

foundland, petitioned the King against the perpetrators of these
 excesses; when his Majesty was pleased to direct, that the inha-
 bitants should not be molested in their persons or property, and
 that part of the western charter, whereby no person was permitted
 to settle within six miles of the shore, was rescinded. From this
 period to the passing of the Act of 10 and 11 William and Mary;
 the History of Newfoundland exhibits one continual struggle be-
 tween the resident inhabitants and the adventurers, the former
 smarting under the most intolerable yoke, and the influence of the
 latter at the seat of Government counteracting all the effects of
 their complaints. The passing of this Act formed a new era in its
 history; previously the Government of Newfoundland exhibited
 a scene of anarchy and injustice. It was ruled by a set of needy
 unprincipled adventurers, uncontrolled by any law, who possessed
 absolute power in their own persons, and exercised it with more
 than eastern despotism. Not even the unoffending native Indians
 escaped their relentless cruelty; they were hunted down like
 wild beasts, and destroyed without remorse or the fear of punish-
 ment. It might have been expected that when the state of Newfound-
 land was taken into consideration by the enlightened Parliament
 of William and Mary, some sympathy would be felt for the un-
 happy people of that country; but instead of having amendments
 made to them for such a long period of suffering and misrule, nearly
 the whole of the old system was embodied in this Act of Parlia-
 ment, which was founded on the barbarous policy that had so
 long prevailed. It completely established the ascendancy of the
 adventurers, who had now an opportunity, in a more legalised
 form, and with the cruel mockery of justice, to exercise to their
 hearts' content their ruthless tyranny. The persons vested with
 authority under this Act bore the high sounding titles of *Admirals*,
Vice-Admirals, and *Rear-Admirals*; the master of the first fish-
 ing vessel that arrived was *Admiral*, the second, *Vice*, and the
 third *Rear-Admiral*, in their respective harbours. To such men
 were entrusted the Government of the country and the adminis-
 tration of justice. I shall not detain your Lordship with a dis-
 gusting detail of their proceedings; suffice it to say that not one
 in ten of these Governors and Judges could write their own names.
 In 1729 a Governor was appointed by his Majesty. For a