

Casey I, 120

465 Importance.

THE
I M P O R T A N C E
O F
C A P E B R E T O N
C O N S I D E R ' D ;
I N A
L E T T E R
T O A
M E M B E R O F P A R L I A M E N T ,
F r o m a n I N H A B I T A N T o f
N E W - E N G L A N D .



L O N D O N :

Printed for R. DODSLEY in *Pall-mall*, and
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M D C C X L V I .

Price One Shilling.

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Don-no

THE

IMPORTANCE

OF THE
CONSTITUTION

CONSIDERED

IN A

LECTURE

DELIVERED AT THE
MIDDLE TEMPLE

BY
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

AND
OF THE BAR

BY
WILLIAM WILSON

ESQ. OF THE BAR
AT THE MIDDLE TEMPLE

IN THE YEAR 1801

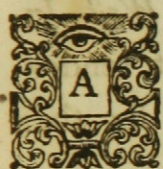
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MDCCLXXI.

Price One Shilling



S I R,



T your repeated Request that I would collect and form from proper Materials, such an Account of the Island of *Cape Breton* as would shew forth its true Value, and being persuaded that this your Desire proceeded wholly from a sincere Regard for your Country's Welfare, which may hereafter possibly much depend on your right Apprehensions in this Particular, I have, tho' unequal to it, undertaken the Task; and as all things derive their Recommendation and Value from the Use they are of, I shall consider

B

First,

First, The Usefulness of this Island to *France*; and

Secondly, It's Usefulness to *Great Britain*.

With respect to *France*, it was useful to that Kingdom for the following Purposes.

1. This Island having the Harbour of *Louisbourg* well fortified, was a Place of safety for the Reception, Succour, and Protection of the Enemy's *East* and *West India* Fleets, and where they might rendezvous 'till provided with Convoy for their more secure Passage home.

2. The Enemy, by means of this Place, was enabled the more easily to supply their Sugar Colonies with Fish and Lumber: By these and other Advantages join'd to their Policy and prudent Management, 'tis notorious, they had before the War well nigh beaten the *English* quite out of the foreign Sugar Trade.

3. This Place was the Guard of the common Entrance into the Gulph of *St Lawrence*, and of the principal Passage

up

up to *Canada*, where of late the Enemy build large Ships of War, a thing, I believe, not known, or at least not much notic'd in this Kingdom: From thence a sixty-Gun Ship built there came down the Summer before last to *Louisbourg*, and sailing from thence, made a Cruize upon the *English*, took several Prizes of Consequence, and then returned to *Louisbourg*, and became part of the Convoy to six *East India* Ships put in there for Safety and Convoy, and to other valuable Ships, making up a Fleet of upwards of sixty Sail in the whole, proceeding with them to *France*. From *Canada* also the Enemy reap the Benefit of all the Furr Trade, from a large Part of the *American* Continent; and from thence the Enemy joined by the *Savages* in Alliance with them, and whose Friendship they court by all possible Methods, issue out, Ravage, Burn, and Destroy the Outward *English* Settlements.

4. Upon this Island the *French* carried on a considerable part of their Cod-fishery,

and by means thereof they cover'd, supported, and protected all the rest. This Fishery they had of late Years greatly increased, to the proportionable Diminution and Prejudice of the *British* Fishery, and the large Trade thereon dependent; so that according to Accounts collected with Accuracy, Judgment and indefatigable Pains, it produced them yearly such Quantities of Fish and Oyl, as were of the Value of near a Million Sterling, upon a very moderate Computation; and which you are sensible, according to the Nature of Fisheries in general, was almost all clear Gain to them: A great Part of this Fish they carried to *Spain* and other foreign Markets, and there exchanged it for other Commodities, which they afterwards carried to other Ports, where they frequently made the like Exchanges, and then proceeded elsewhere, still encreasing their Profits as they lengthen'd the Course of their Voyage, 'till the whole finally center'd in *France*: So that this Fishery was the Foundation of a great
Part

Part of that large Trade, which they have of late carried on in many different Parts of the World : This was their original Outset or Stock whereon they traded, and which it must be confessed they improved to the utmost, thereby gaining daily on the *English*. And this Fishery was not only beneficial to them on account of the large immediate and consequential Profit produc'd by it, but it also employ'd in the taking, making, and transporting of the Fish caught, between 25 and 30,000 Fishermen and Seamen, the Fishermen being, or in Time becoming, good Seamen.—You are doubtless sensible, Sir, that the Marine in *France* has been put under excellent Regulations by their Ministers, since they apply'd themselves with so much Zeal and Diligence to the Advancement of their State by the Increase of their Navigation and Commerce, as they have done of latter Years ; and among others, one wise Provision I have understood, was, that their Fish Ships should carry a Proportion of what they call

Trente-

Trente-six-mois, that is, Lads who were Bound for thirty six Months, in which Time they were supposed to become sufficiently qualified for the Business, and who therefore at the Expiration of that Time left the Class of Learners, making Room for other raw Lads, which every Year came into the Service. And thus this Fishery, by its Nature, Extent, Healthfulness, and the Policy of our Enemies, was their principal Nursery of Seamen, breeding up continually large Numbers of stout Sailors, so that they could with Ease annually or occasionally draw out of it a very considerable Number for manning their Royal Navy, or the Use of their other Navigation.

5. This Place, by its Situation with respect to the *British* Fishery, was well suited to answer our Enemy's ancient and present political maxim of *divide & impera*; for being situated between *Newfoundland* and *Canso*, the two principal
Seats

Seats of the *English* Fishery, the Enemy was enabled thereby greatly to distress and diminish, if not finally to destroy the whole; from thence, immediately after breaking out of the present War, they made a Descent upon *Canso* and burnt it, carrying away the Garrison and Inhabitants Prisoners; and from thence they had certainly attempted, and in all Probability carried, a valuable part of *Newfoundland*, had not a mere Contingency favourable to the *English* prevented.

6. This Place was very convenient for the Enemy, not only to fit out Privateers from thence, but also to receive, protect, repair and supply such as should come from *France*, and harbour all their Prizes, to the great and general Distress of all the *British American* Trade.

