

firm the aforesaid Charter, with an additional Clause to prevent the transporting of Bye Boatkeepers and Servants ; viz'.

“ Moreover, and further than was ordained by the Laws of Our said late Father, and for the Encouragement of Our Subjects in Newfoundland, and in the Seas adjoining, and for the Benefit of the said Trade there, We do hereby straitly charge, prohibit, and forbid all and every the Owners of Ships trading in the aforesaid Newfoundland, that they nor any of them do carry or transport, or permit or suffer any Person or Persons to be carried or transported, in their or any of their Ships, to the said Newfoundland, other than such as are of his or their own Ship's Company, or belonging thereunto, and are upon the said Ship's Hire and Employment, or such as are to plant and do intend to settle there.”

But this Prohibition not being enforced by proper Penalties (which were now become more necessary than formerly) it was evaded and opposed by some of the Masters and Owners of Fishing Ships, who chose rather to quit Part of their Annual Fishery by lessening the Complements of their Men and Boats than to lose the Advantage they made by carrying of Passengers, and by disposing of their trifling Adventures to the Inhabitants ; from whence several unhappy Consequences ensued ; viz'.

That the Number of the Fishing Ships and Seamen employed in Newfoundland was considerably reduced, and that the breeding up of young Men for that Service was generally neglected :

That the Price of Fish in Newfoundland was enhanced, from 14 or 16 Rials per Quintal as aforesaid, to about 24 Rials the Quintal, whereby the Consumption thereof was lessened in all Foreign Parts :

That the Merchants of London were induced to set up a Fishery in New England, which has been ever since carried on to the great Discouragement of the Adventurers ; and though it may possibly be a Question, whether this unlucky Management did not first prompt and encourage the French to settle at Placentia in 1662 ; yet it is not to be doubted, but that it contributed to the Establishment of their Fishery, and enabled them to supply not only their own Markets, but to rival us in Portugal, Spain, and Italy.

However these Innovations, by the Remissness of some, and by the Contrivance of others, were not restrained ; nor does it appear that any Notice was taken of the Complaints exhibited against those that had violated the aforesaid Law and Constitution, until the latter End of the Year 1663, when by His Majesty's Command circular Letters were wrote by the Lords of the Council to the Mayors and Magistrates of the Western Corporations, requiring them to be careful that the said Law should be punctually observed, and duly executed ; and at the same Time the Officers of the Customs were directed to charge all Masters of Ships to observe and keep the said Rule. But this Order being likewise eluded, in February 1669 his Majesty in Council again enjoined the Observance thereof, and commanded that a Return should be made of the Names of such as were Offenders, and in the mean Time to stop their proceeding on the Voyage.

And whereas the Western Adventurers had been for some Time past opposing the placing of a Governor in Newfoundland, which was proposed as  
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