

the poor people, and to drive them from their hard-won homes. Fortunately this gentleman was too humane and sensible to carry out such atrocious orders without, at least, protest and delay. Some harm, indeed, was done; a few houses and drying stages were destroyed and some fishing property was seized. But one Mr. Downing, in a strong representation of the injustice and absurdity of the persecution, induced the gracious and affable King Charles to order its discontinuance. But immigration was still forbidden.

In 1690 was passed an Act known in the colony as the "Statute of William III.," which provided for the maintenance and regulation of the fisheries, much after the manner of the commission issued by Charles I., sixty years before. The tenor of the Act very plainly indicated that the welfare of the colony was not for a moment to be considered. It provided only for the conservation of the fisheries, as a profitable source of wealth to the west of England merchants, and a useful school for the training of seamen for the British navy. One-fifth of the sailors going to the Banks were to be "green men," who had never been at sea before; all sailors were to return to England in the autumn; the fishing admirals were confirmed in authority; and the Newfoundlanders were forbidden to take up any beach or place for fishing until the English vessels should have chosen, and ordered, besides, to give up, if desired, possession "of any stage, cook-room, beach, &c., for taking bait and fishing, or for the drying, curing, or husbanding of fish," not built by themselves since 1685. To these wrongs, inflicted by Government, the merchants, unhindered, added the cap-sheaf, by preventing any small shop-keeper from furnishing goods to the people,—themselves selling goods, things necessary to bare existence, at most exorbitant rates, and buying fish and oil at their own valuation. But still, with limpet-like tenacity, the Newfoundland colonists clung to their rocky homes, and, at last, by sheer persistent endurance, they gained a right to colonial existence. Surely the emblem of the Newfoundlanders should be a limpet clinging to its rock, and their motto, "Hold fast." In spite of tyrannous repression and oppression, the colonists had greatly increased in wealth and numbers, and their commercial importance had at length become