Preface

I must record my profound gratitude to the editors of this series, first for the invitation to contribute to what I have found to be an intellectually challenging enterprise, and secondly for the help they have given me in shaping my work. Jenny Wormald displayed exemplary patience with a laggard author and contributed shrewd comments when the manuscript finally appeared. However, I single out Christopher Smout for special thanks. His detailed reading of my text proved immensely helpful and his lucid, courteous, and economical suggestions improved the structure of this book more than I would have thought possible without affecting its fundamental character. To Marjorie Nield I am, as ever, deeply indebted for her typing. To my old tutor Philip Haffenden, who has permitted me to dedicate this book to him, I cannot offer anything as magisterial as his own studies of New England in the British Empire. As an Imperial historian I have so far been of little credit to him. However, I do think that in an era of supreme crisis for the British Atlantic Community, such as the period covered in this book, there is a case for looking at the most deferential of the British provinces, as well as at the troublemakers.

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