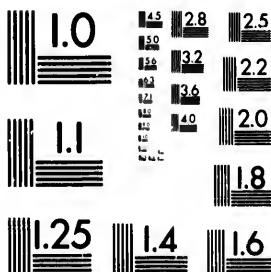
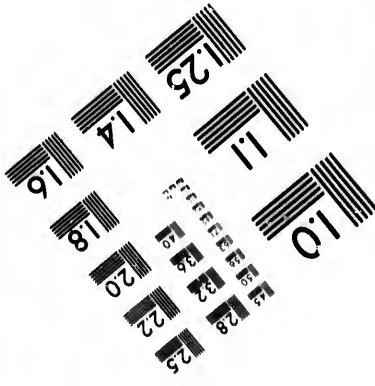
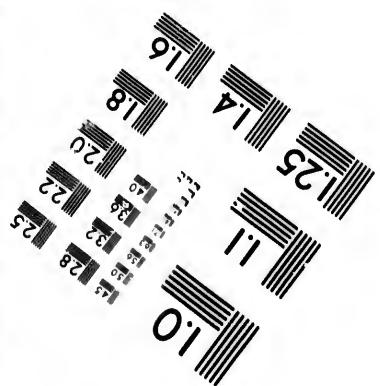
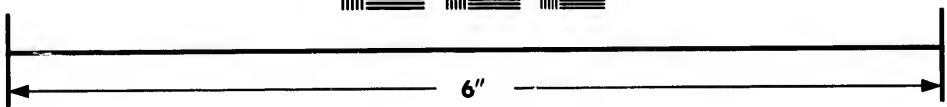


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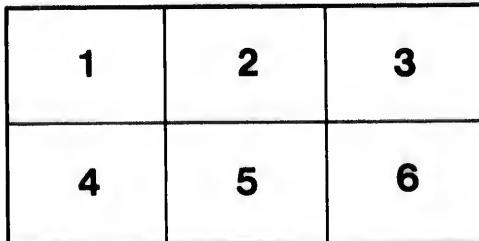
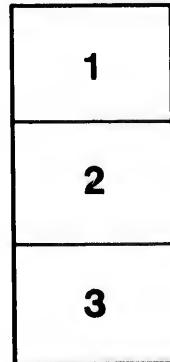
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*An Account of the Island  
of Newfoundland.*

*By Capt Griffith Williams.*

*London, 1765.*

*Do.*

1565

N

1565  
Sandys by Reeves John  
Esq C. I.

AN  
**ACCOUNT**

Of the ISLAND of  
**NEWFOUNDLAND, &c.**

[ Price One Shilling. ]

The wood is within a few  
miles of the sea coast.  
The interior part of the Island  
had been visited by Capt Cook  
was discovered to be Rock,  
moory ground or lakes.

12 March 1790

I had this account from Mr. Hugh  
Palliser. H.L.

Lord magginc Nov. 1790

Board of Trade  
Sur Books Recd

\$24.78  
w67

AN  
**A C C O U N T**  
Of the ISLAND of  
**NEWFOUNDLAND,**  
With the NATURE of its  
**T R A D E,**  
And METHOD of carrying on the  
**F I S H E R Y.**  
With REASONS for the great Decrease of that most  
**VALUABLE BRANCH OF TRADE.**

By Capt. GRIFFITH WILLIAMS,  
Of the ROYAL REGIMENT of ARTILLERY,  
Who resided in the Island Fourteen Years when a Lieutenant, and now has a Command there.

To which is annexed,  
**A P L A N**  
To exclude the FRENCH from that TRADE.

Proposed to the Administration in the Year 1761,  
By Capt. COLE.

Printed for Capt. THOMAS COLE,  
And Sold by W. OWEN, near Temple-Bar. M.DCC.LXV.

A. RB  
F1122  
W72

22729

61° 60° 59°

Long. W. from London.

# G U L F

A New M.A.P, of the  
only useful and frequented  
part of

## NEW FOUND LAND.

By Tho. "Kitchin Geog."

### S<sup>r</sup>. LAWRENCE

49

49

48

48

47

47

British Statute Miles 60 to a Degree.  


Briot I.  
Bird I.  
I. Rame  
Entry I.  
MADELAINE ISLES

I. St. Paul  
C. St. Lawrence  
Linbach I.  
Baque I.  
Seal I.  
CAPE BRETON  
I. of  
North C.  
I. de l'Anse II  
I. & I. Nigomiche  
Port Dauphin

I. St. George  
C. St. George  
S. George  
High H.d.  
C. Anguilla  
Bel Bay  
Is.  
Is. Pt.  
Bulls  
Ring Bay  
C. Raye  
Wild Grace I.  
Bargaud I.  
Oliver I.  
Romance I.  
Flat I.

Bank of the Great Fishing  
Land of New Found Land

53°

53°

61°

60°

59°

50°

vista

ney

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A N

# A C C O U N T

O F T H E

## Island of NEWFOUNDLAND;

W I T H

The Nature of its TRADE, and Me-  
thod of carrying on its FISHERY.

