

The Second Clause which the Witness objects to, is all the Fishery Oil liable to the Payment of Wages. By the Operation of that Clause, the Servants, after they have caught Fish and Oil enough to pay their Wages, have relaxed in their Industry, to the Injury of their Employer, and the Merchant who has credited that Employer, either in England or Newfoundland; and that Clause has entirely done away the Confidence that was before placed by the Merchant in the Boat Keeper, and has had a very great Effect upon that Branch of Fishery.—And being asked, Whether before the passing of that Act the Fish and Oil were not liable in the first Instance to the Payment of the Seamen's Wages? he said, They were not liable to the Payment of the Servants Wages, any more than to the Merchant who had supplied the Boat Keeper; they were liable in general to all Demands.—And being asked, Whether he had, in Point of Fact, known the Men relax in their Industry after they have caught Fish and Oil enough for Payment of their own Wages? he said, He had known many Instances, and he stood himself a Sufferer to a very considerable Amount, from being obliged to pay the Servants of the Boat Keeper more Money than the Value of the Fish and Oil, which he received from him, with the Loss of the Advance that he had made him to carry on his Voyage.—And being asked, If he had known other Merchants make the same Complaint? he said, He had known many Merchants and Boat Keepers do so.—And being asked, Whether that Regulation applies equally to the Resident Fishery, and to that carried on from Great Britain? he said, No; the Resident Fishery is in general carried on by the Natives with their Families; the Fishermen in the Boat are a Part of that Family; and the Fish is cured, when brought on Shore, in general by their Wives and Children; that he supplies himself One hundred Families of that Description in Newfoundland, at Conception Bay, who have not One Servant belonging to them, if they had, he would not trust them with a Shilling, having suffered so much by a Trust where there were Servants, and in that very Bay. In general the Resident Fishery is carried on by those who have a common Concern, and who have lien on the Fish and Oil for Payment of Wages.—And being asked, Whether, where the Fishery is carried on by Shares, does any Inconvenience follow from that Clause? he said, He should suppose not to the Merchant.—And being asked, Whether those Fishermen had any Servants before the passing that Clause? he said, They had, and some Time after, until the Merchant, from the bad Effects which he felt from the Operation of the Clause, withdrew