

96° on the 3rd July—8° on the third March, and the mean temperature of the year 1859 44 degrees; Mean max. pres. of barometer, 29.74 inch, Rain 63.920 for the year; Max. quan. in 24 hours 2.098 inch; Wind N.N.W. and W.N.W., 200 days; N.E. 25 days; W. and W.S.W. 33 days; S.S.W. and S.E. 102 days; rain fell on 110 days; snow 54 days; thunder and lightning 5 days. We have all the advantage of an insular climate, a mild temperature with its disadvantage, uncertain weather. I may remark likewise what Abbe Raynal recorded already, that the climate of Newfoundland is considered the most invigorating and salubrious in the world, and that we have no indigenous disease. It follows naturally, that I should, in connexion with our climate, speak of our limited agriculture. Besides the shallow nature of our soil in most parts of the Island, we have, on account of the set of the Arctic current, carrying its floating ice and icebergs along our shores, a late and uncertain spring; herbage will not, at least within the influence of the cold winds, spring up as soon as our latitude would entitle us to; we may be perhaps three weeks late, but then see the compensation we reap from those fields of ice, a crop, which, I suppose, altogether realizes a million sterling in the European markets: I mean the oil and skins of the seal—a crop which we do not sow, but the reaping of which encourages ship-building, rears up the hardiest mariners in the world, and throws hundreds of thousands of pounds into circulation, at a season which in all other Northern countries is one of comparative idleness. The prosecution of the seal fishery does not interfere with the summer cod fishery, the winter herring fishery, or farming operations. Thus we have a great blessing bestowed on us by Divine Providence, a wonderful source of wealth coming in just at the time that, but for it, we should have nothing else to do; for this we may thank the great northern current, which retards our spring, but sends us a rich harvest and one which no government bounty or encouragement could create elsewhere. A doubt has been expressed by many whether the seal fishery will last—they fear that the continual destruction of both young and old seals will exterminate the fishery and destroy the breed, as was the case with the Greenland whale fishery. I cannot agree in this opinion, and I will state my reasons—'Tis true the seal, *phoca cristata* or *babata* is one of the *mammalia*, bringing forth but one at a time and that annually—it cannot multiply like the codfish with two millions of eggs. If we could get at the seals then, I have no doubt, but that in a few years, like the Greenland whale, they