

large a proportion of all the pickled and dried fish imported into that island *last* year was taken from the British colonies in America, and when it is considered that the *principal part* of those imported in *American* bottoms, and which are presumed to be *American* fish, were in reality caught and cured by the British Colonists in North America, there surely cannot be a doubt of their capability to furnish the British West-India islands, in conjunction with the mother country, with ample supplies of that necessary and valuable article. It was probably, on this presumption, that in the late order of council * the article of fish was added to those of beef, pork, and butter, which constituted the articles excepted and not allowed to be imported in *American* vessels. The object of including fish in this exception has, however, been entirely frustrated; for it appears by the *Jamaica* newspapers, that fish is still allowed to be imported into that island in *American* bottoms. If the subjects of the United States were restricted, *in toto*, from the carriage of this and other articles in their own vessels, the British colonists would willingly relinquish their claim to the bounty, and then, but not until then, will their resources be duly appreciated and known. From what these two provinces, with Canada, have already done, under circumstances very inauspicious, it may be fairly presumed, they are capable under proper encouragement, of furnishing large and abundant supplies of the articles consumed in the British West-India islands.

The danger of a scarcity of this article in the British West-India islands, which has been so repeatedly re-echoed by the advocates of the new system, is as absurd, as the misrepresentations† of the supporters of the intercourse bill, in 1806,

* The order of council of the 1st July, 1807.

† Woodfall's Parliamentary Register, 22d May 1806, p. 485, wherein it is represented a certain *noble Earl* stated, that "owing to the interruption of the intercourse during the American war, it had been ascertained that about 15,000 negroes had died *for want*, or from being improperly fed, in the Island of Jamaica alone, in the course of 6 years"!!! See also the newspapers of the 23d of that month.

Sir William Young, evidently aware that the clamour raised on this ground was unfounded and not warranted by the fact, observes in his Common Place-book with more prudence "that much distress *was alledged*, that it had even been said, that a number of negroes in Jamaica to the amount of 15,000 had died of *famine*, that he mentioned it as a *current report*, but did *not* vouch as fact, what *he could not* authenticate." p. 130, 131.—The truth is, there was not any scarcity,