7. This Island was very convenient for the Enemy, as a safe Place of Rendezvous for any Armament that might be fitted out for the taking or destroying any of the *English* Northern Settlements. The adjacent

jacent Country of *Nova Scotia* having a fertile Soil, many excellent Harbours, and its Coasts and Rivers abounding with Fish, and being already settled, so far as any Settlements are made, with *French Catholics*, the Enemy regret the loss of it, and continually look upon it with a longing and eager Eye; the Dominion of that whole Country is held by the single Fort of *Annapolis Royal*, a Place of such doubtful Defence, that the Enemy have already fate down before it three different times during this War; and the Loss of the Place must have ensued, if Governor *Shirley*, with the Help of the Province under his Command, had not interpos'd and prevented it: But the Prudence, the Vigilance, the indefatigable Industry of this Gentleman, with the ready Assistance of that publick-spirited Province in sending Succours, join'd to those sent from hence to *Annapolis Royal*, could not have kept it much longer from falling into the Enemy's Hands without the Conquest of
Cape

Cape Breton ; a Point acknowledg'd as unquestionable by all intelligent Persons well acquainted with the Situation of that Country.

But in order, Sir, fully to comprehend the Extent of this Island's Usefulness to *France*, it will be necessary, in my Opinion, to call to mind her fond Desire of becoming Mistress of all the Western World, and to consider what Measures chiefly advance her Design of making her self such : To the Attainment of this Purpose, you are sensible, she bends all her Counsels and Actions ; for this she declares War, makes and breaks Treaties, unites and divides Kingdoms, and her Ministers practise all the Means and Devices that the most refin'd Policy can dictate ; and among all the various Measures calculated for the Accomplishment of this grand destructive Project, there have been none, in my humble Opinion, more dangerous to this Kingdom in particular, or more likely to advance their Design in general, than

that successful Policy, whereby they have of late Years so greatly increas'd their Fisheries, Commerce and Colonies; thereby supplanting the *English* in divers of their principal Branches of Trade, and laying the Foundation of a most dangerous Naval Power. 'Tis remarkable that *France* made but a very inconsiderable Figure at Sea, till such Time as her Princes and Ministers forming their large Schemes of Empire, and observing that Commerce was one of the principal Means of making a People rich and powerful, they apply'd themselves with the greatest Diligence, Art, and Judgment to the Establishment of Manufactures, and the gaining and Increase of Plantations and Fisheries, and to the Encouragement of Trade and Navigation in every Shape; these were some of the principal Engines, wherewith they laboured to form that great Idol of Power, to which they hoped to make all Nations bend the Knee. *Henry IV.* indeed did Wonders for that Kingdom, by settling the
 Silk,

Silk, Linen, and other Manufactures; but Cardinal *Richlieu*, who drew the Outlines of the Plan for this general sweeping Dominion to be raised in the West, was, I think, the first who proposed an Empire of the Sea for *France*, and which was indeed requisite for the Attainment of the other, saying, “ that Nature seems to have offer-
 “ ed this Empire to her by the advanta-
 “ geous Situation of her two Coasts, equal-
 “ ly provided with excellent Havens, on
 “ the Ocean, and on the Mediterranean. ”

And *Lewis XIII.* having erected a new Office for this great Minister, whereby he was constituted, *Grand Master, Head and Superintendant General of the Navigation and Commerce of France*, he, notwithstanding his being continually encompassed with an endless Variety of other weighty and perplexing Matters, with a View chiefly to advance the Naval Power of *France*, found Time to attend to the Care and Promotion of her Trade and Manufactures; and what was begun in the

Reigns of *Henry IV.* and *Lewis XIII.* to use the Words of an ingenious Author *,
 “ was happily improved by the Care of
 “ the memorable Monsieur *Colbert*, who
 “ under *Lewis XIV.* not only established
 “ every Thing that remained imperfect,
 “ but also gained by Art and Manage-
 “ ment, not only Fisheries and Plantations,
 “ but a Prospect of every other Improve-
 “ ment ; by which means that Prince was
 “ able to maintain a War against the most
 “ powerful Confederacy, that ever has
 “ been formed in these latter Times, to
 “ surround his Kingdom and Frontiers
 “ with the strongest Fortresses in the
 “ World, to maintain an Army of above
 “ 300,000 Men during two long Wars,
 “ to dispute the Dominion of the Seas a-
 “ gainst the united Powers of *England* and
 “ *Holland* ; an Expence supposed to be
 “ three times as large as ever that King-
 “ dom was capable of sustaining before.”

—When

* See Mr. *Gee's* Preface to his Treatise on the Trade and Navigation of *Great Britain.*

—When *Monf. Colbert* framed his famous Plan for his Master's obtaining univerfal Sway, to prevent the Execution whereof thofe powerful Confederacies were form'd, you are fenfible he laid the Foundation of it in the Increate and Improvement of Labour, Manufactures and Foreign Trade, and that he made a Command at Sea, a principal Part of it; propofing that his Prince, in order to his Exaltation to the defir'd Pinnacle of Glory, fhould keep fuch Fleets on the Ocean, as would make him Master of all the Powers and Trade of the North. His Plan, I think, the Enemy have ever fince purfued, departing from it only as Circumftances and Occafions required: and all the Battles fought, and Victories gain'd by the Confederates, only made that aspiring Nation to fufpend for a Time her Thoughts, not of purfuing, but of executing her darling Project; and when the Terms of Peace came to be fettled at the End of the laft War, 'tis obfervable how hard ſhe ſtruggled for the *Island of Cape Breton,*

Breton, and what Arts and Policy she practis'd to gain it, well knowing that it was a Place containing plentiful Seeds of that Naval Power, which she hoped in Time to rear up to the Overthrow of the *British* Navigation and Commerce, and the Advancement of her beloved Scheme of Dominion. Where Strength failed, the most subtle Artifices and Management were necessary ; by these therefore she carry'd her Point ; and, which is observable, *France* was not content with having the Island wholly resign'd up to her, without having an exprefs Agreement made that she might have all manner of Liberty to fortify any Place or Places there.

