

every Art to monopolize it ; for which Purpose, from the Beginning they have used their utmost Endeavours in time of War between the two Nations, to procure a Neutrality in *North America*, so far as relates to the Fishery there ; that they might even then carry it on, and prosecute their Voyages unmolested.

3dly, The great Increase of their Navigation and Seamen arising from this Fishery ; in which 564 Ships, besides Shallops, and 27,500 Seamen are employed ; Circumstances, especially the latter, which considered with regard to their maritime Force, are of themselves as valuable to *France* as the Revenue of the Fishery itself : Well therefore might *Pere Charlevoix* in his History of *New France* observe, " That this Fishery was a more valuable Source of Wealth and Power to *France*, than even the Mines of *Peru* or *Mexico* would be."

And this great Branch of Trade may be said to depend upon their Possession of the Island of *Cape Breton*, as it is impossible for them to carry it on without some convenient Harbour of Strength to supply and protect it ; and *Louisbourg* is the only one, they have in this Part of the *Atlantic Ocean*.

Besides the Fishery, there are likewise other Advantages which arise to the *French* from their Possession of this Island ; *France* has not one Sea Port for the Relief and Shelter of her trading Ships either to, or from the *East* or *West Indies* open to them any where in *North America*, to the Northward of the River *Mississippi*, except *Louisbourg* ; and of consequence,