if you can gett it down from my plant. in M.tsarratt. For we shal be greatly damnified in case the said quantety be not fully laden on our own acco.tts according to contract. But we hope you will finde noe difficulty in the p.rformance yourself, in regarde it will be in the middle of the crop time that the shipp will be with you. We have ordered Mr. Clayton to loade on bord the said shipp a p.rcell of cheese & butter & to consigne the same unto yourself, as likewise Mr. Richard Seay from Waterforde [p. 255] to loade 300 barrells of beefe to you also. & When please God itt arrives, pray advise whether that or the beef from Corke proves best. We hope he hath taken care in the makeing of itt that it will keep, for we designe it for the latter part of the yeare when doubtless it will turne to a better acco.t then when it first arrives. But that we refer to your judgment, either to keep for a markett or sell as you shall judg most conv.t. But if that comodety be plentyfull, we judg it best to keep it some time. You will also receive a small p.rcell of porke likewise & some candles, & I have ordered to be lade a small p.rcell of beefe, porke & c. for our plant. in Nevis [&] for my plant. in M.tsarratt. That pray take care of the delivery & likewise to deliver the right casks, for those barrells doe contain 100 lbs. of meat in each cask, bigger then ordinary.

I am now to give you acco.t of the receipt of yours by Huchinson (but the shipp not yett gone upp) w.ch Bills of Loading & Invoice for 20 1/4 tuns of sugar laden p.r yourself upon him, which we hope will rise well & is as much as we expected from you in him. But cannot but admire that Mr. W.m Helme should loade none, from whom we expected a farr greater quantety then from yourself, & had made an insurance accordingly insoemuch that the premio money wee p.d, viz. neer 100£, & the outward bound freight of the shipp with the demoridge will amount to the greatest part of the pr.ceeds of what we receive home upon her. Soe that we are continually sending out largely but receive little or noething in returne. & How long we are able to continue a trade at that rate we referr it to you or any rationall man to judg. We have now come to an accounting w.th Mr. Rob.t Helmes of all acco.tts heer, & finde the we are upwards of £12,000 sterl. principall money in disburse for what consigned Mr. W.m Helme & yourself, besides the sole pr.fitts of £25,000 sterl. adventures, haveing given credit for the full pr.ceeds of every pennyworth of goods that ever we receivd in returne from either of you. & Itts now full 4 yeares since we begann our consignation to you & to be

still out half our principall is hard. Yet wee doe not nor have noe reason to complaine of anything that hath been p.rticulerly transacted by you, only thought fitt to signifye this much to you, & ask you to hasten us what possible you can in returne, without which we are not able to give you any further supplyes. Which we desire to doe as you may judg by our sending p.rticulerly to you & noe other p.rson. & Wee desire you from time to time to advise what goods are most pr.per & vendible, which we will if able give you constant supplyes of togeather with such quantetyes of wine & pr.vition as you desire & think pr.per for that market. & You see we have taken care p.r Clayton also to supply you with those comodetyes you desired. Which we doubt you have been to open in or some other p.rsons. That may give some light to others to fall into our trade, or doe us some greater pr.judice therby than at pr.snt we are apprehensive of supposeing. Our letters from W. Helmes hath been broken open there or heer (opened it was certeine), in which he was to plaine& gave us a more ample acco.t then we desired. For we expect noe more from you or him then Acco.tts of Sales, & to advise us at what rate each comodety sells &, when you doe that, to send your letters by some carefull hand. Pray take care to send us Acco.tts of Sales from time to time of each cargo as disposed of, & be large in your advises how goods sells & what comodetyes turnes best to acco.t. W.ch is very satisfactory, & that which W.m Helmes hath alwayes been [p. 256] very short in, notwithstanding our frequent advises to him to that effect. If at any time any remaines of any cargoes of dry goods or other goods when new one arrives, to shutt up those acco.tts & send us Acco.tts of Sales of the pr.cedent cargoes, pray take an acco.t of what remaines & send us & soe make our new acco.tts of merchandize. Ditto the old for the s.d goods, vallowing the same at a moderate rate, soe that whether it pr.duces more or less it can be noe damadg to us. But this I pr.pose as an expedient for the shutting upp of acco.tts that therby we may have Acco.tts of Sales from time to time rendered us. I hope you have receivd wine, p.r which you may p.rceive it was the Generalls orders that we should supply the soldiers noe further, which is my desire also. For indeed I doe not believe the pr.fitt equivalent to the hazerd, though they suppose great advantages hath been made by us therby. But I desire noe more of itt, for I see noe pr.spect of receiveing their pay. W.m Helme adviseth us that he hath assigned over to you upwards of 300,000 lbs. sugar in debts that stands dew upon our books att Nevis from the inhabitants of St. Christophers, w.ch s.d sume, be it more or less, wee desire you to shipp of first. & Let your Invo. run as laden p.r the order of W. Helme & advise therof, that soe his acco.t may have custome for the same. Hee adviseth that you have already received the greatest part of

itt. But if any insolvant debts amongst them, advise him therof that he may render them in acco.t to us.

I observe what you write as to the remainder of W.m Hearn's time. He shall give you what assistance he can. & I am glad you see well accord together. But I presume Mr. Helmes at his returne will have an occasion of his assistance. I hope he will make a good man. Noe encouragement that I can give him shall be wanting. Therefore, pray exhort him to good husbandry & to follow his business w.ch will be his own hereafter. We have received Mr. Hutchinson's receipt for 36£ 12s 3d, w.ch have past to your credit, together with the foot of the Invo. of sugar p.r him. But you must be a better husband in making our cask for us on better termes. We have also received advise from W.m Helme that you & hee have farmed the duty of liquors on St. Xtophers, but we hope you designe noe particular advantage thereby from us, but to give us the same allowance that formerly. Otherwise, we shall be discouraged from sending liquors. You must remember my proposals & your acceptance thereof, which is to charge noe other charge over & above your 10 p.r c.t comm. but such as you actually pay. If at any time hereafter you receive any damage on wines or any other goods p.r bad stoidge or otherwise, pray adjust it there. You shall have the scales, weights & stillyards for Capt. Pogson & c. p.r first from hence. We are glad to hear of Clayton & the ketch Globes arrival with you, & hope all things will succeed well & that you will find a market [p. 257] to content. We hope Terry was not long after them. What servants can be provided by this vessell we have left to the disposition of the Master & desire your advise & assistance to him in dispatch to such plans that we may be sure of the returne p.r the same shipp.

Fayle not to comply with your promise in lading the ballce of Mr. Vickers acco.t.

... We desire you, at any time when we have not shipp's there of our owne, to load what you can upon any shipp or shipp's for London, fr.t on the best termes you can procure itt. & If any opportunity offer to advise timely thereof, direct your letters to my bro. Baxter & c. according to my former advise. & Pray omit not p.r first conveniency to send us a particular acco.t of what goods you have received from W.m Helmes as well one of this last cargo p.r Clayton, as the former p.r him, & all other dry goods since your time was expired. & Send Acco.t of Sales to us of all such goods. & Likewise advise us what debts the s.d Helmes hath assigned you upon St. Xtophers that were contracted at Nevis p.r him or yourself before your time terminated, which we would have laden distinctly as I have advised in that foregoing lines. These things are in order to settle our acco.t's with Mr. W.m Helme.

226. **Thomas Westcott** [Nevis]

London, June 29, 1681

I have rec.d both yours of the 12th & 16th of March w.th Accompts of Sales of 50 pipes of wine p.r Hutchinson & 50 more p.r Terry. Both w.ch sales comes out soe very lowe that I doubt wee shall never see their full cost. & One thinge I observe in the acco.tts that you charge the custome of the fall, w.thout soe much as giving allowance for those that ware lower & produced nothinge, w.ch the severest custome howse in the world allowes 10 p.r c.t for. & Now since the custome is in your hands, it is expected that you should give the same allowance that former farmers did to us, w.ch as Mr. Ro. Helmes informes me was 1/3 p.t p.r agreem.t. However, if you judge that to much, doe w.tt is reasonable by us in that case. For as our wines are sold, I am confident we shall never see our first cost & charges. & Pray advise me for the time to come what allowance you will give upon the custome of wine, brandy & other liquors. For if I canot import them soe as to make my principall with comon interest, you canot imagin I can suply you. I alsoe desire you that what shall come to your hands futurely, you will keepe up the price of & sell none under 2,500 lbs. sugar p.r pipe at lowest, unles to such as you receive pres.t paym.t from. To such I leave you to your discesion or, in case of a greate glut, rather then to let them perish upon your hands. Mr. Bawden informes me he hath given the same instructions to Mr. Pruit.

Those fustians that ware consigned you last year p.r Mr. Henthorn I have bought of him & p.d him mony for them here. Soe that if you have made him any return upon that acco.tt, pray advise me. & If you have not given my p.rticular acco.tt C.r for their n.t proceeds & make me the return of them, as alsoe of the bale of canvis & dowles the last year, I alsoe desire you to send me a p.rticular acco.tt of what goods you recd out of Clatons first cargo, as also an exact acco.t of w.t you rec.d out of this last cargo. & Pray send distinct Acco.tts of Sales as above of goods not intermixed with any other goods. If you have intermixt them in your sales you must examine, you must work to find them out. & For what remaines unsold of either of these cargoes, pray send a list of. & If please God Mr. Ro. Helmes bee arivd there, I desire you will give him an exact acco.tt of all dry goods you have remaineing unsold. & Because I knowe it will be inconvenient for you to hold two distinct Acco.tts of Sales of dry goods & of different concerns, I therefore desire you to come to an agreem.t with him for all such dry goods as remaine unsold, making the best tearmes you can with him. & Make this cargo of goods w.ch you will

receive p.r the Abraham Deb.r for the same, as you doe agree with Mr. Helmes. & That soe you need keepe but one acco.tt & you may stile this acco.tt for acco.tt of your br. **John Westcott & Comp.**, although I am 1/2 concerned & my bro. Baxter 1/ 4 concerned therin. Yet we would not have any notice taken thereof, but as if they ware your bro. & your own concern. & What return you make upon that acco.tt, let the Bills of Ladeing run for acco.tt of your bro. & comp. & Soe direct your letters. & Pray send mee an acco.tt of all the p.rticulars that you doe agree w.th Mr. Helmes for & the price you are to give. Or in case of Mr. Helms his miscaridge (w.ch God forbid), then I refer it to yourselfe to allow such a moderate price for such goods, as in your judgm.t you shall thinke reasonable. You will likewise by this ship receive some provitions & other goods for acco.t of myselfe & bro. Baxter, God sending them safe. Its my request to you to keep up the prices as much as you can, unless to such as you can sell for ready paym.t. & To such wee had much rather sell to at lowe rates then to make long debts, w.ch wee desire you to take best care you can to prevent. For wee had rather our goods should lye unsold then be sold to such persons whose debts may be doubtfull or theire paym.t very long. For without returns noe man can continue a trade. Of w.ch hitherto we have reason to complain as well of your slownes as others. For when you consider how greate our concern is in your hands, you will find but a very slender return made. W.ch makes mee once more give answer to your argum.ts that wee canot expect that return coming as from W.m Helme, who hath 3 times the concern in his hands that you have. To w.ch I give answer that if W.m Helmes would send us nothings (as in reality hee doth not worth takeing notice of), should we then expect nothings from you? Does not your owne reason tell you that noe man can continue a trade without returnes? & Pray consider how inconsiderable our returns have been to what our adventures have after soe many yeares. I never saw there once made accompt of my principall at least in 6 mo. after I rec.d any p.rcell of goods, as I hope the same thinge may be expected from you. However, as long as you use your indeavors, I shall content myselfe, let the suckses be what it will. Yet you ware much to blame in not giveing your assistance towards Terys dispatch. For wee are the sufferers in your private animosities betwixt you & W.m Helmes in not assisting each other. For the future, pray keepe noe goods ag.st the arivall of any ship, but hasten us returnes upon any bottome or bottomes for London as fr.t shall offer, giveing still our ships when there the prefference of w.t you can loade. & Pray use your dilligence to send home what possible you can. For untill you have further inabled us, wee are able to send you noe more goods. Another thinge I desire you – not to fayle of sending us Acco.tts of Sales. & Pray send us a list of such debts as W.m Helme

turned over to you to receive, w.ch he informed us ware upwards of 300,000 lbs. sug.r, & advise w.t debts remaine unrec.d of that debit. I take notice of w.t you hint as to the customes; but for that or any other charge you must expect noe allowance, but for w.t you really pay according to my 1st proposalls. & I am well assured Mr. Pruit hath noe other allowance. You must consider you are jumpt into a buisnes that few young men out of England hath a better. I am well satisfied your comissions may be worth you at least 500£ ster. paid, if you please to follow your buisnes close, w.ch you will finde other men are many yeares before they obtaine (if ever) such considerable buisneses. & For w.t I adventure I assure you its to promote you & not out of the hope of any greate matters I expect from it. Yet, as long as I advent.re, its in expectation of profit. As to w.t I formerly writ you concerning a p.rtnership w.th my bro., you need not trouble yourselfe to give any answer to, for he hath contrary to my inclinations put himselfe into the French army. ...

230. **Thomas Westcott** [Nevis]

London, July 24, 1681

Since our last to you of the 29th June w.ch was p.r Capt. Terry, we have rec.d yours of the 6th May, adviseing that the Lyon was not then arived, but since that sev.ll ships have arived from Nevis, at this port & Bristoll, by w.ch we are advised of her arivall, but doe much wonder we have not a line from you, for w.ch you ought to be blamed for dew advised by all oppertunities is desired & expected. We take notice in your last you seeme to make some difficulty of ladeing what we have contracted on the Lyon w.ch seemes very strange to us in regard you have laden us nothings since Jan.y. Soe that you have had the benefit of almost a whole crop since we rec.d anythings from you. W.ch we expected a far greater quantiyy then 44 tuns of sugar. & To be plaine with you, we thinke it very hard measure that our returnes should come soe much slower then other mens, which must certainly be a defect in our corispondency. & Although we have soe greate kindnes for you as not to harbor the least ill thoughts of any your transactions, yet wee must complain of your slownes, for you canot but be sensible how large our adventures have been & how slowly returnes comes to us w.ch, if not speedily remedied by better complyanse, we shall not be able much longer to suport ourselves & our reputation. That would have been in question long since had we noe other wayes to suport it then by that of yourselfe & W.m

Helme, in which we are in disburce of our principall above 13,000£ ster. to this day. & To finde nothings come from neither is hard measure. This we have thought fit to intimate to you, hoping that, as we have [p. 286] endeavored to promote you, that you will take some speedy care to suport us & make it your buisnes to get in & hasten home our concerns. For we assure you the adventures we now make we are forced to strain our creditts for and is purely to advance you. ...

Now this may advise you that we have ordered Mr. Rich.d Seay of Watterford, to load on bord the ship Abra., Abr Terry, Mr., with 250 barr.ll of beefe, 10 barr.ll & 25 halfe barr.ll of porke, 20 firkins of butter & 30 boxes of candles,& to consigne the same to yourselfe w.ch is for our acco.tts, though it is exprest in the Bill of Loadeing for his own acco.tt, because we would not have it knowne that we are concerned, w.ch might be a meanes of disgusting W.m Helme to our prejudice. We have alsoe cons.d you a p.rcell of brandy & other goods by the same ship. Invo. of the same you have hereinclosed. This p.rcell cost very deare & comes not the same way as formerly, but directly from this place, & although its deare here, yet would not have been purchased much more anew, soe greate a rise hath been upon all such comodities there this yeare. Soe that yours of that kinde that ware imported here the last yeare are now to be bought as cheape here as there. We hope they will finde a market with you answerable to theire cost here, knowing you cannot be suplyed cheaper any other way by other hands. God sendinge in safety these goods to your hands w.th the cargo of dry goods, its our possitive order & desire that you do not dispose thereof or of any part to any person whatsoever, but for ready paym.t or to such p.rsons whose paym.t you may depend upon, in 6 mo. after sale or in 9 or 12 mo. at furthest, & that you take care to sell to none on such long credit, but to such as you know to be salvant, & will be very punctuall. For we had much rather our goods should lye by, though they should perish upon hand, then to make such long & uncertaine debts. & What you can sell for pers.l payment, you may make your prices accordingly. For pres.t paym.t, we shall be content to sell as cheape as any p.rsons whatsoever. But what debts you make espetially of our beefe or brandy, we expect you will take that care to credit none but such as you yourselfe will undertake for theire dew compliance. Not that you shall finde we will impose upon anything in that kinde, in case any accidentiale bad debt should happen, for we surely doe not want to impose upon you, but that we may have a return made us in dew time. For we feare a run of bad debts as last, w.ch we hope you have taken care to prevent on that island. But by W.H. last advice, we have cause enough to suspect it on others. ...

233. **Thomas Westcott** [Nevis]

London, September 1681

I writt you at large p.r Capt. Terry & sent you a duplicate therof by another conveyance. Since which I have receivd yours of the 31th of May & 10th & 22th of June, by which I take notice Crumpton was neer dispatched, who I pr.sume may now be suddenly expected & I hope you will be shipping us considerably by other vessells, as you advise. I take notice of what you write concerning the coppers that they are 2½ p.r pound dearer then other men hath had them out for. But your informer is a foole & a knave, for copper was never one farthing a pound cheaper in London since my remembrance. & If any man can pr.ve he bought it this 15 years or can now buy it a farthing cheaper, I will be bound to pay for itt. However, I pay but my own propotion. & If you think any p.rson can buy better for you then your brother, you may doe well to imploy them. I also take notice that you desire to have your pr.vitions from Corke, but I question not but that from Waterforde will pr.ve as good, where we make them cheaper. I thanke you for your offer of being concerned with you in the storehowse, but I doe not hold that convenient for mee, for what trade I drive is only to doe you a curtesie, & shall continue it noe longer then till you are capable of finding a better employm.t. Neither shall I allow of any other charge then according to my first proposalls. & If you think it not worth your while, I shall desist sending anything more. I am not all concerned with your neighbours affaires what they doe, but I pr.sume none of your neighbours have a better employment then yourself. & I assure you we freit not out of kindness to you. I could imploy my money better at home.

I also take notice of what you mention touching on interlopers designe, which doubtless may be advantageous. But although I am noeways concerned with the Comp., yet I shal not medle with any such designe. But if I can recomend any to you that deales that way, I will. ... If I can light of a cooper, will send you one, but they are hard to meet with. ...

234. [p. 295] **Robert Helme** [Nevis]

London, September 5, 1681

I have rec.d yours of the 27th May, the 8th, 18th & 20th of June, all which gives an acco.t of your recovery, which you may p.rswade yourself was noe smal pleasure to me to hear after being advised of your dangerous fitt of sickness by severall, insoemuch that we despayred of hopeing of your recovery. I shall now endeavor to give answer to the heads of your severall letters, viz. –

As to your first p.rticuler relateing to Pickfords acco.tts, wee here conceive they have omitted to our creditt severall p.rticulers, viz. 18 ps. of bla. bayes & 45 ps. of callicoos by Vandiveld & some other p.rticulers which when they sent us Acco.t of Sales of that cargo did remaine unsold. & Since we can never finde any C.r in any of their acco.tts for the same, soe that we conceive they are indebted to us at least 700\$ more then they make themselves, of which I have writt them after & sent there whole Acco.t Currant as it stands in our books, w.ch is taken from their own severall acco.tts rec.d from time to time. Next, as to their demand of 300\$ for advance money & bad debts, I shall never agree thereunto. But if there be any bad debts made of our goods, we must stand to them. But I am glad to hear they could informe you of none. & For their pr.tence of advance money, it's most unjust & unreasonable, in regarde I am sure noe man that ever laded wines from Madera sends their goods soe long beforehand as we have done. & Admitting there is now standing one of our concern in debts 3,500\$ as you signifye, I pr.sume it will appear that upwards of 2,000\$ of the same is still in their hands. Soe that what they have advanced is not above 14 or 1,500 milrs. & that but by the George & by their own letters. It may appear that this next year we may vallew ourselves upon them for the whole, soe that is it reasonable for us to allow for 8 or 9 mo. advance of 1,500\$300 when itt's practicable & common for all factors there to loade upon the creditt of goods as soon as receivd, when most of these goods were in their [p. 296] hands above 12 mo. before. I also take notice that they told you what favor they had done our interest was upon your acco.t. But they might have very well spared that complement. For it will appear by their own letters to us, when we began to declyne their corespondency, they courted us to it againe; & when we had resolved a new corrispondency with Deane & Kirton, they againe desired ours. & The coppyes of my letters to them will shew how plainely I dealt with them in severall p.rticulers relateing to our corespondency. But now they suppose they have little further buisness with us. I pr.sume they endeavor to putt upon us as to the 200\$ upon acco.t of the logwood. I am free to allow therof, though I have their acco.t & letter of that concerne, where there is not the least exception. & I beleive if you had inquired into that concerne, you would have found that debt did not belong to us. I have p.d my bro. Baxter his pr.portion of Burkins debt, soe that is allowed to the creditt of Pickfords Acco.t Currant. & I have made your sugar Acco.t Curr.tt Deb.r for my half of 140\$ upon Burkin & Allen acco.tt, as likewise for 1/3 of 40 hatts sent you p.r Pickford, w.ch he makes our acco. Deb.r for. Pray be pleased to let me know who Allein allows for the aforesaid summe, as likewise the n.t pr.ceeds of the hatts, that I may carry of the summes, the same being as yett but in

blank. If you take less then 7s 6d p.r milr of Allen in suger or 7s by bills, we shal be losers. From Lisboa I never knew it lower, though to remitt thither at this time its not soe much. But under 6s 9d to remitt I never knew itt till now, & twill doubtless suddenly rise againe. I have heere inclosed sent you a cobby of Pickfords Acco.t Curr.t sent him, by which you may judg of the reasonableness therof. This much in answer to the p.rticuler.

