

C O P Y of Governor Palliffer's Remarks on
the present State and Management of the
Newfoundland Fishery; dated 18th De-
cember, 1765.

THE first and most important National Object from the Fishery, as set forth in the Preamble to the said Act, is the raising and maintaining a Number of Seamen for speedy manning our Fleets in Times of Danger; it therefore in the First Place provides for preserving, extending, and improving the Ship Fishery in Preference to all others, that being the ancient and by far the most if not the only advantageous Method to the Nation, therefore it grants to the Ship Fishers, and from Britain only, many and great exclusive Privileges; and in every Part of the Act relating to Inhabitants and Bye Boat Keepers, is a Clause for preserving inviolable to the Ship Fishers those Rights and Privileges; notwithstanding which the Ship Fishery is now wholly dropt and excluded by Encroachers and Monopolizers, the Inhabitants under Merchant Suppliers, by which every Rule and Order ordained by that excellent Act, for the Prosperity of the Fishery, is rendered ineffectual for the Purposes intended by it; One Consequence of which is, the French employ more Ships, raise Ten Times the Number of Seamen, catch more Fish, and the Yearly Return of Men directly to England, from our exclusive and extensive Fishery, without Bounds, is scarce One Eighth Part of the Number that Yearly return directly to France from their Fishery, though limited to the worst Parts. This appears by the compared State of this Year's Accounts of Ships and Men employed by both, hereto annexed.

We have, according to the Accounts I have collected, 16,000 People remaining in that Country during the Winter, but I am satisfied they are 20,000, of which 10,000 are Men who are all totally lost, for they (a very few excepted) have no Employment during the Winter, but live a most savage, detestable, wicked Life, spending their Time in Idleness, Debaucheries, and Excesses, and running in Debt on their next Year's Wages.

As the Value of the Labour of Seamen is undoubtedly the greatest of all labouring Men, for Defence of the State or for bringing in Wealth from abroad, so Ten thousand of them being lost to this Nation for either of those Purposes, during Six or Seven Months every Year, is alone a Matter deserving serious Consideration.

These Inhabitants never become either good Fishermen or good Seamen; or if they were so, they are always out of Reach to be of Use for manning our Fleets on any Occasion, as effectually so as if they were taken and carried to a French Prison before a Declaration of War.

Inhabitants such as above described are no Security to the Country, but the contrary; for they always have and always will join an invading Enemy,