W I T H

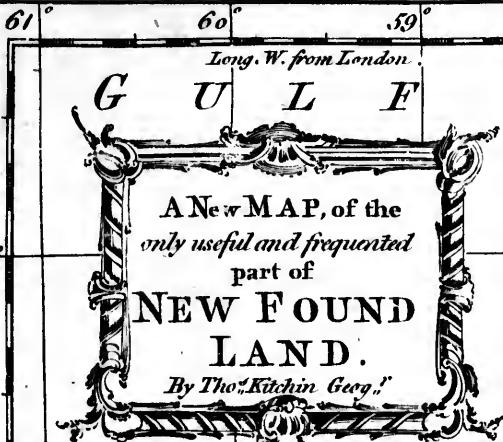
R E A S O N S for the great Decrease of that  
valuable Branch of T R A D E.

**T**H E Island of Newfoundland is not inhabited any-where, but along the Sea Shore ; and there are but very few People that know any Thing of the interior Part : Almost all the Country, for several Miles from the Sea, is covered with Woods of different Kinds, very useful for

B

Ship

Bank of the Great Fishing  
Bank of New Found Land



# S<sup>T</sup>. LAWRENCE

British Statute Miles 69 to a Degree.

10 20 30 40 50 60 70



For the London Mag.

# NEW FOUND LAND

A small map from a historical document. It features a vertical line on the left labeled 'I. I. I.'. A curved line extends from the top right towards the center. The area enclosed by these lines is shaded with dots and labeled 'Part of the Great Fishing Bank of New Found Land'.

Ship and Boat-building; also, for erecting Stages and Flakes for curing and drying Fish.

I have been between Twenty and Thirty Miles into the Country, where I found the Land clear of Woods, which produced very good Pasturage. I saw great Numbers of Deer, of a prodigious Size, and vast Quantities of Partridges, Wolves, and Foxes; and in the Lakes and Rivers (which are numerous) there are Bever, Otter, Trout, Wild Ducks, and Geese, in great Quantities.

It is very surprising, that, for so many Years past, no Care has been taken to improve so valuable a Branch of Commerce as the *Newfoundland Fishery* might be to *Great Britain!* This Trade, to my certain Knowledge, for many Years, remitted, in Specie, near a Million Sterling, to the Mother Country: And at this Time, I dare say, it does not remit One Sixth Part of that Sum.

The Lords of the Admiralty, and of Trade and Plantations, did, I suppose, and

and do still, think, the Commodores or Governors of Newfoundland always send them a just State of the Fishery, I believe they wished to have done it; and, dare say, they thought it exact. The Methods they take are as follow.

The Commodore or Governor generally arrives at St. John's some Time in *June*, and sails again in *September*, or the Beginning of *October*, for *Europe*: Therefore, suppose him to be on that Coast three Months, and, conformable to his Instructions, he is obliged to have a State of the Fishery made out, in order to be sent to the Board of Trade, &c. in Consequence of this, his Clerk goes to one of the Magistrates on Shore, and desires him to send to each of the Harbours, one of those States, ruled and worded, ready to be filled up (for Example). The Magistrate sends one of them to a Merchant at Harbour Grace (which is one of the Harbours in *Conception Bay*), who, in the Hurry of Business, fills it up at Random, thinking it mere Matter of Form, and of little Consequence; for had he been ever so desirous of being exact, he could not have been so

without a vast deal of Trouble, as the Bay is, at least, seventy Miles round, and Boats kept in every Creek and Cove of it. This State is returned to the Governor, and he sends it Home to *England*, taking it for granted to be right; by which Method the Commodore, who is Governor during his Command there, can know very little more of the Matter than if he had remained at *Portsmouth*, or *Plymouth*.

I remember one of the above Kind of Returns being sent to the Governor, with an Account of the Number of Boats kept, the Quantity of Fish and Oil caught, &c, &c. Having a Boat and Men of my own, I had the Curiosity to know how near they came to the Truth, and therefore began at Bay Verds in Conception Bay, and went into every Creek and Cove quite round to Portugal Cove, which is the other Extremity of the Bay, and found they had not got within a Third Part in any one Account.

I found in that Bay 496 Boats kept, and computed, on an Average, each Boat caught 500 Quintals of Fish (tho' many caught

750, and several, at *Trinity Harbour*, 990); these make 248,000 : I allow for the Shipping about 10,000. which make 258,000; and allow, for Men. Women, and Children, employed in catching and curing the Fish of each Boat (as they all equally work), 10 ; which will make 4960 ; and for the Shipping 300 ; making, in all, 5,260 People. It is not so easy to come at the exact Quantity of Oil, as some Years the Livers of the Fish yield as much more than in others ; and some Years the Cape Cod Men meet with great Success in the Whale Fishery, and at other Times little or none, either in that or the Seal Fishery. Some Years, from the Shore Fish, you have Three Hogsheads of Oil to an Hundred Quintals : But from the Bank Fish you have but a small Quantity ; however, I shall allow One Hogshead to the Hundred Quintals ; which will be 645 Tuns of Train Oil. I have known that Oil sell, at *Newfoundland*, from 8*l.* to 16*l.* per Tun ; and in *England*, from 14*l.* to 36*l.* per Tun, as the Fishery of *Conception Bay* was reckoned equal to One Quarter Part of the whole Fishery of *Newfoundland*, from the Year 1745 to 1752

(that

(that is to say), *Trinity, Bonavista, Cata-line*, with the Creeks thereunto belonging, One Quarter; *Bay Verd, Carboneire, Harbour Grace*, and the several Creeks and Coves thereto belonging, a Quarter; *Torbay, Kidvide, St. John's, and Patty Harbour*, a Quarter; *Bay of Bulls, Firiland, Firmoves, Trapassey, and Placentia Bay*, another Quarter Part: So that the whole Produce of Fish and Oil, for one of the aforesaid Years, will be (exclusive of the Whale and Seal Oil), Fish, 1,032,000 Quintals; Oil, 5,160 Tuns.