As to the next of Mr. Mathews debts dew to you, I will dun him till he make you satisfaction. Which he shal be sure to doe as soon as I can understand that he receives any of his portion. But as yet he is not of age. Neither is there anything of his fathers estate in my hands, the Gen.II haveing forbid the payment of itt.

As to the next p.rticuler of the £50 that the Gen.II allowes of, he hath given me noe order to pass the same to your credit. Therefore, if you expect it should be done, you must send me his order.

As to the next p.rticuler of your debt dew from Bartlett, I am sorry to heer he is in soe ill a condition, & much more that Mr. Carpenter did not take care to secure that debt when the estate was in his own hands. The receipts I shewed your wife & sent you cobbyes therof. & Now I doe againe send you the true cobyes therof attested by wittnesses here, in regarde the originalls are in my booke & I cannot cutt them out without takeing others with them. But it there be a necessety of sending the originalls, write me p.r next & you shall have them p.r first after. And [p. 297] these receipts I am ready to declare upon oath (which I will send with them, if you desire it) is all the obligation that ever I receivd of him. If he is such a villein as to say otherwise, I cannot helpe that. But if you can get him to own the debt before suffitient wittness, as I think you would doe well to doe in the pr.sents of the Gen.II, before whom you may tax him. You have power suffitient to sue him in my name, if that may be a means of pr.cureing your debt sooner. I am sorry you put soe much confidence in a knave, & I wish I could contribute towards your satisfaction. But I doe not think it proper for me to charge Mr. Carpenter after I rec.d satisfaction of you. But if you desire it, I will, provided you will oblidge to some other than me, less from any future contest with him. For noe man can or ought to charge a debt to any p.rson after satisfaction is given & acknowledged to bee receivd.

As to your next request of sending your acco., you have it heereinlosed p.rfect to this day. The ball. dew to you is 379£ 14s 9d. When the debts standing out is receivd, viz. about 300£ of Henthorne & 410£ 3s of Fleet, soe that, although the acco. makes me your deb.r, yet you are indebted to me betwixt 3 & 400£ at pr.sent. But Fleets money wil be punctuall p.d

at the time it's dew. There is of the sugars p.r Clayton 46 hhds. laden p.r Dendy & 31 hhds. in the shipp's acco.t yet unsold, which proves very ordinary; & by reason of a great glut, I doubt will not yeeld above 22 p.r cent. When they are disposed of, you shall have an accompt of them, & soe dewly of all things that comes to my hands from time to time, as I receive it according to your desire.

I take notice of your renewing your former request of makeing a purchase for you of about 100£ p.r ann., which I have not been unmindfull off. But the thing you designed when you went out of England, neither your wife nor I thought fitt to medle with it, after we had inquired into it. & That 1,000£ you left with your wife designed towards that purchase she hath put out upon interest, 800£ therof in Mr. Skutt's hands for security therof besides his own bond. You have land to more than the vallew, as I am informed; but if you approve not of it, you will doe well to order the calling it in. But if it were my money, I should not desire to have it better placed. I have likewise been to look upon 2 things about the one you desire: the one in Kent about 12 miles from London, the other in Hartfordsh.re about 17 miles, on both which is very good howses & an howse & gardens which were never built for the whole purchase money. But neither of these things will be sold under 20 years purchase the land & about 500£ more for the howses & gardens. & Indeed, all small purchases are held very deare & hard to light off. Wherefore, if I might advise you, I would desist from the thoughts of purchaseing untill you have drawn a good summe of money togeather. & In a valueable purchase you may buy much cheaper & more to your satisfaction. But whatever your inclynations are that way, I will endeavor to serve you therin what lyes in my power thus much in answer to yours. ... [p. 299] ... Wee are informed by Mr. Clayton that great part of the two cargoes of dry goods consigned your brother upon his shipp was shipt to N. England of which he saw severall p.rcells when there marked with our mark, some in Mr. Brindly's hands w.ch he expected to have rec.d from your bro., & also that severall of our goods was sold in in truck to N. England for bords & staves. Now, we hope & doe not doubt but your bro. hath done us justice therin. However, for our better satisfaction, we desire you to inspect the said acco.tts & for what you finde sent to N. Engl. or otherwise disposed of by Baxter on excha., wee expect the full pr.ceeds of those goods for which our goods was disposed, or the full vallew therof according to pr.portion as the rest was sold for to others. For there is noe reason that any other p.rson should reape the benefits of our adventures. We also desire to have p.rticuler Acco.tts of Sales att large of both those cargoes to whome sold either by retayle or otherwise, which, though may be a little tedious in drawing out, yet is

noe more then other men generally have & what my bro. Baxter doth more p.rticulerly require, who I pr.sume hath writt you more fully about beleiveing himself to be abused by such means.

I desire you will take the trouble of p.ruseing those memorandums I gave you at your departure & consider well each p.rticuler & answer what I therin desired as soon as possible you can as to the adjustment of all acco.tts & what elce is therein contained, which I will not trouble you with repetitions of. Only in one p.rticuler: that you will not fayle to take & keep in your hands all books of acco.tts relateing to any of our concerne, as well those new sett of bookes begun by your bro. att Christmass Last as any others, out of which he may draw what relates to his p.rticuler concerne into another pair of books such as will properly belong to himself, for those wherin our ballances were carried off I take to be our books. For upon your next returne, I shall request to have all the books come with you. You will doe well to marke all the sugers from Morton's Bay & any the other islands [p. 300] distinctly & send distinct Invoices of each p.rcell as I desired in those memoranda. Mr. Clayton gives us an acco.t of 35,136 butt & hhd. staves del.d to Ed. Dendy, 15,000 hhds. to **Tho. Westcott**, 4,500 hhds. to Capt. Bramley, 1,000, & to W.m Helme & Ed. Parsons p.r his order 14,636, viz. 7,200 butt staves & 7,436 hhd. staves, & to **Tho. Westcott** 12 barrells of porke. All which staves ittts our desire should be applyed to noe other use but our owne. Yet nevertheless, because we are desirous of making up that voyage, we have given orders to said Clayton at his next arrivall there to receive of each p.rson one pound of suger p.r staff for every staff was deliverd them; & of **Tho. Westcott** 400 lbs. sugar p.r barrell for the porke. & Have ordered that our acco.tts shal be made D.r for the same by the respective p.rsons. Which we desire you to give your orders likewise that it may be done, and that he may bring it home with him, or that it may be sent us as you judg convenient to settle that acco.t. All which the said Clayton stands Deb.r for in our books untill p.rformed, in regarde the charge of that voyage was comitted to his disposall. Heerwith you have the acco.tts of that shipp's voyage of freightment as they were made up heer by us. There is a ballance dew from Mr. Allein of about 25,000 lbs. sugar to the owners of the Unity wherin he was concerned 1/8 prt. Pray Mr. Allen to ship the same or, if he doth not, to make good our 1/8 part to you there. It hath been long dew & owned by Mr. Allein to be rec.d, as Mr. Wade tells me. I doubt not but you will be mindfull to ship Mr. Ducks debt w.th 6 p.r c.t interest for the same from the time it was first dew untill laden. For which I have given my bond as you desired. Also pray be mindfull to shipp the sugar on acco.t of **Thomas** & the rest of the others to mee, if not already donn. You know what debts remaine.

I take notice of your desires when I make any insurance for myself to doe the like for you, & shall doe for you in that or anything elce for you as for myself, when you require itt. But as yet I have made noe insurance on my shipp nor will not if it were not for the danger of hurricans there, about which I shall waite your next advise, when Capt. Hazelwood might depart from Nevis. & If I judg he may fall under the danger of any part of that season will then make an insurance upon him, but shall otherwise desist. By our last advise from Mr. Seay of Waterforde, Terry was then there (& I suppose may be still) & that they were in likelyhood of pr.cureing 20 servants which he hath orders to carry upon the shipp acco.t & to dispose of himself & bring home the returnes with him. But in case of his going to N. Engl., [p. 301] its our desire that you receive the proceeds of them or order Rich.d Watts to doe itt, & make up the returnes thereof p.r the first ship, as likewise your pr.ceeds of 4 servants he carried there last yeare, which he brought noe returnes off. You may please to let him view these lines to that effect from us that he might not scruple it. Because by his orders he is to bring it home himself. & It is our further desire that, in case he should goe to N. Engl., that for what staves or other comodetyes he brings in returne from thear, that you receive them for our acco.tts & put sugar on bord him for their pr.ceeds in like manner as we have desired for these p.r Clayton, makeing our acco.tts Deb.r for the same.

This day I spoke with Mr. Mathew concerning your debt who tells me he hath given orders to his brother to pay you there. But I told him that would not doe; you would not be paid there but here. Upon which he pr.mised mee it shall be done suddenly in less then a month. ...

235. Thomas Westcott [*St. Christopher*]

London, October 25, 1681

[p. 303] ... I find you sell your wines as cheap as they are sold for att Nevis, w.ch you ought not to doe, for there is at least 10 p.r c.t difference betwixt Nevis & St. Christophers in poynt of hazerd only, in case of a breach betwixt us & France, w.ch we are every yeare jealous of. That monarch is now soe great that all his neighbours are in dread of him. I hope we have least occation here, but our interst in those small islands will doubtless be in great danger whenever any breach happens. I have nothing further to trouble you with, only to tell you we are now in great expectation of our acco.tts, w.ch I hope may be sent before this comes to hand. ...

243. [p. 317] *Captain William Clayton* [*Commander of the Adventure*]

London, November 19, 1681

You are to sayle with all convenient expedition to the Leward Islands, viz. Mtsarratt, Nevis & St. Christophers. And when please God you shall arrive there, itt's our order and desire that you should dispose of the servants and all other goods belonging to the shipp's cargo to our most advantage at any of the aforesaid Islands as you shall thinke fitt, bringing us the pr.ceeds therof home upon your own shipp adventure. Itt's also our order that you bring home with you all the pr.ceeds of our pipe staves p.d the last yeare. And whatever you shall want to compleat your shipp's lading home, itt's our desire & order to you to let the same out upon freight to our most advantage, alwayes giving the precedence of your freight to Mr. Robert Helmes, Mr. **Tho. Westcott**, or any other concerned for us, alwayes pr.vided they give you as good a freight & as speedy a dispatch as any other p.rson. The 6 iron axel trees for cart wheelles you are not to dispose of to any p.rson till you have given Capt. Joseph Crisp of St. Christophers the refusall therof. & If them or any other part of your cargo should happen to remaine undisposed off at your comeing from the islands, itt's our order you should leave the same in the hands of Mr. **Tho. Westcott**. ...

244. **Thomas Westcott** [*St. Christopher*]

London, November 20, 1681

This now goes by Mr. Clayton who goes direct without touching in Ireland. The beefe designed by him we intend after Xtmass to hyre a vessell to take in & to consign the same to yourself, w.ch we will endeavor to order soe that she may be with you about the time we judge the ketch may be dispatched. Pray omitt not at all times to advise what shipp's you loade on for our acco.tts & as neer as you can the quantety. I would advise you to be carefull not to give too large creditts except to such p.rsons as you know to be very punctuall for now every day begetts greater jealousies of a warr with France, w.ch I pray God to divert. However, I hope there is noe danger of itt, till the latter part of the next summer att soonest. If I see greater apprehensions of it, will order what wines & pr.vitions we consigne you to bee landed att Nevis, from whence you may order them downe as you see convenient. In the meanetime, pray use all dilligence to gett in our debts & be shipping home as fast as possible you can. For whether that happen or not, I shall be greatly streightned for money, haveing receivd soe little home. That adventure I had upon the Abraham on my own p.rticuler acco. amounted to as much money as all the pr.ceeds of my part of the sugars you have laden since you have been upon St. Xtophers. And then you may judge whether I can send out & not receive home. If things goes well heer, the Abraham shall get the next voyadge to Guyny w.th negros to you. We intend to let

her out to freight to the R. Comp. and soe to purchase all the negros of them. For, on any interlopeing accompt, I am not willing to be concerned; but if I can recommend any to you, I will. But then you must be sure that my concerns may not suffer by that meanes. But to that, doe me justice in makeing me a dew returne, without which noe man can drive a trade long. ...

You have omitted in your Acco. of Sales of goods p.r the Abraham 470 sugar potts & dripps. Which we desire to know how they were disposed of & to have an acco. rendered on of the same.

263. [p. 348] **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

London, March 3, 1681/2

Yours of the 6th & 13th of December are both come to hand with others from Mr. Helme by the same convayance, wherein he sends us a list of debts amounting to 584,544 lbs. suger that he transferd over to you to receive for your acco. tt at your first goeing downe to St. Xtofers, as allsoe a list of goods sent you from Nevis to dispose of. W.ch with charges will amount to neere £3,500 sterl. more. All w.ch till now wee ware never acquainted with, only about 1,200 lbs. worth of the goods w.ch s.d Helmes made mention of in a former letter to us. This with the concernes we have cons.d you from hence swells our concern on that island under your care beyond what wee could ever expect or imagine & gives us now, wee are acquainted therewith, cause to complaine of your compliance & alsoe to put you in minde that wee thinke you have been very much to blame to continue pressing for further suplyes without taking care to make us a dew returne of thos effects already in your hands. Which, you may assure yourselfe, if wee had been sensible thereof, it had stopt our hands from sending those greate quantyies of goods wee have lately don, which was only in pure kindness to you to put you in a credible & good employm.t & this our kindnes to you. Wee hope you will take such care to discharge with a sutable return which you canot but be sensible you have been greatly wanting in. Indeed, we may say, insoemuch that noe man of sence or reason but would have had it soe for under his considaration as to have discourdged rather then have incouridged for greater aditions still, what you meant by it we canot imagin, unles you intend that wee shall be layd in a gaole for our kindenes to you. You must beleeve wee doe not feed upon the ayre. & Indeed, wee have scarce any other substance now left us. By meanes of perpetual sending out & receiveing nothinge in returne the last year, wee could not reasonably have expected less then 200 tuns of suger but rec.d but 70. A greate disproportion. & Truly, by what we now can gather by yours, little is to be expected. This pray take this into consideration &

make us such dew returns with speed that wee may have noe further cause of compl.ts. & For what goods you have or may have of ours unsold, take care to dispose of them to such as are good & punctuall paymenters & that will make dew compliance in a reasonable time, viz. in 6 or 8 mo. after sold, or otherwise keep our goods by you, espetially such as are not perishable. For its not our desire to contract greater debts but to call in our concern that is standing out. & Truly, if you considered your owne intrest, yould doe it for your owne sake & not keepe all you have depending upon such an uncertaine bottome. If you were truly sensible what streights we are driven to for want of a dew return, you will not take this amiss, but rather study how to suport your principalls, as I hope you will that have soe much studied to advance you. Take these lines, though abruptly writt, seriously into your consideration & way them well. And then I hope you will answer them effectually with returns sutable. Wee have often prest you to dismiss our acco.tt dewly & send us. W.ch pray omitt not at furthest every 6 mo. to doe begining at midsummer next & then and dewly after an acco.tt or list of such goods of ours as remaines in your hands unsold every 6 mo. For want of these things being don wee never knew or could understand what our intrest was or in whose hands it lay.

¶ W. F. cannot but take notice that, now neare a yeare & halfe after he consigned you a p.rcell of canvis & dowles for his owne proper acco.tt, you should writ him it never came to your hands. The goods was cons.d you, & neithe.r W.m Helmes nor Dendy; & if they did not del. it, the Master was lyable. Pray give me a better acco.tt of this affaie. I doe not send you goods with intention never to receive a further acco.tt of them.

...

265. [p. 353] **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

London, March 11, 1681/2

Hereinclosed you have the copie of our last to you. Since which wee have made up accompts of what goods wee have from time to time consigned you and have aded thereunto the cost & charges of all such good as have been sent downe to you from Nevis accordinge to the accompt wee have rec.d from thence. To which wee have add the list debts w.ch you acknowledg W.m Helme transmitted over to you out of our Nevis books to receive for our acco.tt at your first goeing downe amounting to 584,544 lbs. suger. That is now 3 yeares since, & wee hope ware all recovered debts. All which being aded together amounts to 11,660£ 5s 0d sterl. being for acco.tt in equall thirds of Mr. Rob.t Helms & ourselves. An acco.tt of the same you have heareinclosed. Wee have likewis given your Acco.tt Currant Cr. for all such sugars as

from time to time you have laden for our acco.tt in equall thirds, w.ch we finde to be 774,103 lbs. sug.r, as appears by the inclosed acco.tt is in mony at 12s 6d p.r c.t 4,838£ 3s 10½d. Now, haveing made your sugar Acco.tt Currant Debt.r for the affores.d list of debts of 584,544 lbs. sugar as the n.tt proceeds of 100 pipes of wine cons.d you p.r the ships Abraham & Unity, according to the Accompt of Sales rendred us p.r yourself, wee finde theire amountant to bee 170,001 lbs. suger; as likewise for the proceeds of a cargo of provitions (cons.d you p.r the Abraham) of which part thereof then remained unsold in your hands, w.ch by your Acco.tt of Sales we finde to bee 120,690 lbs. suger. Which s.d sumes being aded together amounts to 875,235 lbs. suger. Soe that takeing only these three sumes & makeing your Acco.tt Currant Dr. for the same & haveing given the s.d acco.tt Cr. for the full of all that ever wee have rec.d from you, & we find the ballance dew to us upon this acco.tt to be 101,132 lbs. suger, besides all which you have rec.d of ours to the vallew of 6191£ 7½s 6½d sterl. in goods consigned you at sev.ll times, as appears by the acco.tt p.rticulars hereincloused. Of all w.ch wee never have rec.d any Acco.tt of Sales from you as yett, though we have constantly prest you to the sending thereof in all our letters. These Acco.tt of Sales being dewly dismiss & made up & aded to the above ballance of your suger Acco.tt Currant, we conceive & hope we have not less then two millions of suger dew to us of the concerns in your hands. W.ch amounts to in mony 2,500£ sterl., a far greter sume then wee ever expected or imagined to have had upon that island that is lyable & insident to so many casualties & accidents of war upon all occations & this preeminacy wee have run ourselves into, unknowne to us, for want of haveing our acco.tts dewly dismiss as they ought to have been, and as all other men hath. Otherwise, assure yourselfe wee never had had soe great a concern upon that island, unles wee had rec.d greater incouridgm.t by returns then we have hitherto found hath been made since wee have been made truly sensible what our concern is. The want of w.ch knowledge in dew time wee feare wee shall have cause to repent when p.rhaps it may bee to late to retrieve it. However, we now have thought fitt to consider of takeing such measures as wee hope by your good & prudent manidgmt, care & industry may in some measure answer our expectations.& Wee hope in a short time may be a meanes of drawin of the greatest part of our effects. W.ch will not only inable us but alsoe give us greate incouridgem.t to begin & cary on further & greater concern with you then we have hitherto don. & If you dewly consider your one intrest, you will observe & follow our proscriptions with all speed, care & dilligence, & make it your sole buisnes to gather in our effects, since you know you draw noe comision upon sales of goods, but all upon the returns. & Indeed, wee thought this

would bee the only meanes to pres you to a speedy returne of our concerns, & was the only motive that induced us to make that again. W.ch pray consider well & waigh both all your one intrest & ours which, in this respect, you see upon dew consideration are equally linkt together.

