

on the other, for the govern- ment, and under says well fur- ture, or ra- d without it can de Dieu, stones. On a strong torr, serving as a n called the fort built on the town ch, it consid- few tolerable foundation of

which are the is subject to erty, and such the length of y, these fogs over the rig- der them in- the quantity d in the con- amount to quantity was of May, when ed. The end filled with in such a tre-

of New- not very dif- barren; it, size, pines for g. The most maple, aspin, produces some bbs and roots,

be cultivated ys inclines to- bers of fowl, their feathers wife animals hogs, sheep, and bays, at- fish in the ng, shooting, inhabitants a

excluded from tlement here and fortified ed in 1745 ew England, it was again, the French, hen it. How- British troops eaven, who ty-one pieces with a very nd was yield- in by the last en blown up,

rench may be from it when mber of ships omparison of the banks of nd the neigh- is so situated, e on any dan- fished in the end of New- two days fail at

at molt from thence; as might also those vessels which loaded with mud-fish on the banks; whence this island was the center and protection of their whole fishery.

According to a computation made by persons intimately acquainted with every branch of it, the quantity of fish they caught in the year before the last war was one million one hundred and forty-nine thousand quintals of dry fish, and three million nine hundred thousand mud-fish; the value of both which, including three thousand one hundred and sixteen one quarter tons of train-oil, drawn from the blubber, amounts to nine hundred and twenty-six thousand five hundred and seventy-seven pounds ten shillings, according to the prime cost of the fish at Newfoundland; and with the addition of its freight to the several markets where it is sold, makes nine hundred and forty-nine thousand one hundred and ninety-two pounds ten shillings sterling; and if to this be added the consumption which is made of their coarse woollens by the men employed in the fishery, reckoning for each a blanket, watch-coat, rug, pea-jacket, &c. in the whole thirty shillings per man, with the brandy they consume; and also the canvas, cordage, nets, hooks, grapplings, anchors, &c. that the ships and shallops of this fishery must expend at sea and on shore, the value of it will amount, at least, to one million sterling per annum, at which it is generally computed.

But in order to form a just estimate of the value of this branch of trade to the French, we should also take in its beneficial consequences, which principally consist in the following articles: First, the train-oil produced by it is necessary to the French in their woollen manufactory, in which they have already rivalled us with too much success; and their sugar colonies abroad, which cannot do without it, are supplied with it from France out of this fishery.

Secondly, the trade it opens for them in the Mediterranean, and all the Roman Catholic states, where they carry their fish to market; and by this means force a vent for the French manufactures; which has been found so beneficial to their commercial interest, that they have been indefatigable in the cultivation of it, sparing no pains nor cost, and using every art to monopolize it.

Thirdly, the great encrease of their navigation and seamen arising from this fishery, in which five hundred and sixty-four ships, besides shallops, and twenty-seven thousand five hundred seamen, were employed; circumstances, especially the latter, which, considered with regard to their maritime force, were of themselves as valuable to France, as the revenue of the fishery itself: hence Charlevoix, in his History of New France, justly observes, "That this fishery was a more valuable source of wealth and power to France, than even the mines of Peru or Mexico would be."

This great branch of trade may be said to have depended upon the possession of the Island of Cape Breton, on account of its affording them a convenient harbour to supply and protect it; but this they have since found means to carry on in a very profitable manner to themselves without it. However, there are other great advantages which the French received from their possession of this island. France has not one sea-port for the relief and shelter of her trading ships, either to or from the West Indies, open to them any where in North America to the northward of the river Mississippi; and consequently the

whole trade must for the future be exposed to the English privateers from the northern colonies in time of war, without any place of strength to which they can retreat, but Louisburgh served them as an harbour for their ships employed in this trade to resort to for wood and water, to clean or repair, for convoy from thence to Old France, and on account of any distress. To all this must be added, that the possession of this island put it into their power to annoy the trade of the British northern colonies in time of war, with their privateers from this harbour, to such a degree, that it has ever been called by the English the Dunkirk of North America.

S E C T. VI.

*Of the Island of St. John.*

*Its Situation, Extent, and Produce.*

THOUGH the island of St. John is seated in the neighbourhood of Cape Breton, and lies partly between it and the continent, and consequently has nearly the same climate, yet it greatly exceeds the island just mentioned, with respect to its pleasantness and the fertility of its soil. It is computed to be about sixty miles in length, and has not only a commodious harbour for carrying on the fishery, but abounds with a variety of useful timber and most kinds of game common to the neighbouring country. This island is so fertile, and was so well improved while possessed by the French, that it was justly styled the granary of Canada, which it furnished with great plenty of most sorts of corn, as well as great quantities of beef and pork; and, when last taken, had upwards of ten thousand head of black cattle, and some of the farmers raised twelve hundred bushels of corn annually. It has several rivers, which abound with salmon, trout, eels, &c. and the surrounding sea affords plenty of sturgeon, plaice, and most kinds of shell-fish. An island of this advantage was at once carefully cultivated, and its importance concealed from the English, lest it should induce them to make themselves masters of it, and by that means cut off the principal supplies from Quebec. In this island are yet considerable quantities of land uncultivated, which, by a proper improvement, would render it still more valuable.

When this island was surrendered to colonel Rollo, it had four thousand inhabitants; and, to the disgrace of the governor, there were found in his house several English scalps, which were brought there to market by the savages of Nova Scotia; this being the place where they were encouraged to carry on this barbarous and inhuman trade.

The important conquest of the islands of Cape Breton and St. John filled the whole kingdom with exultation; and eleven pair of colours, taken at Louisburgh, were, by his majesty's order, carried in a pompous parade, escorted by a detachment of foot-guards, from Kensington palace to the cathedral of St. Paul, where they were deposited as trophies, under a discharge of cannon, and other expressions of triumph and exultation.

Both this island and that of Cape Breton are at present under the governor of Nova Scotia, as are also several small adjacent islands.