

RB 212097



Presented to the
LIBRARY *of the*
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

by

The Birks Family Foundation

TPL 6464

DIONNE 605

GAGNON I; 976

WALTON p. 428

JCB 1208

KRESS 5774

SABIN 15989

O'DEA 158 (Photocopy Only)

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

IMPORTANCE of CANADA,

AND THE

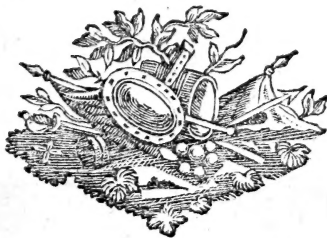
Bay and River of St. LAWRENCE;

And of

The AMERICAN Fisheries dependant on the
Islands of CAPE BRETON, St. JOHN'S, NEW-
FOUNDLAND, and the Seas adjacent.

ADDRESS'D TO

The Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT.



L O N D O N,

Printed for W. OWEN, near Temple-Bar, 1759.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

T O T H E

R I G H T H O N O U R A B L E

W I L L I A M P I T T,

S I R,

AS the present just and necessary War, was commenced for securing our Settlements in *North America*, from the Incroachments of an ambitious Neighbour; and as under your Auspices, it has been steadily conducted with that View;
and

and Providence has at length crown'd the Valour of our gallant Countrymen with Success; I do my self the Honour to present you with the following Pages, in which the Worth of their Conquest is endeavour'd to be shewn.

If the Value of these places, had been at all understood, they would have been more attended to, in making the several Treaties of *Ryswick*, *Utrecht*, and *Aix-la-Chapelle*; and in Consequence of its not being attended to, we have been plunged into fresh wars, with endless Expence; which till they are attended to, will be always the Case; and therefore as a good Citizen, I thought

thought it my **Duty**, to do all in my **Power**, to enforce so necessary an **Attention**.

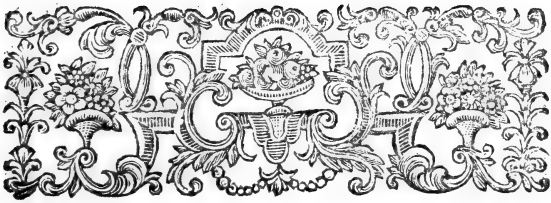
The Confidence your Country so justly reposes, on your great Capacity in the Management of Public Affairs; your known Integrity, in the Conduct of them; and your unshaken Adherence, to the true Interests of *Great Britain*; give Propriety to this Address: And leave no Room, to doubt, that what has been hitherto wanting in every Treaty of Peace, will by your Care be supplied in the next; which must equally endear you, to every intelligent Person of this Age; and secure your Fame to latest Posterity,

sterity, who will, in this Respect,
reap continually the Fruits of
your wise and firm Administra-
tion.

I am,

With profound Respect, &c.

London, October, 17, 1759.



CONSIDERATIONS

On the Importance of

CANADA, and the Bay and River of St. LAWRENCE; and of the AMERICAN Fisheries, dependant on the Islands of CAPE BRETON, St. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, and the Seas adjacent.



THE Naval Power of *France* had its Rise, and still receives its main Support, from our Fisheries in *North America*. Till the *French* were admitted into it, they did not dare to build a Ship of War without our leave: but since they have been introduced into it, they have become so very formidable, as to have contended, singly, against the two great maritime Powers of *Europe* united.

B

Every

Every ship of *France*, in this Trade, is obliged to carry a certain Number of Landmen and Boys to train up. About the Year 1700, it was computed, and allowed on all Hands, that there were, on this Fishery, 800 Sail of *English* and *French* Ships; and it is pretty certain, that our Share of them was not 300: It may be even questioned, whether we did not fall short of 250.

The *French* have a Nursery of 50,000 Seamen, founded upon this Trade; from whom are sprung as many Thousands more, who supply the rest of their Navigation. There are not above 80,000 belonging to *England*. We, indeed, have a much larger Navy; but when that is fully employed, the rest of our Navigation must be greatly distressed; and we are obliged, in War time, to employ Foreigners to carry on our Trade; who, being paid high Wages, carry off Abundance of our Wealth; and all by our own Folly. But it is still more surprizing, that we should have continued so long indolent; and have permitted so dangerous a Neighbour to grow wealthy and formidable, without our so much as endeavouring to deprive him of those immense Treasures of the Seas, which we have an original and undoubted Right to enjoy unrival'd

We have nothing left, which we can call a Fishery, except that we are now speaking

Trades ; supplying the Natives of that vast extended Country with Woollen and other *British* Manufactures ; and depriving the *French* of the abundant Store of excellent * Timber which that Country affords for Ship Building ; would effectually secure to us the *American* Fisheries ; as also the *British* Empire in the Continent of *America* ; which can never be safe, whilst *Canada* is in the Hands of *France*. As a Confirmation of this, it may not be improper to quote Part of the Romantic Grant which the *French* King made in 1712, to Monfr. *Crozat*, of a Country much larger than all *Europe* ; and to which he has not the least Shadow of Right, or Title.