Now the method wee have considered of which wee possitively order & desire you to proceed upon & forthwith observe & follow to doe without any loss of time upon any accompt whatsoever unles in the prosicution of our deb.rs in getting in our effects dureing the expres time & loadeing of the same is, first, to settle all your books of accompts, & then draw out all our Accompts of Sales or an abstract thereof as they stand in your books, & then make up and advise our Accompt Currant in equall thirds betwixt Mr. Robert Helmes & ourselves, then proceed to the drawing out & advism.t of all planters acco.tt & others who stande debt.rs upon your bookes. This, keeping W.m Hearne or any other bookeskeeper close and constantly at your bookes, without takeing them of upon any other buisness, will soone bee effected, and haveing thus settled all acco.tt in your bookes, and made up & advised them with all other men, you are forthwith to give Mr. Robert Helmes notice thereof. & Then the next thing we require to bee don is to take obligations of all such persons who are debt.rs to our acco.tt in thirds. A forme of the s.d obligtions wee desire should be taken wee herewith send you. W.ch pray be punctuall in the observeance of. & If possible you can omitt not to take such obligation of all such persons whatsoever who are in debted to us, w.ch none will refuse to give when you acquaint them with the reason thereof, that is that we required of you that it should be don in order to the advisment & makeing up of an acco.tt with Mr. Rob.t Helmes [p. 354] of all our concerns before his comeing of the islands, w.ch we now conceive will be in a short time. & Such as doe refuse (if any) to give such obligations, it is our order that you forthwith bring actions ag.st them to bring them under judgment. & All such persons as you have under order of court & judgm.t, by noe meanes doe not alter that by taking a new bond for their debt either before or since. The reason of our taking the obligations in this forme, viz. in our owne names, is because its most proper it should be soe donn, for should the obligations be taken in your one name, that would make you become lyable to the paym.t of all such debts yourselfe in stricktnes of law, w.ch p.rhaps you might nott have considered of. & Therefore, we sent you this forme now. This being donn & all things thus settled betwixt you & our deb.ts (w.ch pray omitt not forthwith to accomplish without any loss or delay of time), then wee desire you to make up & advise our Acco.tt Currant with Mr. Helmes in thirds, & draw out an exact list of all such persons as are our deb.rs for

the ballance thereof with the respective sumes thay stand indebted. & Then it is our further order that you signe, seale, & deliver to him for his & our use such an obligation as wee have likewis herewith sent to him as an acknowledgedm.t that you have in your hands such obligations & acco.tts as amounts to the ball.s of our Acco.tt Currant. & Then we have ordered him the s.d Robert Helmes to give you a Letter of Attorney that a full & ample power to receive all the said debts to & for our use & acco.tt. And all things being thus settled, it is our order & desire that you forthwith proceed to use all meanes possible for the speedy recovery of all such our debts. & It is our further order to you to loade the same on bord any good shipp or shipp bound from the isl.d of St. Xtophers to Londo. & consigne the same to Mr. W.m Baxter for our acco.tts as fast as you can recover & receive the same. Or, in case it should hapen, at any time when you have any sugars or other goods redy to loade for our acco.tts, that there should not be shipp or vessells at the island of St. Xtophers in ladeing but for the port of Londo., in such case it is our order & desire that you transport such goods as you have in a readiness of ours to load to the island of Nevis or any other the Leward Islands where fright is to be procured and had for the port of London. & For all such goods as you shall loade of towards satisfaction & payment of our affores.d deb.rs, wee doe allow you to draw ten p.r c.t comission upon the same, persuant to our former agreemnt with you, as well the upon the list of deb.rs transferd from Nevis to you to receive as any other (though upon that list you could not expect to draw more then 5 p.r c.t, in regard the sales was not made by you but this we doe allow of for your incouridgm.t), but not to make any other charge for storidge or upon any other acco.tt whatsoever; but for custome, caskes & c., you are to charge what you actualy pay & noe more, as likewis for bote hyre or any other such charge w.ch you may hapen to be in disburse. & This method wee have now proscribed wee earnestly intreate yo to persue with all speed & diligence, useing your utmost care & indeavors for the speedy getting in of our debts, as soone as all things are thus settled, without shewing favour or respect to any person. For wee greatly suspect & feare a warr with France, though wee hope it may not hapen till the next Springe. By w.ch time wee hope by your industry you will recover in and loade of the greatest part of our effects. & Indeed, you have greate reason to follow it close, not only for the sake of your owne advantage but alsoe for your reputation. For should any miscaridge in that kinde hapen, you are the only person we can impute it to, for not discharginge your duty in the trust wee reposed in you, viz. in not rendring us such acco.tt as you ought to have don from time to time. By meanes wherof wee should have been sensible of what concern wee had in your hands. The want

thereof hath occasioned us to make such additions as wee never intended nor thought of. ...

266. [p. 355] **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

London, March 11, 1681/2

Wee have by this conveyance writt you at large touching the settlem.t of all affaires relating to our concern in 1/3ds with Mr. Robert Helmes under your care & manidgement upon the island of St. Xtophers. A method for the same wee have consulted & sent you for your better governm.t therein. Now wee have likewise considered that wee have severall other distinct concerns under your care & manidgement wherein Mr. Robert Helmes is not at all concerned. An acco.tt of all which you have hereinclosed. & Because we have desired a settlement of all our concerns in 1/3ds, it will also be as absolutely necessary that there should be a settlement of all our distinct concerns, that the one intrest may not be injured by the other.

& Therefore, it is our desire & order to you that before you begin to proceed upon the settlem.t of that affaire that you doe forthwith call over all the goods you have in your hands unsold of ours or wherein wee are anywayes intrested, whether dry goods, provitions, wines, brandy, or any other goods of what kind or quallity so ever, & take an exact acco.tt thereof & to what intrest they doe belonge, setting of the prices of the same as you finde them charged in the Invoices to w.ch thay doe belong. & By the very first shipp, send us an acco.tt thereof & a duplicate by the next offer, still reserveing in your hand a copie. Haveing finished these, then proceed to the examination of your bookes & draw out the acco.tts of what sold of the respective cargoes alsoe. W.ch send us with the former. Then, as strickly and as neere as you can, informe yourselfe by your bookes the respective persons to whome such good was sold, & wh.t you may have [p. 356] rec.d upon our acco.tt from the sev.ll persons so plaine told. As for what you finde, as soone as you can, estimate the same that is correc.d. Wee desire you to draw out a list of debts in the same manner & forme as you doe that in comp. with Mr. Rob.t Helmes.

& For such debts as belongs to the acco.tt of dry goods wherein your brother& yourselfe is concerned 1/4 part, take obligations for in the name of William Freeman & Comp., w.ch your bro. **John Westcott** & Mr. W.m Baxter have agreed shall be soe don here. A forme of the s.d obligations you have herewith.& For what goods you have already rec.d in part of payment of s.d goods, pray make a return of as fast as you can, consigning the same to Mr. W.m Baxter & Comp. & draw us all the Acco.tt Currant of what goods sold, & what laden of,& send us. ...

Itt is our further desire that all such goods as you rec.d for the joynt acco.tt of W.m Freeman & W.m Baxter, viz. the provitions, dry goods & liquors by Terry, the lumber by the ketch whereof Ro. Randall is Mr., & the provitions by the shipp Ri.d & Samuel, **Thomas** Clark, Master, that you draw us out the acco.tt of what sold with the list of debts thereunto belonging & an Acco.tt Curr.t of what rec.d & all things relateing thereunto, viz. a list of all such goods as remaines thereof undisposed, in the same method & manner as wee have proscribed for the above s.d cargoes in comp. & Take obligations in this maner as we have sent you a forme of, viz. in the name of W.m Freeman & W.m Baxter. Wee hyre you have been very punctuall in the observance of our orders in the sale of our goods p.r Terry & all since, of which wee expect a dew compliance from you, viz. to Cr. none but such as you know to be very responsible good men & such as would make punctuall paym.t in 6 or nine month after sale at furthest. & For whatever goods, provitions, liquors & c. you may now have in your hands of ours undisposed of, we doe now give you our possitive order to not to dispose thereof upon creditt to any but such persons whose paym.t, you may depend up in three or six months at furthest after sale; & to such person & for such paym.t wee are content you should rather abate of the prices that other men sell for then to make long debts. & What goods you canot soe dispose of for ready paym.t or to such persons as beforementioned, it is our order that you keepe the same by you till you can or untill you shall receive our further orders about them. For indeed by your contracting such long debts & not makeing us answerable returns of our effects, you have reduced us to greate streights, insoemuch that we shall not be able to proceed to the caryinge on a further trade till inabled by our returns. You will finde by the sev.ll acco.tt that we are out above ten thousands pounds sterl. principall mony, of w.ch W.m Freeman is the most concerned to his perticular. ...

276. [p. 373] **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

London, July 18, 1682

I have rec.d yours of the 7th of April & 11th of May. In the first I take notice that you say I must require an acco.tt of the canvis and dowles I cons.d you of Clayton, hee haveing never delivered it you. Nor, for ought I perceive, you have never troubled yourselfe about it. A pretty answer to be returned an imployer when at the same time the Master is with you who another man would have thought it your duty to have cald him to an accompt for goods that was consigned you. These are pretty satisfactory acco.tts to render a man 2 yeares after the thinge is transacted, but is very like the rest of your acco.tts & transactions. A man may sometimes reasonably expect answer of his letters and those things donn that is

required, but I never could yet get either. But instead of giving answers to what you ought to do, you fill up your papers with what you have nothing to do with, viz. of Claytons disposal of the servants, who is able to give an account of his transactions then I perceive you can of yours, or else certainly you would have given more satisfactory answers, or else you fill them up with flimsy stories, pretending to be but 1/6th part concerned in the purchase of 80 negroes & at the same time is concerned 1/3 part in 140. And all the proceeds of our goods take to make present payment for them, when at the same time who have not a penny of our effects returned us, but our ships lying there upon demurrage and like to come dead freighted. A hopeful way to carry on and encourage a trade! But by these fallacies & pretences have I been so long deluded that I am in a fair way to be undone.

& Therefore, I think now high time to look about and inquire for some more satisfactory accounts. It is now full 16 months since Mr. Helmes went out of England, by whom we write you positively to adjust all our accounts forthwith in 1/3rds & to send us Accounts of Sales of what sold, and a list of all such goods as did remain in your hands. The same things have we required in ten several letters at least since. But all the answer we could ever yet get is when your leisure will permit, it shall be done, and when that leisure time will be God knows. For I now begin never to expect it. Then, instead of making us returns of our effects for such goods as we consigned you, which we gave you strict orders not to dispose of to any person but for ready payment or such whose payment you would yourself answer for in 6 months at furthest after the sale, & on these & no other terms to dispose of our goods to any person whatsoever after having disposed of our goods, and we accordingly expected and ordered the returns to be made us, then you come to tell us, instead of making such returns, that we cannot expect returns for our goods that came so lately to your hands till you had first done justice to other concerns that you are so much behind hand with. But assure yourself these answers will no longer pass with us. For if you have observed our orders, we expect payment accordingly; or if you have not observed our orders, you must make good the effects to us, which will be a means hereafter to teach you how to follow orders & to give your principals such accounts as they ought to have: How often have we writ to you and positively ordered you every 6 months at furthest to make up the accounts & send us of all such goods as were sold, & also to take an exact inventory of all such goods as remain in your hands unsold at such times and send us. But this we could never yet get done, although I have kept my own servant with you without the least consideration for it to assist you, who is

capable enough to doe my owne buisnes. Yet, at the same time, in kindness to you, I allow you comissions for the doeing it and yett can get noe acco.tts from you, though I kept a servant there to noe other end & purpose. You doe well to put me in minde of his time being neere expired & that now I ought to thinke of giveing him some incouridgement. Methinks you that have reaped the benefitt of his services should study a way in recompence to give him an imployment, for you take care to keepe me in a condition not fitt for that or to feinde myselfe bread for all you ever I have been labouringe for many yeares to gett togeather to promote you & others I have comitted to your care. Which I finde hath been only soe to squander itt away that I am never likely to see it againe. & Yet you have not the least sence to take notice to give me the least sattisfactory answer in anythinge that I require should be don. I have soe often repeated these things to you that I am quite tyred with writteing it. Pray give me noe further trouble of writeing you on this subject. But let all such Acco.tts of Sales be sent us with our Acco.tts [p. 374] Curr.t & lists of debts. And lett obligations be taken as we have formerly directed. & Lett a list of all such goods be forthwith sent us as remaines unsould. And apply yourselfe to the getting in our debts. Here will speedily goe from hence Capt. Hill who goes Deputy Gov.nor of your island, who I am confident he will doe you all favour and justice towards the recovery of our just debts. I have alsoe writt to the Gen.ll to the same effect, who you may make aplication to upon occation. And when all this is don & our returns made us, wee can never hope to see our owne mony againe, for sugars of Nevis are now worth but 19s & 20s p.r c.t, and I verily beleeve the next yeare will not reach above 17 or 18s. You may judge of the hopes of proffitt wee are like to make by our advent.re. ...

Freeman's Letters, 1682: nos 280-308

280. [p. 383] **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

London, August 7, 1682

... I feind you absolutely deny to p.rform what wee have required of your hands, alleadginge it to be unreasonable, what they themselves, as you tearme them, never did. But who you meane by that expression I doe not understand, but conclude it to be your master [Freeman], because the other p.rty [Baxter] concerned never transacted anythinge there. & If you coate him for your presid.t, certainly you ware drunke or out of your senses att that time you did it. Otherwise, you could not have had soe much impudence to have cast that reflection upon him that never

deserved it. Doe but observe his method, & doe by him as hee hath donn by others. & Then hee will have noe occation to put you upon transactinge such unreasonable things, as you tearme them. Noe man ever had any occation to call him to any acco.tt for want of haveing them don in dew time, or any occation to devide debts for the sattisfaccion of any such acco.s. Hee made it not his buisnes to deale by comissions. Yet some freinds were concerned somewhat with him. And hee bids defiance to them all to say that they had not every peny of the whole proceeds of all such effects, shipt them of in less then 18 mo. after receipt of their goods without makeing one pound ball.s remaininge to their acco. in debts, but tooke them all to himselfe & yet rendred them a full and just acco.tt of all the sales & for their further sattisfaccion proper, to lay open his books for there perusall whenever they pleased. Now if you had made this performance, or will take it upon you to doe it, there will be noe occation to devide debts. But you will not. There is a necessity for it, for one intrest must not swallow up another, nor one must not be ballanced with the effects of another as you write, viz. that you will ship what you can upon the acco.tt in 1/3ds, and that you must have a reagard to the makeing good of former concerns you have rec.d of other mens, before there can bee any return expected of that acco.tt in halves, without haveing the least regard to your orders & instructions, viz. to sell none of the s.d goods upon noe termes but for ready paym.t, unles to such price as you yourselfe would undertake for their payment in such a reasonable time as wee live. And yet the goods are in a maner all disposed of & still its unreasonable for us to expect any returns for them in soe short a time. How this agrees with your orders is strange. But I promise when once the goods comes into your hands, you beleeive wee are noe further concerned in them. Neither you are to take any notice of us or our orders in the disposing of them, than come to say that noe planter will give two peeces of paper for one debt. But sure noe planter can refuse that if the concerns ware defferant, unles he will make paym.t, and then there will need noe papers.

Next you say it will bee difficult to bringe them to acco.tt. W.ch noe honest man can refuse. & Such as are otherwise wee suppose you have lawes to compell them to and to bringe under judgment of court, & then there will be noe occation for papers of such.

Next you say if they require such things to be don, they must send out two or three bookekeepers to doe it for them, but allwayes thought and never yet heard the contrary. But all facters ware obleidged to keepe their owne bookekeepers and to make up their owne acco.tts, though in kindnes to you I have kept a bookekeeper for you to doe your buisnes and at the same time pay you for it. But you may remember when first I

put you in to this employm.t, I agreed with you on the same conditions as Mr. Pruitt had made with Mr. Bawden, who is obleidged and punctually performes the sending him home every yeare a copie of his whole journall of his yeares transactions, w.ch he is to deliver upon oath. & For whatever he buyes or sells makes him a joynt partner theirein, as just reason there is for the doeinge it, when his stock must be employed in it, and yet he takes not these hardships upon him, though in a better condition then you could pretend to when he undertooke this employm.t by w.ch he hath gained an estate. But when a man puts you upon a settlement of things & he hath put his whole estate into your hands, then its reasonable; but, if you had any reason in you, this would have been donn of your owne accord, before you had ran out such an estate in debts upon such an island that, if a quarter part of the English intrest upon it ware to be exposed to sale upon the Exch. tomorrow, noe man would give such a summe as tenn thous.d pound for it. But now I judge you beleeve you have got all in your hands that you are like to get of ours (& tru it is, for you have all wee have). And therefore time it is for you to make yoar owne tearmes & keep that since you can get noe more. But still we are not left without a meanes to compel you to doe us justice, if you will put us upon it. But supposeinge wee were left voyd [p. 384] of all such meanes, yet that would not obstruct any man of honesty or reputation from doeing justice, w.ch the very heathens have a sence of.

& Therefore, I now tell you that the sinn of ingratitude is that of the deepest edge, w.ch, when you goe about to put those things upon mee, you are guilty of in the greatest measure possible. For you have not one peny in the world but what you are obleidged to me for. For the very mony you have rec.d of your bro. for your portion hath been given by my perswations and means. You could never have recovered a peny of him, nor had he nor none of his freinds been concerned with you, what they are, but by my perswasion. & Yet this good bro. that hath don this for you, for ought I perceive, you have as little regard for as mee. Neither would all the freinds you have in the world ever have don that for you that I have. Yet all now is not worth takeinge notice of. ... Sugars are now sold, viz. Nevis & St. Xtophers at 18s & 19s p.r c.t, w.ch cleares not above 7s the n.t 100£. The party you bought your negros of proffers his whole shippes loadeing for 19s p.r c.t and canot get it. & I verily beleeve the next yeare will not come neere that price. Therefore, you may judge of the reason we have to pres the gettinge in our debts, if there were noe other for it. The last 60 hhds. wee rec.d from you wasted above 30 p.r c.t w.ch we suppose to be by meanes of the storm. My bro. Baxter cons.d Ja. Terry 25 pipes of brandy by Terry, of which he haith rec.d 14 large

hhds. sug.rs in returne. And he writes him will make a returne of the whole proceeds within the yeare, of w.ch he had then by him 200£ in mony. & Yet you have not sent us one hhds. of the proceeds, not only of 25 pipes of brandy but alsoe 3,000£ sterl. Besides you see other men doth not finde these difficulties in doeinge buisnes to some sattisfaccion in reasonable time. ...

287. [p. 398] *Robert Helme [Nevis]*

London September 14, 1682

I have received severalls of yours by Wood & other shipes, all w.ch gives an acco. of the fatall yeare you have had, w.ch hath quite disabled all planters from payment of there debts this yeare & I doubt forever. For certainly yours must be in very bad hands that are soe many yeares standinge out. To that I shall say little more, but content myselfe with what shall hapen. But since the time of our covenants now draws neare there expiration, I hope you will take care soe to settle all things, that we may have a full acco. of all our concernes, & where & how it stands, and give such necessary instructions that what in probability is recoverable, may as speedyly as can be gott in. For its to be doubted in few yeares more that what may then be recovered will not be worth bringing home & then its as good looseing it one way as the other. I have rec.d p.r Mr. Wood in the Abigall 26 hhds. of sugar from Mr. Liddell for the rent of the plant. w.ch is not at all qualified according to covenants. Its soe intollerable bad that it cannot bare the name of muscovado sugar. I have sold them to Mr. Fleet & just wayed them of 17s p.r c.t & glad I was to take it, & much adoe to reach that price. ...

