

there were a Governor and a Lieutenant-Governor, a Major, 3 Captains, and Subaltern Officers, 3 Companies of Soldiers, Gunner, 1 Bombardier, 3 Serjeants, 10 Masons, and other Artificers, 500 fighting Men, besides 300 *Indians* and *Canadians*; but the *English* have nothing like it.

The *French* came hither no more after this Descent at St. John's-Town, and they have now no Settlements in this Island, but they have *Cape Breton-Isle*, and all the Coasts of this and the other adjacent Isles, for the use of their Fishery, to dry their Fishes on Stages.

*The Cession of
Placentia,
&c. an Im-
position on
the English
Ministers.*

The Cession of the *French* Part of *Newfoundland* to the *English* was, as in the Queen's Speech to the Parliament, an Article of the *Utrecht* Peace. Her Majesty's Words, *The French consent to deliver up Newfoundland and Placentia*; but the Secret Committee observe, *it must be remember'd that in the Preliminaries, sign'd in Sept. the French had reserv'd to themselves a Liberty of taking and drying Fish in Newfoundland.* A gross Imposition this on the *English* Nation. What use can the *French* have for *Newfoundland*, but to take and dry their Fish? *Canada*, the greatest Colony they have any where, is within half a Day's Sail of *Newfoundland*, *Cape Breton-Isle* almost joining to it, and the Coast of *Newfoundland*, chiefly for their Purpose to interrupt or interfere with our Fishery. They do not want *Placentia*, being so strong as they are on the adjacent Continent, and it is a small Strength or Convenience to the *English*, who have so near them the main Strength of the *French* in *America*. Fishing Harbours we had enough before, and do still make use of them, and those Harbours were secure enough in time of Peace. They have not, by the *Utrecht* Peace, got one Coast nor one Stage from the *French* Fishing, but have absolutely given up our Right to the most commodious Place for us to fish at in all that Part of the World; a Place that almost joins to *New-Scotland*, which is contiguous with *New-England*; a Place that intercepts the Communication between *Newfoundland* and the neighbouring Colonies, and covers the *French* Colonies and Fisheries, if ever there should be occasion to attack them. Upon the whole, let the Value of that Cession, *Cape Breton-Isle*, abandon'd by us to the *French*, and that of taking and drying Fish in *Newfoundland*, which in short is the *Newfoundland* Trade, be fairly weigh'd against the Advantages of our having *Placentia*, it will presently be seen that the latter is a Feather in the Scale against Gold; and let it be cast up how much the garrisoning and governing that Place, and its Appurtenances, have cost the *English* in 30 Years, without a Penny-worth of real Service in all that Time, or ever like to be, in

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