

this war (1755) it appeared that the quantity of the fish imported by the French ships, was 1,149,000 quintals of dry fish, and 3,900,000 mudfish ; the value of both which, including 3,116 and a quarter ton of train oil drawn from the blubber, amounted to 926,577..10, according to the prime cost of the fish at Newfoundland ; which, with the addition of the freight to the several markets where it was sold made 949,192,10 i. sterling : and add to this the consumption of woollen manufactures and brandy and naval stores made it at least a million of money per annum. And this trade employed no less than 564 ships, besides shallops, and 27,500 seamen. Now, if we lament the growth of French power, as the cause of those wars that hath depopulated Europe for this century past ; and are convinced that our own liberties and independency are founded on the superiority of our naval power over that of France, would it not, when we see in how great a measure this privilege has contributed, and in how great a measure the continuance of it is likely to contribute to the French power, so far from being “ unreasonable,” be unpardonable ; and the more so, if we consider the nature of the French claim, a matter I shall hereafter attend to ? If they have the least share of it, will they not be always encroaching upon pretence of building huts to refresh their men ? Will they not be always encroaching on us upon pretence of building stages, and curing their fish ; revoke therefore the privileges granted them on the coast of Newfoundland ? But, as the French likewise carried on a great trade with mud fish, which were not under a necessity of being cured and dried, make it a pain of confiscation both of ship and freight, if any of those fish are found on board ; and, in order to render