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The Crisis of the Sugar Colonies

Written as four public letters, this book condemns the intention by the French to reinstate older slavery practices on its colonies in the West Indies. James Stephen (1758–1832) was a lawyer who, after moving to St Kitts with his family to earn a living, became a supporter of the abolition movement. On his return to London in 1794, Stephen became involved with the anti-slavery group, the Clapham Sect, whose members included William Wilberforce, and with whom Stephen developed a lifelong friendship. Elected as a Member of Parliament in 1808, Stephen contributed to drafting legislation for slave registration on the island of Trinidad, which became a model for other slave colonies. Stephen believed that the reinstatement of older slavery practices on French colonies in the West Indies would lead to slave revolts, and have significant consequences for the neighbouring British colonies. This work was published in London in 1802.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02047-3 - The Crisis of the Sugar Colonies

James Stephen

Frontmatter

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The Crisis of the Sugar Colonies

*Or, an Enquiry into the Objects
and Probable Effects of the French Expedition
to the West Indies*

JAMES STEPHEN



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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108020473

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1802
This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02047-3 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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THE CRISIS OF
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OR,
AN ENQUIRY
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TO
THE WEST INDIES;
And their Connection with the
COLONIAL INTERESTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.
TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED,
SKETCHES OF A PLAN
FOR SETTLING THE
VACANT LANDS
OF
TRINIDAD.

IN FOUR LETTERS
TO THE
RIGHT HON. *HENRY ADDINGTON*,
CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, &c.

London:
PRINTED FOR J. HATCHARD,
Bookseller to Her Majesty, No. 190, (Opposite York House,) Piccadilly.

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1802.

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THAT the Reader may not suppose the general views of West India affairs which are disclosed in these sheets to have been suggested or influenced by the news lately received from St. Domingo, it may be proper to apprise him that three of the Letters, and great part of the fourth, were printed before the Public was possessed of any intelligence respecting the arrival of the French Expedition at that Island.

In fact this work was commenced very early in the year, and was nearly finished a month ago, though private avocations and other causes have till now unavoidably delayed its completion, and retarded its progress through the press.

March 27, 1802.

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