

either from the inexperience of the crews, or from bad weather, or from not being there at the time when the greatest quantity of fish is to be found on the banks, or from other circumstances, make unprofitable voyages, and the trade at present, they say, is not worth following. The population of the island was stated, a few years since, to be about sixty thousand, but, perhaps, at present it does not actually amount to much more than half that number of fixed inhabitants, although it would employ and support, in happiness and comfort, six millions.

It is always through bad management when any good or valuable undertaking fails of success, and such has ever been the case with the British Fisheries. That the business of fishing is of use and value to society, both in affording employment for the maritime class of people, and in supplying food, as well as employment, for numberless other persons ashore, cannot be doubted, and why the Fisheries of this country have not been more successful, can only be attributed to the cause before mentioned. Other countries have succeeded in their fisheries, from which they have derived their greatest resources of power and wealth; and this country, though more peculiarly and more advantageously situated than any other for that pursuit, and to which it would afford the greatest good, seems incapable of ap-