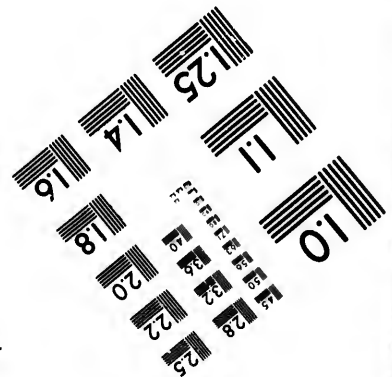
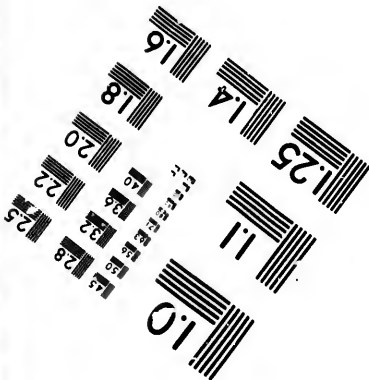
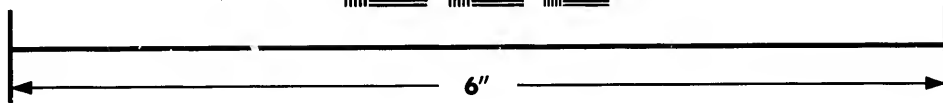
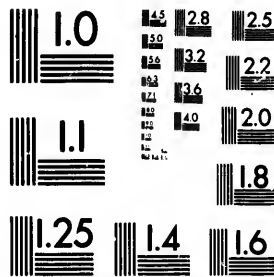


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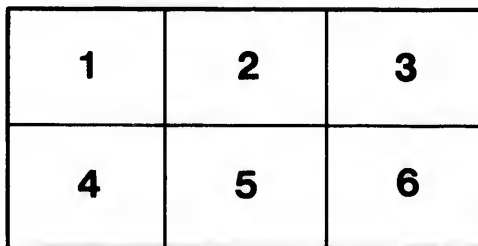
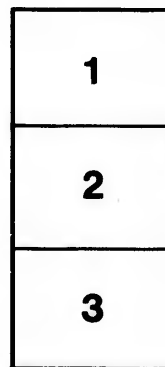
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REASONS
FOR
COLONIZING
THE ISLAND OF
NEWFOUNDLAND,
IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO
THE INHABITANTS.

5

BY
WILLIAM CARSON, M. D.