“ WE, by these Presents, sign’d by our
 “ Hand, have appointed, and do appoint the
 “ said *Sieur Crozat*, solely to carry on a Trade

band Trade, in all Sorts of European Commodities, to *Mexico*, with which they have a Communication by Means of the Lakes and the river *Mississipi* ; which yield them, in return, Gold and great Quantities of Silver : the vast Advantages whereof wou’d be soon found by his Majesty’s Subjects, should We be so happy as to remain in quiet Possession of this Country ; and enjoy the free Navigation of the Rivers of *St. Laurence* and *Mississipi*. They also carry on a considerable Whale Fishery, in two Bays, on the *Labrador* Coast, which is comprehended within the Charter of the *Hudson’s Bay* Company.

* Being last War, in the King’s Yard at *Plymouth*, and viewing some Prize Timber from *Quebec* (purchas’d for his Majesty’s Use) the Officers declared, that our King had no such Timber in any of his Yards. And the Scarcity of good Timber in *England*, at this Time, is but too well known.

“ in all the Lands possess’d by Us, and bound-
 “ ed by *New Mexico*, and by the Lands of
 “ the *English* of *Carolina* ; all the Establish-
 “ ments, Ports, Havens, and Rivers ; and
 “ principally the Port and Haven of the *Isle*
 “ *Dauphine*, heretofore called *Massacre* ; the
 “ River of *St. Lewis*, heretofore called *Mis-*
 “ *issippi*, from the Edge of the Sea as far as
 “ the *Illinois* ; together with the River of *St.*
 “ *Philip*, heretofore called *Ouebache* ; with all
 “ the Countries, Territories, Lakes within
 “ Land ; and the Rivers which fall directly or
 “ indirectly into that Part of the River *St.*
 “ *Lewis*.”

The Extent of this Country, from North to
 South, is 2400 Miles ; and from West, West-
 ward about 3500 Miles, filled with nume-
 rous Nations of *Indians* : It contains the whole
 North Coast of the Gulf of *Florida* or *Mexico* ;
 into which, from this Country, run above
 twelve large Rivers, particularly the famous
 River *Mississippi*, many of whose Branches al-
 most join Three of the Five great Lakes that
 fall into the River *St. Lawrence* ; which River
 lies South West, and North East, on the Back of
 all our Colonies, on the Continent of *America*.
 On it’s Banks, and on these Lakes, the
French have built several Fortifications ; the
 destructive Consequences of which, to our Co-
 lonies, we have seen, and felt, but too seve-
 rely. The *French*, united with these nu-
 merous Nations, (whom they convert to their
 super-

superstitious Religion) intermarry with, and bring up in an utter Detestation of the *English*; would, in Time, have driven our People, on the Frontiers, into the Sea; had not a most auspicious Attention, for the *British* Possessions in *America*, very providentially prevail'd, at this Juncture, in his Majesty's Councils.

To that Part of the Continent, called by us *Nova Scotia*, and by the *French Acadia*; belongs the Island of *Cape Breton*, of a large Extent, and not two Leagues from the Shore. Each Side of the Channel; form'd by this Island*; abounds with a great Number of good Harbours, strongly fortified by Nature; some of which the industrious *French* have rendered more so, by Art. There are also many Banks dependant upon this Coast, abounding with as great Quantities of Cod, as any Part of *Newfoundland*. Here, and at the Isle of *Sables*, the *French*† formerly obliged the *British* Sub-

* All the Coast, of the Islands of *Cape Breton* and *St. John's*, abounds with Cod Fish; as does also the Bay of *Fundy*, *Gaspie Bay* at the Mouth of the River *St. Lawrence*; and likewise the Straits of *Belleisle*, between *Newfoundland* and *Labrador*, at which last Place the *French* have carried on this Fishery; (even during the present War;) close to our Shore, in Barks only, and cured their Fish on the Land; which, two or three small Forts built there, would entirely have prevented, and secur'd to Us. We carry on this Fishery to much greater disadvantage, by employing large Vessels and going 30 Leagues to catch our Fish.

