

Article of Consumption in this Branch of Trade; but Experience has shewn, that this Plan, however plausible in Speculation, and at first answering in some Degree to its Objects, failed nevertheless in its Execution; and that it was impracticable by any Regulations, to prevent that Inhabitan-
 tancy, which it became the Interest of those engaged in the Fishery to encourage, and which in Fact has finally subverted a System confined to particular Objects, which, however desirable upon particular Considerations of State Policy, did, we conceive, lay the Trade under many Difficulties, and subject it to many Disadvantages inconsistent with the general Interests of it; for it is evident, on the other Hand, that the sedentary Fishery carried on by Persons resident upon the Island has many Advantages over that Fishery carried on by the Fishing Ships, which must operate to the Benefit of this Branch of Commerce in general, seeing that they can go earlier and stay later upon their Fishing Stations, and have also many superior Advantages and Conveniences of repairing their Vessels, Stages, Storehouses, and other Works, and of making Preparations in the Winter for the ensuing Season; and, notwithstanding all the Disorders, Abuses, and Irregularities we have stated, it does appear that the Number of Ships employed in this Trade, and the Quantity of Fish cured and carried to Market, are independent of many other peculiar Advantages which would not attend a mere Ship Fishery, as great now as are stated to have been employed and caught in the most flourishing Time of this Fishery, under the ancient Establishment, whilst the Value of our Exports to this Island is Five Times as great as what it is stated to have been at that Period; and though it be true as is represented, that the Value of what they take from the Colonies is double what they take from this Kingdom, yet that must not be accounted for Loss, since whatever Profits are gained by them, finally center in this Kingdom.

Upon this View, therefore, of the State of this Fishery, it does appear to us very doubtful, whether it would consist with true Policy to attempt to restore it to the Principles and System adopted by the Act of King William, was such a Measure practicable; but as we conceive this is not practicable in the present State of the Country, or at least not so without a very great Expence to the Public, attended, perhaps, with Circumstances of Injustice, if not of Inhumanity, it will remain to be decided by Your Majesty what Plan it may be proper to pursue, for the better Management of this important Island, and for the Regulation of its Fishery under its present State, that with as little Prejudice as possible to the Ship Fishery of Your Majesty's British Subjects, and without infringing the Rights of the Subjects of France, may produce Civil Order and good Government, and prevent those Irregularities and Abuses, which if suffered to continue must probably ruin the whole Fishery, and will certainly introduce every Species of illicit Commerce, to the Diminution and Injury of the Trade, Manufactures, and Navigation of this Nation.

Office of Committee of
 Privy Council for Trade,
 Whitehall, 11th March 1793.

A true Copy.

GEO. CHALMERS.

Chf C^t C. C^t Trade.