

lian was therefore first endowed with supreme power. The inhabitants of Newfoundland dwell on this fact with fond enthusiasm, and indulge the hopes that the time will soon come when a civilian will be considered best calculated to be the Governor of a commercial people. They justly think that as to obtain even a Mediocrity in the simplest arts of life, many years of experience and assiduous attention are required, the difficult and important ones of legislation and of government cannot be learned in the short space of Nine months, the utmost limits of a Governor's residence in Newfoundland.

On perusing the short and imperfect records of this country, the mind is forcibly struck at that insatiation which could produce and perpetuate such a system; they give a view of human transactions as barren as ignorance has represented the soil, and as chilling as the climate.

For many years the adventurers from the West of England set up pretensions to an exclusive right, to the prejudice of the Native and resident planters. They repaired to Newfoundland early in the Spring, and returned to England the following Autumn; they had the address to obtain orders and regulations favourable to a moveable fishery, but discouraging and oppressive to the residents, and to a stationary fishery. In these views they were considerably assisted by the interest of the west country Boroughs; with eagerness they availed themselves of all advantages; they assailed the planters with all the opprobrious epithets of their language, and circulated, with assiduity and effect, false representations of the country, its climate and soil. With such rivals the honest but illiterate fisherman at a far distance from the seat of Government was but ill calculated to contend. The la-