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A
COMMISSION

for the well gouerning
of Our people, inhabiting
in *New-found-land*;

Or, Traffiquing in Bayes, Creekes,
or fresh Riuers there.



Imprinted at London by ROBERT BARKER,
Printer to the Kings most Excellent
MAIESTIE: And by the
Assignes of JOHN BILL.

M.DC.XXXIII.

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Y



HIS
M A I E S T I E S

Commission, for the well-gouern-
ning of His subiects inhabi-
ting in the *New-found-land*.



HARLES by the
grace of G O D, King
of *England, Scotland,*
France, and *Ireland,*
Defender of the Faith, &c. To
all to whom these presents shall
come, greeting.

VWhereas the Region, or

A 3

Coun-

Countrey called *New-found-land*, hath beene acquired to the Dominion of Our Progenitors; which VVe hold, and Our people haue many yeeres resorted to those parts, where, and in the coasts adioyning they imployed themselues in Fishing, whereby a great number of Our people haue beene set on worke, and the Nauigation and Marriners of Our Realme hath been much increased.

And Our Subjects resorting thither, one by the other, and the natiues of those parts were order-
ly

ly and gently intreated, vntill of late some of Our Subjects of the Realme of *England*, planting themselves in that Countrey, and there residing and inhabiting, vpon conceit, that for wrongs or iniuries done there, either on the Shoare, or in the Sea adioyning, they cannot be here impeached, and the rather, for that We, or Our Progenitors, haue not hitherto giuen Lawes to the Inhabitants there, and by that example, Our Subjects resorting thither, iniure one another, and vse all manner of excessse to the great hinderance of
the

the voyage, and common damage of this Realme : For preuenting such inconueniencies hereafter, VVee doe hereby declare in what manner our people in *New-found-land* and vpon the Sea adioyning, and the Bayes, Creekes, or fresh Riuers there, shall be guided and gouerned : Doe make and ordayne the Lawes following in the things after specified ; Commanding that the same be obeyed and put in execution.

First, if any man on the land there shall kill another, or if any shall secretly or forceable steal
the

the goods of any other to the value of Forty shillings; he shalbe forthwith apprehended & arrested, detayned and brought Prisoner into *England*, and the crime committed by him shalbe made known to the Earle Marshall of *England* for the time being: to whom the Delinquent shall bee delivered as Prisoner; And the said Earle Marshall shal take Cognizance of the cause: And if hee shall finde by the testimony of two witnesses or more, that the partie had there killed a man not being at that time first assaulted by the party slain, or that

the killing were by mis-adventure, or had stollen such goods; the Delinquent shall suffer paine of death, and all the company shall endeauor to apprehend such malefactor.

Secondly, That no Ballast, Prestones, or any thing else hurtfull to the Harbourers be throwne out to the preiudice of the said Harbours, but that it be carried a shoare, and laid where it may not doe annoyance.

Thirdly, That no person whatsoever, either Fishermen or Inhabitants doe destroy, deface, or any way

way worke any spoyle or detri-
ment to any Stage, Cookeroome,
Flakes, Spikes, Nayles, or any
thing else, that belongeth to the
Stages whatsoeuer, either at the
end of the voyage when hee hath
done, and is to depart the Coun-
trety, or to any such Stages as hee
shall fall withall at his comming
into the Countrey, but that hee or
they content themselues with such
Stage or Stages onely, as shall bee
needefull for them: And that for
the repaying of such Stages, as he
or they take, they shall fetch Tym-
ber out of the woods, and not to do

it with the ruining or tearing down of other Stages.

Fourthly, That according to the ancient custome euery Shippe or Fisher that first entreth a Harbour, in behalfe of the Shippe bee Admirall of the said Harbour, wherin for the time beeing, he shall reserue onely so much Beach and Flakes, or both, as is needefull for the number of boates that hee shall vse, with an ouerplus only for one Boate more then hee needeth, as a priuiledge for his first comming.

And that euery Ship comming after, content himselfe with what
he

hee shall haue necessary vse for, without keeping or detaining any more to the preiudice of others next comming.

And that any that are possessed of seuerall places in seuerall Harbours, with intent to keepe them all, before they can resolue vpon which of them to choose, shall be bound to resolue and send aduice to such after commers in those places as expect his resolution, and that within forty eight howres, if the weather so serue, that the said after commers may likewise chuse their places, and so none receiue

Sixtly, that no person doe diminish, take away, purloyne, or steale any of the Fish, or Traine, or Salt which is put in Caske, Traynefats or Cookeroome; or other house in any of the Harbours or Fishing places of the Countrey, or any other prouision belonging to the fishing trade, or to the Shippes.

Seuenthly, That no person set fire in any of the woods of the Countrey, or worke any detriment or destruction to the same, by Rynding of the Trees, either for the feeling of Shippes, holdes,
 or

or for Roomes on Shoare, or for any other vses, Except for the couering of the roofes for Cooke-rooms to dresse their meate in, and these Roomes not to extend aboute sixteene foot in length at the most.

Eightly, That no man cast Ancor, or ought else hurtfull, which may breede annoyance, or hinder the haleing of Seanes for baite in places accustomed thereunto.

Ninthly, That no person robbe the Netts of others out of any drift Boate or Drouer for baite

bait by night, nor take away any bait out of their Fishing-boats by their Shippes sides, nor robbe or steale any of their Nettes, or any part thereof.