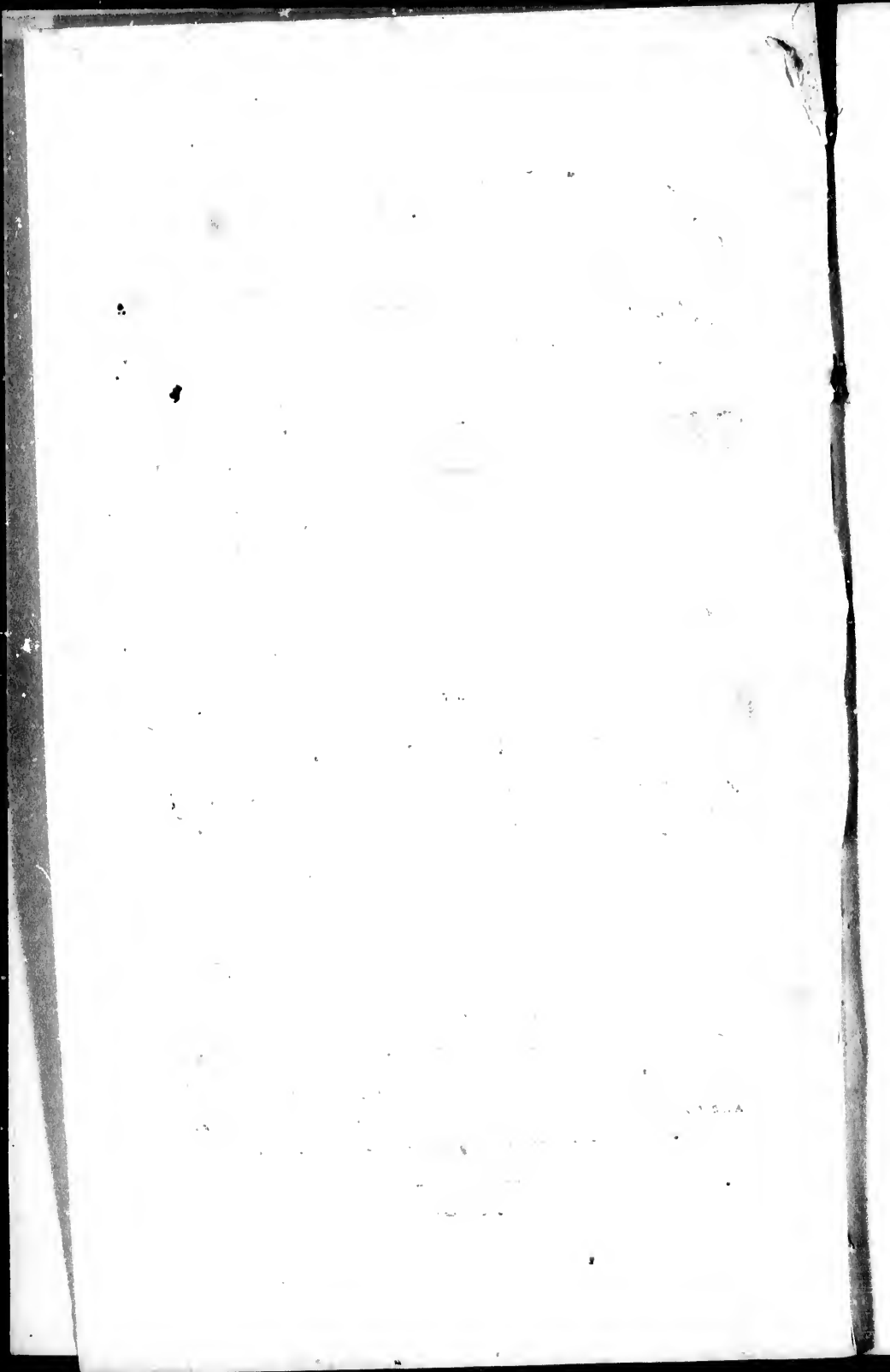
*Author of a letter to the Members of Parliament of the United Kingdom of
GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, on the address of the Merchants and
Inhabitants of SAINT JOHN'S, in the Island of
NEWFOUNDLAND, to the*

PRINCE REGENT.

GREENOCK:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM SCOTT,
AND SOLD BY SIR RICHARD PHILLIPS, LONDON; ALSO BY THE BOOK-
SELLERS OF GREENOCK, GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH.

1813.



Reasons, &c.

THE subject of this address is of the first importance to your interests and happiness; involving every thing dear to you as men, as husbands and as fathers. I most ardently wish that some individual possessing greater talents, enjoying more personal influence, and whose mind was more free from that care, anxiety, and toil necessarily attending the exercise of an extensive Medical practice, had come forward in support of your just claims to the rank and character of British subjects.

Your kind approbation of the address, I published last spring, to the Members of Parliament, is an ample proof that the weakest abilities when honestly and virtuously directed, are sure to obtain the support and approbation of the friends of the genuine interests of this country, and the happiness of its people. The pleasure I derived from your kindness, and indulgence has been considerably diminished, by the peevish and petulant persecution I have experienced from some high official characters. From men who should have stood forward as the supporters of your just rights, the champions of the Liberties of the press, the abettors of the English law, and the guardians of the British constitution; instead of the wily violators of your liberties, and the panders of arbitrary rule. I have been, in consequence of that address, deprived of the situation of Surgeon to the SAINT JOHN'S Volunteers, in the most unfeeling

and unjustifiable manner, and in defiance of the unanimous sentiment of the corps in my favor. In obsequious imitation of so *magnanimous* an example, the doors of the prison house, which I had attended for several years are shut against me as a medical practitioner. Need I inform you that after such open specimens of rage and malignity, the same bad passions pursue me into the recesses of my private practice.* In the address to the Members of Parliament, I was not animated by any personal feeling, my object was much more elevated than any thing personally connected with these mistaken men. I pity, I compassionate them, in the moments of calm reflection they will, in their own condemnation, experience a punishment much more poignant, than any which it is in their power to inflict on me. Though ignorant, they perhaps know, that, under an improved and ameliorated state of this country, men who do not possess the manners of Gentlemen, who are notorious for the want of even a common education, and who labour under a natural deficiency of talent, will be considered utterly improper, and unfit to fill the first offices of a regular Government.