From the Peace of *Utrecht* to the Commencement of the present War, Cardinal *Fleury* having had for the far greater Part of the Time the Administration of the Affairs of *France* in his Hands, he, I think, may be said to have made War upon this Kingdom by all the Arts of Peace, especially by his continual Care and politick
Advance-

Advancement of their Commerce, and which was thereby enlarged within this last Period of Time to a Degree astonishing even to Persons well skill'd in Trade ; which Increase fell chiefly and heavily upon the *English*, either directly lessening their Trade in divers of its principal Articles, or preventing the Growth of it ; and in effecting this, *Cape Breton* was exceedingly helpful to him ; and his Sense of its Importance was such, that he laid out an immense Sum for his Master in order to secure it, fortifying it to such a Degree that it was generally deem'd impregnable. This great Man seem'd to be well aware of the Necessity of observing the Caution given to the *French* King by Monsieur *Colbert*, when he form'd the Scheme for his obtaining universal Monarchy, telling him, that tho' " all Things conspired to
 " give *France* Hopes of Success, the Work
 " however was such as must be leisurely
 " carried on, and perfected by little and
 " little ; so great a Design continually
 " alarm-

“ alarming *Europe, Asia, Africa, and Ame-*
 “ *rica*, Friends and Foes, the Precipita-
 “ tion of it would be its Ruin.” And had
 the Conduct of this great Genius, together
 with *Cape Breton* and the Cod-fishery, been
 continued to *France* for some Years longer,
 there would, I fear, have been some Dan-
 ger of their telling us by the Fact, what
 Monsieur *Colbert* propos’d in Words to the
 King of *France*, viz. “ That the Point
 “ of *Britanny* is the Gate to enter into,
 “ and go out of the Channel, fifty Ships
 “ of War at *Brest* would keep those Gates
 “ fast shut, and they would not open them
 “ but at the King’s Command.

How fatal to the *British* Interests the
 Enemy’s Possession of this Place might
 have been, has been already shewn in some
 Measure; but it will be more evident upon
 further considering the Value of the Cod-
 fishery, whereof this Place gave the Ene-
 my the chief Command. It is, I think,
 a certain Maxim in Politicks, that all States
 are powerful at Sea, as they flourish in the
 Fishing

Fishing Trade ; the Coast-fishing of this Kingdom, in the Judgment of an excellent Author *, is of all others the greatest Nursery for Seamen ; and large Fisheries, such as the *American* Cod-fishery is, are certainly some of the main Sources of Wealth and Power. This will, perhaps, be best illustrated by considering the Case of *Holland* and the Herring Fishery ; and to make some Amends for my own defective Manner of treating the principal Matter, for your Ease and Gratification in this particular Point, I shall quote a few Observations out of some Authors of the first Rank.

In the Reign of King *Charles I.* there was an Excellent Discourse written by Sir *John Burroughs*, and presented to the King, by the Title of *The Inestimable Riches and Commodities of the British Seas* ; wherein the Author, after giving an Account of the Seasons and great Plentifulness of the Fishing-Harvest in those Seas, says thus : “ Out of
 “ which wonderful Affluence and Abun-
 D “ dance

* Author of a Treatise, entitled, *The Interest of Scotland considered.*

“ dance of Fish swarming in our Seas, that
 “ we may the better perceive the infinite
 “ Gain which foreign Nations make, I
 “ will especially insist upon the Fishing of
 “ the *Hollanders* in our Coasts, and there-
 “ by shew how by this Means principally,
 “ they have encreased, 1st, in Shipping—
 “ 2. In Mariners — 3. In Trade — 4.
 “ In Towns and Fortifications — 5. In
 “ Power Extern or Abroad.—6. In pub-
 “ lick Revenue—7. In private Wealth—
 “ 8. In all Manner of Provisions and Store
 “ of Things necessary.” Which several
 Articles the Author proceeds to consider
 and maintain; and under his first Head
 enumerating the various Sorts of Vessels
 employed in the Fishing Business from the
 first setting out, in fetching Salt to cure the
 Fish caught, to the final Delivery of the
 whole at foreign Markets, and computing
 their several Numbers, he makes the whole
 Number of Ships and Busses then plying
 the Herring Fair to be 6400, employing
 112000 Fishers and Mariners, besides 1600
 Ships

Ships employed in taking Cod and Ling on the Coasts of *England* and *Scotland*, and 400 other Vessels taking Herring at *Yarmouth*; so that, besides the Ships fishing on their own Shores, he says, “ The *Hollanders* “ have at least 8400 Ships only maintain’d “ by the Seas of *Great Britain*, by which “ Means principally *Holland* have increas’d “ the Number of their Shipping to at least “ 10,000 Sail, being more than are in “ *England, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy,* “ *Denmark, Poland, Sweden* and *Russia*; “ and to this Number they add every Day, “ altho’ their Country itself affords them “ neither Materials or Victual, nor Mer- “ chandize to be accounted of towards “ their setting forth.” And under the Seventh Head the Author says, “ Du- “ ring the Wars between the King of “ *Spain* and the *Hollanders* before the last “ Truce, *Dunkirk*, by taking, spoiling, “ and burning the Buffes of *Holland*, and “ setting great Ransom upon their Fisher- “ men, enforced them to compound for

“ great Sums that they might fish quietly
 “ for one Year ; whereupon the next
 “ Year after, the Fishermen agreed among
 “ themselves to pay a Dollar upon every
 “ Last of Herrings towards the Mainte-
 “ nance of certain Ships of War to waft
 “ and secure them in their Fishing ; by
 “ reason whereof there was a Record kept
 “ of the several Lasts of Herrings taken that
 “ Year, and it appeared that in one half
 “ Year there were taken 300,000 Lasts of
 “ Herrings, which at 12 *l.* *per* Last a-
 “ mounteth to 3,600,000 *l.* and at 16,
 “ 20, 30 *l.* the Last, they are ordinarily
 “ sold for when transported into other
 “ Countries, it cometh at least to Five
 “ Millions.

The famous Pensionary of *Holland*, *De*
Wit, in giving an Account of the various
 Courses and Shiftings of Trade, and speak-
 ing of the Easterlings, says, “ By that
 “ Eastern Trade they became and con-
 “ tinued the only Traffickers and Car-
 “ riers by Sea, beating by that means,
 “ all

“ all other Nations out of the Ocean, till
 “ after the Year 1400, that the Art of
 “ salting and curing of Herrings being
 “ found out in *Flanders*, the Fisheries in
 “ these *Netherlands*, being added to our
 “ Manufactures, proved to be of more
 “ Importance than the Trade and Navi-
 “ gation of the Easterlings.

