

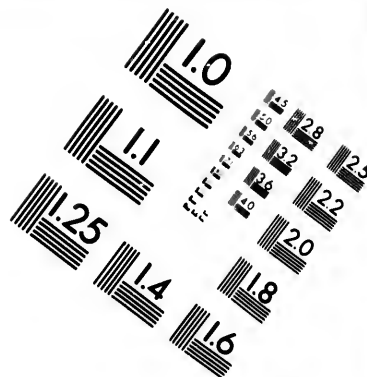
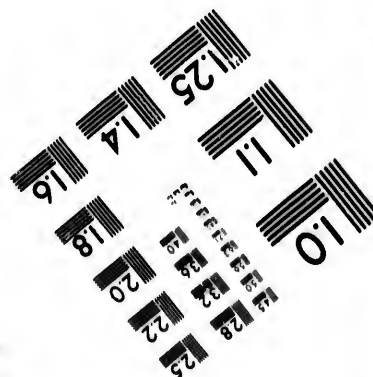
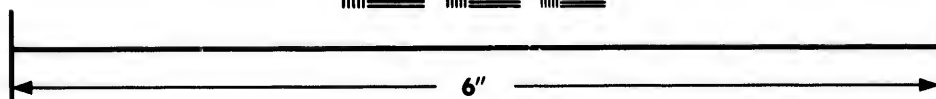
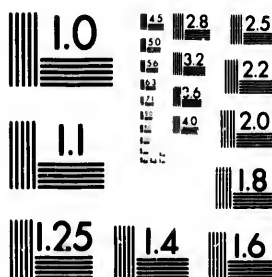


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

**23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503**

**CIHM/ICMH
Microfiche
Series.**

**CIHM/ICMH
Collection de
microfiches.**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

© 1984

The
to th

**The
posi
of th
film**

**Orig
begi
the
sion
othe
first
sion
or il**

- The
shat
TIN
whi**

Map
diff
enti
beg
right
requ
met

10X		14X		18X		22X		26X		30X	
12X		16X		20X		24X		28X		32X	

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

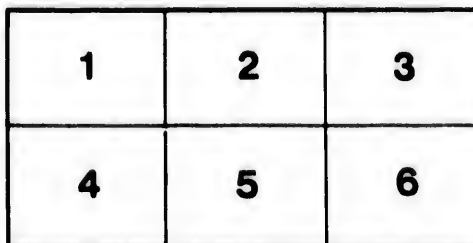
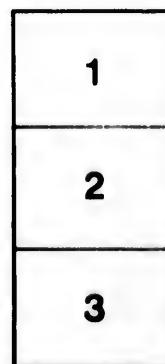
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library,
University of Toronto Library

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol ➡ (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ▼ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library,
University of Toronto Library

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole ➡ signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ▼ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

tails
du
odifier
une
image

rrata
to

pelure,
n à

32X

N

THE

PR

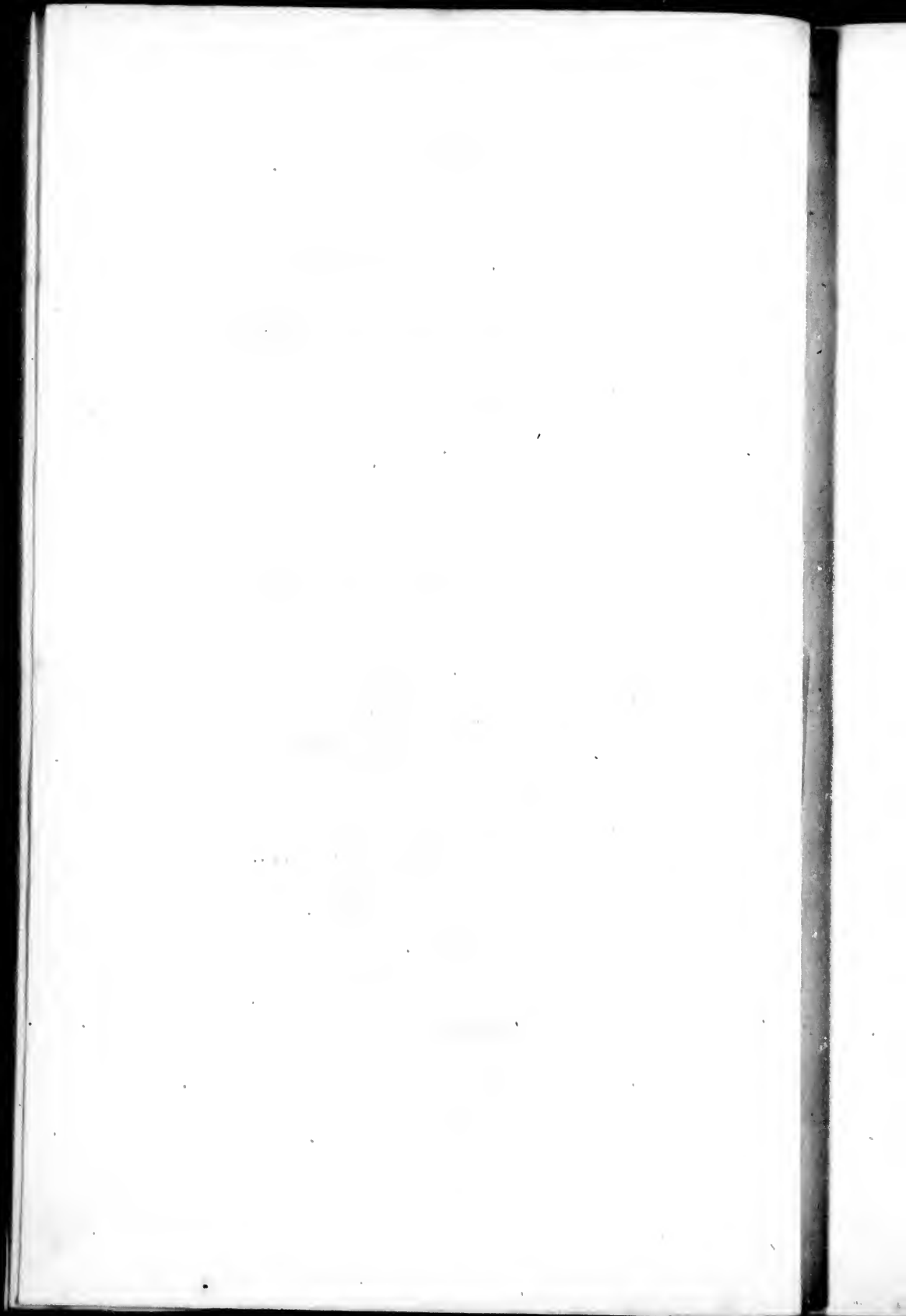
A TREATISE
ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF EXTENDING
THE BRITISH FISHERIES;
CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ICELAND FISHERIES,
AND OF THE
NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERY AND COLONY;
Together with Remarks and Propositions
FOR THE BETTER SUPPLY OF THE METROPOLIS
AND THE INTERIOR,
WITH CURED AND FRESH FISH;
ELUCIDATING ALSO
THE NECESSITY OF ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING COMMERCE,
AND THE GENERAL INDUSTRY OF THE COUNTRY.

By S. PHELPS.

LONDON:

**PRINTED FOR W. SIMPKIN AND R. MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT,
LUDGATE STREET.**

1818.



TO THE PUBLIC.



THAT writer must be fortunate indeed who can satisfy every reader; but a book can scarcely be written, from which *no* information can be derived.

Should, therefore, the present humble work be fortunately favoured with readers, it is hoped that they will not only have the candour to mark its errors and imperfections, but also have the generosity to assist in promoting the good which it is intended to establish.

THE AUTHOR.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

*In the Press, and speedily will be published,
in Two Volumes 8vo.*

THE
ANALYSIS OF HUMAN NATURE;

Or an Investigation of the Means to improve

THE CONDITION OF THE POOR,

AND PROMOTE THE HAPPINESS OF MANKIND IN GENERAL.

Comprising also,

THE PROGRESS AND PRESENT STATE OF POLITICAL,
MORAL, AND RELIGIOUS SOCIETY.

CONTENTS.



ICELAND FISHERY.

	Page.
The quantity of fish to be found in the bays and on the coasts of Iceland inexhaustible	2
Iceland not farther from the coasts of Scotland and Ire- land, than the south banks of Newfoundland from St. John's	3
Quantity of salmon, forrelers, and other fish, in the fiords, rivers, and lakes of Iceland	4
The Dutch fishery on the coast of Iceland	8
The importance of connecting the Iceland fisheries with establishments on the Scotch, Irish, and British coasts	9
Cod and herrings the principal fish for commerce	23
Their prolificacy	ib.
Our herring and pilchard fisheries would be much more ex- tensive under proper regulations	26
Dry or cured fish desirable as food for the poor	27
Caprice in the choice of food	28
Pickled fish very wholesome and delicious food, on board ship, and a great acquisition on long voyages	ib.
Peculiar local advantages to England for extending her fisheries	29
Advantages of fisheries, in a commercial point of view, and for giving employment to the maritime and other classes of people	23

CONTENTS.

ON SALT.

	Page.
The duties on salt the greatest possible obstacle to the success of the fisheries	34
Commutation recommended	35
Salt fit for the fisheries	36
Process of making fishery salt	37
Foreign salt compared with British	38
Dutch method of preparing salt for pickling herrings	42
Comparisons of different kinds of rock, bay, and other salt	44
Consequences of the evil effect of the duty on salt in a commercial point of view	47

INTRODUCTION OF THE BRITISH TRADE WITH ICELAND.

First expedition in the winter of the year 1808	50
Relief of Iceland and the Ferroe Islands	52
Convention of trade	54
Second expedition	55
Iceland revolution	56
Second convention	61
Desire of the natives to become subject to Great Britain ...	67
Order in Council to facilitate the British trade with Iceland	68
Recommendation to place the island under the dependencies of Great Britain	70
Description of the Icelanders, and Dr. Holland's History of the Literature of Iceland	71
The advantages of Iceland, in giving employment to the poor of the north of Scotland and Ireland, and as being preferable to their emigrating to North America.....	73
The Scilly Islands and other fishing stations recommended, connected with the Iceland fishery	74

GENERAL ARGUMENTS AND AUTHORITIES FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE FISHERIES.

Dr. Colquhoun's treatise recommending it.....	76
Method of trawl and line fishing	79

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Remonstrance to Government on the subject of the fisheries in the reign of Charles II.	79
Method of conducting the fisheries	81
Mr. Oddy's remark on the Dutch monopoly of fishing	84
Sir Thomas Bernard's remark with respect to the salt duties ..	ib.
The Downs' Society, established in November, 1815, for the promotion of the fisheries	85
Three millions six hundred thousand barrels of fish would be consumed, annually, in the United Kingdom, afford- ing maintenance to nine hundred and sixty thousand families, in various departments of labour	91
The fisheries have not succeeded for want of proper regu- lations	92
Their utility as a public and private benefit undoubted.....	93
Act of Geo. III. cap. cvi. for incorporating the <i>British</i> <i>Society for extending the Fisheries</i>	94
Its inefficacy	99
Plan proposed for extending the fisheries, by a general charter, &c.	101
IN FERENCE.	
A Board of Commissioners recommended, similar to that of Holland, for the regulation of the fisheries	107
The happiness of every country depends upon finding em- ployment for the people	108
The distresses of this country proceed from want of employ- ment	110
It is true economy in governments to promote industry ...	112
We have means to effect it, if properly applied	113
ADDENDA.	
The consequences of the want of employment for the British seamen have lately been verified	115
The maritime classes have now mostly left the country, and the consequence thereof	116
The system and management of the affairs of <i>Newfound-</i> <i>land</i> , and the Newfoundland fishery	118

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Description of that colony and fishery	119
The fisheries of this country have always failed through bad management. Other countries have derived their greatest resources of power and wealth from their fisheries. England, though more advantageously situated than any other country, for that trade, has derived the least benefit from it; and why	122
Prejudice in the choice of food	123
Objections made to the extension of the fisheries	124
Great profits to salesmen and little profit to the fishermen...	125
Fish as a general article of food; its wholesomeness and advantages verified in Cornwall	126
Association for the general supply of fish in the metropolis and the interior	127
Any charitable institutions, of that kind, not so useful as regulations for the promotion of industry, in the fisheries, and other employments. Comparison, in this respect, made between the powers of productive labour and the relief of the poor by charity	128
Sir Thomas Bernard's account of the supply of fish for the manufacturing poor	130
Fish, as it affects the consumption of other food, and the relief of the poor	134
The poor, who are accustomed to eat fish, are strong and healthy. Fish not intended as their chief article of food, but only in addition to what they now have	138
The prevention of monopoly would bring it into more general use	141
Billingsgate market insufficient for the metropolis	ib.
The Second Report of the Committee of the Fish Association	143
The nature and extent of the impediments which check the supply and more general use of fish	144
Quantities of fish are destroyed, and not taken, for want of proper regulations and regular markets	145
A depot and free market for the fishing trade, at Holy Haven, recommended to supply the metropolis and the	

CONTENTS.

	Page.
interior, every morning, with fresh fish; and another fish market, near Waterloo or Westminster Bridge, proposed	146
The want of proper regulations for the distribution of fish, in the metropolis and the interior, the cause of its high price and little consumption	152
The supply and consumption of fish might be carried to almost any extent, under proper regulations	159
Corned fish, if properly cured, and sold at a moderate price, would be very acceptable to all classes in this country...	160
Mr. Boase's account of the quantity of fish consumed in Cornwall	160
The relief it has been to that county; formerly they imported a great quantity of corn, now they import none, and export large quantities of potatoes	161
Account of the Nymph Bank. Its fishery, connected with the Scilly Islands, would give employment and subsistence to the poor of Cornwall, the Scilly Islands, and the south part of Ireland	ib.
The Scilly Islands recommended for that purpose, connected with the Iceland fishery; and for the supply of the trade to the West Indies, and the south of Europe ...	162
Different causes which have operated to the injury of the fishing trade	170
Effects of the salt duty to alarm and discourage the fishermen	172
Considerations proposed to Government, upon this subject, by the Fish Association	174
The great increase of the mackarel fishery, occasioned by a stimulus given to the fishermen	176
Government recommended to grant a bounty, when fish is below a certain price	177
Grievances and hardships occurring to the fishermen	179
The duty on salt cannot naturally be expected to be given up without a commutation	182
A property tax, or any other tax, recommended in preference	183

CONTENTS.

	Page.
The Dutch have been our most successful rivals in the fisheries	187
The business of a master fisherman in this country requires a great capital, which is chiefly supplied by the salesmen; and thus the constant embarrassed state of the fishermen, and the high price of fish	188
The establishment of a road from Holy Haven, and making that port a free market, would do away this evil, and insure a constant supply and sale for fish	191
When the population of London was not more than a twenty-fourth part of its present number, it was furnished with two fish markets; now it has only one	195
The late supplies to the interior towns have occasioned a much greater demand for fish	206
Mr. Scott's recommendation to the Committee of the House of Commons to promote the fisheries, as a relief to the maritime class of the people	211
Naval militia recommended, and the fisheries the best schools to train them in	ib.
Different discouragements to the fisheries, and the failures of different attempts to extend them	ib.
Their causes	212
The white herring fishery	213
Bounties on ditto	214
Bounties on the fisheries have never been properly regulated. Being a tonnage bounty on the fishing vessels, they have given more encouragement to smuggling than to catching fish	219
Causes of failure of the white herring fishery	223
State of the country	227
The distress of the inhabitants of the Scilly Islands, and modes of relief	228
This country cannot be relieved and supported, without every encouragement to general industry	230
If Newfoundland should be lost to England, the extension of other fisheries would be more than equivalent	231

Page.
sh-
... 187
res
es-
the
... 188
ng
and
... 191
ty-
ith
... 193
d a
... 206
se
he
... 211
est
... ib.
res
... ib.
... 212
... 213
... 214
u-
s,
g
... 219
... 223
... 227
d
... 228
at
... 230
u
... 231

INTRODUCTION.

THE following Observations are written under the full impression and conviction, that no one greater good can at this time be rendered to the welfare and support of this country, than by promoting and extending the fisheries; the advantages and necessity of which having been frequently noticed for centuries past, but no regular method having been adopted, little has been done to carry this important object into effect.

It seems that the failure has been principally owing to its never having been made, strictly speaking, a national object of investigation, or that no plan has been laid down of practical utility.

It cannot, perhaps, be pointed out, that any regular enquiry has been made upon the

subjects of the best modes of extending the fisheries, and of the best methods of curing fish.

It is a disgrace to the British nation, that the Dutch, without any established fisheries, and under many local disadvantages, carry on the greatest fishing trade in the world; and even supply, to a great extent, our own markets. 'This is occasioned by their better regulations in catching fish, and by their superior method in curing it.

It may appear, by the late distressed state of our colony at Newfoundland, that our fisheries are already too extensive; but this is not the fact. The demand for fish will always exceed the supply to be procured, under proper regulations.

It is impossible that individuals can carry on fisheries to a great extent, without proper regulations and encouragement. 'This requires nothing more than the removal of impediments by a general charter, under which associations may act. Funds will then be found to form fishing stations; merchants

and dealers will always know where to make purchases; and fishermen will likewise know where to find markets for their fish.

Chartered companies, when they have exclusive privileges, are the ruin and destruction of trade. Joint-stock companies, upon a different principle, and under proper regulations, would have the contrary effect, particularly in the establishments of fisheries. For who will subscribe to any establishment of utility, if it put his whole capital and fortune at risk? Fishing societies should not become merchants; their objects should be confined to catching and curing of fish, and to disposing of the same at their depots and stations.

One of the greatest inconveniences and obstacles to the extension of the British Fisheries is, the ruinous and impolitic duty on salt. This may in some measure be remedied, if the evil cannot entirely be removed, by appointing fishing stations, more of which will be said in the course of this work.

But, certainly, the first consideration for

establishing Fishing Companies, or for extending the fisheries, is to know where to find a supply of fish; and however much may have been said, and entertained, of the indefinite supply of fish around the British coasts, yet I shall prove that, though the fact may in some degree be established, the principle is comparatively fallacious.

I shall therefore begin my observations by describing the immense value of the Iceland Fishery, connected with establishments and stations on the British and Irish coasts.

Since this book was first printed, last year, great preparations have been made in the north of Scotland, to extend the fishery on that coast; and, it is said, that there are now three thousand large boats, and fifteen thousand fishermen, employed in catching herrings, on the coast of Caithness, to the great relief and benefit of that country; but they complain of impediments, particularly of the duty on salt, and on staves, on which account they cannot come in competition with the Dutch. By proper regulations and facilities, in these and other respects, they state, that the fisheries may be carried on there, and at other places named in this book, to any extent, and produce incalculable advantages to the nation at large.

N
lan
qu
ab
plo
cre

fish
tak
wh
gre
the
an
the
inf

ICELAND FISHERY.

No person can have visited the island of Iceland, without being convinced of the immense quantities of fish with which its shores and bays abound; but to strangers, who have never explored that country, the report must appear incredible.

The bays and rivers of Iceland are full of fish, in such abundance that the natives do not take the trouble to fish on the outward banks, where the finest fish are to be caught, and in the greatest quantities; they confine themselves to the bays, or fiords, where they fish in small boats, and catch as much fish as they require; but the fish in the bays are comparatively small and inferior in quality to the fish caught in the deep

waters, or on the banks at some distance from the coasts. In the bays too, on account of the rocks, fishing is only practicable with single line and hook, but on the outward banks fishermen can use both trawl and line, or catch the fish as on the banks of Newfoundland; and the quantity of cod, ling, and haddock, is so great, that there is no end to its supply. Great quantities of turbot, soles, and halibut, are likewise found on the coasts.

In the bays and rivers of Iceland there is also very fine salmon, in great abundance, and incredible shoals of herrings on the north coast. One river in Iceland will produce as much salmon as all the rivers of England and Scotland. There are also immense quantities of forrelers (a species of trout) and other fish in the lakes.

The trade with Iceland being now open and free, and government having accorded a bounty of three pounds per ton on the Iceland fishery, an opportunity presents itself of establishing an Iceland Fishing Company, under very peculiar advantages.

1st. The supply of fish is inexhaustible.

2d. The fishing grounds round Iceland are at no greater distance from the shores of Scot-

land and Ireland than the south banks of Newfoundland are from St. John's, where the fish is cured*.

The plan of this society should therefore be, to catch the fish on the coasts of Iceland, and bring it to the Orkney, or other stations, to be cured; which could easily be effected, with infallible success, by salting the fish on board, in bulk, as fast as it is caught and cleaned, and, when a full cargo is obtained, by proceeding to the Orkneys, or other places, as the wind may best serve, where the fish would be found in an excellent state, fit for curing dry, or for barrel-ing†.

* The great bank of Newfoundland extends four hundred and fifty miles in length, and upwards of one hundred in breadth. It is about seventy-five miles from the island of Newfoundland. The best and fattest cod are those taken at the south side of the bank; those of the north side being considerably smaller and inferior; therefore the distance, with all its windings, from the south side of the great bank of Newfoundland to St. John's, is considerably farther than the direct line from Iceland to the Orkneys, or the north of Ireland.

† The Chinese pack their fish between layers of salt in the holds of their vessels, and carry it many thousands of miles in that hot country; but they only do a part of the work which is necessary to make good fish. The French also pack their herrings in the same way at Dieppe.

Cargoes of salmon, forrelers, &c. could also be brought fresh in ice, or in pickle, to the London, Liverpool, Scotch, or Irish markets.

In order to make the most of the seasons, some number of vessels, with fishermen, should winter in Iceland, to take advantage of the early fishing season in February, and to prepare cargoes for the spring; or the trade may be carried on precisely the same as with Newfoundland, which would employ a colony of people to an immense extent, and relieve thousands of families, particularly in the north of Scotland and Ireland.

This fishery would be the finest nursery in the world for seamen, as was proved by the Dutch, who formerly carried on a very extensive and lucrative fishing trade with the coasts of Iceland.

In the year 1803, eleven hundred and thirty-three Dutch vessels were fishing at one time off the bays of Faxefjord and Bredefjord; each vessel had from twelve to sixteen hands on board. Their fish was salted on board in barrels, the inconveniency and expence of which must be evident, compared with the mode now proposed. Barrels take up a great deal of room in the vessels, and lessen the cargoes, besides being expensive and cumbersome; neither will the fish be

so good as if first salted in bulk, where, if it remained at least three weeks, it would be of benefit rather than injury to its quality. Besides, if by chance some fish are not properly cleaned, and the back bone not properly taken out, a single fish of this kind will spoil the flavour and quality of a whole barrel, which cannot happen by the proposed method, as they may be separated, or improved, in the second curing. It is also necessary in the process of curing fish, that it should undergo a certain degree of fermentation and pressure.

The advantage of running to the Orkneys, or other contiguous places, to discharge the cargoes as fast as they are procured, will enable the vessels to make several voyages in a season, whereas the Dutch can only make one, and consequently cannot bring their fish to market at so cheap a rate as the Company now proposed.

Each vessel, of 120 to 150 tons, should be attended on the fishing banks by several smaller vessels, which should bring their fresh fish to the large vessels, when they could assist in fishing; by which means a cargo would very soon be completed.

The Iceland salt fish is always worth five

dollars per quintal more, in the Mediterranean markets, than the Newfoundland fish.

The Icelanders make a great quantity of their cod into stock fish, called by them *torfisk*, which is the fish simply dried without salt; but they also make *clipfisk*, or dry salt fish, of a most excellent quality.

Not long since the government of Denmark was willing to dispose of the island of Iceland, for no very considerable sum, and was about to alienate it to a Company in Norway. It is much to be lamented that the British government did not take Iceland under its protection, when it was strenuously solicited by the natives, a few years ago. This idea is also strengthened by the opinions of Mr. Hooker and Sir George Mackenzie, who have written upon the subject*.

Iceland is invaluable for the protection and accommodation it would afford our Greenland trade, as well as for the trade of that island.

* The government of Norway is now most particularly attentive to the encouragement and extension of their fisheries, and they will use every endeavour to possess themselves of Iceland, if it can possibly be obtained. They had formerly a Company established in Iceland, which probably does not at present exist; but this will lead to overtures of a more important nature, unless we anticipate their views by a prior application.

The Iceland hovkalv, (pronounced houkal) or shark oil, is the finest fish-oil in the world. It is colourless, and clear as water, and will not freeze in the coldest winter of our climate. It is made by cutting the fish in junks or pieces, and by throwing a large quantity together into a deep pit, where it is suffered to ferment and putrify; after which the oil exudes and purifies itself, and is separated from the fleshy substance by pressure only, and without heat. After a little repose, it becomes perfectly fine and clear; and it is evident, that after this process of the putrid fermentation, it is not subject to change or decomposition, although it gets of a deeper colour by carriage, perhaps in dirty casks, or from a tinge of the wood. The Icelanders eat the flesh of the hovkalv after the oil is extracted, and they esteem it excellent food.

If cargoes of blubber were brought from Greenland to Iceland, (or I think even to the Orkneys) the oil, no doubt, could be extracted in the same manner, which would greatly improve its quality, and the process would be much less expensive than the common method; and each vessel sent out to Greenland would, by this plan, procure two cargoes in a season, instead of one only. The livers of the cod may be treated in the same manner. The heads of cod, as well as the sounds, are of much more value than is

generally imagined. The Icelanders dry the heads, and, by proper treatment, they certainly make as fine soup as the best turtle in the world.

The Dutch had, in the year 1803, eleven hundred and thirty-three vessels fishing at the same time off the coast of Iceland, as before stated. The value of each vessel, with outfit, salt, barrels, and provisions, could not be less, upon an average, than £800, making the capital employed £906,400. One-third the tonnage of vessels, and one-third the capital and expences, would bring as much fish to the Orkneys, salted in bulk, as was brought by the Dutch to their markets. A comparative calculation of profits and advantages need not, therefore, be further entered into.

Five hundred vessels, of 150 tons each (and the Dutch were of 120 to 150 tons burthen) would bring, in single cargoes only, 75,000 tons of fish to the Orkneys in one season; the bounty alone upon which would be £225,000. It is presumed that government may not continue this bounty, which would not be required after the first expence and establishment*.

* Dr. Adam Smith, whose views on subjects of political economy are considered to be good authority, and whose leading principle is, that governments should interfere as little as possible in trade and commerce, allows that fisheries are an exception;—

The number of seamen employed by the Dutch in fishing off Iceland, was not less, upon an average, than from twelve to sixteen thousand, and, in the whole of their fishing trade, it is said, they employed above 9000 vessels and 360,000 people, which must have given employment to more than double that number of other descriptions of persons ashore. By extending the British fisheries in the way now proposed, with all their appendages, may not as many British vessels and British subjects find employ? This is a subject which requires the most serious consideration and investigation, together with the most ample encouragement and support. The calculation, enormous as it may appear, is much within the bounds of probability and truth.

It has been said, that the establishment of an Iceland fishery might interfere with our Newfoundland and home fisheries.—Shall, therefore, this invaluable fishery be refused to British fishermen, and be given again exclusively to the Dutch? Would that be any advantage to our

that their encouragement is a national benefit, and therefore, that their extension ought to be an object for bounties at the expence of the public.”—But these bounties should be administered with care, otherwise, instead of having the desired effect of encouraging and extending the fisheries, they may serve only as a pretext for smuggling, which will be further shown in the course of this work.

Newfoundland and home fisheries?—The Dutch would always have the preference at foreign markets; the cabaliou, or bacallau of Iceland being always preferred to the Newfoundland fish, and it arrives at foreign markets much sooner.

The Dutch fishermen, who were accustomed to fish on the coasts of Iceland, always ridiculed the idea of our sending to Newfoundland to fish, when we could get better fish, in greater quantities, so much nearer home.

Besides, what is the extent of our fisheries at home and abroad? By a recent statement made to the House of Commons, it appeared that only 20,000 seamen were employed in the British fisheries! The Dutch employed 360,000 people altogether, at least, as is stated in a printed report: shall we then confine our numbers to 20,000, and give the remainder of the trade to the Dutch? It is not only the number of fishermen to be employed that is to be taken into consideration upon this subject, but the employment which will be given to women and children to cure and pack the fish on shore, and the incalculable numbers of persons of various descriptions to whom it will give employment, food, and comfort.

Although the local situation of Great Britain

is the best in the world for the extension of her fisheries, yet the Dutch have always excelled us as fishermen and curers, which has arisen partly from their greater steady industry, and partly from their superior method; for in all things else they have the disadvantage. It may not, therefore, be improper to state some of the probable causes of their superior success.

1st. The Dutch always paid their fishermen by shares of the fish caught, to induce them to be diligent, and procure full cargoes in the shortest space of time; and the same method should always be adopted, which is the natural and primitive mode of carrying on and extending fisheries, as well as a saving of capital.

2dly. Their most expert fishermen were the commodores of their fleets, both in finding the best fishing grounds and shoals of fish, and in giving instructions how and where to lay their nets.

3dly. The Dutch kept the same fishermen employed the whole year round, in different fisheries and on different stations; for herrings are not found at the same time off the north of Iceland, the coasts of Scotland, and at Yarmouth, but succeed each other. The same with other fish according to their seasons.

It appears, also, that another great cause of the superior success and extent of their fisheries was, that they fished in large companies or fleets, and made a kind of joint stock concern of their captures. For instance, off Iceland, there would be seldom less than 1000 to 1200 vessels fishing at the same stations; each shared alike, and on their return home they had merchants ready to contract for forty or fifty cargoes together to ship for foreign markets; whereas it is difficult to find a market for a single cargo, or a purchaser who would enter upon such an enterprise.*

Supposing a single vessel to be sent out to Iceland, and to return with a full cargo of fish;—what is the owner to do with the fish when he has got it? He has no connexion in the trade; and instead of receiving the value of his cargo, and returning again to the same employment, he must go to a foreign market, where he is also a stranger, and a new trader, and where he must

* Merchants also contracted for large quantities of fish, which they took from the fishermen on the coasts of Iceland, and sent out large vessels for that purpose. Fishing companies should not be both fishermen and merchants. The Dutch have particular laws for their fisheries, which are regulated by the admiralty of Holland; and which oblige the fishermen to fish in fleets, &c. and not to interfere or take advantage of each other. They also make verbal agreements of coaction among themselves, which they consider as binding as if enforced by bond, or established by law.

sell his fish at any price that is offered, consequently he is no better off abroad than at home. This shows the importance of fishing companies and fishing stations, which still admit of ramifications, that would give occupation and support to numberless individuals of different descriptions. What makes the value of our oyster fisheries, but being carried on by extensive companies?

The establishment of an Iceland fishing company is the more to be recommended, as its object is not to obtain a monopoly, but to extend the British fisheries generally, and thereby give regular employment to multitudes of the lower classes of the community (particularly seamen out of employ) and also to furnish a more abundant supply of a very desirable article of food; which can only be effected by the joint exertions and support of persons of high consideration and distinction. The efforts of single individuals would be inadequate and unavailing; and unless prompt and powerful means are adopted, this trade, so natural and advantageous to the British interest, will again fall exclusively into the hands of the Dutch, or be alienated to the Norwegians.

Some people may remark that our fisheries are already too extensive, and allege as a proof the present distressed state of our colony and

fishery at Newfoundland; but this is by no means a proof. The local disadvantages, distance, and expence of our Newfoundland fishery operate against that fishery; but the demand for fish will always exceed the supply to be obtained, if it can be brought to market at a cheap rate, and of a good quality.

A most striking remark was made by Mr. M. A. Taylor in the House of Commons, stating "that the Spaniards and Italians had laid such heavy duties on our Newfoundland fish as amounted almost to its prohibition, and that our ministers should interfere upon the subject." No doubt can be entertained but fish should be considered a staple article of this country, and should interest government as much as any other article either for exportation, or for home consumption.

