

noble estate, if We deem such persons worthy of it in virtue of their achievements in the crafts and trades...'

(*Novísima recopilación...*, Book VIII, Section XXIII, Statute VIII, Decree of Council, 18th March 1783.)

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*Conclusive Peace-Treaty between His Catholic Majesty and His Britannic Majesty, signed at Versailles on the 3rd of September 1783*

1783

'... Article IV. His Majesty, the King of England, relinquishes all rights to the island of Minorca to His Catholic Majesty.

Art. V. His Britannic Majesty likewise relinquishes all rights to Florida, both East and West, and guarantees His Catholic Majesty in the possession of them...

Art. VI. It being the intention of the two major signatory Powers to remove all possible ground for complaint and discord between Their two countries over the felling of Log-wood or Campeachy-wood, to conduct which trade the English have set up many several installations on Spanish soil, it is herein agreed that the subjects of His Britannic Majesty shall enjoy the right to fell Log-wood, collect it and transport it in that region which is defined by the rivers known as the Hondo and the Belize... All English subjects at present residing in any other part of the Spanish American mainland, or on any of the islands pertaining thereunto, shall accordingly, over the next eighteen months, assemble within the territory so defined, and His Britannic Majesty shall ensure that all strongholds constructed by the British in the said lands shall be dismantled, and He shall instruct His subjects henceforth not to construct any such strongholds therein.

Art. VII. His Catholic Majesty shall restore to His Britannic Majesty all the Providence Islands and the Bahamas without exception, and shall restore them in the same condition which pertained when they were conquered by the forces of the Spanish King.

Dated, Versailles, 3rd September, 1783. – Count of Aranda. – Manchester.'

(*Colección de tratados...*, vol. III, pp. 295 ff.)