† In 1699 the *French* collected this Tax of ten Shillings per Head.

jects to pay ten Shillings *per* Head, for catching their own Fish; which they collected by Ships of Force, sent from *Quebec* for that Purpose. The *New Englanders*, and the Inhabitants of the adjacent Colonies, always looked upon these Places, as so far belonging to the Crown of *Great-Britain*; that they used to fetch their * Coals from the Isle of *Cape Breton*, even in Time of War, unless interrupted by Privateers.

The *French*, if dispossest'd of this Fishery, would be obliged to take their Mud Fish, or Cod salted wet in Bulk, from us; except his most Christian Majesty should think proper to prohibit it, at the risk of starving his own Subjects. The Produce of this Sort of Fish would, in such Case, pay amply for all our superfluous Imports from *France*; where there is yearly consumed, of this Kind of Fish, to the amount of some hundred thousand Pounds Sterling.

The great Advantage of this Fishery, and the Danger to be apprehended, should the *French* continue in Possession of it; toge-

* In 1758, after we had taken *Louisbourg*, we sent thither, from *England*, 3000 Tons of Coals for the Use of that Garrison; although it was very well known here at that Time (and even in the last War) that they might have been supplied with Coals, from the Spot, for less than ten Shillings a Ton: a Mistake which, it is not doubted, will be rectify'd for the future.

ther

ther with their other Usurpations in *North America*, would not have been so much expatiated upon here ; did not a fair Opportunity now offer, for us to secure to ourselves this vast Support of our Naval Power, and of our *American Empire*.

In 1583, Queen *Elizabeth* sent the first Governor, Sir *Humphrey Gilbert* to *Newfoundland*. In the Reign of King *James* the first, this fishing Trade was in a flourishing Condition, and entirely enjoyed by the *English* unrival'd. It continued the same in the Reign of *Charles* the first; as appears by Letters Patent, bearing date the 10th of *February* 1633, in the ninth Year of his Reign, reciting, *viz.*

“ That the Region and Country called *New-*
 “ *foundland*, had been acquired to the domi-
 “ nions of his Progenitors, which he held; and
 “ his People had for many Years resorted to
 “ those Parts; where, and on the Coast ad-
 “ joining, they employed themselves in Fish-
 “ ing; whereby a great Number of his Peo-
 “ ple had been set at Work, and Navigation
 “ and Mariners much increased, &c.” And
 his Majesty then ordained some Laws, for the
 better Government of the Fishing, Ships, and
 Inhabitants, &c.

In 1638, the *French* obtained Liberty, from
 King *Charles* the first, to fish there, and in ac-
 knowledg-

knowledge of our Right, were to pay a Tribute of five *per Cent*; and his Majesty sent a Governor thither to collect it. At that Time, the *French* had very few Ships. But they grew weary in a few Years of paying this Tribute; upon which they went to the South Side of the Island, built two Forts, and carried on this Fishery to the Westward of *Cape Race*. In 1670, they took in two Bays more, *viz. Placentia* and *Passara*; and thereby augmented their fishing to ten times what it was before. And so rapid was the Increase of their Navigation, by this Fishery, that they, in a few Years after, had raised a Naval Power able to contend, singly, with the united Fleets of *England* and *Holland*.—But we have now just Reason to hope, from the well known Wisdom of those who at present are the Guardians of our Colonies; that the Consequences of the *French* enjoying so great a Share in this Fishery, is as well understood at this critical Juncture, as it was in the Year 1659; when the Merchants in Order to guard against so growing an Evil, deliver'd the following Remonstrance to the Government.

