

especially, that *England* and *Scotland* are United; for before the Union, it could never be properly said we had a Herring-Fishery.

Mr. *Muns*, who wrote not long after the Restoration, and always states his Facts with great Fidelity, values the Exportation of Fish in his Time at 14000*l.* *per Annum*, but our present Accounts fall short of this Sum. 'Tis true, by a Medium of Five Years from 1696 to 1701, inclusive, the Exports of Fish amounted to 132,849*l.* *per Annum*; however, this Account was not natural, but rather seems to have proceeded from the great Drawbacks allow'd them upon Salt, for till that Way of Deceiving the Publick began to be put into Practice, which was about 1698, the Entries amounted to but about 52,400*l.* *per Annum*, and began again to diminish, when some Regulations were made in the said Drawbacks, so that from 1699 to 1709, the Medium of Exportation for the said ten Years, has been 77,115*l.* *per Annum*, which is little more than half of what was exported Fifty Years ago: It must indeed be granted, that several of our Neighbours have enlarg'd their Fishing for Cod; but whether they have not made this Improvement by our Negligence is left for others to determine.

I shall not at present farther enlarge upon this Subject, designing in some other Report to lay the Fishing-Trade before this Honourable Board; but in regard this may happen to be the Subject of Debate in Parliament, I have here-

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