All our sugars p.r Wood & the ketch, except the afforesaid 26 hhds., remaines unsold. The most yet proffered for them is 18s 6d p.r c.t. Of all the former sug.rs that came to hand, I have not as yet rec.d one peny for them. Neither have I rec.d one peny of mony upon your acco.

[p. 399] Since I sent you the last acco. but one, the contrary I have p.d & as well as the freight, custome & petty charges of all such goods as hath come. This sugar was never yet knowne such a drag in the world. This I take notice of to you because your wife did call upon me for 600£ to put out for you, wheras I paid her last weeke 400£ & a little time after since 100£ & some small sumes I have paid besides amounts to neare 50£, & paid your bill of 100£. & Now I have a bill of £175 more to pay on your p.rticular acco. to Mr. Pickford, my brother & selfe haveing paid the like sumes to him in Lisboa, which he drew upon us and am out I beleive 150£ upon your p.rticular acco. for your p.t of freight, custome and charges of sugars, that as yet I have not rec.d a peny for. All these summes being added together am.ts to 1,025£. Soe that I am not

invested with neere that some of yours, although you have a far greater sum standing out in debts, w.ch as soone as rec.d shall be aplyed to your use but as I desire, not to make use of your mony unles I pay intrest for it, soe I ought not to pay it before its rec.d.

I am informed by Mr. Berwick that Mr. Stapleton bond is but for 47,000 lbs. sugar, whereas it ought to have been for 83,140 lbs. sugar at 1d p.r pound, as I write the Gen.ll. However, it matters not much, for I see there is noe care taken for payment of of the debt but instead of receiveing the debt, I have by meanes thereof paid duple the vallew of what I have rec.d in dead freight. Wherefore I have resolved to give myselfe noe further trouble about that matter, but to content myselfe with the losse of the debt. & Therefore, I now desire you to receive from Mr. W.m Berwick the said bond & cancell the same & deliver it up to the Gen.ll.

I take notice of what you write as to **Tho. Westcott**, that he seemes to make some difficalties in the p.rformance of when we required him to doe the same thinge. He hints himselfe to us but writes more plainely to his brother that what we requires is unreasonable &, if we expect it should be don, should have sent him 3 or 4 bookkeepers. But I thought it had been acostomary for men who draw comissions to keepe bookekeepers to render such acco.tt as in justice they ought to doe. I am sure if he hath followed his orders, he hath had little to doe this yeare but to minde his bookes. For he had orders from us to sell none of our goods but for ready paym.t & as yet hath not returned one pound of sugurs for them. What he hath shipt upon other p.rtable acco.tt of this yeare receipts is only 19 hhds. & ten terces that we yet know of, but for the payment of our dead freight, we may thank the good bargaine of negros. Your good bro. hope him to have just reason to beleeve they lay therie heads togeather & conspires how to ruin us. But p.rhaps it may in the end prosper accordingly with them. They are all brave fellowes & men of estate; but lett them inquire into the gettinge there estates & they will finde it got little better then picking of pocketts. Nay, I think worce for he that betrayes trust. I canot give soe good an acco.tt of himselfe. Its to noe parpose to complaine but I hope you have ere now settled things with **Mr. Westcott** as we have desired. & If he thinkes it to be unreasonable, its only because he cannot have soe good an oportunity to buy and sell with our effects as he hath hietherto don, but that we are not allwayes obleidged to p.rmit him to doe. Therefore, if he refuseth, you have a full & ample power from us to call him to an acc.ott & upon your adressinge yourselfe to the Gen.ll I hope he will doe us right. Soe that if you finde he will not condisend to those things that are just & make it his busines with all care & dilligence to recover our estates that he hath soe squandered out in debts, you must take it out of his hands &

put it in to such as will be more carefull, to which I will recomend Mr. Ph. Edwards to you for an assistante, who hath made it his request to have some imployment from us. I hope you will approve of him & that he will prove a sober carefull man. I doe not write this designeinge to take anything of out of the hands or power of **Tho. Westcott**, provided he will discharge his trust with care & dilligence in order to the recovery of our debts with expedition. For what is not soe don in a little time, I looke upon as quite lost. Therefore, it behooves you to follow that busines close & pray omitt not the adiustment of all acco.tt with him. Its strange that after haveing writte soe often to this effect that we are still without our accompts. ...

I thinke you would doe well to absoelutely acquit yourselfe from the Royall Companies busines and stick to the settlem.t of our owne. Otherwise, I beleeve both will come to noething in the end. I am impatient to see some end or other of this troublesom concerne.

I take notice you mention to have paid Rich.d Watts for the hoops. Which is strainge that he did not ship it, in regard he knew of my paying [p. 400] dead freight. The little hint you give me that you have related he hath don with it, being compared with a former letter off advice of his bareing date the 15 of March Last, gives me allsoe cause to suspect he is falling into his former extravigantyes. The wordes are these: "by Capt. Hepborne who may sale about 8 dayes hence shall send you Acco. of Sales of your provitions p.r Terry w.ch is now all sold. I would have shipt three tunes on him but he would not let me freight. Soe shall stay till Capt. Terry arrives." Now, he hath never shipt me since but 5 hhds., the Invo. of w.ch am.ts to 6,895 lbs. sugar & never gave me any reason for his soe doeinge. But in his last letter to me tells me he he had not rec.d the sugar for the hoops of Mr. Carpenter, w.ch I did not a little strange at since you knew I should pay dead freight. These things gives me just cause to suspect him. & Therefore, I desire you to deliver him the inclosed letter, & to call him to an acco., & examine his bookes forthwith. & If you finde he hath rec.d any of the proceeds of my goods & extravigantly spent or converted the same to other uses, that you will imeadiatly gett a warrant, & call him befor the Gen.ll, & make him give his bond for paym.t of soe much mony in London at 12s 6d p.r c.t, as appeares he hath soe made use of, or elce keep him in custody untill hee makes good the sume. & For what app.rs that he had rec.d before Woods departure to pay the dead freight of the same & such other debts as are standinge out upon acco.tt of the goods I sent him, to imploy somebody to receive the same that will be carefull.

... If you finde him behindhand & that he will give his bond for soe much quietly you may take it without troubleinge the Gen.ll. He hath

wherewithall to make satisfaccion, is now of age & you may lett him continue receiveinge. But have a watchfull eye over him to see that he shipes the effects as rec.d it. It was never my intent that he should seperate himselfe from you, but that he should still be with you to assist in all things. ...

The Letter of Attorney you have of from mee is in furt. power for you to act in any my concernes whatsoever as can be given.

311. *Robert Helme [Nevis]*

London, January 25, 1682/3

My brother Baxter hath writ you some angry lines (w.th w.ch at his request I joynd with him in the signeinge of them). Its possible when they come to your hands you may resent them, but if you seriously consider the estate of our affaires and weigh well our circumstances, you can in noe measure be displeas'd thereat. For ware you to live here & maintaine a family, and had your whole estate aboard in other mens hands, & could not receive a peny from it to afford your subsistance, you would then think it as hard measure as we doe, & in all probability would be as subject to make passionate complaints, espetially when you should consider that those persons you had intrusted with our estate [p. 432] was all the while imployinge it in traffique to there owne advantage & your ruin, as certainly those we have imployed we are well assured have don. Yet I would not have you take these my lines as the least seeminge refflection upon yourselfe, for I assure you they are not soe intended, but relates to some other p.rsons w.ch we have imployed. W.ch indeed wee have just reason to blame you for not callinge them to acco.tt before this, since we have soe often rendered our requests to you to do longe since & yet nothinge don in order to it that we can understand of.

You may rememb.r that we write you in Aprill Last fully relateinge to our concerns in **Mr. Westcotts** hands, and then made it our requests to that you forthwith goe downe & settle all our concerns on that island and send us all Accompts of Sales of all such goods as was sold, and for what remained unsold to take a p.rfect list thereof and send us, & to order him to sell none thereof but for ready payment, & then to make up & adjust our Accompts Currant with **Mr. Westcott**, & to take a p.rfect list of all such p.rsons as was our debtors on that island, & to take bills under hand and seale from them all in our owne names, that soe when

sugars was made our effects might be rec.d & aplyed to our owne use & not converted to others, & alsoe that such p.rsons that ware backward in payment be compeled thereunto p.r law. These letters you rec.d in June Last w.ch is now 8 mo. since. & We are confident if you had gon downe & spent but one month & seriously aplyed yourselfe to the settlement of these things, all this might have been effected in that time. And then wee had been in a fayre way this crop to have recovered the greatest part of our debts, if you had but prest it hartily. But for ought I now see wee are further from it then ever.

Indeed, I could hartily wish you would acquit yourselfe of the R.C. busines in w.ch you triffle away greate part of your time in runninge up & downe & neglect the settlement of our owne concerns that is of much greater moment to us. For from that I can foresee noe advantage that can arise from it equivolent to the injuryes we receive in our other concernes. & Therefore, I now must earnestly request you to give notice to the Comp. to discharge yourselfe of that imploy.m.t and to adjust all accompts betwixt us and Mr. Carpenter & to dispose of our part of the howses. Or if you will not of your owne part, pray doe of mine and make me the returne thereof, if Mr. Carpenter will buy them. If possible you can, let the payment be made in money here. I alsoe intreate you to make up the plant. acco.tt & send me. In that there can be noe great difficulty, lyinge all within yourselfe.

Now, my further intreaty & most earnest request to you is as soone as ever this comes to your hands that you will forthwith without further delay goe downe to the island of St. Xtophers & there make a full & perfect settlement of all accompts with **Tho. Westcott**. & The first court, without respect to any, bringe all our debtors under judgment of court. If any have a minde to avoyde haveinge there names puplyquely cald, such may confes judgments. & Afterward use all possible meanes for the speedy recovery of our effects on that island. And wee intreate you to doe the same for what concerns mine & my bro. Baxters acc.otts in halves, as for what concerns us in thirds. & Take care if any bad or doubtfull debts put upon us to see they ware contracted with our owne goods and noe other. You have an acco.tt of all such goods [p. 433] as was consigned him. And if you finde him obstinate or refuse to p.rforme this our desires, we desire that by vertue of the power you have from us you will call him imeadietly to an accompt. And if Mr. Edwards be arrived, to intrust him & W.m Helmes with the concerne till you heare further from us. But wee hope **Tho. Westcott** will give you noe just cause for soe doeing, it beinge noewayes our desire to w.thdraw anythinge out of his hands, provided he will discharge his trust honestly & what becomes him to doe. But as yet we have not had the least

sattisfaccion in answer to anythinge wee have required. Pray as soone as you have sould all things there, let accompts be sent us & pres the recovery of our effects as far as possible. For we are doubtfull in a yeare or two more sugars will hardly defray the charges of bringing home. Therefore, it concernes you as well as us to be brisk in this affaire & to avoyd all further delayes. All w.ch I once more most earnestly request you to performe. For after this I designe not to trouble you with repetations.

My brother Baxter hath now hyred John Estes to draw of our ball.s from Madera w.ch is neare 1,500\$; with what we are to draw for Lisboa will be 2,000\$. W.ch we shall order all to be laden on bord him. As wines now costs there, we doubt it will not bee much above 100 pipes. He hath hyred him to touch at Barbados & there to dispose of what we can for pr.snt payment, if any reasonable market offers. & In case hee canot buy sugars there at moderate rates answerable to that price it beares here, to carry his mony to leeward to you, where, if you can lay it out for any advantage rather in indigo then sugar, we desire you to doe it; or in case you canot, to send it us home in specia. But if you have not store of money lying by likely to receive much, you may keepe our 2/3 parts there for the suply of our plant. In regard the ps. of 8/8 that comes home are generally very lite, I would alsoe have you keepe of what you may receive 3 or 400 ps. for my Mountseratt plant. Estes is to sayle p.r agreem.t the 15th of the next mo. & of what wines he carrys to leward we will order him to land 15 pipes in Mountseratt with Geo. Liddell, to whome we will give orders to sell for noethinge but for ready payment, tho. he seles the cheaper. & Of what he brings to you, its our desire you should send 20 or 30 pipes to W.m Hearne with the same restriction. & Whatever you sell yourselve, we desire the same thinge if possible at whatever rate you sell. This is a small ship. & Therefore, we desire you to be shippinge us sugar as fast as you receive it, without keepeinge for her comeinge, we beinge in greate necessity & noe doubt at that time of yeare but a small ship may be laden without difficulty. If you let any freight, let it be in butts, for we are obleidged to 1/3 in butts. But if you loade any for our owne acco.tt, let them be made (& fild) on purpose very large, to w.ch we send you a sett of trusses p.r the same ship. ...

313. [p. 437] *Captain John Estes [Commander of the Providence]*

London, February 15, 1682/3

You are to saile with your ship to the island of Madera, imbraceinge the first oppertunity as winde & wether shall offer. & When please God you

shall arrive there, you are immediately to make your application to Mr. Richard Pickford, Mr. Obidiah Allin & Mr. Mathew Mattson or some of them, & deliver well such your letters directed to all or any of them. Whome I have given orders to load on board your ship in wines of the growth of that island to the value of two thousand milreis. Which you are to take in, using your utmost diligence for your speedy dispatch. Which my request to you is to press them thereunto with all imaginable earnestness. & Having received the aforesaid quantity of wines on board your ship, you are to give Bills of Lading for the same consigning them unto yourselfe & Mr. Robert Helmes.

And having your dispatches from thence, you are to sail your ship with all convenient expedition to the island of Barbados. & At your arrival there, if you find an encouraging market offers, it is my desire that you should dispose of such part thereof as you can for present payment, either in money or sugar, valuing your sugar not above 8s p.c. 100 lbs. of muscovado, unless you find the same to be extraordinary good; if soe, you may take it at 9s p.c. 100 lbs. & not higher, or what money you may happen to receive for any such wines as you shall dispose of. If you can lay it out in sugars as aforesaid at that rate, it is my desire you should, & have some butts made by truses on board your ship on the best terms you can & load the same on board your own ship. But when please God you shall arrive at the aforesaid island, in case you do not find a good market presents for your wine & unless you can dispose of them or some part thereof at nine pounds p.c. pipe, the lowest price clear of all charges whatsoever as custom or any other & that for ready money, then in such cases it is my order & desire that you spend no time there, but forthwith set sail & proceed to the Leeward Islands. Or in case you should find a reasonable market offers as aforesaid, which may encourage the disposal of some of your wines there, yet it is my order & desire that you should not exceed 14 dayes time at that island, unless you find an extraordinary market offers that you can dispose of good part of your cargo of wines at the rate of 12£ p.c. pipe or upwards, clear of all charges. In such case you may abide & stay there the space of twenty dayes & not longer & to convert such part of your money as you can receive as aforesaid into sugars & put on board your ship.

But such part of your money as you cannot convert into sugars you are to carry the same downe to the Leeward Islands & lay out the same in sugars there, in case you can do it on any modest terms, which you are to advise & consult Mr. Robert Helmes in. & Such money as remains in your hands that you cannot convert into sugars you are to leave in the hands of Mr. Robert Helmes, taking his receipt for the same. But in case it soe

happen that you do not meet with an encouraging market at Barbados & dispose none or but a small part of your wines there, then you are to call in as you pass by the island of Mtsarratt & deliver our letter to Mr. George Liddell, wch we have delivered you open. But before you deliver it, pray seal the same, & deliver him 15 pipes of wine, without making your stay there, other than just putting the said wines on shore.

[p. 438] But in case you do not carry at least 65 pipes or upwards to the Leeward Islands with you, would not have you make any stop at that island, but keep the said letter that is we sent open to the said Liddell & return it, but to deliver all such other letters as we directed to him. & Soe to proceed to Nevis. & There follow such orders as you shall receive from Mr. Robert Helmes in landing or disposing of all or any the remainder or your cargo of wines, either upon the island of Nevis or any other the Leeward Islands whatsoever, as he shall order & direct according to the tenure of your Charter P.rty. & Likewise in the relading of your ship home. But in case of death, wch God forbid, of the said Rob.t Helmes, then you are to proceed to the island of St. Xtophers to **Mr. Tho. Westcott & Mr. William Hearne** & deliver your cargo to them and to proceed in all things in the same manner with them as you should have done with the aforesaid Rob.t Helmes.

& Having thus dispatched your affairs there & reladen your ship, you are to return with all convenient expedition to the port of London. ...

314. Robert Helme [Nevis]

London, February 15, 1682/3

Since our last to you of the 25th Jan.y we have rec.d the 3¼ tuns of sugar laden p.r yourselfe on the Sarah wch is disposed of at 21s p.r c.t, a good price as the market now governs, but the payment will be longe. We had hopes of some sugars p.r the same ships from **Thomas Westcott**, but those prove as baire as our former. Patience is the only remedy wch we must submit to. All our sugars the last year lyes still unsold, & hitherto not soe much as the least damaged for them. We hope the next month will produce a champion or else must sell them at any rate, for after that noe hopes can be of arise. ...

[p. 439] Its our desire you should intrust William Hearne (in case he be on the island) with the disposal thereof, to whome we have writt some lines herein closed, wch you may keep or deliver as you judge most convenient. You see our absolute desire is to contract noe more debts. Therefore, whosoever you employ to dispose thereof on that or any other the islands, its our absolute desire you should lay the same restrictions upon them as to selling for present payment. For we had rather the

heads of the casks should be knockt out then to contract more debts. ... The reason why our desires is what you should rather comitt the disposal of what you send to St. Xtophers to W.m Herne then **Tho. Westcott** is because we doubt it may retard the gettinge in our debts. Besides William Hearn beinge now out of his time, we are desirous to give him what small incouridgement our affaires will p.rmit of. & If you thinke fitt to put into his hands any part of such goods as we have remaineing undisposed to dispose of, we shall be content therewith if hee will accept thereof. But let it be still with that same restrictions as to sellinge; or if hee will buy them or any part thereof, to pay for them here in England. That is, if he intendes to settle there, its our desire to you to sell him as good peniworths of such goods as in reason he can desire, provided he inclines & gives orders to my bro. Baxter to dispose of his howses. Otherwis, it canot be expected he should pay his bills. ... But what fr.tt you judge there may be occation to lett, pray let it be in butts if possible, w.ch conceive you may calculate about 16 tunns, that may am.t to the 1/3 p.t. & Pray let our hhds. be large & admonish them on St. Xtophers & the other islands that they may loade the like, for Tho. Westc.ts hhds. gen.lly comes out very light, w.ch pray acquaint him with. ...

315. [p. 440] **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

London, February 15, 1682/3

This accompanies the shipp Providence, John Estes, Master, who wee have hyred for the Leward Islands; & in her way have ordered her to touch at Madera to draw of the ballance of our old accompt; from thence & to stop at Barbados there to dispose of what part of the wines hee can; & from thence to proceed to Nevis to land the remainder of such wines as he carys to Mr. Robert Helmes who is equally concerned with us therein. Yet we have desired him to send to St. Xtophers to William Hearne such a proportion thereof as that island will conveniently vent for ready payment, beinge resolved to contract noe more debts. We would have ordered them to yourselfe, but considering the multiplicity of debts that of necessitye we must have of your owne contractinge on that island, wee hould it noewayes convenient to send anythinge to you untill you have soe settled all our concernes in that method w.ch we have proscribed and drawne our debts into a narrower scanthinge. For we know as longe as you have any fresh suplye of goods to dispose of, that must needs retard the recoveringe in of debts, w.ch we are wholly bent to doe, as we hope you are allsoe. Besides you knowe W.m Hearne is our relation & hath served us, and therefore we have reason to give him some incouridgement. Besides you have made your adresses to us in his behalfe soe to doe. & Our owne inclynations tends that way ware we

in a capacity (but as you & others have managed our concerns we are disabled). Soe that you have not the least reason to take anything amiss of this our consignment to him.

316. [p. 441] *Robert Helme [Nevis]*

London, February 28, 1682/3

[p. 442] I am sorry you finde soe much trouble with your brother, w.ch was what I allwayes suspected. I wish you may have a good end with him. I shall never give myselfe the trouble of writinge to him more. For all the satisfaccon I can gett is hectoringe answers, except an oath he hath made before Justice Martyn, to an acco.tt of those goods sent in partnership betwixt my brother Henry and himselfe, that he hath not rec.d directly nor indirectly 1,000 lbs. sug.r upon that acco.tt any way, yet all greate debts, & all such as I knowe as good men as most in the Islands. I wish he may not have forsworne himselfe.

