

8 *A CONCISE ACCOUNT of*

island, notwithstanding the roughness and barrenness of soil, and severity of the climate.

The number of English inhabitants on this island is uncertain and fluctuating, there being near double the number in summer to what there is in the winter.

St. John's, situated on the southerly part of the island, is the capital town, containing between three and fourscore houses.

These coasts are observed to be extremely subject to fogs, occasioned by the vapours, which are exhaled from the lakes, swamps and bogs, with which the island abounds, as is generally supposed; but perhaps is more owing to the vast shoals of fish and sea-animals which frequent these coasts, whose breath, warmth, and motion, occasion vapours to rise from the sea; hence I imagine it is, that, notwithstanding the almost perpetual fogs here, the air is wholesome and agreeable to most constitutions, which would hardly be the case if they sprung from bogs, swamps, and fresh-water lakes.

The winters are severe, attended with almost continual storms of snow, sleet, &c. the sky being generally overcast.

Here are few cattle, sheep, or horses; instead of the latter, the inhabitants make use of dogs
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