The Spaniards and Italians have no cod fish but what they get from Northern nations, and in time of scarcity they feel the want of it in a degree like that of wanting bread; but as they will give five dollars per quintal more for the Iceland cod than for the Newfoundland cod, this alone amounts to a prohibition of the latter. It should therefore seem that the quality more than the price is the object to be considered, and I am at a loss to know how this is to be overcome,

particularly as the Iceland fish could be rendered cheaper at those markets than the Newfoundland fish, and they both, no doubt, are subject to the same duties.

It cannot therefore be expected that merchants will send out their vessels to fish at Newfoundland, if they can neither find markets for their fish nor make any profit by it.

The West India, Brazil, and South American markets ought to take immense quantities of Newfoundland fish, provided it could be supplied at as cheap a rate as by the Americans, or of as good a quality as by the Dutch: but in Europe it never can have any chance, when the Dutch are again fully established.

I have been informed, by a very respectable gentleman from the Havannah, that the Newfoundland fish is prohibited there.

It is really a disgrace to England, considering her local and other advantages, that the Dutch, without any established fisheries, and under many apparent unfavourable circumstances, should carry on the greatest fishing trade in the world. I have been informed that they have sent out more than one thousand vessels to fish in the north seas this season.

By proper attention and management, the Dutch could neither send fish to foreign markets as cheap as we could, nor of better quality. The Dutch fish is certainly considered the best fish that is now cured; but I have seen better fish in Iceland than has ever been cured by the Dutch.

Many plans and attempts have been made to extend the British fisheries, but it appears, upon a review of them, that the principal points necessary or requisite have been left out of the question, namely,

- 1st.—where to find the fish;
- 2nd.—how to catch the fish;
- 3rd.—how to cure the fish;
- 4th.—how to dispose of the fish;

and all that these plans have effected has been to raise funds, which have been wasted and expended in useless theories, formed without principles or practice to support them.

With respect to the quantity of fish to be found on the coasts of Iceland, nothing can be more convincing than the number of vessels employed by the Dutch in that trade, and in corroboration of my own local knowledge, I can quote other travellers who have visited that country.

Before Newfoundland was discovered, our principal fisheries for cod were in the seas of Iceland and of our western isles, but the greater plenty was found near Iceland. This evidently appears; for Queen Elizabeth condescended to ask Christian III. of Denmark, permission to fish in those seas, though she afterwards repented of her request, and instructed her ambassadors to insist on the right of a free and uncontrolled fishery.

If the Dutch could always have found as much fish on our coasts as they required, they would never have gone to Iceland for it. The quality is superior, and the quantity is also greater in the deep-sea fisheries than on our coasts.

Mr. Bright says, in his *Zoology of Iceland*, "Some parts of the coasts of Iceland, particularly the bays on the west, abound with varieties of very fine cod, for which, before the discovery of Newfoundland, a very considerable fishery was carried on; so that in the reign of King James I. no less than 150 vessels were employed in the Iceland fisheries.

Mr. Hooker, in his "*Tour in Iceland*," gives an account of a fishing party to a small river, near Reikavig, page 187.—"Before 3 o'clock,"

he says, "2200 salmon were caught in the Lax Elbe, all of which Mr. Phelps bought of the proprietor of the place, and cured two-thirds of them for exportation, the remaining third being allotted to those who gave their assistance at the fishery, as a compensation for their trouble. "To catch such a quantity as this," he says, "would be considered extraordinary, and even wonderful in any other country. In this, as in many other points of view, it is unfortunate for the islanders that Mr. Phelps's stay was so short among them, for in former years they have had no means of disposing of the salmon they caught, and as the exporting of them on their own account has been wholly out of their power, all beyond what might be requisite for their own consumption has been necessarily wasted."

The Lax Elbe, or Salmon river, which Mr. Hooker mentions, is very small and unproductive, compared with many rivers in Iceland, some of which would produce millions of salmon each by a very little expence and contrivance.

Salmon is a northern fish, being unknown in the Mediterranean sea and other warm climates, and as they live in fresh water about six months in the year, the rivers of Iceland are very favourable for their reception and protection, and millions more could be preserved and

caught by the construction of weirs and leaps, as in our rivers.

Mr. Hooker also adds, page 54, in the introduction, "In nothing do the Icelanders excel so much as in the curing of their cod-fish; which is of the best kind, so that if the fisheries were properly conducted, they might prove a source of inexhaustible wealth to the island; for fish from that country always sells at a much higher rate than what comes either from Newfoundland or Norway."

Sir George Mackenzie, in his "Travels in Iceland," says, page 205, "The salmon fishery of Iceland appears to be an admirable object for speculation, while the rents of our British rivers are so high. From the beginning of June to the beginning of August, vast quantities may be taken in the different rivers with very little trouble." And in page 234, he says, "The harbour of Eyafjord is the best on the northern coast, but, except during the month of June and the beginning of July, and in September and October, there are no cod fish or haddock found in the fiord, and it is only at some distance out at sea that the fish are taken at these times. The months of April and May are chiefly occupied in taking the houkal or shark, which is chiefly carried on at Siglefjord, in a small bay about

fifty miles N.W. of Eyafjord. At the last place herrings appear in vast shoals during the months of June and July, and are taken with seine nets; and it is no uncommon occurrence, that 150 barrels of herrings are taken at one single haul of the net*."

In page 271, he mentions an Icelandic proverb, which I know is common in Iceland. "When the Danes shall have stripped us of our shirts, the English will clothe us anew:" and he adds, "the possession would not be burdensome to England. An exuberant and inexhaustible supply of fish, from the sea and the rivers, would alone repay the charitable action of restoring freedom to the inhabitants." At page 338, he says, "There is perhaps no part of the world where the cod fishery can be carried on so extensively, so easily, or so safely, as in Iceland. When the distance of Newfoundland, and the stormy weather which prevails in that quarter, are comparatively considered, together with the expence of our establishment there, Iceland offers the most important advantages as a fishing station. The facility with which the fishing is carried on by the natives is really astonishing. In the morning they go out in small skiffs to the dis-

* If Sir George had doubled the number, he would have been much within the scale of possibility and truth.

tance of a few miles from the shore, and in the afternoon return with as many fish as their boats can contain. Even in the very harbours abundance of cod-fish are sometimes taken. The rivers are frequented by vast quantities of salmon, an article in great demand, both in this country and in the West Indies; but they are neglected, no means being employed for a regular capture. Fish and oil are the chief articles of export; which could be extended to an indefinite amount."

It is, perhaps, needless to add more for proving the inexhaustible quantity of fish to be found in the rivers, lakes, and on the coasts of Iceland; and certainly, as I have before stated, the first consideration for establishing a fishing society, or for extending our fisheries is, to know where to find a supply of fish. But fish emigrate, and therefore the same spot may not always be the most favourable one. The Dutch certainly changed their fishing stations, and sought for fish wherever they could find it; we, on the contrary, wait till it come to our doors, or to the places where we are accustomed to fish. Where there have been formerly great fisheries, there may probably be now but little fish to be found; but one thing is certain, which is, that cod and herrings migrate from the North Pole, and the course they take may be generally ascertained.

Mons. J. P. Catteau Calleville, in his "Table of Commerce of the Baltic Sea," &c. states, "that the first establishments of the Hanseatic league for taking herrings, were made on the coast of Scania, in Sweden: that about the year 1400, the Dutch interfered in this fishing; soon after which, in the year 1449, Van Beuckels discovered the art of salting herrings, for which his country erected a statue to his memory. It is said, that the Emperor Charles the Fifth and his sister, the Queen of Hungary, being in the Low Countries, in the year 1556, visited his tomb. Before the fifteenth century, herrings appeared in the Baltic; afterwards shoals of herrings frequented the coast of Norway. For a great many years, herrings frequented the east coast of Jutland, particularly the bay of Limfiord, and near the city of Nibo. About the year 1748, the first shoals of herrings approached the provinces of Westrogothia and Bohus, in Sweden, and at different places in the Cattegat. They came in such quantities, and so regularly, that the Swedish government encouraged this fishery by giving rewards, and by advancing capitals to carry it on.

This herring fishery formerly took place in August and September; latterly in the months of November, and sometimes in January. Long nets are used, in imitation of the Dutch, to

take the herrings as soon as they appear in the neighbouring sea, and before they get into the bays on the coast. The nets used by the Dutch, in the deep-sea fishery, are very long, and composed of fifty or sixty nappes, or pieces: they are made of a coarse silk from Persia, which lasts much longer than hemp. The nets are blackened by smoke, that they may not frighten away the fish."

The cod inhabits only the northern parts of the world, and seems to be confined between the latitude of sixty-six and fifty. Those found in other latitudes are few in number, and bad in quality. They prefer the vicinity of the polar seas, to which they always return to spawn.

"Providence," says Ward, "has benevolently ordained that this fish, so useful to mankind, should be so very prolific as to supply more than the deficiencies of the multitudes annually taken.

Leuwenhock counted 9,384,000 eggs in a cod-fish of a middling size.

The great winter rendezvous of herrings is within the arctic circle, where they continue several months, in order to recruit themselves after the fatigue of spawning; the seas within that space being said to swarm with insect food

in a much greater degree than in our warmer latitudes.

When they proceed to the south, they divide in distinct columns, of five or six miles in length, and three or four in breadth, and they drive with such force on the northern shores of Iceland, that ship loads may be taken up with very little trouble.

As very few young herrings remain in our seas during winter, it is imagined that they must return to their parental haunts beneath the ice, perhaps by the deep waters; and it appears that, when they have cleared the northern seas of their stock of provisions, they then travel southward, in search of a fresh supply, and also to spawn.

Their prolificacy, according to their size, may be compared to, or calculated to surpass, that of the cod; therefore, these two kinds of fish are the great sources from which to obtain great captures, for general commerce and general consumption.

I believe it an undoubted fact, though not mentioned in the geology of that country, that the banks of Newfoundland extend in a direct line north-east to the coast of Iceland. The gulf stream, which forms those banks, runs precisely

that course, and brings annually timber and other floating substances direct to Iceland; therefore, in fishing on the west coast of Iceland, one might be said to be fishing on the banks of Newfoundland; and it is natural to believe, that as cod-fish and herrings migrate from the north, they are first to be found, in the greatest quantities, off Iceland, and that from thence they proceed to Newfoundland, Scotland, and other southern climates.

Admitting this hypothesis to be true, the locality of Great Britain is particularly advantageous, as a central fishing station, or depot for the fishing trade; and at some seasons of the year, when fish are not to be found in quantities on our coasts, we may follow their course to where they may be found, thereby keeping up a constant employment for our fishermen.

The business of catching fresh fish, on our coasts and rivers, belongs to old men and children; but for extensive captures of fish for curing, there must be large vessels fit for any seas, and large companies to carry on the enterprise*.

* The recent distressing accounts of the loss of our mackerel boats, will confirm this observation. Mackerel is caught in quantities only in rough seas and high winds, and we send out boats to catch them which are unable to bear those seas, therefore accidents must consequently follow.

To extend our fisheries, the plan must be extensive: the object is vast, and the pursuit must be so likewise.

Our herring and pilchard fisheries would be infinitely more extensive under proper regulations. We wait, as I have before stated, until the fish arrive at our doors, and, when they come, they are sometimes in such quantities, that either no preparation is made for taking them, or, if taken, no means are provided for curing the half of them, and the rest are spoilt. This would not be the case under proper regulations.

Although the Spaniards are not to be quoted for their industry in general, yet there is some merit in their plan of catching sardinias on the coast of the Atlantic, where I have seen twenty thousand men, women, and children, at a time, employed in that fishery. They come to the coast with their boats, salt, nets, tents, and provisions, at the proper season, and remain to the end of it, which is about six weeks or two months. Their nets extend for many miles, and the quantity of fish they bring ashore at one draught is incredible; hundreds and thousands are assisting and hauling at the same time. In small companies, how could this be performed?

This fishery alone, gives not only employment, but food, to a great number of persons. It is a perfect harvest, and a harvest of the greatest value to the Spaniards, who with a small quantity of fish, will provide a comfortable meal for a large family. The Spaniards are very partial to fish as food, particularly cured or dry fish, which perhaps is the most wholesome, and certainly the most substantial. I have had evidence to prove, that a small quantity of dried or corned fish, will make up a comfortable meal for a very large family.

The Icelanders eat very little fresh fish, though they can get it for nothing. Experience teaches these poor people, that it is injurious to their health to make it the principal part of their food; but they will live upon dried fish, and little else, and are very healthy when they have a sufficient quantity, with a little rye meal. They will give a penny for a dry cod's head, and they will not give more than a penny for the whole fresh cod.

The use of dry and corned fish is becoming very general among the people in Cornwall. They prefer it to fresh fish, which they can get at a much cheaper rate, because it gives a relish to their potatoes, and is a much more substantial and wholesome food: and what an acqui-

tion would plenty of it be, at a cheap rate, to the poor people of Ireland, who have little else but potatoes for their food.

There is a great caprice in the choice of our food, which habit makes familiar, and prejudice will not suffer us to alter.

In England we neither eat stock-fish, nor would give it to our dogs for food; but in Paris it is considered the greatest delicacy.

In England we think of no pickled fish but salmon; but, in Portugal and Italy, I have had all kinds of fish pickled in vinegar, for a voyage, and it is the most wholesome and delicious food imaginable on board ship, and would be a most desirable acquisition on long voyages to the East and West Indies.

The price of pickled salmon precludes its general use. The quantity too, in this country, is inadequate; but the quantity of salmon and other fish, to be obtained in Iceland for this purpose, would be indefinite.

Various ways may also be found out of preparing fish, and of rendering it a more general article of food.

It has been said, that if the British fishermen were as fond of fishing, and the British population as fond of eating fish, as the Dutch, our fisheries would be as extensive as theirs; but I think it is neither their greater fondness for fishing, nor their greater partiality for fish, that is the cause of their great trade of fishing. Our fishermen would like the employment of fishing as well as the Dutch, if they had as large and good vessels, and as good accommodation and regulations on board; and the population of Great Britain and Ireland would consume six times the quantity consumed in Holland, if they could get it at a reasonable rate, and of as good a quality throughout the interior of the country, particularly of cured and dry salt fish.

The great object of the Dutch is, to supply foreign markets, and by their making larger captures, they get more money than the English can do in their small boats, fitted out under the present confined system.

When we consider the insular situation of Great Britain, and view the position in which it is placed upon the globe, when we contemplate with rapture and gratitude the happy spot allotted to our being, surely we cannot deny that Nature has designed us to be fishermen and seamen; and I could carry the enthusiasm of the thought

so far, as to wish, that the whole of our coasts were covered with a population eager and zealous in that industrious and happy pursuit, for in that the safety of Britain can alone depend.

If we would step from our homes, or have commerce with the world, we must have the passport of the ocean, and without it we are nothing; therefore, to be great and respectable among nations, we must study always to be a maritime nation, such as Nature has designed us to be. Our valour may make us good soldiers, but our natural element is the sea; and the rank which we hold in the estimation of the world, is due to that naval energy and skill, which Nature designed we should possess in a superior degree. It has saved us in times of imminent danger, and prepared us the way for our further glories; and if now no naval achievements are further to be expected, thanks to the bravery of our seamen who have left us no enemies to contend with. But time and relaxation may effect ruthless changes: let not, therefore, the carriers of the western hemisphere become our rivals on the ocean. The history of the world will show what industry and a strict union of interests can accomplish, and what disunion and apathy can destroy.

The fisheries are the best schools for seamen,

and fewer vices are imbibed by youth in that employ, than in almost any other pursuit in life.

The advantage of extending our fisheries is evident in every point of view. We cannot possibly find employment or subsistence for the maritime part of our population, nor men for our navy or commerce without it. Youth, bred up to land exercise alone, can never become sailors, and without sailors what will become of our carrying trade and commerce in time of peace; and what will become of us as a nation in time of war? The fisheries will supply both seamen for commerce, and seamen for the navy.

Sir Thomas Bernard, in his pamphlet "On the Supply of Employment and Subsistence for the Labouring Classes, &c." expresses, "that it would be the excess of weakness and cowardice to despair of providing an adequate remedy for our inconveniences, by opening new sources of occupation in our fisheries, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, so as to augment the call for manual labour."

The first grand call, certainly, is employment in agriculture, which, in this country, cannot be said to be neglected, excepting in respect to the waste lands, which require great capitals to cul-

tivate them, and well deserve the aid of government loans; and, like the fisheries, are not to be undertaken by single individuals without endangering their fortunes.

The next national object is the fisheries, which certainly *have* been neglected in this kingdom, and therefore admit of more amplitude of extension and benefit than can further be derived from any improvements or views in agriculture.

And as to the other objects, of manufactures and commerce, the means are at hand to make them flourishing, provided markets could be found for their productions; but there is the difficulty, and the misfortune is, that manufactures have been overdone, and mechanical inventions have substituted the necessity of manual labour, and left little employment for the manufacturing poor. Also, during the late long and ruinous war, the people of the Continent had other pursuits, and therefore took our manufactures from necessity, under all restrictions and preventions; now they are at repose, and, with the help of our inventions, they manufacture for themselves and other countries. However, it is to be hoped that a strict attention, on the part of government, to remove prohibitory duties in all foreign countries, particularly in South America,

will give new life to our commerce and manufacturing; and the former of which will not a little be increased by the cultivation and extension of our fisheries, and the demand for fish will be greatly increased thereby.

ON SALT, &c.

THE greatest obstacle which can possibly be named to impede or annoy the fishing trade, is certainly the duty on salt: for though it may be obtained duty free for that purpose, yet the waiting for permits and the attendance of excise officers; the danger of transport, the fear of mistakes, and of incurring heavy penalties, are such tremendous considerations, that few are bold enough to run such risks; and numberless cargoes of fish are not taken and cured in consequence.

By having proper fishing stations this evil might in some measure be avoided; but it is a pity there should be any impediment to an object of such national and individual importance.

Sir Thomas Bernard seems to have entered into a full examination of this subject, and, in recommending a commutation for the salt duties, he says, "The commutation should be so calculated as not to subject the individual to more than what he is now charged under the existing

salt duties: for example, if a householder's expence in salt be at present thirty shillings a-year, it will be an advantage to him to pay only twenty shillings a-year in lieu of it;" and he endeavours to establish the fact, "that every family upon an average pays at least thirty shillings annually for salt." If this statement of Sir T. Bernard be correct, twenty-nine shillings out of the thirty ought to go to government for duties; and if this be the case, the revenue must, some way or other, be defrauded in this article to an immense extent, for if twenty shillings *salt tax* were laid on every taxable householder, in lieu of the duties on salt, government would be gainers and the householders also; and here would immediately be a *commutation for the salt duties**; and some additional amount could also be laid on the great

* If a fair salt commutation tax were established, like the "*tea commutation tax*," or a per centage in the pound upon other assessed taxes, it would certainly be infinitely less oppressive to the public than the ruinous excise duty on salt; which is not only collected at a great expence, but is a most evil impediment to the industry and subsistence of the labouring and industrious classes. It, however, produces a million and a half of revenue to government, and therefore it cannot be expected to be taken off without some substitute or commutation; but this does not appear difficult, if ministers had the disposition to employ the means, and put them in force. Any thing that is a check to industry, or that lessens the produce of human food, must evidently be an injury to society, and such is the *duty on salt*.

consumers of salt, in cases where it would not oppress them.

The cottager and the fisherman would then be free indeed, and none would be sufferers but a few poor excise officers, who may be pensioned, and permitted to retire upon half-pay, or become fish curers, or other useful members of the community.

As so much has lately been said upon the importation of foreign or bay salt for our fisheries, I must preface an apology for giving my opinion upon this subject.

I have been concerned in salt works in Cheshire, and I had a considerable tract of salinas, or salt pits, in Spain, for making bay salt; consequently I have had a good deal of practical experience.

The bay salt is made in low situations, near the banks of the sea, from whence the salt water is let into long reservoirs or canals, the same as at the salt works at Lymington and other places, and the process is carried on nearly the same, with this only difference, that the salt water to make bay salt is entirely evaporated by the sun, and at Lymington, when the salt water is evaporated to a certain degree of concentration, it is

conducted to the salt pans, where the process is finished by boiling.

In this process of boiling, the bittern salts, or sulphats and muriats of magnesia and lime, which are contained in sea water, fall first to the bottom of the pans, or remain in the mother waters, and the salt which is taken up by the ladles is nearly pure and white sea or culinary salt; but, by the hasty boiling down of the brine, it has not time to form regular and large crystals.

The new process in Cheshire for making large salt for the fisheries is, to evaporate the brine by a very slow heat, in very large pans, by which more regular and larger crystals are obtained.

The finishing process of making bay salt, when the brine or salt water is evaporated in the pits, by the heat of the sun, to a sufficient consistence, though not dry, is, to shovel it into large heaps, in a pyramidical or conical form, on the dry land, on the banks of the canals or pits; and there, by repose, it regularly grains or crystallizes, and the deliquescent salts and moisture drain from it; and, although muriat of soda does not appear to contain carbonic acid, yet the presence of that acid seems necessary to its crystallization, as is the case with all neutral

salts; and this is the only distinction there can possibly be between the quality of bay salt and the common salt made in England.

I conceive, therefore, that the *rock salt* of Cheshire is as good, in every respect, for the purpose of curing fish of all kinds, as the bay, or foreign salt; but if, by experience, it should be found otherwise, it can only arise from the crystals being broken by crushing the rock salt; by which some part falls to powder, and some is large and unequal; and the fine part, when employed in curing, will sooner dissolve, and is termed weaker than the large salt.

Salt, made by a strong heat, or by being fused, is more deliquescent, and does not decrepitate in the fire like large-grained or bay salt; which shows the disengagement of an elastic fluid, or carbonic acid.

If large-grained salt, made after the new process, were exposed to the air, as soon as taken from the pans, in pyramids or cones, the same as the bay salt, I should conceive it would be even superior to bay salt, which naturally contains a great deal of foul and extraneous matter; but the regulations of the excise laws prohibit this method.

The Cheshire salt is some of the purest native or crude salt in the world. The brine and rock salt of Cheshire do not contain the sulphat or muriat of magnesia in a degree like sea water; nor sulphat of lime, like most sal gems or rock salt. In fine, if it be admitted that the purer salt is, the better it is for curing or preserving fish or meat, no salt in the world can be better than the Cheshire is, when properly made. If, on the contrary, bay salt, or sea salt, should still be found preferable to Cheshire salt, it must be owing either to the presence of carbonic acid, or to the admixture of muriat and sulphat of magnesia; and it rarely contains much of either.

As a pretty strong proof of the efficacy of rock salt for curing fish and meat, I have known hundreds of tons crushed and sold as bay salt for that purpose, without any complaint; and had it been known to be rock salt, it would certainly not have been used. This salt had been made foul by dirt, to give it the colour and appearance of bay salt.

The Dutch purchase large quantities of Cheshire salt, which they mix with the bay salt, and some prefer it thus mixed to the bay salt alone, which they say is so strong that it burns the dry salt fish; but the best practice is to use

fine salt in the first operation of curing, and large-grained salt in the finishing and packing.

The subject of common salt being of such wonderful importance to every individual in life, too much cannot be said concerning it; and it would be a lamentable circumstance, if proved, that none but foreign salt would answer the purpose of our fisheries, or for curing meat, for times may be when such could not be procured; and it behoves every intelligent person to endeavour to establish the fact, or disprove it, and, by ascertaining the cause, they may find out the remedy, which, I hope, those qualified will undertake to do. The object is worth the pursuit; but whilst opinions upon the subject are so much at variance, no decision can be formed in any way conclusive.

Sir Thomas Bernard appears to be of opinion, that the importation of foreign salt is impolitic and unnecessary. Mr. Oxnam, on the contrary, asserts, "that pilchards, cured with British salt, are easily distinguished from those cured with bay, or foreign salt, and are not only sold at an inferior price in the Italian markets, but are less able to sustain the heat of that climate."

It may appear, at first, difficult to reconcile

these opposite opinions, and yet I conceive them both to be virtually true. The common salt made in England is certainly unfit for the purposes of curing fish or meat, particularly for warm countries. This has been proved to demonstration, and by long experience; but this is no proof that salt may not be made in England precisely of the same quality and efficacy as bay or foreign salt, and thereby preclude the necessity of importing the latter.

I will take it upon me to assert, that a *small* admixture of the nitrat of potash or saltpetre with the common salt, will have the most efficacious effect in curing, corning, and preserving all kinds of fish. It will give the fish a colour, clearness, and flavour, not to be obtained by any other method, and it will preserve it much longer and better than the fish cured in the common way, which, after a while, turns yellow, black, and rancid; on the contrary, the longer fish cured in this way is reasonably kept, the better will be its flavour; the same as the ling, cured at the Scilly islands, which, at two and three years old, has the best flavour; but the common salt fish at two years old is good for very little.

Care should be taken to mix the saltpetre regularly with the other salt, which would be best

done in solution, and one pound of nitrat of potash to one hundred weight of salt would be quite sufficient. It would add greatly to the quality of the large fishery salt, made by slow evaporation, in Cheshire, if it were judiciously introduced in the process of making that salt.

According to Bishop Watson's observation, the Dutch have long been famous for preparing a salt for pickling their herrings, and the principal secret consists in evaporating the brine, made from a solution of bay salt, with the gentlest fire, and mixing with the brine a proper quantity of very sour whey. "The acid whey," he says, "unites with the uncombined fixed alkali, and thus prevents it from adhering to the common salt as it crystallizes." I do not however conceive that any uncombined fixed alkali can be found in bay salt; but it is not impossible that the addition of this acid, or some other, may be of benefit in preparing salt for curing fish. If there be any benefit in the admixture of sour whey with the salt, (which I conclude and certainly believe there may,) it can only arise from the effect of the lactic acid therein contained, which acid differs little from the acetic acid, attracts moisture from the air, and forms deliquescent salts with the earths and alkalis; therefore, a small portion of the acetous acid, or vinegar, may have the same effect, if mixed with the

brine, instead of sour whey, or sour whey may easily be obtained in Cheshire for that purpose.

There can be no want of salt whilst there is water in the ocean, and the water of the sea on our shores should yield as good salt as on the coasts of France, Spain, or Portugal; the difference can only be in the process of crystallization; or, if some will have it so, that the sun is not sufficiently powerful on our coasts to evaporate the whole of the moisture. But strong heat is not favourable to the crystallization of salt; and the moisture, or water, is not totally evaporated from the bay salt by the heat of the sun: it is left to drain, or run dry, in large heaps, as before mentioned. It is true, that the frequent rains which we have in England preclude the possibility of making salt on the open shores, as in Spain, where it seldom rains during the whole summer months employed in making bay salt. It can therefore only be done by graduating houses.

There is a difference of quality in the mines of rock salt in almost every country, from its containing more or less impurities; but sea salt, or salt made from sea water, should be the same everywhere, if the process of obtaining it be the same; for the crystallization of common salt is

not subject to the same law of organization as other salts; it being soluble in nearly the same quantity of cold, as of hot water, and containing no water of crystallization, although it attracts moisture from the air.

The subject of salt is worthy of the most serious consideration. Its usefulness needs not any exemplification; but as an opinion prevails that there are different qualities of salt, this opinion requires the closest investigation.

The production of salt is certainly one of the secrets of Nature. Its composition is ascertained, but how its component parts are formed, and united in such immense masses in the bowels of the earth, (being soluble in water,) is a matter of the greatest admiration and wonder.

It is not so surprising to find salt in sea water, which holds it in solution; but when we find that mountains, much above the level of the sea, contain immense masses of this substance, exposed to rain and moisture since its first existence, how shall we account for its production or preservation?

The mountains of Spain are wonderful for this production, and as its qualities or purities are variable, a description of some of them may

give an idea of the different qualities of salt in other countries; but pure salt must be the same everywhere.

The mine of Cardonna, near the mountain of Monserrat, is an immense mass of salt, without any appearance of stratum, or crevice, raised about 180 yards above the earth, and extending about three miles in circumference. The depth of this heap of salt is unknown. It is free from sulphat of lime, which is a rare occurrence in rock salt, nor does it contain any deliquescent salts; therefore its quality must be similar to that of bay salt.

The mine of Valtorra, in the kingdom of Navarre, is in a chain of hills, at a considerable elevation above the level of the sea. It is inclosed in sulphat of lime.

The mines of sal gem, that are wrought at Poza, near Burgos, in Castile, have a remarkable situation, being placed in a vast crater. Mr. Fernandez found pumice stones, puzzolana, and other volcanic productions there.

Sal gem is likewise found at Aranjuez and Ocanna, in the transition hills between the Sierra Morena and Madrid.

I have seen these mines and mountains, and I have always been bewildered to account for their formation and existence.

The mine of Cardonna is a mass of salt above the earth, and unprotected ;

The mine of Valterra is at a considerable elevation above the level of the sea ;

The mine of Poza is placed in a crater, no doubt of once a burning mountain ; and

The mines of Aranjuez and Ocanna are at five hundred miles distance from the sea.

One might conceive, or suppose, that the formation of the mine of Poza was produced by a submarine volcano, evaporating the salt water, and throwing it up, like the waters of the Geysers ; but how shall we account for the mass of salt at Cardonna, so much above the earth, or the mine of Valterra, so much above the level of the sea ; or the mines of Aranjuez and Ocanna, five hundred miles distant from the sea ; neither of which show any appearance of volcanic productions ?

It may naturally be asked, from whence I obtained my information or knowledge upon the subject of salt, and also upon the fisheries ; and I may truly answer and say, “ from woeful experience.”

It is not always sufficient that a man should possess knowledge; it is sometimes necessary to prove, as in suspicion of theft, how he came by that knowledge, otherwise his opinions may be doubted; and, in general, nothing is more convincing to the world than the proof of experience: and as the circumstances which have occurred to me are in a great degree connected with the subjects in question, I must beg leave to relate them.

The first story will show the destructive consequences of the duty on salt, in a national point of view; and the second will prove the importance of the Iceland fishery and trade with Iceland.

It may, by some, be considered a digression from the subjects I have profess^d to treat upon; but such as do not feel interested in the recital, may pass it over as an exuberance of matter, frequently found in works of this nature, and, perhaps, in many others.

A few years since, I established, with some friends of mine, very extensive works in Cheshire, for the decomposition of common salt, and government granted us the privilege of doing it, upon paying the alkali duty, established by Act of Parliament, which is thirty shillings per ton;

therefore, in fact, although we had the privilege of government, (the Treasury having the power to dispense with the law, in certain cases,) yet we established this concern under the authority of the Act of Parliament.

Although we did not pay to government very considerable duties on this manufacture, yet in the use and application of it we paid at least two thousand pounds in excise duties every week, and should in a short time have paid full £3000 weekly. But our success created envy, and a conspiracy was formed to lay an information against us, stating, that as we made use of brine, we should be subject to the salt duties, although it never became culinary salt; and although the Act of Parliament expressly stated, that we were only subject to the alkali duties. A seizure, however, was made by these conspirators, and, in consequence of different petitions, our works were stopped, after having cost us above £95,000.

Here I must do the Honourable Excise Board the justice to say, that, as soon as they discovered this infamous conspiracy, they restored us our goods, and ordered a prosecution against the parties conspirators; but they had fled; and were nowhere to be found; yet, on account of the different petitions from envious and interested parties, and possibly from the desire of obtaining the

higher duties, the privilege has never since been restored to us.

We had determined to try the point of law with government, and had retained Mr. Serjeant Best, and other leading counsel, who assured us of our success; but the Excise solicitors gave us to understand that, though we gained our cause, government never paid costs, and a law would soon be made to prevent our going on with our works, unless we paid the salt duties, which we could not afford to do, and consequently our works ceased. I appeal to the Honourable Board of Excise, and to the Excise Solicitors, for the truth of this statement.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BRITISH
TRADE WITH ICELAND.

THE following occurrence having been so much the subject of conversation and misstatement, and being a history of the first introduction of the British trade with Iceland, I deem it essentially necessary to introduce the facts which I shall now relate, and I pledge myself for their authenticity.

