

Westward of it, and off the Coast of *Newfoundland* to the Eastward.

So that the *Situation* and *Convenience* of this Place (being, as it were, the Center of the **WHOLE FISHERY**, and a Cover and Command to the whole *Gulph*) was the greatest Inducement to *France* to fortify it, in order to protect and secure all the rest: What other Uses it might serve for as a Port to the *East* and *West India* Men, and the Ships bound to *Canada*, on Occasion, to resort to for Wood and Water, to clean or repair, &c. not being so much in their View as the securing and upholding this Trade, the **FISHERY**: Which they had found the Sweets of before, enough to convince them it was absolutely necessary for them to out-do us in it, if possible; in order to which they were to spare no Cost for the *present* for the gaining a *future* Benefit by it, when they had gained their Point.

Their Conviction of the *growing Profit* of this Branch of *Trade*, and the Hopes of one Time or other *monopolizing* it, at least so far as respected the *Catholick Dominions*, made them take such indefatigable and indirect Means, the last War, to procure a *Neutrality*, so far as related to the **FISHERY**; that they might even then vie with us in prosecuting their Voyages unmolested, as long as the *War* lasted; which they obtained by *Dint of Money*; and, on the *Peace*, in order to *secure* it to them for the future, stuck at no Terms to obtain this Island. Which they had no sooner effected, but *immediately* they began to settle it: And a new Colony was set on foot, to consist of *Fishermen only*, and Encouragement given, Forts, &c. built, and a Town garrisoned,