

horious fisherman and hardy woodman, although they felt their rights as men, knew not how or where to claim them: they were oppressed with Star chamber regulations, and orders of council; they were forbid to approach nearer the Sea Coast than six miles; they were banished into the Woods to perish of hunger, or become a prey to wolves.

In the year 1675, Sir John Barry commanded the convoy for Ships trading to this country. In consequence of a special order, he made a report to the Committee of Council of trade, in which he speaks favorably of the inhabitants, and refutes the allegations of the Western Merchants. Sir William Poole and others afterwards confirmed this report; still the spirit of justice was not roused.—The western merchants continued to enjoy all their exclusive advantages, and the planters to suffer all the degradations of an insulting and contumelious treatment.

In the year 1697, the board of Trade took cognizance of certain petitions and representations of the west country merchants, and likewise of the planters and inhabitants of Newfoundland. After *mature deliberation*, the board gave it as *their opinion*, that planters in a moderate number were a convenience to the adventurers, but that they *should not exceed One Thousand!!* The literary acquirements of the board of trade and plantations, and their two thousand three hundred volumes have been made the subject of pleasing satire by Mr. Burke; and who can help admiring this exquisite specimen of political and philosophical wisdom? With the influence of *roast beef* they may be supposed to have been well acquainted, but with the virtues of *cod heads* and *sounds* it does not