The account is so interwoven with the subject of our present connexion, and views of further intercourse with Iceland, that it cannot well be omitted.

In the winter of the year 1808 it was represented to myself and partners, by a Dane, that the island of Iceland, as well as the Ferröe islands, was in a state of famine, and that if we could obtain from Government permission to relieve the island, the inhabitants could repay the amount in tallow, and other products, which were wasting in their stores.

This person, named Jorgensen, represented himself to be very well known to Sir Joseph Banks, and I applied personally to Sir Joseph Banks for his character, stating the circumstance. Sir Joseph Banks said we could not undertake a more humane, or better thing, and he thought Jorgensen was a very proper person to conduct the enterprise, (and I have no doubt he thought so.) We accordingly obtained an order in council to ship certain articles of necessity to relieve the island; a list of which may be seen at the custom-house at Liverpool, although it was infamously reported by Count Tramp, in his appeal to our government, that we shipped nothing but luxuries. Indeed, it is true they were luxuries to the Icelanders, as they consisted of biscuit, meal, rye, potatoes, beef, pork, tobacco, coarse hats, sugar, coffee, indigo, iron, spirits, and such like articles, which were enumerated in the order in council, and the quantities permitted were expressed therein.

We shipped this cargo at Liverpool, on account of its being the most convenient port at that season of the year. The cargo, with freight and charges, amounted to £8500. The vessel, called the *Clarence*, sailed the 26th of December and arrived at Reikavig the beginning of January. The joy of the natives was great, but the

rancor of the Danes was manifest. It interfered with their trade and inhuman oppression, and they determined to be revenged. They at first refused the landing of the cargo, and afterwards, when landed, they positively persisted that no article should be shipped from the island in return; and the vessel actually came back with only ballast of stones.

Excuses were made by the legal authorities, that it was not the proper season for shipping a return cargo, but that if we also sent out an additional quantity of such articles as were wanted, immense cargoes could be sent us back in the month of June. This statement was accompanied by a convention, declaring that our trade should be unmolested, and was also confirmed, and the list was signed by our agent, who remained on the island, and who, no doubt, was concerned in, or privy to, the plot.

Having been much encouraged by the Board of Trade to undertake the first adventure, and Mr. Mellish having undertaken to relieve the Ferröe Islands (for which, as I have heard, though not from real authority, he received a premium or bounty of £5000,) we again applied to the Board of Trade, laying before them the foregoing documents and statements.

We were again much encouraged to proceed, and promised protection, and a convoy to conduct our operations, which was immediately granted by the Board of Admiralty, and Captain Nott, in the Rover sloop of war, was quickly dispatched to Iceland, to prepare the way for us. He was a brave man and a good officer. On his arrival at Reikavig, he found that Count Tramp was come over there from Denmark as Governor, and had prohibited, upon pain of death, any intercourse with the English, although the natives were starving, from his having forbidden them to purchase any more of the cargo by the Clarence.

The natives petitioned him from every quarter to suffer their wants to be relieved, or that they must die of famine; that they had stripped all the moss from the mountains for food. He returned them for answer, "that there was plenty of sea-weed upon the shores, and they must be content to eat *that*! that they had a good king, who would feel for their wants! and he cited the Norwegians, who, he said, had lived nine months in the same state, *without murmuring*."

The fact was, that he had a cargo of his own to sell, which he offered at four times the prices demanded for ours, and the people were unable to purchase it.

I brought home the original documents, to prove these facts, and also to prove that Count Tramp was a spy in England, and the basest of characters in other respects. He was afterwards, as I have been informed, condemned as a traitor to Denmark.

I also had proof that Count Tramp obtained a license under a fictitious name in England, to send a cargo from Leith to Iceland; instead of which, he took that cargo to Norway, where he sold it, and proceeded with another cargo to Iceland, using the same license.

Captain Nott, finding that the placards of interdiction against the English were still posted up in the public streets, and that there appeared to be no likelihood of any relaxation, determined to act as a British officer was bound to do against the enemies of his country, and he informed Count Tramp that he should immediately commence hostilities, and fire upon the town: upon which Count Tramp begged to enter into a convention, allowing a free trade and protection to the English.

This being signed by the regular authorities, Captain Nott took his departure, having done all that a British officer could do, or, as I suppose, that his instructions required.

No sooner had Captain Nott left the port than Count Tramp sent orders to all the sys-
selmen and other authorities not to pay any at-
tention to the convention he had signed; "for
what would not a man sign," said he, "before
the mouths of thirty-six cannons?" and he
ordered the placards to be posted up anew. Of
this I had proof in his own hand writing.

Soon after this, I arrived in Iceland with a va-
luable cargo in the Margaret and Ann letter of
marque, and other vessels were to follow me,
laden with rye, salt, and other articles necessary
for the trade and the fisheries.

On our arrival in the bay of Faxafjord, a boat
of native Iceland pilots came off to us from a dis-
tant port, and informed us of all the particulars
that had transpired, and added that it was at the
risk of their lives they came out to us, therefore
they hoped we would protect them; for that the
interdiction of having any intercourse or commu-
nication with the English was still in force; but
they said all the Icelanders owed us so much gra-
titude for having endeavoured to save them from
starving during the last winter, that they deter-
mined to run the risk. Numbers, they said, had
actually died of want in the last winter, and
nearly three-fourths of the inhabitants on the
Westman's islands.

We afterwards found these reports to be true, that the placards were still posted up in the streets, and that none of the inhabitants dared trade, or have any intercourse with us, and after waiting about ten days, I was informed by two of the most respectable Icelanders, that a plot was formed to bring fifty men from each side the bay to board our ship in the dead of night and make us prisoners. No time was to be lost, and I instantly determined to fight for it, and if possible to take the governor prisoner, which could only be done by landing; and therefore the master of the *Margaret and Ann*, myself, and ten men landed with our boats. We proceeded to the Governor's house, and on entering I told him my business; he answered, "that if we did not instantly desist and return to our ship, every man of us should be cut to pieces in five minutes." I gave him to understand that it was not so easily done as talked of or threatened; and I immediately disarmed him of his immense sabre, as we did also the rest of his party then in the house, amounting to sixteen in number.

Several of his adherents escaped at the back of the house and called together a great number of people, who assembled on a plain before the door, armed with pikes, and other weapons; notwithstanding which, our little crew marched off the governor, amidst the smiles and secret satis-

faction of the native inhabitants, and I followed, and took that gentleman on board the Margaret and Ann.

We had too good an opinion of the character of the Icelanders to believe they would oppose us, or do us any injury; but the Danes were sufficient in number, and willingness, to have annihilated us, if they had possessed the courage so to do.

On the following day some of the first inhabitants among the natives waited upon me, and entreated that I would hoist the British flag, and take the Island under our protection, exclaiming the Iceland proverb: "When the Danes shall have stripped us of our shirts, the English will clothe us anew." But I informed them that I should have nothing to do with their politics; that I adopted those measures from necessity only, to protect our lives and property, and to compel the execution of the convention which had been entered into with Captain Nott, permitting a free trade with that country, and I confess, (if the effusion of truth may be spoken and pardoned in this instance,) a thought struck me, that if Government did not choose to retain Copenhagen and Zealand, after taking it, surely I should be blamed, and had no right to retain Iceland.

The natives then applied to Mr. Jorgensen, who, disclaiming all attachment to the Danish Government and interest, offered to be their protector till the will of the British Government should be known, and begged I would consent to it, which *farce* I certainly did not oppose.

Perhaps it would have been more prudent in me to have hoisted the British flag, but the instructions of the letter of marque were worded in so vague and indistinct a way, that I did not understand them. Probably there never was a contemplation of such an event, and therefore no provision was made for it.

I could clearly understand, that we were to annoy the enemies of our country wherever we found them, but whether we were to hoist the British flag on that island, the same as after taking an enemy's vessel, was what I could not decide.

I knew I had a right to seize the governor, or the King of Denmark, or Bonaparte himself, if he had been there, and to carry the convention for trade into effect, but for the rest, I was unable to determine. However, Mr. Jorgensen, who had imbibed all the quixotism of a petit Napoleon, together with the natives, soon relieved me from this embarrassment, and the sequel of the *revolu-*

tion, as it is termed, I had nothing further to do with. I only insisted that a free trade should be announced throughout the island, and in a few days, multitudes of people came to the town from all quarters, and such a scene of festivity and joy I never beheld. It was a perfect camp for miles round; every family bringing their tents, with innumerable horses, and products of the island, which they exchanged for our goods; and in a short space of time, we obtained a most valuable cargo for the Margaret and Ann.

Dances and pleasure parties kept up the festive scene: the Danes grumbling and working revenge, and the natives rejoicing; until the Honourable Captain Alexander Jones, in the Talbot sloop of war, entered the harbour, and overset all that had been doing. The Danes styled him *Alexander the Great!* cheered him under the Danish flag, and wrote poems in his praise; and he certainly must have been possessed of amazing philosophy, had he withstood the adulation shown him, and not have believed all the egregious falsehoods which were represented to him; but there was no fear of such an occurrence, his vanity was satisfied, and he was satisfied as to the truth of every thing else; and he told me, that he certainly thought he should receive a title, as well as promotion in England, for his interference.

Count Tramp had represented to him, that the permission of trade with Iceland, to any but Danes, was contrary to the laws of the island; however, the Count had not long been a captive, and had not long impressed this emphatic law upon the easy and flexible mind of Captain Jones, who as frequently endeavoured to enforce it upon me, before an American vessel arrived with a cargo, which the Count had contracted to purchase. "But ah!" says the Count, "that alters the case: if I trespass upon the law myself, *in case of necessity*, it is no reason that I should suffer other people to do it;" and I declare the Count also told me afterwards in England, that, "had he fortunately known me sooner and better, he should have made his fortune in Iceland."

When the American vessel was coming into the bay, the masts and rigging of the Talbot were struck, and lying upon the deck; and whilst Captain Jones was making his vessel very fine, she was unable to stir from her anchorage. He therefore insisted that I should send out the Margaret and Ann to reconnoitre the strange vessel, which was supposed to be a Danish East Indiaman expected there, and that he would follow as soon as he could get his ship ready; and he enforced this demand, by sending Lieutenant

Stewart and fifty of his men, on board the Margaret and Ann, to get her under weigh.

I thought I was obliged to obey the command of a British officer in this respect; the instructions of the letter of marque implied it; therefore I made no determined resistance; besides, the Margaret and Ann was the fastest sailer I ever knew; and, had it been otherwise, it was best for her safety to go out of the harbour, to escape from a superior force.

The Margaret and Ann therefore went out, and soon discovered that the strange vessel was an American, and she returned in about three hours to her anchorage in safety.

Captain Jones was now busily employed in the organization of the affairs of the island, after his own manner, and willing to figure in the annals of the country, and hand down his name to the latest posterity, he framed a new Convention; but the only merit attached to it, in my opinion, was that of having the signature of the Honourable Captain Alexander Jones; I also signed it, by way of formality. The Convention was as follows :

Agreement between his Danish Majesty's Counsellor of State, and Chief Justice of Iceland

the Bailiff in the western district of said Island, the Honourable Captain Alexander Jones, and Samuel Phelps, of the City of London, Esquire.

ARTICLES.

I. All proclamations, laws, appointments, &c. made by Mr. Jorgen Jorgensen, since his arrival in this country, are to be abolished, and be totally null and void from the moment this agreement is signed.

II. The former government is to be perfectly restored, and the chief command to devolve upon the said chief justice of Iceland, and the said bailiff of the western county of Iceland, native Icelanders, they being the next in power in the island to Count Tramp.

III. All officers under the Danish government are at liberty to return to their offices.

IV. The government shall be responsible for the protection of all British subjects, and the property that now is, or may be, on the island, and all transgressions, thefts, and personal assaults committed against British subjects, or their property, shall be punished with the same rigour, and according to the same laws as if the property belonged to the natives.

V. No battery is to be erected, and the one now at Reikavig is to be destroyed. No militia is to be raised in the island, nor the country in any way to be fortified or armed.

VI. All officers, or other persons, either armed or unarmed, who, during the late events, have taken part with Mr. Jorgen Jorgensen, shall no longer be in employment, but their persons and property, in every respect, (whosoever or of whatsoever nation they may be) shall be respected and protected the same as other persons and natives. The Convention between Captain Nott and Count Tramp, of the 16th of June last, shall be in full force, and be published throughout the country, without delay, together with this agreement.

VII. All merchants' houses which are shut up in this country shall be immediately opened, and the merchants of the said island be permitted to continue, or carry on their trade, as formerly.

VIII. All Danish property and public money to be restored.

Witness our hands and seals, the 22d day of August, 1809.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER JONES.

SAMUEL PHELPS.

MAGNUS STEPHENSEN.

STEPHEN STEPHENSEN.

I now applied to Captain Jones to convoy us home, which he refused to do; and unfortunately, on the homeward voyage, the *Margaret and Ann* and her cargo were burnt to the water's edge, and we saved our lives by a miracle only; another vessel appearing in sight whilst ours was in flames.

Lord Ellenborough decided, that the sailing out of the harbour to reconnoitre the American vessel, was a deviation from the voyage, and that we had thereby forfeited the policy of insurance, amounting, on the ship and cargo, to £39,500, and the underwriters of Lloyd's never paid us a shilling; but the London Assurance Office, much to their honour and credit, paid their portion of the insurance, although the law had decided against us; which decision was also much against the opinion of Sir Vicary Gibbs, who was one of our counsel.

We were then advised to apply to government for redress; and upon sounding the matter I was informed, that if government paid for all the blunders committed by their officers, the Treasury would not be sufficient to support it; that our only remedy was against Captain Jones; and Captain Jones declared, that he had not sufficient property in the world to pay a twentieth part of it.

Thus ended this unfortunate expedition to Iceland, leaving us a loss of upwards of £40,000; although, but for the interference of Captain Jones, the expedition would have been happy and prosperous, both for ourselves and for the native Icelanders*.

* It may appear that I have been severe in my observations upon the conduct of Captain Jones; yet I have related nothing but the truth, and have "set down nought in malice;" and I feel as an Englishman, and as an injured individual, that I have been justified in so doing.

But for the interference of Captain Jones, I should have made a very large fortune, in a most humane and honourable way, and, by this time, have produced some millions of benefit to this country, and have placed the inhabitants of Iceland in the most prosperous and happy situation; I say happy, for I know not where happiness could be found, surpassing that which would have been produced by the change I should have effected in the condition of a tranquil and intelligent people, exposed to the tyranny and inhumanity of their rulers, as well as to the inclemencies of the Arctic winds and ocean. But, perhaps, a mild contentment may be found there unknown in happier climes. The Icelanders are satisfied with the spot and climate which Providence has allotted them, and the only enemies they dread are tyranny and famine.

My plan was, to have carried the fisheries to an extent of perfection never before known in any country; and in order to dispose of the woollen stockings, jackets, gloves, and other articles of Icelandic produce, which are prohibited in England, I should have traded with the Americans, and have taken lumber and other articles from them in return. I tried the experiment, by

I felt so indignant and mortified at the treatment I had received, and at the losses and injuries I had sustained, that, on my return home, my pride would not suffer me to make a proper representation of the facts to Government, otherwise, perhaps, we might have obtained some redress, though not for the loss of the ship; but I suffered Count Tramp and others to make their representations first, which were as numerous and voluminous as they were false and infamous, and I waited until I was called upon to make my defence. However, I only once received a letter, requesting me to call at the Secretary of State's

purchasing the cargo of the American vessel which arrived whilst I was there; and if this commerce had been continued to the time when our intercourse with America was stopped, I should have realized a fortune, to an extent seldom known to be acquired in so short a space of time; and when the natives, and others, had been enabled to begin that trade, I should have left off and retired.

As a proof of the service I rendered the island, I gave trade to both Icelanders and Danes (such as conducted themselves with any degree of propriety) by trusting them with our goods; and, notwithstanding that these Danes were before in a state of beggary and bankruptcy, they have, since that period, all retired with good fortunes from that country; whether by the most honourable means, towards me and the Icelanders, must be left as a matter of further question. This story seems to prove Adam Smith's observation, "that governments should interfere as little as possible in trade and commerce;" at least, that their agents should be careful how *they* meddle in those matters.

office, where the Secretary informed me, that they had received most voluminous accusations against me from Count Tramp, which appeared so full of contradictions and inconsistencies, that he wished to hear the story from *me*, and which I briefly related to him, particularly that part of it which induced me to make the Count a prisoner; and I asked him if he would not have done the same, in my situation, to protect his life and property? He said, "he thought he should, under all the circumstances, if he had felt courage enough to do it."

I represented to him the eager desire of the native Icelanders to become the subjects of Great Britain; but he said, government did not appear inclined to it; therefore I did not present a petition which I brought with me, signed by a great number of the inhabitants; and I was so overwhelmed with one thing and another, that I did not press the importance of the subject, as I ought to have done.

The possession, or retention, of Iceland would not have cost Government a farthing, and the acquisition would have been invaluable to the British trade, and for establishing the finest fishery in the world.

However, Government soon after issued the

following order in council, declaring the trade with Iceland to be open and free to British subjects, &c.

At the Court of the Queen's Palace, Feb. 7, 1810.

Present,

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
IN COUNCIL.

Whereas it has been humbly represented to his Majesty, that the Islands of Ferröe and Iceland, and also certain settlements on the coast of Greenland, parts of the dominions of Denmark, have, since the commencement of the war between Great Britain and Denmark, been deprived of all intercourse with Denmark, and that the inhabitants of those islands and settlements are, in consequence of the want of their accustomed supplies, reduced to extreme misery, being without many of the necessaries, and most of the conveniences of life.

His Majesty being moved by compassion for the sufferings of these defenceless people, has, by and with the consent of his Privy Council, thought fit to declare his royal will and pleasure, and it is hereby declared and ordered, that the said Islands of Ferröe and Iceland, and the settlements on the coast of Greenland, and the inhabitants thereof, and the property therein, shall

be exempted from the attack and hostility of his Majesty's forces and subjects, and that the ships belonging to inhabitants of such islands and settlements, and all goods, being of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the said islands and settlements on board ships belonging to such inhabitants, engaged in a direct trade between such islands and settlements respectively and the ports of London or Leith, shall not be subject to seizure and confiscation as prize.

His Majesty is further pleased to order, with the advice aforesaid, that the people of all the said islands and settlements be considered, when resident in his Majesty's dominions, as stranger friends, under the safeguard of his Majesty's royal peace, and entitled to the protection of the laws of the realm, and in no case treated as alien enemies,

His Majesty is further pleased to order, with the advice aforesaid, that the ships of the United Kingdom, navigated according to law, be permitted to repair to the said islands and settlements, and to trade with the inhabitants thereof.

And his Majesty is further pleased to order, with the advice aforesaid, that all his Majesty's cruisers, and all other his subjects, be inhibited from committing any acts of depredation, or vio-

lence, against the persons, ships, and goods, of any of the inhabitants of the said islands and settlements, and against any property in the said islands and settlements respectively.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and the Judges of the Courts of Vice-Admiralty, are to take the necessary measures herein, as to them shall respectively appertain.

(Signed) W. FAWKENER.

If, instead of this inadequate measure (which has been misconstrued and abused by both Danes and Icelanders) a proclamation had been issued, and possession had been taken of the islands, in the name of his Majesty the King of Great Britain, it would have been a happiness indeed for the Icelanders, and an invaluable acquisition for the extension of our fisheries; and it may not yet be too late to make some desirable arrangement. The islands are of no worth to Denmark, and are a great and constant expence to that power. They would not be so to the British government.

The island of Heligoland is now of no worth to England, nor do we want the Danish fishermen who inhabit it. Give back Heligoland and its inhabitants to Denmark, for Iceland and the Icelanders, and it will be a good exchange for both parties.

The Icelanders are a harmless, industrious, and intelligent people, worn down, and almost extinguished by the tyranny and oppression of the Danes*.

The order in council is *almost* tantamount to declaring the islands subject to Great Britain, and our present situation with Iceland appears to me to be similar to that of our understanding with the Dutch at Demerara, Berbice, &c. which settlements are open to the trade of both countries.

Mr. Hooker, after quoting this order in council, adds, "Thus a way has been opened for bettering the condition of the inhabitants of Iceland, provided the Danish government has compassion enough upon the most injured of its subjects, to permit the humane intentions of his

* For a further account of these inoffensive and intelligent people, read Dr. Holland's excellent *History of the Literature of Iceland*, contained in Sir George Mackenzie's work.

British Majesty's ministers to be carried into effect. Should this not be the case (and such seems more than probable, from the late decrees of that country, prohibiting, on pain of death, all intercourse with the British), then will the state of the natives be more wretched than ever; unless, which I sincerely flatter myself will be the case, England should no longer hesitate about the adoption of a step to which every native Icelfander looks forward as the greatest blessing that can befall his country, and which to England herself would, I am persuaded, be productive of various signal advantages, the taking possession of Iceland, and holding it among her dependencies."

"Iceland, thus freed from the yoke of an inefficient but presumptuous tyrant, might then, guarded by the protection of our fleets, and fostered by the liberal policy of our commercial laws, look forward to a security that Denmark could never afford, and to a prosperity that the selfishness of the Danes has always prevented, while England would find herself repaid for her generous conduct, by the extension of her fisheries, the surest source of her prosperity, and by the safety which the numerous harbours of the island afford for her merchantmen against the storms and perils of the Arctic ocean."—*Tour in Iceland, page 354.*

I think also Sir Joseph Banks told me he had endeavoured to impress this important object on the minds of his Majesty's ministers.

The contiguity of the shores of Ferröe and Iceland with those of Scotland and Ireland, and the similarity of the soil and climate, would invite numbers to those islands, which would soon become flourishing; and how much more preferable and desirable would this be to the frequent emigrations from our northern coasts to America?

It is a natural feeling of the human mind to seek employ, and even new adventures. The same dull tract of constant and prescribed labour does not suit the capacity of *every* being. Some will range abroad for change of scenes, and in the island of Iceland their pursuits may be gratified, where thousands of acres of land, as well as the fisheries, may be cultivated with as great success as in the northern parts of Scotland.

But, supposing that the island of Iceland is not now to be obtained, yet the fisheries on the coasts are open to us the same as they have always been to the Dutch, and formerly to the English, and the advantage of having the Orkneys and other convenient places as depots, would render this fishery more valuable

to the British than to any other nation in the world.

The Scilly islands and St. Ives, in Cornwall, would also be excellent stations for our home fisheries, as fishing and intercourse may be carried on there at all seasons of the year. They would also form admirable depots, connected with the Iceland fishery, to supply the foreign trade down Channel, and from Bristol and Liverpool, and also to supply the coasting and inland trade adjacent. The voyage from Iceland, round the west coast of Ireland to these stations, could be performed, with a leading wind, in a few days*.

Other depots may also be necessary to supply the home and foreign trade on the southern and eastern coasts.

The establishment of the Deal Society is a most noble and laudable association; a spirit of humanity and benevolence breathes through their

* Sir Christopher Hawkins particularly recommends St. Ives as a depot, "it being an excellent harbour, and accessible to the trade at all seasons of the year." It has certainly also the advantage of the great pilchard fishery, which would be increased thereby, and could be connected with a depot of other fish to great advantage; for merchants sending their vessels there to take in pilchards, may be glad to take, at the same time, dry cod fish; and *vice versa*.

whole operations; there is nothing in it of the arid and narrow views of monopoly; there is a stream of liberality flowing through their whole projections, but their plan is too confined. As a fishing station or depot, under the grand scale of a general charter, it could not fail to succeed; but under its present establishment, depending upon the feeble aid of five pound subscriptions, or even Government loans and rewards, it must ultimately dwindle and languish, for want of that stamina and security which a general charter would give them. It is, however, well situated for supplying the London market with fresh fish.

GENERAL ARGUMENTS AND AUTHORITIES

FOR THE

ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE FISHERIES.

I FEEL that I cannot say too much, or procure too much information to impress upon the minds of those who have the welfare of their country at heart, the incalculable importance of encouraging and extending the British fisheries.

Dr. Colquhoun, in his admirable treatise on the Wealth, Power, and Resources of the British Empire, makes the following elegant, emphatic, and correct observations :

“ No doubt,” he says, “ can be entertained of the productive nature of the fisheries, and of the practicability of rendering this nutritious food an article of general consumption, not only in the maritime, but also in all the inland districts of Great Britain and Ireland, to the great comfort and relief of the labouring classes. The experiments which have been recently made, in the laudable attempts to afford assistance to the distressed manufacturers in the midland counties of

England, incontestibly prove the truth of this assertion. Since the introduction of potatoes, great facilities are afforded towards reconciling the mass of the people to the use of fish, which did not exist when bread only was the vegetable food of the people. The corned fish gives a relish to the potatoe, and the potatoe to the fish. Already in the county of Cornwall, and several other maritime districts, corned fish and potatoes form a very large proportion of the food of the inferior classes of the people; and although fresh fish is equally as accessible as salt, to those inhabiting the coast, they will not purchase it even at a reduced price. Certainly this practical resource, for the support of a more dense population, exists in a greater degree in Great Britain and Ireland, than in most countries of the world, (the British colonies in America excepted,) and hence it is within the power of the legislature and government of the country, by appropriate regulations, to increase the food of the mass of the people to an incalculable extent, rendering it accessible to the poorer classes of the community, whilst it might give profitable employment to capitals, extending in the aggregate even to three or four millions sterling, besides rearing a hardy race of men for the naval defence of the country, and for carrying on its extensive commerce."

" Fisheries upon a large scale round our



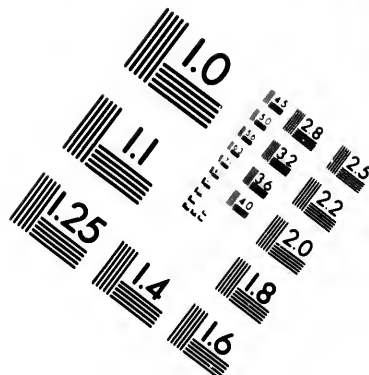
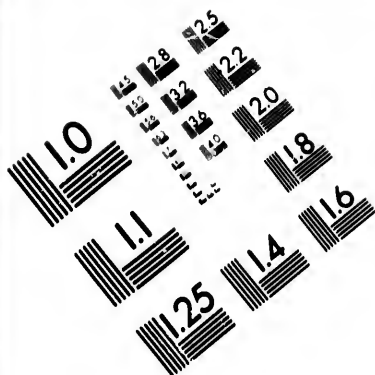
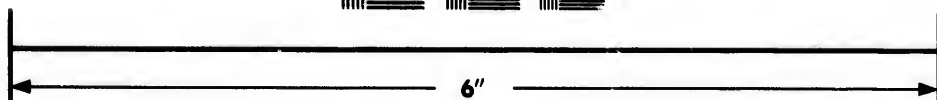
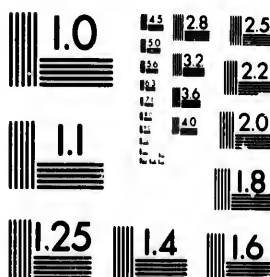


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic
Sciences
Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

