

the various laws that have passed for the encouragement of our fisheries.

It was stated in the debates upon the last peace, by those who opposed that wise and necessary measure, that the stipulation respecting Newfoundland had annihilated our fishery there, and in effect surrendered it to the French; and this, like other assertions of the same nature, was re-echoed in the publications of that party, and particularly in some of Lord Sheffield's pamphlets.

Immediately before the breaking out of the last war, when our Newfoundland fishery was at the highest, the whole number of ships and men employed, and the quantity of fish they brought to market, were as follows:

	Ships.	Men.	Quintals of fish.
1773 -	525	3,376	489,665
1774 -	533	4,281	516,358

In the year 1789, the number of ships employed is indeed less than in the two years above stated; but the tonnage of the ships in the former period is not stated so as to enable us to form a comparison of the quantity of shipping employed. The number of men is much the same as in the largest of the two years, and
the