

the price of labour to an enormous rate on that island. A common artificer, such as a blacksmith, carpenter, or the like, will earn, at Newfoundland, from half a guinea to twelve shillings a day, and other workmen and labourers are paid in proportion; and then the complaint comes home, that the Newfoundland colony, if it may be so called, is in distress; that its fishery cannot succeed or be continued, and must be abandoned; that it will not pay the expences of the merchants; that the population of Newfoundland must be removed, or relieved, or they must starve. But notwithstanding all this, upwards of one million of quintals of fish were shipped from Newfoundland in 1816, the year of their greatest distress.

So careful is the Government of this country to prevent the island of Newfoundland from being overpeopled, that every owner, or master of a vessel, who takes out a crew, or fishermen, or apprentices, to fish on the banks of Newfoundland, and to cure the fish on the island, is bound in a bond, by the regulation of the law, to bring them back again at the expiration of a given space of time, whether they are inclined to return or not; and as they are not permitted to stay on the island after the period allowed by the act, many of them, when they have acquired the art of catching and curing fish, desert, if possible, to