Fish, upon an Average, sell, at foreign Markets, from Eighteen to Thirty Shillings per Quintal: But suppose it at Twenty, it will then amount to One Million, and Thirty-two Thousand Pounds Sterling. Oil is often sent to *Spain*, which, upon an Average, sells at 18*l.* per Tun, it will then amount to Ninety-two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty Pounds Sterling.

I shall make no Calculation on the Fur Trade, which was very considerable before the

the *French* had such vast Possessions to the Northward.

The Salmon Fishery is of no great Consequence, there being but few Hands employed in it, tho', before the *French* were so powerful to the Northward, many Hundred Teirces were cured, and sent to the *Italian Markets* yearly.

These Branches of Trade (both of Cod and Salmon) were never so extensive as when the Government shewed a desire of protecting the Merchants and Inhabitants, which was in the Year 1745, when that noble Resolution was taken of augmenting the Garrisons, with a sufficient Number of Troops, and erecting Batteries at such Places as appeared then necessary for the Protection of the Merchants and Inhabitants of the Island ; had those Forts and Batteries continued on the Footing then established, the Fishery would not have dwindled away in the Manner it has done. It is very true the Fish did not come for eight or ten Years past in such Shoals as they had formerly done ; therefore so great a Quantity could not be caught ; but I dare answer, that at least as much

much more would have been caught, had those people been protected, who had always been concerned in that Branch of Trade.

An *Irishman* can't catch as much Fish as a West Country or *Newfoundland* Man, which is as true, as that a Man who never had an Oar in his Hand, cannot row equal to a Wherry-man, who has been used to it all his Life.

I have seen two Boats along Side of each other fishing, the one manned by People of the West Country and *Newfoundland*, the other by *Irish*; the former has loaded in seven or eight Hours, and the latter not able to load in the Day; the former are People who were trained up in it from the Time they were able to walk, the latter seldom or ever engage in it till they are above twenty Years of Age; therefore can never be able to arrive to the same Degree of Perfection as the other; for there is as much Attention required in catching a Cod, as there is in striking a Salmon or Trout with a Fly.

Unfortunately for the Government, as well as those concerned in the *Newfoundland* Trade, soon after the Treaty of Aix la Chappelle,

pelle, several of the Forts were dismantled, and most Part of the Troops taken from the other Garrisons, and sent to the Continent of America. By this Means the Traders and Inhabitants were left to shift for themselves without Troops to support the Magistrates in the Execution of Justice. At this Time great Numbers of *Irish Roman Catholics* were in the Island as Servants ; but no sooner had the Troops been sent away, than they became the most outrageous Set of People that everlived : Robberies were committed almost every Day in one Place or other, the Magistrates insulted in the Execution of their Office, and the Chief Justice murdered ; many hundreds of the West of *England* People were afraid of going over, many of the *Newfoundland* Men left the Island, and the *Roman Catholics* transported themselves by Hundreds from *Ireland* : So that at the Time the *French* took the Country, the *Irish* were above six Times the Number of the West Country and *Newfoundlanders* : In short, they were in Possession of above three Quarters of the Fish Rooms and Harbours of the Island, who consequently received the French with open Arms. And during the Time the French were in Possession of the

## C Island,

Island, the Merchants and Inhabitants suffered more Cruelties from the *Irish Roman Catholics*, than they did from the declared Enemy.

The Fisheries of *Newfoundland* were originally carried on by the Ships only, and none allowed to Fish but such as cleared out of some Port in *Great Britain*: But, in Time, those concerned in that Trade found much greater Advantage by fishing in Boats along the Shore; in consequence of which, they found it necessary for Numbers to remain in the Island during the Winter, in order to build Boats for the Service of the ensuing Season, as also to get Materials out of the Woods, for their Fishing Rooms, &c.

This is a Branch of the Fishery that should be taken most particular Notice of, as it is found to be, by far, the most advantageous: Therefore great Amendments should be made in the Act of Parliament, relative to the Fishery of *Newfoundland*; the greatest Encouragement should be given to those that would reside there in the Winter, as they are not only useful in preparing every Thing necessary for the Voyage, but

*for 311 w. 3.*  
*But 2.*  
*since Recd.*  
*of Colonies*  
*13 united Scts*  
*America?*

*See 15 G. 3. c. 31.*

also

also often begin fishing a Month before the Ships come from *Europe*.

A great deal has been said concerning the *Newfoundland* Fishery, by many of the News Writers, and others; but I have not found that any of them have the least Notion of it. Some would have it, that the best Part of it was given away when the Islands of St. Peter and *Miquelon* were ceded to the *French*; others thought, when you had drove them from Cape *Breton*, the Fishery was secured to us; some, again, would have *Canso* to be the best Part of the Fishery; others preferred *Halifax*; and even some went so far as to think *Boston* in *New England* a very convenient Place to carry on the Fish Trade: But I will take upon me to say, that you need not be jealous of all the Cod Fisheries in the World, had you all to the Northward of Cape *Race* in *Newfoundland*. But I am sorry to say, that the *French* have, by far, the best Part of it.

