

Thus, we see, that the revolted Colonies had engrossed almost the whole of the West-India markets. And thus we perceive from what source the British West-Indies may be most amply supplied with fish, when we consider, that their whole consumption amounted only, to about 161,000 quintals of dried and 16,178 barrels of pickled fish, if we may judge from an average of three years importation, ending with 1773; and when we reflect too, that the general price at Newfoundland was seven shillings the quintal, while it was usually nine at Boston.

That we enjoyed a considerable fishery not only at Newfoundland, but also on the American coasts, before New England was planted, is a melancholy truth, which we know from the debates in Parliament, during the year 1621, if Sir Josiah Child had not recorded the fact, during the reign of Charles II. and lamented the impolicy of permitting it. The American charters, which were granted by Charles I. are all remarkable for a cautious clause, reserving to the residents of England and Ireland the right of fishing in the bays and harbours of the Colonies and drying the fish on their lands. The ardent people, who formed the settlement of New England were soon driven by their necessities to begin the labours of the fisher. The hardy inhabitants of the Western Coasts of England, who used annually to resort to the American shores, found too powerful competitors in the planters, who had emigrated from Dorset, Devon,  
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