24
28
32
36
40
44
48
52
56
60
64
68
72
76
80
84
88
92
96
100
104
108
112
116
120
124
128
132
136
140
144
148
152
156
160
164
168
172
176
180
184
188
192
196
200
204
208
212
216
220
224
228
232
236
240
244
248
252
256
260
264
268
272
276
280
284
288
292
296
300
304
308
312
316
320
324
328
332
336
340
344
348
352
356
360
364
368
372
376
380
384
388
392
396
400
404
408
412
416
420
424
428
432
436
440
444
448
452
456
460
464
468
472
476
480
484
488
492
496
500
504
508
512
516
520
524
528
532
536
540
544
548
552
556
560
564
568
572
576
580
584
588
592
596
600
604
608
612
616
620
624
628
632
636
640
644
648
652
656
660
664
668
672
676
680
684
688
692
696
700
704
708
712
716
720
724
728
732
736
740
744
748
752
756
760
764
768
772
776
780
784
788
792
796
800
804
808
812
816
820
824
828
832
836
840
844
848
852
856
860
864
868
872
876
880
884
888
892
896
900
904
908
912
916
920
924
928
932
936
940
944
948
952
956
960
964
968
972
976
980
984
988
992
996
1000
1004
1008
1012
1016
1020
1024
1028
1032
1036
1040
1044
1048
1052
1056
1060
1064
1068
1072
1076
1080
1084
1088
1092
1096
1100
1104
1108
1112
1116
1120
1124
1128
1132
1136
1140
1144
1148
1152
1156
1160
1164
1168
1172
1176
1180
1184
1188
1192
1196
1200
1204
1208
1212
1216
1220
1224
1228
1232
1236
1240
1244
1248
1252
1256
1260
1264
1268
1272
1276
1280
1284
1288
1292
1296
1300
1304
1308
1312
1316
1320
1324
1328
1332
1336
1340
1344
1348
1352
1356
1360
1364
1368
1372
1376
1380
1384
1388
1392
1396
1400
1404
1408
1412
1416
1420
1424
1428
1432
1436
1440
1444
1448
1452
1456
1460
1464
1468
1472
1476
1480
1484
1488
1492
1496
1500
1504
1508
1512
1516
1520
1524
1528
1532
1536
1540
1544
1548
1552
1556
1560
1564
1568
1572
1576
1580
1584
1588
1592
1596
1600
1604
1608
1612
1616
1620
1624
1628
1632
1636
1640
1644
1648
1652
1656
1660
1664
1668
1672
1676
1680
1684
1688
1692
1696
1700
1704
1708
1712
1716
1720
1724
1728
1732
1736
1740
1744
1748
1752
1756
1760
1764
1768
1772
1776
1780
1784
1788
1792
1796
1800
1804
1808
1812
1816
1820
1824
1828
1832
1836
1840
1844
1848
1852
1856
1860
1864
1868
1872
1876
1880
1884
1888
1892
1896
1900
1904
1908
1912
1916
1920
1924
1928
1932
1936
1940
1944
1948
1952
1956
1960
1964
1968
1972
1976
1980
1984
1988
1992
1996
2000
2004
2008
2012
2016
2020
2024
2028
2032
2036
2040
2044
2048
2052
2056
2060
2064
2068
2072
2076
2080
2084
2088
2092
2096
2100
2104
2108
2112
2116
2120
2124
2128
2132
2136
2140
2144
2148
2152
2156
2160
2164
2168
2172
2176
2180
2184
2188
2192
2196
2200
2204
2208
2212
2216
2220
2224
2228
2232
2236
2240
2244
2248
2252
2256
2260
2264
2268
2272
2276
2280
2284
2288
2292
2296
2300
2304
2308
2312
2316
2320
2324
2328
2332
2336
2340
2344
2348
2352
2356
2360
2364
2368
2372
2376
2380
2384
2388
2392
2396
2400
2404
2408
2412
2416
2420
2424
2428
2432
2436
2440
2444
2448
2452
2456
2460
2464
2468
2472
2476
2480
2484
2488
2492
2496
2500
2504
2508
2512
2516
2520
2524
2528
2532
2536
2540
2544
2548
2552
2556
2560
2564
2568
2572
2576
2580
2584
2588
2592
2596
2600
2604
2608
2612
2616
2620
2624
2628
2632
2636
2640
2644
2648
2652
2656
2660
2664
2668
2672
2676
2680
2684
2688
2692
2696
2700
2704
2708
2712
2716
2720
2724
2728
2732
2736
2740
2744
2748
2752
2756
2760
2764
2768
2772
2776
2780
2784
2788
2792
2796
2800
2804
2808
2812
2816
2820
2824
2828
2832
2836
2840
2844
2848
2852
2856
2860
2864
2868
2872
2876
2880
2884
2888
2892
2896
2900
2904
2908
2912
2916
2920
2924
2928
2932
2936
2940
2944
2948
2952
2956
2960
2964
2968
2972
2976
2980
2984
2988
2992
2996
3000
3004
3008
3012
3016
3020
3024
3028
3032
3036
3040
3044
3048
3052
3056
3060
3064
3068
3072
3076
3080
3084
3088
3092
3096
3100
3104
3108
3112
3116
3120
3124
3128
3132
3136
3140
3144
3148
3152
3156
3160
3164
3168
3172
3176
3180
3184
3188
3192
3196
3200
3204
3208
3212
3216
3220
3224
3228
3232
3236
3240
3244
3248
3252
3256
3260
3264
3268
3272
3276
3280
3284
3288
3292
3296
3300
3304
3308
3312
3316
3320
3324
3328
3332
3336
3340
3344
3348
3352
3356
3360
3364
3368
3372
3376
3380
3384
3388
3392
3396
3400
3404
3408
3412
3416
3420
3424
3428
3432
3436
3440
3444
3448
3452
3456
3460
3464
3468
3472
3476
3480
3484
3488
3492
3496
3500
3504
3508
3512
3516
3520
3524
3528
3532
3536
3540
3544
3548
3552
3556
3560
3564
3568
3572
3576
3580
3584
3588
3592
3596
3600
3604
3608
3612
3616
3620
3624
3628
3632
3636
3640
3644
3648
3652
3656
3660
3664
3668
3672
3676
3680
3684
3688
3692
3696
3700
3704
3708
3712
3716
3720
3724
3728
3732
3736
3740
3744
3748
3752
3756
3760
3764
3768
3772
3776
3780
3784
3788
3792
3796
3800
3804
3808
3812
3816
3820
3824
3828
3832
3836
3840
3844
3848
3852
3856
3860
3864
3868
3872
3876
3880
3884
3888
3892
3896
3900
3904
3908
3912
3916
3920
3924
3928
3932
3936
3940
3944
3948
3952
3956
3960
3964
3968
3972
3976
3980
3984
3988
3992
3996
4000
4004
4008
4012
4016
4020
4024
4028
4032
4036
4040
4044
4048
4052
4056
4060
4064
4068
4072
4076
4080
4084
4088
4092
4096
4100
4104
4108
4112
4116
4120
4124
4128
4132
4136
4140
4144
4148
4152
4156
4160
4164
4168
4172
4176
4180
4184
4188
4192
4196
4200
4204
4208
4212
4216
4220
4224
4228
4232
4236
4240
4244
4248
4252
4256
4260
4264
4268
4272
4276
4280
4284
4288
4292
4296
4300
4304
4308
4312
4316
4320
4324
4328
4332
4336
4340
4344
4348
4352
4356
4360
4364
4368
4372
4376
4380
4384
4388
4392
4396
4400
4404
4408
4412
4416
4420
4424
4428
4432
4436
4440
4444
4448
4452
4456
4460
4464
4468
4472
4476
4480
4484
4488
4492
4496
4500
4504
4508
4512
4516
4520
4524
4528
4532
4536
4540
4544
4548
4552
4556
4560
4564
4568
4572
4576
4580
4584
4588
4592
4596
4600
4604
4608
4612
4616
4620
4624
4628
4632
4636
4640
4644
4648
4652
4656
4660
4664
4668
4672
4676
4680
4684
4688
4692
4696
4700
4704
4708
4712
4716
4720
4724
4728
4732
4736
4740
4744
4748
4752
4756
4760
4764
4768
4772
4776
4780
4784
4788
4792
4796
4800
4804
4808
4812
4816
4820
4824
4828
4832
4836
4840
4844
4848
4852
4856
4860
4864
4868
4872
4876
4880
4884
4888
4892
4896
4900
4904
4908
4912
4916
4920
4924
4928
4932
4936
4940
4944
4948
4952
4956
4960
4964
4968
4972
4976
4980
4984
4988
4992
4996
5000
5004
5008
5012
5016
5020
5024
5028
5032
5036
5040
5044
5048
5052
5056
5060
5064
5068
5072
5076
5080
5084
5088
5092
5096
5100
5104
5108
5112
5116
5120
5124
5128
5132
5136
5140
5144
5148
5152
5156
5160
5164
5168
5172
5176
5180
5184
5188
5192
5196
5200
5204
5208
5212
5216
5220
5224
5228
5232
5236
5240
5244
5248
5252
5256
5260
5264
5268
5272
5276
5280
5284
5288
5292
5296
5300
5304
5308
5312
5316
5320
5324
5328
5332
5336
5340
5344
5348
5352
5356
5360
5364
5368
5372
5376
5380
5384
5388
5392
5396
5400
5404
5408
5412
5416
5420
5424
5428
5432
5436
5440
5444
5448
5452
5456
5460
5464
5468
5472
5476
5480
5484
5488
5492
5496
5500
5504
5508
5512
5516
5520
5524
5528
5532
5536
5540
5544
5548
5552
5556
5560
5564
5568
5572
5576
5580
5584
5588
5592
5596
5600
5604
5608
5612
5616
5620
5624
5628
5632
5636
5640
5644
5648
5652
5656
5660
5664
5668
5672
5676
5680
5684
5688
5692
5696
5700
5704
5708
5712
5716
5720
5724
5728
5732
5736
5740
5744
5748
5752
5756
5760
5764
5768
5772
5776
5780
5784
5788
5792
5796
5800
5804
5808
5812
5816
5820
5824
5828
5832
5836
5840
5844
5848
5852
5856
5860
5864
5868
5872
5876
5880
5884
5888
5892
5896
5900
5904
5908
5912
5916
5920
5924
5928
5932
5936
5940
5944
5948
5952
5956
5960
5964
5968
5972
5976
5980
5984
5988
5992
5996
6000
6004
6008
6012
6016
6020
6024
6028
6032
6036
6040
6044
6048
6052
6056
6060
6064
6068
6072
6076
6080
6084
6088
6092
6096
6100
6104
6108
6112
6116
6120
6124
6128
6132
6136
6140
6144
6148
6152
6156
6160
6164
6168
6172
6176
6180
6184
6188
6192
6196
6200
6204
6208
6212
6216
6220
6224
6228
6232
6236
6240
6244
6248
6252
6256
6260
6264
6268
6272
6276
6280
6284
6288
6292
6296
6300
6304
6308
6312
6316
6320
6324
6328
6332
6336
6340
6344
6348
6352
6356
6360
6364
6368
6372
6376
6380
6384
6388
6392
6396
6400
6404
6408
6412
6416
6420
6424
6428
6432
6436
6440
6444
6448
6452
6456
6460
6464
6468
6472
6476
6480
6484
6488
6492
6496
6500
6504
6508
6512
6516
6520
6524
6528
6532
6536
6540
6544
6548
6552
6556
6560
6564
6568
6572
6576
6580
6584
6588
6592
6596
6600
6604
6608
6612
6616
6620
6624
6628
6632
6636
6640
6644
6648
6652
6656
6660
6664
6668
6672
6676
6680
6684
6688
6692
6696
6700
6704
6708
6712
6716
6720
6724
6728
6732
6736
6740
6744
6748
6752
6756
6760
6764
6768
6772
6776
6780
6784
6788
6792
6796
6800
6804
6808
6812
6816
6820
6824
6828
6832
6836
6840
6844
6848
6852
6856
6860
6864
6868
6872
6876
6880
6884
6888
6892
6896
6900
6904
6908
6912
6916
6920
6924
6928
6932
6936
6940
6944
6948
6952
6956
6960
6964
6968
6972
6976
6980
6984
6988
6992
6996
7000
7004
7008
7012
7016
7020
7024
7028
7032
7036
7040
7044
7048
7052
7056
7060
7064
7068
7072
7076
7080
7084
7088
7092
7096
7100
7104
7108
7112
7116
7120
7124
7128
7132
7136
7140
7144
7148
7152
7156
7160
7164
7168
7172
7176
7180
7184
7188
7192
7196
7200
7204
7208
7212
7216
7220
7224
7228
7232
7236
7240
7244
7248
7252
7256
7260
7264
7268
7272
7276
7280
7284
7288
7292
7296
7300
7304
7308
7312
7316
7320
7324
7328
7332
7336
7340
7344
7348
7352
7356
7360
7364
7368
7372
7376
7380
7384
7388
7392
7396
7400
7404
7408
7412
7416
7420
7424
7428
7432
7436
7440
7444
7448
7452
7456
7460
7464
7468
7472
7476
7480
7484
7488
7492
7496
7500
7504
7508
7512
7516
7520
7524
7528
7532
7536
7540
7544
7548
7552
7556
7560
7564
7568
7572
7576
7580
7584
7588
7592
7596
7600
7604
7608
7612
7616
7620
7624
7628
7632
7636
7640
7644
7648
7652
7656
7660
7664
7668
7672
7676
7680
7684
7688
7692
7696
7700
7704
7708
7712
7716
7720
7724
7728
7732
7736
7740
7744
7748
7752
7756
7760
7764
7768
7772
7776
7780
7784
7788
7792
7796
7800
7804
7808
7812
7816
7820
7824
7828
7832
7836
7840
7844
7848
7852
7856
7860
7864
7868
7872
7876
7880
7884
7888
7892
7896
7900
7904
7908
7912
7916
7920
7924
7928
7932
7936
7940
7944
7948
7952
7956
7960
7964
7968
7972
7976
7980
7984
7988
7992
7996
8000
8004
8008
8012
8016
8020
8024
8028
8032
8036
8040
8044
8048
8052
8056
8060
8064
8068
8072
8076
8080
8084
8088
8092
8096
8100
8104
8108
8112
8116
8120
8124
8128
8132
8136
8140
8144
8148
8152
8156
8160
8164
8168
8172
8176
8180
8184
8188
8192
8196
8200
8204
8208
8212
8216
8220
8224
8228
8232
8236
8240
8244
8248
8252
8256
8260
8264
8268
8272
8276
8280
8284
8288
8292
8296
8300
8304
8308
8312
8316
8320
8324
8328
8332
8336
8340
8344
8348
8352
8356
8360
8364
8368
8372
8376
8380
8384
8388
8392
8396
8400
8404
8408
8412
8416
8420
8424
8428
8432
8436

coasts would be no sooner organized, than hordes of small dealers, called hucksters, would resort to the sea coasts, and circulate the corned fish through every part of the interior of the country, not excepting the villages. In Great Britain, where there are no less than 1183 towns, containing 5,272,712 inhabitants, besides perhaps six times the number of villages, where fish could be dealt out to 6,683,591 persons, (forming the rural population), at very moderate prices, it is scarcely possible to conceive by what other means a greater blessing could be conferred on the nation. Such a state of things would give a new and improved character to the labouring people, and independence of mind, which they cannot feel at present; a security against want; a luxury which has been heretofore inaccessible; a diminution in a considerable degree of the parish rates; and a gradual decrease of the debasement of character which parochial relief engenders. When new and improved habits should, through this medium, be fully fixed, the greater diversity of food, which would be accessible, at moderate prices, to every labourer, would speedily produce a moral effect, highly interesting and incalculably beneficial to the nation, by rendering the surplus labour of the community more productive, through which medium *alone* empires, kingdoms, and states, become opulent and powerful."

Mr. Farrant confirms my opinion of fishing with both trawl and line. He says, "in addition to the mode adopted for catching fish on the Banks of Newfoundland, I would recommend a trawl, that might be used when it would not be prudent to ride at anchor, by which means bait could at all times be procured for the line fishing, and fishermen would never be unemployed. Small boats can only put to sea in very fine weather; but in the port of Plymouth, not less than 200 vessels, of 40 to 50 tons each, are employed in trawling only, with great profit, although the trawl vessels lose a considerable part of their time by calms in the summer season, which not only render the trawl useless, but often the fish is spoilt before it gets to market." The mode, therefore, recommended is, to employ the line, when the trawl is rendered useless by calms, and to trawl when it would not be prudent to ride at anchor.

About the year 1653, in the reign of Charles II., a very sensible remonstrance was presented to government, "on the inestimable riches of the British seas," by which it appeared, that the fisheries were then neglected by us, and almost exclusively enjoyed by the Dutch, by whom, fishing to an immense extent was carried on, at all seasons of the year, round our coasts.

It stated, that our small boats, venturing in a calm among the Holland busses, not far from Robin Hood's Bay, returned full fraught with herrings to Whitby, and reported, that they saw some of those busses take ten to twenty lasts of herrings at a draught, and return to their own country with forty to fifty lasts of herrings in one buss.

It further stated, "that the Dutch had 8400 vessels fishing on our coasts; and if we allow twenty persons to each vessel, the amount would be 168,000, out of which number, they daily furnished their longer voyages to all parts of the world, by which means the seamen were not only enabled to bear the seas, but were instructed in the principles of navigation and pilotage, and from hence their greatest navigators have had their education. By this, they extended their trade to all parts of the world, exporting, in most of their voyages, our herrings and other fish, and receiving the commodities of other countries in return. But what was most to our shame, they had four hundred vessels carrying fish to Yarmouth, which they sold to our people, though taken in sight of our own coasts." It was also stated, "that the herrings and other fish, caught annually, by the Dutch and other nations, on our coasts, did not amount to less value than ten millions."

"All this considered," says the report, "it is much to the shame of the English nation, that God and Nature offering us so great a treasure, we, notwithstanding, neglect the benefit thereof, and by paying money to strangers for the fish of our own seas, we impoverish ourselves to make them rich; insomuch, that for want of industry and care, in this particular, 225 fishing-towns are decayed and reduced to extreme poverty; whereas, on the contrary, by diligently endeavouring to make use of so great a blessing, we might, in a short time, repair those decayed towns of the kingdom, and add honour, strength, and riches, to our king and country.

"By erecting 250 busses, of reasonable strength and bigness, there will be employment made for 1000 ships, and for at least 10,000 fishermen and seamen, and consequently for double the number of labourers and tradesmen on land.

"To carry this into effect, we must endeavour to reform certain wants and abuses, which hitherto have hindered us from effecting that great and good work.

"1st. Want of order and discretion in our fisheries, every man being left to himself, and permitted to fish as he likes best; whereas, among the Hollanders, two of the best expe-

rienced fishermen are appointed to guide the rest of the fleet, all others being bound to follow them, and to cast their nets according to their directions.

“ 2d. The Hollanders, and other nations, set forth their busses in June to find the shoal of fish; and having found it, they remain amongst it till November; whereas, we wait till the herrings come to our doors, and sometimes suffer them to pass by; our herring fishery continuing only seven weeks at most, theirs twenty weeks.

“ 3d. The Holland busses are great and strong, and able to bear foul weather; whereas our cobbles, crayers, and boats, being small and thin sided, are easily swallowed by a rough sea, not daring to venture far, even in fine weather, by reason of their weakness and fear of storms.

“ 4th. The Hollanders are industrious, and no sooner are discharged of their lading, than they put forth to sea for more, and seek for markets abroad as well as at home; whereas, our English, after they have been once at sea, seldom return thither until all the money taken for their fish is spent.

“ 5th. The Hollanders have certain merchants, who, during the herring fishery, come

to the places where the busses arrive, and joining together in several companies, presently agree for the cargoes of thirty or forty busses at once, that so being discharged, they may return to their former work; whereas, our fishermen are uncertain of their chapmen, and are forced to spend much time in putting off their fish by parcels."

The disastrous effects of neglecting our fisheries were also shown, by stat. 33d. Henry VIII., a summary of which is as follows:

"Because the English fishermen dwelling on the sea coasts, did leave off the trade of fishing in our seas, and went the half seas over, and thereupon they did buy fish of the Flemmings, Normans, and Zealanders, by reason whereof, many incommodities did grow to the realm, viz.: the decay of the wealth and the prosperity, as well of the cinque ports and members of the same, as of other coast towns by the sea side, which were built and inhabited by great multitudes of people, by reason of using the craft and feat of fishing; secondly, the decay of a great number of boats and ships; and thirdly, the decay of many mariners, both able in body by their diligence, labour, and continual exercise of fishing, and expert by reason thereof, in the knowledge of the sea coasts, as well within this realm as in other

parts beyond the seas: it is therefore enacted, that no manner of persons, English, denizens, or strangers, at this time, or at any time hereafter dwelling in England, shall buy any fish of any strangers, in the said ports of Flanders, Zealand, Picardy, in France, or upon the seas between shore and shore, &c." This Act, by many renewals, was continued from Parliament to Parliament, until the first of Queen Mary, and from thence to the end of the next Parliament, and then expired."

Mr. Oddy says, "we have now an opportunity of getting the greatest part of the Dutch trade in fishing, as we have got it in nearly every thing else, and the fishing trade is the most important to get, though not the most easily obtained."

I may also apply with propriety, a remarkable observation of that gentleman, made some years ago; "If, with a prodigious establishment and heavy burdens, our commerce should be lifeless, we have the happy prospect of its being compensated, by bringing into action our national resources with care and attention; namely, the resources of our fisheries."

Sir Thomas Bernard also observes, "that these boundless fields are already white for the harvest.

and the labourers are ready to enter on their task as soon as the financial prohibition is removed."

The Downs Society, associated in November, 1815, under the patronage of the Earl of Liverpool, is a very gratifying example of the associations which would be formed for this purpose, and of the improvements which would take place in our fisheries, if the difficulties and impediments created by the salt duties were removed.

It is presumed, the legislature never could have intended, that the duty on salt should be an impediment to the fisheries, therefore salt should be sent to all fishing stations without restrictions, and there would be no fear of circulating it ashore by smuggling; at least, it may as easily be smuggled from foreign coasts as from these stations. It is certainly to be regretted, that a duty on this important article should exist, and the higher the duty, the greater the temptation for smuggling. The Downs Society are of opinion, that if smugglers had full employment in fishing, they would depart from the practice of smuggling; but smuggling is a vice, which if once contracted, like other bad habits, is not easily conquered. It is like other frailties and evil propensities, which cannot easily be prevented, whilst their allurements remain. The

best way to reform vice is to remove temptation.

The Downs Society state, in their report, page 26 and 28, that Holland has no herrings near her own coast, but takes them on the coast of Britain, from Shetland to the coast of Sussex, commencing at the distance of 250 leagues, and ending at 50 leagues from her own ports. The cod banks in the north sea may be considered as common to both nations, but Iceland is only *half* the distance from Great Britain."

It is also observed, in this report, that the general extension of the fisheries, by employing the fishermen, would immediately reduce, and gradually supplant, the contraband trade, which has been estimated at the enormous amount of fifteen millions sterling; and at a loss to Government, by smuggling, of two millions annually.

It is certain, that the demand for cured fish of different kinds, in this and other countries, if properly introduced as a principal article of food, would always exceed the supply to be procured; and the Downs Society report, that the disproportion between the demand and production, appeared to the Society to arise chiefly from the want of funds among the boatmen, to make their

outfits on a suitable scale. Certainly this is the principal cause, and the same may be said of every fishing place, and of fishing, to any extent, in general.

The Downs Society continue to state, that the fishermen's craft, which consist of small open boats, are not calculated to withstand the boisterous weather that usually occurs during the herring season; and it is with pain, the Committee observe from these causes, that at the late herring season, and the late mackarel season, although conducted on a limited scale, many of the boats scarcely cleared their expences, without leaving their crews any surplus for the subsistence of their families.

“ The ill success of the fishery carried on in these straits from the English coast, has lately become more apparent from the contrast formed by the French and Dutch fisheries, the outfits of which have, since the peace, amounted to several hundred sail of craft, calculated to stand the weather, as well as to remain at sea many days, and proceed to a considerable distance from their own ports, by which means, as the Committee are informed, they last year made successful voyages, continuing the fishery even to our coasts, and under the shelter of our harbours, for several weeks after the boats of this neighbour-

hood were laid up." Here again is the proof, that for want of funds, proper establishments, and proper vessels, fit to keep the sea, our captures, even on our own coasts, are insignificant, compared with the Dutch and other nations, who are provided with these means, and who always fish in large fleets and companies.

The report further states, "that in attributing the low condition of the Downs fishery to the above causes, (principally the want of funds) the Committee conceive the remedy, which obviously suggests itself, is, to raise a fund, and employ it under proper regulations, in assisting the fishermen to make more efficient outfits, &c." Here I do not agree with the suggestions of the Committee, and cannot refrain from the presumption of differing from them in this respect. 'He who giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord;' but neither gift nor borrowing will avail in rendering our fisheries more flourishing, or in carrying them on to a greater extent.

The late noble contributions for the relief of the poor, (though so extensive) would not, if equally divided, have contributed sixpence to each distressed person throughout the kingdom. Labour, independent of charity, is a much more natural and substantial good.

The Committee also rely upon the aid of Government, to enable them to make loans to the fishermen; but lending money to fishermen, to enable them to fit out their own boats, would only be lending them money to carry on and increase the system of smuggling. In vessels fitted out and employed by regular fishing companies, this evil could not be practised,

If the Downs Society can raise funds by subscription or otherwise, and will build, for instance, fifty vessels to begin with, of sufficient capacity, broad and round stern, fit for any seas, either for trawling or line fishing, and will give employment to their fishermen in such vessels, paying them partly by subsistence money, but principally by shares of their captures, under proper regulations, allotting an established fixed share for the profit and use of the vessels, (of which the masters should be always part owners) they will then, in my humble opinion, soon find their establishment in a flourishing condition, and their fishermen, with their families, in a state of happiness and comfort. The fishermen's open small boats may also attend the larger vessels, or still be employed, as they now are, to fish in fine weather, and supply the coasts with fresh fish, which would give occupation to old men and children. A joint concern should be made of the captures, and as soon as enough fish is caught to

fill one fast sailing vessel, it should be dispatched to the best market, or nearest station, if for curing.

The Committee proceed further to state, "that they are assured, whenever it shall be the policy of this country to introduce into our fisheries, the same precise system of regulation, and afford them the same protection as the Dutch, we shall not only be able to recover the supply of our own markets from that nation, by fair competition, but shall also be enabled to meet them with advantage in foreign markets; and should these expectations be happily realized, the Committee have no doubt, that the redundancy of the maritime classes of the cinque ports, would be found sufficient to man at least 200 sail of luggers for the fisheries, besides the smaller craft necessary for the continuance of the coast fishery." And at the time of their report, there were more than 20,000 fishermen out of employ at the cinque ports.

They continue to state, that considering the amount of our population, and in how small a part of the country fish constitutes any material article of sustenance, there can be no doubt, that if it could be rendered wholesome and desirable in quality, and cheap in price, so as to become acceptable to the labouring classes, the demand

for its consumption would increase beyond any calculation they can pretend to make, though it must appear on the most cursory view, that supposing the number of families in the United Kingdom to amount to 3,600,000, and each family consumes only one barrel per annum, (equal to about four pounds of fish per week,) the whole consumption would amount to 3,600,000 barrels per annum; and taking the present fishery at one-third of that quantity, the additional two-thirds, which ought to be computed to be produced by extending the fisheries, may be valued at £4,800,000 sterling, affording maintenance to 960,000 families, in various departments of labour, arising from this source.

The Committee confess that they are aware of the ill success which has attended every attempt that has yet been made in this country, to form a national company for carrying on the fisheries, and that these disappointments can scarcely fail to operate to the disadvantage of any attempt that may now be made, although the most unequivocal proofs of the necessity, as well as the benefit of such associations, may be drawn from the former fisheries of Holland, and lately from the Prussian company in Embden; and even in this country, the distinguished favour with which such proposals have been received, afford the fairest hope, that any judicious plan of combina-

tion would be received with attention, which should be clearly shown to have been dictated by motives of public utility, and so arranged as to be secure from the neglect and malversation, by which, the Committee understand, several former attempts were frustrated.

“ They therefore trust it will recommend itself on national grounds, to the countenance of His Majesty’s Government, as well as an object of profit to those individuals who may be disposed to embark a small part of their funds in such an undertaking, which would render the revenue more productive by several millions, and by uniting our neglected resources, Great Britain would be enabled to meet any other nation in the foreign markets for fish, and insure her own fisheries the exclusive supply of her own markets,” which, certainly, is not the case at present.

The Committee continue to state, that their object requires no exclusive favour or particular privilege, and that they are fondly inclined to consider their present attempt as a germ of a productive vine, which, if planted in the metropolis, and fostered by a wise government, and a generous people, could not fail to extend its fruitful branches to every quarter of the kingdom, for the employment and subsistence of the indus-

trious classes; and, further, the Committee are of opinion, that the union of the several parts of the empire is so necessary, to give complete effect to our fisheries, that they would not only be glad to associate themselves with other cinque ports, but would be happy to form an humble branch of any national establishment that might be proposed for this purpose."

Report of the Downs Society,
17th August, 1816.

I believe nothing more need be said to establish the fact, that one of the greatest benefits which can at this time be rendered to the welfare of the country is, to form an establishment for the promotion and extension of the British fisheries.

It is possible that I have said too much upon this subject, in the opinion of many, and that few will take the trouble to read the half that I have written; for I am sensible that the whole of the observations contained in this work may be reduced to a few simple facts only, which will be presently shown; but if these facts had not been supported by proofs, and substantiated by authorities, few people would have given credit to one half of the assertions.

I had no idea of becoming an author upon this subject, until I was urged so to do by persons whose opinions I held in high consideration; and if I have wandered wildly in the undertaking, I shall still be satisfied if it answers the purposes intended.

After having gone through the proofs, as I believe, to show the advantages, if not the absolute necessity of extending the British Fisheries, and the importance of establishing an Iceland Fishing Company, I shall now begin to elucidate, in a very summary statement, the mode of carrying these important objects into effect. The plan will be deduced from the preceding observations, and be framed upon the foundation of the following act of parliament, with amendments.

Anno Regni Geo. III. Regis vicesimo sexto.

At the parliament begun and holden at Westminster, the 18th day of May, 1784, in the 24th year of the reign of Geo. III. and from thence continued, by several prorogations, to the 24th day of January, 1786.

Cap. CVI. An act for incorporating certain persons therein named, by the name and style of the *British Society for extending the Fisheries*, and improving the sea coasts of this kingdom;

and to enable them, when incorporated, to subscribe a joint stock, and therewith to purchase lands, and build free towns, villages, and fishing stations in the Highlands and Islands of that part of Great Britain called Scotland, and for other purposes.

Petitioners.

The Duke of Argyle, Duke of Athol, Right Honourable George Campbell, Marquis of Lorn, Marquis of Graham, Earl of Eglington, Earl of Moray, Earl of Abercorn, Earl of Breadalbane, Earl of Dunmore, Earl of Kintore, Lord Adam Gordon, Lord Frederick Campbell, Earl Gower, Lord Macdonald, Right Honourable Henry Dundas, &c.

“ And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said society to raise a capital joint stock, to be applied to purchasing, or otherwise acquiring, lands and tenements in perpetuity, and for building of free towns and villages, harbours, quays, piers, and fishing stations, on such lands, so purchased or acquired, and on no other lands or tenements whatsoever, not exceeding the sum of £150,000 sterling, at such time, and in such proportions, as at any general court of the said society shall be directed, and that the same shall be divided into a number of shares, each share not exceeding the sum of

£50; and that no one person subscribing shall become proprietor of more than ten shares, in his, her, or their names, otherwise than by bequest, or operation of law."

"Provided always, that it shall in no case be lawful for the said society to borrow any sum or sums of money whatsoever, and they are hereby prohibited from borrowing the same."

Clause 13th. "And be it further enacted, that there shall be (of the members of the said society, holding one full share of the joint stock of the same respectively,) a governor, deputy-governor, and fifteen directors, of whom the said governor and deputy-governor shall always be two; which directors, or any seven, or more of them, shall be called a Court of Directors, for ordering, managing, and directing the affairs of the said society. The governor, deputy-governor, and thirteen other directors, to be elected on the 25th day of March, in every year, or on the Monday following, in case the same shall happen on a Sunday."

16. "The governor, deputy-governor, and directors, or the major part of them, shall and may, from time to time, assemble and meet together, at any convenient place, or places, within the cities of London or Westminster, and,

then and there, hold Courts of Directors; and shall, at such courts, have power and authority to order and direct all the affairs and business of the said society, subject to the bye-laws and directions of all general meetings of the said society; and shall have power to name committees of themselves, and to appoint all subordinate officers." Governors and directors are to take an oath, faithfully to serve the society to the best of their power.

18. " And be it enacted, that, out of the said proprietors, there shall be chosen and appointed, in like manner, and at the like times, five persons, (not being governor, deputy-governor, director, or other officer,) to examine and audit the accounts of the society, once in every year, and to prepare and lay before the general meeting, the accounts of the society, in a clear, accurate, and distinct manner; copy of which shall be reserved at the office, for the inspection of every proprietor."

19. " And be it enacted, that there shall be holden one general meeting, of said proprietors, on the 25th day of March, in every year, in the cities of London or Westminster, unless the same shall happen on a Sunday, and then on the Monday following."

21. "Proprietors, their successors, and assigns, shall have power, at a general meeting, to be called for that special purpose, or by adjournment from a general meeting, if fifteen or more proprietors, holding 100 shares, be present, to make such rules, bye-laws, and constitutions, for the government of the said society, carrying on the business, well-governing of officers, servants, workmen, and others, and for carrying on the said society, as to them shall seem meet; but shall not be binding, unless confirmed at the next general meeting."

25. "Books to be kept, and open to the inspection of the proprietors, at all reasonable times."

28. "The cash of the said society shall be lodged either in the Bank of England, Bank of Scotland, or Royal Bank of Scotland; and no governor, director, proprietor, agent, secretary, clerk, servant, or person employed by the said society, shall in any case retain any sum or sums of money, which shall have been placed in his, her, or their hands, for the use of the said society, beyond the space of 30 days after the receipt of the same, but shall pay the same into one of the banks aforesaid. And the payment of all such sums as shall be issued by the said society, shall

be made by drafts, under the hands of the governor, or deputy-governor, countersigned by the secretary, or his deputy, and two or more directors, on such banks."

"This act shall be deemed, and taken to be, a public act*."

Without wishing to cast any reflections upon the projectors or framers of this Act of Parliament, it clearly appears that it was not well matured, or properly considered."

The building of towns, villages, harbours, quays, piers, and fishing stations, might have improved the coasts indeed, but it would not have extended the fisheries, unless means had been provided to enable the people to catch fish, which seems to have been left out of the consideration of the act altogether, not a clause, or word, having been introduced upon the subject; nor would £150,000 have done much towards the immense purchases and erections therein contemplated.

* "The Free British Fishery" was also established by charter, in the year 1749, as by 23d Geo. II. cap. 24, but there is nothing in that act worthy of quotation.

100 ARGUMENTS AND AUTHORITIES FOR THE

It is certain, that more than 90 years have elapsed, and that this act still remains in a state of nullity. Perhaps the subscriptions were never filled, or that the utility of the act was discovered to be insufficient. However this may be, the act would very well answer the purpose of forming a ground work, according to its title, for the establishment of "*the British Society for extending the Fisheries.*"

By proceeding upon this act of parliament, funds, no doubt, could be raised, and a fishing station could immediately be established at the Orkneys, at a very little expence, where the experiment of the proposed plan may be tried, and, its utility being proved, the legislature would assuredly extend the powers of the act next session of parliament, if required. But the powers of the act are not properly defined; it does not distinctly state, that the £150,000 are to be employed wholly in the purchases of lands, building of towns, &c.; but it likewise states, "and for other purposes;" and, consequently, its operations are not confined, as in some private acts.

I shall therefore proceed to propose the following suggestions, which, if adopted, I have no doubt will be attended with complete success; viz. :

PLAN

For extending the British Fisheries, and for forming an Iceland Fishing Society, connected with establishments and stations on the British and Irish coasts; namely,

That a committee be appointed to examine and carry into effect, the Act of the 26th Geo. III. cap. cvi., styled an act for incorporating certain persons therein enumerated, by the name and style of “ *The British Society for extending the Fisheries, and improving the Sea Coasts of this Kingdom* ;” and, if necessary, to adopt measures for extending the powers therein contained.

