

Plantations, except as Regulations of Trade.—And being asked, Whether there is any Circumstance in the Island which makes it impossible for the Naval Officers to do that Duty now as formerly? he said, He does not know of any.—And being desired to state what other Grievances the Trade labours under? he said, That Clause which subjects the Fish and Oil to the Payment of the Seamen's Wages, renders them, in a great Measure independent of their Employers in the early Part of the Season, and does not provide a sufficient Penalty to oblige them to perform their Duty.

Mr. JOHN WALDRON was then called, who informed your Committee that he is a Merchant, and carries on the Trade to Newfoundland.—And being asked, Whether he knew any Thing of the French Fishery at Newfoundland? he said, He carries on his Trade in Fortune Bay; the Island of Saint Pierre, being situated in the Mouth of that Bay, afforded him an Opportunity of knowing the Extent of the French Fishery in that Part of the Island, and the Islands of Saint Miquelon and Saint Pierre.—And being shewn a Paper, intituled, “A State of the of the French Fishery at Newfoundland, in the Years 1769 and 1774, and 1786 to 1792, taken from the Returns of the British Admirals who commanded upon that Station;” he said, It appeared to him not an accurate State of that Fishery; because he every Year, in the Month of August, generally at the Request of the Surrogates, has sent an Officer to Saint Pierre privately to examine that Fishery, and to observe the general State of the Island. In August 1792, there had been Forty Sail of Brigs and Ships, of the Average of about 150 Tons each; the Crews of which, together with the Inhabitants of the Island, employed 640 Fiats, each Flat carrying Two Men; they had between 110 and 120 of Fishing Shallops, each carrying Three Men; about 100 Bankers, upon an Average carrying Eight Men. He was the Naval Officer in the District of Fortune Bay at that Time, and has been so for Ten Years past.—And being asked, Whether it was his Business to take an Account of the French Fishery, and transmit it to the Admiral? he said, He had always thought it his Duty to do it for the Surrogate.—And being asked, Whether there was any other Fishery carried on by the French in Newfoundland? he said, Yes, to the Westward, which has been declining these Three Years past.—And being asked, Whether he knew that the other Years were accurate? he said, He could not charge his Memory with it; that he constantly made a Report Yearly to the Admiral's Surrogate.—And being asked, Whether there