“ * A naval commander accustomed to receive obedience, whether his orders are dictated by justice or injustice, by reason or false prejudice, cannot be expected to brook with temper any opposition to his will. The man whose duty calls upon him to defend his rights, and the just interest of his family, in opposition to the opinion and passions of such a Governor, will have but a small chance of success. An act of independence would be arraigned as an act of mutiny. All the influence of his office, all the arts of his satellites would be marshalled to effect his overthrow. Accustomed to use force to knock down opposition. Force being the power he knows best how to direct, the toils of investigation, deliberation, and judgement, are seldom had recourse to by a Naval Governor.” See Dr. CARSON'S Letter to the Members of Parliament.

Under such a just and *luminous* conception, what they have done may be as natural as the love of existence.

I shall not in this address engage your attention by an historical account of Newfoundland. The very imperfect records of the transactions of its Governors, and the decisions of its judicial courts, generally ill administered, would neither be gratifying to your feelings, or tend to enlarge the sphere of your knowledge.

Since the peace of Utrecht, the Island of Newfoundland has been considered of the greatest importance to the vital strength of the British Empire. When the commercial advantages of this Island are duly estimated, and the naval power flowing to the mother country is fully appreciated, it becomes a subject of just surprise, that so little respecting it is known, and that so little progress has been made towards colonization and regular government. The inhabitants appear to have been considered, either as a race of savages untameable by civilization, and which could not be restrained by any regular code of laws, or as Angels descended immediately from Heaven, pure and perfect, possessing minds which did not require instruction, and passions that needed not the control of terrestrious institutions. The Law Courts are not prepared to decide whether the wives in this Island are not concubines, and whether the children, in the Law Courts of England, would be recognized as legitimate offspring, entitled to inherit the property of their

fathers. The inhabitants are prevented cultivating the land of their nativity, although their children are calling to them for bread. Children of as comely aspect, and possessing minds as promising as exist in any country. Does not one hundred thousand people, so situated, call loudly for their civil rights?

In the preamble to Act 10 and 11 of William III. the commercial advantages of this Island, and its consequence as a nursery for seamen, appear, by the English Legislature, to have been fully known and appretiated. The subsequent laws, and the general policy of its ever changing Governors, have not been calculated to enlarge its consequence, or promote its interests. The people have obtained but little increase to their civil rights. Population has been checked by restraining laws : by the prevention of agriculture the necessaries of life have at all times been dear ; and sometimes difficult to be procured. The judicious parent has beheld in emigration to the States of America, a more promising prospect of substantial comforts for an increasing family. The natural advantages of this Island are so great, the enterprize of the people so active, that notwithstanding the artificial restraints, population has increased, commerce extended, and wealth accumulated, so as to require, in the establishment of a civil constitution, a better security for persons and property.

It would be difficult to convince those unacquainted with Newfoundland politics, that there

could exist a class of men so devoid of reason as to contend, that, a civil Government is not necessary for this people, that the appropriation and cultivation of the lands, and a voice in the formation of their laws would tend to their ruin and destruction. It would perhaps be still more difficult, to bring conviction to the rational British mind, that, the Governors and their adherents should rank those men dangerous and disaffected, who knowing should wish for the blessings of a British constitution. It is most devoutly to be wished that, that race of Governors had passed by, and it is most conscientiously believed that their satellites will follow the attraction of any other planet, however dissimilar may be its elementary parts. The numbers of those opposing colonization are rapidly decreasing. They are the remnants of the same faction, who opposed the appointment of a Governor, Justices of the peace, a Custom-house and a court of civil jurisdiction. They principally reside in England, migrating to this country during the summer months. They therefore, in justice, ought to have no voice in the arrangement of a civil Government for the safety and happiness of a resident people.

The lesson taught to Great Britain, by the revolt and subsequent independence of the United States, should have fixed indelibly on the minds of those managing its official concerns, the danger of vexatious, arbitrary and unjust measures towards distant colonies. The intercourse between States is similar to the intercourse between men. Harmo-

ny and good will can only be promoted, and preserved by mutual confidence, and reciprocal acts of kindness. If my neighbour in consequence of possessing rank and power, uses his superiority towards my annoyance ; necessity or a strong feeling of my present interests, may compel me to submit to his unjust assumption ; but I will most anxiously look forward to the moment of my emancipation and independance. There is not a colony belonging to Great Britain, in which the people do not feel a pride in being subjects to the King of England ; In which they do not cherish sentiments of fond attachment to the Mother country, its constitution, customs and laws. But if they are doomed perpetually to experience from Governors, and other high officers, an insulting and contumelious disregard of their rights and privileges, admiration will be converted into contempt, affection to animosity, and submission to revolt.

