

By treaty of peace and neutrality for America, anno 1656, Nov. 6, 16, between Great-Britain and France, in one another's districts they are not to trade, fish, or harbour (except in cases of distress to repair, wood, and water) but iniquitously by the treaty of Utrecht, our corrupt administration granted to the French the liberty of catching and curing of fish in the most advantageous places, "on that part of Newfoundland from Cape-Bonavista to the northermost part of the island, and from thence running down by the western side to Point-Riche:" there cod-fish are so plenty and fall in so near the shore, that the French fishermen without the charge or trouble of hook and line, catch them by a kind of grappling, as our privateers discovered when they made prizes of several French fish-traders in the summer, 1744, in the northern harbours of Newfoundland: by this unaccountable concession, the French had already the better of us in the fishery trade, and in a few years more would have supplied all the markets in Europe, and by underselling, entirely excluded us from the Cod-fishery, which is more beneficial and easier wrought than the Spanish mines of Mexico and Peru.

It would be a vast advantage to our trade and navigation, if by the ensuing congress for a general peace, we could obtain the monopoly of the North-America Cod-fishery; there are precedents of monopolies allowed amongst sovereign princes: the Dutch have engrossed the spice-trade (pepper excepted) of the East-Indies. But if the French are still to be allowed some share in this fishery, let them cure their fish upon the islands of the gulph of St. Laurence, and upon the S. E. shore of Terra de Labaradore near the straits of Belle Isle.

By the said treaty of Utrecht, our corrupted court gave up to the French the island of Cape-Breton, and the other islands in the gulph of St. Laurence, with this pernicious clause, *liberty to fortify*. Accordingly in Cape-Breton or L'Isle Royale, was erected the fortress of Louisbourg,