

the season. The war which began in 1756, commonly called the seven-years war, ended in 1763, during which time, the British Nation having deprived the French of their possessions in North-America, and having, after that event, no fears of rivalry in this quarter, the Province of Nova-Scotia became neglected by Government, but the merchants had not, as yet, acquired that capital which was sufficient for the increase of the fisheries. During the following peace until the commencement of the American revolutionary war in 1774, a period of eleven years, the New-England colonists engrossed almost the whole of the fisheries, both great and small; and Nova-Scotia became no further an object of attention, than as the harbour of Halifax furnished the best station for ships of war. The trade therefore, extended very little beyond those supplies which the garrison and the few ships retained on the station, in time of peace required. The revolutionary war, which ended at the close of the year 1783, a period of nine years, greatly increased the trade of the Province, because it excluded the New-Englanders from the Fisheries and the West-India markets, and likewise increased the expenditure of the army and navy. The Cod and Small Fisheries flourished during this period; but still few persons of large capitals embarked their property in it. The fish continued to be chiefly taken by the poor people, who, in a manner by anticipation, mortgaged their *catch*, in the spring of the year to those merchants and shopkeepers in Halifax, who advanced supplies to them for that purpose. This proved a more profitable trade, and less precarious to the Halifax traders, than it would have been, had they embarked personally in the venture. Halifax, at that time, was almost the only port of trade in these Atlantic Provinces, for the country traders also received their goods, liquors and salt from the capital, and retailed them to those fishermen who did not leave their own harbours in the autumn and spring; but still the fish taken, centred in Halifax.—By passing, however, through one other channel, it became somewhat enhanced in price; yet the trade to the West-Indies and the Fisheries continued to increase.

At the close of the Revolutionary war, the Americans, in that respect, affecting to forget the new character they had assumed, began to resort to the West-Indies in great numbers, and were much more protected there, than, consistently with the fundamental colonial laws, they ought to have been. These Northern Colonies owe it to the exertions and perseverance of Captain Horatio Nelson, then on command in the West-Indies, that, for a while, the American vessels were excluded from the British Islands. At length, after he quitted the West-India station, the Americans, with their accustomed perseverance, renewed their efforts; and, in a great measure, succeeded in supplanting these colonies in those markets.

These colonies, however, by his intervention, were enabled to con-