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ill-contrived batteries, which are altogether
useless for want of skill in the man who had
the ordering of them, whom they call here
an engineer, whose stupidity and ignorance in
his profession, has been so severely ridiculed
by the gentlemen of the navy, as well as the
inhabitants, that he has not permitted himself
nor his batteries to be seen ever since, for the
inhabitants are not suffer'd to set foot upon
them ; and this wretched specimen of his art
was manag'd according to *Nova-Scotian* policy,
that is the offers of some of the inhabitants to
do the work by the great, were refused, tho'
they demonstrated the expence would be less
by half, that way than any other, & the work
be finished in half the time. You'll think this
was strange management, but there were rea-
sons for it ; in the first place, the inhabitants
by contracting to do the work might possibly
have been benefited by it (altho' they under-
took it at a cheap rate) and that is contrary to
a fundamental maxim of this military state ;
secondly, that the overseer might have the be-
nefit of paying the workmen and labourers in
manner aforesaid in his shop, in the profits of
which some people here think his superiours
go shares with him ; but that I don't believe ;
thirdly, that a number of idle subalterns
might receive three or four shillings a day, un-
der pretence of being sub-deputy overseers,
tho' some of them did not see the work once