That the committee shall endeavour to obtain the patronage and support of all persons, who can aid and assist this undertaking, particularly the distinguished petitioners, enumerated in the aforesaid Act of Incorporation.

That the committee shall endeavour to impress upon the minds of all persons who have the welfare of their country at heart, the important and incalculable advantages of extending the British fisheries.

That the leading principles of this plan shall

be, to establish fisheries in Iceland, and on the coasts of Iceland, (where there are inexhaustible supplies of fish) and to bring the fish salted in bulk to the Orkneys, or other convenient places, and there to finish the curing, by barreling, pickling, or dry salting.

That the committee shall proceed to raise subscriptions to the amount of £150,000, in shares of £50, as expressed in the aforesaid Act of Parliament, by which subscribers will only be liable to the amount of their respective subscriptions, and that 5 per cent. only shall be required in the first instance, which will be sufficient to pay the first contingent expences, and prepare the establishment of the first fishing station at the Orkneys, or any other convenient place.

That the remainder of the subscriptions shall be called for at the public meetings of the subscribers, and as the majority shall deem it necessary to advance the same.

That when the establishment of this society shall be at full maturity, there shall be at least four or five different stations or depots for receiving and curing the fish. One at the Orkneys, one at the Scilly Islands, one on the north-west coast of Ireland, one at the Isle of Man, and at any other places that may be deemed eligible, by

which, vessels from Iceland will always find a favourable wind to one of these stations; and at some seasons of the year, they may be most profitably employed in fishing contiguous to those stations.

That depots shall be appointed, properly situated, to supply the Baltic, West India, France, Portugal, Spain, Mediterranean, and other foreign markets, as well as the coasting and inland trade.

That the company's fish shall be cured, packed, and sold, only at these stations, or depots; as the intention of the society is not to become merchants, but to be solely fishermen and curers.

That the head establishment for conducting the affairs of the society shall be in London, and be regulated, as expressed and particularised in the aforesaid act of parliament; namely, that there shall be one governor, one deputy-governor, and thirteen other directors.

That seven of them shall be deemed sufficient to form a court of directors, to determine upon any affairs of the society, or to appoint subcommittees, agents, or officers, subject however to

the bye-laws of the general meetings of the proprietors.

That as soon as a general meeting of proprietors shall so determine, fifty vessels shall be purchased, of 120 to 150 tons each, the expence and outfit of which will be from £800 to £1200, making together £40,000 to £60,000.

That the expence of the first station shall not exceed £5000, no racks or other erections being required, as by the method of curing at Newfoundland.

That the same calculations will serve for the other stations now proposed; so that the sum of £150,000, limited by the aforesaid act of parliament, will be fully sufficient to bring this important object to maturity *progressively*, and the result will be a very abundant profit to the proprietors, and one of the most efficient benefits that can possibly be offered to the support and welfare of the country; particularly as the object of this society is not to obtain a monopoly, and that individuals may separately be connected with its establishment, by commission, contracts, or in separate associations, under the powers of the charter; which will render the benefit more general, and require less capital from the society.

And finally,

Should the said committee, upon due consideration, find that the powers of the aforesaid Act of Parliament are not sufficient to carry into effect the desired object of establishing this society, and of extending the British fisheries generally; they shall then be requested to make a proper representation and statement, in a full petition to his Majesty's ministers, praying to participate in the aid allowed by the last Act of Parliament for the encouragement of the fisheries; and also that leave may be given to apply to parliament for a general charter, or repeal of the bankrupt laws, in favour of fisheries, so as that fishing societies may be incorporated in the United Kingdom, as joint stock companies, subjecting the subscribers, or proprietors, to the amount of their respective subscriptions only, by which protection alone an effective energy can be given to the *Extension of the British Fisheries**.

* At a meeting of the Committee lately held upon the subject of the Iceland Fishery, a gentleman present "condemned all societies," and said, "it was unaccountable to him, if so great a quantity of fish is to be found in Iceland, that individuals, who are in want of employ for their vessels, do not send them out there to fish, or that the Danes do not make better use of these fisheries."

A few minutes afterwards, the same gentleman, who was a member of the "Fish Association for the General supply of Fish in the Metropolis, and the interior of this Kingdom," observed,

“ that the town of Buckingham, as well as other towns, scarcely knew the taste of fish until they were supplied by this society.” It would then have appeared unaccountable to *me*, that individuals had not undertaken *this* supply before, had I not been convinced, as I have already stated, that fisheries, and the supply of fish, to any extent, can only be carried on by extensive companies, particularly in the first instance; and I am also confident that the Iceland fishery, as well as the British fisheries generally, will always remain in their present state, unless they are first extended by the regulations and aid of Government, and by the establishment of joint stock societies; for individuals are naturally afraid to undertake new plans of magnitude, and they would fail, if they did, for want of means to carry through undertakings of this nature.

INFERENCE.

As the Fisheries cannot be carried on to a great extent, and with full success, without the fostering aid and protection of Government, and without its superintendence and regulations, like those of the Admiralty of Holland, it would be highly beneficial to the success of our fisheries, if Government would appoint Commissioners, and a Board, for that purpose. The ultimate returns of benefit to Government and the country would amply repay, and justly warrant, the expence of such an establishment.

Upon taking a general view of the present state of this country, it is evident that *something* must be done to assist the labouring classes, and to revive the drooping spirit of national industry.

It may appear presumptuous in me to give my opinion upon this subject, but I have visited *many* countries, and I have everywhere observed, that there is always wretchedness where a population is in want of employ. That, under op-

pressive governments, the poor are miserable and desponding. That, under liberal and good governments, their appearance is cheerful and happy. That the condition of the poor is the similitude of the state. That good governments have good subjects, and that provident governments make a provident people. That the poor and labouring classes cannot support themselves without the means of employment. That wise governments will find them employ, or the means of employment, and encourage industry, rather than pauperism and beggary; and finally, that true benevolence is to enable the industrious classes to support *themselves*, rather than to suffer them to sink under the necessity of being supported, either by the boon of charity, or by the consolation of pity.

Were I ambitious, or desirous, of an elevated situation in life, it would be from the consolation the human mind must feel at relieving the wants of distressed objects. The toils of a state may be burdensome in many instances; but what gratification in life can equal that which a sovereign or a minister must enjoy, who by a single edict, or wise regulation, can dispense blessings to millions of the human species?

Princes, as well as private individuals, are too apt to disregard, and even disbelieve, distresses

they have never witnessed*. Every one must know the sensation that is felt at beholding a fellow-creature in distress; but is the human heart to be governed by the passions, rather than by maturer judgment? Should humanity shudder at the sight of a single distressed object, and yet be insensible to the sufferings of millions who are perishing in concealment, and whom the eye of pity may never behold? No, true benevolence flows from a soul more expansive; for many a tear is shed by those who never tell their woes.

The late sudden transition from war to peace,

* When I was at Batalha, in Portugal, where Murphy wrote the greater part of his travels through that country, a priest related to me a very striking anecdote to prove this observation.

The Prince of Brazil, in reading Murphy's work, came to a passage where he described the poor of that country to be in a wretched state, and the travelling there most execrable.

The Prince flew in a violent passion, and ordered Murphy to be taken up and punished; for he had travelled through all the country, he said, and had never witnessed a single instance of what that writer related. "No," said the minister, who was standing near him, "but, if your Royal Highness had travelled as Murphy did, his observations would have appeared too true!" "Ah!" replied the Prince, "then I am sorry for it!" and poor Murphy thus escaped unpunished.

though conducive to future happiness, has occasioned an immense depreciation of property of every kind* in this country, and has thrown upwards of *five millions* of British subjects, in different parts of the world, out of employ, who have new occupations to seek, which they cannot easily find; and, until fresh sources of employment can be procured, industry and commerce must remain torpid and paralysed.

It may be asked, if the encouragement of the fisheries will find employment for five millions of people, and relieve the distresses of twenty millions of British subjects, who are sufferers in more or less degree by the depreciation of property and the pressure of the times? No; but it will do a considerable part, and is one of the national resources which will tend to that effect.

* If we except funded property, it will amount to the same thing; for supposing the national debt to have been contracted when 3 per cent. Consols were at from 50 to 60, and that it be paid off now that they are above 80, the stockholder will gain the difference, but the nation must lose in proportion. It therefore appears clear, that Government funds, and Government means, had better be employed in supporting industrious objects and pursuits, than in reducing the national debt under such circumstances.

The population of Great Britain is now immense, amounting to about		13,000,000
Ireland		5,000,000
The Colonies, with all our dependencies, upwards of		32,000,000*
Total		50,000,000

And notwithstanding the apparent opulence of this great community, yet more than four-fifths of its number, or forty millions of these people, must be supported by industry and labour, in some way or other. It is to industry then that the nation must look for its support. Every incitement to industry is a benefit to the state and to the community.

If any one will take the trouble to calculate the immense losses and expences occasioned to Great Britain, by the sudden transitions of war and peace, since the year 1813, he will be astonished to find that such losses and expences could be borne.

If he take into consideration the reduction

* The population of the British settlements in India is, since the first edition of this work was printed, stated to be 50,000,000, and of the colonies 2,000,000, making together, with the population of the United Kingdom, 70,000,000 of British subjects.

produced by the treaty of Paris, the sudden preparations for the renewal of the war, the various operations of commerce and speculations calculated upon war prices, the hasty termination of the war, the consequent depreciation of property of every description, and the stoppage of mines, manufactures, and commerce, since that period, he will find that these rapid and sudden changes and events have left a loss to the nation of more than sufficient to pay the national debt*. It is therefore no consolation to a benevolent mind, that the articles of comfort and luxury may now be obtained at a cheap rate, when the industrious part of the community are sufferers thereby, and that labour is not paid for its hire.

How then are these losses and sufferings to be retrieved and removed? By incitements to industry and wise economy†, and by providing em-

* This may appear an enormous and erroneous statement to some people; but the reduction in the value of land and houses alone, although they may recover their value again, is not at present less than six hundred millions, and the loss on ships, and the reduction in the price and value of metals and other articles of commerce and manufacture, will more than make up the amount here stated.

† It is not true economy in governments to check industry, or to abolish useful appointments and employments, for the sake of reducing the national expenditure; on the contrary, every useful object of industry should be supported by government means.

ployment for the poor; for what cannot an industrious people accomplish, if a stimulus be given to their exertions?

Every man, who labours in useful pursuits, contributes a portion of benefit to the state and to society; but if the great machine of national industry be stopped or checked, it is soon visibly felt throughout the whole community; and although the wealth of a nation may support itself for awhile, yet it must naturally diminish, if the source be neglected from which it flows.

The sunshine of peace has not yet diffused its brightest influence over an afflicted world. A cloud obscures its plastic rays; but it will soon pass away, and Prosperity will then appear arrayed in all her glory.

We have means (if properly employed) to effect all we desire, namely, by encouraging our fisheries, by cultivating our waste lands, by employment in, and paying more attention to, our colonies, thereby increasing our commerce and the demand for our own manufactures, and finally, by giving circulation to the wealth of the nation, and by making every man useful to the state and to the community, who is enabled so to be.

The colonies and dependencies of Great Britain, conjointly with the mother country, though shut out from the rest of the world, would, alone, if properly supported and encouraged, afford sufficient means of provision for our population, commerce, manufactures, and the necessities of the state; and if we would wish for surplus commerce, it should be carried on upon more liberal and judicious principles than has hitherto been done with foreign nations.

It is idle to invent new modes or schemes of additional taxation to be levied in this country; but the amount of the national debt, or present weight of taxation, would be little felt, if properly divided among fifty millions of people, all bearing a portion, in equalization according to their means. The plan is not difficult, and may be adopted without oppression; but this is the business of the legislator to explain and accomplish.

ADDENDA.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTENDING THE BRITISH FISHERIES, &c.

THE foregoing part of this small work was printed in the beginning of the year 1817, but although the plan and observations therein contained have been much approved by most people who have been consulted upon the subject, yet nothing has been done to carry its important object into effect. What is every one's business is attended to by no one. It is however observable that since the period when the first part of this work was written and printed, not only the importance of extending the British Fisheries, but the observations and predictions contained therein, respecting the consequences of the want of employment for the British seamen, have been completely verified and fatally fulfilled.

Every one must recollect the distresses of the seamen during the last winter, and the charitable efforts which were used, in vain, to afford them relief. At the present time, it is also well known, that they have all disappeared, and that able seamen are not to be found at any of the ports to man a single ship of war, and that it is only

at high wages men of any description are to be procured to man the merchant vessels.

The common enquiry now is, What is become of these people? The natural answer will be, that having been neglected and left destitute, they have either sought other employments, or have fled to some other country, where they expect to be better treated than at home; and should their services be called into action by their new friends, (which Heaven forbid they should, against their native country) not a man of them will be taken alive, but all will perish before they will yield to enemies who ought to have been their friends.

It is unnecessary, however, to enlarge or dwell upon a painful subject, or to mourn the errors of past events, which, having been committed, cannot be prevented. But truth demands a fair statement of facts, and it is sometimes of importance to show how past evils might have been averted by common prudence, or by just and wise policy. The exposition of evils and errors that have happened may also prevent their recurrence in future; and, whatever pains may be taken to conceal them, they will not escape the penetration of those who have the power, although, it is to be hoped, not the inclination to take advantage of their occurrence.

The constant recommendation, of late, to alleviate and console the distresses of the maritime and other classes of suffering people, has been *patience**; but patience is a slow and sad cure for poverty, although it is certain enough in its effects; for the evils of life must have a termination, and the most wretched mortal knows, that they cannot last, with him, in this world for ever. Patience is, no doubt, a friend to sorrow, and by whose aid many privations and evils may be endured; but the want of employment creates despondency, and a people who are suffering under the pinching calls of hunger, can be but ill supported by the virtue of patience alone. Would their admonitors be patient under such trials of affliction? It is easy to approve and recommend such a principle, but it is difficult to endure the necessity which produces it; for its effect must extinguish all hope in this world but one, and that is the cessation of being; but mankind, in general, act as if they thought they should live for ever, and as if no sacrifice or consideration were due to any of the human race but themselves.

* The Committee of the House of Commons for the Relief of the Poor, in their second report, recommend, in the emphatic words of Mr. Burke, patience, prudence, fortitude, and indeed all the virtues; in order, no doubt, that things may find their level, but the world now pretty well knows how this level will generally terminate, when left to itself.

The grand and powerful objection which has lately been made to the encouragement and extension of the British Fisheries is, the ill success of the fishery, and wretched state of the inhabitants of Newfoundland; which impression, they say, must be done away, before any effectual attempt can be made to extend the British Fisheries. It is therefore necessary, that something should be said of the affairs of Newfoundland and of the Newfoundland Fishery.

The system and management of the affairs of Newfoundland and of the Newfoundland fishery are, perhaps, the most inconsistent of the kind to be found in the history of the world; although, it is true, the same inconsistency prevails, in more or less degree, in the whole of the colonial system of this country.

Newfoundland is an island of greater extent than Ireland, and is situated in a more southern latitude, being 350 miles in length from north to south, and 200 miles in breadth from east to west at the broadest base, and between 47 and 52 degrees of North latitude. Ireland is situated between 51 and 56 degrees of north latitude, and is only 250 miles long, and 150 broad, from the extreme points.

Newfoundland, although it is mountainous and

cold, is capable of producing a great plenty of the necessaries of life; but the policy of this country is, only to send people there to fish during the fishing season, and only to allow a few inhabitants to reside on the island. These inhabitants can neither procure land to cultivate and produce the necessaries of life, nor are they allowed even sufficient land, upon which to build a hovel, to cover their heads, except upon such terms and under such restrictions as to render it almost impossible for them to obtain it. This is done from the fear of settlers becoming too numerous on that island. The inhabitants are thus neither allowed to grow corn in quantity, or to produce other food; nor are they allowed to import it from the neighbouring states, from which they could obtain it cheap and in great abundance. Every necessary article required must be brought from England, and in such quantities and at such prices as a few speculators or monopolizers chuse to afford it to the inhabitants.

This is the policy, or political, mercantile, and colonial system and arrangement of monopoly and injustice, adopted and practised in the affairs of Newfoundland. In consequence of which, the inhabitants are sometimes, (and were particularly during the winter before last) half starved. This weak policy has also the effect of raising

the price of labour to an enormous rate on that island. A common artificer, such as a blacksmith, carpenter, or the like, will earn, at Newfoundland, from half a guinea to twelve shillings a day, and other workmen and labourers are paid in proportion; and then the complaint comes home, that the Newfoundland colony, if it may be so called, is in distress; that its fishery cannot succeed or be continued, and must be abandoned; that it will not pay the expences of the merchants; that the population of Newfoundland must be removed, or relieved, or they must starve. But notwithstanding all this, upwards of one million of quintals of fish were shipped from Newfoundland in 1816, the year of their greatest distress.

So careful is the Government of this country to prevent the island of Newfoundland from being overpeopled, that every owner, or master of a vessel, who takes out a crew, or fishermen, or apprentices, to fish on the banks of Newfoundland, and to cure the fish on the island, is bound in a bond, by the regulation of the law, to bring them back again at the expiration of a given space of time, whether they are inclined to return or not; and as they are not permitted to stay on the island after the period allowed by the act, many of them, when they have acquired the art of catching and curing fish, desert, if possible, to

the United States, where they get full employment in the New England fishery, in opposition to ours; and although they do not get such high wages as at Newfoundland, yet the cheapness of their living and the security and certainty of getting constant employment, are more than equivalents. The American fishery is carried on upon a different principle from the Newfoundland fishery, and affords employment for the people, as fishermen and seamen, the whole year round, which is also the principle and system of the Dutch fishing trade.

It is impossible that the Newfoundland fishery can ever be very flourishing, under its present system and management, for two reasons; first, as to expence, and secondly, as to the uncertainty of a supply of full cargoes of fish; for the system established in the Newfoundland fishery is, not to provide cargoes of fish (as the Hudson's Bay people do of their commodities) ready for the vessels when they come out from England, but this is left to chance and the uncertainty and inexperience of the crews and people who are sent out from England for that purpose; because the residents are not allowed, and are not sufficient in number, to catch and cure any considerable quantity of fish, and consequently one half of the vessels that go out from England to fish on the banks of Newfoundland,

either from the inexperience of the crews, or from bad weather, or from not being there at the time when the greatest quantity of fish is to be found on the banks, or from other circumstances, make unprofitable voyages, and the trade at present, they say, is not worth following. The population of the island was stated, a few years since, to be about sixty thousand, but, perhaps, at present it does not actually amount to much more than half that number of fixed inhabitants, although it would employ and support, in happiness and comfort, six millions.

It is always through bad management when any good or valuable undertaking fails of success, and such has ever been the case with the British Fisheries. That the business of fishing is of use and value to society, both in affording employment for the maritime class of people, and in supplying food, as well as employment, for numberless other persons ashore, cannot be doubted, and why the Fisheries of this country have not been more successful, can only be attributed to the cause before mentioned. Other countries have succeeded in their fisheries, from which they have derived their greatest resources of power and wealth; and this country, though more peculiarly and more advantageously situated than any other for that pursuit, and to which it would afford the greatest good, seems incapable of ap-

preciating its value, or too negligent to secure its benefits.

It seems as if there were a system of monopoly, prejudice, infatuation, and obstinacy, not only in all kinds of trade, but in all the affairs of life; and those who have the most right and interest to remove those evils, have generally the least inclination to produce the means. But the most difficult part to subdue or remove of all these evils is, to overcome *prejudice*; and in nothing are people more prejudiced, or capricious, than in the choice of their food, although this depends entirely upon habit; for whatever food people are accustomed to in early youth, they generally prefer through life. It is difficult, for instance, to make a British peasant eat of a fine ragout, or to induce a fine gentleman to partake of beef and plum-pudding; because the different habits they have been accustomed to, or taught, make both ridiculous and unpalatable to their opposite tastes and different conceptions. People would not eat bread if they had never been accustomed to it, and it is astonishing, in this luxuriant age, that they ever eat of so vulgar and cheap a food. But perhaps they have more desire for it when it is dear and scarce than when it is cheap and plentiful.

It has been lately said, by some interested per-

sons, and consequently those who are not very favourable to the extension of the fisheries; that fish is not food for man; and the same people observe, that there is not a demand for beef and bacon; (a luxury indeed seldom, and but sparingly enjoyed by the poor.) "Why then," say they, "should the fisheries be extended? The fish salesmen and fishmongers also assert, that if fish were anything but a luxury, and to be obtained otherwise than at high prices, no one would purchase it, or eat it." And this may be true, as applied to some classes of the community, and be a faithful representation of the luxury and folly of the times; but certainly it is not the sentiment or principle of the great body of the people. The assertion, however, is verified in some instances, although it does not leave much mark of respect, or inspire much esteem, for those who are the authors of it; for it has been known, and can be proved, that a cod has been sold at the West end of the town for eighteen shillings, and that a finer cod has been purchased, the same morning, at Billingsgate market, for half a crown, after the first draught of the great fishmongers had been taken off; and this occurrence, or something similar, is not unfrequent. Good profits are necessary and proper in such a perishable article as fresh fish, but this seems to be taking it rather in the extreme, and weighing it upon too large a scale; and the

worst is, that these exorbitant profits are derived by those who are least entitled to them, and who are only unproductive labourers. If such great prices and profits are necessary upon the article of fish, why are not the fishermen entitled to a proportion of the benefits?

The food we like, and eat, depends upon what we have been accustomed to, and the general habits and diet of a country, or people, with whom we live. In Holland, no person sits down to table without two or three sorts of fish. In Catholic countries the people are not so fond of fish, because they must eat it by compulsion. In some places, where there is great plenty of fresh fish, people get satiated or cloyed with it, as they are, it seems, with most things easily obtained, and to be had in great abundance, particularly those who are fond of luxuries and variety, and have the means to procure them; but there is no place perhaps where poor people, in particular, are in the habit of eating cured or dry fish, but they continue to like it, and find it a very wholesome food.

This has been completely verified in the county of Cornwall. Some years ago a considerable quantity of corn was imported into that county. The poor people disliked potatoes and would not eat fresh fish, of which they had great

abundance. They could not afford to purchase butcher's meat, although it was at a very low price; they therefore lived wretchedly poor. Of late years they have the habit of eating great quantities of corned or cured fish and potatoes; and can also afford to purchase bacon and butcher's meat, which the butchers now find they can readily sell. They also export a considerable quantity of corn, although the population of that county is considerably increased, and the people live so much better than they did formerly. This may appear a paradox, but it is a truth; and the mystery may be easily removed, if any one will take the trouble to calculate what a good and wholesome meal will cost, composed chiefly of cured fish and potatoes, and a small quantity of toasted bacon, or pork. Those who are accustomed to this meal are remarkably partial to it, and if this calculation be compared with a meal made up of other food, it will be found that enough saving will be produced to purchase some butcher's meat, and other articles of variety at times; and, as the people of Cornwall can sell and consume as much fish as they can catch, they can afford to purchase other food, when they are so inclined.

The Cornish people are remarkably healthy and good looking, since they have taken to the use of this description of food; and it is a com-

mon proverb in that county, when speaking of a beautiful female, to say, that "she is as fair as a Fowey woman," at which place the poor people eat scarcely any animal food but fish, which is their chief diet, with potatoes.

The high prices and bad quality of fish, in general, are certainly the causes of its consumption not being greater or more extensive, although the contrary has been asserted. The bad regulations of the markets for fish, in the metropolis, also surpass all comprehension. The Reports of the "Association for the Relief of the Poor, and the general Supply of Fish, in the Metropolis and the Interior," contain much valuable information upon this subject, as well as in other matters, and afford evident proofs of the importance of extending and promoting the British Fisheries.

This Association was established in May, 1812, by voluntary contributions, and has, no doubt, afforded a great deal of benefit to the poor, and contributed to relieve their distresses, as far as the powers of charity would extend, or whilst the funds of the society lasted. But the misfortune is, that charity soon exhausts its means, by being unproductive. The contributions, collected by this society, amounted to £17,000, which sum

was well expended, and the produce beneficially administered; but had it been employed in time, to promote useful labour, it would have done much more real and effectual good, and the capital would not have been sunk, but would have been increased by the powers of its own production.

By a Report of the Downs Fishing Society, dated July 9, 1817, that society had collected a capital of only £3961. 15s., and with this capital they had not only caught and cured a large quantity of herrings, but had fitted out three vessels for the Iceland fishery, and one for the deep-sea fishery; at an expence, including the investments of salt, barrels, and other stores, of £2795. This had given employment to fifty-one men and boys, the crews of the said vessels, and had furnished them with every necessary for the voyage. It allowed weekly subsistence to above 100 persons, composing the families of the said crews, of from five shillings to fifteen shillings per week for each family. It also furnished occasional employment, from the preceding September to the date of the Report, for 120 men, women, and children, in the manufacture of nets, barrels, and other articles; and the society had, at that period, nearly 70 persons employed, exclusive of those similarly engaged in the parish workhouse.

The society had actually disbursed,
 in labour and seamen's wages,
 from the preceding September, £1619 0 0
 And amongst various tradesmen,
 including the purchases of salt,
 staves, and other articles..... 4400 0 0
 And had, at the date of their Re-
 port, stock in hand, consisting of
 salt, nets, barrels, &c. as per
 valuation,..... 1250 0 0

This society, for the further employment of the seafaring and other inhabitants of the parish, was also desirous to fit out, for the ensuing herring season, five decked luggers, to carry 320 pieces of net, the crews to be composed of forty-four men and boys; and it was calculated, that the fitting out of these vessels would give employment for three months to about 120 persons, besides the crews, in the various departments of net-making, coopering, &c.; and the society would be enabled to allow, to the families of the crews, the weekly subsistence similar to those on the Iceland and deep-sea fisheries. But it appeared, that the society's capital was not sufficient to carry this latter object into effect, without the further aid of subscriptions. The Report, however, concludes with stating, that no part of the subscriptions had been sunk; and that, should the undertaking meet with common suc-

cess, there was every reason to believe that a considerable dividend would be realised, at the end of the year.

The Iceland vessels had gone out too late in the season, and being improper vessels, and the crews not properly experienced, they returned with less than half cargoes; but, owing to the good quality of the fish, it not only paid the men and their families their advances and expences, but it left a profit to the society; and such was the cheerfulness and confidence of success, of the masters and the crews, that they all offered to return again to the same employment, at their own risks, and subscriptions were immediately entered into to make preparations accordingly. Such is the difference between charitable donation and the encouragement and promotion of productive labour. The one is spent and exhausted, leaving nothing but the remembrance of its benefits; the other is ever fruitful and increasing in its means and enjoyments.

Sir Thomas Bernard, bart. in his Account of the Supply of Fish for the Manufacturing Poor, with Observations, published in 1813, states it to be a singular but well ascertained fact, that, at the very time when there is the greatest quantity of mackerel to be caught in the part of the British Channel which supplies the London market,

and when that fishery is most abundant, the fishermen, who frequent Billingsgate, almost wholly discontinue the mackerel fishery. This extraordinary circumstance is thus accounted for. The fishermen depend, in a great measure, for customers, on fishwomen, who attend daily at Billingsgate, with their baskets on their head, to purchase the mackerel, and carry them for sale about the metropolis. As long as these women continue their attendance on the Billingsgate market, the fishermen are secure of a certain degree of custom for their fish; but, as soon as the common fruit comes into season, they give up dealing in fish, finding the sale of gooseberries, currants, and the like, to produce them a larger and more secure profit, with less risk.

The fishermen, being thus disappointed of a sale for their mackerel, at the time when they are most abundant, give up, in a degree, that employment for the season; and an immense quantity of palatable and nutritious food is thereby annually withheld from the inhabitants of the metropolis.

This circumstance, of the want of means of sending their fish generally into the town, not only prevents the mackerel being caught, but, even after they have been caught and brought up the river, precludes a considerable part of it

from ever reaching the market ; for all that arrives at this period, beyond the estimated demand of the fishmongers, *however fresh and good*, is thrown into the Thames, and destroyed before it reaches Billingsgate, with the consequence of raising the price of mackerel to the opulent part of the metropolis, and of excluding most of the inhabitants from a participation in this cheap and plentiful supply of food.

Regulations for affording a more certain sale to the fishermen, and more plentiful supply to the inhabitants, at reduced prices, have been since adopted, and had a good effect, but being partial, they have not been continued.

At the same time that the Committee for the Relief of the Manufacturing Poor had adopted a plan for the present relief of the metropolis in June 1812, with a view to the prospective benefit of the manufacturing and other poor throughout England, they contracted for 200 tons of corned cod; cured on our own coasts in such a way as, with a little watering, to eat almost like fresh cod. The mode recommended in preparing it for dressing was, to steep it forty-eight hours in cold water, changing the water morning and evening, and then it was to be boiled and eaten with potatoes, (and a small quantity of bacon, toasted and dropped upon it, would have been a great im-

provement.) The amount of this contract, exclusive of another contract for 400,000 corned herrings, was £3600, for the 200 tons of cod, being equal to eighteen shillings per hundred weight, and the intention was to sell it at two pence per pound.

Of this corned cod, parcels of a ton, or two tons each, were sent to some manufacturing towns upon trial. From Mr. Heathfield, of East House, a very active member, and treasurer of the Sheffield and Rotherham Committee for the Relief of the Poor, to whom some of the cod was sent, a letter was received, of which the following is an extract:—"A small supply of fish, which we have recently received, has been found most acceptable both at Rotherham and at Sheffield. At the latter place especially, it has been purchased with avidity by the work people of the few masters who have, hitherto, been able to offer any for sale. An opinion had partially prevailed that the poor would not eat salt fish; but the evidence is decisive that, *the consumption would be large, could the supply be obtained.* The distress in this riding, it is to be apprehended, will be severe during the winter; particularly at Sheffield, where a considerable number of hands have been discharged within these few days, through the absolute incapacity of the manufacturers, engaged in the American trade, any

longer to employ them. Very indifferent salt cod is selling there at five pence per pound. Of white herrings the inhabitants know but little. When in the market, they have been sold at two pence each*. Your herrings can be afforded two for three halfpence, and the cod at two pence halfpenny per pound, and both are excellent. I cannot, in this early stage of the investigation, say what quantity would carry us through the approaching season; but it is to be expected that the consumption would be very extensive. I have made application for forty tons of cod, which I hope will be forwarded. It would be impertinent in me to urge upon the Committee the importance of their own plan; but it may not be improper to say, that, in this part of the kingdom, it is received as a measure admirably calculated to ameliorate the condition of the poor, and to augment the national stock. Some exertion on the part of gentlemen, in their respective localities will, however, be necessary to produce the

* Note by Sir Thomas Bernard. "While very indifferent white herrings were selling at Sheffield for *two pence a piece*, they were to be purchased at Hastings at the rate of *sixpence the hundred*, and in some parts of Scotland for half that price. The bay salt, duty free, for curing a hundred of herrings, costs about a penny. It should seem therefore that our manufacturers might be supplied at the price of a farthing, or, at the most a halfpenny, with that quantity of food for which they have been paying two pence."

whole effect which I conceive to be intended, namely, to place a good meal within the reach of every family possessing even a trifling weekly stipend. Bnt if the supply of fish be adequate, the interposition of a few active persons will accomplish that object."

Sir Thomas Bernard observes, that the great value of the experiments made by the Association for the Relief of the Poor, and the general Supply of Fish in the Metropolis and the Interior, "affords a moral remedy for increasing population, and the vicissitudes of commerce and manufactures. The general use," he says, "of wheaten bread, a great number of horses kept for parade, wasteful habits of life, increase of manufactures, and the supply of our fleets and armies, in a necessary war, have so augmented the demand for wheat corn, that every succeeding year seems to require a degree of miraculous plenty, or a ruinous importation from foreign countries. When any thing is wanted in England, nothing is so easy, or so natural, as to order it to be imported, forgetting that the effect of reliance on such importation may be a diminution of national wealth, a depreciation in the rate of exchange, and a dependence on foreign nations for the supply of the necessary articles of life. In the year 1800 and 1801, the money remitted to other countries for the purchase of corn, for our

home consumption, amounted to £18,905,093; and above forty-two millions of money were sent out of England for the purchase of foreign corn in the period between 1800 and 1810 inclusive.