Tenthly, That no person doe set vp any Tauerne for selling of Wine, Beere, or strong Waters, Cyder, or Tobacco, to entertaine the Fishermen, because it is found that by such meanes they are debauched, neglecting their labours, and poore ill-gouerned men, not onely spend most part of their shares before they come home, vpon which the life and

maintenance of their wife and children dependeth, but are likewise hurtfull in diuers other wayes, as by neglecting and making themselues vnfit for their labour, by purloyning and stealing from their owners, and by making vnlawfull shifts to supply their disorders, &c. which disorders they frequently follow since these occasions haue presented themselues.

Lastly, That vpon the Sundayes the Company assemble in meet places, and haue diuine Seruice to bee said by some of the
Masters

Masters of the Shippes, or some others, which prayers shall bee such as are in the Booke of Common Prayer.

And because that speedy punishment may be inflicted vpon the offenders against those Lawes and Constitutions;

Wee doe ordaine that euery of the Maiors of *Southampton*, *Weymouth*, and *Melcombe Regis*, *Lynne*, *Plymouth*, *Dartmouth*, *Estlow*, *Foye* and *Barnestable*; for the time being, may take Cognizans of all complaints made by any offender against any of these

Ordinances vpon the land, and by oath of VVitnesſes, examine the truth thereof, award amends to the parties grieued, and puniſh the delinquents by Fine, and Impriſonment, or either of them, and of their goods found in the parts of *New-found-land*, or in the Sea, cauſe ſatisfaction thereof to bee made by VVarrants vnder their hands and ſeales.

And the Vice-Admirals in Our Counties of *Southampton*, *Dorſet*, *Deuon*, and *Cornewall*, vpon complaint made of any of the premiſſes committed vpon the
Sea,

Sea, shall speedily and effectually proceed against the offenders.

Also VVe VVill and Ordaine, that these Lawes and Ordinances, shall stand in force, and bee put in due execution, vntill VVe shall otherwise prouide and ordaine.


And VVee doe require the Admirall in euery Harbour in this next Season ensuing, calling together such as shall bee in that Harbour, publicuely to proclaime these presents.

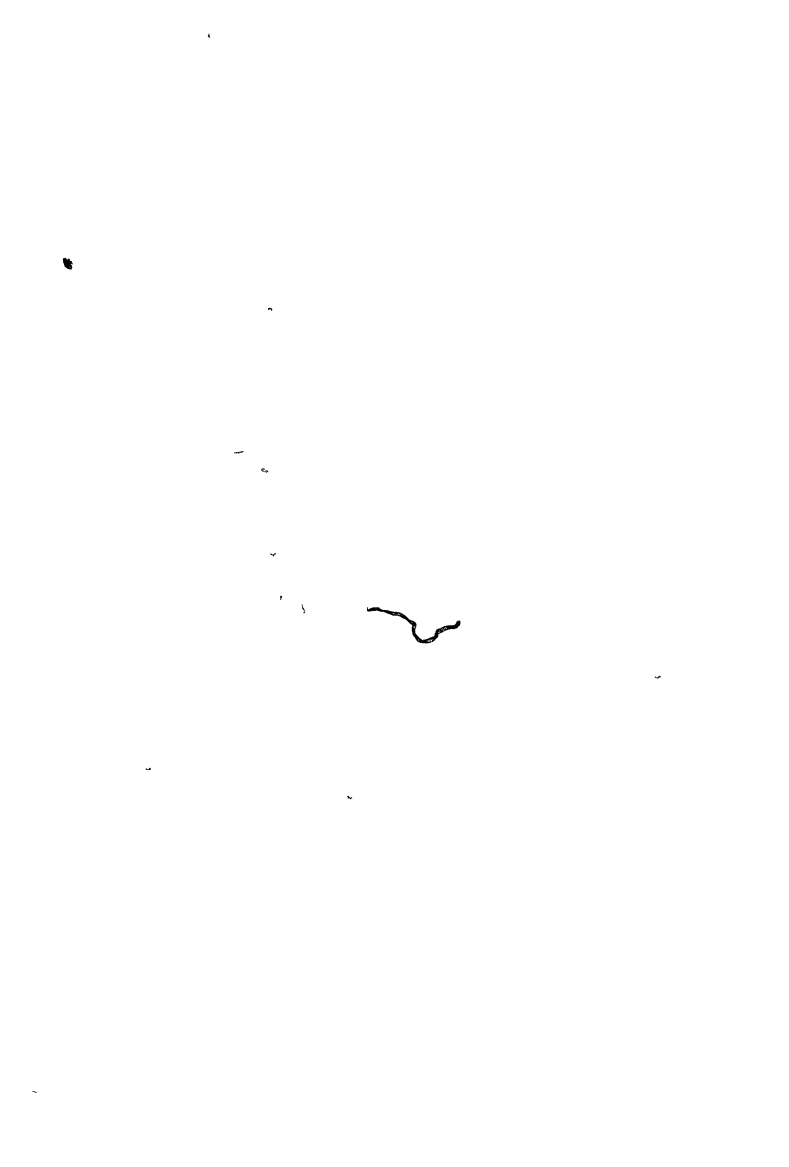
And that they also proclaime the same on the Shore.

In witnesse whereof Wee haue caused
these Our Letters to bee made Patents.
Witnesse our selfe at *Westminster*, the
tenth day of February, in the ninth
eere of Our Reigne.

Willys.

God saue the King.







Robert Newell

Robert Newell

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Robert Newell

Robert Newell

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