It is very true, that Fish are caught, in all those Places I have mentioned, but only at

a certain Time of the Year; seldom or ever after *May*. There were, some Years ago, a Set of Merchants, at *Boston*, who formed themselves into a Company, with great Expectations. They hired many of the *Newfoundland* Masters of Vessels into their Service; but, in about Two Years, the Company found their Endeavours of no Effect; therefore gave over all Thoughts of pursuing it any longer, as their Losses were very great.

There are still Schooners kept, by particular People, to fish some Part of the Year only: No one took more Pains than Mr. Alderman *Janssen*, to push the Fishery at *Halifax*, but to no Purpose: The same may be said of *Canso*, &c. &c.

Many have been the Times when the Masters of Vessels have left the Banks with a fine Loading of Fish; and, when they arrived at the aforesaid Places, upon opening their Hatches, found all their Cargo turned to Maggots.

The great Staple for Fish, is from Cape *Race*, all along the Eastern Coast of *Newfoundland*

*foundland* to the Streights of *Bellifle*, and from thence to Point *Riche* (the Part inhabited by the *English*), which begins in *Placentia Bay*, and continues all along Shore to *Trapassee*, *Fermoves*, *Feriland*, and as far Northward as Cape *Bonavista*.

The *French*, at the Time they were in Possession of Cape *Breton*, had a small Fishery carried on at *Louisburg*, and at several Creeks and Coves opposite to the said Island on the Coast of *Newfoundland*, and some within the Gulph of St. *Lawrence*; but their greatest Resource, was from Cape *Bonavista* to Point *Riche*.

This was the Fishery we had then Cause to lament the Loss of; and, indeed, so we have to this Day; the Fish in those Parts being in greater Abundance, and the Fishery carried on at Half the Expence, the Weather being much better for curing, because the Fogs don't go any farther Northward than the great Bank of *Newfoundland* (the Northward Point of which runs to Latitude 48 or 49 Deg.), which is something to the Northward of *Bonavista*.

*It*

It may be asked, Why don't our Fishermen extend their Fisheries Northward? The Reason is very clear: The Expence of building Storehouses, clearing of Plantations, and building Fishing Rooms, Stages, &c. &c. are very expensive; therefore none would embark in it, without a Certainty of Protection, both in Time of Peace and War; as it takes some Years to be properly fixed to carry on the said Trade. There is not any Thing so advantageous and necessary, as to have Numbers of People remain in the Country the whole Winter.

It is very clear, that not a Foot of the Country from Cape *Sable*, in the Bay of *Fundy*, to Cape *Race*, in *Newfoundland*, is worth One Shilling to *England*, otherwise than the Troops you keep there, are a Check upon the *French* and *Indians*.

We have now an Opportunity of establishing that most valuable Branch of the Fish Trade; and there is nothing wanting but our falling on a proper Method to make the Returns double to what they ever have been.

I would

I would therefore propose, that a Governor for the whole Island should reside at St. John's, which should be the Capital, as it is the most convenient Place to make up a Convoy; and it is likewise the nearest Place that can be for the Center of Trade, and also the most Eastern Part of the Island; by which Means, Ships cannot be imbayed; but, in Half an Hour after they are out of the Harbour, they have Sea Room enough, and can stand North or South with great Safety.

St. John's, Feriland, Carboniere, and Trinity Harbours, should be put on the same Footing, they were intended in 1745; and such other Forts and Batteries, should be erected at such Harbours, as should be found useful and advantageous for carrying on the Fishery to the Northward.

St. John's, from 1745 to 1750, was very well garrisoned by Four Companies of Foot, a Captain of Artillery, with about Fifty Men; it was also well supplied with all Manner of Stores, and about Forty Pieces of Cannon.

Fer-

*Feriland, Carboniere, and Trinity Harbours*, had each an Officer of Artillery, with about Eighteen or Twenty Men, and an Officer of Foot and Thirty Men, were intended for each of those Places. There were as many Cannon, with Powder and Shot, and in short all Manner of Stores, that were found necessary for their Defence, with about 200 small Arms at each Place, for the use of the Inhabitants.

Had those Places remained on the before-mentioned Footing, I am convinced, that France could not have sent an Armament against it at the Time they did, to meet with any success, and indeed the success they met with at the Time they took it, was chiefly owing to the Irish Roman Catholics.

I am of opinion, that none but the Inhabitants of *Great Britain, Newfoundland, with Jersey and Guernsey*, (being *Protestants*) should have the Privilege of being possessed of any Fish Rooms, or Plantations in the Island of *Newfoundland*. The *Irish Romish Catholics* are useful as Servants, but very dangerous in that Part of the World, when in Power.

I would

I would propose, that all Manner of Necessaries for the support of the Fishermen, should be made as cheap as possible, provided you don't hurt the Mother Country. Every Thing for the carrying on this immense Branch of Trade, is the Product of *England*, except Beef, Pork, and Butter, from *Ireland*; Rum, Sugar, and Melasses, from the *West-Indies* and *New-England*; as also a good deal of Bread and Flour, from *New-York*, *Philadelphia*, *Boston*. &c.

