

OBSERVATIONS, &c.

LETTER I.

MY LORD,

THE laws and government of Newfoundland being under the consideration of his Majesty's Ministers and Parliament, I am induced to offer a few observations to your Lordship on the system which has been adopted towards that ill-fated country, in the course of which I shall endeavour to prove the advantages of its trade, the great importance of its fisheries, and the lamentable effects of the restrictions on the culture of the soil.

Necessity compels me to make the public press the medium through which I shall address your Lordship, difficulties having at all times stood in the way of the representations of the resident inhabitants of Newfoundland reaching the ears of his Majesty's Ministers; whilst a few persons on this side the Atlantic, who imagine that Newfoundland is their inheritance, and its people their property, have, through a little borough influence, had free access to them, by which means they have almost invariably succeeded in their narrow and contracted views, to the ruin, not only of the local interest of that colony, but also to those of the mother country, inasmuch as it is connected with the trade and fisheries of Newfoundland. These are not altogether my own opinions; they are also the opinions of one whose authority will not be questioned by your Lordship: Mr. Reeves, in speaking of those to whom I have alluded, in his History of the Government of Newfoundland, states that "they had been in the habit of seeing this species of weakness and anarchy, ever since Newfoundland was frequented, from father to son; it was favourable to their old impressions, that Newfoundland was theirs, and that all the planters and inhabitants were to be spoiled and