

Head. At any Rate, it is a Matter where we are to hope rather for Consolation than Cure; for I do not see how such a Population is to be rooted out, or indeed thinned, so as to make any considerable Diminution. There have been Projects, on former Occasions, when the Island was thought to be overrun with Inhabitants, for sending People to Nova Scotia, and other Places, where Inhabitants were wanted, but I do not remember that these were ever carried into effect.

Of the present Triennial floating Government.

I cannot help saying, that the grand Means employed to prevent the Increase of Inhabitants has, in my Opinion, contributed to their Increase. It has all along been the Inclination to say, that there should be no Resident Government, because, if there was, Newfoundland would become a Colony. None have been more strenuous than the Western Merchants in keeping up the Cry against a Governor; they have constantly alledged the above Reason, and that Reason has always passed for a good one.

I take the Liberty of doubting whether this Reason was a good one. I never can be brought to think, but that placing a Governor there, whose Business it should be to prevent People settling, would have been a more probable Method of preventing it than continuing the present floating Government, which has no regular Authority to send Persons Home, and which departs from the Island just at the Time when the Seamen and Fishermen are hesitating whether