We have from *Portugal* and *Spain*, Salt and Olive Oil, and a mere Trifle of Port and *Lisbon* Wines; Oil is what the Fishermen cannot do without, to eat with salt Fish, both Winter and Summer; and as the Oil must first be brought to *England*, and then re-shipped for *Newfoundland*, notwithstanding it leaves but the meereft Trifle at the Custom House, yet the double Freight, and many other Expences, make it come exceeding dear to the Fishermen; therefore was it allowed to be taken on Board the Ships that are constantly returning from *Lisbon*, and other Ports, with Salt to *Newfoundland*, the Fishermen would be able to

D

purchase

purchase it at 75 per cent. cheaper, than its coming by the Way of *England*.

There is an illicit Trade carried on from Jersey and Guernsey, that I think hurtful to the fair Trader, viz. *French Brandy*, Canvas, Cordage, and sundry other Commodities, not of so much Consequence as the Former.

Every Two Boats \* will require the following Stores and Necessaries (in order to fit them out for the Fishery), nearly calculated at what they cost in *England*.

The Boats are always built in *Newfoundland*.

|                   |   |   |   |                |    |    |
|-------------------|---|---|---|----------------|----|----|
| Two Boats         | - | - | - | $\text{£ } 60$ | 0  | 0  |
| Two Sets of Sails | - | - | - | 16             | 0  | 0  |
| Two new Roads     | - | - | - | 7              | 12 | 0  |
| Riggan            | - | - | - | -              | 4  | 13 |
| Carried over      |   |   |   | $\text{£ } 28$ | 5  | 0  |

\* My Reason for calculating for Two Boats, is, because most People keep more than One; and many of those Things that are necessary for one, will serve both.

Four

( 19 )

|                                    |              |    |    |   |   |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----|----|---|---|
|                                    | Brought over | £  | 28 | 5 | 0 |
| Four Graplins                      | - - -        | 8  | 4  | 0 | 0 |
| Bread Boxes and Keggs              | - -          | 1  | 4  | 0 | 0 |
| Kettles and Frying Pans            | - -          | 0  | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Six hundred fishing Hooks          | - - -        | 1  | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Pewes and Gafts                    | - - -        | 0  | 6  | 0 | 0 |
| Six Splitters and four Cutters     | - -          | 0  | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Two Lanthorns                      | - - -        | 0  | 7  | 0 | 0 |
| Two Boats Compasses                | - -          | 0  | 8  | 0 | 0 |
| Gimblets and Files                 | - - -        | 0  | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Two hundred Weight of Lead         | - -          | 1  | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Four dozen long Lines              | - -          | 2  | 8  | 0 | 0 |
| Six ditto Rand Twine               | - -          | 0  | 9  | 0 | 0 |
| Four Saucepans                     | - - -        | 0  | 4  | 0 | 0 |
| Bowles and Platters                | - - -        | 0  | 8  | 0 | 0 |
| A Mooring and small Anchors        | - - - - -    | 10 | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Two Hatchets                       | - - -        | 0  | 4  | 0 | 0 |
| Squede Hooks                       | - - -        | 0  | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Squede Lines                       | - - - -      | 0  | 8  | 0 | 0 |
| One Hundred Weight of sorted Nails | - - -        | 1  | 12 | 0 | 0 |

For the Shoremen that catch  
the Bait and cure the Fish, *viz.*

Bait Boat, with Sails and sundry Materials - - - 9 0 0

|              |         |    |    |   |
|--------------|---------|----|----|---|
| Carried over | £       | 68 | 14 | 0 |
| D 2          | A Lance |    |    |   |

( 20 )

|   |   |     |    |      |
|---|---|-----|----|------|
| Brought over  | £ | 68  | 14 | 0    |
| A Lance Swaine  | - | -   | 43 | 0 0  |
| Six Herring Nets  | - | -   | 6  | 0 0  |
| Two Coding Nets   | - | -   | 2  | 10 0 |
| Three hundred Weight of<br>Swaine Line  | - | -   | 5  | 14 0 |
| Pots, Kettles, Fryingpans,<br>Saucepans, Bowls, Plat-<br>ters, Gunpowder, Shot,<br>Hammers, &c. | - | -   | 8  | 10 0 |
| Sundry Sorts of Nails   | - |     | 3  | 10 0 |
| Four Hatchets   | - | -   | 0  | 8 0  |
|   | £ | 108 | 6  | 0    |

Suppose Two Thousand Boats are kept, and Necessaries carried out of *England*, yearly, for every Two Boats, at the above Calculation (exclusive of the Boats themselves), will, in the Whole, make 108,300*l.* with Cloathing, of different Sorts, sent from *England* for 21,040 People, at Six Pounds each; will amount to 126,240*l.* The Amount of Provisions, at Eight Pence *per Diem*, carried out of *England* for the above Number of Men, for Eight Months (which

is

is the longest Time they are on that Service) will be 171,125*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* So that this valuable Trade will take yearly, from *England*, to the Amount of Four Hundred and ~~405,665~~<sup>405,665</sup> *b.* *s.* Five Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-five Pounds, Six Shillings, and Eight Pence, Sterling, *per Annum*, exclusive of the Wear and Tear of Shipping.

