

so often by public and private Opinions of Persons best able to judge of its Merits.

After this View of the State of the Island under the Government of Statute 10th and 11th William III, the Committee will give very little Credit to the Gentlemen who describe those Times in such Terms of Applause. "Confidence and Harmony" (says One of them) "subsisted between all Descriptions of People, and Courts were held with Dignity, and had good Effect, from the Example of the Judges, to prevent Animosities and Disputes." Such Mr. Ougier represents to have been the old System of Newfoundland.

It appears from these Extracts, that there has always been a Set of Men who have invariably set themselves against every Attempt to introduce Order and Justice into that Island; that these Men have looked upon Newfoundland as their own Property, to be enjoyed exclusively of all the Rest of His Majesty's Subjects; and that every Thing they have urged at different Times has been to secure these private Interests of their own, independent of any Competition from other Traders, and of any Inspection from Government and its Officers.

For attaining this End, they have resorted to popular Topics such as "No Residents"—"A free Fishery carried on from Great Britain," &c. but in their Practice it has been found, that they were the First Encouragers of Residency and Population in carrying over the