Monsieur *Huet*, a famous Author, who
 made the Commerce of the Ancients and
 Moderns his particular Study, and was one
 of those Persons, whom the *French* out of
 Policy have sent into the principal trading
 Countries to inspect their Management,
 and pry into the Secrets of their Trade, in
 his Memoirs of the *Dutch* Trade, says,
 “ It is certain that there were some Ma-
 “ nufactures established in *Holland* long
 “ before their Fishery, Traffick and Na-
 “ vigation; but then this was so incon-
 “ siderable a Matter, that it may be truly
 “ said, that the Fishery gave Birth to their
 “ Traffick and Navigation;” and then adds,
 “ This was the Opinion of M. *de Wit*,
 “ and

“ and the most understanding Persons in
 “ *Holland.*

I beg Leave now to produce the Authority of the States General themselves, who in the Year 1624 published their Proclamation for the Preservation of this Fishery, wherein they set forth its Worth in these Words: “ The great fishing and
 “ catching of Herrings is the chiefest Trade
 “ and principal Gold Mine of the United
 “ Provinces, whereby many Thousands of
 “ Houfholds, Families, Handicrafts, Trades,
 “ and Occupations are set on Work, well
 “ maintained and prosper; especially the
 “ Sailing and Navigation, as well within
 “ as without these Countries, is kept in
 “ great Estimation; moreover many Re-
 “ turns of Money, with the Increase of
 “ the Means, Convoys, Customs and Re-
 “ venues of these Countries, are augment-
 “ ed thereby, and prosper.

After such an Authority it will be need-
 less to cite any more to prove the Thing
 I intended, *viz.* that the Wealth and
 Power

Power of the United Provinces by Sea and Land principally grew out of the Fishing Trade, and, which is very remarkable, out of the Fisheries on the *British* Coasts. And here I can't but observe, that as the chief Strength and Riches of the *Hollanders* came out of the *British* Seas, the same might possibly have been placed on the *British* instead of the *Belgick* Shore, thereby greatly enriching and strengthening this Kingdom, and making it the sole Maritime Power ; and in that Case this Nation could never have been driven to the Necessity of contending sometimes with the *Hollanders*, by reason of their possessing this great Wealth and Strength, and at other times with other Powers, to preserve them to the *Hollanders*, for fear of their falling into worse hands. Upon the whole, I hope these Observations will not appear foreign to my purpose, as the Consideration of the ill Consequences, which have arisen to this Kingdom, by reason of the *Hollanders* having drawn their vast Treasures

fures out of the *British* home Seas, and of the good Consequences that must have ensued upon the *English* having taken those Treasures to themselves, may be very helpful towards seeing the Consequences, that must have followed, if *France*, the natural, and therefore unchangeable Enemy of *Britain*, had still been at full Liberty to take the like Treasures out of the Fisheries on the Coasts of the ancient *British* Territories in *America*, and also the Consequences, that must attend their being taken by the *English*.

What has been produced touching the Herring Fishery, I think, Sir, fully proves the great National Advantages that may be derived from large Fisheries in general; and it will, I suppose, be needless to observe, that the Difference in the Species of Fish makes no Difference in the Emoluments arising from the Fishery: With respect to the Profit, that depends on the Quantity of Fish caught and sold, and the Price given for it: And as Cod-fish is become a considerable

fiderable Part of the Food of divers Coun-
 tries, there can be no Question made, in
 my Opinion, of its yielding a good Price
 to those, who have the Command of that
 Fishing Trade : And with respect to
 the Quantity of Fish, which the *American*
 Cod-fishery yields, it is certain that it far
 surpasses all others for that Species of Fish
 in the World. To what Degree it may in
 Time be prosecuted, I believe is impossible
 for any one to say ; how far the *French*
 have already carried it, has been shewn,
 and by adding their Share of that Fishery
 to the Share the *English* enjoyed before,
 the Amount of the whole, without re-
 garding its possible Increase and Improve-
 ment, must be a Fund of exceeding great
 Wealth. Consider it as a Nursery of Sea-
 men, and it will be found to have bred
 up as hardy, rugged, sturdy and able
 Sailors as any in the whole World : In
 this view alone the *French* look upon it
 as an inestimable Treasure, not only con-
 sidered in itself, but also as the Stock, upon

E

which

which a vast Increase of Seamen employed in other Trades dependent upon the Fishery is grafted ; so that for my own Part, I have always esteemed it one of the chief Means, by which the *French* have enriched and aggrandized their Nation, and spread their Power to such a Degree over the Face of the Earth.

To conclude: From what has been said it appears, that while the *French* continued in the Possession of *Cape Breton*, they had in their Hands the most probable Means and the fairest Opportunity to support and increase their own Fishery, Commerce and Colonies, to destroy the *British* Fishery, to distress the whole *British American* Trade, to conquer a large and valuable Part of the Continent of *America* washed by the Sea, to open wide the Flood-gates of their Power, and to make an irreparable Breach in the *British* Dominions; and to sum up all in a Word, this Place by its Strength and Situation, considered with the various Settlements of the two Nations, and the
 Course

Course of their Country, Trade and Navigation, was necessarily a Place of the last Importance to *France*.

Having considered the Usefulness of this Island to *France*, I shall proceed to consider, in the second Place, its Usefulness to this Kingdom: This has, indeed, necessarily been shewn in some Measure already under the first Head; but yet it is proper, I conceive, to explain some Things a little further, and their Relation to *Great Britain* more particularly, to add some new Matter, and to point out the various Benefits that will accrue to the Kingdom by our late Conquest of this Place, and by our keeping Possession of it for the Time to come.

1st. The Enemy will thereby be deprived of one principal Means of advancing *their* Commerce, and annoying *ours*; and therefore,

2^{dly}, The *British* Trade to and from *America* will be rendered more secure,

and the Trade of the Nation in general will thrive and increase.

3dly, The Cod-fishery, that great Nursery of Seamen, will be restored to the *English*, the first and original Possessors of it.

4thly, The Consequence of all these Points gain'd will be the great Growth and Increase of the Naval Power of the Kingdom.

5thly, By this Acquisition the *British* Colonies are united and strengthened, and those of the Enemy divided and broken.

