

## MEMOIR

### *On the COD and SMALL FISH- ERIES of Nova-Scotia.*

**T**HE Halifax Committee of Trade having deliberated on the present situation of the Fisheries and Commerce of this Province, are of opinion that the former are susceptible of very considerable improvements. The harbours round the whole of the coasts of the peninsula of Nova-Scotia, being more advantageously situated for the purpose of the Cod and Small Fisheries, than any other portion of the American continent, the Committee deem it necessary to exert every means in their power to place them in that state, which it was the original intention of His Majesty's Royal Grandfather, that they should stand.

The original object in settling this Province, was in rivalryship to the French Nation, then in possession of Canada and Cape-Breton; at the latter of which colonies, a very extensive Cod Fishery was conducted. In order that it may the better be understood how it has happened that His late Majesty's intentions, have not produced all the expected effect in this colony, it will be necessary briefly to trace a few of those occurrences which have taken place since the first settlement of Halifax.

The colonization of Halifax harbour, and the Germans subsequently detached to Lunenburg, were the only essential establishments of Nova-Scotia, undertaken by government; the former took place in the spring of 1749; at which time, such were the powerful means adopted, that the shores of Halifax Harbour, to the southward of the Town and in the North-West-Arm, were covered with fish flakes; and, during a few years, the business promised very fair; but the Small-Pox in 1755, having broke out among the people, at a time when no medical preventive, as at present, was in general practice, the settlement became very much deranged. The French war, which commenced in the following year, induced the chief part of those poor settlers, which the Small-Pox had left, to enter into His Majesty's ships, and on board Privateers; and the Cod Fishery, within the harbour of Halifax, has been since chiefly confined to the supplies of salt and tackle from the merchants to the fishermen of other places, and to the purchase of their fish, in repayment of those advances at the end of