

preparing the flax and Hemp for exportation, will divert them from manufacturing coarse things for their own use, as it will enable them to purchase those of a better sort manufactured and imported from Great Britain.

8th

POPULATION

The present state of population may be easily seen by the annexed (*a*) Account of the number of people in this Government taken about a twelve months ago.

There is great reason to believe this Colony has been upon the decrease in this respect for near twenty years past, the Wars which they have been almost constantly carrying on, the strictness with which Marriages within a certain degree of consanguinity were forbidden except by dispensation, the obliging Strangers inclined to engage in that state, previously to prove their not being married before, and the prohibition of intermarriages between protestants and Roman Catholicks were so many bars to the propagation of the Species, these difficulties are now in a good measure removed; the men are an active, strong, and healthy race, the Women are extremely prolific and in all human probability the next twenty years will produce a vast increase of People.