The war with the States of America renders the situation of Newfoundland of peculiar importance to Great Britain : British subjects on the continent of North America, are in general well attached to the mother country ; but it is far from being an attachment purely loyal---It is not hallowed by a just moral feeling. The inhabitants of Newfoundland have as yet acquired no fixed character, being English Scotch or Irish or their immediate descendants, they participate of the peculiarities of their respective countries.

The dangers and fatigues of the occupation of

a fisherman, with the variability of the climate, have given a hardiness and activity to the people of this country rarely to be met with in any other. The inhabitants of Newfoundland may be characterized as a hardy race, fearless of danger, and capable of undergoing the greatest corporeal exertion. They have no strong antipathies, violent prejudices, or unjust prepossessions; they have that fondness for liberty which all men possess, that are not subdued by fear, or unseduced by the illusions of vice. Their love of liberty is chastened by a sentiment of just subordination, and a respectful demeanor towards those in superior situations. The natives while young possess as strong an attachment for their native harbours, as the Scotch and Swiss do for their native mountains. As they advance in life this sentiment gradually subsides, and in mature years is often obliterated. The fisherman unless powerfully connected by the ties of friendship, or personal interest, loses that attachment to the spot of his nativity possessed by the tiller of ground and the feeder of flocks, which is in these the source of patriotism.

The boundless ocean being the element of the fisherman, caprice or the slightest disappointment will often induce him to shift his station.

The emigration of the feathered tribe is known to arise from natural causes, the emigration of the human species is subject to similar laws, a few may be actuated by moral sentiments, but physical causes operate in the mass of the people.

If the causes of emigration are so powerful, in Great Britain and Ireland, as to be beyond the control of a free Government, the emigrating propensity ought to be directed to the colonies and there by wise laws and kind treatment, Government should endeavour to give a permanence to the settlers. So laudable and so political an object would be best effected by giving as much as possible to all an interest in the soil. The system of giving extensive grants to individuals, who are not resident, is found to be highly injurious to the interests of young colonies. If all fishermen on producing a certificate of faithful services, for a specified number of years, were to obtain a grant of a small spot of land, not one in ten of those emigrating to the States of America would leave this Island, and Newfoundland instead of being a stepping-stone from Ireland to the States of America would afford to Irishmen leaving their native country a secure and a permanent residence, without violating their allegiance. The farmer often sells his flocks and removes to distant countries. The landed Proprietor seldom, unless compelled by dire necessity, deserts his paternal fields.

The causes which have conspired, most powerfully to retard the improvement of this country, will be found to exist in the nature of its Government. The habits necessarily formed by the successful prosecution of a naval life, are so dissimilar to the usages of civil Government, that an able Admiral, and a judicious Governor, are ac-

quisitions seldom to be found in the same individual. A Governor of Newfoundland holds his commission for three years, and during that period he resides in the island nine months. It is not probable that during that short space, he can become acquainted with our laws, customs, characters, or interests. It has too often happened, that those encircling the chair of Government, have taken very good care that the knowledge of Governors, in these respects, should not be accurate. It has nearly uniformly happened, that the Governors, during the short period they have swayed the sceptre of power, have been enveloped in ignorance and misrepresentation ; the pitiable sport of wavering and discordant counsels ; the counsels of men whose minds have not been enlarged by a liberal education, and whose hearts have not been softened by the intercourse of an enlightened civilization, actuated alone by personal feelings or private motives, secure from the usual restraints against bad actions, the dread of temporal punishment ; they have had it in their power to indulge the evil propensities of their natures, safe and invisible through the organ of a Governor.

