

cepted: The Request was made on Account of his bad Conduct as a Magistrate.—And being asked, What Intercourse is carried on between Fortune Bay and the French Islands? he said, Some illicit Practices are carried on between them and the French and Americans; the French there are very often in the Spring of the Year supplied by them with Bait, to the Prejudice of the Fishery; they are also indulged with cutting Wood, which gives them an Opening for carrying on a contraband Trade in Pitch, Tar, Rum, Melasses, &c. in Return for which they take Furs and Bills of Exchange; and the English Inhabitants resort to the French Islands for the same Purpose. No Seizures have been made within these Twenty Years, when Captain Saxton of the Navy made some. The illicit Trade is so insignificant, that the Men of War could not be hindered on that Account.—And being asked, Whether it has decreased since the Act of 1786? he said, No; it has been increasing.—And being asked, Whether it does not require the Inspection of Officers to prevent it? he said, He does not know they could prevent it; it is so insignificant, that it would not pay them, because, that although the Smuggling Trade is considerable, it is brought in in very small Quantities.—And being asked, To what did he attribute the Increase of the contraband Trade, since the Act of 1786? he said, From the Act not being put into Execution.—And being asked, Would the Amount of the Duties in this illicit Trade he has been speaking of in Fortune Bay, amount to above £.20 a Year? he said, No.—And being asked, Whether the illicit Trade had increased since the Business had been taken from the Naval Officers, and put under the Customs? he said, Yes.—And being asked, If the French were denied the Indulgence of cutting Wood, could this contraband Trade be carried on with the Islands? he said, No.—And being asked, Whether the Custom House had more Opportunities or Means of preventing Smuggling than the Naval Officers had formerly? he said, No, just the same.—And being asked, Whether the Fishery in Fortune Bay has increased, or decreased? he said, It has increased since 1786, but great Fortunes have been lost there; it is now nearly the same as it was before the American War; the Inhabitants have greatly increased, as well as the Adventurers from this Country; the Quantity of Fish taken and exported has increased; the Number of Men employed upon the whole has increased; the Fishery is a Bank and Shore Fishery; it is carried on from Poole and Dartmouth.—And being asked, What is the usual Price of a Passage Home from Fortune Bay? he said, £. 3; that the Merchants always bring Home their own Men for nothing; there are no Passengers with them; the

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