

298 A SUMMARY, HISTORICAL and POLITICAL, &c.
 especially of cod-fish. 5. That from the blubber or *penicula adiposa* of seals and sea-cows. There are two sorts of seals, one sort has its skin dappled or in small spots, the other sort called the Ice-seal, hath a large black patch, runs slow, and is killed by a small blow on the head; 500 have been killed in a harbour at Newfoundland in a morning; the skins and blubber is their mercantile produce. The sea-cow or morse is plenty upon the coasts of Nova-Scotia and the gulph of St. Laurence, particularly at the island of St. John's; it is of the bigness of a middling cow (it is not the same with the manatee of the gulph of Mexico) a very thick skin with hair like that of a seal.

In cold winters the whales, as do other fish, keep in deep water. The New-England people whale with a drudge or stop-water, not with long ropes or warps as the Hollanders. Upon the coast of New-England, whales go northward from the middle of March to the middle of May. About 30 years ago, *communibus annis*, were exported from New-England about 5,000 barrels of fish-oil, at this writting anno 1748, about 10,000 barrels, notwithstanding the whales keeping a greater offing.

2. HERRINGS. In this tribe of fishes there are many species or distinct kinds, viz. The shadd, the true herring, the alewife, the Sardinia, the anchovie, &c. In this article, I write only of the true or merchantable herring; in good quality and large quantities, they seem peculiar to the coasts of the British islands, and I shall in the first place mention these as a standard.

Upon the coasts of Great Britain, herrings make their first appearance northward (at the Western Islands of Scotland they appear in the spring) as it is commonly said, at the * Shetland islands in n. lat. 61 d. beginning

* Shetland islands are the *ultima Thule* of the ancients: in the winter the seas are open, but harraßed with continued storms, so

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