“ That species of speculation which reduces the quantity to a small part of what may be easily obtained, and enhances the price far above what will make a profitable and satisfactory recompense to the persons employed, is the worst and most pernicious speculation that can exist in any country. Speculators in *grain* serve to check the consumption in the time of plenty, and to provide a store against the period of scarcity; but speculators in *fish* waste and destroy the abundance which God has intended for the use of man, and deprive us of that food which is essential to our existence.

“ IMPROVEMENTS in Agriculture, and ECONOMY in the use of food, are remedies usually prescribed for an excess of population, and in times of distress. There is also a third remedy, at present much in vogue, and is the practice upon any *symptoms of scarcity*, which is, the purchasing up large quantities of wheat, rice, potatoes, and other necessary articles of life, to be sold afterwards to the poor under prime cost. But, it is to be feared that this remedy must be classed among those *quack medicines*, which are

likely to do much more harm than good ; for, in the first place, the original purchase, at such a period, has the effect of raising the price of the article, to the injury of the poor and of all other members of the community ; and the retail of it, at a low price, when the article is becoming scarce, contributes to increase the consumption of that which it is then most important should be husbanded. Increased *produce*, either from sea or land, or increased *economy* in the use of that produce, is liable to neither of these objections.

“ It must be confessed,” Sir Thomas Bernard further observes, “ that considerable tracts of unproductive land still remain in this island ; and that, so far from the greatest degree of attainable comfort and nourishment being derived from our food, there is hardly a country upon earth, where so great a waste is daily committed of what the bounty of Providence has bestowed for the sustenance of man. But agricultural improvements and economical cookery, though practicable to a certain extent, and desirable, as far as they can be extended, have natural difficulties to contend with, and have confined limits beyond which they can never go ; limits and difficulties which do not, in any proportionable degree, affect our DOMESTIC FISHERIES. There are innumerable acres of water which surround our coasts, inexhaustible in nutritive and palatable food ; where

no preparatory system of industry is required, no seed to be committed to the soil, no question about fruitful seasons: the fields are perpetually *white to harvest*, and we have only to reap the abundance which Providence abundantly supplies.

“ The examples of Spitalfields and Sheffield,” he says, “ leave no doubt but that fish will be purchased with avidity by the manufacturing classes, whenever it is cheap and good. The amount of the supply may, in any year, be augmented to more than double or treble the usual quantity, if circumstances should require it; and were it extended only to the use of fresh fish, or fish slightly corned, in those parts to which it can conveniently be carried, it would benefit a considerable part of the population of this country.

“ An objection has been made to fish as the diet of the labouring class of people; that it passes lightly by digestion, and is therefore unfit to support labour. Upon this it may be observed, first, that the labouring poor and their children, in fishing ports, where fish makes a considerable part of their diet, are stout, hardy, and healthy. Secondly, that fish is not proposed as the sole article of food, but only in addition to what they now have. And thirdly, that the ob-

jection may, in part, if not wholly, be removed by the mode of dressing it, as in America, where cod and other kinds of fish are dressed with pork, bacon, fat beef, and potatoes, thickened with rice, or oatmeal, and small suet dumplings, and seasoned with savoury herbs, and pepper and salt; the whole producing a palatable and nutritious stew, which they call CHOUDEUR.

A gentleman, residing a few miles north of Sheffield, stated, that he had witnessed the eagerness with which some of the corned fish, sent there by the Fish Association, was received in his neighbourhood. To try how far it might be relished, he had sent to Sheffield for a hundred weight, and gave it into the hands of a little shopkeeper in his village, requesting that a certain quantity might be given to each person who called for it, *with directions how to prepare it*. In two hours after receiving the fish, the shopkeeper came to him to tell him it was all gone, and that the shop was beset with petitioners, who were clamorous to obtain a share, and begged to know whether any more was to be had. The next day, being Sunday, it was known through the parish, and he had applications from all parts with entreaties for more. In consequence, he sent to Sheffield for four hundred weight more, proposing to give that away in the same manner, in order that all might have a taste, and then, if

the demand continued, to have a supply for sale. In some places the fish was not so much approved; but, upon enquiry, it appeared to have arisen from *no directions* having been given with it to soak and prepare it properly.

“ In looking to the supply of the metropolis with fresh fish to almost any extent,” Sir Thomas Bernard observes, “ we shall find the chief difficulty to be, that, in the greatest and most populous city in the world, the sale of an essential article of life is confined to a small and inconvenient market, with the effect of placing the sale of all the fish for the supply of this great metropolis in the hands of a few individuals. If, however, this were attended merely with an enhancement of price, *upon only those who value the articles of life in proportion to their dearness and scarcity*, the power might be so modified in its exercise, as to be undeserving of public attention or interference. But it is now ascertained, that in a period of scarcity, when every effort is making, by importation and economy, to provide for the public necessities, a kind of *blockade* checks the supply of the metropolis for fish. Large quantities of fish are withheld, or wantonly destroyed, as they approach the market, and a million and a half of inhabitants, in London and its surrounding neighbourhood, have been deprived of an article of food, which might have

lessened the consumption of butcher's meat and wheat-corn, to the relief of the whole kingdom.

“It has been long acknowledged, that Billingsgate market, however it might have been well adapted to the extent and population of London at the time of the original formation of it in 1699, is not adequate to the sale of even a tenth part of the fish required for the daily supply and demand of its present inhabitants. Its access is inconvenient, and its local situation is distant from a large proportion of its best and most opulent customers. It has the effect of abridging the means of life to a numerous body of deserving and industrious poor; of deteriorating the condition of the middle class of people, who form so essential a link in the chain of society; of increasing the consumption of other articles of food; and thereby augmenting the pressure of a scarcity which is too severely felt.

“The protection of the community against the monopoly of fish, and (what would be the inevitable consequence of that protection) the increased consumption of fish in the metropolis, would bring it into more general use in the other parts of the island; and enable our countrymen to benefit, much more than they now do, by the treasures which are to be found on our sea coasts. It is indeed wonderful that, in an island like ours,

abounding in shoals of fish on its coasts, an enterprising and speculating people, in every other maritime concern, and pre-eminent as a naval and commercial power, should have so long submitted to *purchase* a precarious subsistence by *importations* of wheat-corn, instead of converting their own fisheries into the sources of domestic supply, and of commercial exchange for the corn and wine of other countries.

“ It would be one of the natural effects of our preserving cod, mackerel, herrings, and other fish, for our own use, that exportations would be made to Spain, Portugal, and the Mediterranean, which would afford markets for them to almost any extent. It is obvious, that we are much more fitted, by our local and insular situation, for the supply of those countries, than Holland and America, which at present enjoy the advantages of that lucrative trade; and by possessing food of our own to exchange for that of other countries, we should avoid the ruinous exportation of capital, and, at the same time, have the power of retaining our fish for our own use, in the event of any alarming deficiency in our own harvests, or of caprice or combination preventing other states from accepting our fish, in exchange for the corn or other produce of foreign countries. Our disadvantage now is, that, as we cannot eat our own manufactures, or,

in the present state of the world, convert them into articles of subsistence, we are therefore, like Midas, liable to starve in the midst of wealth, and to give a fatal example of the danger of relying on strangers for daily and necessary food."

Since the foregoing observations were written, some favourable changes have certainly taken place in respect to manufactures; but the evils, in every other respect, still exist, and no method, or means, are taken or pursued to remove them. The country is not at present distressed for food, but the poor are as much destitute as ever of the means to procure it; and it is only those who are in affluent circumstances that can count upon a full meal; which will ever be the case, when the industrious part of the community is neglected, and in want of employment, or unjustly paid for their labour. And although Providence has been bountiful in yielding the fruits of the earth, yet this plenitude can only come to the share of those who are enabled to purchase its enjoyment.

The second Report of the Committee of the Fish Association, for the benefit of the community, respecting the measures to be adopted for the supply of the Metropolis and the interior, states, that in looking to their primary object of

encouraging and promoting the supply of fish, both fresh and corned, in the metropolis and the other parts of the island, the Committee are of opinion, that, with the natural advantages which Great Britain enjoys, in respect of the fisheries, it is of importance, in the first place, to ascertain the nature and extent of the impediments which, in an island where the coasts abound in inexhaustible shoals of that article of food, check the supply and the use of fish, at a time when an increasing population demands additional means of subsistence.

The ascertaining of these impediments, and the adopting of the most effectual and unexceptionable measures for their removal, appear to the committee to constitute a great part of what will be done by the Fish Association ; for, whenever these impediments are removed, and private adventure is once put in action, they entertain no doubt of an ample supply to our markets, at prices which, without the interference of regulation, will be proportionable to the cost and labour of the enterprise, and to the extent of the supply and demand ; affording, at the same time, profit to the adventurer and benefit to the public.

In their first Report, the Committee noticed four impediments to the general use of fish in the

metropolis; namely, the size and local situation of the fish market, the obstructions to an extensive sale, the difficulty of distributing it over the metropolis, and the uncertainty of prices.

They then proceed to notice an impediment to the regular supply to the metropolis, arising from the navigation of the Thames.

“Whenever there is a prevalent south-west wind of any continuance, such as sometimes happens during a great part of the spring, the fishermen finding it impracticable to get up the river, take shelter in Holy Haven, otherwise called East Haven, a small bay on the Essex side of the mouth of the Thames. They there wait for a more favourable wind, to enable them to pass up the next reach of the Thames, called the Hope; and, if disappointed in this, they throw their cargoes overboard, and proceed on another fishing voyage.”

The quantities of fish, thus destroyed, are not only very considerable, but by this circumstance the fishermen are discouraged from exerting themselves, to increase the supply to any thing like the extent which it is capable of. This is also the cause of another inconvenience, to which the principal fishmongers in the metropolis are obliged to submit; namely, that of

keeping a large stock of fish by them in ice, for the regular supply of those opulent customers, whose tables must exhibit the same appearance of unvaried abundance, at all times and seasons. The fishmongers, therefore, even at a time when a continued south-west wind has almost shut out the supply by the river Thames, are still obliged to make a great display, on their shopboards, of turbot and other fish, preserved indeed from putrefaction by ice, but rendered *woolly*, tasteless, and devoid of nutrition. There is also a third inconvenience attending this stoppage of the regular supply of fish at Billingsgate market, which is, that the basketwomen are deterred from continuing their attendance on the market, so long as they otherwise would do; for being disappointed in not finding any fish on sale, at least within their means of purchase, they give up the retail of fish and seek some other employment.

In order to obviate these difficulties, it has been suggested, by some of the principle salesmen at Billingsgate, that it would be desirable and practicable, at a moderate expence, to open a communication, by land carriage, between Holy Haven and the metropolis. The estimated distance, by Rainham, is about thirty miles; and the part where any new road would be required to be made, or the present road to be repaired, may be four or five miles, the rest of the road

being very good. It is stated that, if such a communication were made, it would be practicable to produce a daily and regular supply of fish for the metropolis, sent up in five or six hours after its arrival in Holy Haven, at an expence of about a halfpenny a pound; and that thus not only a very large quantity of food might be preserved for the benefit of the community, and used *while in perfect condition*, but there would be a constant and daily supply of fish in the metropolis, at nearly a regular price at all times, even when the south-west winds are generally prevalent, and the fish market might be almost on the same certainty as that for butcher's meat.

It seems therefore to be of great importance, that such a communication should be opened between Holy Haven and the metropolis, and there is very little reason to doubt but that, when a good road is made, private adventurers will use it for the benefit of themselves and the public; and that the fishermen will generally prefer this speedy and certain conveyance to the more tedious and uncertain navigation of the Thames, as they could immediately discharge their cargoes, and return on another voyage without delay. The whole of the road from London to Holy Haven is nearly on a perfect level, and there being but little thoroughfare on the last twenty miles, it is generally in so good repair,

that the journey from Holy Haven to London may be performed in as little time as that from Gravesend to London, though the distance is seven miles more, the Gravesend road being more hilly. And it has been estimated, that the whole expence of making this new road would be only £874!

Notwithstanding this, and although the measure has been strongly recommended, five years ago, yet nothing has been done to carry this important object into effect; which seems to confirm the assertion of the fishmongers, that if fish were any thing but a luxury, or to be obtained otherwise than at high prices, no one would purchase it, or eat it. But, notwithstanding an opinion of such good authority has been pronounced, would not common sense convince any reasonable man, that, if such a measure as this were adopted, the poor fishermen would find a more certain market for their fish, and a more liberal reward for *their* labour? And would not this be a better market for them than Billingsgate market, if established as an open market, upon a little better principle, and less system of monopoly and control, than the Billingsgate market?

It evidently appears, that as food and labour are the just right and demand of every man, or the meanest subject, that the attention of Go-

vernment, in this respect, is not only necessary, but indispensable. Shall this country have been expending millions upon millions in schemes of fancy, or objects of destruction; and shall private individuals have subscribed a million and a half to build a bridge, or any other whim of ostentation, and yet hold back at subscribing £874, to make a useful road to convey food, and supply a necessary article of life to a million and a half of people, and give employment to an incalculable number of industrious labourers, because they are told that fish is only a luxury to be enjoyed by the wealthy and the great? Were London situated like Madrid, which is five hundred miles from the sea coast, or any navigable river, there would be some reason for such an assertion. In Madrid fresh fish is a luxury which the poor are unacquainted with; (and the same may be said in many of our inland towns); but, in Madrid, the rich people have certainly the vanity always to produce what they call fresh fish, whether stinking or fresh, because it is brought from Ferrol to Madrid, which is five hundred miles by land carriage and a bad road. The greater the difficulty to acquire an object, the greater is certainly the desire of some people to obtain it; but those who are pressed by hunger would like to be relieved by the easiest and cheapest means.

So well convinced am I of the utility and pub-

lic benefit of forming a fishing station, or depot, at Holy Haven, that if the Government will not adopt and contribute the means to promote it, I would gladly (although, from various losses and misfortunes in life, I am little able to enter into speculations, or afford much public good) advance the £874, to make the necessary road myself, upon being allowed a toll, which would, no doubt, afford some interest, and much more than repay the expence, and return the principal, in time, to those who may choose to undertake it.

This depot should be an open market for the Iceland and all British Fisheries; where the fishermen could immediately discharge their cargoes, and receive a fair price for their fish, and return to their regular employment, and when there was a superabundance of fish at that market, or depot, more than sufficient to supply the metropolis and the surrounding country with fresh fish, the remainder may be corned, or cured, and thus the poor would always have a supply at a cheap rate; and, if all the fish coming to the river Thames were to be landed at that depot, none would be wasted, or thrown overboard, nor could any monopoly or manœuvre of the trade to that effect be practised in this essential and necessary article of life. I shall therefore propose, that an association may be first formed, for this purpose, upon the principles contained in the former part

of this work, and that application may be made to His Majesty's ministers, and to parliament, to carry it into effect without delay.

The difficult navigation of the Thames, for the fishing vessels, may also be overcome, (if all the fishing vessels were to put into the same harbour of Holy Haven,) by having two steam vessels there, which would tow them round the points of land, and against a head wind, at different reaches of the river. This experiment I have tried and proved, down the river, and round the Isle of Sheppy, the effect of which may be easily conceived; but this is not so certain and regular a method, as to land the fish at Holy Haven, where they may be assorted, and the fish likely to spoil, would thereby be preserved; and also, if Holy Haven were made the public market of the Thames, it would prevent the monopoly and ill supply of the London market; and by which means the fishing vessels and their crews would sooner return to their occupation of fishing, and they would not be subject to a glut, or want of demand, which is often the case at the Billingsgate market. Fish of any kind could be cured in various ways, at such a depot as Holy Haven, and consequently none would be spoilt, or wasted, and there would be a demand for all. Vast quantities of salmon, mackerel, turbot, and other fish, might be pickled in vinegar, and lob-

sters, and other fish potted, which are now thrown away.

In order that the basketwomen and small fish-mongers of the metropolis might have a regular, instead of an uncertain, supply of fish, as at present, there should be two public wholesale markets for fish in the metropolis, one at or near Billingsgate, and the other at Hungerford market, or near Westminster, or Waterloo Bridge, which, by the means of the establishment at Holy Haven, would be furnished every morning with a full supply of whatever fish the season may afford, and with the same regularity as Smithfield is supplied with cattle, or Mark-lane market with corn.

The Committee of the Fish Association, for the Supply of the Metropolis and the Interior, has collected and furnished much useful information upon this subject; but, as the Fish Association was only a charitable institution, by which no profit was expected to be derived, it could not be thought that such an association could put any great object in force or action; they could only point out the means, or try the effects of experiments within their province or sphere.

Their Committee state, that they had thought

it expedient, at the time, to enquire how far it would be practicable to augment the supply of fish from the Sussex coast. In consequence of which one of their members had an interview with the persons principally concerned in the sea fishery at Brighton, who had signed a representation, stating the two principal obstacles to the large supply which the metropolis might otherwise receive from that place. The first is, the collection of the post-duty, on the horses employed in their fish carts, which had only been recently exacted, and is so heavy, that a fish-cart with four horses, *carrying fish only*, is compelled to pay twenty-eight shillings duty, on every carriage to London, of that article of food. This has the double effect of lessening the quantity of fish sent to town, and of enhancing the price of it when it arrives; and they venture to express their opinion, that it never could have been the intention of the legislature, that this duty should be levied on the carriage of provision from one town to another, it being the reverse of the policy generally adopted, of avoiding every tax on domestic articles of food brought to market.

The other obstacle which they state, affects the disposal of their fish after it arrives in town; Billingsgate market, the only fish market now existing in the metropolis, being not only locally inconvenient, but utterly inadequate in space for

the sale of the quantity of fish already brought up the Thames. They therefore observe, that it cannot offer any certain accommodation for the sale of the additional quantity of fish which might be obtained from the Sussex coast.

The establishment of another fish market, however, might cost Government another seven or eight hundred pounds, or at least a little trouble and opposition, from interested people, and therefore, although it is a doubt if it would be any expence, but be a benefit and profit to the undertakers, yet this great object, as well as the Holy Haven road, may not, on account of interested interposition, or necessary trouble, be in our time accomplished. The Brighton fishermen in their representation state, that if a place of sale could be obtained near Westminster bridge, a daily supply of fish might be sent there, to a very large amount, so as to reach the place of sale at five o'clock every morning, and to afford a very great relief to that part of the metropolis. These gentlemen have concluded their representation by requesting, that it may be ascertained how far these two obstacles may be removed; undertaking that, if it can be done, they will use their best endeavours that a large supply of fish may be daily and regularly sent to the metropolis. Still no proper answer is given, nor any thing done to carry their object

into effect, though *much* has been said about it*.

Brighton, however, is not so well situated, or capable to supply the London markets with fish as Holy Haven. Brighton is a bad and inconvenient harbour for landing the fish; Shoreham would be much better, but neither could supply any but the fish of the Channel. Holy Haven would take in all the fish of the North Seas, as also of the channel, and is a fit place for curing; but both places may be of utility, as fishing stations, to supply the London market and the interior.

The Committee of the Fish Association, for the supply of the metropolis and the interior, conceiving that it would very much improve the supply of the metropolis, if such caravans of fish were sent off every evening, to reach the west end of the town early the next morning, especially from Brighton, where there is a short and excellent road, and a good supply of horses, directed a case on the first point to be laid before Mr. Serjeant Onslow; and, on the two points laid before him and the Attorney General, they received for answer, on the latter point, the opinion of these two learned gentlemen in the following words:—"We do not apprehend that

* The post duty has, however, since been removed, in some degree, through the exertions of the Fish Association.

there is any legal impediment to any person or persons engaging a warehouse, yard, or other convenient place, at which to receive and sell, by retail or wholesale, fish or other victuals. But such individuals cannot by law erect a market, in which to exact tolls or other incidents to a market." Upon the subject of the post-horse duty, the Committee received Mr. Serjeant Onslow's opinion as follows:—"The last act, I find, that imposes a duty on post-horses is, the 44th Geo. III. cap. 98. The words there used are, 'horse, mare, or gelding, hired for drawing, on any public road, any coach or other carriage, used in *travelling* post or otherwise.' I do not think that, under that expression, a duty is imposed on a mere fish-cart, or caravan, *carrying fish only*, in respect of the horses by which it is drawn."

It is singular that all acts of parliament should be so worded as for few people to understand them, or at least none but lawyers, who are also often mistaken. It seems as if the English language were intended only to be completely and perfectly understood by lawyers and politicians; or that, like physicians, they have a language and hieroglyphics of their own, which other people must not understand. The two points of the law upon the subjects of building a fish market, or places for selling fish, and of carrying fish

to market, rest as here stated; neither decided upon with certainty, nor acted upon satisfactorily. If there be any certainty in the opinions given upon these cases, it can only be in one, which is, that "individuals cannot by law erect a market in which to exact tolls *or other incidents to a market*;" and one must be a pretty good lawyer, to understand exactly even what this means, for whether one read the opinions, or read the acts, it is as difficult to understand the one as the other. It appears that individuals are not to erect a market in which to exact tolls or *other incidents to a market*, which must mean, to buy or sell, or to pay or take money, which is the business of a market, and therefore it should be presumed that no individuals can build a *market*; and as Government does not appear inclined to build another fish-market for the metropolis, we must be content to remain without one. But again it is said, "that it is *apprehended* there is no legal impediment to any person or persons engaging a warehouse, yard, or other convenient place, at which to receive and sell, by retail or wholesale, fish, or other victuals;" which seems to be a contradiction to the conclusion of the same opinion; but the meaning must be, as it appears, that people may have any "convenient place" they like, at which to receive and sell fish, by retail or wholesale, provided they do not *call it a market*.

The Committee of the Fish Association advert to two circumstances which they conceive may be deserving of attention, as confirming the inference deduced from the effects of the contract for mackerel, entered into the May preceding, by the Committee for the Relief of the Manufacturing Poor. The first of these they give on the authority of some gentlemen who had been concerned in, or connected with, the herring fishery on the Goodwin Sands. Having contracted in 1810 and 1811, to a limited amount, with the fishermen for herrings, at £12. the last, to be cured for the West Indies, they varied their contract in the year 1812, and agreed to take *all their surplus herrings*, at £7 the last, (of twelve thousand,) being fourteen pence the hundred. The consequence of this unlimited agreement was, that the fishermen went out every day, and the quantity caught was three or four times the average of the preceding year, so as to occasion a remarkable increase in the supply of the metropolis, the following winter; a hundred tons of herrings, or 240,000lb. weight, having been caught and sold, or cured in one day.

A similar circumstance to this had been stated to the Committee, by a principal salesman of Billingsgate, to have occurred there on the January preceding their Report, when the quantity of cod for curing, then required by the Com-

mittee for the Relief of the Manufacturing Poor, produced so large a supply of that sort of fish at Billingsgate, that the salesmen there could not obtain for it more than three halfpence a pound. It seems indeed to be clear, that if the fishermen could obtain, even at a moderate price, a certain sale for all the fish brought to market in good condition, that the increase of supply might be carried to almost any extent; but in order to dispose of the daily surplus which would then be brought to sale, it appears to the Committee that a salting warehouse should be connected with every wholesale fish-market, for receiving, at a certain hour, and at a reduced price, all the surplus fish of the morning, to be corned for the use of the interior parts of the country, or for exportation." But the Committee must have forgotten that the duty on salt, and its tremendous consequences, even though it should be obtained duty free, would render this a dangerous speculation.

For the purpose of diffusing more generally the knowledge of the *wise and judicious measures*, which the legislature, on the suggestion of Government, had adopted, of a remission of the salt duty, for the purpose of encouraging the preserving of fish for food, the Committee had thought it expedient to print, in a cheap form, for the

use of the public, the acts of parliament which relate to that subject.

The Committee state, that they entertain no doubt but that corned fish, if properly cured, and sold at a moderate price, would be very acceptable to all classes in this country. Upon this subject they had recently received the opinion of Mr. Boase, of Penzance, who is well acquainted with the subject, and who mentioned a circumstance well deserving of attention. "Penzance market," he observed, "supplies a very populous district, where fish is three-fourths of the animal food of the lower classes. The average price of fresh fish, during the last twelve months, has been about *one penny* per pound; of salt fish, nearly *three pence*; and, notwithstanding this, the hucksters carry off ten loads of salted for one of fresh fish."

In the course of his observations on this subject, Mr. Boase notices the effects which the increased use of corned fish would have on the cultivation of potatoes, an article of subsistence much more productive in quantity, and much more certain as to crop, than wheat, or any other kind of grain. Upon this subject Mr. Boase states an interesting fact, as follows: "The population of the district of Penzance has, for

some years, required an annual importation of corn or flour. The crop of 1811 was entirely exhausted before the end of March, 1812. Great supplies of grain were necessarily imported, and retailed to the labouring classes, at reduced prices, causing an enormous addition to the poor rates. The alarm, thereby occasioned, produced" (the remedy of necessity) "a timely and larger increase of potatoe planting. The consequence has been, that although the corn crop of 1812 was not above average, and was broken into even in the first week of harvest, *no grain or flour has been imported here, nor is any expected to be wanted.*" To this he adds, that large quantities of potatoes had been exported from Penzance, and that they were then sold under a halfpenny a pound, retail price.

The Committee of the Fish Association conclude their second Report with some brief observations on the Fishery of the NYMPH BANK. This bank lies off the southern coast of Ireland, and has been made the subject of a letter, addressed by the late Mr. Dixon to the Earl of Hardwicke, then lord lieutenant of that island. It was explored in 1736 by Captain Doyle, who reported it to abound in large cod, quantities of hake, and ling; which report was confirmed by Captain Frazer, on a survey of it in 1802. The Committee mention this fishery not as pecu-

liarily necessary to, or connected with, the supply of the metropolis, but rather as offering very advantageous means of giving employment and subsistence to the poor in that part of Ireland, and of affording, by exportation, great supplies to the West Indies, and the southern parts of Europe."

If a fishing station and company were established at the Scilly islands, connected with the Iceland fishery, and depots and stores, connected with it, were established at St. Ives, Penzance, and Cork, or some other southern port of Ireland, it would be the finest fishing station in the world, to supply foreign trade down Channel, and also for home consumption. It is remarkable that the three vessels, which were sent from Deal, last year, by the Downs Society, to fish off Iceland, attempted to go up St. George's, or the Irish Channel, and after beating about a considerable time, were driven back, and obliged to proceed round the south and west of Ireland, and had a very good passage by that route to Iceland, but had the masters known the Nymph Bank well, at that season of the year they would, no doubt, have procured full cargoes without proceeding any farther. It is also remarkable, that one of these vessels, in returning from Iceland by the west and south of Ireland, put into Penzance, not being able to proceed up Channel, which

plainly indicates that Penzance, St. Ives, and the Scilly islands are the proper stations connected with the Nymph Bank and the Iceland Fishery, to supply the trade for the West Indies, Brazils, and the south of Europe. The cod is first to be caught in the early part of the season, on the west coast of Iceland, then on the west of Ireland, and afterwards on the Nymph Bank, by which means vessels and their crews may be employed nearly or wholly during the whole year round, upon those stations, for that and other fish.

The second Report of the Association for the Relief of the Manufacturing and Labouring Poor, relating chiefly to the general supply of Fish to the Metropolis and the Interior, dated the 5th of July, 1815, states, "that their Committee having renewed their enquiries, and further circulated the intelligence of the relief they were enabled to afford, proceeded to a due examination of the numerous cases of distress still calling for assistance in the manufacturing districts." Continuing to act upon the principle which had regulated their former gifts, they afforded help to local charities, for the relief of places, and to the extent which they subjoin.

These donations were received with the most grateful feelings, and afforded timely and import-

ant relief. In the statements of distress forwarded to the Committee from the manufacturing districts, the leading subject of complaint was, the scarcity and exorbitant prices of all the necessaries of life. From the commencement of their labours, the Committee had, therefore, endeavoured so to administer the bounty of the subscribers as to increase and economise the general stock of food. To promote the consumption of fish among the poor of the interior was thus suggested; and supplies of corned and salted fish were obtained, on moderate terms, by offers to the fishermen to take their surplus quantities of cod and herrings in good condition. The fish procured through this expedient would, without the encouragement afforded by it, have been thrown overboard.

As soon as these cheap supplies were furnished, the Committee substituted grants of fish for those of money; and the readiness with which the poor received this diet, in parts where it was before generally unknown, encouraged the Committee to increase their attention to a sphere of labour connected with so many important objects of general good." *It therefore appears clear, though contrary to the opinion of the fish-mongers, that the poor will eat fish, when not at a dear price, and even if it can be obtained for nothing.*

By fully promulgating the bounty of the subscribers, the Committee had obtained the most ample information as to the wants and sufferings of the manufacturing districts, at the time of their last general meeting, and lost no time in affording the assistance intended by the liberality of the contributors. The number relieved, very shortly after that period, was thus considerable, and the means of furnishing that relief were greatly augmented by collections of clergymen, and ministers of various denominations, which the Committee then availed themselves of the opportunity thankfully to acknowledge.

The "Fish Association," formed about the same time, considering that this Committee were efficiently pursuing its own object, had more recently, in the most liberal manner, transferred the whole of its remaining stock, being £584. 2s. 2d. in further augmentation of their funds.

Happier times, for all classes of manufacturers, were, however, from that period fast approaching. Trade had begun to revive, the necessaries of life were soon afforded to the manufacturing poor through the usual channels, and the circumstances which, in the first instance, had called forth the benevolence of the public, ceased to exist. The Committee, however, had been gratified to observe, that although

the measures originally adopted, were intended merely to furnish a particular relief, and to surmount a temporary evil, they were found to be such as were connected with general interests of uniform value and importance.

The Committee state, they had been happy to reflect, that the Association approved of the extension of the original objects of the Institution, to so important a measure of public welfare as an increase of the consumption of fish, and the encouragement of the *British Fisheries*; for an extension of the original object of relief of the industrious poor, it certainly must be considered, and it is one which well provides for them, while it opens a source of benefits to all. The reinstatement of the labouring classes of society, together with the tendency which the efforts of the Committee had, nearly from their outset, taken, towards assisting and obtaining assistance from the fisheries, were circumstances which thus necessarily directed their late operations almost entirely and exclusively to that important purpose.

“ It would seem, on a cursory view, to be an unaccountable fact, for which no adequate or satisfactory reason can be given, that while so many of the inhabitants of this country are commendably employed in toiling hard for the culti-

vation of the earth, in the laborious exertions necessary for opening and enriching the soil, gathering in the harvest, and attending to all the detail of labour, even to the ultimate distribution to the consumer, with an ample deduction of expence from their hard-earned profits, an ample supply of excellent and nutritious food, surrounding our coasts, and in a state always ready for use, should be left comparatively untouched, or for strangers to possess, and sometimes to collect for us, to purchase from them; and that this should be the case when the taking of it secures to us collateral benefits of inestimable importance, and forms a main support of that national dignity and pre-eminence which is derived from the excellence and bravery of our *sailors*, initiated to maritime toils by early employment in the *fisheries*."

The Committee repeat, that these resources are comparatively untouched; for it is a fact that, with the exception of a small proportion of the country, there is no supply of fish which merits the name of a supply, or it is such a supply as would readily be considered a famine, were it applied to any other article of food in general use among us.

The Committee state, that although no reason can be assigned which can sufficiently account

for so little having been effectually done, to supply the country with fish, it will not be difficult to point out what have been, and what in a great measure continue to be, the sources of this evil, as they now present themselves, and may ever have been noticed.

1. The unskilful interference which, from the earliest times, has been practised with the fisheries, in order to promote their interests, and the want of encouragements suited to their nature, and the character of the persons engaged in them.

