

French, who, in 1705, laid siege to, and demolished the town of St. John's, with all the fishing stages, &c. but could not reduce the fort.

By the treaty of Utrecht the island was again surrendered to the English, but they did not enjoy that and the fishery on the coasts, without repeated interruptions from the French; and in 1762 they took our fort at St. John's, and reduced this island to their obedience; but, by the vigilance and activity of the British commanders and troops then in America, were dispossessed of it the same summer, after they had considerably improved our fortifications there, and are at this time entirely excluded from the island and the fishery on the coasts, except on the Island bank, and a few small islands that lie off between Cape Ray and Cape St. Mary.

The soil of this island, as hath been hinted, is very barren (excepting some glades upon the banks of rivers) in the inland parts of it, rising into hills, or sinking into bogs and swamps, and where not covered with water, affords nothing but shrubs, spruce, and white moss.

There are in this island many fine rivers, lakes, and rivulets, which abound with beaver, otters, and the like, and in which is great plenty
of