

## ABSTRACT.

One of the Ports within the Limits before mentioned in *Newfoundland*, shall proceed again to the said Banks, and return to the said Island with another Cargo of Fish, shall be intitled to Forty Pounds each."

consideration; and this difficulty, which is far from being chimerical, did not perhaps occur at the time of passing the Bill, though it would certainly have appeared and created innumerable dissensions among the fishermen, if the bounties had held out to them sufficient encouragement. The trouble and ceremony, required in collecting them, has also contributed to render the clause useless. The Act only admits the first twenty-five vessels to claim the Forty Pounds; and supposing this sum to be a matter of temptation, we may reasonably conclude, that a spirit of emulation would prevail among the masters and crews of vessels; and that, eager to serve their employers, they would endeavour to get their cargoes, and arrive within the time prescribed. Let us then imagine, that forty vessels have caught the quantity of fish required (and this conjecture is far from being strained, when it is recollected that the island till lately had between 3 and 400 sail of vessels employed annually on the Banks); and that they have arrived at their respective ports in the night, and at the same time; how is their right to the bounty to be decided? In the great zeal of these people to claim it, and apprehensive of losing it after all their labour and dispatch, it is very possible that they may antedate their arrival. It is seldom that his Majesty's ships are in any of the out-ports; nor are there officers appointed at all of them; and those that are appointed are themselves concerned in the fishery, or at least are so connected with it, as to have an interest in deciding partially, where a matter of doubt arises. The enraged master and his crew perhaps repair to a magistrate, and make an affidavit of the time of their arrival, and of landing the fish; and here is a door opened to perjury, with an invitation almost too strong for vulgar minds to resist.

## REMARK.

jections for a moment, and allowing that the balance amounting to 7/. 10s. 6d. is an object to the merchants, yet the difficulty of deciding to whom the bounties are due, deserves some

Animosities