“ Were we to judge of the condition of the fisheries from the number of attempts which have been made for their regulation and improvement, we must certainly conclude, that nothing could be wanting to render their prosperity complete. The Statute Book abounds with enactments, intended to give them every sort of encouragement; repeated ordinances, even under protestant governments, for the eating of fish on particular days; compulsory regulations for entering into the service of the fisheries, and for not deserting them; (*just encouragement, however, would have been much better;*) prohibitions against taking fish, except of proper sizes and at suitable periods of the year; companies almost innumerable, established with capitals, varying in amount, up

to the extent of half a million, which, for the most part, have adopted the measure of becoming themselves concerned in the trade, and engaging in fishing adventures, and which, also, for the most part, have thus completely failed in their purpose, and broken up their establishments; for, in this case, little of that superintendence can be exercised, which, in other cases, must serve to promote attention and quicken industry. Here there is no inviting spot where the owner of the soil may survey the progress of cultivation, and daily ascertain the sloth or diligence of those who labour in it. The scene of operation is, in this instance, remote from observation. The produce of such toils is such as baffles all calculations of its probable amount, and whether the servants of the adventurer have been negligent or industrious, whether they have brought home all their produce, or done that which is known to have been frequently done in these cases, sold it on the opposite coast, he has no means of ascertaining." *All this, however, might be prevented, or remedied, by proper regulations. By the Dutch regulations and method of fishing in fleets, and by giving the masters and crews a due share and interest in their captures.*

The Committee endeavoured to profit by the attempts which had been before made to promote the general supply of fish, and the effects

which had followed them, and to avoid, as much as possible, the errors which they had the advantage, not possessed by their predecessors in this sphere of exertion, of having thus suggested for their caution. They therefore entirely avoided any immediate and direct interference in the obtaining of fish; they only attempted collaterally to afford the fishermen encouragement, to contribute to their existing and natural inducements to exertion, and not further to connect themselves with their concerns. The nature and effect of these attempts they then notice as follows.

“Many years since, there existed a cod-fishery, carried on from the shores of this country to the North Seas and Iceland; in which about two hundred vessels were employed; but this fishery, *from the operation of the duties on salt*, had been nearly, if not completely, annihilated.

“In the year 1782, some gentlemen of Yarmouth represented this public loss to a Committee of the House of Commons, and offered to re-establish that important fishery, if this impediment were removed. *It not being found expedient that the measure should then be adopted, the fishery was not revived.*

The willingness which had been discovered, in

the manufacturing districts, to receive and to purchase supplies of fish, together with the prospect offered of the sale of it, in the general market of the metropolis, for home consumption, encouraged the Association to propose, to the general body of fishermen, to purchase, at the rate of £18 per ton, all the corned cod taken and cured at the North Sea and Iceland Fisheries, which they could not otherwise dispose of, and should bring to Mr. J. E. Saunders, the Agent of the Association, in good marketable condition.

“ It should be understood, that the vessels employed in this fishery are furnished with large wells, in which a considerable quantity of fish is preserved, and brought alive to the London market. The live fish form about one-third of their cargo, and the rest of it consists of the fish which they salt, and pile in the holds of their vessels.”

In the first season that the above inducement was offered to the fishermen, the Committee had the satisfaction to find, that one hundred tons of salted cod and fifty tons of fresh cod were brought to the London market, which would not have been otherwise taken. In the next season the Committee renewed an offer, which had before produced so useful an effect. The consequence was, that the supply then brought amounted to



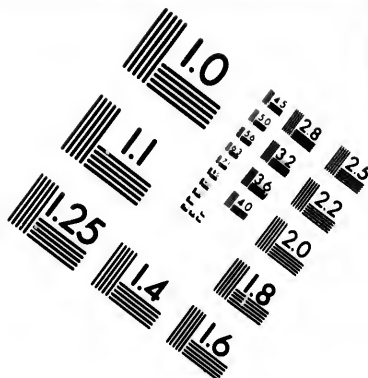
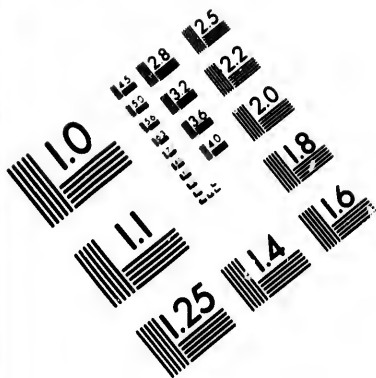
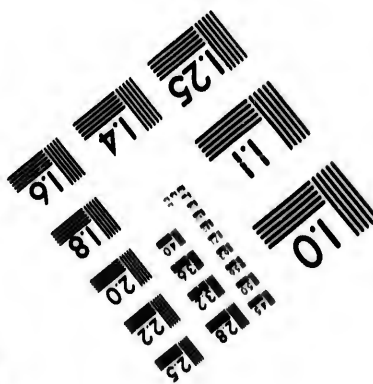
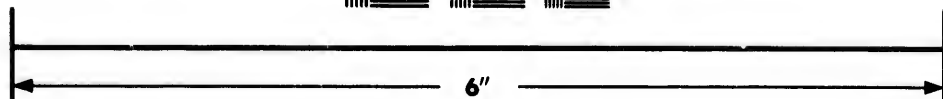
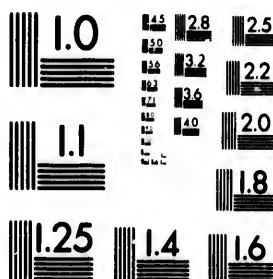


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



**Photographic
Sciences
Corporation**

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

1.5
1.6
1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0

10
0.1

two hundred tons of salted and one hundred tons of fresh cod. And in the year 1813, when the Committee again renewed their offer, no less a quantity than six hundred tons of salt cod, and three hundred tons of fresh cod, were thus added to the common stock of human food. The whole of these large quantities of fish were disposed of, in the manner before noticed, and formed a material article of the food of the French prisoners, who have since quitted our shores.

In the year preceding this report, the Committee were again preparing to adopt a measure, fraught with such important benefits, when an impediment occurred, which they mention with deep regret.

The allowances of *salt*, duty free, for the purposes of the North Sea and Iceland fisheries, are regulated by the 25th Geo. III. cap. 65, and the curing of the fish, in the former instances, in which the Committee were concerned, had proceeded with due sanction under that act. When, however, the fishermen were about to proceed on their voyages, in the last year, difficulties arose as to their entering under that statute; and it was suggested, that the allowances of salt, given by it, had been repealed by subsequent enactments.

Seventy-five pounds weight of salt, for the dry salting of one hundred weight of cod, are barely (*and not*) sufficient for the purpose; but, probably, through some obscurities which had incidentally arisen on a multifarious subject, the 38th of Geo. III. cap. 89, allows only fifty pounds weight of salt for the cure of one hundred weight of cod; and even the 41st of Geo. III. cap. 21, by which twenty-two pounds of salt per hundred weight of fish are allowed, to preserve fish for a few days after its landing, were successively mentioned as the act under which their entries should be made.

"It has been since found, that one of the masters of a fishing boat, actually entered under the latter statute, having been directed so to do, and concluding that all was right. An alarm, however, immediately spread throughout the body of fishermen, and when, by the kind interference of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, an order of the Excise was obtained for the fishermen being allowed the like quantity, duty free, which they had before received, they, for the most part, had wholly abandoned that fishery for the season."

The number of vessels, which were about to proceed to it, was double that of the preceding year, in which nine hundred tons of cod were obtained, and the injury thus produced may be

readily estimated; for only about one hundred and fifty tons of live and salted cod were furnished by these fisheries in that year.

The Committee submitted to the consideration of Government a measure which, they state, would have completely obviated the impediment to the prosecution of those fisheries, connected with the renewal of the 41st Geo. III. cap. 21, being the act under which the bulk of the salt fish, consumed in London, is cured. But owing to the slow progress which the regular enquiries, perhaps in some degree necessarily, make, the Bill passed only a few days before the close of the Session, *without a remedy to these fisheries.*

“The Committee however state, that they had every reason to acknowledge the great attention paid to their representations, by his Majesty’s Government; but it is a fact which they could not but seriously lament, that owing to the allowance of salt, duty free, not having been in a state of complete arrangement, fish to a very large amount, which had been taken during the preceding three or four months, had been thrown overboard by the fishermen, to the great loss of themselves and the public.

“The Committee add, that they mention the above circumstances as they occur in the course

of a statement of facts; but feel it incumbent on them also to add, from observation, that a more anxious desire for assisting the British Fisheries, and that deserving class of persons who labour in them, can no where more warmly be felt, than in that quarter where they naturally look for their chief support and encouragement." It is astonishing then that something more is not *done* to carry this *desired* object into effect.

The measure which the Committee next mention is, the purchases they had made of large quantities of salt for sale, to the fishermen, as the particular circumstances of the fisheries may require it. The quantity of salt consumed in the North Sea and Iceland stations had become very considerable, and purchases proportionably large, had been made by the Committee the year preceding their report, to meet that demand, and encourage the exertions of the fishermen employed in those fisheries; but through the hindrances and occurrences before stated, so large a stock had been left on hand that the Committee must, at least, have greatly limited the amount of their encouragement in the year of their Report, if indeed the contingencies of a measure, which had become so considerable, should have rendered any attempt on this subject, with their reduced means, at all advisable.

Another expedient of encouragement, adopted by the Committee, and operating on the like principle, had been, that of offering to the fishermen to take all their surplus mackerel, at the rate of ten shillings for one hundred and twenty mackerel. This stimulus was continued from the year 1812 to the date of the Report, with a success much beyond the most sanguine expectations.

With the certainty of obtaining at all hazards, some reward for their labour, fresh adventurers were thereby attracted to the mackerel fishery; the utmost activity and perseverance were excited among the fishermen; the daily supply continued to increase long before any necessity existed for purchases by the Association; and at length so much attention had been excited at home among the lower order of retailers and others, that the quantity necessary for the Committee to purchase, had been comparatively of very trifling amount, the loss by no means considerable, and many millions of this fish, a plentiful supply of which is so important a benefit to the poor in the metropolis, had been added to the general store of food; that, without this stimulus, the public would never have obtained.

The Committee had also, at various times, pur-

chased quantities of herrings for the supply of the interior; and these purchases had operated on the like principle of encouragement to the fisheries, which influenced the other attempts that have been noticed.

The true secret of stimulating the industry of the fishermen, and promoting the supply of fish, appearing to the Committee to have been thus discovered, they directed their attention to extend the benefit beyond the supply of mackerel and Iceland cod, to the general supply of cod and flat-fish, in the metropolis. They soon found, however, that their limited revenues presented an insuperable obstacle to their making the attempt. The total sum which the public had entrusted to their management, including the receipt from the Fish Association, had not amounted to £17,000, for the relief of all the manufacturing districts, and for their general purposes. They therefore submitted to the consideration of his Majesty's Government the following proposal:

A bounty of five shillings per cwt. to be granted on all the live (no doubt meant fresh) cod-fish, haddocks, ling, and halibuts, taken by British fishing vessels, which, in the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March, shall be sold at Billingsgate market, at, or under, four pence the pound;

and which, in the other months, shall be sold there at, or under, two pence per pound. And that a bounty should be granted, of two shillings per cwt., on all the live plaice, skate, thornbacks, maids, and other flat-fish, taken by British fishing vessels, which, in the first mentioned months, shall be sold at Billingsgate market at, or under, two pence per pound; and which, in the other months, shall be sold there at, or under, one penny per pound. The bounty in each year to be continued in distribution, until the sum of £4000 shall thus be expended.

The proposed bounty, they state, would operate precisely on the same principle as the purchasing of the surplus quantities of fish. It would afford, to the extent of it, an indemnity against absolute loss, when the supply should be very large, and the prices consequently low. It would be distributed only when the necessity was greatest; and, as in the other cases, since all the fishermen would seek to obtain the higher prices, it would be a benefit which all would wish to avoid, in the losing sales, on which alone the bounty would be payable.

From the experience which the Committee had acquired, on this method of encouragement, and from the opinions of those who were well qua-

lified to judge of the effect, it would seem satisfactorily evident, that the general supply of fish, in London, would be augmented by this bounty, to an extent very far indeed beyond the increase obtained by any former one of the like amount.

The Committee further observe, "that a variety of little grievances and hardships, which must be expected, even under the best public arrangements that could possibly be suggested, are constantly occurring to the fishermen, through ignorance, inadvertence, and accident, which frequently demand the attention of the Committee. They are too minute to particularise, and separately may not be considered of any general moment. They are often, however, of serious consequence to the poor fishermen they concern, and render it quite necessary that such an institution as the Fish Association should exist, to obtain for them the proper remedy.

"2. The duties on salt are constantly producing the most serious impediments to the progress of the fisheries. The present bearing of this evil may thus be stated.

"The duties on salt amount to more than twenty-nine times the price of it, (without the duties,) or, in other words, when salt is purchased, more than twenty-nine equal parts of the sum are paid

for duty, and less than one such part for its intrinsic value. The salt, with the duty on it, thus becomes so expensive, as to be placed quite beyond the procurement of the fishermen. No fish could therefore be salted by them, but for certain allowances of salt, duty free, afforded under the superintendence of the Excise.

“ The large amount of these duties offers the most powerful inducements to the commission of frauds on the revenue ; and, consequently, were it not for vigilant attention and heavy penalties, they would be practised to a great extent. The acts which have provided the allowances are extremely numerous, and not a little confusion has prevailed among them.

“ With regard, however, to the removal of these duties, there are some to whom it may be proper to remark, that it is much easier to point out a mischief, than to suggest a remedy. They have continued for centuries, during the administration of all the eminent characters which have, for so long a period of our history, occupied the stations of authority.” *And it is therefore now quite time, that common sense should show the necessity of their removal.* “ But none of these great men have seen the period, at which the abolition of the salt duties was thought expedient ;

and they have now become a very important source of revenue.

"It can therefore be scarcely necessary to add," they say, "with reference to the allusions made, in the course of this Report, or to one branch of them, that the Committee are by no means to be understood as complaining of an inconvenience overlooked, or needlessly tolerated. The public may be assured, it is a subject which is not forgotten, and that a complete remedy would be provided, were it immediately practicable."

The public will, no doubt, be very happy and thankful, should this practicability and time ever arrive; but the Report of the Committee seems to give little hope for such expectation. If centuries more are to pass away in *thinking* of the removal of the salt duty, as well as centuries have passed away in continuing this unjust and impolitic tax, it will have the effect of the kind interference of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when the Excise Board ordered the fishermen their proper allowance of salt. It will come too late to be of any service.

If this doctrine is to be supported, in this and other cases, little amendment is to be expected, in the condition of the poor and industrious

classes; for it is of little consolation to them, that the subject is not forgotten, if it is never to be acted upon. The *convenient* time, in every respect, and to all people, will never arrive. The good intentions of the Committee are not, however, intended to be arraigned by this remark. Their opinion may be founded on facts, as they have stated, and on true principles; for we all know the difficulty of parting, by consent, with any of the good things of this world, either in public or private life. The duty on salt yields to Government a revenue of one million and a half, and it is not natural that a minister will give up this revenue (in the present times and under the present circumstances) without a substitute, or commutation, as an equivalent.

It is not the province of these pages to enter much upon politics, but as the duty on salt so materially affects the fisheries, and the poor in general, as well as the general industry of the country, this digression may be fairly allowed, on that account; and it may with propriety be said, that there is not a more impolitic and inhuman tax, than that on salt; which, if all the consequences attending it were to be stated, might be sufficiently proved, and any substitute would be better; but ministers are not entirely to blame, in this respect.

A sufficient revenue must be raised to pay the interest of the national debt, and amount of expenditure, (and it *should* also pay off some of the principal of the debt,) or the country must suffer in honour and credit, and its creditors will not otherwise be properly satisfied. No fairer way to do this was ever proposed, than the property or income tax, if it had been justly and more judiciously levied and raised; and if the same mode were again adopted, upon a better principle, it would be a benefit and happiness to the country.

It is certain that this doctrine will not meet with the sentiments and approbation of some clamorous people, who reviled, and with great reason, at the enormity and oppression of that tax, owing to its evil execution; but this does not destroy the principle of the tax, nor cannot, for it is the only just political tax that can be put upon mankind, except a duty on imports of foreign goods and produce. All other taxes are an injury to the industry, comfort, and happiness of every country where they exist; except, perhaps, some stamps upon evil deeds, vices, and contracts, which honest men are not otherwise bound to perform.

To use the example of the Committee, and show that I am not influenced by any private

motives to recommend a property tax upon its former principles, or to admire the practical severity of its former arrangement, I have only to relate a fact which happened to me in that particular. Being engaged, some years since, in a large concern, I gave in the profits of that concern at more than they really were, (it having sustained considerable accidental losses) but this did not satisfy the Commissioners, and an order of a surcharge was made of £600, notice of which order ought to have been delivered by the collector in time for appeal, but who certainly neglected it, and a levy for the amount was decreed by the Commissioners, which was conclusive, and to which there was no appeal in any of the courts of law, therefore the £600 were forcibly exacted and paid; but what is very singular, (as money ill got is generally badly spent, and has more evils attending its injustice than one,) the tax gatherer ran off with the money, and most likely has by this time met with his just reward; but his poor securities perhaps have not met with equal justice.

This shows that the best of things, if abused, may be bad in practice; but every just and good thing, if not perverted by the abuses of its practical application, must be good. The salt duty can never have done any good, except that of contributing a revenue to the Government upon

a false and erroneous principle, if that can be called good: and every one knows that it has done a great deal of injury to the industry, comfort, and welfare of the country, and therefore its principle and tendency must be bad, and nothing can justify it; for what is gained by Government one way is more than lost by it in another; by the injury produced to the industry of the country.

The reader will perhaps pardon this digression, when it is considered, that although it does not appear immediately the purport of the subject in pursuit, yet if it be examined as to its general tendency, it will be found intimately connected with it. Every one who is able to work, or who has property, should contribute *something* to the support of the state, more or less, in proportion and according to his means; and out of seventy millions of British subjects, one should suppose that sufficient revenue might be justly raised and collected, without continuing the injudicious *duty on salt*.

It is time that more universal justice should reign among mankind. In this case there is no semblance of justice. The poor pay as much duty for salt as the rich, or they are otherwise debarred from an essential necessary of life. If they eat meat or fish, it must be that which is

salted or corned, for they cannot afford to purchase it fresh; nor is it so substantial or relishing a food; and, because this cannot be done, great quantities of food are spoiled, and thrown away; but what is still worse, the fisherman, the labourer, the farmer, and the manufacturer, cannot exercise the full and free use of their labour for this abominable tax, and may literally be said not to be able to get "*salt for their porridge.*" That only can be said to be just which is founded on justice, true policy, and equity; and there can be neither equity, justice, nor policy, in such a tax as the *duty on salt.*

"3. The Committee of the Association for the Relief of the Poor, relative to the general supply of fish in the metropolis and the interior, enumerate another general impediment to the progress of the British Fisheries, which is, the inability of poor fishermen to incur the heavy expence of purchasing vessels, and the excessive charges of their outfits." How are poor fishermen to do this; and how are they to give security for salt entrusted to them for that purpose? and if they could, what is to be expected by them but a prison, if, by any accident, negligence, or inattention, they should not be able to make up their account? The fisheries, for many reasons, can never be extended in this way. If they are ever intended to be encouraged and made to succeed,

it must be after the Dutch system and establishment, and with such full protection and encouragement of Government, as have been known and fully proved to be effectual. Therefore, why should new plans and inventions be proposed, when there are examples to go by, which have been known to succeed and cannot fail? The whole that is wanting is, the more free and secure use of salt, duty free, the proper protection and encouragement of Government, and the establishment of a board for that purpose, and of open joint stock companies, without monopoly, exclusive privileges, or other impediments.

The Committee report that, "from a very early period the Dutch have been our most successful rivals in the fisheries. This may be readily accounted for by the consideration that, in addition to their being wholly free from the salt duties, and the encouragement of the fisheries being there nationally and individually almost a principle of action, the expence of every sort of necessary to making a fishing voyage, in Holland, is trifling, compared with what British fishermen incur. The business of a master fisherman, with us, requires some substantial capital for its support. It is all hazard and uncertainty; with deductions from his profits so large as to form a serious hinderance to his acquiring that pro-

portion of property which is adequate to the pursuit.

“ Thus a material part of the capital, which supports the fisheries, belongs to the salesmen, between whom and the fishermen the most intimate connexion of interest subsists; and without whose assistance it may much be doubted whether, in the present state of things, the British Fisheries could retain their standing. For all the capital, disposable in the fisheries, ample outlets present themselves through the ordinary channels. The improvements of the fishermen are slow, their prejudice strong, and their condition, neither of mind nor body, is such as to stimulate them to any zeal in correcting errors in their modes of business.

“ From the earliest times it has been a just subject of complaint, that the inhabitants of our island have been constantly paying a large sum to the Dutch for the produce of the ocean around it. It is said, that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, four hundred Dutch boats were constantly employed in obtaining fish to be sold to the English. In the year 1750, the inhabitants of Lowestoff and Southwold, in Suffolk, were under the necessity of petitioning the House of Commons for relief; the Dutch having per-

severed in fishing so near the shore, and with such effect, as to sweep the fish out of their bays. The Dutch annoyed them with one hundred vessels at a time, and, as they stated, did not allow the British fishermen in those parts to follow their occupations, either by night or by day.

“ The Committee had found that a trade for *turbots*, very injurious to the revenue, was still carried on with Holland, in which several thousand pounds per annum were paid wholly in specie to the Dutch by our fishermen, to take for them turbots out of the ocean. The Committee thought it proper to make a representation of this circumstance to Government, and to suggest the propriety of a bounty, small in amount, being offered to British fishermen, in order to afford them some relief from their peculiar disadvantages, and induce them to enter on the turbot fishery, which they were then almost hopelessly attempting. Were some trifling encouragement given them, there was every reason to expect that their superior skill and perseverance would soon render this fishery their own, and allow that excellent fish no longer to be confined, as a luxury, to the tables of the rich.

“ Lastly, they observe, as another general impediment, that the market of this immense me-

ropolis naturally induces the body of fishermen to resort hither with their cargoes of this perishable article, while scarcely any exertion has been made to forward it for the general supply of the interior, nor any sufficient arrangements for its due distribution even throughout the ample range of London and the parts adjacent.

“ So powerful an attraction is the London market, that it is not a rare occurrence for seaports to be worse supplied than the metropolis, from whence fish is not unfrequently forwarded to the inhabitants of those parts. Fish has been forwarded to the London market, there purchased, and returned for the supply of persons residing at the seaports, from whence it first came for sale. The attraction of the London market is, however, a necessary effect, which must continue to operate in its natural course. To give it a more beneficial operation in that course, has been attempted, and the attempts are thus stated, with the local impediments which they are intended to remedy.

“ The Committee, in the first place, notice the impediment to the supply of fish in the metropolis, arising from the variations of wind and tide, in conveying the fish through the windings of the river. Before the encouragement offered by the Association to the mackerel fisheries, it was

the common practice, when a very slack market was expected, to throw all the fish overboard at the mouth of the Thames, a sufficient inducement not being afforded for encountering the hazards and expence of conveying it to London.

“ This practice still prevailed with regard to other kinds of fish, and even in the mackerel season, which was then just closed, immense quantities of them were lost, by reason that, the wind being unfavourable, many of the fishermen were, with their utmost exertions, unable to reach the London market with their fish when in good condition.

“ Two remedies had been proposed for this evil; the one was the establishment of a road from Holy Haven, on the Essex side of the river, for the conveyance of the fish by land carriage, and the other, which had more recently been suggested, was, the use of boats to tow the vessels against wind and tide by a steam power.

“ With regard to the former measure, the Committee notice, that fish was already frequently landed at Gravesend and brought from thence in machines. But although Gravesend is nearer to London, yet the distance from Holy Haven to Gravesend, though not very considerable, is sometimes a very difficult part of the voyage.

“ The Committee having understood that the Fish Association were attending to this measure, suspended their consideration of it; but which they were then resuming. A serious, though not, possibly, an insurmountable obstacle, arose from the circumstance that the Haven is not in the line of any public road; that horses would be wanted for the conveyance of fish only when the wind should be, in a degree, unfavourable; that, when required, they might often be so in considerable numbers; and that a new road, which should be made, or an old one, which should be repaired, would lead to a public road where post horses cannot be obtained; an obstacle unknown on the Gravesend route.”

This preference to Gravesend, or any thing that can be said against a depot at Holy Haven, can only originate from want of due attention and consideration, or from a rivalry of interests in persons who chuse to give information upon the subject, for no real foundation for it can exist. The regular supply of fish from Holy Haven to the London market would employ horses as regularly as the mail coaches from any town in the kingdom, and fishing vessels can at all times reach Holy Haven at one tide, with any wind, when they cannot often reach Gravesend. And if all fishing vessels for the Thames were obliged to discharge their cargoes at Holy Haven, there

would be constant and regular employ for the horses kept for carrying the fish to London; but then, it is true, there would not be any scope for monopoly and manœuvres among the fish salesmen, nor could they treat the fishermen, nor regulate the fish market just as they liked, particularly if Holy Haven were made an open and free market, or port, for fish.

In order that mankind may be properly supplied and supported, there should in all things be a proper division of labour, and consequently there should be fish carriers and fish venders, as well as fishermen to procure fish. This cannot be effected, unless employment for all be made regular and certain; and, in order to make this secure to both, all fishing vessels for the Thames should be compelled to put into that harbour, whether the winds and tides are favourable for the London market or not, which would insure a certainty of supply to the London market every morning, a certainty of sale to the fishermen, and a certainty of constant employment for the horses kept for that purpose; and the fishmongers, basket women, and others who attended Billingsgate, or any other market, would never be disappointed of fish, which would generally be at a regular price, according to the season.

No great establishment, nor indeed any of the

o

affairs of life can be carried on with success, unless regularity and certainty attend its operations.

It is only the greater certainty and regular demand for fish that make fishermen prefer the London market to any other; and it is only the general certainty of a supply of fish at that market which makes fishmongers, hucksters, and others follow that trade and attend that market. Both these objects would be secured, as well as the public much more regularly and cheaply supplied, in a superior and certain degree, by a general depot for fish at Holy Haven.

The Committee of the Fish Association state, that steam boats, for towing the fishing vessels up the river, was a measure recently brought before them, and to which they should give due attention. I also recommended this measure three years ago to the people of Paris, to tow the fishing boats up the Seine, and it has now been adopted. Paris is at a great distance from the sea coasts, and as the fish carriages there have to pass over rugged paved roads, the fish is much bruised and mangled before it reaches that city. This would not be the case from Holy Haven to London, and as the conveyance would be much more regular, it would be much preferable to steam boats.

The Committee of the Fish Association likewise notice some other circumstances connected with the London fish market. The London fish market appears to have been, in early times, at Queenhithe. This spot, however, seems to have suited the convenience of the public more than that of the fishermen. In 1226, the eleventh year of the reign of King Henry III. the constable of the Tower was ordered to compel the boats arriving with fish to proceed to the market at Queenhithe; and Edward IV. in the year 1462, and third year of his reign, directed that two out of three vessels arriving with fish, should proceed to the market at Queenhithe; that the other should remain at Billingsgate, and preference be always shown to the market at the former place.

“ At that early period, when the population of London appears not to have been a twenty-fourth part of its present amount, the metropolis was furnished with *two* fish markets. The market at Queenhithe has been wholly discontinued, probably for some centuries past, and it is not known that any other attempt has been made to establish a second market for fish, except that near Westminster Bridge.

“ The latter was opened under the authority of an act, 22nd Geo. II. for the amendment of which a bill was brought in, which was lost, and

two acts were passed, one in the 32nd year, and another in the 39th year of that reign. The inhabitants of Westminster were extremely anxious for the success of the measure. It excited much interest, and underwent abundance of discussion. It appears, however, never fully to have taken effect, and its failure was, at the time, attributed to the difficulty which the fishermen had to encounter from the variations of the tide, the fall of water at London bridge, and the increase of distance." These obstacles would be avoided by land carriage from Holy Haven.

The Committee further express their surprise, "that all the fish, for the supply of this great metropolis, should have so long continued to be brought to a place, in size so completely unfit for the purpose as Billingsgate, and which appears unaccountable. The crowding and confusion prevailing there during the early hours of sale, are not to be described; the injurious effect of this inconvenience to the interests of the fisheries and the public, will, however, be readily understood. The fish is sold in a kind of auction; the place is completely forbidden ground to all unaccustomed to combat with its difficulties; many salesmen are scarcely able, in the general scramble, to seize a spot at which to sell their fish, and some are ready to resign their engagements, despairing of relief from this intolerable inconvenience.

"The spot occupied by the fish stalls and standings is a small contracted slip of ground, of sufficient breadth only to permit one row of them on each side, and leave a narrow passage for purchasers. There are houses on one side of this place, the owners of which claim the exclusive right of all the adjoining standings, and would thus convert into private property one entire half of that part of the market which is appropriated to sales. A small part of it is unavoidably applied to other general purposes.

"The consequence of the fearful crowding and tumult unavoidably arising is, that the salesmen are obliged to sell the fish in a random manner; with a preference to any one who will buy a large proportion, and thus a system of regating is established, clearly injurious in its effect, (*to the public and to the poor fishermen*) and of which the public are probably little aware."

Were not this report proved by the evidence of all the world, no one could certainly believe it to be true, though coming from such high authority. And is it not a disgrace, that this and other circumstances relative to the fisheries, may be related with truth in such a city and such a country as this? A fine building is erected adjoining the fish market, but that fine building brings in a revenue of about eleven millions to

Government, and a fine fish market would bring in no direct revenue to the state, and this accounts for its neglect; and also the greater the difficulty to procure fish, as has been observed, the greater is the desire of people to purchase it.

“ There is a numerous set of persons who attend Billingsgate, passing under the quaint appellation of ‘ Bomarees,’ whose business it is to watch all the favourable opportunities of the market, and to interpose their dealings between the salesmen and the fishmongers, as the variations of the market shall appear expedient. They are generally very active and expert, and are frequently the most successful in occupying stations of sale, while many of the regular salesmen are absolutely thrust out of it. The salesmen, whose business is not considerable, are thus particularly inconvenienced. These intermediate dealers are the persons who are expected to buy large quantities of fish, which, in the general tumult, it is contended, would otherwise be sold with great difficulty. The fishmongers purchase to a great amount of these persons, who of course charge them precisely the prices which their dexterity has been able to promote. When the supply is very scanty, their opportunities of bargaining are proportionably multiplied; and when it is not so, there is often an unequal competition between them and the fishmongers, who, when

they are offering a price for a small quantity, will be superseded by a ' Bomaree' proposing a larger purchase.

" The market is under the superintendence of the City of London, whose officers attend it, and hold situations there of expensive purchase and considerable gain, derived from fees greatly augmented by the attendance of the irregular dealers before mentioned. These persons are perhaps very successful in concealing the nature of their pursuits; for it is certainly understood to be the duty of the officers to prevent these practices; and, some years since, a regulation was enforced, that they should not commence their sales before ten o'clock, which is after the fish-mongers have generally completed their purchases.

" The first object to which, at this point, the Committee directed their attention, was that of increasing the size of the present market, or of removing it to some contiguous spot, of suitable dimensions. The fire at the late Custom House seemed to afford a place in every respect fit for the purpose. It is understood to be held by the crown at a fee farm rent. The measure had been laid before his Majesty's Government, had been received with the *accustomed attention*, and *is now under their consideration*.

“The profits of the market actually derived by the Corporation of London amount, as is believed, to the sum of but sixty to seventy pounds per annum. The multiplication of shops and standings for the sale of fish, within the ample range now proposed, the proportionate increase of any fees that may be due to the city, as the regular supervisors, on account of them, the various advantages which would thus be derived by the fishermen, the salesmen, the retailers, and the community at large, awaken the greatest anxiety, that no trifling obstacles should supersede this great improvement.” It is certainly capable of being made as fine a wholesale fish market as any in the world; and another might be established near Westminster or Waterloo Bridge, which would be of equal convenience, and both would be sufficient for the supply of the metropolis.

