

NEWFOUNDLAND.

AN ACCOUNT of the COLONY and FISHERY of NEWFOUNDLAND, and the PRESENT STATE thereof.

Newfoundland is an Island of America situated betwixt 46 and 53 degrees of Northern Latitude distant from England Westward above seven hundred leagues. Situation.

It was first discovered in the Year 1496 by Sr Sebastian Cabot, commissioned by Henry the 7th whereby the first Right was vested in the Crown of England. Discovery.

In the Year 1578 Queen Elizabeth by Letters Pattents granted unto Sr Humphrey Gilbert, full Powers to discover and possess all lands not in actual possession of any Christian Prince, by vertue whereof hee did in 1583, land in St John's Bay and calling together both English and Strangers then fishing there took possession of the Country in the Queen's Name and Erected the Arms of England in testimony of Her Sovereignty upon a Pillar of Wood since which time the English interest has been maintained there in order to a Plantation and continuance of the fishery. First Pattent.

In the Year 1610 a Pattent was granted by King James for a Plantation unto the Earle of Northampton, Sr Francis Bacon, and severall others, by the name of The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London and Bristol for the Colony in Newfoundland, with all usuall Prerogatives, and immunities, only reserving to all persons free liberty of fishing. Second Pattent.

Ten Years after a Grant was passed unto Sr George Calvert (since Lord Baltimore) and his heirs of a tract of land called The Province of Avalon, which lyes in the 47th degree of North Latitude on the South East Point of the Island extending it selfe from between the Ports Fermose and Aqua-fort to Petit Harbour which is 50 or 60 miles from South to North and from thence Westward to the Bay of Placentia which is about 60 miles from East to West. And by the same Pattent was also granted to Sr George Calvert the propriety of all Islands within 10 leagues of the Eastern Shore, together with the fishing of all sorts of fish, saving unto the English free liberty of fishing, salting and drying fish. Third Pattent.
Avalon.

In 1628 Marquis Hamilton, Earle of Pembroke, Earle of Holland, Sr David Kirk, and others under pretence that the Lord Baltimore and other proprietors had deserted the Plantation procured a Pattent of all Newfoundland including Avalon, whereby it was Fourth Pattent.