

18 OBSERVATIONS

province and in the gulph of St. Lawrence, on the Canada and Nova-Scotia shores, is unquestionably the best in the world. The whale fishery on the American coast was so much exhausted before the revolution, that the New-Englanders went to the coast of Africa, the Falkland's-islands, the western islands, and the coast of Ireland, and with considerable success; the oil or blubber was carried to America. If blubber it was manufactured into oil, and the whole sent to the British market it is obvious that this trade can be carried on to greater advantage to the above-mentioned places from Britain and Ireland, than from America, and a double voyage will be avoided. The reduction or taking off the small duty on oil, and the heavy duty on spermaceti imported in British ships, and leaving the duties on what is brought from the late British colonies, will be a proper encouragement. The quantity of spermaceti imported as such is small.

FLOUR and WHEAT.

This article has been of equal, if not of greater importance in the American exportations than the preceding; but excepting the instance of three or four years, there never was any market in Europe for the wheat and wheat-flour of America, except in Spain, Portugal, and the ports of the Mediterranean. Before the war, the wheat from Canada began to be preferred in Spain. It is heavier, and keeps better in a hot climate, being usually sent in grain, and yields from 60 to 65 pounds per bushel, yet the flour of it not being very white, sells proportionably cheaper. Being in grain, the Spanish purchaser had the advantage of manufacturing it, and there being a demand in Canada for a low-priced, but strong red wine of Spain, for which there was none in the American States, the Canadian merchants had great advantages, and they may be still increased. No winter wheat in Canada previous to 1763. In 1774 vast quantities of both that and summer wheat were exported, not less than 500, 000 bushels, with which above 100 vessels were loaded for Europe, besides what was sent in flour and bread to the West Indies and fisheries, and 100, 000 bushels left in hand for want of ships to export them. In five or six years, 3 or 400 sail might be employed from Canada in different branches. The merchants of Philadelphia, the capital of the corn country, sent ships to Quebec, to load with wheat from thence to Europe. Canada can supply the Newfoundland fisheries with flour and bread. France probably will not allow, except in times of scarcity, the American States to supply their fisheries in North America with bread or flour. — French fishing ships going out have nothing else to carry, except implements for fishery and salt.

Naval

* England should use the same policy to encourage her agriculture, especially as Canada and the American States are likely to have most of