

but that they hereafter will be preserved in various ways and in extraordinary quantities; but at present coming as they do in the height of the fishing season, we have no hands to cure them at that busy time. A great mine of wealth we possess, which is only partially worked or turned to account, in the herring fishery. In no part of the world is the herring finer, or I believe so abundant, and all it requires is to be properly cured — The Dutch became a great nation, 'tis said, principally by the herring fishery, and Amsterdam, they say, is built on a foundation of herring bones. Even at present the Dutch herrings, though caught on the same ground as the English or Scotch, bear a higher price than any other in the world, and are eaten raw as a relish in Holland and Germany. The first barrel of new herring that is taken is forwarded to the King at Hague. It is carried in procession with banners and military music—the day is one of public rejoicing, and a few of the new herrings are sent as presents to the nobles of the land. I understand that the Dutch bleed each herring, use the best quality of salt, and take the greatest care in the manipulation. If they had the rich herring of Labrador, it would be worth the gold mines of Australia to them. A movement was made to procure instructors in curing some time ago, but I know not from what cause, it failed. I believe the Dutch prohibit their herring curers from engaging with foreigners, but Scotland could furnish us with many nearly as good, and thus hundreds of thousands of pounds could be yearly gained to the country, and the gifts of Providence would not be abused. One great step for the preservation of the herring on the Western Shore, has been made by passing Mr. Benning's bill. I have been informed on good authority, that the waste of herring for supplying bait to the French was awful, and that one year 20,000 barrels, for which there was no sale, were cast back into the sea. No fishery then, I think, requires the watchful care of government more than this, and if properly preserved and managed, it will be nearly as great a source of wealth as the cod fishery, and more secure than the seal fishery. The whale fishery was formerly prosecuted to some extent in the Bay of Despair, but the whale, as we know, is easily exterminated, and though the fishery is yet followed to some extent, it is one we cannot expect to continue—still it will be always more or less an addition to our resources. Allow me to say a few words of my experience of the people: I have found them in all parts of the Island, hospitable, generous, and obliging; Catholics and Protestants live together in the greatest harmony, and it is only