

The novelty of this regulation was matter of surprize and offence to all ; but it enabled them to judge of his political principles, and, while it proved an unpardonable ignorance of the laws and constitution of his country, it manifested a disposition to be wanton and tyrannical, if he had possessed the means.

How far a man with such sentiments is entitled to a seat in a free assembly, I shall leave to the decision of his constituents at the next general election. Transcripts of this extraordinary mandate were sent to the different ports and harbours in Newfoundland, accompanied with peremptory orders for its being immediately and punctually complied with ; but instead of obedience, it met with mockery and contempt ; a reception which it certainly deserved, and which indeed is due to proclamations of every denomination, when it is considered that they imply, and tend to establish, an absolute right of authority in *one man* over the multitude.

Sir Hugh Palliser, possessed of the confidence of the ministry and of parliament, was left at full liberty to insert what clauses his experience might suggest, for the better regulation of the fishery ; and in order to render the bill palatable, the preamble of it was followed by several bounties, which are as unworthy the munificence of a wealthy and commercial nation, as they are beneath the acceptance of the poorest adventurer in the trade. From the poverty of the sums offered, one would imagine that it was a display of the generosity of an individual, and not of a rich and potent kingdom. The bounties consequently have never been thought worth pursuing, and even if they had, the conditions enjoined, and the difficulty attending the collecting them, would alone render them useless *. The act expressly declares, that none but British-built vessels shall be entitled to any of the bounties ; and when it was mentioned to Sir Hugh Palliser that most of the vessels employed in the fishery were plantation-built, he replied, that it would be sufficient if they were owned

* Vide the first Remark.