

Americans, are so great, that I am sanguine enough to hope we shall be able to surmount all our difficulties, provided the means are used which we have in our hands to foster and support it. The late Acts introduced by Mr. Huskisson, which allow the importation from foreign parts of supplies of provisions for the use of the fishery, against which an ignorant, unjust, and unmeaning clamour has lately been raised by the advocates for the shipping interest, are of the greatest service to the trade and fisheries; and, no matter who has a right to complain of the effects of these measures, the shipping interest is, as well as the fisheries, greatly benefitted by them.

The advantage of obtaining supplies to the fishery on moderate terms, with the additional support it must derive from the general cultivation of the soil, will, I have no doubt, soon have the effect of enabling us to support the trade and fisheries against our more favoured rivals. The advantage of cultivation as an auxiliary to the trade and fisheries will more fully appear by the following opinions of Mr. Forbes.

“As a general remedy, whatever tends to revive the fisheries must also have the effect of relieving the people. It were desirable that with the view of opening some auxiliary employment to the inhabitants of Newfoundland, every restraint upon the cultivation of the soil should be removed, and every encouragement given to the breeding of sheep, cattle, and other live stock.

“The necessity of cultivating the soil, as an auxiliary to the fishery, is not disputed, nor is there any existing law which prohibits it; but there is none to encourage it; and there is still maintained in the island an ancient opinion, that it is against the policy of Government—as if that could be called policy which, in a country overstocked with people, and distressed for food, would prohibit so plain a dictate of natural law as that of raising subsistence from the earth.

“This cannot be, is not, the policy of the British Government; and nothing is wanting but a fair apprehension of the case to induce its enlightened rulers, not only to remove every shadow of obstruction from the cultivation of the soil, but to encourage and protect it by every means in their power. To preserve the transient fishery has been found impracticable; to