“ We had many *English* Ships, and many
 “ thousands of Seamen that had their constant
 “ Employment for *Newfoundland*; and being
 “ loaden with Fish, the most of them sailed
 “ from thence for several Ports of *Spain*, and
 “ its Territories; as from 50 to 60 to *Bilboa*,
 C “ and

“ and *St. Sebastian's*, 40 to *Cadiz* and *St. Lu-*
 “ *car*, 20 to *Malaga* and *Velez*, and from 20
 “ to 30 for *Valencia*, *Alicant*, and *Cartagena* ;
 “ besides others that went to the *Groyne*, and
 “ other Sea Port Towns in *Spain* ; the most
 “ of the Remainder went for *Majorca* and *Mi-*
 “ *norca*, *Sicilia*, *Sardinia*, *Naples* ; and spent
 “ in the Dukedom of *Milan*, and in victualling
 “ their Galleons, Galleys, &c. Hereby (well
 “ considered) we had great Advantage; for that,
 “ clearly, there were added to the Stock of the
 “ Nation, at least £ 500,000 *per Annum* ; and
 “ so much got out of the Sea, by the Labour
 “ and Industry of our People, and the Ship-
 “ ing maintained. And it was also a Nursery
 “ for Seamen, *breeding more than all other*
 “ *Trades whatsoever*. They carry out not so
 “ much Beef and Bread as they would have
 “ eaten in *England*, the most of their Food
 “ being Fish : And if they had not been thus
 “ employed, perchance they might have lived
 “ idle at home ; and so have been unprof-
 “ itable Members of the Commonwealth, and
 “ to have their Subsistence from other indus-
 “ trious Persons.

“ Whilst we assisted the *French*, they have
 “ in a Manner got this whole Trade. This
 “ Year they had above 250 Ships at *New-*
 “ *foundland* ; and have obtained free Permif-
 “ sions from the King of *Spain*, to enter into
 “ the Ports of *Bilboa*, *St. Sebastian's* and *Pas-*
 “ *sague*,

“ *sague*, with their Fish and Men ; where
 “ they do not only furnish the Men of
 “ War that take us, but the Fish is carried
 “ from 3 to 400 Miles up into the Country
 “ of *Spain*.

“ *St. John de Luz*, had not formerly above
 “ eight Ships, and this Year they have near
 “ fifty Sail ; a good Part of which were *En-*
 “ *glish* Prizes, and without doubt *incovertly*
 “ the *Spaniards* have a great Interest in them ;
 “ and it will be a hard Matter now to get this
 “ Trade again from the French.”

The Authors of this Remonstrance, plainly fore-
 saw the bad Consequences which would en-
 sue, should the *French* continue this Fishery.
 Nevertheless King *Charles* the second, in 1675,
 (the 27th Year of his Reign) did not only con-
 firm the *French* therein, but even remitted
 them the Tribute of 5 per Cent. They also
 obtained, from King *James* the second, a Con-
 firmation of the aforesaid Grants. Their ob-
 taining a Confirmation of these Grants, from 3
 succeeding Kings of *England*, shews, that they
 themselves were well acquainted with the
 Weakness of their own Title. But in King
William's Declaration of War against the *French*,
 their In-
 croachment upon our Trade, and upon
 the Fishery of *Newfoundland*, is particularly set
 forth, as one of the Causes of the War ; and as

even contrary to the very Statutes of these Realms, by which it is enacted, Stat. 10, 11. of King *William* the third, Cap. 25.

“ That whereas, the Trade and Fishery of
 “ *Newfoundland*, is a beneficial Trade to this
 “ Kingdom, not only in employing great
 “ Numbers of Seamen and Ships, and export-
 “ ing and consuming great Quantities of Provi-
 “ sions and Manufactures of this Realm; where-
 “ by many Tradesmen and Artificers are kept
 “ at Work ; but also in bringing into this Na-
 “ tion, by Returns of the Effects of the said
 “ Fishery, from other Countries, great Quan-
 “ tities of Wine, Oil, *Plate*, Iron, Wool, and
 “ sundry other useful Commodities ; to the
 “ Increase of his Majesty’s Revenue, and the
 “ Encouragement of Trade and Navigation.
 “ Be it enacted, &c. That henceforth, all his
 “ Majesty’s Subjects shall have, use, and enjoy
 “ the free Trade and Traffick, and Art of
 “ Merchandising and Fishing to and from
 “ *Newfoundland* ; and take Baite and Fish on
 “ any of the Rivers, Creeks, or any of the
 “ Islands adjoining or adjacent thereunto, as
 “ fully and freely, as at any Time heretofore
 “ hath been used or enjoyed by any of the
 “ Subjects of his Majesty’s Predecessors, with-
 “ out any Hindrance, &c. of or from any Per-
 “ son whatsoever. *And that no Alien or Stran-
 “ ger whatsoever* (not residing *with England*)
 “ shall at any Time hereafter take any Baite,
 “ or use any Sort of Trade or Fishing what-
 “ soever

“foever in *Newfoundland*, or in any of the
“Places or Islands abovementioned.”