As the three first of these Points do almost necessarily follow from what has been already said, I shall enlarge but little thereon, designing chiefly in the Sequel to trouble you with a few Observations on the two last. And here I cannot help lamenting, that while this Nation has been employing her Arms and Treasures to preserve the Ballance of Power on the Continent of *Europe*, we should in the mean time

time have lost Sight of our true Interest so far, as to suffer the *French* to throw so much Weight into their own Scale of Power at Sea : How far this Fishery, whilst in *their* Hands, has contributed to it, and how far it may be serviceable in *ours* towards the Recovery of what we have lost, I shall submit to your Consideration ; observing, that as the State of the Marine World in general is greatly changed from what it was in former Times, so the comparative Degrees of Skill of the *English* and *French* in Sea Affairs are also greatly varied. You may remember, Sir, that in the second Year of the Reign of *Henry III.* when *Louis* (afterwards the Eighth of *France*) was possessed of the City of *London*, and of divers other Parts of this Kingdom, having bid fair for gaining the whole, *Philip* his Father sent a Fleet of about 80 Sail of large Ships to transport Forces from *France* in support of his Cause ; this Fleet was met by 40 *English* Ships, who gave the *French* Battle, and took and sunk

sunk the greatest Part of them ; and 'tis observable the Historians say that hitherto the *French* were not accustomed to Fights by Sea, and ascribe their Defeat to their Want of Naval Skill ; but of the *English* they say, “ That they, being warlike and skilled in Sea-fights, sunk their Ships, &c.” And the famous *Selden*, in his *Mare Clausum*, cites an Author contemporary with the Fact, who says, “ That in the Month of *May* 1294, there fell out a Quarrel between the Seamen of the Cinque Ports of *England* and the Seamen of *France*, and it was determined by a Fight at Sea, wherein the *English*, with a Fleet of one hundred Sail, took two hundred Ships of *France*, and drown'd or kill'd almost all the Seamen of *France*.” You are sensible, Sir, that the Fates of Kingdoms often depend much on the Events of general Battles by Sea or Land ; and what the several Degrees of Skill of the two Nations are at present, with respect to Engagements

ments by Sea, you are a much better Judge than myself: But I believe we must do our Enemies the Justice to own, that of late they are come considerably nearer to an Equality of Behaviour with us in Naval Encounters than they were formerly; and as all Men are alike by Nature, there being, I suppose, no Difference between them, but what the Policy of their several Governments forming their Manners, or the Degrees of their own Experience makes, I believe that the Difference of the present from the former Behaviour of the *French* at Sea, proceeds chiefly from that great Application to Sea Affairs, which the Policy of their Government at first forc'd in a great Measure upon that Nation: But, as a judicious Writer of the last Reign observes, “ The Profits and Advantages
 “ they have gained in their Voyages, and
 “ by Privateering, have brought a great
 “ many to like the Sea; so that Trade
 “ and Navigation is become in that King-
 “ dom no longer to be the Effect of Force
 “ and

“ and Art, but to arise from a Genius in
 “ the People by Custom and Practice a-
 “ dapted to it, and the Interest they re-
 “ ceive from it.” * With respect to
 Naval Architecture, I think it must be
 allowed that they have so far improv’d
 their Skill therein, that they are not much,
 if at all, surpass’d by any other Nation in
 building Ships either for Speed or martial
 Strength ; and with respect to their Na-
 val Force in general, I desire to cite from
 the Author last mentioned the following
 Observation made after the End of the last
 War, viz. “ That it highly concerns us,
 “ in any Councils relating to our Traf-
 “ fick, to have this Consideration ever in
 “ our Eye, that tho’ we destroyed so
 “ many capital Ships of *France* the two
 “ last Wars, yet that in some Sense the
 “ Naval Strength of *France* is rather in-
 “ creas’d than diminish’d.—There needs
 “ not many Arguments to prove this, when
 “ we reflect that Naval Power does not so
 “ much

* See Mr. *Wood*’s Survey of Trade, p. 319.

“ much consist in Number of Frigates as
 “ in able Seamen ; Ships may be built at
 “ Home or purchas’d Abroad, and can
 “ never be wanting to those, who abound
 “ in Money, which *France* constantly
 “ will, whilst she is suffer’d to trade
 “ in the *Spanish West-Indies* or *South-Seas*,
 “ and to the *Brazils*; but good and skill-
 “ ful Sailors must be bred up in Action,
 “ and in course of Time.—Their Priva-
 “ teers were a constant Nursery, and with-
 “ out doubt have bred them up very great
 “ Numbers of able Seamen, which must
 “ in all Likelihood put that Government
 “ upon endeavouring to make their fo-
 “ reign Traffick more extensive than it
 “ has formerly been.” * The Perspi-
 cuity and Pertinence to the present Point
 and present Times of what is here said by
 this Author, who by the Strength of his
 Judgment foretold in some Measure the
 late wonderful Increase of the *French*
 Commerce, is such that no Application

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by

* See the same Treatise, p. 317.

by any Words of mine are at all wanted ; but I think it may be said upon the whole, that considering the constant Labour and great Judgment wherewith the *French* cultivate their Naval Power, it is not impossible that the Superiority of *Britain* over *France* at Sea may hereafter wholly depend on the Quantity of Ground, which the former shall possess and be able to maintain in the whole Field ; and from what has been said, with a little of your own Reflection, it will, I presume, plainly appear, that the Cod-fishing Grounds are not only a very large, but a very fertile Part of that Soil.

As to the Accession of Unity and Strength recovered to the *British* Colonies by the Conquest of *Cape Breton*, give me Leave to observe, that besides our Sugar Islands, the *British* Empire in *America*, now actually in our Possession, stretches at least 1500 Miles on the main Ocean entire, and without any Break ; that is, from the South Bounds of *Georgia* to the
North-

North-end of *Newfoundland*; and as this Acquisition is of great Consequence in Point of Security to the *English* Northern Colonies, and to the Trade of *Great Britain* to all her Colonies, its Value to this Kingdom on that account cannot be known without considering the Value of these Colonies, and the Trade carry'd on from hence to them all: The Importance of the Subject, and the Frequency of Mistakes concerning it is such, that it were much to be wish'd some Person, who has sufficient Time and Talents, would do it Justice in every Particular; all I shall trouble you with at present is, that the *British* Colonies produce a Variety of necessary and useful Commodities not produc'd in this Kingdom, but imported into it from thence, and which you must otherwise purchase of Foreigners with ready Money; and they produce you not only Commodities for your own Consumption, but such an Overplus, that what was formerly carried to foreign Markets was one great