I am sorry to heare **Tho. Westcott** is soe dillitory in the p.rformance of what we have required, w.ch is but just and as modest a thinge as can be desired. W.ch hope you will take care to compell him to the p.rformance of speedily in case of his refusall. For this we are assured that he continues buyinge & sellinge there with our stocks and att last the debts that are contracted there by meanes thereof will be throwne upon us for satisfaccion. Wherefore pray make noe delay in the busines, but goe downe yourselfe and see what we have desired effected with expediccon. Otherwise, we may not only have a greate many bad debts (as you suspect) but in the end loose all here. We have been most unfortunate in a corispondency that all should proove alike. I hartily wish you ware acquitted of the R.C. busines that soe you might have noething to follow but our owne. I hope Mr. Edwards will be speedily with you to assist you, but the maine points you must see effected yourselfe & gather together what you can speedily. After if it lyes much longer, it will not be worth looking after. For I very beleeve sugars in a little time will not be worth bringinge hom. I am really of opinion that Terry is run away with the ship. Wee had a short letter from Barbados dated the 27th No.br wherein hee then advised was bound downe to Nevis. Hee hath drawne bills from New England in the two voyages for the ships use and the first charge of lumber for 300£ that money, w.ch wee have p.d. Five or 6 days since John Estes saled out of the Downes for Madera, Barbados & Nevis. His orders are to sell what wines he can att Barbados for ready paym.t, the rest to cary downe to

you. When he arives, if you find any possibility of **Tho. Westcotts** ladeinge him att St. Xtophers with our effects, lett him goe downe there with the ship. My bro. Baxter with Mr. Bawden and others will take about 25 or 30 tuns on another ship for you to load att Nevis. I hope you will finde noe difficulty in loadinge these small parcells.

You need not question when I have money of yours in my hands. But that I shall not bee only redy to pay it your wife, but alsoe to assist her in the placeinge it out. And att that time I write you, shee had rece.d more then was in my hands. Although by your acco.tt you was a Cr., yet the money was unrec.d & in other hands, not in mine. I never was beforehand with you in my life till now, & that but very lately considerable, but on the contrary was allwayes in disburs for you, w.ch occasioned my takeinge notice of a seemeinge complem.t you then put upon me that all you had in the world was in my hands and att my servis and desired me to make use of it, when I had not a peny in my hands and att the same time ordered your wife to call upon me and put it out faster then I could receive it. I had just reason to take notice of that and other things. W.ch I did att that time consideringe how I have been delt with in my concerns abroad under your care. W.ch although I impute it not directly to you, [p. 443] yet its the same thinge to mee if don by others under your charge. You know to this day I have never rec.d soe much as an acco.tt of 8 or 9 years transactions with you, w.ch any man canot but take for hard measure. Yet pray misconstrue nothing, for I intend noethinge ill in what I write you on this subject.

I think I shall have an oppertunity in very few dayes to place 6 or 700£ for you, w.ch is much about the summ now in my hands, all accompts beinge compared, viz. what I am in disburs for your part on the ship Abr. acco., what remitted to Lisboa, and what charges I am out on sugars that hath now layne by soe longe, the greatest part of w.ch remains unsould to this day. And what disposed of was this weeke noe mony rec.d for them. Nor can I tell when I shall. The price sold att is 21s. ...

All the news here is a gen.ll stopt upon all banks in: the Chamber of London first, the East India Comp. next, & last the goldsmiths in Lambert Street. All run quite of Cr. that there is now noe mony storage nor to be comanded, & those that have it upon good securitys willinge to part with it on any tearmes, w.ch is hard to be found. I doubt this will end in a gen.ll ruin and stop all trades. A man knowes not where to be safe in anythinge. All things are brought to that pass. The occasion suposed to arise from the generall prosecution of the fanaticks.

326. [Thomas Hill, Deputy Governor of St. Christopher (St. Christopher)]

London, September 8, 1683

Sir,

I have rec.d both yours, viz. of the 3d of May & of the 18th July. In the first, I take notice you have been soe obleidgeinge to me as to answer my requests in callinge that rascall Bramly to an acco.tt for thouse scurilous epistolls hee hath sent mee, w.ch hee, accordinge to the custome of all cowardly fanaticke rogue, hath answered in his & their usuall stile of cantinge. For this your greate favor (w.ch I canot but owne as the more exterordiny by reason of our great distance, w.ch to often occations the forgetefullnes of freinds), I returne you my most harty thankfullnes & assure you I esteeme it as great a favor never to bee forgotten, as whenever an oportunity shall offer that may render mee capable in the like or any other kinde to searve you, I will make a gratefull acknowledigement. In the meanetime, if it happens to fall in your way, I desire you will not lett him pass without feelinge the waitt of your cane.

The next thinge I take notice of is your hintinge to mee somethinge touchinge the dispossession of your son Edmonds mony, w.ch I assure you hath layne under my care ever since your departure & had disposed of it upon a very good security to a freinde of myne w.th whom I would have become myselfe bonde for payment (had not Sir Temothy Tyrell interfered att the same time by vertue of an order he had from Sir James Rusel & propounded another security with 6 p.r c.t interest, whereas my freinde would allow but 5 p.r c.t.). Besides they objected against my freinds security as beinge but p.rsonall & theres reall. But I knew the p.rsonall security better then the reall, w.ch was a colleidge lease & not suffitient for such a summe, as att first I gave my opinion, w.ch then they rejected, but afterwards did agree to, after giveinge further sattisfaccion. But whilst they ware in treaty w.th this, my freinde had otherwis provided himselfe & soe that oppertunity was lost. But since my bro. Baxter hath lett it out for 6 mo. att 5 p.r c.t, at which time the mony will be punctually paid in to your order. The next thinge I take notice of is the proposalls made you by Nethwey & Pim for the affores.d mony. The persons I have noethinge to object against and the interest they propose to give is more then is now generally given. Yet I must be soe free, since you desire my opinion, ware the mony att my disposall, I should take 5 p.r c.t for upon a good security in Engl.d then 6 p.r c.t on the tearmes its lett. & Had you thought fitt to have left [p. 458] the dispossession of it to me, I would have allowed that myselfe (rather then it should have layne dead) untill better security had offered. But I was loth to meadle, in regard others ware concerned in it that I knowe

would have been to apt to have put another construction upon my transactings, whose sensure I was nott willinge to lye under, though I should bee glade to doe anythinge that might render mee servisable to you or your wifes sonn, as you shall both finde when its in my power.

I allsoe observe what you write relateinge to the plant. formerly belong.g to my deceased father w.ch I make noe greate doubt of the recovery thereof. But by his will hee bequeathed it to my brother Henry. Soe that I can give noe answer to your proposall, in regard I knowe his inclinations are desined for the settlem.t of it. Besides the rents of that Pogson gives greatly beneath its vallew. But as to that I shall not medle nor concern myselfe further then to give him my assistance towards the recovery of it and, if I can accomplish that for him, shall leave him wholely to himselfe to dispose it as he thinke fitt. Indeed, I had resolved never to have taken further notice of him or his concerne. But since I finde him reclaimed & now become a sober younge man, he shall not want my assistance. He tells me that if hee can recover it (w.ch now a short time will determine), if hee resolves to goe over & play the part of a good husbände, after haveinge past over soe many extravigant years, & if that hapen, I hope you will be kinde to him.

The next thinge I take notice of in yours is the passinge the Act you mention, a cotype thereof I had sent mee by **Tho. Westcott**. Its certainly the most pernicious fraudilent act that ever was sene. I am glad you have noe hand in it, but you did it by comand. For otherwise I doubt your assent thereunto would have been some reflection upon you. Here are severall adresses makeinge to the K. & Councell to iniciate it, w.ch will doubtles bee harde, and noe doubt but it will bee made voyde. & Certainly the Islands will finde they have don themselves an injury in it. Noethinge can bee more repugnant to the lawes of Englande. And indeed its neither better nor worse then a plaine downeright cheate put upon such as have by the large creditts they have the inhabitants advanced there estate. For had such an act been law before they had contracted there debts, it had been att the discrestion of the credittors whether he would have contracted such debts. & If he had, hee knew the lawe & could expect noe more then the benifitt of it. Or had he that made the act only looked forwards & not backwards, it would have been providensiall to none, for then it was left to to [sic] discretion whether a man would adventure to trust out his estate when such a law was in beinge. But as it is, they had as good hath saide we have gott your estates into our hands & will keep them & will make a law to protect us. For in supstance its neither better nor worse.

Haveinge now given answer to all the meteriall heads of your letter, I now come to desire your favor & countenance in what relates to mine

and my bro. Baxter particular concern. I suppose you cannot but be sensible that we have intrusted **Tho. Westcott** with a large concern, wch we committed to his care & disposition, wth restriction of orders on great part of it, that he should not dispose thereof but for present payment or to such persons whose payment hee would undertake to make good himselfe in 6, 9, or 12 mo. at furthest after the disposition of such goods. & Now I doe protest [p. 459] to you that the maine ende & designe I had in giving him that employment was out of a reall respect & kindenes I had for him, designeing noething soe much as to advance him in the world, as I constantly writt him and monisht him to care & doeinge justice in most of my letters to such as was concerned with me, not doubtinge in the least his justice to mee after shewing him such extraordinary kindneses. & In this manner, wee continued supplying him constantly for 2 or 3 yeares with whatever he requested, untill we had advanced upwards of 10 thousand principall mony here. For wch I myselfe am neere halfe concerned with my bro. Baxter, & Helmes the rest. But finding his returns come slowe in the begininge (for wch hee pleaded still excuses), occasioned us towards the latter end for our adventurs, which ware the most considerable, to give him those artickles of orders for sellinge for noething but ready payment, as I have before given you an accott. Now, notwithstandinge these our positive orders to him, hee hath disposed of all our goods or at least all to a trifle, wch is to the vallew of 5 or 6 thousands pounds, since he had those orders wch was two yeares since & former 5,000 lbs. 3, 4, & 5 yeares since. & All that we have rec.d of the latter 5 or 6,000 lbs. is about 60 hhd. of sugar wch may amount to betwixt 3 or 400 lbs. The former wee have rec.d very inconsiderable alsoe, I dare say not 1,000£ of our principall, though disposed of 3, 4, and 5 years agoe. Now findeinge this cause of complaint, wch you nor noe rashonall man cannot but judge reasonable, about two yeares since wee began to press him to send us accott, haveinge then rec.d none, & have constantly soe to doe & ever since. & After 12 mo. pressinge him very severely & findeinge none but very inconsiderable ones come, we then began to write him more sharply & ordered him forthwith to render Mr. Robert Helmes or send us forthwith all our Accott of Sales with your Accott Curr.t and list of debts & alsoe ordered him to take bonds or judgements in our owne name of all such persons as was indebted to us or such as should refuse to bringe them under order of court by a dew proces in law. & Notwithstandinge these our orders came to his hands beinge delivered by Mr. Robert Helmes 15 or 16 mos. since & constantly pressinge him thereunto ever since, with all sendinge our orders to Mr. Robert Helmes that in case of his noncompliance to call him to an accott & take our concernes out of his hands, yet nevertheles wee cannot to this day soe much as obtaine our

acco.tts from him, but still makes fayre promises, puts us of from this ship to tother, but in conclusion neither sends us acco.tt nor anythinge elce. For all the sugar wee have rec.d this yeare from him hath scarce p.d the dead freight we paid the last yeare by meanes of his purchasing ships of negrose and other bargaines with our effects. Or whether hee did or not, still noethinge comes to us but excuses.

I hope you will pardon my beinge thus teadious on this subject, but since I have gon on thus far I will pr.ceed to my further requests. & First, will acquaint you that for the foregoeing reasons, wee can suppose noe les then that his designes & practises are fraudilent. & Therefore, we have now sent our possitive orders to our bro. & p.rtner Mr. Robert Helmes to call him to an acco.tt as wee formerly directed &, in case of his nonecompliance or further delayes of what we have requested, to withdraw our concernes out of his hands & put it into such hands as may render us more satisfaccion. For you canot but thinke it very harde that wee should be kept out of such a considerable estate for soe mayny yeares togeather. And now I come to intreat your favor & countenance to Mr. Robert Helmes in that affaure with all the sharpeness you can shew to **Tho. Westcott**. Yet that you may see I retaine noethinge but kindenes & respect for him, I desire you will take him privetly & admonish him severely. & If by that meanes or such other meanes as you may think fitt he will yet be provailed upon to doe those things that are just by us & will make it his endevors for the speedy recovery of our debts, its my desire that it should not be removed out of his hands or put in any other. & In such case, I make it my further request to you, that you will show him all the countenance that can be towards the recovery of our debts by all dew proceedings in law. & As longe as that late Act shall continue to remaine & be in force, I know its in your power to doe us greate favor [p. 460] by apointinge such p.rsons as you knowe to bee honest & just, & there estates not incombred, to be appraisers of any such stock & c. as may bee brought under execution for any our just debts. That soe the same may not bee over-vallewed but estimated accordinge to the true wirth. This & all other reasonable favors tendinge to justice, I hope I may expect from you for any others, I shall never desire, & I hope I may live to recompence your desire & kindenes in some measure or other. ...

... Pray be advised to keepe your comp. full & send honest musters, without enlisting any but as are constant upon duty. For, by the by, I am told Billop hath allready given an acco.tt of some such transactions, and that countenance will be given him to proceed to complaint. But whatever you doe, lett this goe noe farther then your owne brest, for I have it from a private hand that injoynd me to secrecy, & I hint it to you in kindenes. Therefore, pray bee just to me in it, as you expect futurly I

should accomplish to you anythinge that offers to your advantage or may tend to disadvantage. For I had it from a Privy Counceler.

If you here not from mee soe often as I would, blame me not. I have lately purchased a small seate 30 miles from London on the Theames neare Henly, (fn. 1) where I now spend most of my time in order to the settlinge of myselfe, beinge resolved to withdraw from London, haveinge left all other concerns, except such publyque ones as have been of late put upon mee against my will, yet at such a time that I canot refuse. For I am now in Comission of the Pease in 2 counties, & Deputy Lef.t, & put in the Oyer & Terminer for the tryall of criminalls, of which of late there is noe small number since the discovery of this hellish fanatick plot. (fn. 2)

...

335. **Thomas Westcott** [*St. Christopher*]

London, November 10, 1683

Yesterday I rec.d yo.rs by Capt. Nicholas with severall accompts. But consideringe the length of time you have taken for the drawinge them, mythinkes thay might have been more large. For I must tell you wee expect other accompts then these. For you must have either disposed our goods at a greate undervallew or given them away or elce its impossible but that they should have produced very much much more. For we know our goods ware as good as well bought as other mens; yet doe they not produce by halfe what other men hath. This can bee noe small eror but a very great one, some how or other, for the generall charge for w.ch you give credit. But for eight hundred & od thousand pounds of sugar, the amountant of the cost and charges of that cargo of goods was 3 thousand pounds besides those goods that remaines unsold. & Other men from the product of the like summ have had neere double the produce, to our owne knowleidge. Besides our other accompts comes out as short. Wherefore its our desire Mr. Helmes should inspect your bookes, & that accompts att large may be drawne out. For we approv not of these accompt. This gives us just cause to beleive that you have don as W. H. did by us that off transport or sell our goods for your one acco.tt & give us the credit for them what you please. Truly, att this rate, wee are likely to have very lame accompts.

It is our order as formerly that you forthwith prosecute all other our debtors without shewing favor to any. That Act of Fraud you have mentioned is dam.d here by the courts. All wherefore be sure to shew the makers of it such favor as they deseerved. It concerns you to take care to get in our debts in halves with expedicion. For assure yoursefe, if any bad ones, they are on your owne accompt. You had our orders possitive not to sell our goods but for ready payment, yet is all our goods sould & wee can get noe paym.t for them. Could I see that you acted your part, I should not be thus tart with you. But it concernes mee to be soe when I see that by neglect or frauds, I knowe not w.ch, I am like to be undon. But one of them I am sure it must bee. I hope you will be as good as your word to ship me of my coppers by next, as you have severall times signified you would, as likewise what you can on our accompt in halves.& Upon the cargo acco. wherein your bro. was concerned, of w.ch I doe not knowe of one hhd. you have yet shipt, I wonder you doe not yet send us a list of the remaines of goods. Such as will not sell may bee proper perhaps for some of our plantations & may spare mee money in sendinge over such. I admire att the lowe sales of canvis & dowles. I finde Capt. Crisp is largely indebted to us, notw.thstandinge his complements to me of lendinge you sugar to ship in favor of me. Pray shew noe respect nor favor to any p.rson whatsoever, but use all imaginable meanes to hasten the speedy recovery of our debts.& Ship us noe more of your terces but large hhd.s. Rather ship the caske then send us such that turnes to noe accompt att all. I am sure Capt. Hill will doe you all just favors imaginable in order to the speedy recovery of our just debts. ...

341. **Thomas Westcott** [*St. Christopher*]

London, November 30, 1683

I have rec.d yours by Capt. Nicholls w.th sev.ll accompts. & Indeed, the reasons they have been soe longe a cominge is to vissible, for certainly such accompts was never seen before. & Therefore I canot blame you that you ware ashamed to send them, for I p.rceive by the date of those accompts they ware drawne out in March Last, yet could not be sent till Sept. I am sure it was not for want of convayances, nor could those accompts bee three yeares drawinge out that might very well have been all comprehended in one sheet of paper. Nor can they bee juist, for there must certainly bee some very greate mistake in them or you must have given away our goods. For we canot beleive you could be soe ignorant as to sell our goods that ware as good & as well bought as any mens whatsoever for little more then halfe what other men sells for, & you contract all in debts to. For whereas other men gen.lly makes onley the foote of there Invoyses sugars to come out att 6£ p.r c.t, ours comes not

oute att 10£ p.r c.t, w.ch if had been all returned by the same bottome the goods went upon would never have produced our first cost, & yet other men can neere double theire money. Pray examine your bookes & rectifye the mistakes where you find it, & let us have accompts drawn out at large as they ought to bee. For we doe not take one line for an acco.tt sufficient for 4 or 5,000£ worth of goods. Adjust these things with Mr. Helmes & hasten us speedily returns; & doe not thinke to fop us of with a list of debts for payment, but receive them in and ship us. I am sure that of neere 800,000 lbs. sugar debts you make us returns suteable or elce you must expect to pay all such damadges as we may sustaine thereby. & Doe not learne to play the knave, for in that you will play the foole. Wee knowe you doe not want good advisors. But those wil proove ill ones, if you doe not follow my advice. That you may have not abstraction in the gettinge in our debts, I have desired my bro. Helmes to receive my halfe part of what goods remaines unsould & to apply them to my plant. use. & W.m Herne is to receive my brother Baxters part & send us honest accompts of what disposed and follow your busines close in getting in our debts. The Act you soe much complained of is now repealed. Therefore, you are left voyd of all excuses, though doubtles you will not want new ones, but I would not have you thinke to trifle with us any longer. If you doe, wee shall take new meanes but use the utmost rigor with all our debtors & get in our effects. ...

350. [p. 495] *Robert Helme [Nevis]*

London, February 18, 1683/4

Sir,

I have yours of the 8th & 12th of November before mee, with a copies of those by Nicholls, w.ch I have already given answer to in two former letters & accepted of your halfe part of the plant. the tearmes proposed by you to pay there in sugar, more for my brothers sake then my owne, who I intend speedily over, beinge a younge man out of imployment & I thinke growne very soberly inclined. I intend hee shall have the whole plant. on the same tearmes, allowing mee intrest for my mony, not doubtinge but it was honestly appraised by you to the full vallew as you mention. On what elce relates to that p.rticular, I refer you to my former letters, & now shall give answer to the two last.

I take notice you are now settleinge & drawinge out accompts for mee. I doubt not to beinge injured by you, though the longe delayinge of

accompts is certainly a greate disattisfacton & an undoubted injury to any man, because its fitt a man should knowe what his intrest is, by w.ch he ought to govern himselfe & take his measurs accordingly. For I allready finde my estate in those parts will not amount to halfe what I did really beleeve it to bee, takeinge my measurs from the common advantages that other men hath made by way of trade. But instead of that, I finde come of with greate loss. W.ch, had I been sensible of sooner, I had in time withheld my hand & prevented great part of that loss that hath since hapened. Thus much in answer to that p.rticular.