I am far, very far indeed, from wishing to impugn the motives of the Governors. I am even disposed to allow, that they have been, for the most part, actuated by the best intentions. It is the habits of Naval Commanders, generating a fondness for arbitrary rule, and thereby requiring a passive submission to their will, utterly

unfitting them to preside at the head of a Government, not possessing the usual necessary restraints. It is the undertaking a high situation, with the duties of which they cannot be acquainted, that I wish to expose and deride, as inconsistent with just moral conduct, derogatory to the character, and hostile to the privileges of Britons. The inhabitants of Newfoundland are truly loyal, and attached even to enthusiasm, to the glory and interests of the British nation. They are uniformly desirous of obtaining the good opinion, and the good will of their Governors. This fact has been strongly manifested, on the arrival of each succeeding Governor ; but, no sooner did they become entangled in the gothic system of pulling down fences, stages, and houses ; no sooner did they commence the blasting system of favoritism and proscription, than all hopes of improvement were dissipated, and the mind recoiled into gloomy despondency.

- ‘ So by the course of the revolving spheres,
- ‘ Whene’er a new discovered star appears ;
- ‘ Astronomers with pleasure, and amaze,
- ‘ Upon the infant luminary gaze.
- ‘ They find their Heaven enlarged, and wait from thence
- ‘ Some blest, some more than common influence ;
- ‘ But suddenly alas ! the fleeting light
- ‘ Retiring, leaves their hopes involved in endless night.’

The only remedy against the evils flowing from the present system, will be found in giving to the people, what they most ardently wish, and what is unquestionably their right, a civil Government,

consisting of a resident Governor, a Senate House, and House of Assembly.

I shall as briefly as possible, endeavour to point out the advantages that would flow to this island, and the mother country, from the establishment of a civil Government, and from the appropriation and cultivation of the lands. In doing this I shall have to combat some prejudice, and some error. The island of Newfoundland has been represented as destitute of soil; the atmosphere as unfriendly to vegetation; agriculture as injurious to a fishery; and the country colonized as contrary to the interests of the British merchant, and incompatible with the policy of the mother country.

The surface of the island of Newfoundland, is upwards of 37,000 square miles, being 8000 square miles larger than Ireland. There are not more than ten square miles cultivated in the island. The interior is entirely unexplored. The only parts known are the barren ridges, extending along the sea coast, from one harbour to another. The low and fertile lands being covered with wood, and intersected with lakes and rivers, are avoided by the traveller. In the neighbourhood of St. John's there are about 1000 acres of land in cultivation; but, being the eastern extremity of the island, and the promontory of a Peninsula, it is much exposed to the bank fogs during summer, and during the spring months to the floating ice, which encircles two thirds of the promontory; refrigerating the atmosphere and

blasting the tender plants ; but this is only felt on the eastern shore, and only for a few miles into the country ; yet the cultivated lands in the neighbourhood of St. John's, yield as plentiful a crop of hay, as the best cultivated grounds in the vicinity of London. Potatoes and turnips arrive at the greatest perfection, and in the sheltered spots oats and wheat ripen. Annually large flocks of lean cattle, from New England, Nova Scotia, &c. are fattened in the woods round St. Johns. Deer, congregating to the number of many hundreds, have been seen in all the explored parts. These facts must be considered as sufficient proof of the capability of Newfoundland to become a pastoral and agricultural country. It lies in lat. 46, 40 to 51, 40, North. The northern extremity is nearly as far south as the southern extremity of England. The sun's power is sufficient to ripen all those grains, roots, and fruits, which arrive at perfection in Britain. The power of the summer sun is greater, and the winter's cold more severe, but, are mollified by similar causes in both countries, though not to the same extent. The severity and duration of the winters are not so great as on the continent of America, in latitudes much further to the south. Ploughing, and the other operations of the field, are seldom obstructed before Christmas, and the lands are open to receive the plough early in April.

In the neighbourhood of all the fishing harbours, a considerable quantity of excellent manure may be procured from the sea weed, cod's heads, and

