

present consumed in Great Britain." The opinions of Mr. Forbes on subjects connected with Newfoundland, or on any other subjects, deserve the greatest consideration, but I hope his opinion with respect to the ricketty foundation which our fisheries have to rest on, has been given without that deep consideration for which he is so remarkable. It is well known that the obligation of abstaining from flesh-meat is not a fundamental principle of the Catholic religion : it is a matter of discipline, and the Bishops have power to dispense with the obligation. *If* the Pope is such a determined enemy of England as some persons whose imaginations are continually haunted with the dread of Pope and popery, pretend to believe, must it not appear extraordinary that he has allowed the people of Catholic countries to be the principal consumers of a staple article of commerce, and which has been a support to the naval power of England. It would be, indeed, a serious cause for alarm, if the existence of the Newfoundland trade and fisheries depended on the will of the Pope, or any other potentate. Fish is consumed in all the southern countries in Europe and America, as a principal article of food ; and good fish is prized as much in Portugal, Spain, and Italy, the West Indies, the Brazils, and the other countries in America, as beef or bacon in England. The *well-beloved* Ferdinand has taken much more effectual means to prevent the consumption of fish in Spain, than if the Pope was fulminating bulls for eternity ; he has laid a very high import duty on it of from 15s. to 20s. per quintal. Yet a considerable quantity of fish finds its way into Spain, and the consumer there has to pay double as much for a pound of Newfoundland salt fish, calculating the nutritious qualities of both, as in England is paid for a pound of the best beef or bacon. Newfoundland fish is exported to the Brazils, where it is sometimes consumed at a most extravagant rate by the people of that country. In our own West India Islands the slaves, who are all *Protestants*, consume large quantities of fish, and, as far as I can learn, they prefer it to salt beef and pork. In warm climates, salt beef becomes as hard as mahogany, which is the cause of Newfoundland fish being preferred to the junk beef of South America. These, and many other proofs which I could adduce, will be sufficient to prove that Mr. Forbes' opinions are