

Should Britain, thus freed from the uninterrupted attention she has been obliged to bestow on external objects, be at liberty to examine her own internal condition, she would be astonished to find what unobserved treasures she possesses within herself; treasures which her own industry may effectually secure, in spite of all the efforts of mankind to wrest them from her; treasures which, if they had not belonged to herself, she would have coveted, and have made inconceivable exertions to obtain, had they been to be found at the extremities of the earth; but which, seemingly for no other reason but because they are at our door, and completely under our command, we have entirely disregarded. The treasures I speak of, are the fisheries on our coasts; the value of which has never yet been attempted to be ascertained\*. I say, they have not been attempted to be ascertained; because a few observations, that  
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\* See on this subject Sir Walter Raleigh, and Morison's tracts; also Observations on the Means of exciting a Spirit of National Industry; also Locke's Essays on the Trade, Manufactures, and Fisheries of Scotland.