Means of this Kingdom's drawing a Balance in its Favour on the Foot of the Account of divers Trades abroad ; they are moreover continually sending hither Quantities of Gold and Silver by their Shifts pick'd up in divers Trades, which they beat out to other Countries ; and they take from you their Cloathing, Household Furniture, and the Implements of their different Trades and Labour, some of them wholly, and the rest in various Proportions, employing thereby Handicraftsmen and Artificers innumerable: How large a Vent the Colonies on the Continent only are for your Woollen Goods, you may better judge, Sir, after being informed of one Thing, of the Truth whereof I assure you, *viz.* That it now is, and for a long Time has been, a great Question among Persons the best acquainted with these Countries, whether in all the vast Tract of Land abovemention'd, which comprehends the very coldest Climates in the *British* Dominions, they grow Wool enough to supply all the Inhabitants with

with Stockings only ; and as for the Southern Colonies, the Inhabitants are wholly clad in what they receive from hence, and they also continually take off your Hands a great Variety of other Things in large Quantities, and produce you not only Sugar, a very important Article in Trade, but likewise divers other Articles to a very great Value in the whole : And in order to shew what Influence the *British* Colonies in general have had on the *British* Navigation, I desire to produce the Testimonies of others, whom I take for unquestionable Witnesses. Sir *Josiah Child* said of them in his Time *, “ That our Plantations, spend-
 “ ing mostly our *English* Manufactures,
 “ and those of all Sorts almost in egregious
 “ Quantities, and employing near two
 “ Thirds of all our *English* Shipping, do
 “ therein give a constant Sustainance, &c.
 And Mr. *Wood*, an Author already cited, in his Survey of Trade † says thus, “ I shall

* See his Discourse of Trade, p. 203. † See the Beginning of his third Part.

“ now proceed to say something of our
 “ Colonies and Plantations in *America*,
 “ which, together with our *Newfoundland*
 “ Fishery, have been the chief Increase
 “ of our Navigation and Seamen, and the
 “ greatest Encouragement to both, on
 “ which Account, as well as in regard to
 “ their Product, they are of the utmost
 “ Consequence for us to preserve and en-
 “ courage.” And afterwards * this Au-
 thor makes an Observation, first made, if
 I mistake not, by Sir *Josiah Child*, viz.
 “ That no Trades deserve so much our Care
 “ to procure and preserve, and Encourage-
 “ ment to prosecute, as those that employ
 “ the most Shipping, altho’ the Commo-
 “ dities carry’d be of small Value in them-
 “ selves, as a great part of the Commodi-
 “ ties from our Colonies are ; for besides
 “ the Gain accruing by the Goods, the
 “ Freight in such Trades, often more than
 “ the Value of the Goods, is all Profit to
 “ the

“ the Nation, and they likewise bring with
 “ them a great Access of Power by the In-
 “ crease of Ships and Seamen, the proper
 “ Strength and Security of this Kingdom.”

And Mr. *Gee*, in his Treatise on 'Trade
 and Navigation, speaking of the Planta-
 tions, says, “ There is another Advantage
 “ we receive by our Plantations, which is
 “ hardly so much as thought on, I mean
 “ the prodigious Increase of our Ship-
 “ ping †.” But notwithstanding the great
 Usefulness of the Plantations to their Mo-
 ther Country, it has been not long since,
 whatever it is now, a Matter of Question
 with some, whether they were not preju-
 dicial to *Great Britain*, and a moot Point
 with others whether any Advantage to it;
 and they have not even wanted their open
 Enemies, whose chief Objection against
 them has been, that they had prejudic'd
 the Mother Kingdom by draining it of its
 People. To this it has been answered;
 1st,

† See his Treatise on the Trade and Navigation of
Great Britain, p. 104.

1st, That the greatest Part of the Persons, who settled the *English* Plantations, left the Kingdom by reason of Distresses attending particular Times, or on such Occasions as would have carry'd them to other Countries, so as to have been wholly lost to the *English*, had they not gone and settled in *America*; 2^{dly}, That the Inhabitants of the Colonies produce to this Kingdom a Profit far greater than the like Number of Inhabitants remaining in it, besides contributing so largely to the Increase of its Navigation; and this has been shewn by divers Calculations made, in some of which all the Inhabitants of the Colonies have been considered collectively, and in others some of them separately, and the Profits arising from them to the Publick have been compared with the Profits arising from the Inhabitants of *Great Britain* Man for Man, and those proceeding from the former have appeared to exceed those yielded by the latter greatly: And to this it may be added, that the Settlement of the *Eng-*
lish

lish on the Continent of *America* has been the Means of considerable Numbers coming from other Countries thither to join them, thereby greatly increasing the Number of *British* Subjects, and consequently enriching the *British* Dominions : And in order to try the Policy and Prudence of any Measures, I think it is fair and proper to consider what probably would have been the Case, if those Steps had not been taken : Now let it be considered what would have happened if the *English* had not made their Settlements in *America* ; and I think it must be granted, that in all Probability that whole Country now possessed by the *English*, or the far greatest Part of it, would have been possessed by the *French*, together with what they already enjoy ; and the Consequence of that, I think, must have been fatal to this Kingdom : The Riches they have gained out of those Parts of *America*, now or lately in their Possession, have in a great Measure help'd them to become in the highest

Degree formidable to the rest of *Europe*; but if the whole Wealth and Naval Strength that has been collected by the *English* out of their *American* Plantations, or the most considerable Share of it, had been added to the Power of *France*, how could we have kept up, I will not say the Honour, but the mere Name alone of the *British* Flag? Into what pernicious and destructive Hands must the boasted, the envied Sovereignty of the Seas have fall'n? And in consequence thereof, what a dreadful Sacrifice must we have beheld before this Time of the Trade, the Religion, the Laws, the Liberties, the Independency of *Great Britain*? But the View is too terrible, and the Subject too shocking to dwell upon; and therefore I shall go on to observe, that *France* by what she *has* done plainly shews us what she is ambitious and capable of doing; she has entertained for some Time past so high and just a Sense of the Value of her Plantations, that those Mines of Treasure, by means of the liberal

ral Encouragement she constantly bestows upon them, are not only much enlarged and improved, but new ones also have been found out and work'd upon with the greatest Diligence and Success. In the Year 1701, the Deputies of the Council of Commerce, in one of their Memorials to the Court of *France*, express themselves in the following Words, viz. "The *English* with
 " less Advantages than we, and in Terri-
 " tories of less Extent, have found Means
 " to employ yearly above 500 Ships, while
 " we do not without great Difficulty em-
 " ploy † 100." But it is melancholy to see how much the Scene is changed, the *French* now actually employ more Ships than the *English* in that Branch of the *American* Trade, to which this Memorial refers.