The great Increase of the Naval Power, and Wealth of *France*, will be obvious to every one who considers, that from the Year 1638, the Date of their Admittance into this Fishery, (at which Time they had very few Ships in any Part of the world) to the Year 1659, (only 21 Years) they increased their Ships in this Trade, from about 40 to about 250; and that, from this Period, to the Reign of King *James* the second, (only 25 years more) they had augmented so vastly their Wealth and Naval Power, as to make all *Europe* stand in Awe of them: A Proof how very formidable a Prince may become, by Sea and Land, who is left, during only a few Years, in quiet Possession of this Trade: by such an annual Increase of Men, Ships, Bullion, &c.

The *French* by their extraordinary Frugality, joined to other great Advantages, such as the Cheapness of Salt of their own making; the low Wages of their Mariners; the little Expence in victualling their Ships; and their having the best and most convenient Places for fishing; have almost dispossessed the *English* of this Trade, as may be instanced, in many of the Out-Ports of this Kingdom, viz. *Barnstable*, *Biddeford*, *Dartmouth*, &c. which do not employ one fourth Part of the Ships they did formerly. The two first could furnish the
Royal

Royal Navy with 400 Voluntier Sailors; whereas they now find it difficult even to man the few Vessels they fit out. But were this great fishery Trade to center with us, (as we have strong Reason to hope it will) our Western Navigation wou'd soon flourish; our Lands rise in their Value; and the Manufacturers of those Counties (in particular) be considerably enriched, by the vast Demand for their Merchandize of all Kinds.

To encourage still more this usurp'd Fishery, the French King issued out the following Edict, *viz.*

“ An Arret of the King's Council of state,
 “ by which Cod Fish caught, and Oil made,
 “ by his Subjects, fishing at *Isle Royale*, for-
 “ merly called the Island of *Cape Breton*, are
 “ exempted from all Customs during ten Years.

“ At *Fontainbleau* the 9th of *September* 1713.
 “ the King having been ever attentive to all
 “ Methods which might contribute to the In-
 “ crease of the Commerce of the Kingdom;
 “ with Respect as well to the Fisheries on the
 “ Maritime Coasts of *France*, as to those for
 “ Cod-fish green and dried on the Sea of *Ca-*
 “ *nada*: And his Majesty being desirous to
 “ procure *greater Advantages*, to those of his
 “ Subjects, who shall undertake the Fishery of
 “ dried *Cod-fish* at *Isle Royale*, called formerly
 “ the

“ the Isle of *Cape Breton*; by a general Ex-
 “ emption of the said dried *Cod-fish*, and the
 “ Oil made thereof, that shall be brought into
 “ this Kingdom, from all *Duties* of Importa-
 “ tion.—Accordingly, his Majesty in Coun-
 “ cil *ordains*; that for ten Years, beginning
 “ from the first of *January* next, they shall
 “ be exempted accordingly.”

’Tis therefore evident, that the *French* have employed all the Arts in their Power, and used every Endeavour possible, to extend their Fisheries in the *Seas* of *Canada*, to which they so insolently pretend to have a Right.

The Total, (in the Calculation of this *French American Fishery*) has varied at different Periods; but we may venture to settle it, in Time of Peace, at 900 Ships annually (each of 150 Tons, one with another) which, at 20 Quintals of Fish *per* Ton, makes 2,700,000 Quintals; and valuing the Quintal at 20 Shillings, the * annual gain to *France*, by this Fishery, will then be £2,700,000 Sterling. These 900 Ships (as above) carrying each 18 Men, one with another, make 16,200 Seamen employed only in this Fishery. So that, should this Calculation be thought but tolerably just, we need not wonder that the Naval Power of *France* should have risen to the Height, in

* Out of this annual gain, must be deducted the value of the Mud and dried *Cod-fish*, consumed in *France*.

which we have seen it, during the last and the last War. Nor would it be matter of Surprise should we again see it, after a few Years Peace, in a yet more formidable State than ever, in Case that Crown should be so fortunate, as to be left in Possession of the Islands of *Cape-Breton* and *St. John's*.

When we reflect, that this *American* Fishery is the grand Nursery for the best Seamen, and that the *French* raise out of it, five times the Number we do; we may naturally infer, that *Great-Britain*, which claims Obedience on the Ocean, will, in a few Years, become subservient to *France*, if timely care be not taken to prevent it: — And that we have it now in our Power, to preserve such Superiority, is beyond all Dispute.

