

whether they shall stay the Winter or not, and might be easily turned in their Resolution by the Apprehension of any Interposition from Authority. The Consequence has been, that Newfoundland has been peopled behind your Back ; you have abandoned it to be inhabited by any one who chose, because you thought appointing a Governor would constitute a Colony and encourage Population. The Western Merchants, who found out the Reason that “ a Governor would make a Colony,” knew perfectly well what they were about in urging it ; they knew that the Presence of a Governor would interfere with their Plan, which was to go on without Inspection or Controul ; they over reached those who heard them, and succeeded in the only Object they proposed to themselves: For in the mean time they, among the rest, proceeded to make all the Advantage they could, by adding to the Number of Residents every Year.

However it may have originated, the Population of the Island is such, as now to need the Controul and the Protection of Magistracy and Officers, like the rest of the King's Dominions. That Magistracy should be raised and strengthened, instead of being exposed to be disregarded and contemned, as has been attempted by some late Proceedings ; and in my Opinion, it will never be placed in a Situation to discharge its Functions properly, till there is something more of a resident Government.

The present floating Government seems to