

there was not Room sufficient for both Parties? the Answer has been uniformly, and he believes, and indeed knows it to be just, that there might be; but that the Difficulty and Expence of clearing the Ground, and building upon it, would be so great, that it would not answer their Purpose, nor had they wherewithal to carry on such an Undertaking: And it has for many Years past been a common Practice among the Merchants, particularly those who have engaged in the Trade since the American War, to advance Money, and encourage Resident Boatkeepers to build Fishing Rooms, and carry on Fisheries upon them, depending upon the Fish and Oil, with a Mortgage of the Fishing Room taken as a Collateral Security, for the Re-payment of the Money so advanced—Within his own Knowledge a great deal of the Shores of Newfoundland have in this Manner been built upon, to the total Exclusion of Adventurers from Europe; and he thinks himself justifiable in saying, that Six at the least out of every Ten of such Rooms have, in the Course of Five Years after they were first built upon by Boatkeepers, come into the Possession of the Merchants, from the Incapacity of the Boatkeeper to pay his Debts, but by Sale of his Fishing Room; and then he seldom sells it for more than a Fourth Part of the Sum which it cost him in the building.—And being asked, When he spoke of the Merchants in his last Answer, did he mean the Trading Merchants, or the Fishing Merchants? he said, The Trading Merchants, who, however they may have increased the Trade, have certainly at the same Time occasioned great Alteration in the Fishery.—And being asked, Whether the great Increase of the Trading Merchants is not a Detriment to the Merchants carrying on the Fishery, as carried on from Great Britain? he said, He thinks it is, but he does not mean to insinuate that the Fishing Traders have, or ought to have, an exclusive Right to the Trade of Newfoundland.—And being asked, Whether he means by that, that the Fishery from Great Britain, as carried on by the Merchants, has of late Years declined in consequence of the Increase of the Trading Merchants, or does he only mean, that it has not increased in the same Proportion as it would have done if the Trading Merchants had not increased? he said, He does not think that the Trading Merchants have occasioned any Decline of the Fishery from Great Britain; he thinks that the Trade has increased in a very great Degree, but the Fishery not so much in Proportion.—And being asked, Would not the Fishing Rooms now occupied by the Residents at Newfoundland have been occupied by Adventurers from this Country, had they been open? he said, By Bye Boatmen certainly not; for the Mode of carrying on the Fishery has differed so much in