By the 13th Article of the *Treaty of Utrecht*, the *French* are limited with respect to their Fishing in *Newfoundland*; which however they are well known to have always deviated from, even to this Day — They will now ('tis to be hop'd) be totally excluded from any share in this *American* Fishery, by our *Right of Conquest*. — And we shall shew, immediately, our incontestable *Title* to these Seas, from our *first Discovery*. In a word, the *French* have dealt so very treacherously by us, that we may justly lament their being possess'd of a single Inch of Land, or Sea Territory, in
North

North America: And we ought to be so well acquainted with our own Interest, as not to let slip any more, the fair Opportunity which offers itself; now the Sword is impending over their Heads; without our wresting from them, and securing to ourselves, these Territories and Seas, whence only they can have it in their Power to *destroy us*, or render us contemptible; and such we shall unpitied be, when ever the Naval Power of *France* shall become superior to that of *Great Britain*.

Our having taken, sunk, or destroy'd, during the present War, a full third Part of their Navy, has certainly lessen'd the Mischiefs which our Commerce might otherwise have sustain'd from them; at the same Time, that their Trade has been so much the more exposed to Capture, by our Men of War and Privateers.----Yet, as no Country recovers so soon, from it's Wounds, as *France*; and as the Flower of her Seamen, (now Prisoners here) must be restored to her upon a Peace; she then will need but to replace the Ships she has lost, either by building them at home, or by employing Foreigners for that Purpose, (which we well know may be done in a very few Years,) In Order for her to be as formidable a Naval Power, as she was before the commencement of the present War. It is even very natural to suppose, that the *French* will exert their utmost Endeavours, to be still more

powerful ; They having seen, and felt, from our Example, that Their very Existence as a Trading Nation, depends wholly upon Their having a mighty Navy. But should we be so happy as to establish our Possessions and Conquests in *North America* ; (neglecting nothing which may secure to us the firm and lasting Alliance and Friendship of the Indians) it will then be impossible for *France* to cultivate her Fisheries in those Seas ; from which Moment we may pronounce her no longer a Maritime Power. She may, indeed, possess Ships of War, but they will rot in her Harbours for want of Seamen (at least good ones) to man them, and of Trade to protect. The completing so glorious a Plan ; which, by the Wisdom and Fortitude of our Councils, is already brought to such great forwardness ; cannot fail of producing the most Signal Advantages to this Nation ; by furnishing the means of laying a very solid Foundation, for unburthening it of that heavy load of Debt and Taxes, under which the People have been groaning for so many Years.

To determine our Right to his Majesty's Territories in *North America*, it may not be improper to consider, by what Title any *European* Nation holds any Dominions there. *South America* was discover'd by *Columbus*, at the Expence of the King of *Spain*, about 250 Years ago ; and he has possess'd it ever since, by this *Right of Discovery* only ; which has been admit-

admitted, by all *European Nations* to this Day, as a firm and authentic Title; and acknowledged as such by the King of *England*, when he disavow'd (to *Spain*) the *Scotch Expedition to Darien*.

North America was discover'd by *Sebastian Cabot*, at the Expence of the Crown of *England*, under our *Henry the VIIth*: whence our Title, to the Whole of *North America*, is full as firm and authentic, as that of the Crown of *Spain* to *South America*, which has never been questioned.

Both the *Dutch* and *English* claim a Right to *Greenland*, as being the first Discoverers; and from their setting up *Marks* in that Country: Now, such *Marks* did *Sebastian Cabot* erect, in various Parts of *North America*.—Is it not just, that those Nations, who are at the Trouble and Expence of fitting out *Expeditions*, for making *Discoveries*, should reap the Benefit of them? Or is it equitable that one Person should reap the Fruits of another Man's Expence and Labour? And if it is not, why should it be otherwise between Nations? If Discovery gives no Right, surely nothing can. If nothing but an inhabiting Possession gives a Right, no Discoverer cou'd be sure to reap the Benefit of his Expence and Labour, since Discovery must necessarily precede Inhabitancy, as for instance, in the present Case; Can any one suppose, that a

Ship sent out upon a Discovery, cou'd have Inhabitants, on board, enough to plant Colonies? Or that *Sebastian Cabot* could have left Settlers behind him, to keep Possession till his return, with a sufficient Number of People to inhabit this wide extended Country; where a defensible Force, (at least) was requisite, in order to withstand so many numerous Nations of Indians? Else any Power, upon Notice of such Discovery, might have sent a Fleet, with Inhabitants, to take Possession; such People might have arrived before ours; and These, by first inhabiting those Countries, might lawfully have the Fruits of the Labour and Expence of the Discoverer. But surely no Man can be so wrong-headed or unjust, as to favour such a Kind of Right; or pretend that the Expence, to which *Henry the VIIth* put himself, in these Discoveries, was merely for the sake of *France*.