the refuse of the seal blubber. In a country so unexplored, it is impossible to say what are its stores of manure. The number of its rivers, and the general situation of its lakes, are favourable for the purposes of irrigation. The soil and climate of this island, are as well adapted for the purposes of agriculture, as the soil and climate of Nova Scotia, and part of the Canadas, from whence it is proposed to feed the inhabitants on reasonable terms. The present war has shown the fallacy of these pretensions, and exposed the delusion which prevailed upon this subject. The Canadas and Nova Scotia, are not much more than able to supply with their own growth, their internal demands. The inhabitants of these countries, may carry on a lucrative commerce, between this and the States of America, in the articles of beef, bread, and flour; but the profits of our fisheries had much better be directed to the cultivation of the lands in this country, and thereby creating, and nourishing a numerous peasantry, than in purchasing the produce of agriculture at an enormous expense from our enemies. One hundred and forty thousand quintals of bread and flour, are required for the support of the people in this island, which at the present cost to the inhabitants, amounts to more than L.500,000. The sums paid for beef and pork, amount nearly to as much. There is, therefore, at the present price of provisions, as much expended for food, as the total produce of the fisheries. It is, therefore, impossible, that the people can long support their present situation. Pork,

one of the first necessaries of the country, is not to be procured. Bread costs from L.4 to L.5 per quintal. Flour, L.8 per barrel. Fresh beef, 16d. Mutton, 1s. 9d. per lb. Milk, 8d. per quart; an egg is worth a shilling. Symptoms of approaching famine, are strongly marked. Yet, even under these circumstances, a Proclamation was issued last October, to prevent inclosing and cultivating the lands!! Three or four hundred thousand pounds are annually paid by the inhabitants for provisions, a great part of which come, directly or indirectly, from the States of America. The accumulation of so large a sum for a few years, would convert the wilds and morasses into corn fields, and cause towns and cities to arise, where the untameable savage now rears his wigwam.

On the first commencement of the fishery, and when those peculiar laws were framed, calculated to render it a free and a moveable fishery. The fertile territories on the continent of North America, were subject to the Crown of England. In the western world, there was no hostile power to obstruct the progress of her commerce. The produce of these fertile districts, were wafted to Newfoundland, at a smaller expence, than they could be reared in a climate less congenial. The inhabitants were but few, and the greatest part of them migrated to England during the winter months. The fishery was principally carried on by adventurers from the west of England, who repaired to this country early in the spring,

bringing with them every thing necessary for the voyage. Circumstances have changed, the fertile districts of North America, are become independent States. The frequent wars in which Great Britain has been engaged, have, by endangering, destroyed the Bank Fishery; a very small proportion of the fishery carried on upon these shores, belongs to adventurers. A numerous population has arisen, who carry on the principal part of the fishery, who have no immediate connection with the United Kingdom, and who purchase from the merchants in Newfoundland, every thing necessary for their comforts, and even their luxuries, paying in fish, oil, and bills of exchange. The produce of British agriculture, is wanted for its own population, and would be much more advantageously appropriated to the maintenance, on reasonable terms, of its commerce and manufactures, than the vain effort to nourish distant Colonies.

What arguments can be adduced against the colonization of this island, and the appropriations of its lands, I am at a loss to discover. It is difficult to argue against prejudice, and the unqualified assertions of the ignorant.

The system of a moveable fishery is now extinct, and all human powers are insufficient to cause its resuscitation. New circumstances have arisen, which require new Laws, and a new Government. The resident population of this country is large, and sufficiently ample for carrying on its extensive Cod, Salmon, Mackerel, Herring,

and Seal Fisheries; the latter is become very valuable, and can only be conducted by a resident people. To support its growing consequence, and increasing advantages to the Empire, generally; it will be necessary to secure the people from the danger of famine. To attach them to, by giving them an interest in the soil. To prevent disaffection, by wise Laws and a just Government. To enable them to meet their rivals in trade and commerce, on equal grounds, they must be enabled to procure the first necessaries of life, on nearly equal terms. The appropriation and cultivation of the lands, would tend in a high degree, to secure these advantages. Agriculture, instead of being injurious to the fisheries, would prove to be their best support. The small progress which it has made, is sufficient to illustrate this argument. Planters, who have dedicated that period of the year, which cannot be occupied in the fishery, to agriculture, are independent, and perhaps, the happiest people in the island. Fishermen are engaged by the Planter, from the beginning of May to the 20th of October, as they have no general means of employing themselves during the remainder of the year, they are obliged to obtain as much wages for six month's servitude, as will support them twelve. If a Planter had a farm, he would engage his servant for twelve months, for the same, and even smaller wages, than he now pays for six months. There are many days, during the fishing season, on which the fishermen cannot be employed, but which are well adapted for the opera-

