

houses, through which the rain and snow do not enter so fast as they fall, yet in sufficient quantities to furnish carpets of snow two feet and upwards thick, some of the better kind of houses are lined with boards, and covered with shingles, which are thin boards cut in imitation of slates.

Our fishing business receives very little increase or benefit, from our new settlements. The handful of people they contain, having their minds filled with notions of personal independency, place all their hopes of accomplishing that end, by becoming possessed of a little land. When they find themselves seated, if they must be subjects, they are very regardless to whom they pay obedience. The employment of fishing they leave to Jersey and Guernsey people, and other Europeans who return in the fall. Our transatlantic fisheries, though very advantageous to the nation, are very expensive to those engaged in them, and can only be carried on with effect by persons of considerable property, or by companies to whom some bounty should be held out by government. If we have arrived at the zenith of our commercial greatness, which I fear is the case, it behoves us to pay great attention to our fisheries, which may be sources of great wealth and strength to the nation. If from 5 to 10 acres of the waste crown lands in England, and from 50 to 150 of uncleared lands in our new settlements were given to each Company, and to each individual, for every ton of shipping employed in our transatlantic fisheries, such a bounty would encourage our trade, secure the profits of it to England, retain the allegiance of the people, and keep at all times under controul a numerous body of sailors. No sailor or fisherman should be allowed to remain more than three winters on the lands, in any of the new settlements. The large and expensive establishments may then be reduced to two or three officers of Government in each settlement, to lay out the lands, take an account of the sailors and fishermen

who were not carried home in the fall, and to make a report thereof to ministry with such other regulations as may be deemed necessary. During the winter the people remaining upon the land, in the new settlements, may be usefully employed in building and repairing wharves, erecting flakes, building store houses, schooners, shallops and boats to begin the fishery as soon as the season offered. They might also clear a little land for vegetables, to supply themselves and others during the fishing season.— Very cogent reasons may perhaps be offered against this plan. At present I know of none. Certainly nothing can be more impolitic and less beneficial than the present. It is also certain that while Government are busied about forming new settlements, they pay no attention to great tracts of waste lands and commons, which tempt the hand of industry, and are more valuable for agriculture than all the lands we hold in America. The English are a bold, hard, ingenious, and numerous people, and if Great Britain means to maintain her importance, and support her head above the nations of Europe, she must now at this great commercial æra, find employment for her people, even for the unsettled part of them, who would, by the plan here proposed, have their curiosity satisfied, and their wandering dispositions reduced to reason by experience. The vast continent of America is laid open, and France with other nations, begin to turn their attention to commerce. It behoves us therefore to be very watchful, lest that crafty people, under the specious pretence of opening their ports, by a commercial treaty, to our manufactures, decoy our artificers, and make Englishmen do what the whole house of Bourbon were never able to accomplish by the sword. Present advantage is not the principal matter to be taken into consideration, distant consequences are chiefly to be regarded in forming commercial treaties.— Why are our valuable waste lands, which might employ many thousands,