

From these Reports, as contained in the Papers hereunto annexed, it will appear to Your Majesty, that the Fortifications still continue in a State of Ruin and Decay; that the illicit Commerce between Your Majesty's Subjects and the French has been greatly enlarged and extended; that from Claims of exclusive Property set up by Your Majesty's Subjects, the Difficulties attending the Execution of those Instructions of Your Majesty, relative to that Part of the Coast where the French are allowed a concurrent Fishery, have become more and more urgent; and that the same disordered State of Inhabitancy still operates to subvert that Plan of Fishery adopted by the Statute of King William, and to render its Provisions and Regulations nugatory and useless; insomuch that it is the Sense and Opinion of Your Majesty's Governor, that it would be better for the National Interest, in respect to the encouraging the Increase of Seamen, which is One main Object of the Act of King William, not to have any Fishery at all, than that it should continue to be carried on under the Disadvantages that at present attend it, in this View of the Spirit and Intention of that Act.

How far Your Majesty's Governor is well-founded in this Opinion, we do not take upon us to determine; but certain it is, that the present State of this Island, and of the Territories dependent thereupon, does require the fullest Consideration; and that a Revision of the several Regulations which have been heretofore made in respect thereto is now become essentially necessary.

Every Information which this Office can furnish, relative to the ancient Policy and present State of this important Part of the National Interests, is already before Your Majesty: But that nothing may be wanting which may be of Use in this great Consideration, we further beg Leave humbly to lay before Your Majesty a Paper of Observations upon the State of the Newfoundland Fisheries, communicated to us by Your Majesty's Governor since his Return to this Kingdom; in which Paper are contained several Propositions for the future Regulation of this important Branch of Commerce, tending to re-establish it upon the ancient Policy of a Ship Fishery; the Propriety of which Policy Your Majesty's Governor appears, in all his Plans and Measures, to have zealously adopted.