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by Dr. Mitchell;

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sion made by us, for the right which the French had by the peace of Utrecht, is confirmed of fishing and drying their fish on the coasts of Newfoundland *. Now it is very plain from the situation of this island, and the part of the coast of Newfoundland which is for their use, that they might, and must necessarily have raised as great a fishery as ever the possession of Louisburg gave them; for the reader is greatly mistaken, if he imagines that that town assisted their fishing in any other respect, than as a port for their ships to rendezvous at. St. Peters island is as well situated as Cape Breton, and they doubtless, if ever they come to be possessed of it, will make it as great a nursery as the other.

The value of their cod fishery before we drove them quite out of it was immense. It was unbounded, and inestimable, annually employing at least a thousand sail, from two hundred to four hundred tons and twenty thousand men. In the year 1730, there was a computation made of two hundred and twenty thousand quintils of fish at Merseilles only, for a market, and *communibus annis* they cured above five millions of quintals. How dangerous a nursery of seamen has been and ever will be while in their possession is very obvious, and yet this was only their *share*; much greater indeed than ours. If we were to keep the whole of this fishery in our own hands at a peace we should gain annually two millions of pounds sterling, by the lowest computations; for it occasions a consumption of manufactures greater than what can at first be conceived. It would not only be depriving our enemies of so important a branch of their trade, but would abridge the revenue of France by lessening the consumption of French salt, the profit of which is solely in the crown, and more than half of

* The thirteenth article of the treaty of Utrecht: "The island called Newfoundland with the adjacent islands shall from this time forward belong of right wholly to Britain; and to that end the town and fortrefs of Placentia, and whatever other places in the said island in possession of the French, shall be yielded and given up, within seven months from the exchange of the ratification of this treaty, or sooner if possible by the most Christian King, to those who have a commission from the Queen of Great-Britain, for that purpose. Nor shall the most Christian King, his heirs and successors, or any of their subjects at any time hereafter lay claim to any right to the said island and islands, or to any part of it or them. Moreover it shall not be lawful for the subjects of France, to fortify any place in the said island of Newfoundland, or to erect any buildings there besides stages made of boards, and huts necessary and usual for drying of fish, or to resort to the said island beyond the time necessary for fishing and drying of fish. But it shall be allowed to the subjects of France, to catch fish and to dry them on land in that part only, and in no other besides that, of the said island of Newfoundland, which stretches from the place called Cape Bonavista to the northern point of the said island, and from thence running down by the western side, reaches as far as the place called point Riche."—The clause in the British Memorial is, "Saving always the privilege granted by the thirteenth article of the treaty of Utrecht to the subjects of France, to fish and dry their codfish on a part specified of the banks of Newfoundland, which privilege is proposed to be renewed to France as aforesaid."

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