I am convinced, was this Trade carried on as it ought to be, and proper Settlements made to the Northward, Forty Thousand People might be employed in it; and, consequently, the Exports and Returns, to and from *England*, would be double.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| The yearly Returns<br>for Fish and Oil, from<br>1745 to 1752, at the<br>Calculation made on this<br>Account, will be, for | Fish, 1,032,000 <i>l.</i><br>Oil, 92,880 <i>l.</i> |
|---|--|

There is one Circumstance more, which I must beg Leave to observe, *viz.* That I am sure the *French* would never have made so great a Point in getting a Footing

ing on the Islands of St. Peter's and *Miquillon*, but with a View of being enabled to come at Fish at a much cheaper Rate than they could (or can possibly) catch it, which is by carrying on an illicit Trade, with the Fishing People of *Newfoundland*. It is inconceivable what Quantities of French Rum, Melasses, &c. they bartered wth the *Newfoundland* Traders, when they were in Possession of Cape Breton; and how much more will they do so now, when they are so much nearer our Island of *Newfoundland*. I have known them bring Ships even into several of the Bays of *Newfoundland*, and Boats and Ships haye met them, without ever coming to an Anchor, and exchanged with them, to the Amount of their whole Cargo.

I cannot help again observing the Absurdity of a Captain of a Man of War's being Governor of so extensive a Branch of Trade. It is not in the Nature of Things, from their short Residence there, that they can ever arrive to any Degree of Knowledge of it. I have known them give Grants to particular People, that would have ruined the whole Trade, and could mention

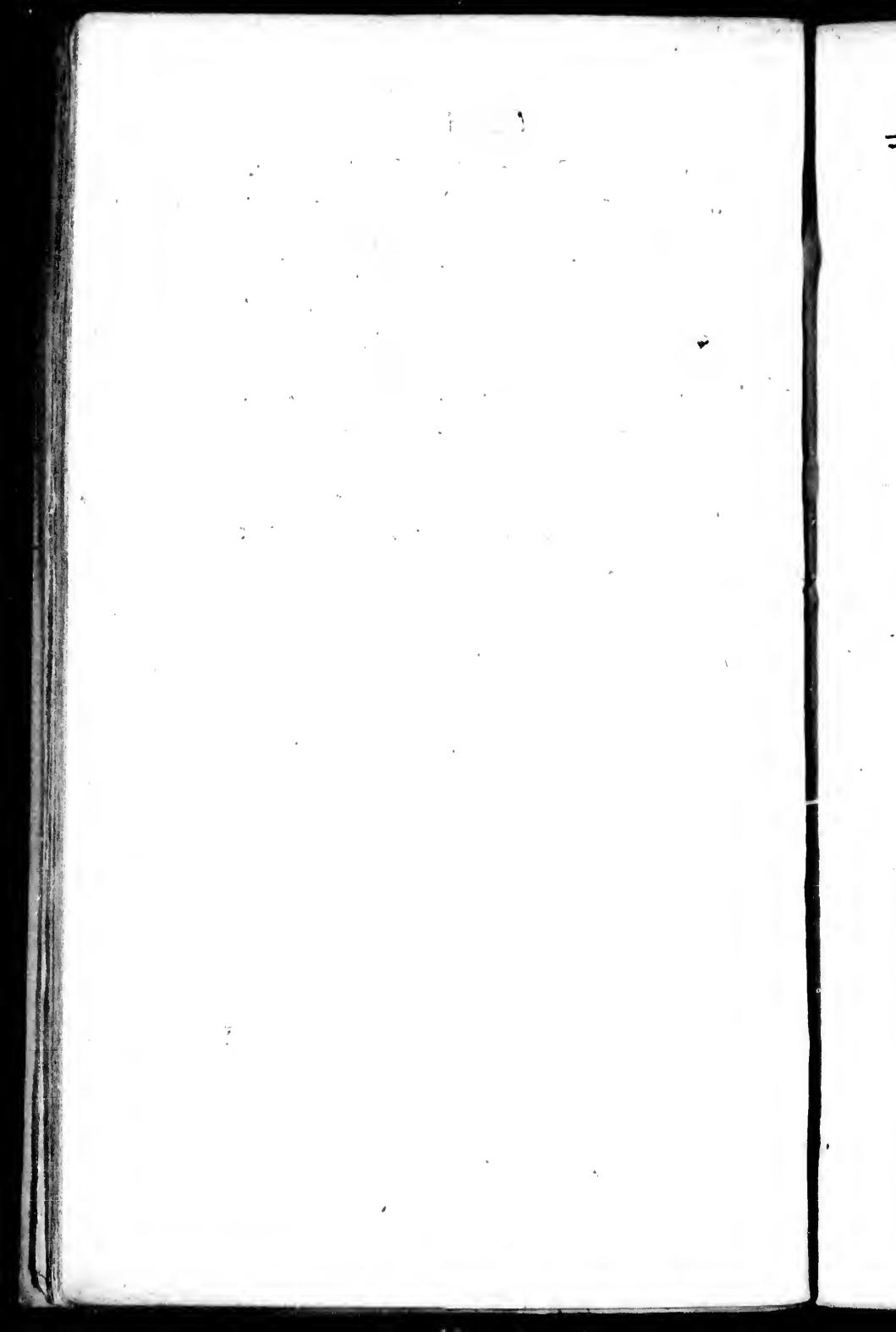
mention the Names of those Governors, but rather chuse to avoid it, as they did it for want of a true Knowledge of the Trade, and therefore were liable to be imposed upon by designing People. Sir George Rodney, when he was Governor, invalidated several of them, and one, in particular; which was a Patent for a Man to have the sole Privilege of drawing Baite at a certain Beech; which, had it remained in Force, would have ruined the remaining Part of the Inhabitants for Forty Leagues along the Coast.

