

Q. How are their vessels rigged, and what is their average burthen?—A. Mostly schooners, some few sloops, and forty-five tons average.

Q. At what periods do they arrive on the coast and depart?—A. Arrive the beginning of June, depart the 10th of September.

Q. Are they active and enterprising in their fishery? Are they remarked to be more successful in their fishing than our people?—A. Particularly so, always more active and successful than us.

Q. What seal fishery do they carry on?—A. None.

Q. What whale fishery do they carry on?—A. None.

Memorandum.—To get the best information you can from any Americans you may meet with, respecting their fishery on those parts of Labrador which you may not visit, inquiring if they have any fishery at the Magdalen Islands, and how far it extends up the Gulf of St. Lawrence?—A. At the Magdalen Islands they carry on very little fishery, they dry their fish there. They have no fishery of any consequence higher up than the Magdalen Islands.

Q. If you find an intelligent man, he may be able to give you much useful information respecting the American fisheries, as to the manner of carrying it on and the whole number of vessels and men employed in it, with the wages or shares generally paid; or whether the crews take up vessels from ship owners and fish on their own account, and what bounties they receive?—A. They generally sail in schooners from Boston, Plymouth, &c. The men generally receive shares to the amount of 280 or 300 dollars if they have a good voyage. They calculate the number of vessels in the Gulf and employed on the different banks at 1,360, and their fishermen at 10,600. The owners have generally one-third of the fish for their vessels, the rest is divided among the crew according to the sum they have laid in at their first fitting out.

Q. To what market do they generally carry their fish?—A. Salt fish to France and America; all their dry fish to the Mediterranean; some to the West Indies, which is generally their worst fish.

Q. To what ports on this coast do they generally resort?—A. The Americans when they come on the coast, do not fish at any particular place, but follow the fish sometimes 90 or 100 miles, and salt them at sea, then go into port and cure them; while their fish is drying, they send their boats out to catch fish, which they clean in their vessels, and heave the gully overboard, and which seems to be the general complaint along the coast, as by these means they effectually ruin the bait.

No. 3.

Mr. Morier to the Marquess Wellesley.—(Received January 14, 1811.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 3, 1810.

IN the event of another Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and this country, it is probable that one of the most interesting questions to be considered will be the propriety of allowing this country to continue in the enjoyment of two very essential branches of commerce which she has hitherto carried on (without an equivalent on her part) through the extreme indulgence of Great Britain, the fishery on the coast of British North America, and the trade in the East Indies.

With a view to obtain information on those subjects, I had, on my arrival in this country, addressed Circulars to His Majesty's Consuls at the different ports of the United States, desiring them to furnish me as accurate returns as could be procured of the tonnage, seamen, and capital employed by the merchants in the United States in those two branches of commerce; and I have the honour to inclose two reports with returns from Mr. Allen at Boston, the one on the fisheries, and the other on the India trade; and one from Mr. Gilpin at Rhode Island.

It would require more information than I am as yet in possession of to point out to your Lordship the advantages which those two branches of commerce afford to this country; but it would appear, at first sight, that our taking from them the fisheries would give employment to so many more of our seamen; and there is no doubt that, with regard to the India trade, although the profits to the merchants employed in it are not very great, they have been in the habit of underselling us in the different ports of Europe, and even of smuggling (tea in particular) to His Majesty's Colonies in North America. This, possibly, might for the present, be