

Inhabiting Nova Scotia, who are entirely in the French interest, few British Vessels dare to venture to cure their fish there; & the French from Cape Breton, contrary to the Treaty of Utrecht (by which they are expressly excluded from all kind of fishing on the coasts which lie towards the East beginning from the Island commonly called Sables inclusively, and thence stretching along towards the South west,) ingross almost the entire benefit of this valuable trade, to which they have set up an unreasonable pretence, as appears by the daily disputes we have with them concerning the fishery at Canço; for which reasons, it would be for your Majesties Service, that some small Forts might be built without loss of time, in proper places upon the Coast & Islands from Cape Sables to the Gut of Canço, for the security of this Trade, & particularly on Saint George's Island, which is one of those that form the Cape of Canço, & has the greater Command of the little Bay there; which will be the more necessary, in regard that there are no Forts or fortifications in this Province, but one at Annapolis Royal, in the Bay of Fundy, with a Garrison of five companies of about forty men each; whereas the french at Cape Breton are very strong, having built two considerable Forts there, give all manner of encouragement to such people as are willing to settle with them, & are actually settling some other Islands on the Coast of Nova Scotia.

It will likewise be of great importance, that a small man of War should be constantly employed to attend this Colony, which has at present so many difficulties to struggle with.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The next Province is that of New Hampshire. The soil belongs to a proprietor, but the Government is in your Majesty. This Colony lies between the Massachusetts Bay & the province of Maine, which last is comprehended in the Charter of the Massachusetts Bay. King James the First, did, by his Letters patents of the third of November in the 15th year of his Reign, grant to the Duke of Lenox (under the name of the Council of Plymouth) "All that part & portion of that Country, now commonly called New England, which is situate, lying & being between the Latitude of 40 degrees & 45 of Northerly Latitude, together with the Seas & Islands lying within one hundred miles of any part of the said coast of the country aforesaid."

The Council of Plymouth did, by their Indenture of the 7th November 1629, in the 5th year of the Reign of King Charles the First, grant to John Mason of London Esq. that tract of Land now called New Hampshire, the boundaries whereof are as follow, viz^t

"All that part of the main Land in New England, lying upon the Sea coast, beginning from the middle part of Merrymack river, & from thence to proceed northwards along the Sea coast to Piscattaway River, & so forwards, up within the said River, & to the furthest head thereof; & from thence Northwestward, until sixty miles be finished from the first entrance of Piscattaway River & also from Merrimack through the said River, and to the furthest head thereof, & so forward up into the Land Westward, until Sixty miles be finished; & from thence to cross over land to the sixty miles end, accounted from Piscattaway River; together with all Islands & Islets within five Leagues distance of the premises, and abutting upon the same or any part or parcel thereof."

At first this Province was under the Government of the Massachusetts Bay; but in the year 1679 King Charles the second separated it from the Massachusetts Bay & appointed a President & Council to govern the same; & in the year 1681, His said Majesty appointed Edward Cranfield His Governor of this Province; when the said Mason did, for the support