

British manufactures ; indeed, it might be called an object of the mother country, as the benefits of the fishery, more than any other branch of colonial trade, seem to centre directly in this kingdom, especially those of the Newfoundland fisheries. In the distress occasioned to the British fisheries by the war in the countries of the Mediterranean, it was considered whether a depot of fish could not be made at Gibraltar and Malta, and the ancient markets supplied from stores laid up at those places. In projecting this new trade, it was seen, that not only a great easement would be given to the British fisheries, but great encouragement would be holden out to foreign purchasers, if the European produce required in the colonies could be shipped directly from those two places of resort.—To authorise this, it was enacted by the statute 46 Geo. 3. c. 116, that *fruit, wine, oil, salt, or cork*, the produce of Europe, may be shipped at Malta, or Gibraltar, for exportation direct to the king's plantations in North America, in any *British-built* ship, navigated *according to law*, which shall arrive with the produce of those fisheries, taken and cured by His Majesty's subjects, carrying on the same from any of the said plantations, or from Great Britain or Ireland respectively.

The effect of this regulation, which is too limited, and should not have been confined to Malta and Gibraltar, cannot be felt during the present war ; it is, however, proper to observe, that the return cargoes of European produce, are restricted to be carried in *British* shipping.—This act passed soon after the American intercourse bill in 1806, and was introduced by the late ministers, who ought, in *that* instance, to have acted with the same patriotic and national feeling as they did in this case, and have confined the trade between the British West India islands and the United States to *British* shipping.

From various causes, the British North American fisheries have languished and declined ; amongst them, the most prominent are those before stated ; the improvident grants of islands in the bays to private individuals ; and the impress of the men belonging to the fishing vessels.—The impress of the *fishermen* while *employed* in the fisheries and coasting trade, instead of adding to the naval strength of the empire, diminishes it, by inducing the fishermen to *emigrate*, whereby the nursery for seamen is destroyed, as the fisheries formerly furnished most of the seamen who navigated the British