

manners of the seafaring men of this period still smell to heaven. The regulation proved a sorry one. The admirals—ignorant, cruel, greedy—fiercely oppressed the helpless colonists (who were absolutely without means of obtaining redress for their wrongs), first for themselves, next for the merchants at home in whose employ they voyaged. In summer, under the name of justice, the people were pillaged and abused; in winter they were left with no rule at all, for which, no doubt, they were thankful.

The neglect of the country was not enough; the persecution by fishing admirals was not enough; more active measures were now to be taken for the oppression and depression of the little colony of Newfoundland. The merchants of the west of England, in whose hands lay the prosecution of the fishery and its chief emoluments, chose to consider their interests interfered with by the shore fishery, and bestirred themselves to discourage colonization. They influenced the authorities to order that no persons not actually employed in the fishery should be allowed to take passage out with the fishing captains. At the same time they frustrated a feeble attempt made by the colonists to obtain a governor. On the representations of Sir Josiah Child and other interested parties, that the shore-fishery injured the bank-fishery and should therefore be stopped, the Council ordered that no fisherman should be allowed to remain in Newfoundland after the fishing season was over, their masters being under bonds of £100 each to ensure their safe return. Thus immigration was checked.

But worse was to follow. In 1674 was issued that piece of outrageous injustice called the "Western Charter," which provided "that all plantations in Newfoundland were to be discouraged;" prohibited all persons "from settling on the coasts or shores of the island," and ordered that "no planter should be allowed to live within six miles of the shore from Cape Race to Cape Bonavista," precisely that part most available for fishing purposes. Like the ancient Helots under Dorian yoke, the Newfoundlanders, aspiring to liberty and justice, were deprived at once of all their rights, personal and political, and taught that their country's boasted laws applied to them only in oppression. Sir John Berry was sent out with orders to destroy the property of