I am glad of the greate prospect of the inshewinge crop & hope it will in summe measure shorten our debts that there may bee hopes of drawinge our busines to some conclusion, att longe run. & I hope you will have an eye upon our St. Xtophers concern above any other, beinge as I suppose the greatest. W.ch by the by occations mee to hint to you to doe equall justice to all our concernes on all that island, beinge distinkt interests. W.ch occations mee to hint this to you is that **Tho. Westcott** now writes mee this 5 tuns last shipt by him was intended for my p.rticular by the proceeds of some coopers sent him, but Bills of Ladeinge taken for our acco.tts in 1/3ds by you. This I write not to you that I would have you take any notice of it to him, but desire the contrary, beinge content its soe ordered. But againe you must consider my interest in that concern is the largest, & my bro. Baxter the next, our adventures beinge greater then yours. & Although our expres orders to him was to sell for noethinge but pr.snt payment, yet our goods is all disposed of & doubtles the greatest part for ready payment, yet noe returns made but a trifle, but all on acco.tt in 1/3ds. W.ch makes mee desire that equall justice may bee don to each concern & noe other. Thus much as to that p.rticular.

What you hint as to Mr. Edwards I am noewayes ingaged to, nor never was other then as I recomended him to you as an assistant, upon you often importuneinge mee to that effect, & I thought him to bee a fitt man. I send you my letter to him open to shew you the contrary, w.ch pray peruse, seale & del. For I desire to act noethinge but what may bee publique, & refer all things there to your prudent manadgm.t. I approve of your opinion that it will be best continuinge **Mr. Westcott** in that imployment hee is is [sic] in, for this crop at lest & afterwards, les you have just cause to the contrary. Yet have an eye over him soe as to spur him forward, [p. 496] for hee wants it to much & is to much given to write fallises. Yet it will bee better to overlooke some faults then to bee to rash. But pray let him not want spurs & Ile endeavor hee shall not want freight. But if any such thinge should hapen, rather doe you want at

Nevis then them on the adjacent Islands, who its to bee doubted will bee glad of the occation.

Your wife resolves speedily upon her voyadge, w.ch is a greater wonder to mee you should soe press it, since you say you intend your stay soe short. But to that p.rticular I have little to say. You know best your reasons for it.

The 200£ I have made your acco.tt Deb.r for the howses, & shall accordinge to your order deliver my bro. Baxter a Bill of Sale for them as soone as it can bee drawne.

I p.rceive the sloop Affrica is lost. Pray let mee receive an acco.tt of her from first to last. I never yet had any since the first cost.

The first hint of the expiration of our Artickles was given by yourselfe, from whence I might reasonably infer you intended noe further continuation of them. & Therefore, I thought it proper for mee to take notice of what relates to my p.rticular, as it may bee for you that relates to yours. I neither doe nor ever did desire other then equall things might bee don betwixt us &, accordinge to the old proverb, even rekoninge makes longe freinds. This gives mee occation to take notice to you of a passagge in your last p.rticular letter to my bro. Baxter, w.ch savors somethings of a former to him in the like kinde that I then tooke notice of & had a greate compliment from you in answer thereunto w.ch seemed otherwise, but I thinke its non-explained. Viz. I p.rceive by this your letter to him you seeme to complaine for want of an acco.tt & alleadge that as the sugars goes consigned to him you allow him a comision upon them & accordingly expect an acco.tt from him or words to that effect. I confes I ought not to take notice of other mens letters, yet in this case am obleidged. For, in the first place, you never yet to my knowleidge either rec.d or expected an acco.tt that ever yet had of from any other p.rson then myselfe; nor was it ever disliked or contradicted, as you seemeingly pretended till now, & I thinke it had been proper for you to have taken notice of it first to mee & have sent your order to the contrary first to mee, since you well knew I allwayes heald it betwixt us & therefore could not reasonably expect it from another hand. It was not soe very longe since you had your Accompts Currant from mee, & still as your wife found oppertunities by herselfe & freinds to place your money out for you, who you impowred & intrusted soe to doe. I hope shee never wanted what was in my hands at an howers warninge to answer your end. & If any lay unmade use of, it was but as most men make use of a goldsmith to pay & receive for them & keepe it till their occasions calls for it. I have all wayes don soe myselfe, & its what is generally don by most men. & For your acco.tt I had sent it you without callinge for, but

that I delayd it till your wifes goeing what her occations might call for. Neither could I have given you an acco.tt of the proceeds of one penyworth of all the sugars this yare, w.ch you take notice of came to a good market but will not prove soe good as expected those p.r the Abraham & your kinsman Helmes his ship ware sold sometime since. But by reason of my haveinge been lately in the contry, hee & I have not yet adjusted the accompt. & If hee hath rec.d the mony for them, its very lately. All the rest ware unsold till aboute ten dayes since & not yet all weighed of. Soe that before goods is sold, you can expect noe acco.tt of them. They are sold to divers p.rsons att different prices: the greatest part at 22s 6d p.r c.t, some at 22s 9d some at 23s & some at 23s 3d. Wee kept them in hopes of a better market. But this hard winter put a stop to all trade. Soe that we as well as other men have been deceived in our expectations. By your wife you shall have an acco.tt; & when shee hath drawne what mony her occations requires – 250£ shee had last weeke – I will adjust it. & What is then in my hands, because I may have an occation & will not be unprovided for Sir W.m Stapleton, I will allow you 5 p.r c.t intrest for it as longe as I keepe it, though dead in goldsmiths hands for that purpose. Because hee shall not have that to say that I have made use of his mony. & In this I hope you will receive noe injury. & By your next I desire you to bee plaine & signifye to mee who it is you expect an acco.tt from that two men may not bee bee [sic] liable. It is a matter of indifferancy to mee who you consigne to, but I would not give myselfe the trouble of holdinge accompts for what doth not concern mee untill the effects of goods is rec.d, w.ch is commonly 3 or 4 months after sold, [p. 497] sometimes longer & sometimes sooner, but very seldom men cant vallew themselves. ... Now give mee leave to aske you if its reasonable for mee to aske an accompt of you after ten yeares. For that w.ch is sattisfactory to one man, you may beleeve, is noe les to another. Doe as you would bee don by. Plaine delings is best.

... As for the purchis I have made, after I can draw of from my troublesome affaires in that part of the world, I promise myselfe some retirem.t (& to bee hapy in your company hereafter). But till then, I canot hope for it. Its a plesant place but cost mee to deare, yet pleases mee at an exterordinary rate, viz. above 25 yeares purchas, a rate that noe man would give but a f. But I am content, can I get but my little home to pay for it that is abroad. Could I meete with anythinge that I thought might please you, I shall not slip it. But land is now exterordinary deare & titles difficult. That unles I meet with somethinge that I thinke very good & will not medle that I have don don [sic] for myselfe, I would not have adventured for another. For noe man can blame mee in that, bee it deare or cheape.

... Sir Natha.ll Johnson, a very worthy man & perticular freinde of mine, is goeing Gen.ll of the Leward Islands since Sir W.m Stapleton hath desired his quit.g. By what I p.rceive my good freinde Crisp & some such others hath been the greatest occation of difference that hath hapened betwixt Sir W.m Stapleton & myselfe. I confes noething that ever yet hapened to mee gave mee soe greate a trouble as such unexpected [sic] unkindeneses from him that I thought the best freinde I had in the world.
...

351. *Captain Thomas Hill, Deputy Governor [St. Christopher]*

London, February 19, 1683/4

... I am sorry to here Sir W.m Stapleton hath been ill. I take notice of the discourse you have had with him & the expresions of kindnes he used towards mee. & Now, I call God to wittnes hee was the last man in the world that ever I thought of haveinge any differance with, but was soe far from the thoughts of it that I knew not one man in the world that I had soe greate & reall a freindship for & would to have given testimony of it upon any occation have [p. 498] laid downe all I had in the world & my life to boote to have don him any servis. ... Since hee fell soe violently upon mee, I have apeared a publique enemy in defence of my owne right. & If hee bee not come away, all this you may informe him, if you please. & Its like our meetinge may beget a better understandinge & upon dew consideration hee will finde who hath been his freinds & who his foes. In all my transactions of my life, noething ever went soe neere me or gave me soe greate a concern.

I thanke you for the intimation you give me relateinge to Crisp & Ph. Pym, but would desire you not to concerne yourselfe on my behalfe in anythinge of that nature. For hee is a k. & thought the other a man that had more witt then to take notice of such a frothy fellews discourse, whose tongue runs as the magott workes & buisies himselfe with everybodys busines. It ware more reputation for him to pay poore tradesmen for their goods hee caried w.th him, who perhaps wants it whilst hee flutters & makes a noyse. Lett C. P. see this & the other, if you think fitt.

... I was informed that Mr. Plat put in for the govnm.t. Sir John Kn.t as I have hard was recomended to the K. by some Peers, & had the Kings promise for it, but I found him very indifferent in the matter. I was afterwards tould my Lady Russell had a promise for Sir James. But neither of these are the men, but Sir Natha.ll Johnson, who is a man of

greate worth & reputation & as well quallified for the comande as any gent. I know in England. Hee is my very p.rticular freinde & you need not doubt his kindnes upon all occations as far as my intrest will reach. ...

[p. 499i] If the Gen.l is soe kinde to you you [sic] as to give the choyse of the Goverments, I thinke Antigua had been your best choyse, before the late order. But since that I beleeve to keepe your comp. & that Governm.t will be best. As to your mony, Coll. Nethwey hath it, & I doubt not but its well placed. What I proposed was in kindnes to you & out of noe end to searve myselfe. I intreat you to be kinde to my intrest towards the speedy recovery of my debt, for I am quite tired out with repeateinge things. I doubt **Tom Westcott** is faulty. Pray admonish him, & assure him things will fall heavy upon him in case he does not discharge his duty. The new Act you mention will in noe measure answer the end of the march.ts, for they doe not sell their goods to receive p.rhaps the same in specia 4 or 5 years after, or to take land for it. They canot send that home to their employers. But such goods or lands ought to be sold at publique sales, for the sattisfaction of the C.r, either in mony or sugar, accordinge to the lawes of Englande. At best, the other is but a fraud. The lawes ought to bee dewly executed, without favoringe one p.rty more then other. You may say then the planters will be ruined. Are they not raised by there credit & should the credittors bee ruined to raise them? Put things in an equall ball. & consider how longe they can subsist without trade. ...

352. **Thomas Westcott** [*St. Christopher*]

London, February 31, 1683/4

I have rec.d both yours of the 10th of November & 2d of December. In the 1st, I take notice you intended mee five tuns of sugar on Capt. Maples on accompt of the copp.rs, but was then disappointed. In the second, I observe you have laden the same on Capt. Helmes, which I shall accordingly make insurance upon. I alsoe observe you had rec.d mine of the 14th Sept., as you say, with teares & seemingly confes your error & promise amendment for the time to come. I hope you intend, as you say, some proofes thereof – would give some sattisfaccon. & I say now, as I alwayes said before, that what I sent to you was more oute of reall kindnes to you, then any hopes of exterordinary advantage to my sattisfaccon. Yet when I say I intended you a kindenes in it, I did not designe to ruin myselfe, nor send my mony abroad without an expectation of its returninge w.thout some advantage, w.ch I see little hopes of. Yet had you don your endeavors justly, I should have been content with suckes, whatever it had been. But you canot imagin that I soe ignorantly blinde as not to see where& when I am abused. Yet small

faults might might [sic] have been overlookt & p.rhaps soe may greate ones, if you will yet make it your busines to retriue what can be retriued. & In soe doeing, you may expect a further continuation of my kindenes to you, & a freind to stand by you when occation searves. I confes an acknowleidgm.t in some measure may make amends for a fault, provided the like is not comitted, & may bee better past over then when p.rsisted in with stubbornes.

Therefore, take care & doe not follow the example of others who p.rhaps hereafter may repent theire follyes when to late. Therefore, I advise you to begin early, w.ch I should not have admonished you to soe often had it not been out of reall kindnes. & Therefore, I doe now again order & desire you to delay noe time, but persue our orders formerly sent you with the greatest vigor& prosecute all our debtors whatsoever without any respect to p.rsons w.th the greatest rigor for the speedy recovery of our debts in which I have your Governers promise now & in severall former letters to be assitinge in all things relateinge to our concerne as far as justice will p.rmitt. & All those Acts that before obstructed are now made voyd, soe that there is noe coller or pr.tence to the contrary. Therefore, I say, goe on with vigor & resolutions & as I see the effects you may expect the same kindnes from mee as ever you had upon all accompts.

[p. 499ii] Neither need you feare to have any competitors, if you doe your busines as you ought to, but all past faults may bee overlookte. By all which you may p.rceive there is noethinge but freindship intended as longe as you desearve it. Therefore, it lyes in your owne brest, & hope you will act accordingly. ...

354. [p. 502] **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

London, April 8, 1684

Capt. Helmes is now discharged, but the sugars soe disorderly marked and such confusion that noebody knowes what to make of it. Of my 20 tuns, there is but 16 to bee found of that make, nor the quantity of nor other markes right, some of one marke & some of another, & some of sev.ll markes. Not one number comes out right. The sugar extreame bad & many of the caske, insteed of beinge fild with sugars, halfe fild with sugar canes. They fall soe short in there w.ts that its impossible that quantity of sugar menconned in that Invoice could ever bee put in the caske. Soe that in fine it must bee a cheate, for noe man could ever doe things in such disorder & confusion that had the least sence of honesty or care. You had as good send us noethinge att all as to doe things thus

carelesly. But as I said before I cannot attribute it to carelesnes only, but certainly there must bee a designe of fraud. For noe man in the world that hath but comon sence can doe things in such confusion & bee soe heedles in takeinge w.ts as that thay shall not make out halfe their w.ts unles there were some other abuse in it. ... [p. 503] And therefore wee have now sent our possitive orders to Mr. Rob.t Helmes to call you to a strickt acco.tt and take our concerns out of your hands & to put it into such hands as wee may expect more justice from. I am sure I deseerved better things att your hands, and none but the most ungratefull fellow in the world would have used a master soe that had rec.d such kindnes from. As to all the debts you have contracted for our goods in halves, you must certainly expect to pay yourselve, since you had our possitive orders to sell for nothinge but ready paym.t. Therefore, wee have ordered Mr. Helmes to accept of noe one debt upon that acco.tt, nor noethinge but sugar. All w.ch you might have prevented had you but used your dilligence. I shall not trouble myselve to write you againe, but hope Mr. Helmes will not fayle to execute these our orders, that soe wee may att longe run receive somethinge and not be cheated out of all we have. You must expect noe favor, nor to here further from me unles your justice prompts me to it. For I have quite tyrd my patience with expectations yet see noe hopes of amendment. I have referd all things for ther future to my bro. Helmes from whence I hope in a very little time to receive some more sattisfactory acco.tt of our estate in your hands then heitherto wee have had. & What happens to your disadvantage thanke yourselve for and learne hereafter to be more just then abuse & defraud your best freinds. ...

355. *Robert Helme [Nevis]*

London, April 8, 1684

Sir,

... I have seen what you writ to my bro. Baxter of the 26 Jan.ry via Bristoll. I canot but admire att **Tho. Westcotts** and W. Hearne disappoyntm.t in loadinge noethinge on Crispe. ... Yet now it seemes not a cask. Certainly, never noe men met with such a p.rcell of corispondents. I have now write them both and, you see, sharply anough to **Westcott**. Make what use of it you please. But the intent is to fryten him into better compliyanse. But if that will not doe, make better use of it otherwise, & doe justice to each acco.tt and loose noe more time. Never came any sugars soe confusedly to any man as ours comes and with such extravigant loss by one meanes & the other that we make not halfe of it that other men doe. I wish I could see an end of these vexatious acco.tts and know my loss. ...

357. **Thomas Westcott** [St. Christopher]

London, June 18, 1684

Wee have rec.d yours with the acco.tt, as alsoe an acco.tt of what goods remains unsold for acco.tt of ourselves in comp. with you and your bro. But we take notice in the inventory there is some canvis and dowlis, whereas there was noe such goods in that charge. And therefore wee conceive those goods belongs to the charges in halves betwixt myselfe and my bro. Baxter that went by the same ship, if they were not part of those goods you bought of Mr. Helmes, which you must examine and doe each acco.tt right. Wee have sett of the prises of all those goods that remains unsold and have added 10 p.r c.t for freight, custome, commission, and all other charges, which is the least that it amounts to, and finde the whole amountant thereof to be 634£ 16s 9d. And because wee are willinge to finish all acco.tts, if you and Will Hearne thinks fitt to take these acco.tts, allowing us 20 p.r c.t proffitt upon them, to pay us here in England, allowinge you 12 mo. time for their payment, wee are content you or he or both of you should have them. That as I remember is the same tearmes you agreed with Mr. Ro. Helmes for his 1/4 part. But if you make not the payment punctually at the time, you must afterwards allow us 6 p.r c.t p.r anno intrest for such time as it shall be unpaid. And on the same tearmes wee will send you a sortment of 2 or 300£ worth of goods more, if you thinke fitt to order them, to helpe you part of these goods to this proposition. Lett us receive your answer by first. And if you accept not of it, then doe your indeavours to sell them to some responsible p.rson, giveing 6 mo. time for their payment, but noe more, takeinge good security for their payment; or if you canot, wee will order them some other way.

Wee take notice you have very often repeated to us that Mr. Helmes calls upon you for payment of his part of those goods. To which wee answer you ought to make him payment. The debt is dew from yourselfe and bro., not from us, or at least but a trifle. For in the £650 worth of goods, as I remember it was, wee were concerned 2/3 parts 433£ 6s 8d; and wee are concerned 3/4 parts, viz. my particular halfe and bro. Baxters 1/4; soe that our 3/4 parts is 487£ 10s. Soe that wee are indebted upon that acco.tt 57£ 3s 4d, which wee doe now order you to pay him in sugar there, according to agreement. The rest for your 1/4 part being 162£ 10s, you are to make him good. Wee have nothing to doe with the payment of that, which belongs to your owne and brothers

part. You may pay him in mony or sugars as you please, it concernes not us. ...

[p. 507] Sir W.m Stapleton writs the K. and Councell that 10 p.r c.t is allowed for intrest for forbarance, and formerly merchants have made it theire buisness to exact far greater extorsions. Whatever intrest you have or may receive, wee expect you should make the same good to us or for any mony of ours that you have disposed at 10 p.r c.t as, wee have been informed, is practicable with you & others, the same ought to be made good to our acco.tts. Wee hope you will discharge a good conscience & deale honestly by us in all things.

Pray hasten the speedy recovery of our debts, and ship it to us, and for what I am concerned in this cargo, because you ship not the goods home as it was sent out and I am the 1/2 concerned and my bro. Baxter but 1/4 you must ship 2/3 for my acco.tt & 1/3 for his, or soe much p.rticularly to mee as may make good my part. For what concernes yourselfe and your brother 1/4, you may doe as you please. ...

364. [p. 522] *William Hearne [St. Christopher]*

London, August 12, 1684

I rec.d yours by the Abraham with 13 hhds. and 9 tearces of sugar p.r the Abra. for our accomts in 1/3ds. But I doe admire you should ship noe more on that ship nor anything on Clayton, who had orders not only to take in the proceeds of what hee left with you the last yeare but allsoe what more hee might want to compleate your brothers and my part of the said ships loadinge, either from you or **Mr. Westcott**. Yett hee lett out part of my proportion on freight, alleadinge neither of you would supply him. Nay, hee writes us that you pretended an order from us to load the produce of those goods hee left in your hands the last yeare on the Abraham & therefore would not put it on board him. I am sure thats notoriously false. You must not expect that I will have trickes putt upon mee alwayes. I have paid to deare for my experience. And therefore assure yourselfe if you think to putt those trickes upon mee, you will finde yourselfe mistaken. Your estate shall certainly make it good. You pretend to have 12 tuns a sugar by you to ship on the next ship which you say will ball. all our acco.tts. But that I canot imagin since you had disposed of 40 pipes of the wine p.r the Abraham w.ch must amount to more then that sume. Your orders are possitive; and, if you make any breach, you must expect where it will fall. ...

