

of Devonshire, should examine matters of fact concerning the miscarriages of former Governors of Newfoundland to the damage of the Trade and transmit the Examinations unto His Matie, As also, That the Petitioners of the severall Western Fishing Towns should prepare reasons to make good the Allegations of their respective petitions, that upon consideration such Order might be given for the good of the fishery as should be conceived fitt and convenient.

Depositions.

In pursuance whereof severall Depositions were taken at Totness in Devonshire on the 20th of November 1667 and transmitted unto His Matie in Councill certifying the inconvenience of a Governor and prejudice that would necessarily ensue thereby unto the fishing Trade.

Petⁿ for a Gov^r.

On the 6th of December following The Compy of Merchants, Adventurers and Owners of Ships trading from Bristol to Newfoundland, and other Merchants petitioned His Matie to provide a speedy remedy to the dangerous condition of the Fishery (which was likely to fall into the hands of the French) by sending some able person as Governor with Guns, Arms, Amunition, and other materials necessary for the fortifying some of the Harbors there.

Reference.

Whereupon His Matie was pleased to refer the consideration of this matter unto the R^t Hon^{ble} the Earl of Anglesey, L^d Ashley, Mr Comptroller, Mr Vice Chamberlaine and S^r W^m Coventry that they might certify unto His Matie what was fitt to be done therein.

Examination.

In Order whereunto Their Lop^s perused severall papers making out the convenience and usefullness of a Governor who might regulate the abuses committed in the fishing trade and defend the Country against the assaults and invasion of an enemy, and summoned severall Merchants of London and all other persons concerned in this matter to give their attendance, but no resolution appears to have been taken therein until the Year 1669 upon the petition of Cap^t Robert Robinson for the settlement of a Governor. His Matie did then refer the consideration thereof unto the Lords of the Committee for Trade & Plantacons who upon summoning severall Merchants of London well knowing in the Trade of Newfoundland together with the Agents of the Western Ports concerned therein, and upon examination as well of the proposalls of Cap^t Robinson as the answer of the Merchants trading thither Their Lop^s did on the 15th of December last Report unto His Matie That they did not think fitt to recommend the petition and proposalls of the said Cap^t Robinson to His Matie for the making him Govern^r of Newfoundland, but for keeping the people living there in Christianity it was proposed that His Matie would be pleased to send a Chaplin on the Convoy Ships, and that the Cap^t of the said Ships should have power to regulate abuses there with reference unto His Maties Letters Patents unto the Western Towns, which Report being read in Councill on the 4th of february was confirmed by His Maty in every particular.

Petⁿ for a Govern^r.

Report.

Order.

**Petⁿ ag^t
Passengers and
By-Boats.**

After which on the 25th of the same month severall fishing Towns in the West of England by Letters unto the Lord Comm^{rs}