“The Committee having thus noticed two material impediments to the supply of fish in London, proceeded to consider some circumstances relative to its consumption, as affecting the metropolis and the country in general, and state the endeavours they had made on that subject. From the intimate connexion between the demand and the supply, this, however, had in some degree been anticipated.

“There is no sort of public or general arrange-

ment for the distribution of fish, on its arrival at the few yards of ground appropriated for the market at Billingsgate. A fishmonger residing near it may have the fish that he has purchased taken to his shop, by the inconvenient method of hiring a porter. If it be at a distance, he must constantly employ a horse and cart; and no one, unable to afford that expence, should open a fish shop far from the market. The poor walking dealers, frequently, after traversing a distance of two or three miles to this general resort, find there is no supply within their reach, and thus have to return with the loss, probably, of the earnings of an entire day.

“ The indispensable necessity of a constant outlet, for all the fish brought to the market, renders the dealings of these persons of serious importance to the public, particularly in distributing the fish in the metropolis, when the supply happens to be excessive. Indeed, the utility of encouraging and increasing the number of these little retailers, seems to be universally acknowledged. The Committee had, therefore, by no means considered it beneath their notice to afford them some assistance, suited to their situation, and the result had fully induced them to persevere in so doing.

“ The method adopted, was that of purchasing

some asses and panniers, to let them at a trifling sum for hire, under the superintendence of one of the servants of the institution; and they thought it might be useful to state, that benevolent persons, wishing to assist any poor individuals, and who would engage for their honesty, may in this way materially serve them, and benefit the public. Parish officers and masters of workhouses might thus very usefully employ many poor persons, who are unfortunately a burthen to the community."

An application had been made to the Committee, on the subject of a supply of fish, from some respectable individuals residing in the parish of St. Pancras, and in the northern parts of that of St. Mary-le-bone, who stated, that throughout a very large district, in that quarter, of immense population, fish was scarcely ever to be obtained, by reason of fishmongers not having been inclined to open shops, at so remote a distance from the market.

"It was suggested to the Committee, that one or more large depots might be formed there, and be supplied with fish by caravans, to be forwarded from Billingsgate, in quantities proportioned to the prices and supply for the day; and that such arrangements, as to the prices of sale at these establishments, might be made, so as to render

them an accommodation to retail dealers choosing to resort thither, as a general benefit to the inhabitants." But it has been clearly proved that, at the most, two wholesale markets for corn, cattle, or fish, would be sufficient, and none others would succeed. Two would be better than one, because it would afford competition and more convenience.

"The Committee informed the applicants of St. Mary-le-bone, that they were ready to supply them, at the cost prices, so soon as they should be prepared to receive the fish. The Committee state, that it will be seen by what they had done, on the same principle in country places, that the measure is clearly practicable; and that, if the inhabitants of the parts before mentioned, or any parts alike contiguous to the metropolis, should still remain unsupplied with fish of the best quality, and on very moderate terms, it will really be only for the reason, that sufficient zeal does not exist to raise a trifling fund, in order to commence operations and provide for contingencies, and to take a little trouble of superintendence and arrangement.

"The fish obtained by persons resident in the country, is little more than that which a person, calling himself a fishmonger, purchases generally from some London fishmonger for a gentleman's

table, in fulfilment of a particular order; or, which is less frequently the case, it is that which is bought, for such an occasion, directly of the London fishmonger. Thus, to the price at the market is added the usual profit of the London fishmonger, with that addition which the professed dealer in the country finds it necessary to make, for the trouble of an occasional order, so that their fish may generally be considered as forbidden food. The Committee were informed, by the clergymen of one of the midland county towns, that fish was as great a rarity with them, as in the interior of the Continent.

“The natural anxiety of the fishermen to press with their cargoes to the London market, and the disqualifications of these persons, and in truth for the most part of the body of dealers in fish, both personal and circumstantial, to produce any considerable improvement in the trade, have been already noticed. The latter must serve as a reason for the singular fact, that, notwithstanding the comparative greatness of the London supply, and that the country is so very scantily provided with that food, no particular exertions had been made for forwarding it thither by land carriage. The steps which the Committee had taken for promoting this object they proceed to mention.

" They conceive it might be useful to premise that the first attempt made for the conveyance of fish by land carriage to the metropolis, was by Captain Blake, at the commencement of the reign of his present Majesty. That active persevering friend of the fisheries caused several fish machines to be constructed at his own expence, and shops to be opened at all the principal markets in London, to which fish from Torbay, and various seaports, were conveyed for sale. The undertaking was, however, too considerable for a single individual, and he was compelled to resign the measure. But he had established its practicability and value; and from that period to the present, large quantities of fish have constantly, from time to time, been conveyed to London, on the plan which he arranged, from seaports where the industry of the fisherman is proportionably excited by this additional facility of sale. The Committee endeavoured to extend the like measure to the supply of the interior with fresh fish.

They had offered to towns, within a circuit of about one hundred miles from the metropolis, to afford them a supply of fresh and corned fish by carriages, which contain from about 20 to 30cwt. if at a distance exceeding forty miles, and by light carts, which would carry about seven hundred weight, should this method be preferred, where the place is within that distance, on re-

spectable persons in the particular towns undertaking the superintendence, and early returns of payment. The fish was to be sent as regularly as the cost price in the market would permit; to this was to be added a sum to cover all expences of carriage, &c.

The Committee mention Marlow and Wickham, in Bucks; Birmingham with the adjacent towns; Henley in Oxfordshire; and Maidenhead in Berks, as having received a supply. At Birmingham, a very few months after it commenced, and a proportionate demand was raised, private individuals began to embark in this measure*. The Committee state that they were much gratified at being informed that the dealers at Birmingham were bringing great quantities of fish from the Yorkshire coast, on such moderate terms as would render it necessary for the parties to close their engagements with the association.

* The writer of this book has also been informed at other towns, and from undoubted authority, that although the Committee put no profit upon their fish, yet the towns could get better, cheaper, and more regularly supplied by their purchasing at Billingsgate market, than by giving their orders to [the society's agent. But this, however, as at Birmingham, had also the effect of inducing individuals to take up the trade, and they were infinitely better supplied than formerly. One town in particular (Farnham) where only one woman before carried about a basket, with a small quantity of fish occasionally, was now supplied in great abundance; and every town in the kingdom, and

" At Maidenhead in Berks, which is a place by no means of large population, the quantity of fish purchased within the six months prior to the date of the Report, was estimated at no less a quantity than fifteen tons; for which, and all expences, £501 had been charged; being little more than threepence halfpenny per pound for the fish, and all the costs of conveying it thither. Nearly all the sorts of fish of the season had been afforded; cod, soles, turbot, salmon, &c. and they state that the demand appeared only to be limited by the price. The Committee had succeeded at this place certainly beyond their expectation, and they attributed much of that success to the excellent and judicious plan and arrangements which were made to that effect by the gentlemen of the town. The same success, they observe, must however, be attainable, by the same means, in the many other towns which are in like circumstances.

" The Committee further state, that they could

both rich and poor, would be so supplied, if proper regulations were adopted. It should be the business of every town, within a proper distance of the metropolis, to establish a cart to take poultry, butter, or other objects from the country to London every morning, or twice a week, as may be required, and to return with fish in proper time for the supply of the town and neighbourhood that day, and the two objects combined would lessen the expence on the fish.

not conclude the subject without acknowledging the benefit of a special exemption of the post-horse duty, from the thirty-first day of January preceding, on all horses solely employed about the conveyance of fish, as another proof of the interest taken by Government in this important subject, and of their obliging attention to the applications of the Committee.

“ The Committee thus point out some of the hinderances to this source of national prosperity, and the principles and measures of encouragement which they have adopted for the relief of the fishermen, and for the benefit of the community. They consider that they have stated enough to establish the practicability of extending this important good to all classes, both in the metropolis and the interior, and they then sum up their Report by earnestly appealing to the British public for their support and co-operation, and entreating them to reflect, whether the zeal which so long distinguished them for promoting their own fisheries, and the important interests connected with them, should now be permitted to droop or to expire.

“ The object of this appeal relates to assisting our fishermen in their career of toil and hardship; augmenting our naval strength, and maintaining its superiority; increasing the general supply of

food, by an article which seems the common birthright of an islander, and rendering the benefit accessible to the lower and needy class of society; keeping open an inexhaustible resource in any emergency of want, and, in short, daily doing good to all without exception; and they particularly invite every person, into whose hands their Report may fall, to use any influence they may possess, of making the arrangements therein suggested, for the benefit of themselves and others, in furnishing a supply of this invaluable article of food. And should the evil so justly complained of still exist, they consider that it must be because the object having been so long overlooked, sufficient public spirit is not now felt, to sustain the little trouble and expence which are requisite for the purpose. But this surely cannot be the case. An appeal on this subject was, perhaps, never before made to the British Public IN VAIN."

The way to make a people happy is, to improve their morals, and to furnish them the means to procure food and employment, without which much morality cannot be expected; and every thing that can tend or contribute to that end, must be of public as well as individual benefit. And no one will have the hardihood to assert, that this great object may not, in a considerable degree, be assisted by the promotion and extension

of the FISHERIES. It is evident and clear what might be done, what ought to be done, and what *still* remains to be done, in this respect; and the only difficulties that now remain are, to know when it is to be done, and who are to do it.

It is perhaps unnecessary to say more, in order to convince any reasonable mind of the important advantages and benefits to be derived from promoting and extending the British Fisheries; but candour requires, that every thing should also be stated that has been advanced to the contrary; or, at least, such inferences as have been drawn, from practical proof and experience, as do not appear very encouraging. But if properly examined, their evil tendency to discouragement will easily be removed, and the proof of utility will be strengthened, by having been drawn from the source or cause of its failure. For, finding out the causes of past errors, is the most sure way to avoid them in future.

It is frequently found, that great and the most valuable undertakings fail, or have difficulties, in the first instance. They are then, sometime or other, taken up upon different principles; and, by correcting former errors, with better experience and management, and with more accurate attention, they generally succeed, and are seldom known to be unsuccessful.

That the extension of the British Fisheries would be of great national and individual benefit, needs not any further confirmation. It is allowed, even by all its opponents, if a practical system could be properly applied; but that it has not as yet produced much benefit, although many attempts have been made to that effect, must also be admitted*.

Dr. Smith, in his *Wealth of Nations*, although he appears generally a warm advocate for the promotion of the fisheries, and allows that they should be supported by Government means, yet, in order to support a favourite opinion with him, he has introduced a proof or inference drawn, certainly, from practical facts and experience, which, coming from such authority, has given more discouragement to the extension and promotion of the fisheries, than any thing besides

* Mr. Scott, of the house of Sir P. Pole, bart. and Co. in his examination before the Committee of the House of Commons, for the relief of the poor, particularly recommended the encouragement of the fisheries, to relieve the maritime class of the people; and it would have been a happiness for the country, as well as to those people, if his recommendation had been attended to. It was long ago remarked, that a naval militia and naval schools would be of great benefit to this country, as by those means ten thousand men might be raised on the most sudden emergency. It is still to be wondered at, that something of this kind has not been adopted. The fisheries would be the best schools to train them in.

that has been advanced against them. But his statement is not properly defined. It contains facts, tending to the discouragement of the fisheries, but it does not explain the causes which produced them. It does not appear that Dr. Smith had well considered the subject; for his statement, in this particular, is not consistent with the general sentiments evinced, in many instances, in different parts of his work. It is introduced merely, and even unfairly and inconsiderately, as a matter of fact, to favour and strengthen a favourite hypothesis, which he uses every effort to support, though not always with success; namely, the impolicy and inefficiency of Government bounties.

He says, " that the usual effect of bounties is, to encourage rash undertakers to venture in a business which they do not understand; and what they lose by their own ignorance, more than compensates all that they can gain by the utmost liberality of Government. This is often proved to be true; but it is the fault of management, and not the natural effect of bounties. Bounties should certainly never be granted, except to assist desirable undertakings, in the first instance, or in cases of necessity; but they may be of the greatest national benefit, in many instances, upon pe-

* *Wealth of Nations*, vol. ii. p. 290.

culiar occasions and circumstances, and under proper regulations.

Dr. Smith observes*, "that something like a bounty upon production has been granted, upon some particular occasions. The tonnage bounties given to the white herring and whale fisheries may, perhaps, be considered as somewhat of this nature. They tend directly, it may be supposed, to render the goods cheaper in the home market, than they otherwise would be. In other respects, their effects, it must be acknowledged, are the same as those of bounties upon exportation. By means of them a part of the capital of the country is employed, in bringing goods to market, of which the price does not repay the cost, together with the ordinary profits of stock*."

* Mr. Playfair, in a note upon this paragraph, says, "Bounties on fisheries are not merely to be regarded in a commercial point of view, for they operate as an encouragement towards a nursery of seamen, who are necessary to the protection and independence of the British nation. The military school, at Woolwich, is a bounty to encourage military engineers; and, though a dead expence to the nation, is a very wise one. A bounty for raising hemp is of the same nature; it is partly political, partly commercial." Dr. Smith, also, always argued upon the erroneous idea, that there was not capital sufficient to support the industry and commerce of the country; and, therefore, any thing that took from it, by any new plan of industry, was a disadvantage. But time has proved that this opinion was fallacious.

“ But, though the tonnage bounties to these fisheries do not contribute to the opulence of the nation, it may perhaps be thought that they contribute to its defence, by augmenting the number of its sailors and shipping. This, it may be alleged, may sometimes be done by means of such bounties, at a much smaller expence than by keeping up a great standing navy, if I may use such an expression, in the same way as a standing army.

“ Notwithstanding these favourable allegations, however, the following considerations dispose me to believe, that, in granting at least one of these bounties, the legislature has been very grossly imposed upon.

“ FIRST, the herring buss bounty seems too large.

“ From the commencement of the winter fishing, 1771, to the end of the winter fishing, 1781, the tonnage bounty upon the herring buss fishery has been at thirty shillings the ton. During these eleven years, the whole number of barrels, caught by the herring buss fishery of Scotland, amounted to 378,347. The herrings caught and cured at sea, are called sea sticks. In order to render them what are called merchantable herrings, it is necessary to repack them with an additional quan-

tity of salt; and in this case, it is reckoned, that three barrels of sea sticks are usually repacked into two barrels of merchantable herrings. The number of barrels of merchantable herrings, therefore, caught during these eleven years, will amount only, according to this account, to 252,231 $\frac{1}{2}$. During these eleven years, the tonnage bounties paid amounted to £155,463. 11s. or to 8s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. upon every barrel of sea sticks, and to 12s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. upon every barrel of merchantable herrings.

“ The salt with which these herrings are cured, is sometimes Scotch and sometimes foreign salt; both of which are delivered, free of all excise duty, to the fish curers. The excise duty upon Scotch salt is at present (*at that time*) 1s. 6d., that upon foreign salt 10s. the bushel. A barrel of herrings is supposed to require about one bushel and one-fourth of a bushel of foreign salt. Two bushels are the supposed average of Scotch salt. If the herrings are entered for exportation, no part of this duty is paid up; if entered for home consumption, whether the herrings were cured with foreign or with Scotch salt, only one shilling the barrel is paid up. It was the old Scotch duty upon a bushel of salt, the quantity which, at a low estimation, had been supposed necessary for curing a barrel of herrings. In Scotland, foreign salt is very little used for any other purpose but

the curing of fish. But from the 5th of April, 1771, to the 5th of April, 1782, the quantity of foreign salt imported, amounted to 936,974 bushels, of eighty-four pounds the bushel; the quantity of Scotch salt, delivered from the works to the fish curers, to no more than 162,226, at fifty-six pounds the bushel only. It would appear, therefore, that it is principally foreign salt that is used in the fisheries.

“ Upon every barrel of herrings exported, there is, besides, a bounty of 2s. 8d. ; and more than two-thirds of the buss-caught herrings are exported. Put all these things together, and you will find that, during these eleven years, every barrel of buss-caught herrings, cured with Scotch salt, when exported, has cost Government 17s. 11½d. ; and, when entered for home consumption, 14s. 3½d. ; and that every barrel, cured with foreign salt, when exported, has cost Government £1. 7s. 5½d. ; and, when entered for home consumption, £1. 3s. 9½d. The price of a barrel of good merchantable herrings runs from seventeen and eighteen, to four and five and twenty shillings; about a guinea at an average.

“ SECONDLY, the bounty to the white herring fishery is a tonnage bounty, and is proportioned to the burden of the ship, not to her diligence or success in the fishery ; and it has, I am afraid,

been too common for vessels to fit out for the sole purpose of catching, not the fish, but the bounty. In the year 1759, when the bounty was at fifty shillings the ton, the whole buss fishery of Scotland brought in only four barrels of sea sticks. In that year each barrel of sea sticks cost Government, in bounties alone, £113. 15s.; each barrel of merchantable herrings, £159. 7s. 6d." This proves that a tonnage bounty, on the vessel, is the most impolitic measure that can be adopted, to encourage and extend the fisheries; but it does not prove that bounties would have the same effect, if granted on the weight of fish caught.

"THIRDLY, the mode of fishing for which this tonnage bounty, in the white herring fishery, has been given, (by busses, or decked vessels, from twenty to eighty tons burden,) seems not so well adapted to the situation of Scotland, as to that of Holland; from the practice of which country it appears to have been borrowed. Holland lies at a great distance from the seas, to which herrings are known principally to resort; and can therefore only carry on that fishery in decked vessels, which can carry water and provisions, sufficient for a voyage to a distant sea. But the Hebrides, or western islands, the islands of Shetland, and the northern and north-western coasts of Scotland, the countries in whose neighbourhood the

herring fishery is principally carried on, are every where intersected by the arms of the sea, which run up a considerable way into the land; and which, in the language of the country, are called sea-lochs*.

“ It is to these sea-lochs that the herrings principally resort, during the seasons in which they visit those seas; for the visits of this, and, I am assured, of many other sorts of fish, are not quite regular and constant. A boat fishery, therefore, seems to be the mode of fishing best adapted to the peculiar situation of Scotland: the fishers carrying the herrings ashore, as fast as they are taken, to be either cured or consumed fresh†.”

“ But the great encouragement which a bounty of thirty shillings the ton gives to the buss fishery, is necessarily a discouragement to the boat fishery; which, having no such bounty, cannot bring its cured fish to market upon the

* It appears by this, that Dr. Smith was most partial and favourable to the lochs and small boats of Scotland, but it does not equally prove, or confirm, that he was a practical fisherman.

† If the visits of this, and other sorts of fish, are not quite regular and constant, as Dr. Smith has just before stated, and which no doubt is correct, the boat fishermen must always be subject to disappointment and uncertainty.

same terms as the buss fishery*. The boat fishery, accordingly, which, before the establishment of the buss bounty, was very considerable, and is said to have employed a number of seamen, not inferior to what the buss fishery employs at present, is now gone almost entirely to decay. Of the former extent, however, of this now ruined and abandoned fishery, I must acknowledge that I cannot pretend to speak with much precision. As no bounty was paid upon the outfit of the boat fishery, no account of it was taken by the officers of the customs or salt duties.

“FOURTHLY, in many parts of Scotland, during certain seasons of the year, herrings make no inconsiderable part of the food of the common people. A bounty, which tended to lower their price in the home market, might contribute a good deal to the relief of a great number of our

* This is undoubtedly true, and proves that bounties have seldom been properly and wisely regulated. The fishing vessels that receive the bounty on the deep-sea fishery to this day, as I have been credibly informed, smuggle between the north of Scotland and the Ferroe islands, and employ fishermen to catch fish in their boats near the western islands, which they return and take merely to get the bounty. Thus, they certainly catch the bounty on smuggling, and not for catching fish. This practice is said to be carried on to an enormous extent; some Danish houses on the Ferroe islands having lately made immense fortunes by it.

fellow subjects, whose circumstances are by no means affluent. But the herring buss bounty contributes to no such good purpose. It has ruined the boat fishery, which is, by far, the best adapted for the supply of the home market, and the additional bounty of 2s. 8d. the barrel upon exportation, carries the greater part, more than two-thirds, of the produce of the buss fishery abroad. Between thirty and forty years ago, (*that time*) before the establishment of the buss bounty, sixteen shillings the barrel, I have been assured, was the common price of white herrings. Between ten and fifteen years ago, before the boat fishery was entirely ruined, the price is said to have run from seventeen to twenty shillings the barrel. For these last five years it has, at an average, been at twenty-five shillings the barrel. This high price, however, has been owing to the real scarcity of the herrings upon the coast of Scotland." *Then why recommend boat fishing?*) "I must observe too, that the cask or barrel, which is usually sold with the herrings, and of which the price is included in all the foregoing prices, has, since the commencement of the American war, risen to about double its former price, or from about three shillings to about six shillings. I must likewise observe, that the accounts I have received of the prices of former times, have been by no means quite uniform and consistent; and an old

man, of great accuracy and experience, has assured me, that more than fifty years ago a guinea was the usual price of a barrel of good merchantable herrings; and this, I imagine, may be still looked upon as the average price. All accounts, however, I think, agree, that the price has not been lowered in the home market in consequence of the buss bounty.

“ When the undertakers of fisheries, after such liberal bounties have been bestowed upon them, continue to sell their commodity at the same, or even at a higher price, than they were accustomed to do before, it might be expected that their profits should be very great; and it is not improbable that those of some individuals may have been so. In general, however, I have every reason to believe, they have been quite otherwise.

“ In 1750, by the same act which first gave the bounty of thirty shillings the ton for the encouragement of the white herring fishery, (the 23rd Geo. II. chap. 24) a joint stock company was erected, with a capital of five hundred thousand pounds, (*an imperfect, wild, and frantic scheme, like that of the South Sea Company;*) to which the subscribers (over and above all other encouragements, the tonnage bounty just now mentioned, the exportation bounty of two shil-

lings and eight pence the barrel, the delivery of both British and foreign salt duty free) were, during the space of fourteen years, for every hundred pounds which they subscribed and paid into the stock of the society, entitled to three pounds a year, to be paid by the receiver-general of the customs, in equal half yearly payments. Besides this great company, the residence of whose governor and directors was to be in London, it was declared lawful to erect different fishing chambers in all the different out-ports of the kingdom, provided a sum, not less than ten thousand pounds was subscribed into the capital of each, to be managed at its own risk, and for its own profit and loss. The same annuity, and the same encouragements of all kinds, were given to those inferior chambers, as to that of the great company. The subscription of the great company was soon filled up, and several different fishing chambers were erected in the different out-ports of the kingdom. In spite of all these encouragements, almost all those different companies, both great and small, lost either the whole or the greater part of their capitals; scarce a vestige now remains of any of them, and the white herring fishery is now (*at that time*) entirely, or almost entirely carried on by private adventurers."

This was exactly as might have been expected,

because these societies had no regular plan or fixed principles to act upon. What was the use of granting bounties, and raising large sums of money, unless proper plans had been adopted for encouraging and supporting the fisheries in other respects? There does not appear to have been any plans for those fishing companies, except those of having grand chambers with governors and directors; raising money, and contriving how to spend it, and all concerned trying who could get most in the scramble, and it is not improbable, as Dr. Smith observed, that some individuals found their profit in it. They were to fit out vessels, it is true, and they were to catch fish on the coasts, if they could find it; but it does not appear by the returns that they ever found, or probably ever wished to find much. Nor had they any regulations or plan in this respect. They considered every thing but that of knowing where to find the fish, how to catch the fish, how to cure the fish, and how to dispose of the fish; and these trifling matters seem to have been left quite out of their contemplation. And their object was only to catch and cure white or barrelled herrings, which according to their plan and arrangement could only be done during a month or six weeks in the year, and that very uncertain, either as to time or quantity; depending entirely upon whether the herrings would come to the places where, and at the

time when, they were prepared to catch them. What was to be done with the fishermen and others, as well as the vessels, during the remainder part of the year, does not appear to have been determined, or calculated upon. How then was it possible that such establishments could succeed under such arrangements? And how is it possible that they could have failed to succeed under better and more proper arrangements, with good management? The Dutch keep their fishermen employed in different fisheries the whole year round.

The failure of the white herring fishery was exposed by Dr. Smith, as before observed, merely with a view to discourage bounties generally, but at other times he held that fisheries were an exception, and that they ought to be encouraged by Government means. It is not fair to condemn a system or principle because its application or execution is defective or abused. And as Mr. Playfair justly remarked upon Dr. Smith's account of the white herring fishery: "The result was unfavourable for individuals, but it does not by any means appear to have been so to the public." The consequence and failure of the white herring fishery, as is well known, arose from mismanagement, malversation, bad plans, and bad regulations; and from the concern being established by "rash adventurers, who undertook

a business they did not understand ;" except at least their own views and interest ; and the result of every undertaking is never known to be otherwise, when established upon such principles, and under such circumstances. Mr. Playfair also very justly observes, upon this occasion and remarkable subject, that, " although adventurers of this kind may, by their negligence and ignorance, lose more than the utmost liberality of Government can compensate, yet, though this may be the case at first, it cannot continue to be so for any length of time ; and in human affairs there is always some evil attends every possible arrangement."

Had this act of parliament been followed up by proper regulations, and by wise and good management, it seems totally impossible but the most beneficial results would have been derived from it, both to the public and to the associations ; and its failure appears very easily to be accounted for. As Government was so much interested and concerned in this establishment, there should have been a committee and a board appointed, for that purpose, of men the best informed upon the subject ; and after having further obtained the best information of others, rules and regulations should have been established, by which these associations should have been governed, which appears to have been a necessary security for Government ; for it seems to

have been a weakness or neglect in Government, to accord so freely the public money, and not to take care that it was applied for the public good. If money get into the hands of men who are improvident, unjust, dishonest, or who do not properly understand the business they undertake, the result must be generally the same, as is well known in all cases; and this was literally the cause of failure in the white herring fishery.

If fisheries are never to succeed, or that it is impossible they ever should succeed in this country, why has not the Dutch fishing trade, with less advantages, been unsuccessful? and how is it that country has received from it its greatest benefits? It has been proved by the Fish Association, that sufficient quantities of fish might be caught, by our people, and sold in this country, if proper stations and markets were established to receive and vend the fish, and there were no impediments of salt duty or otherwise to discourage the fishermen, and that proper laws and regulations were made to protect and encourage them. What they want is, a certain market, or markets, for their fish, and such regulations as would enable them to form associations, the same as in Holland; which a general charter, and a proper committee, or board, with proper powers for that purpose, would soon establish, with little expence to Government, and without any danger of loss to indi-

viduals; or without the necessity of raising immense capitals, as heretofore, to be spent in wild and gigantic schemes of monopoly; and this appears to be the only way to promote the fishing trade generally in this country.

It is clear, as before asserted, in the former part of this humble attempt to promote their encouragement and to show their importance, that the British fisheries have never been made, *properly speaking*, a national object of *proper* investigation; for, although many attempts have been made, and every encouragement appears to have been given, even to excess, by Government, yet there have been no fixed plans or principles established to insure their success, by which reason the objects intended have always been defeated; and the facilities and encouragements which Government has accorded have always been rendered fruitless and unavailing. The fisheries, (as well as the fishermen) have always been left to the control of unjust monopolizers and scheming adventurers; or, like other things, left to find their level; but neither these, nor other things, have ever yet found, or ever will find, their *proper* level, without *proper* regulations.

No people can be happy, who are either in want of food or employment. The fisheries will contribute, in a great degree, to relieve both; and if other

branches of industry were also attended to, and properly encouraged and supported, there are no difficulties which an industrious and energetic people may not overcome by those means. The state of this country, generally speaking, is worse than most people imagine. Those people can know very little of the distresses of the country, who have every comfort they want within themselves, and who keep entirely within the circle of their own society; nor can they always perceive it by walking the streets; for indigence is not always covered with rags, and poverty often disdains to murmur. On this account every thing appears to go on well, to some sorts of people; and, to hear them speak, one would suppose that there is no such thing as poverty, or misery, in this country. Compared with other countries, they say, there is no such thing as poverty, or any poor, in England. This may be true; for some other countries may be worse, perhaps, but it is no reason why this country may not be better. Let, however, such people survey the coasts of the United Kingdom, (although the major part of the inhabitants have fled to other countries,) and let them also examine the interior of the country, not in the mansions of the great, but in the habitations of the poor; let them explore the miserable huts on the mountains of Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, the poor crammed lodgings of towns, and even the

once peaceful and happy dwellings of the middle class of people, and there is no doubt but they will find misery enough in this country, which they had never before believed or witnessed. This may perhaps excite their feelings of charity and pity, but it would be of more benefit to society, if they would prevent those evils by promoting the industry of the country.

Recent accounts from the Scilly Islands, represent the inhabitants there to be in a miserable state of distress, and literally starving. Government, it is said, has sent them some relief, in provisions or money; but how are they to live, or be supported, afterwards? This is a famous country for relieving the distresses of people by charity; though little is done to prevent the necessity, by the noble and equitable principle of enabling people to support themselves. The inhabitants of the Scilly Islands are said to amount to near five thousand people. All their employment now is, to raise and procure a small quantity of provisions, and the chance of meeting with a merchant vessel to take some of their fish, and afford them a little barter. If a proper harbour were made at the Scilly Islands, (and one of the safest and the best could be made,) it would be the means of saving and relieving numberless ships, that are lost and distressed, at the mouth of the Channel. Vessels are now often obliged to leave Mount's

Bay, for better protection in the harbours of the Scilly Islands. If a fishery were established there, for which it is the finest situation in the world, it might be carried on to an incredible extent, and be of great benefit to commerce and the industry of the country; it would give employment to an immense number of people and be a fine nursery for seamen, of whom it would always be able to supply from five to ten thousand, upon an emergency.

If commerce, the fisheries, and the general industry of the country be neglected, and not properly and efficiently supported, it must plainly be seen what will be the fate of this country. Nothing but those means will relieve it, or prevent its inevitable ruin. It must be industry of every kind, to establish its firm structure and preservation; for it requires many artists to build up, or to repair a house, although the most stupid labourer may pull it down. The agricultural, commercial, and general industry of this country, of which the fisheries form no inconsiderable part, would, if properly encouraged and supported, effect a change, which no human wisdom or means can otherwise accomplish; and if these sources of relief be suspended or neglected, the country will not only languish under existing misery, but ultimately be completely and irretrievably undone.

It has been purposely intended, in the course of this small work, to touch as little as possible upon politics, particularly where it did not immediately relate to, and was not absolutely necessary for, the support of, the subject in question. On this account, much has been omitted which might have been said, on the state of Newfoundland, and other matters, for fear of agitating, still further, the tremor of alarmists; but, although the world may not be so enlightened as to understand all the secrets and policy of cabinets, yet the plain common sense of politics is now as well understood by people in general, as by the most learned lawyers or statesmen, and many things are known, which are supposed to be concealed. It is therefore plain, to every man of common sense, (whether it be spoken or not, and to conceal it would not make it less known, to those who may wish to take advantage of it,) that, in case of any dispute with America, about a few acres of barren land, or a sand bank in the sea, (which, for the sake of humanity and the good of both countries, it is hoped never will happen,) Newfoundland will then, either not be in the possession of the English, or will occasion a torrent of bloodshed, which might be avoided by adopting the plans proposed in this work. For, supposing the Americans ever to be possessed of Newfoundland, England will then, according to the present system, have no fishery. Supposing the fisheries

to be encouraged nearer home, England will then not want Newfoundland, which although it may fully supply America and the western world, it could not come in competition with other fisheries, as before stated, to supply Europe.

THE END.

~~~~~  
*J. Swan, Printer, 76, Fleet Street, London.*

p. 8 3

and will then  
ugh it may  
n world, it  
other fish-  
e.