368. **Thomas Westcott** [*St. Christopher*]

London, August 12, 1684

[p. 529] ... In answer to what you write of the p.rson I formerly proposed to you, that canot now bee. Shee is dispised of. I should be glad it ware in my power to doe you any kindnes in that way; and doe assure you if you take things into consideration to doe mee right, none shall endeavore to searve you in that or any other respect more then myselfe to the utmost of my power. And I shall still retaine as much kindnes for you as ever I had and endeavor all things tendeing to your promotion. And if my advise may prevaile with you, I would p.rswade you to leave of playinge the foole and stick close to your busines, make a settlement of all your concernes, use the utmost rigor to recover what posible you can and, as soone as you have settled things in a good meathod, to come for England. And you need not doubt but Ile assit you with a good match. And in other things tendinge to your advantage, if you will bee governed and follow my advise, w.ch shall not tend anywayes to your prejudice, but soe settle things as you may give sattisfaccion to those you are concerned with. Which you may quickly doe, if you bend your thoughts and resolutions that way. And I am sure the Governor will for my sake assist you in it, if you will make your appligation to him, in my name. This now is my advise, which if you doe not follow in all respects, never hope for any further kindnes from mee. For you still see I am will. to assist and stand by you, if you please. Soe that if anythinge hapens to the contrary, its still your owne faulte, not mine. For I assure you I wish you well, and what I write that may seeme otherwise I am provoked to either by your folly or injustice, I know not which. ...

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Freeman's Letters, 1685: Nos 370-376

370. **Thomas Westcott** [*St. Christopher*]

. Pray how comes it to pass that on John & **Thomas Westcotts** part of the cargo of goods p.r the Abra. 28 puntions (as they were in reality), though tearmed but hhds., of sugar was shipt & on W.F. halfe parte not a cask. You will say p.rhaps it was to pay for the goods bought of Mr. Helmes. But why ought not **John & Tho. Westcott** advance their part in mony as well as W.F. & not to pay for those parts out of the proceeds of the cargo. ...

373. [*p. 536*] **Thomas Westcott** [*St. Christopher*]

London, January 24, 1684/5

As for the remainder of this p.cell of goods, I have aded 10 p.r c.t for the

charges & proffitt as on the other goods & have made W.m Hearne Dr. for the same, in regard he hath bought the remainder of the other cargo. Soe what you meane by saying there is about 90 od thous.d of sugar dew to ball.s of our joynt acco.tts I doe not understand. For I am sure by the acco.tts I have already rec.d from you five times as much as you mention will not ball. our joynt acco.tt. Dew not run yourselfe into such groce mistakes but looke over your Accompts of Sales & then see what you have laden & you will finde you make great errors. Be sure you omitt not to send the perticuler Sales of the above p.cell of goods, for I am confid.t these Sales cannot make out les then 40,000 lbs. or fifty thous.d pounds of sugar more then I have calculated them at, if you have sold as other men doth usually doe.

374. Thomas Westcott [St. Christopher]

February 20, 1684/5

... I have rec.d yo.rs of the 16 Dec.br p.r w.ch I understand you had not put one hhd. of sugar on bord the Abra. I doe not doubt but I shall have 100 lbs. or two to pay for demoridge. But doe you looke to that & judge where its likely to fall? I take notice you say Mr. Helmes is extreemely offended att your shiping us soe largely on our joynt acco.tt & soe little on the other. Which impudent expression I am surprized at – I mean your shiping us soe largely when on the acco.tt of the cargo of dry goods p.r the Abra. now 5 yeares past that amounted to (together with the remaines of the other goods in your hands) above £2,200 sterl. principall cost; & now in 5 yeares you have loaden us on acco.tt of the proceeds of all those goods 60 hhds. of sugar that produced £400. The 5 yeares interest of our mony amounts to at 6 p.r c.t p.r anno £660. Soe that we have not rec.d interest for our mony by £260, alloweing the principall lost, as I am sure it will (discompting interest) in a manner before it comes to our hands. & Yet you have our shipt on that acco.tt. Your impudence in such expressions is impardonable. I doe not write these lines to you but for Mr. Helmes his sattisfacion, to whome I send them open to send forward to you. For as I have s.d before, neaver expect another line from me till I have had better sattisfacion from you.

186. [p. 212] William Helme & Thomas Westcott [Nevis]

London, August 10, 1680

This accompanyes the shipp Adventure, W.m Clayton, Mast.r, who we

have sent upon the same designe she went upon the last yeare, which we pr.sume you are not unacquainted with. & Therefore, we shall not inlarge upon itt further then to desire your extraordinary care & prudence in the mannadgment of itt, with all dilligence, secresie & dispatch, it being a concern of great weight & vallew in which we runn a more then ordinary adventure & what, if we should miscarry in, would be an extraordinary loss to us. Yet we doe not apprehend any great danger in the designe, if mannadged with the same discretion as Mr. Robert Helmes hath heertofore donne. Which doubtless hath given you a good pr.sident. Soe that we hope you will meet with noe great difficulty in it, as we have laid the plott. Yet if you should meet with any rubbs, wherby it cannot be soe carried on as we have designed itt, must then leave it to your prudence to act as you find cause for our safety therin.

Heerinclosed we send you a cobby of our instructions to Mr. Clayton which you will see how we have ordered him to pr.ceed & request, upon the very first notice you have from him of his arrivall there, to take our great sloop Affrica in case she be there (which we have confidence Mr. Carpenter will not refuse you when hee knowes it's our request you should, as your brother & myself are half concerned, & let him know he may att any time comand the like) or, in case she be not there, to hier some other, & imediatly pr.ceed to New England as we have ordered, leaving behind her all the cocketts with you to cleer the goods, in case any should question them upon the island. And although they are really French goods, yet, notwithstanding the Act of Pr.hibition, (fn. 1) brandy and all other linnens are as frequently now imported into England as ever, & soe exported by the name of English aqua vite & the linnens by the name of German linnens, as you find itt expresst in these cocketts. Soe that noe scruple can be made on that acco.t. However, the shipp being gone, it will be impossible for any p.rson to prove that those goods are of the growth or pr.duction off France, in regarde the like liquors and [p. 213] other goods are made in England & other parts of the world & none can denye the cocketts to bee good cocketts. You see we have ordered the Master Clayton to send down all the linnens & other dry goods by the same sloop that he sends down to give you notice of his arrivall, which are all packt in English trunks, & the candles like English goods. Soe that you may imediatly land them & secure them soe by altring the packs & c. yourself, that none should be able to prove them to be the same goods in case a discovery should afterwards be made. Now for the brandy. If it can conveniently be landed the greatest part at Antigua & soe afterwards brought down by degrees, only carrying by sloop or sloopes such a convenient quantety to Nevis & St. Christophers as may not make a great noise att first, we judg that to be the best way. & Soe, to open of the linnens but a little at a time as you

find vent for them & keep the rest up close, we judge that to be the best way also. But all these things must refer to your discretion to act as in your prudence shall serve meet. But whatever you do, be sure to be secret, & to have a care that you scatter no words which may give cause of suspicion or jealousy. After you have seriously perused this letter with our instructions to the Master, pray take a note of such heads of both as may be needfull, & then burn them, that so no other person whatsoever may come to the knowledge thereof. & Be very careful that you give not the least intimation of the concern to no other person whatsoever. For what goods are laden from hence, you have Invo. & Bill of Loading for the same herein closed, which are signified in the Bill of Loading as laden per **John Westcott** & consign'd **Tho. Westcott**, that in case any dispute should happen those may pass as goods only taken in upon freight from other persons, which can be no wayes liable, having paid the Kings duty & laden upon an English built ship. Now, what we have ordered to be laden in trunks herewith, viz. 35 or 40 tuns of the very best Nants brandy, part in butts, part in large barrells, & part in small casks, which Mr. Clayton will give you a more particular account off: 200 ps. ¼ dowles of severall sorts, some very fine, some coarse; about 15 or 16 thousand ells of good vitree & partie canvas, such as the last was; 80 or 100 reames of paper fine & ordinary; 100 ps. kentings, & some black silks & some perfumed kid gloves, if to be procured reasonable, but otherwise the 3 latter comodities are to be left out; & [blank] dozen bottles that we have sent from hence in cask to be fill'd with the best clarett & white wine. Now it's our desire that 10 ps. of the dowles, 20 reames of fine paper, 10 bales of the canvas, 10 tuns of the brandy, & such a proportion of the other goods, together with what have at hand & other comodities our own occasions may require to make up the lot for our own use there, & such other goods that you find will turn to a good account, may be landed and left to the disposition of Mr. Edward Dendy at Antigua in case he be there or with the person that manadgeth our concern there, provided he be a person capable of that disposition. & All the rest of the goods we desire may be transported to Nevis & St. Christophers and there disposed of by yourselves. & We do allow you jointly commission for that sume, according to agreement with **Tho. Westcott**. Yet in regarde we are doubtfull if much of the goods should be disposed of on the island of Nevis, it may be prejudiciall to the getting in our concerns on that island, & therefore had much rather they should be sold on St. Christophers, especially the dry goods, though they should lye longer on hands. & Soe let them lye at Nevis & be carried down in small parcels to St. Christophers, as you finde needfull. & One thing we desire you to take particular care of: that you do not transport in any sloop or sloops at noe time any considerable parcel of goods without

sending some trusty p.rson with them to pr.vent the running away with sloopes or anything in that kinde, which sometimes happens.

Wee have putt a small p.rcell of goods on board which Mr. Clayton must carry to New England that are exprest in the Invo. to purchase his ladeing of lumber there. & At his return from New England, you see what instructions we have given him, which pray observe unladeing & reladeing the shipp, & take care that at some of the Islands we may have a p.rcell of sugers in a readiness that he may imediatly goe to worke without loss of time. & Soe continue till the shipp is fully laden, it being our desire that shee should have as speedy a dispatch as possible, & be laden with our own goods if it can be accomplished.

189. [p. 219] *Captain William Clayton [Commander of the Adventure]*

London, August 1680

Wee doe heerby order you to sayle with your shipp, with the first faire winde, directly to the port of Nants in France, & at your first arrival there to apply yourself to Mr. Nicho. Lee, & deliver our letters to him, & to receive on bord your shipp all such goods as shall be laden by s.d Lee on bord you for our acco.tts. & Those truncks that we have putt on borde you heer you are to deliver them to the said Lee to pack the dowles in & such other goods as is pr.per. The canvis or barr.s & rope you are also to deliver him to cover the bales of canvis with, as formerly, according to our directions as wee have given Mr. Nicholas Lee. & For all the dry goods that shal be lade on bord you by Mr. Nicholas Lee, bee carefull soe to stow them that they may lye ready att hand to be first landed. Also be very carefull that dureing the time of your ladeing att Nants or stay there, that neither yourself nor none of your comp. declare to what port you are bound to in the West Indies, but give out that you are bound to Ireland to discharge your ladeing there. & Give Mr. Lee three authentick receipts for what goods you take on borde. & Then fill up & firme Bills of Loadeing yourself & carry them with you for all the goods you take on bord in France, according to the method of this Bill of Loadeing heerinclosed, which you or our factors there may pr.duce on any occation to shew the goods were laden from London. & Take a true & p.rfect acco.t in your booke of all things that you receive on bord in France, to see that all things are landed att your port of discharge, as was received on bord.

Pray be carefull not to lett any of your men have knowledg of your goeing for France before you are cleer of England. & Afterwards such as

you can confide in, you may injoyne them to injoyne the rest that they make not discovery to any p.rson of your touching in France, but that all your ladeing was taken on bord in the river of Thames. Now when you have receivd on bord from Mr. Nicholas Lee all such goods as we have ordered him to loade & that you [p. 220] you have receivd your dispatches from him, you are then to sayle with the first faire winde directly to the island of Antigua, & when please God you shall arrive there at such a convenient port as you shall judge most convenient to ride att, where you may be least under command. You are to goe on shore & acquaint the Governor & Coll. Warner that you are come from London & that you belong to Mr. W.m Baxter & myself, pr.duceing your cockets to the Governor if hee require itt, & to give him an acco.tt that your loadeing is cheefly lumber with some liquors and dry goods & that your orders are to discharge most of your goods there in case Mr. W.m Helmes shall judg itt convenient, & to relade your shipp att Antigua if we have effects there of our own ready to doe itt. But in case there be not, you are to receive orders from Mr. W.m Helmes what part of your ladeing you are to discharge there, & the remainder to discharge where he shall order them. & Soe to pr.ceed with your shipp to New England, & there to lade lumber & horses & soe to returne to Antigua & the rest of the Leward Islands & then to relade for London. Also you may acquaint the Governor that you have some goods on bord on freight that by Bill of Ladeing are consigned to Nevis which you think fitt to send down by a sloop that you will hyer to give W.m Helmes & **Tho. Westcott** notice of your arrivall there, that soe you may loose noe time in waiteing for there orders. & If it be needfull you take the Governor's licence for soe doeing, then you must before you putt any of the goods on bord the sloop. Now itt's our order that you doe imediatly, after haveing given this acco.t to the Governor according to custome, hyre the best sloop you can gett there & putt on bord all the canvis, dowles, & other dry goods that shall be laden in France, except 10 els of canvis & 10 ps. dowles the we will order to be packt by themselves, that we desire shall be landed & sold att Antigua, & send down your own brother or mate with the said goods to take care to secure them on bord the said sloop, & send by him our letters to W.m Helmes & **Tho. Westcott** with orders to deliver the letters to none but themselves & also advise them of your arrivall there & our orders to you to send down said goods to them to land & secure there to pr.vent any further danger. You may also send as many hoopes as the sloop can conveniently carry. & Let said Helmes & **Westcott** know itt's our orders & desire that forthwith one of them may come up to you with a good sloop, & discharge your shipp att Antigua p.r landing part there & transporting the rest to Nevis, & to discharge you of the goods with all expedition. Dureing all which time, keepe your ships comp. from

conversing with any p.rson. & As soon as ever your shipp is discharged of the goods on bord her, we order you imediatly to pr.ceed with the shipp to New England to the most convenient port you can reach, & carry with you such goods as we have put on bord you for that place, which, when you arrive there, you are to deliver to such p.rson as we shall direct you, or to dispose them for our most advantage, as wee [p. 221] shall heerafter order & to make use of them & such other credit as we shall give you as will be needfull for the reladeing your ship with lumber or horses as you shall judg most for our advantage. Wee desire the cheefest part of your ladeing may be hhd. staves for our own use, with some few butt staves amongst them, the fewer the better. But be sure to take in a very considerable part of your shipp's ladeing in hdd staves. & Being soe reladen in New England, you are to return to the island of Nevis direct, & there to deliver Mr. W.m Helmes such a pr.portion of staves as hee shall judg convenient to require for our own p.rticuler use, & from thence to pr.ceed imediatly to St. Christopher & there to deliver all the remainder of your ladeing to **Tho. Westcott**, only reserving on bord a good p.rcell of hhd. staves till you goe up to Antigua which you are to deliver our correspondent there to make use of for our own caske. & We desire you may not take in less then 40 thousand staves at New England, if possible, of which we would have none disposed but kept all for our own use at the severall islands aforesaid. Now when you have delivered your goods to **Tho. Westcott**, wee doe order & desire that he may relade all such suger & other goods as he hath in a readiness on borde you for our own acco.tts, & haveing taken the same on bord, you are to pr.ceed with your shipp to Antigua & deliver those staves that you have reserved on borde to Mr. Edward Dendy or any other that is our correspondent there (in case of his death) & to receive on bord your shipp all such sugars as is there ready to be laden on our own acco.tts. & Haveing receivd such goods on bord your ship there, you are to touch att M.tsarratt in your way down & take in such sugars as are in a readiness at the Plant. of W.m Freeman & Jo.n Bramley, or any other goods that may be there in a readiness for our own pr.per acco.tts. & From thence you are to pr.ceed againe with your shipp to Nevis & take in such other goods as Mr. W.m Helme may have for our own acco.tts ready to putt on borde & from thence to pr.ceed againe to St. Christopher to **Tho. Westcott** & there to loade all goods that he can putt on bord you upon our own acco.tts. & In case you doe not receive as much goods from all the aforesaid p.rsons upon our own acco.tts as will fully compleat the loadeing of your shipp, then you are to take freight att Nevis or St. Christopher on the best termes you cann, to compleat the loadeing of the shipp, using your utmost dilligence att each island to dispatch. Pray be very circumspect dureing your whole

voyadge, that you give none of your men an oppertunety to make a discovery, by discourseing with any other shippes men or by being ashore. & Haveing thus dispatched your affaires att all the aforesaid islands, you are to returne directly to the port of London. & Dureing your whole voyadge, pray be very oblidging to all your shippes comp.& let them not want liquor or anything elce with moderation. The success of the voyadg depends wholly upon your prudent mannadgment. Wherefore we doubt not but you will shew your double dilligence & soe oblidg your men [p. 222] that they will serve you with all integrity & secresye. & In case you should be sick or indisposed, itt is our orders & desire that you comunicate these our orders to your Mate, who we hope is a p.rson quallified for such an undertakeing. & Pray injoyne him to the p.rformance of all things heerin contened as occation shall require. Now, in case you should not be able to reach Boston in New England, or such a convenient place in New England as may be requisite for the ladeing your ship, in such case if your are forced to putt into New York, Carolina or Virginia, or where elce your buisness may be best donn as aforesaid, we must leave that to your prudenc to mannadg the reladeing your shipp with lumber & c., as you cann procure. Pray be very carefull dureing the whole time of your lyeing at any of the Leward Islands not to lye ashoare or out of your shipp, neither spend as little time ashoare as possible you cann, but keep constant on bord your shipp. By which means you will give your seamen the less oppertunety to be idle or enter into any discourses. Which must be your great care dureing the time of your discharge. Thus desireing to hear from you of all your pr.ceedings as often as oppertunety offers, wishing you successfull in all your undertakeings, is what at pr.snt offers. Saveing wee desire that what brandy or other goods you take in upon your own acco.tt, wee desire you to dispose off to W.m Helmes & **Thomas Westcott** for our acco.tts, to whom we have given orders to buy itt & to give you as good a price for the same as any other p.rson will doe that will make you as good payment, which you are to have a respect to in your sales. This we doe upon noe other acco.t then that the sales of your goods may not be pr.judiciall to the sales of our owne in underselling. There is one hhd. of the bottles we have ordered Mr. Lee to marke WS which we send as a pr.snt to Gen. II Stapleton with a chest of Canary wine. That take care to stow itt well, & send itt down with the first boat to Nevis that you send down to fetch upp W.m Helmes with our other goods. Also one hhd. marked W+R, a token to Coll. Warner & the Governor of Antigua Mr. Russell, that you are to take the like care off, but not to deliver till WH or TW comes up from Nevis, which alleadg you cannot come att till you break bulke. Be sure alwayes to ride as much out of command as you cann & keep alwayes on bord yourself

You have heerwith a letter of creditt from Mr. French which you may make use off either in New England, N. Yorke or any other place where you come upon that coast for the reladeing your shipp with lumber. & Be sure for whatever you take upp on the said creditt that you alwayes buy at the cheapest rate or for ready money being alwayes esteemed att 20 or 25 p.r cent better then

[p. 223] goods in track for what you soe make use off. You are also to charge bills upon us heer payable to said French according to our agreement heer. ...