Best fishing between 30° & 40° latitude  
on S. American coast

1697 - Balaquin fabt. Sines - Newf<sup>d</sup>  
1803 - St. Domingo  
1815 - Cape of Good Hope

No grants till 1610 by Sir James from  
Cape Bonavista

to D' St. L' Humpion, 1611  
1620 to G. Calvert THE  
1651 : R. D. R.



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THE  
S T A T E  
O F T H E  
Newfoundland FISHERY,  
WITH A  
P L A N  
Proposed to the  
ADMINISTRATION

The 12th of May, 1761,  
To exclude the *French* from that TRADE.

By Captain *T. COLE*.

**T**H E *French*, as appears by the Thirteenth \* Article of the Treaty of *Utrecht*, cede the whole Island of Newfoundland

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\* The Thirteenth Article of the Treaty of *Utrecht*.  
“ The Island called *Newfound'land*, with the adjacent Islands, shall, from this Time forward, belong, of Right,

*foundland* to the Queen, reserving only to themselves, the Liberty of Fishing on the Coast, from Cape *Bonavista*, to the Northern Point of the said Island ; and from thence running down by the Western Side, stretching as far as Point *Riche* : Also, to build Stages, made of Boards, and Huts, necessary and usual for Drying their Fish ; but

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Right, wholly to *Britain* ; and, to that End, the Town and Fortress of *Placentia*, and whatever other Places, in the said Island, are in Possession of the *French*, shall be yielded and given up within Seven Months from the Exchange of the Ratifications of this Treaty, or sooner, if possible, by the Most Christian King, to those who have a Commission from the Queen of *Great Britain* for that Purpose. Nor shall the Most Christian King, his Heirs and Successors, or any of their Subjects, at any Time hereafter, lay Claim to any Right to the said Island and Islands, or to any Part of it, or them. Moreover, it shall not be lawful for the Subjects of *France* to fortify any Place, in the said Island of *Newfoundland*, or to erect any Buildings there, besides Stages made of Boards and Huts, necessary and usual for drying of Fish, or to resort to the said Island beyond the Time necessary for Fishing, and drying of Fish; but it shall be allowed to the Subjects of *France* to catch Fish, and to dry them on Land in that Part only, and in no other besides that, of the said Island of *Newfoundland*, which stretches from the Place called Cape *Bonnavista*, to the Northern Point of the said Island, and from thence running down by the Western Side, reaches as far as the Place called Point *Riche*, &c. &c."

not

not to resort thither beyond the Time of Fishing, and Drying of Fish.

As it seems clear, by the Terms of this Treaty, that the *French* Plenipotentiaries were better instructed than ours, in Regard to the Value of the Fishery; they chose the North Part of the Coast, where the Fish are more plentiful, better in Kind, and are dried in a great deal less Time; the Air being clear and dry, during the Fishing Seasons; by which Means, they cure their Fish at much less Expence, and get to the Markets sooner than our People possibly can; and, consequently, carry their Fish there in better Condition than we do ours: Because the South Part of this Coast, where our People fish, is always covered with Fogs, and mizzling Rains; which keep the Fish so long in drying, that the Maggots breed in them, and render them of less Value, at the *European* Markets. But within a few Years after the signing of the aforesaid Treaty, our People became perfectly acquainted with the Difference between the North and South Parts of the said Island, and how much the North Part was

preferable to the South in the Expence of catching, curing, and drying of Fish ; and, likewise, how much sooner the *French* got to the Markets than they did, as well as the Preference that was given to their Fish, which encouraged our People to make an Attempt to fish there also ; having, by the Treaty, more than an equal Right, upon the North Part of the Coast of the said Island : But they found, that the *French* had not only built Huts and Stages on all the best Parts of that Coast, but assumed an exclusive Right of fishing there : So that in or about the Year 1742, they fired on our Fishing Vessels, and destroyed some of their Boats. Complaints of those Insults being made to our then Ministers, a Remonstrance was made to the Court of *France* ; but no Satisfaction being insisted on, on our Side, the *English* Fishermen never ventured to go there any more, lest further Mischief should ensue. The *French* then so far succeeded in that most valuable Branch of Trade, as to get the Preference in most of the *European* Markets ; which, at a moderate Computation, makes a Difference, to this Nation, in the Sale of Fish, of upw<sup>ards</sup> of Two Millions

Millions Sterling *per Annum*. Besides the important Consideration of those Fisheries being their greatest Nursery for Seamen, the *French*, of late Years, having seldom fewer than Six or Seven Hundred Ships, most of which, from Four to Five Hundred Tons Burden, and the least carrying from Forty to Fifty Men each, besides several Thousands of Fishermen, employed in that Trade.