To set forth to the full Extent the Value of the *British* Plantations to their Mother Country would perhaps be a harder Task than to lay open the particular Usefulness of *Cape Breton* to them: According

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† See the Memorial of the Deputies of the Council of Commerce, p. 1.

to a Computation made about the Beginning of the last Reign, the annual Exportations from hence of *British* Manufactures, native Product and foreign Commodities to all the *British* Colonies, as well Southern as Northern, for their own Use, and to carry on their Trade to other Countries, amounted at least to two Millions *per Annum*; and if you will suppose, as of Necessity you must, a Profit in the Returns for those Exportations, the Imports from thence must have amounted to a much larger Sum, besides the Freight of the whole. And by an Account taken the Beginning of the present Reign of the Number of Ships and their Tonage enter'd inwards from the Plantations in *America*, from *Christmas* 1720, to *Christmas* 1730, it appear'd that there was employ'd in that Trade no less than 6607 Ships of 645704 Tons in the whole, and navigated by 52856 Sailors, reckoning eight Sailors to every Ship, without taking in the Number of Ships, Tonage and Sailors employed

ployed between Colony and Colony, or solely on the Fishing Banks, which will make an Increase of no less than a fourth Part to be added to the Account ; since that time the Inhabitants of the Northern Colonies are become much more numerous, and their Demands for *English* Goods are increas'd in Proportion to their Numbers, or near it.

And I think it is worthy of Notice, that these Colonies are not only in a direct and immediate Tendency serviceable to their Mother Country, but indirectly, and by their mutual Dependence upon each other : The Northern Colonies would find it extremely difficult to subsist without the Sugar Islands, and the Sugar Islands without them, and the Mother Country would languish without both ; so that the true and real Interests of all are strongly link'd and interwoven together ; it is the Business, it is the Duty of the Colonies to be subservient to the Policy and Trade of *Great Britain*, and on the other Hand it is no less

less the Concern of *Great Britain* to cherish and support the Colonies in the most tender and effectual Manner.

In the last Reign, divers Persons well acquainted with the ways of enriching a Nation propos'd the supplying of this Kingdom with Naval Stores of all kinds from the Plantations, instead of being supply'd from the *East* Country, by which means the Nation would be more sure of these necessary Commodities, when produc'd in her own Plantations, than when coming out of the *Baltick*, where it was possible the Ballance of Power might alter, and an Enemy to *Great Britain* become possess'd of it; in which case the want of Naval Stores, things absolutely necessary for the Security and Trade of the Kingdom, would be attended with pernicious Consequences; and by having them from your own Plantations, instead of purchasing them from other Countries in a great measure with Money, which when paid is utterly lost to the Kingdom, you would exchange

exchange them for your own Manufactures, thereby saving every Year a large Sum to the Nation, and giving Employment to your own People, to the great Improvement of your *Northern* Colonies, the increase of your Seamen and Navigation, and the general Security and Advantage of his Majesty's Dominions: And Mr. *Gee*, a Gentleman of very extensive and accurate Knowledge in Trade, afterwards propos'd such further Improvements of the *Northern* Colonies, and the Trades from thence, as properly encourag'd and regulated would yield to this Kingdom, according to his Computation, a yearly Profit of above a Million, besides supplying the *North* of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland* with plenty of Hemp and Flax, thereby giving Employment to a Million of People suppos'd to be then out of Work, and adding by that means yearly to the publick Stock above a Million more: And upon the Czar of *Muscovy* and the King of *Sweden*'s forming a Design to prevent your being supply'd

supply'd with Naval Stores from their Dominions, otherwise than at their own Prices and in their own Shipping, *Great Britain* took such Measures, that some Species of Naval Stores have been since produc'd in the Plantations in large Quantities, to the great Benefit of the Publick ; It is true in some others of great Consequence, little has been done ; and as for Iron, that is so far from being yet encourag'd, that Plantation Bar-Iron is, I think, still chargeable to pay Duty as foreign Iron, and there is a small Duty, I believe, still chargeable upon Plantation Pig-Iron ; and to shew what large Sums are paid by the Nation abroad for this Article, I beg leave to cite a remarkable Passage of Mr. *Gee's*, who after proposing a Method of supplying the Kingdom from the Plantations with what Iron could not be made in it, expresses himself in these Words : “ And thus we
 “ might save the large Sums we pay for
 “ what is now brought from *Sweden* and
 “ other foreign Countries, which is greater
 “ than

“ than I could have imagin’d, ’till I had
 “ lately seen an Account of the whole
 “ Quantity of Iron exported from *Stock-*
 “ *holm* and *Gottenburg* to the several Parts
 “ of *Europe* in the Year 1729; whereby
 “ it appears that there was shipp’d for
 “ *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, from those
 “ two Ports only (besides what we had
 “ from *Spain*, *Norway* and *Russia*) above
 “ 19,000 Tons, and but little above 12,000
 “ to all the other Ports of *Europe*, and to
 “ *France* particularly not 200 Tons, so
 “ careful is that Government not to buy
 “ from other Countries what they can
 “ possibly supply themselves with at home,
 “ a Policy which naturally tends to make
 “ them grow Rich *”. Sound Policy I
 think plainly requires, that whatever the
 Mother Country cannot produce for her
 use, should, if possible, be produc’d in her
 Plantations, *the Whole being truly but one*
Country, and having one common Interest a-
gainst all other Nations; and if the Extent
 of Country in the *British* Plantations be
 H consider’d,

* See the Supplement to the 3d Edition of Mr. Gee’s
Treatise on Trade, &c.