193. *Captain Abraham Terry [Commander of the Abraham]*

London, July 20, 1680

Wee doe heerby order you to receive on bord your shipp all such goods as we have given directions to Mr. Anthony Henthorne of Chester to putt on bord you at that port, with all convenient speed, togeather with such necessary pr.vitions for your voyadg as you judg that port will afford on better tearmes then can be pr.vided in Ireland, but none other. & Haveing receivd such goods on borde & putt your shipp in a condition of sayleing, you are then to imbrace the first oppertunety of a faire winde that offers without loss of time & to sayle to the port of Corke in Ireland &, at yo.r first arrivall there, to apply yourself to Mr. Randoll Hull, merch.t, & receive on bord from him all such pr.vitions & other merchandize as we have given him directions to loade upon you, & to take in all other such pr.vitions as may be necessary for the victualling your shipp comp. & such passingers as you may have dureing the terme of your voyadg. & Rather take a mo. pr.vition more then less, that soe your may have noe occation to buy abroad att a double rate. & For what creditt you may have occation for att Corke for the victualling or fitting your shipp, with what may be necessary & convenient, itt's our order & desire that the afforesaid Mr. Randoll Hull should supply you with money for the same. & We doe oblidge ourselves to bee responsible to him for such bills as you shall charge upon us, with the usuall allowance of excha. for the sume. & You haveing soe dispatcht your affaires att Corke (which you are to doe with all expedition without loss of time), itt's our further order that you imbrace the first oppertunety of a faire wind & sayle directly to the island of Madera. & When please God you shall arrive there, imediatly to apply yourself to Mr. Richard Pickford & Mr. Obadiah Allen & give them a full & just acco.t of all the goods we have laden on bord our shipp, which you are to take an exact acco.t off from Mr. Antho. Henthorn & Mr. Randoll Hull. & Whichever of the aforesaid goods s.d

Pickford & Comp. shall judge proper for their market & shall require you to load & putt on shore there, either of the provisions or other merchandize, you are forthwith to deliver them, taking their receipts for such goods as you shall deliver them. & Having soe done, you are forthwith to receive on board your shipp 160 pipes of wine which we have given s.d Pickford & Comp. orders to load upon you for our accounts & not to receive one pipe of wine more into your shipp upon any account or pretence whatsoever, upon the penalty of forfeiture of your share, except a pipe or two we doe allow you to take in for your own & shipp companies expence, & not more. & Having received the aforesaid wines on board (which you are to doe with all expedition) & taken your dispatches from Mr. Pickford & Comp. you are forthwith without loss of time to sayle directly to the island of Nevis, & deliver there such wines as per Bill of Lading are consign'd to Mr. W.m Helme, making all dispatch. & Immediately after landing the same, to proceed with your shipp to the island of St. Xtophers & there to deliver to **Mr. Tho. Westcott** such wines as per Bill of Lading are consign'd to him, together with all such provisions & all other goods or merchandize that we relate on board you, per Mr. Antho. Henthorn at Chester, or Mr. Randoll Hull at Corke, that were not before taken on shore at Madera, per Mr. Pickford, which you are to shew said **Westcott** the receipt for. & Then you are to consult said **Westcott** what sugars or other goods hee [p. 226] may be able to load upon you for our accounts in a reasonable time, viz. within the compass of 8 or 10 weeks, desiring him to strein to load what possible he can for us. & The like you are to doe with Mr. W.m Helme before you goe down to St. Christophers. & After you have soe consulted them, you are forthwith to take in such ballast as may be convenient, & turn up to the island of Antigua & there to deliver such wines as per Bill of Lading are consigned to Mr. Edward Dendy. But, in case of the said Dendy's mortality, you are to deliver the said wines to Mr. W.m Helme, & consult him & follow his orders therein, either in proceeding with your shipp to Antigua or otherwise, as hee shall judge convenient. & Further, we order you, when you goe up to Antigua with the shipp, whether the said Dendy bee living or dead, that you make noe long stay with the shipp at that island, but forthwith land the wines & take on board you with all expedition all such sugars or other goods as the said Dendy may have in a readyness immediately to putt on board for our own accounts or any that Mr. W.m Helme or Mr. Westcott may order you there to take in for our accounts. & Rather then make any long stay there with the shipp, hyre a sloop or two as may be convenient to give you an immediate dispatch; or if Mr. W.m Helme shall judge it inconvenient for you to goe to Antigua with the shipp at all, then you & hee is to hyre a sloop & send up the wines & bring down our goods. But in case there be anything

considerable, wee had rather the shipp should goe upp. Wee also order you to goe upp to the island of M.tsarratt, & there to take on borde such sugars as may lye ready for our own acco.tts, together with such sugars as may lye ready to be laden from the plant. of W.m Freeman & Jo.n Bramley in case there be any considerable p.rcell. But in case you should receive an acco.t from thence that ther is none ready upon the said acco.tts or at least soe small a p.rcell that itt's not worth the shipp goeing upp thither, then you are to desist. But if you goe up to Antigua, fayle not to touch there in your way downwards, & take in whatever there is. Now, haveing thus dispatched our concern att Antigua & M.tsarratt, you are then imediatly to sayle down to Nevis & there to take in all such sugers that Mr. W.m Helme shall lade upon you, reserving such a quantety of tunnidg as **Mr. Westcott** may have in a readiness for our own acco.tts att St. Christophers, where you are foorthwith to goe down after you have receivd your dispatches from Mr. W.m Helme, & to take in all our goods as **Mr. Westcott** shall putt on borde. & If in case what shall be laden by all or any of the aforesaid p.rsons on our own acco.tts doe not fully compleat the ladeing of the shipp, then you are, with the advice & direction of Mr. W.m Helme, & **Tho. Westcott** or either of them, to take soe much goods on freight as will fully compleat the shipp's ladeing, letting the same att the highest & best tearmes you cann. & Haveing soe laden your shipp and receivd your dispatches from the aforesaid p.rsons (which we desire you & they to doe with all imaginable expedition that soe the shipp may lye there as short a time as possible), itt's then our further orders to you that you pr.ceed on your voyadg home, direct for London. Pray use your utmost dilligence in the p.rformance [p. 227] of these our orders, & fayle not to make the best tearmes with your seamen when you ship them, according to the usuall custome of that port, which is to pay noe wages there till the shipp is got over the barr, & afterwards but half pay until she sayles out of Ireland....

197. [p. 231] *William Helme [Nevis]*

London, September 6, 1680

This accompanyes the ketch Globe, George Sankee, Master, on which we have laden a cargo of dry goods & have consigned them to **Tho. Westcott**. I have also laden upon her a p.rcell of coppers, stills, cases, gudgeons, wedges & c., amounting to 407£ 15s 06d as p.r the inclosed Invoice appeares that are for the joynt acco.t of my bro. Henery & yourself & are consigned to you to dispose of as a beginning of what I intend for your incuridgm.t heerafter. Shal be sending you more as I

can conveniently, but your returns have been soe slack considering how large our adventures have been that I have & am greatly streightned for want of money. I have lately made a calculation of all the goods we have sent since I came for England, & also of the pr.ceeds of all that wee have receivd home in returne upon acco.t of merchandize, & upon an exact calculation I finde we are out ten thousand pounds of our principall money more then wee have receivd. This after 5 years adventures to be out of principall is hard. Which pray take into consideration & forward the getting in our debts, & be shipping as fast as possible you cann. This ketch we have ordered first to land our goods at St. Christophers that are consigned **Tho. Westcott** & then to goe up to Nevis & land your goods together with all others for the place. & In regarde we conceive the Abra.m may bee there about the same time, we judg itt the best way (& to this effect have writt **Tho. Westcott**) that as soone as shee hath discharged the rest of her ladeing att Nevis that she returne againe to St. Kitts to **Tho. Westcott** & there continue to loade. & Let the Abra. be kept att Nevis, Antigua & M.tsarratt to loade there, upon which shipp pray use your utmost endeavors to loade what possible you cann upon our own acco.tts. I suppose att M.tsarratt there wil not be considerable except from my own plant. Soon after Xtmass I designe my bro. out with a cargo for your joynt acco.t. In the interim, whatever I send, I doubt not but you will mannadg for your joynt interest to the most advantage. & Itt's my desire that you should enter into partnership together in all concernes, beginning att the expiration of your time with your brother, according to your last contract with him. And although I would have you apply yourself wholly to the getting in & settling our old concerns, yet you will loose noe time on your own acco.t as long as he wil be still transacting for you. & Whatsoever he & you or either of you heerafter shall receive from us, wee doe allow you to draw comission upon your joynt acco.t. Although he is not there att pr.snt, yet Rich.d Watts shall assist you & act in his behalf untill he arrives, which will not bee long. First, we shall send you noething but wines & such like goods upon comissions; all other goods shall come upon your own acco.tts. For whatever dry goods you have lyeing by undisposed that belongs to any our former cargoes, make out a p.rfect Invoice therof & deliver them to **Tho. Westcott**, makeing an exact computation of their first cost & charges p.r Invo. & send us an acco.t therof, that soe you may have noething to hinder you from settling and adjusting acco.tts with all p.rsons. Which pray let be your first buisness. & Still as you settle acco.tts with any p.rson, observe to follow the method I pr.scribed to you per my last, viz. either to take their bonds or bill for the ballance or elce to these write & acknowledg the acco.t at the foote therof, that soe if you come to sute with any person, there may need noe other proof of their

debts. & After you have thus settled acco.tts with all persons, then be as pressing as possible for the getting in our debts. & Such as will not pay without rigor, spare not to use the utmost rigor with them. There is on bord this ketch a p.rcell of goods consigned Mr. Bramley, which are for the use of our plant. in M.tsarratt. Pray give him notice therof as soone as the vessell arrives & send up my letter; & if the Abraham goes upp, send up the goods by her or otherwise by the safest oppertunety you cann, takeing his advice therin first, if you can conveniently have itt. There is also a p.rcell of sugar potts & dripps on bord the Abraham that are upon the generall acco.t. If you find our plant. att Nevis hath occation for them, make use of them, alloweing a moderate price for them. Or if there be noe occation for them, then give Mr. Bramley notice therof. & If he desires to have them, let them be disposed to noe other p.rson. Heerwith you have an odd case you writt for, which is included amongst your owne, soe that when you dispose of itt must give your own acco.t credit [p. 232] for the same. What hoops or anything elce you finde occation for our own use, **Tho. Westcott** hath orders to deliver you. & If you find a small p.rcell of blew linnen or any other course goods will be wanting for the supply of our own plant. at Nevis, you may take a small p.rcell of such goods & keep by you for that use & noe other, & render him an acco.t of the same, at moderate rates, as if they were to be disposed to another p.rson. & Soe make him payment in money or goods for the same, because I desire the full pr.duce of the plant. may be constantly sent us home; & what you have occation otherwise to buy for the use of itt, pray alwayes pay ready money for, that soe it may lye under noe incumbrance to my p.rson.

Pray heerafter take a spetiall care of the weights of what sugars you receive & pack the caske well – observing what I formerly writt you that some cask want 30 or 40 p.r c.t, which cannot be by wastidg alone. Advise by all oppertunetyes as neer as you cann what you loade us. You have heerwith a copy of ours by Clayton. But doe not soe much as seem to take notice you expect any such shipp, or in the least mention his stopping att Antigua (if any others have advice of his departure from hence). He may bee with you as soon as this. Therefore, fayle not to have a sloop in a readiness. What brandy you have to dispose off, hold upp the price as much as you can. Its risen 50 p.r c.t in France within this 2 mos. Be sure to mannidg that affaure with prudence & when Clayton arrives give him a speedy dispatch. ...

If John Beddingfeild should have occation for a sett of coppers & all other things therunto belonging, pray supply him therwith, he paying you as another would for them. But before you dispose of them, advise him therof, in regarde he desired mee to send him a sett, & I have writt him

that you have some & will supply him. Pray be mindfull heerof, & make your own bargain with him. Heerinclosed you have a Bill of Loading for severall goods for the use of our plant. in M.tsarratt that I request you to receive & take care off. & If the Abraham be not goeing upp, doe not send them untill you have Mr. Bramleys order, unless by some very safe conveyance. There is likewise some pr.vitions on the Abraham on the same acco.t. & You will also receive some iron worke from Bristoll from Mr. John Cary. All which I request you to take the like care off. ...

198. [p. 233] **Thomas Westcott** [Nevis]

London, September 8, 1680

Pray use your utmost endeavors to make us as speedy returns of our effects as possible you can by all conveniences that offers. & We will endeavor to give you a good incuridging trade. & Because we are desirous you should not receive any comissions from any p.rsons but ourselves, knowing that wil be pr.juditiall to our concernes, whatever goods of any kind or quallety whatsoever that you shall desier that you finde vendible there, we will alwayes supply you w.th. & Doe therefore injoyn you not to accept of any comissions of any kind whatsoever from any p.rson but ourselves. If you doe, itt will be a discouridgm.t to us to pr.ceed. & For the imployment of your own stock or whatever stock your brother John desires to come in, we have pr.pounded to him (which seems to his good likeing, as we doubt not but it will to yours) that you & he may come in with us, either a quarter, 1/3, or half part, in the dry goods trade, which pleases you & him best, & soe that trade shal be carried on amongst us heerafter if you soe agree. For I am sensible noe man can without great trouble dispose of severall mens goods at one & the same time. & If at any time any bargin of advantage there may happen & your stock being soe ingaged in ours, we are freely willing itt should goe upon the [p. 234] generall acco.tt & that you may make payment out of the same. All these pr.posalls I make you, to give you a full imployment & because you should not meddle with any other p.rsons concernes, which may be detrimentall to us & you. When wee have your orders, shall send w.t you require on a joynt or p.rticuler acco.t. I observe you charge the custom & caske att the price currant which is not according to agreement, which you must rectifye & give us credit for. & Heerafter imploy those hoops, staves & c. that we send to our own use & whatever you want for our occations, viz. hoops, staves, heading, workemanship or ought elce, pray pr.cure at the best hand & on the cheapest termes you can for use. After Xtmass, we shall give you another supply of beef & other pr.vitions out of Ireland & a constant supply of wines as may be needfull. You wil find wanting in this cargoe cloth & some other things which we now omitted in regarde we sent soe

large a quantity thereof in Estes cargo, which was as good & as fashionable as could now be sent & suppose it cannot be all sold. & Therefore, we now have sent W.m Helmes orders as this our order to him is (which you may acquaint him with) that whatever goods remains in his hands of that or any our former cargoes unsold, that he do forthwith deliver all such goods unto you. Which pray receive and dispose off for our most advantage, in regarde we have resolved absolutely to decline our retail trade of dry goods on that island, in order to the getting in our debts. & With these new goods, we conceive those old ones may goe off the better. Pray follow my former orders in holdinge all those new acco.tts with my brother Baxter, & directing your letters & returns to him on all new accompts, only ballanceing the old with mee. I hope you will not faile to shipp the ballance of Vickers acco.t p.r first. ...

203. *William Helme [Nevis]*

London, October 30, 1680

... I hope you will use your dilligence in hastening our returns. Wee are now after 6 years loseing tenn thousand pounds out of our principall money in those islands, all in your hands & **Thomas Westcotts**. Which I refer you to judg of. Pray take it into consideration. We desire you to settle all our concerns, & send us our Acco.tts of Sales of all, which to this day we have not had one, also our Acco.tts Currant & List of Debts as soone as settled. & Follow close your instructions as to the adjustment of all acco.tts w.th all people, & takeing their bills for our acco.t at your bro. Mr. Rob.t Helmes hand & your owne & then pr.secute all our debtors with vigor. But it will not be prudence to doe it untill you have adjusted acco.tts. I have ordered Richard Watts to assist you in all things. I hope you have receivd the goods sent you for my bro. Henery & your own acco.t by the Globe, ketch. When you doe inable mee by makinge returns, shall be ready to serve you further. But at pr.sent, am extreemly streightned by your short returns. ... Mr. Carpenter hath writt mee a long letter of your misbehavior to him. I hope you will have a better understanding betwixt you. I have desired you may have the use of the storehouses by way of request but not command, which we cannot doe. I know he will not be against itt. Pray let there be noe animosities or misunderstandings w.ch may happen to be to our pr.judice. ...

207. [p. 246] **Thomas Westcott** [Nevis]

London, November 22, 1680

I have rec.d yours of the 9th of September intimateing the great scarcity of suger & the small quantety that was then on bord Huchinson, whose dayes was then neer 2/3 out. Which gives us cause to suspect wee are likely to pay both demoridg & dead freight upon him, as wee have already done on Hare, w.ch is a very great discouridgment as well as a loss to us. However, we must submitt& require noe more of you but to doe your indevors, w.ch I noewayes question you have not been wanting in. But we cannot but strange that W.m Helme should not signify the loading of anything upon him. Certainly things are strangly altered upon Nevis that, out of the vast concern we have there, nothing should be shipp't from thence. But all things must be submitted to with patience. I take notice of your desires of haveing what we send to come directly to you [p. 247] which we have already taken into consideration & soe ordered itt, by giving you a timely supply of all things pr.per for that markt as we judge, w.ch hope ere this is come to your hands, viz. a cargo of dry goods p.r the Globe ketch, amounting to neer £1,200 a p.rcell of pr.vitions, & wines p.r the Abraham, & a p.rcell of dry goods & liquors p.r Clayton, all which we judg will not amount to less then £3,000 sterl. principall cost. & Wee shall after Christmass order you another p.rcell of beef, which, with another supply of wines, is all we designe you for this yeare & all we can doe untill we are inabled by your returnes & other our interests in those islands, where we have run out our whole capitall. Which I now desire you to take into consideration& intreat you to use your utmost dilligence in makeing us as speedy returnes as possible you can, without which noe trade can long be supported. This I doe not doe by way of complaint, for I doe assure you we are well pleased with what you have done & had others done soe much we should have been in a better condition & had noe cause of complaint.

Now, I come to give answer to the heads of your letter. As to the first p.rticular that you desire the assistance of W. Hearne, w.ch Mr. Helms tells me he left positive orders with his brother that he should imediatly send him down to you, & I doe not a little strange that he should not follow his directions therin. However, I doe heerinclosed send an order to him, either to send him or Richard Watts to you to assist you for some time, to settle your booke & acco.tts & looke after things at home, that therby you may be the better inabled to gett in effects abroad. As to the next, I take notice of your complaint of being at an extraordinary charge for storeidg. & To that I answer I desire you yearly to send us an exact & just acco.t of the whole charge of storeidg you pay, & accordingly we will consider to allow you such a pr.portion of extraordinary charge that shall

in some measure salve you. For we are desirous you should earn money by our employm^wnt & we know you also think it fitt that we should live by our trade. & I doe assure you hitherto we cannot say whether we have gott a penny by our last six years trade, of which we are tenn thousand pounds principall money to this day in disbursement. & If an employer cannot gain as well as a factor, you know there can be noe incouridgment to drive a trade. The next thing is what I am to object against, viz. that my pr.^posall to you was that you should buy us hoops, staves & c. or make use of such as we should send you & soe charge us noe more then what you should really pay for the makeing up our caske, as likewise for the 4½ p.^r c.^t which you charge the comon price contrary to agreement. This you must alter & give us credit for the overcharges, according to agreem.^t. For I assure you without these things done, the trade runs soe low there is noe driveing itt. & You know our supplyes are not like ordinary comission employ. Yours I pr.^pose to you are not less then Mr. Bawdon gives Mr. Pruit, who in a little time its thought hath got ten thousand pounds, as I wish you may. I am now to put you in minde & to desire you alwayes to have a spetiall regarde to the w.^ts of your suger, in receiving w.^{ch} from Nevis we have been great sufferers by. & Your last p.^rcell by Hare wasts 6 or 7 p.^r c.^t more then any of the former p.^rcells you have laden. Pray alwayes have a spetiall regarde to that p.^rticular, & be sure alwayes to fill your cask well & make them very large, & bestow more hoops & nayles on them then ordinary to make them strong, w.^{ch} in a great measure pr.^vents damadge. I also desire you not to fayle of sending us Acco.^ts of Sales as soon as you can after any of our cargoes are disposed off. & If at any time any dry goods remains unsold of a cargo, by which means you cannot shutt up the acco.^ts to render us an Acco.^t of Sales, in such case you make take an acco.^t of them & make our new acco.^t of merchandize Dr. to the old for what soe remains at a moderate price. & Soe as they are sold, let the new acco.^ts have C.^r for the goods as they are sold. By which means you may every yeare send Acco.^ts of Sales & also acco.^ts of what remains unsold. & Please from time to time to be as large in your advises to us as you can, & let us know how & what rates comodetyes vends & what turns best to acco.^t, & what lyes upon hand & doth not vend. At any time when we have not shipp^s there, take freight upon others for us on the best terms you can, that soe our effects may be hastned home without delay. & From time to time [p. 248] fayle not advise what shipp you lade upon, & the quantetyes as neer as you can. Continue to correspond with my brother Baxter according to my former advise, & take the Bills of Loadeing as I directed, viz. for acco.^t of Rob.^t Helms & Comp. & Let them come consigned to W.^m Baxter & direct your letters to him. ...