

said, No great Number.—And being asked, What Proportion of Fishermen and Seamen now go from Poole? he said, He believes about a Fourth Part of the Trade to Newfoundland.—And being asked, Whether any Number of Passengers go from and return to Poole Annually? he said, A great many; some Concerns carry out nearly the Whole, and return with them every Autumn, and it is the Wish of the Generality of the Merchants to keep no more Men in the Island of Newfoundland than the Interest of their particular Concerns and Employments require; and so far from its being the Desire of the Merchants to incline at all to make that Fishery more a Residence than can be avoided, their Distresses arising from a great Number of Families already on the Island, and which are Daily increasing, calls for the Intervention and Assistance of the Government of this Country to prevent it, and bring them Home; there are few Merchants from the Town of Poole who do not do it Annually.—And being asked, What Quantity of the Fish exported from Newfoundland by the Poole Merchants is caught by the Resident Fishermen? he said, In answering that Question it was necessary to observe, that though the Principal may be deemed a Resident, yet his being supplied with Men, Provisions, Cloathing, and Implements for the Fishery, by the Merchant from Great Britain, it can scarcely be allowed, or ought to fall under the Denomination of a Resident; the Quantity of Fish or Oil caught by the Residents strictly confined, and otherwise than the Description of Men of those he had described, is very trifling indeed, compared with the Whole.—And being asked, Whether the Fish so exported is all caught by Fishermen carried from and returning to Great Britain Annually? he said, Certainly not, for the Reasons which he has before given.—And being asked, Whether it was not the usual Custom of the Poole Merchants to buy Fish of the Residents of Newfoundland? he said, It was not, unless the Committee included the Description of People that he had mentioned to be Residents.—And being asked, If a great Capital was necessary to carry on the Bye Boat Fishery from England? he said, Certainly not.—And being asked, Whether the Produce of the Seal Fishery pays the same Customs as Fish and Oil at Newfoundland? he said, He does not know.—And being asked, What is the Amount of Fees paid by him Annually to the Custom House at Newfoundland? he said, He does not exactly know, but he should suppose about Fifty or Sixty Pounds, and at the same Time nearly the Whole of his Ships go properly qualified with Fishing Certificates from Great Britain and Ireland; and that the Fees for the Generality of Vessels he computes to be from Four