

derness of her own country, and a grave of South America, than to divide its riches with any other of the European nations. The Dutch have been guilty of every public and private crime to deprive other commercial nations of the spice-trade. They have oftentimes even thrown whole cargoes into the sea, rather than they would sell them at a low price. France rather chose to give up Louisiana to the Spaniards, than to let it fall into the hands of the English; and England destroyed the neutral French vessels to prevent their returning to France. Can we assert, after this, that policy and society were instituted for the happiness of mankind? Yes, they were instituted to screen the wicked man, and to secure the man in power.

Since the emigration of a people who owed their happiness and virtues to their obscurity, Nova-Scotia has been but thinly inhabited. It seems as if the envy that depopulated this country had blasted it. At least the punishment of the injustice falls upon the authors of it; for there is not a single inhabitant to be seen upon all that length of coast extending from the river St. Lawrence to the peninsula; nor do the rocks, the sands and marshes, with which it is at present covered, give us any room to hope that it ever will be peopled. The cod, indeed, which abounds in fumes of its bays, draws every year a small number of fishermen during the season.

There are only three settlements in the rest of the province. Annapolis, the most ancient of them, waits at the mouth of a long bay, for fresh inhabitants to take the place of the unhappy Frenchmen who were driven from this fruitful, though now desert country; and it seems to promise them rich returns from the fertility of its soil to recompence them for this loss.

Lunenburg, the second settlement, was founded a few years ago by 800 Germans, who came from Halifax. At first, it did not promise much success; but is considerably improved by the unremitted industry of that warlike and wise people, who, contented with defending their own territory, seldom go out of it, but to cultivate others which they are not ambitious of conquering. They have fertilized all the countries under the English dominion, wherever chance had conducted them.

Halifax will always continue to be the principal place of the province; an advantage it owes to the encouragements incessantly lavished upon it by the mother country. Their expenses for this settlement, from its first foundation to the year 1759, amounted to more than 90,000 livres (3,937*l.* 10*s.*) per annum. Such fa-

vours could not be ill bestowed upon a city, which, from its situation, is the natural rendezvous of both the land and sea forces, which Great-Britain sometimes thinks herself obliged to maintain in America, as well for the defence her fisheries, and the protection of her sugar islands, as for the purpose of maintaining her connections with her northern colonies. Halifax, indeed, derives more of its splendour from the motion and activity which is constantly kept up in its ports, than either from its cultivation, which is trifling, or from its fisheries, which have not come to any great degree of perfection, though they consist of cod, mackarel, and the seal. It is not even in the state it should be as a fortified town. The malversations of persons employed, who, instead of the fortifications ordered and paid for by the mother-country, have only erected a few batteries, without any ditch round the city, make it liable to fall, without resistance, into the hands of the first enemy that attacks it. In 1757 the inhabitants of the county of Halifax rated the value of their houses, cattle, and merchandize, at about 6,750,000 livres (295,332*l.* 10*s.*). This sum, which makes about two thirds of the riches of the whole province, has not increased above one fourth since that time.

The desire of putting a stop to this state of languor was, probably, one of the motives which induced the British government to constitute a court of admiralty for all North-America, and to place the seat of it at Halifax in the year 1763. Before the period of this establishment, the justices of the peace used to be the judges of all violations of the act of navigation; but the partiality of these magistrates for the colony where they were born, and which had chosen them, made their ministry useless, and even prejudicial to the mother-country. It was presumed, that if enlightened men were sent from Europe, and well supported, their determinations would meet with more respect. The event has justified this policy. Since that regulation, the commercial laws have been better observed; but still great inconveniences have ensued from the vast distance of many provinces from the seat of this new tribunal. It is probable, that, to remedy these, administration will be forced to multiply the number of the courts, and disperse them in places convenient for the people to have access to them. Nova-Scotia will then lose the temporary advantage it gains from being the resort of those who come for justice; but it will probably find out other natural sources of wealth within itself. It has some, indeed, that are