

they loved to have roasted, he was to give them raw; and whatever they wished to have raw, he was to give it to them roasted. With a View to secure the Return of all the Fishermen carried out, Half their Wages was made payable to them in Bills or Cash at the End of the Season, and their Employers were obliged to find them a Passage Home, and allowed to retain Forty Shillings of their Wages for that Purpose; and to give an Advantage to the Bank Fishery over the Shore Fishery, as well as to encourage the fitting out from England, without Offence to the Colonies, a Bounty was given upon the taking 20,000 Tail of Fish by Bankers from England that carried out Two Green Men, or Youngsters that had never before been at Sea. The Effect of every One of these Regulations has been the very contrary of what was intended; and the Witness's own Experience as an Adventurer in the Fishery these Five Years past enables him to correct his Judgment as a Politician, and to point out their pernicious Tendency, as well as to suggest the Remedy.

That soon after the Act of the 15th of His present Majesty was passed, he perceived, from comparing the Governor's Returns with the preceding Ones, that the young Lads left in the Island were greatly increased, instead of being lessened, as was expected; and upon conversing with Persons who had been there, and were concerned in the Fishery, he learned that Half the Wages a Youngster was entitled to was not sufficient to pay the Expence of fitting him out the First Year; and besides, they often wanted to have something for Mothers who they had assisted to support. The Traders therefore hired them for Two Years, and left them the Winter in the Island, employing them in the Salmon Fishery, or in cutting Timber, or other Work, as well to save the Expence of their Passage Home as to avoid paying them Half their Wages, which would have left their Employers out of Pocket. This he experienced to be the Case with the Youngsters he took out and brought Home; and upon that Account, as well as upon another which he shall mention, he had given up fitting out for the Bounty, as he finds many others have done, and consequently fewer Youngsters will be taken out, and fewer Seamen made. The Bounty is most injudiciously appointed, as it ought to be (as the Greenland Bounty is) a Kind of Security against a bad Voyage, whereas it is only paid upon a good one, for the Banker which catches 20,000 Tail of Fish, and lands them before the 15th of July, is sure of succeeding well that Season; but by limiting the Time of catching to the 15th of July, a great Mischief arises to those who endeavour to obtain it, and stay on the Banks