

to Her late Majesty; but these people, being influenced by their Priests, have hitherto unanimously refused to take the oaths of Allegiance to your Majesty, unless they may be allowed an exception in favour of France, which would render their engagements to your Majesty entirely ineffectual.

But as we foresaw, that difficulties were likely to arise upon this subject, so in the instructions which we prepared for Colonel Philipps, Your Majesties Governor of this Province, a provision was made for this Case, & he is enjoined to prohibit the said french inhabitants refusing to take the Oaths, the liberty of fishing on the Coasts, and to prevent their removing their effects, till your Majesty's further pleasure shall be known; & considering their behaviour, we are of opinion it will be for your Majesty's service that they should be ordered to quit the Province.

But as to their effects, in regard of the friendship subsisting between the two Nations, provided the said French inhabitants do leave their immovable effects, such as Barns, & dwelling houses, in good condition, we should humbly conceive, they might by your Majesty's special Grace and favour, be allowed to carry off, to such place as they shall think most convenient, all their moveables.

Upon their removal this Province will become almost entirely unpeopled; and as it is the Northern frontier to your Majesty's Colonies, we think it is of the highest consequence, that the same should be settled as soon as possible: which reason, we would humbly propose to your Majesty, the sending four Regiments thither; and altho' we are sensible of the expence this would occasion for some time to Great Britain, yet we believe, the same will not be thought unreasonable, considering the inclination the french have shewn to encroach upon your Majesty's frontiers in these parts, the great strength they have at Cape Breton, in the neighbourhood of this Province, which will be increased by the removal of the french inhabitants from Nova Scotia, (altho' that will be a much less evil than suffering them to remain where they are,) and that no other way, so speedy as this, can be proposed for peopling of Nova Scotia.

We are likewise of opinion, that all due encouragement should be given to such of your Majesty's subjects, as shall be willing to settle in this Province; and that your Majesty's Governor may be enabled to pursue his Instructions upon this head, we take the liberty to lay before Your Majesty the necessity there is, that your Majesty's Surveyor General of the woods should be forthwith ordered to repair to Nova Scotia, there to set apart 200,000 Acres in certain tracts of Land, contiguous to the Sea Coast or Navigable rivers, proper for producing of masts & other timber for the service of your Majesty's Royal Navy; for after this shall be done, & not before, the said Governor is empowered by his Instructions, to make Grants of land in small parcels, under the Quit rent reserved to your Majesty of one shilling, or three pounds of hemp for the service of your Royal Navy, for every fifty Acres.

If this Country was well settled, it would be capable of a very extensive trade. There are to be had as good masts, as any in all America, in great plenty. Pitch, Tar, Rozin & Turpentine may be made in all parts of the Country; & Hemp & Flax might be raised there without great expence; to which, in our opinion, all due encouragement should be given, that Great Britain may in time, become independent of her Northern neighbours for Naval Stores.

But the branch of Trade in this Country, which seems most capable of immediate improvement, is that of the fishery upon the Coast, from Cape Sable, to the gut of Canço, which is perhaps more valuable than any other in America; but for want of protection against the Indians,