

ing only a summer population, why should extraordinary diligence be exercised to retain the whole shore? The opportunity of making what seemed a satisfactory agreement could not be missed owing to the desire of some merchants to retain sole use of a distant and barren Island. These considerations seem to have prevailed in framing the Treaties, and they offer the best explanation of the admission of French fishermen to that immense stretch of coast-line indicated in the thirteenth article of the Treaty of Utrecht (1713):—

Art. 13,—“The Island called Newfoundland, with the adjacent islands, shall from this time forward be long of right wholly to Great Britain; and to that end the town and fortress of Placentia, and whatever other places in the said Island are in the possession of the French, shall be yielded and given up within seven months from the exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty, or sooner, if possible, by the most Christian King, to those who have a commission from the Queen of Great Britain for that purpose. Nor shall the most Christian King, his heirs and successors or any of their subjects at any time hereafter, lay claim to any right to the said Island and Islands or to any part of it or them. Moreover it shall not be lawful for the subjects of France to fortify any place in the said Island of Newfoundland, or to erect any build-