

and signed only the Day before; and that by having sent the Gentlemen of the Trade a Copy of his Statement and general Opinion of the Nature and Situation of the Fishery at Newfoundland, he had every Reason to believe it met with their Approbation.

The said Statement is as follows: “ Till Yesterday I was perfectly ignorant in what Way the Enquiry which is the Object of this Committee was to be conducted—I am by no Means prepared to enter into a minute or particular Statement of the Newfoundland Trade founded upon Calculations, nor am I qualified by any authentic Documents to draw a Comparison between its present State and that in which it has subsisted for some Years past; but having carried on an extensive Concern in that Trade for about Twenty-two Years, and having during that Time been conversant, and on the most intimate Footing with most of the Gentlemen engaged in it, the most interesting Circumstances respecting the Trade, and the Advantages as well as Disadvantages with which it is attended, have fallen under my Notice. I would beg Leave to preface what I have to say, with stating, that in my Opinion it is a Branch of Commerce highly important and most invaluable to Great Britain, not only as a very considerable Nursery for Seamen, but as it affords a Consumpt for the Growth, Produce, and Manufactures of this Country, to the Amount of not less than Half a Million Annually.

“ The Fish caught in this Trade is sent to Foreign Markets, namely Spain, Portugal, and Italy, and the Returns I judge to be nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ ths in Specie, or in Bills of Exchange: Such a Trade is surely well worth the highest Attention and Encouragement of the Legislature; and ought at least to be freed from every Species of Difficulty, Burthen, or Impediment. The Cod Fishery is chiefly carried on by Two different Modes:

“ 1st. That on the Banks, where smaller Vessels are employed. These make Three or Four Trips in the Season, generally laying at Anchor for Three Weeks or a Month together. Immediately after having caught the Fish they salt it, and when they have completed their Cargoes, land it in order to be cured and dried, and return to the Banks in Quest of a fresh Supply.

“ These Vessels take from Seven to Fourteen hundred Quintals of Fish each during the Season. But this Fishery is only
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