

were obliged to petition his Majesty King Charles the First to restrain, by his Royal Authority, those Disorders, which evidently tended to the Ruin of the Fishery.

His Majesty, to prevent these Irregularities and Excesses for the future, upon granting the Propriety of Newfoundland to several Noblemen and others, ordained, "That no Person should plant or inhabit within Six Miles of the Sea Shore between Cape Race and Cape Bonavista."

And, that nothing might be wanting to encourage the Adventurers diligently to attend to and vigorously to prosecute the aforesaid Fishery, the Star Chamber, in January 1633, adjusted and settled several Orders for the Regulation and Government thereof; and on the 20th February following, his said Majesty was graciously pleased to grant a Charter to all his Subjects trading to Newfoundland, according to the Tenor of the said Orders, which was commonly called the Western Charter; whereby it is provided,

1st, That if a Man kills another, or steals to the Value of 40s. he shall be brought Prisoner to England; that the Earl Marshall shall take Cognizance of the Cause; and if it be proved by Two Witnesses, the Delinquent shall suffer Death.

2nd, That no Ballast or Prestones be thrown out to the Prejudice of the Harbours.

3d, That no Person deface or spoil any Stage, Cook Room Flakes, &c.

4th, That according to ancient Custom, every Ship that first entereth a Harbour shall be Admiral of the said Harbour, &c.

5th, That no Person cut out, deface, or alter the Marks of any Boats or Trainfats, to defraud the right Owners.

6th, That no Person steal any Fish, Train, or Salt, or other Provisions belonging to the Fishing Ships,

7th, That no Person set Fire to the Woods, or rind the Trees, except for Cook Rooms.

8th, That none cast Anchor so as to hinder the haling of Seynes for Bait.

9th, That none rob the Nets of any Drift Boats, or take away any Bait or Nets.

10th, That no Person shall set up any Tavern for selling of Wine, Beer, Strong Waters, or Tobacco, &c.

11th, That on Sundays the Company assemble to hear Divine Service.

And, that speedy Punishment may be inflicted upon the Offenders against the said Laws and Constitutions,

It is ordained, that the Mayors of Southampton, Weymouth, &c. take Cognizance of all Complaints made against the Offenders of these Ordinances upon the Land: And,

That