

that they are often refractory and ungovernable; and that, to support their Extravagances, they are guilty of many Embezzlements and Thefts; which are Difficulties that are insuperable in a Fishing Voyage, the Success whereof absolutely depends upon the utmost Care and Frugality of the Master, and the Diligence and hard Labour of the Fishermen, especially when they are to contend with a Foreign Rival, who cherishes Industry, and crushes every Irregularity that increases the Charge of their Fishery.

Neither are these the only Hardships under which the Fishing Ships labour, for upon their fitting out, the best and ablest Fishermen generally decline serving in them until the Boat Keepers have their full Complements, the Boat Keepers Crews being exempted from working on Board Ship in their Passage, and in Newfoundland, when bad Weather hinders their Attendance on the Fishery.

And whereas the said Bye Boat Keepers always take their Passage on the earliest Ships and best Sailers, the Fishing Admirals, under the Pretence of their being Freighters of Ships, put them in Possession of the best and most convenient Places by the Water Side, to the great Prejudice and Discouragement of the later Ships, whose Masters have been frequently constrained to hire both Stages and Room from the said Boat Keepers, and obliged to carry their Fish so far backward, that they could not avoid allowing One Man extraordinary to each Boat.

Moreover, since it is now customary for many of the Bye Boat Keepers to remain every Winter in the Country, to secure their Stages and Rooms against the next Fishing Season, and that the aforesaid Act of 10th and 11th Gul. III. has provided, "That all such Persons as since the 25th of March 1685 have built, cut out, or made (or at any Time hereafter shall build, cut out, or make) any Houses, Stages, Cook Rooms, Trainfats, or other Conveniencies for Fishing there, that did not belong to Fishing Ships since the said Year 1685, shall and may peaceably and quietly enjoy the same to his or their own Use, without any Disturbance of or from any Person or Persons whatsoever:"

It is found by Experience, that the Shipping which was employed in the Fishery about the Time King Charles the Second granted his Second Charter, cannot be now accommodated as formerly in the principal Harbours where the Planters generally remain.

For the Number of those Ships being reduced some Years before 1685 to One Third Part or thereabouts of the Number that was Annually employed in 1675, 1676, and 1677, and the Trade continuing near upon the same Foot from 1685 to the Time the said Act was under Consideration, the said Ships neither did nor could occupy in that Interval more than One Third Part of the Stages and Rooms which had been in the Possession of the Fishing Ships in the aforesaid Three Years; and without Doubt the rest were either decayed or destroyed in their Absence. But the Inhabitants having built, cut out, and made, since 1685, several Houses, Stages, Trainfats, &c. in the same Places where the other Two Third Parts of the Fishing Ships, Rooms, and Stages were formerly erected and fixed, the Fishing Ships are deprived by the Act of the Right they had to the said Places; wherefore, therefore, they shall be again encouraged to return to the Fishery, they will be obliged to hire their Conveniencies of the Planters in the same