

Reproduced by kind permission of Evensford Productions Limited and
Pollinger Limited. Copyright © Evensford Productions Limited, 1961.



Two notorious women pirates of the Bahamas, Ann Bonny and Mary Read, convicted in 1720.

‘The Dollar Colony’

SIR, — If Elizabeth Nicholas could read a history of the Bahamas (there is one in existence, by the late Hilary St. George Saunders and a man named Bates, which has so far not been published for the simple reason that the Bahamas Government, which commissioned the book, is apparently so apprehensive of its candour and accuracy that it declines to allow it to appear) she would discover that Bahamaians have long been addicted to various forms of piracy. They have, in fact, no alternative.

Selling land, liquor, sunshine and souvenirs to tourists and marking goods in dollars is, how-

ever, pretty mild stuff compared with many of their activities in the realm of smuggling, wrecking, gun-running and rum-running over the past five hundred years or so.

Theirs was, incidentally, the first democracy to be set up in the New World and the long history of the islands, compiled by Saunders and Bates from a vast mine of material in the Record Office, makes fascinating reading, as I hope the public will one day discover, if and when the Bahamas Government has the good sense to allow this historically valuable work to appear.

H. E. Bates.

Ashford, Kent.