

while those who have been at the expence of the whole outfit of the vessel are obliged to receive a dividend which may not be worthy their acceptance. The loss of their debt may reduce them to bankruptcy; and, as trade is so complicated, it is impossible to answer how far their failure may operate on others. This is not the only mischief. A number of industrious poor may be thrown out of employment, and their respective parishes perhaps become charged with their maintenance, or that of their helpless families.

This could not possibly happen to the seamen and fishermen at Newfoundland, even allowing that they lose the whole amount of what may be due to them. Their situation would not be affected, nor their credit impaired. They would suffer a temporary loss, which they would not feel beyond the moment, except they had wives and children to support. Besides, this clause tends to encourage idleness among them, and has very frequently been productive of great inconveniences to their employers. There are abundance of instances in which the fishermen have caught fish and oil sufficient to cover their wages, and, secured by this clause, have afterwards neglected the remainder of the season; insolence too has been added to injustice, and they have refused to suffer the fish and oil to be taken out of store till their wages have been paid, or secured to them to their own satisfaction.

ABSTRACT.

“ And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any such Seaman or Fisherman shall at any Time wilfully absent himself from his Duty or Employ, without the Leave and Consent of his Hirer or Employer, or shall wilfully neglect or refuse to work according to the true Intent and Meaning of such Contract or Agreement, he shall for every Day he shall

REMARK VII.

The end proposed by this clause is defeated by the poverty of the Fine, which, instead of operating as a check to negligence, idleness, and disobedience, encourages them. Seamen or fishermen may combine together, and by absenting themselves ten days from their duty in the fishing season, ruin their