

the French Fishery, &c. 31

ed, to protect them. And the whole Nation seemed to have their Eyes on the Place ; so that it was peopled more and more Yearly ; and a Fishery flourished so fast, that they could and did afford to *under-sell* us at Foreign Markets. And for the Protection of the Trade so to do, they had annually Ships of War sent them from *France*, to visit and supply them, with Orders to protect and defend not only their Sea-Coasts, but their Vessels on the Banks of *Newfoundland, &c.* not only from Insults *from us* (for of that there was no Occasion) but to make and keep their *Pretensions* good to the *several Banks*, either *within* or *without* their Line, and *make themselves a Privilege*, as it were, of *fishing* almost *where they pleas'd* by Force of *Custom*. In which they *gradually increased* so, that in the Year 1732, when the *Le Flenzon* and the *Brilliant*, Two of their Men of War, were ordered on that Station, to cruize on the *Banks*, examine into the State of the Fishery, and give them any necessary Assistance and Protection, and from thence to *Canada*, and so back to the Fishery again, and then to convoy those Ships that had made their Voyages, and were ready to depart to *Europe*, the Marquis *De la Maison Fort*, who was on board one of those Ships, in his Journal thus remarks * : — “ *Louis-*

* *Louisbourg* est un bon Port, & une Place sure ; C'est hors de toute Insulte, quand les Fortifications (apres quoy 'ton travail) seront achevez. Dans laquelle il vat Cent de plus Vaisseaux de *France* tous les Ans, pecher, & faire pecher des Mortres, par les Gonlettes du Pais en Batteaux qu'ils embarquent, qu'ils salent & font secher depuis le Mois de *Juin* jusqu' a d'*Octobre*, qu'ils se preparent a en retourner chacune a leur Destination, &c. &c. Cette Ile produisant encores aucune Bleds, quoique il ait plus de quatre Mile Habitants, quoi trouvent a gagner Advantage a la Pesche qui a labourer la Terre, la laise deserte, & achetant a qu'ils ont de Besoin avec leur Poisson.