

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

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It appears from the state of the Fishery, which is subjoined to these remarks, that there were 2288 boats or shallops fitted out; in 1771, from the different ports, harbours, and bays, in and about Newfoundland; and each shallop, on an average, is allowed to take in a season three hundred quintals of fish, which produce thirty-six gallons of oil, and to employ seven men. In the same year we find 244 banking vessels; and each banker, at the lowest computation, takes ten thousand quintals of fish, and makes two tons of oil; but during the last year not above half the number of vessels were sent to the banks. The number of boats were also considerably diminished, and consequently there has been less demand for our manufactures at home, less fish and oil carried to market, and a number of men thrown out of employ. The army and navy have indeed received them with open arms; but, when our manufacturers are forced to turn soldiers and sailors, we have no great reason to be pleased with our situation. A decay of trade presages a decay of empire. It is commerce which has given Great Britain all her consequence and grandeur; it has been commerce alone which has enabled her to establish her authority in the four quarters of the habitable globe, and rendered her at once the terror and admiration of the world. It 1525 therefore with infinite concern I found that this important and invaluable trade was so considerably diminished; and I trust I shall not be reproached with having written with an indecent or intemperate warmth on a subject so interesting to this country, especially when the occasion of this extraordinary decrease is considered; and then perhaps even Sir Hugh Palliser, on whose conduct I have delivered my sentiments so freely, may have reason to thank me for my moderation.

Unconnected as I am with trade, it will possibly be expected that I should account for the very active part which I have taken in a matter where I can have no immediate interest; and the necessity of explaining the motives of my conduct is the greater, since occasion may be taken to attribute them to the influence of party. It has, indeed, become fashionable of late years to stigmatize as rebels, or at least as republicans, all those who do not
implicitly