

land to carry it on without a certain Loss.—And being asked, When was the Effect of those Clauses felt? he said, Some of them not immediately on the passing of the Bill, nor within Three or Four Years afterwards, from the Servants not being acquainted with the Clauses of the Bill.—And being asked, Whether he meant, that after Three or Four Years it did operate? he said, It operated most powerfully on the Trade; the more generally the Clauses became known, its Effect was greater.—And being asked, Whether that was not in Time of War? he said, It was.—And being asked, What were the Clauses? he said, The First Clause is a Penalty upon Fishermen and Seamen absenting themselves from their Employers without Leave; that it gives such Encouragement to Idleness, that the Servant may chuse whether he will work or not in the Time of the Harvest of the Fishery, and may, at an Expence to himself of a few Shillings, injure his Master in the Sum of £. 200, and the Seamen may detain the Ship in the Harbour, when ready for Sea, to the great Detriment of the Voyage.—And being asked, If he, in Point of Fact, knew that the Servants or Seamen availed themselves of that Power? he said, He had known it in several Instances.—And being asked, In how many, or was it a very general Custom? he said, He believed it has been very frequent for the last Eight Years past.—And being asked, If he knew of any particular Ship which had been so detained? he said, He had had Vessels of his own detained from the Men absenting themselves from their Duty; that a Vessel of his had been detained by One Man absenting himself from his Duty, that Man being a Splitter.—And being asked, Would not that equally have been the Case if that Clause had never been enacted? he said, He believes not, for he never knew it happen before that Act passed.—And being asked, In what Manner did he think the Clause produced that Effect? He said, From the Men not being responsible by Law for the Damage they do the Master.—And being asked, How were they responsible before that Act? he said, By being subject to the Law that then governed the Island of Newfoundland by the Statute of the 10th and 11th of William the Third.—And being asked, To what Punishment were they liable by that Law? he said, That, he presumed, lay with the Fishing Admirals to judge, but he never knew an Instance of its being tried, the Fact having never been committed to his Knowledge.—And being asked, Of what Description of Persons were the Fishing Admirals? he said, The Fishing Admirals are the Masters of the Three First Ships that arrive at each Port in Newfoundland, properly cleared out from Great Britain.

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