

necessary for the Residence of the French at St. Pierre and Miquelon, as well as for their Fishery there, to have Wood from Newfoundland. The French are also desirous of availing themselves of the Skill and Intrepidity of our Fishermen, and do not therefore discourage their Desertion, to which the dissipated Turn of the Residents at Newfoundland too much inclines them. They frequently also want to purchase our Boats and Fishing Utensils, as being better adapted to their respective Purposes than their own; and when their Fishery has been unsuccessful, they, as well as the Americans, endeavour to obtain a Cargo of our Fish, that they may at least make a Freight to some Market. To prevent these Practices is of the utmost Consequence to the Interest of the British Fishery; with this View the Committee directed Your Majesty's Law Officers to prepare proper Clauses for the Punishment of those concerned in these Practices to be inserted in an Act for that Purpose, and which are hereunto annexed, N<sup>o</sup> 5. And the Committee recommend, that among other Punishments for Offences against the proposed Act, Your Majesty's Governor should have Authority to send the Offenders, in certain Cases, back to Europe, as this Punishment would put it out of the Power of the Offenders to repeat the Offence, and corresponds with the Policy so frequently recommended in the former Part of this Report, of removing from Newfoundland those who are disposed to pass the Winter there.

The Committee also humbly recommend, that Your Majesty's Governor be particularly directed to enforce a due Execution of the Laws, and to take Care that the French carry no Wood or Timber from Newfoundland, which it appears in Evidence they have sometimes carried when in Want of a Freight to France; and that no Frenchman be allowed to remain in the Island after the Fishing Season is over; and that no British Subject be allowed to prepare any Boat, Stage, or Flake for them against the ensuing Season.

The Merchants who attended the Committee frequently expressed a Desire of knowing whether British Subjects had a Right to fish, and to dry Fish, within the Limits where the French are, by the late Treaty, allowed to carry on their Fishery; and at the same Time complained, that several of Your Majesty's Subjects had been ordered by the Commanders of French Men of War to remove from within these Limits. The Committee did not think themselves sufficiently informed or authorized to answer this Question. The Doubt arises from the Manner in which the Duke of Manchester's Declaration of the 3d Day of September 1783 is worded, and can only be satisfactorily cleared up by Reference to the Correspondence which passed on that Occasion. But the Committee are decidedly of Opinion, that, by the Words of the Treaty, Your Majesty continues to be the sole Sovereign of the Island of Newfoundland: And if it shall be the Opinion of Your Majesty's Ministers, that British Subjects ought no longer to fish, in Concurrence with the French, within the Limits above-mentioned, they should be obliged to remove, by the Orders of Your Majesty's Governors, or the Commanders of Your Majesty's Ships of War, authorized by Your Majesty's Instructions for that Purpose, and not by those of the French Officers who may happen