

of all put down the whole Number of Men, including Passengers, and afterwards the Passengers separately, it follows of Course, that the Return must contain too many Men by the whole Number of Passengers. That this Mistake in the Return of the Men must have happened, he can prove in another way; or, if the Conclusion be denied by the Merchants, it must at least be acknowledged by them, that the Merchants caught their Fish in the Year 1791 at nearly One Half the Expence that they did in the Year 1770, for by the Account it appears, that each Man upon an Average, in the Year 1770, caught only Forty-six Quintals of Fish, and in the Year 1791, Seventy Quintals.—And being asked, Whether the Admiral's Returns, as printed, for the last Three Years, are correct? he said, The printed ones are not correct, but he has Returns in his Hand for the same Period (which are not printed) and which he believes are correct.—And being asked, Why he asserted, that the printed Returns are not correct, but that those which he had in his Hand are correct? he said, Because the printed Returns were made up from Materials collected long before the Fishing Season was over, and therefore are mere Estimates. The Account in his Hand is made up from Accounts taken from the Custom House Books in the different Parts of the Island, after the Fishery was completely over, and when no more Ships could arrive at, or sail from, the Island, nor any further Business be done in the Fishery.

He then delivered in to your Committee an Account of Shipping and Trade Outwards at Newfoundland, for the Years 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, and 1791, shewing whither the Goods were exported; and also the Directions given for making up the Fishing Returns, which are hereunto annexed. Vide Appendix, N^o 2. (a) (b)

And the Witness said, That for the Five Years Returns which the said Account contains, he can depend upon its Accuracy. And during Admiral Milbanke's Government, hearing so many Complaints from the Merchants of the Decline of the Trade, in which he (the Witness) thought them unnecessarily alarmed, he got the Three last Years Accounts, signed by the Naval Officer who had made up the General Account, and the Admiral transmitted it to the Board of Trade in a Letter, stating how the Difference between the Two Accounts had arisen, and how much more to be depended upon was the latter than the former Account.—And being asked, Whether he has Reason to know that the various Returns from Newfoundland were incorrect before the Time of Admiral Milbanke? he said, From his Knowledge of the Manner in which the Materials were collected,