tions of husbandry. Seed time has passed, before the fishing season commences; October and November, are here the harvest months. Thus the Planter could conduct the operations of a farm, at even a smaller expence, than the farmer could do in those countries, where the cheapest labour is to be procured. He would be enabled to feed his servants on a wholesome diet, at one half of the sum it now costs him. The advantages would not only flow to the planter, but would produce to the servant incalculable benefits. The fisherman, on the 20th of October, is free; if a single man, and if he has not been extravagant, he may have L.30 to receive for the balance of his wages; one half of this sum he is obliged to pay for his board during the winter, and the remainder is spent in drinking, and nocturnal dissipation. If the strength of his constitution, enables him to weather his winter's voyage, each succeeding season, the same scene is acted over, till at last he falls a premature victim. This is the fate of a great number of fishermen; annual servitude would tend, very considerably, to prevent so melancholy an evil. Salt, and dry provisions, on which the people of this country are principally fed, have the same deleterious effects on the constitution, which ardent spirits produce. By the constant and excessive stimulus of salt provisions, an irritable and exhausted state of the stomach, with difficulty of digestion, and lowness of spirits, as often arise, as from habitually drinking ardent spirits; and the desire for ardent spirits, is too

often induced by the state of the stomach, arising from the constant use of salt provisions. The span of human existence is considerably shortened, and it but seldom happens, that a native obtains a large size, or arrives at an advanced age. While the fishery would produce the necessary agricultural capital, agriculture would nourish and support the fishery, and prove highly conducive to the production of a healthier, happier, and a better people.

The merchants would derive considerable advantage from the appropriation and cultivation of the lands, as the wants of the people would increase, with their increasing wealth, their customers would be rich instead of poor. One of the wisest and most eloquent men of the present age, says, that every acre of land cultivated in the wilds of Siberia, or on the shores of the Mississippi, is opening an additional field for the enterprise of the British merchant. If the cultivation of the lands, in foreign and distant countries, is, in the opinion of the wise, highly beneficial to the British merchant, the cultivation of an island, wholly British, and which annually yields a large return, must be a source of certain gain.

One of the most seductive arguments, urged against colonization, is, that a colonial Government would necessarily be attended with an expence, which would create the necessity of internal taxes; a system to which, when once begun, there would be no limits. All free states will direct their resources towards the amelioration and im-

provement of the people. The lawless and depraved, are to be restrained and punished; the feeble to be supported and protected; youth to be instructed; the misfortunes arising from helpless age and sickness, are to be appeased; roads to be formed; bridges to be built, and the whole community to be defended against the hostility of its enemies. As all are liable to participate in these advantages, it is just that each should contribute his due proportion towards the general expence. When taxes are levied for the support of the idle; when they are given as wages to one class of men, in order to rivet the chains of the people, or directed towards the heart-appalling destruction of the human species, then they assume the character of an evil. The wisest contrivances of men, as well as the best gifts of Heaven, may be perverted by the interposition of folly, or the machinations of the wicked. The happy application of the resources of this country, must depend on the virtue and wisdom of its Government, and that will in a great measure depend on the virtue and wisdom of the people. A new country emerging from chaos, into order and government, may be compared to a man, entering upon the stage of public life. A fawning submission will invite the assumption of the arrogant; an imprudent profusion, will produce embarrassment, which leads to slavery. Liberty, the choicest gift of Heaven to nations, can only be obtained and secured by the general exercise of virtue and wisdom. No taxes ought to be levied

without the consent of a Colonial Assembly, which ought to be a free universal, and uncontroled representation of the people. It is not permitted to anticipate events, but as all effects must have an adequate cause, so all causes must produce their natural effects. It may be foretold that the happiness, prosperity, and freedom of this island, will depend upon the virtue, industry, and knowledge of the people ; above all others, it is a paramount duty, to attend to the education of the youth. On this point more than any thing else, hangs the happiness of States. An enlightened people cannot long be slaves ; an ignorant people cannot long be free.

