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implicitly approve of the measures of government, as if the present ministers were at once omniscient and infallible; and that those, who were not *for them*, must absolutely as a natural consequence be *against them*.

I do not wish to deny them those divine attributes with which their friends in the abundance of their zeal have so prodigally, and in my opinion so prematurely, complimented them; but I think that a latitude should be allowed to us in politics as well as in religion, or the exercise of our patience will be as necessary as that of our faith.

The part, however, that I have taken implies no censure either on ministers or on parliament. The command at Newfoundland had been entrusted to a man who busied himself in fancying he discovered evils which in fact never existed, in finding fault where no blame could be laid, and in proposing regulations which proved a disposition to be officious and troublesome, without a capacity to be useful.

On my arrival last summer at Newfoundland, it was my first care to enquire into the state of the fishery: I compared it with those of former years, and found it was considerably diminished*; the causes of it were explained to me, with the whole history of Sir Hugh Palliser's administration. The general interest which every individual of this country has, or ought to have, in the preservation of its commerce, would alone have justified my com-

* A list of ships which arrived at the port of St. John's, in Newfoundland, with the imports of rum and molasses, and the exports of fish, from the above port, for the years 1776 and 1777. Extracted from the custom-house account.

Years.	Ships.		Rum.	Molasses.	Fish.
	No.	Tonnage.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Quintals.
1776	178	12,498	197,770	60,439	207,793
1777	144	10,210	83,204	19,468	201,114
Decrease only in one year at one port.	of 34	2,288	14,566	45,971	6,679

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