

great Exactness to what Amount it may be.—And being asked, Whether he knew of any Bankruptcies previous to the Act of the 15th of George the Third? he said, But of One before that.—And being asked, If these Bankruptcies had arisen from any Extravagance in the Merchants themselves, or from the Circumstances of the Grievances which the Fishery labours under? he said, He knew of no Extravagancies that they were guilty of, their Losses were occasioned by the Trade and Fishery which they carried on, which Trade and Fishery laboured under Oppressions and Burthens, which if continued must in the Course of Time have the same Effect upon all those whose Trade and Fishery are entirely from Great Britain and Ireland to the Island of Newfoundland.—And being asked, Whether any Persons whose Capitals are acknowledged to be considerable are retiring from the Trade? he said, He could speak for himself, that he wishes to retire, and would sacrifice the Tenth Part of his Fortune to be out of it; that he had heard several Gentlemen in the Trade speak of retiring; and he believes that every Gentleman in the Town of Dartmouth concerned in the Newfoundland Trade would quit it immediately, could they get rid of their Ships, Effects, and Stores at a Loss.—And being asked, Whether there is less Fish caught at Newfoundland? he said, He could not speak with Certainty.—And being asked, If it sold for a less Price at the Foreign or Home Market? he said, No, he believes they are much the same, there is a Fluctuation of Market Price.—And being asked, Whether a moderate Quantity of Fish caught does not answer as well, both to the Merchants and Fishermen, as an excessive Quantity? he said, It answers better, for where there is a Scarcity of Market Abroad the Seller commands the Price; when a large Quantity, the Purchasers command the Price.—And being asked, Whether the Demand in Foreign Markets has decreased since the Peace? he said, He believes not.—And being asked, If many Ships have not come Home empty in the last Two Years? he said, Several small Vessels have come Home without any Thing but Ballast.—The Witnesses having said that the Trade was on a Decline, he was asked, Whether he knew of any Burthens on the Trade, to which he could attribute that Decline? he said, he attributed the chief Part of that Decline (speaking of the Trade from England and Ireland to Newfoundland) to an Alteration which took Place in the governing Laws of Newfoundland, by an Act passed in 1775, which was carried into Execution in 1776 (Act of the 15th of George the Third); there are Clauses in that Act which press so hard upon the Employers, that in general it is not possible for such whose sole Trade and Fishery is from this Country to Newfound-