The present political situation of America, renders Newfoundland a settlement, of the first importance to the United Kingdom. Dr. Franklin, in the year 1761, ably advocated the necessity of Canada being ceded to Great Britain, on the plea of security to the then British America. The character which the present war has already assumed, by employing and associating the Indian tribes with the British arms, renders all the arguments, then urged in favour of the claims of Great Britain, equally valid, in favor of the States of America. The political wisdom, generally displayed by that rising nation, will, in all probability, be directed to the attainment of an object pointed out fifty years ago, by the American Philosopher ; they will contemplate in the possession of the Canadas, a security to their citizens against the incursions of these savage

tribes. Should the Canadas become an appendage to the United States, to what British province could this island look, for a supply of bread and flour ; for these articles of necessity, it must be principally dependent on the States of America. To avert a calamity so dangerous to its independence, and so injurious to the general interests of the Empire, the only means will be found in giving to the residents, an encouragement to cultivate the soil, by giving a secure tenure in the lands, and by cherishing their infant efforts by rewards and premiums. Great Britain would derive considerable increase of political importance, from the concentration of a larger population in this island : possessing a similarity of situation, in regard to North America, which Great Britain possesses in regard to the Continent of Europe. The nature of its coast, renders it much more secure against the attempts of an invading enemy : the superior advantages which it derives from its treasures in the ocean, are a full balance against many natural defects. Continental Colonies must be supported, at the expence of fortifications, and the maintenance of large armies. The bulwark, on which Britain chiefly depends for security and defence, would be the security and defence of this island, while the former supports the mastery of the ocean, the latter must be its depending province. Although it may be allowed to contemplate the eventual independence of all States, the independence of this island, is in all probability so remote, that such a circumstance

will hardly enter into the calculations, and need not awaken the jealousies of the politicians of the present day.

If these observations should contribute, in the slightest degree, towards the attainment of a civil resident Governor, and a Legislative Assembly, in imitation of the British Constitution, I shall experience a high reward. I shall see your happiness and prosperity as a people, established and secured. You will then walk erect, under the dispensation of a dignified and enlightened justice. Under the fostering care of a Government who will know you; a Government founded on the secure basis of defined laws, free from the blasting influence of unjust favoritism, and ill founded antipathy.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,
the Inhabitants of Newfoundland's
obliged, and obedient servant,
WILLIAM CARSON.



P. S. During the month of October last, the Manager of the Merchant's Hall, summoned the inhabitants of St. John's, to meet at the Hall, for the purpose of taking into consideration, the propriety of applying to Parliament for a Local Legislation, through the interest of the Governor. At that meeting, the Manager detailed a plan, which he stated, had the sanction of those in office; it was disapproved of. A Committee of seven gentlemen were chosen by ballot, to prepare a plan for a Local or General Legislation; and

they were directed to submit the result of their deliberation, to the inhabitants, in a general meeting. I had the honor to be placed second in the Committee by the suffrages of my fellow townsmen. I shall feel much pride and pleasure, in doing all in my power towards the promotion of their laudable views. I have submitted the following as my sentiments, to a number of my friends, and I am happy to find that they meet with the approval of a great number of the intelligent and independent inhabitants.

W. C

The following are the sentiments of a Member of the Committee of Legislation, for the town of St. John's, in the island of Newfoundland:

That all the rights and privileges, claimable by British subjects resident in Great Britain, are the rights and privileges of the people in Newfoundland.

That it is the right of the people in Newfoundland, to possess a distinct civil Government, of similar powers and privileges to the British Government.

That the head of the Government ought to be a resident Governor, appointed by the King, and removable at his pleasure: that the Governor should possess all the powers and prerogatives in this island, which are known and defined to be prerogatives of the King, in the United Kingdom.

That there ought to be Judicial Offices and

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Courts of Justice, having powers and jurisdictions as full, and as ample, as those possessed by the Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, in England; and that the officers should possess similar qualifications.

That the Judges should be appointed by the King, and removable only by the House of Lords, on an impeachment preferred by the Colonial Assembly.

That there ought to be a House of Assembly, consisting of not less than fifty members, chosen by the entire householders.

That the House of Assembly should possess all the privileges of the House of Commons.

That there ought to be a Senate House, consisting of the Commander of the King's forces, if a General Officer. The Judges *ex officio*. The Chief Magistrate of the town of St. John's, *ex officio*; and twenty other Senators appointed by the Governor, from the Members of Assembly. The vacancies to be made up by a new return. All vacancies in the Senate House to be filled up by the Governor, from the House of Assembly. That the Senators shall be for life, office, or during their residence in the island. The Senators in their congregate body, should possess all the privileges of Lords of Parliament.

That a Legislature, consisting of a Governor, Senate House, and House of Assembly, should possess the sole power of making laws, for the internal Government of this island, and for the appropriation of its lands.

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