

Without this Retrospect to the former History of Newfoundland, it is possible the Committee will be misled by a great deal that has been suggested by the Two Gentlemen before-mentioned. Retrospect to former Periods.

The general Aim of Mr. Newman and Mr. Ougier, throughout the Whole of their Evidence, has been to persuade the Committee that the Trade is ruined by Stat. 15th Geo. III. and Stat. 26th Geo. III. and more especially by the Courts which have been established within these Four or Five Years; that all was Prosperity, Peace, and Content before that Period; that the best Policy for Newfoundland is to be found in Stat. 10th and 11th William III. and that the Rules and Regulations of that Statute, with the Jurisdiction of the Fishing Admirals, aided by the Captains of the Men of War, is the only Government necessary for Newfoundland; and that the Establishment of Justices of the Peace, and more especially of Custom House Officers, are all unnecessary, and some of them hurtful; finally, that all the Trade wish, is to be put again in the Situation where they were placed by the Statute 10th and 11th William III.

This is the Language, and this the Proposal held out by these Gentlemen; it becomes therefore highly important that Parliament, who are to decide what Policy shall be pursued in future with regard to this Trade and Fishery, should be informed what was the State of Newfoundland when it had no other Regulation,