

peans, or a mere desert island. Has it been thus hitherto neglected by historians and geographers, because, as some have supposed, it is barren and useless? But, on closer investigation, we find, on the contrary, that Newfoundland has been the object of frequent and obstinate contests among the principal maritime powers of Europe, in order to establish an exclusive right to its possession, or at least to obtain a participation in the advantages which it procures to its possessor: we find it holding a distinguished rank in several declarations of war, as well as in preliminaries and treaties of peace among them. It is a mine of treasure far more valuable than the boasted mines of Peru, because more really advantageous to its possessor and to mankind in general. The Spaniards, while solely anxious to obtain the possession, and to secure the produce of the richest mines of silver and gold in the world, neglected the arts and agriculture; their wealth and existence itself became dependent upon the safe arrival of their galleons: poor in their supposed opulence, they soon were found a

differ
befor
ing t
comm
excha
creas
create
encou
moth
vast
to a
such
kers,
cloth
salt-m

Ne
becau
of the
by in
which
its ne
sourc
it sile