

## the French Fishery, &c. 29

Navigation unsafe, if not altogether impracticable, at least to make Voyages of Fish; though in the Summer Season there have been yearly Fisheries carried on at *Gaspay*, at the Entrance of *Canada River*, and in the little Harbours from thence to *Bay Vert*, at the Islands of *St. John's* and *Magdalene*, at the Northward of the Gut of *Canso*, in and through the Gut, and from thence along Shore at *Nurichatte*, *Petit de Grat*, *Isles Mecbeaux*, *St. Esprit*, *Forchette*, *Louisbourg*, *Laurembeque*, *La Baleine*, *Negamib*, *St. Ann's*, *Scattery*, and *La Bradore*; and from *Gaspay* round the North Side of the Gulph, at the several convenient Ports on the Main, quite to the Streights of *Belle-Isle*; and, by an Allowance to the French in the Treaty of *Utrecht*, (which they have made the most of) in all the Harbours at the Northward of *Newfoundland* that were unemploy'd by the *English*. And although, comparatively speaking, there was but a small Number of their Ships fished at *Cape Breton* itself, yet the Situation of that Island is such, they could all of them at Pleasure repair thither, on any Emergency or Danger; especially those that fished in the Gulph, on the Main, or those at the North-West of *Newfoundland*, who were all within One or Two Days Sail at most; and also those Ships that laded with Mud-Fish on the Banks.

So that this Island was the Key and Protection of their whole Fishery, and for that End was fortified and garrison'd, and valued by *France* equal to any other of its Colonies; although the Harbour of *Louisbourg* is not an extraordinary good one, and the Island produces nothing either for Food or Rayment, and the Fish are not so plenty on the Coasts of *Louisbourg* as they are in the Gulph, off *Canso*, to the West.