It has been urged, by *French* Advocates, that their King has an undoubted Right, not only to all he lays Claim to on the Continent of *North America*; but even to *Newfoundland* and other Islands: That nothing gives a Right, but Possession or Inhabitancy:—That if the *English* remove from any one Spot of Ground, or Island, to inhabit any other more convenient, the *French* may immediately possess the deserted Spot; and from that Moment, have an original, hereditary, and undoubted Right to it.—But on the contrary, should they offer but to set
Foot

Foot in a Country, of many thousands Miles in Circumference, where the *French* had but a *Hutt* built of *Twiggs* and *Leaves*, and shou'd in a new *Map*, alter the old Name into any which has a Sound of *French* in it, as *Louisiana*, *Bourboniana*, *Orleaniana*, &c. tho' it were our own Acquisition and Discovery; yet truly our Right to it, wou'd not only be un-original and un-hereditary, but unlawful. — Such Law may indeed, be current at *Versailles*; but it is to be hoped, will never be thought binding at *Whitehall*.

We need look no further back, for Examples of their insolent Usurpations of this Sort, than those which gave Rise to the present War; to which the Pleadings of the *French* Hirelings abroad, and even at home, have not a little contributed. If Possession gives a Right, they may inhabit many of the Scotch Isles, such as the *Hebrides*, &c. which are unpeopled. They also might possess Themselves of many uninhabited Parts of *Ireland* and its dependant Isles; which being only a Discovery, the *French* wou'd have the same Right to them, as they have to any Part of *North America*.

His most Christian Majesty; because some of his Subjects have unjustly inhabited the Mouth of the River *St. Lawrence* and the Entrance of the *Mississipi*; (which two Rivers run through all *North America*) has founded a pre ended Right to that whole Country, on each Side their
Banks.

Banks, except the Edge of the Coast which the *English* inhabit. We, indeed, are much obliged to him for *excepting that*, in his romantic Grant to Monfr. *Crozat* ; to whom he might as justly have granted the Island of *Great Britain*, by the Name of *Delphiniana*, or any other Appellation. His Catholic Majesty has as good a Right to all the Dominions on both Sides of the *Mediterranean*, from his Subjects inhabiting each Side of it's Mouth, The *Hamburgers*, to all the Territories on each Side of the *Elbe*, from their being seated at the Entrance of that River. The *Turks*, to the Possession of the whole *German Empire*, because they are Masters of the Mouth of the *Danube*: And the *Cham* of *Tartary* might as justly make a Grant of the Empire of *Russia*, under the Name of *Tartariana*, from his possessing the Mouth of the *Wolga*.

The *Spaniards*, who have ever preserved their Right to *South America* unquestioned, (even by the *French* themselves) have there a Circumference of Coast, of above 22,000 Miles. They do not permit any *European Nation* to possess or inhabit the least Spot of it. Nor does any other people so far question their Right to it, as to make any Attempt of this Sort. There are Islands and Countries above 1,000 Miles distant from any of the *Spanish Colonies* or Habitations, and yet, They do not permit any Foreigners to possess or inhabit them. The
Scotch

Scotch Settlement at *Darien* is a glaring Proof of this, being more remote from any of their Inhabitants, than the *French*, in *North America*, are from ours. Shall then the *Spanish* Title, to so vast a Part of *America*, and to such a mighty Circumference of Coast, be sacred and inviolate; and that of *Great Britain* only, be questioned and insulted, which has not above 1500 Leagues of Coast, from the North of *Hudsons Bay*, to the Southward, round *Cape Florida*, to the Confines of *Mexico*? And shall We, the greatest Naval Power in the World, close the present glorious War, without our being made perfectly secure, for the future, against such unjustifiable and barbarous Incroachments as the *French* have made upon those indisputable Rights, which We, under the Auspices of his Majesty, and his Successors; ought to enjoy unmolested?

F I N I S.

