

Inclosure 5 in No. 3.

Mr. Gilpin to Mr. Morier.

Sir,

Newport, November 9, 1810.

I BEG your pardon for not answering yours of the 19th September sooner, but the truth is, I did not, till within this day or two, procure the information I wanted from Connecticut.

Respecting the trade to the British Possessions in India, I know of no vessel at present employed in this district, and I believe there is not any.

With regard to the fisheries, there are but very few in this State—Rhode Island—not exceeding a tonnage of 300 tons, in 10 or 12 small vessels, employing about 60 men; and in Connecticut the average tonnage is about 1,000, in perhaps 25 vessels, of about 40 tons each, with 9 or 10 men.

The dried fish is chiefly re-exported to the West Indies, but some is used in home consumption; but the American trade has been so much deranged by the late Embargo Acts, &c., that no accurate judgment can be formed from its present state of what both the East India trade and the fisheries would amount to should it return into its regular channel.

I beg leave also to observe that no correct opinion can be formed from the Custom-house Return of licensed fishing-vessels, as many in this district have a license which, I know, are not employed on British ground. And I farther wish to remark that, since this Government has withdrawn the bounty to fishing-vessels, it has not been so profitable an employment, and, of course, not pursued with so much avidity; and I have reason to believe there is in Connecticut a considerable quantity of dried fish, the produce of last season, still on hand.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. GILPIN.

No. 4.

Memorial.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Liverpool, His Majesty's Prime Minister, &c.

The Memorial of the Committee of Merchants trading from London and the different ports of the Kingdom with the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies.

Humbly sheweth:—

THAT your Lordship's Memorialists, in consequence of a prevalent idea that a negotiation for peace is now pending, beg leave to submit to your Lordship their views of the vast importance of the fisheries carried on at Newfoundland, the islands adjacent, along the coast of Labrador, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; fisheries which have very considerably increased since the exclusion, by war, of other nations from a participation therein, and which it is fair to believe are only now in a state of comparative infancy if such exclusion be continued.

In the first instance, your Memorialists beg to point out the immense extent of the American fisheries when the existing dispute with the United States commenced; a trade, as Lord Sheffield very justly observes, which has been computed at one-third, or near one-half of the amount of value of the remittances from the New England States, and which they will continue to enjoy in proportion to the neglect or encouragement of our own fisheries. To this part of their commerce the Government of the United States has given the greatest encouragement by bounties on the tonnage of vessels employed therein, and by a heavy duty on all fish, not of their own catch, imported even for exportation. That in the year 1811, the Americans employed about 1,500 sail of vessels from 50 to 100 tons burthen each, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the coast of Labrador only, navigated on an average with ten men; a nursery in that part of their fisheries alone equal to an increase of 3,000 new seamen annually; the whole number of men so employed being estimated at the least at 15,000. That the quantity of fish exported from the American States exceeded the British export during the preceding years of 1810 and 1811 full one-third each year, the American