The above being the true State of the *Newfoundland* Fishery before the Commencement of this War; and as that Fishery may be made of greater Consequence to this Nation, than the Mines of *Peru* and *Mexico* are to *Spain*; no Time seems more proper, than the present, for accomplishing this End, lest we should not succeed in totally excluding the *French* from that Trade by a Treaty; our Ships of War having already driven all the *French* Fishing Vessels from that Coast, and destroyed their Huts and Stages: And as we are demolishing the Fortifications of *Louisburgh*; it is therefore proposed, to send one of the Regiments which garrisoned that Place, to the North Part of

New-

*Newfoundland*, together with all the Materials that may be saved out of the Works of that Fortress, in order to build Forts on the principal Places where the *French* had their Huts and Stages from Cape *Bonnavista* to *Point Riche*; all this may be performed in Six or Eight Months, there being great Plenty of Timber, the properest Article for building of Forts in that cold Climate; because Brick or Stone-work would be destroyed by the severe Frosts, in the Winter Seasons. There must also be sent, with the Troops, a sufficient Number of Smiths, Sawyers, Carpenters, &c. to carry on the different Kinds of Work; and some Ships of War, to protect them till this is compleated.

When the Work is finished, it will be a sure Protection to our Fishermen, and oblige the *French* to keep their proper Distance, as well as totally exclude them from fishing on any Part of that Coast, and effectually prevent their ever being able to bring up Seamen to man their Fleets, If one of those Regiments from *Louisburgh* cannot be spared, three or four of the new-raised Independant

Com-

Companies, together with the Company of Miners lately sent to Cape *Breton*, may be sufficient for this Service.

The French (by means of their Fishery on the North Coast of *Newfoundland*) carry on a great Trade with the *Esquameau Indians* that inhabit the vast Coast of *Labradore*, which is not above Ten Leagues Distance from the aforesaid Fishery (across the Streights of *Belle Isle*) for Furs, Deer, Elk, Buffalo Skins, &c. and on the Coast they have a great Whale Fishery, and also, bring Home great Quantities of Masts, Yards, Spars, &c. for building Ships of War; and saw vast Quantities of Plank, from the Red Pine, for their Ship and Boat-building, being the best in the World for that Purpose: Both the North Part of *Newfoundland*, and the Coast of *Labradore*, abound with those Materials.

## P O S T S C R I P T.

**I**T may not be improper to make some Apology, to the Reader, for printing these Sheets, in the Absence of Captain *Williams*. They were wrote last Year, when that Gentleman was in *England*, and a Copy presented to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations; also a few of them were distributed amongst his intimate Friends; when it was earnestly wished, that most valuable Branch of Trade would have been seriously considered in the House of Commons: and at a Time when the settling and securing of our Colonies, and Rights of Treaty (so grossly and scandalously abused, before the late War), ought to have been the grand Business of Administration: But, by the Instability of our People then employed, who have since undergone almost a total Change, those Copies may have been lost, or mis-laid. Therefore Captain *Williams's* Friend, with whom he left the Manuscript, thinking this the most proper Time to publish and disperse it by way of Pamphlet; hoping, by that Means, it may fall into such Hands as will make a proper

proper \* Use of it; and especially, as the Subject is now become, more than ever, an interesting and a most serious Concern towards the Welfare, and, I may say, Safety, of this Kingdom; the French still continuing to make † Encroachments on our Fisheries, and spiriting up the *Indians* with considerable Presents, and fair Promises, of which we have lately had many publick and private Accounts from that Part of the World. An || Extract of a Letter from a Person of undoubted Veracity, dated at St. John's, Newfoundland, the 28th of October last, received whilst the above was in the Press, deserves particular Attention; and may, therefore, properly be inserted here.

December,  
1765.

T. C.

\* The strict Adherence to Truth, in this Work, will, it is hoped, sufficiently apologize for Want of the Embellishments of an Author, as it is an Affair of Business, and not of Party.

† Encroachments, as appears by the Reports of Mr. Palliser, &c. &c.

|| This Extract was published in the Gazetteer of Thursday the 5th Instant, and in the Craftsman of the 7th, because it was then uncertain in what Time this Pamphlet might appear.

*Extract of a LETTER from St. John's, New-  
foundland, October 28, 1765.*

" Dear Sir,

" I Wrote you Word, some Time ago, that I. about 300 of the *Nova Scotia* or *Mick-mack Indians* had got over to this Island, and had landed in the Bay of *Despair*, to the Westward; and we did suppose they were making the best of their Way to the *French* at their two Islands, *Miquelon* and *St. Peter's*: Since which, I am informed that about 150 *Acadians*, who did not chuse to take the Oaths, are gone and settled at *Miquelon*—don't you see what all this tends to? Is it not clear that the *French* are using every Stratagem to make the *Indians* believe that they will still be able to support them? And do they not take every Opportunity of shewing their Men of War as far up the River *St. Laurence* as possible? All the *French* Men of War were loaded with Goods of various Kinds, some Part of which was for Presents for the *Indians*, and the rest to smuggle for our Fish. Their Men of War were often seen on the Banks by our Fishermen; then they disappeared for a Time, and

and nobody could say where they were gone, notwithstanding our Men of War did every Thing that could be done in ferreting of them from Place to Place.

If proper Care is not taken of us, this Fishery must be lost; and we, in a little Time, fall a Sactifice.

I know the Opinion of many of the great People at Home, that our Men of War will be sufficient to protect us; but I will venture to say, that all the Men of War in *England* cannot do it whilst the *French* Settlements are so near us.

The Weather will not permit the Men of War to keep the Seas late, nor even to lie in the Harbours in Safety; that is the Time the *French* and *Indians* will make their Incursions, and destroy us: And I say, that nothing but respectable Garrisons with Land Forces will keep them in Awe:--- You know that these have always been my Sentiments."