confider'd, together with the Fertility of
 Soil of divers of them, and the natural
 Produce of the Latitudes they cross, it will
 appear, that they may be certainly ren-
 der'd an inexhaustible Fund of Wealth
 to this Kingdom: They are without
 Question capable of producing in time,
 and upon sufficient Encouragement, all the
 Naval Stores now imported from foreign
 Countries: And as *Carolina, Virginia,*
Maryland and *Pensilvania* abound with
 white Mulberry-Trees, and the Samples of
 Silk sent over from thence have been of an
 excellent Staple, much resembling that of
Piedmont, they might unquestionably pro-
 duce large Quantities of the best raw Silk ;
 and as one Man may raise in the rough
 what it requires many to manufacture,
 they might, over and above what they
 already produce, be made to raise an a-
 bundance of rough Materials, especially the
 large and valuable Articles of Hemp, Flax
 and Silk to be sent over and manufactur'd
 here, which would necessarily cause a very
 large

large additional Intercourse of Trade between *Great Britain* and her Colonies, a great Increase of Seamen, an Employment of many Hands in the Plantations, and of many more here ; and all the Sums given as Bounties by this Kingdom for Encouragement to prosecute these things there (and without sufficient Encouragement given for a time, they will not be carry'd on to effect, by reason of the great Difficulties naturally attending such Undertakings in their Beginnings) are in effect paid to the Inhabitants of this Kingdom ; for whatever Sums are receiv'd on Importation are directly lay'd out in your Manufactures, to be sent over to the Plantations, as indeed every thing that the Inhabitants of the Colonies can raise out of the Earth or Seas, or gain in their Traffick with others, finally centers here ; and the Lands and People are, in my Opinion, far more valuable to this Kingdom than a Quantity of Land equal to what is contain'd in this Island would be, if it was rais'd out of the

Sea, join'd to this Island and inhabited by a Number of Persons equal to the Number of the Inhabitants of the Colonies, because they produce many necessary and valuable Commodities not produc'd in this Country or Climate, and by lying beyond the Seas they occasion a vast Employment of Ships and Seamen ; and as they are exceedingly valuable to their Mother Country already, they may be made to encrease more and more daily, the Riches and Power of *Great Britain*, continually helping it much to vye with *France* both in Peace and War : And really, Sir, under due Encouragement, the Usefulness of the Colonies to this Kingdom would be without bounds : The Inhabitants in general are industrious and frugal, and if they are not yet arrived in any measure to that pitch of Improvement they are capable of, it is because, on the one hand their different Climates, Soils and natural Productions are not consider'd at home with the Attention, which is necessary to put those Colonies into
the

the proper Line of Direction; or on the other Hand, for want of a constant Watchfulness and nice Observation of the Beginnings and Progress of the *French* in *America*, without which it will never be in our Power to counter-act them. Their Policy is for ever fatal to us; by *Dint of Management* they first got Footing on *Cape Breton*, *Newfoundland*, the Fishing Banks, and the Continent; in which last Place, tho' they are not near so numerous as the *English*, yet by *Dint of Management* they keep their Ground still, and are daily making fresh Acquisitions.

The *English*, according to the Manner of acquiring the Dominion and Property of Countries in *America* by the Princes of *Europe*, were first entitled to what *France* now holds in the Bay and River of *St. Lawrence*; but the *French* having upon the Marriage of *King Charles I.* with the Lady *Henrietta Maria*, and in other Parts of that Reign, and in the Reign of *King Charles II.* got that Country, and
 having,

having, I think, by the Indulgence of *Great Britain* and *Spain* both, seized on and settled in Part the great River *Messissippi*, they have, by their Encroachments and otherwise, extended their Territories from the Mouth of that River all along on the Back of the *English* Settlements ; and I should say that their whole Country, according to their Claims, now lies in the Form of a Crescent encompassing all the *English* Plantations on the Continent, but that they have of late so enlarged their Boundaries, still artfully leaving them uncertain in divers Parts, in order to favour their future Encroachments, that it is difficult saying what Form they lie in ; but they have not scrupled to boast in some of their Writings, that their Dominion extends northward from the Mouth of the River *Messissippi*, which lies between the Latitudes of 29 and 30, to the Arctick Circle, including all that River and the adjacent Country ; this you are sensible makes an Extent of Dominion of about 2220 Geographical, or 2440 *English*

English Miles in Length; and from the Mouth of the River *St. Lawrence* it extends Westward to the *Californian* Sea, or where they shall think fit to stop; for I think the World is wholly at a Loss to find out any Termination of their Territories that Way. The River *Mississippi*, you are sensible, runs thro' a great Part of the Northern Temperate Zone; and a *French* Officer of good Intelligence, bred up to the Land and Sea Service, who had been 300 Leagues up that River, in a Man of War of 60 Guns, sent there by the *French*, in order, I suppose, to give the Natives of the Country an Idea of the Magnificence of their Government, or in Part at least on that Errand, and who had spent a considerable Time in travelling backwards and forwards on that River, lately gave me an Account that it was certainly navigable by large Ships for 800 Leagues. This Account makes it longer than the common Accounts, which make it navigable for 2000 Miles and upwards, and the *French*

by

by reason of their Settlements command all the Furr Trade of that vast inland Country, which lies back upon this River, and where by their own Accounts they have Furrs at Prices exceedingly low, compar'd to the Prices given by them elsewhere, or by us any where, and which they pay for in their own Manufactures ; and what that large Country, with this navigable River running thro' the Body of it, will in Time produce 'em, I cannot say ; but doubtless they will endeavour by means of it to beat the *English* out of some of the valuable Parts of their Plantation Trade. Some *English* Writers, I know, are of Opinion that there is no great Danger to be apprehended from the Settlements of the *French* on that River, or any where on the Continent ; the River I am sensible has a Bar at the Mouth of it, which makes it necessary for them to take even their Guns out of their large Ships when they go over it, but this they look upon as a great Security against the Naval Force of their Enemies,

mies, and the other Difficulties attending it are such as have been overcome by others less enterprizing ; and I should be glad it might be remember'd, that the Facts proceeding from the Policy of the *French* do sometimes far exceed the Expectations of the *English*. Sir *Josiah Child*, tho' a Man of great Discernment, especially in Matters of Trade, was much mistaken in the Judgment he made concerning the Progress of the *French* in their Plantations; on which Account he was fully of Opinion, that they were not much to be fear'd, and yet the *French* not long after his declaring this to the World, set about the Improvement of the Plantations so heartily, and prosecuted the Matter so judiciously, that in the course of a few Years, viz. in 1701, when the *French* were become very powerful at Sea, their Council of Commerce, in their Memorial already refer'd to, was able to say to the Royal Council of that Kingdom, " No one is ignorant that the Navigation
 " of *France* owes all its Increase and Splen-

“ dor to the Commerce of it's Islands,
 “ and that it cannot be kept up and en-
 “ larg'd otherwise than by that Com-
 “ merce.” And it is, I think, a Matter
 certain, that they have taken such Measures
 touching those Islands, as have increas'd
 their Product to that degree, that they
 yield at least double the value in Sugar,
 Indigo, Ginger and Cotton, of what is now
 made by the *English*.

And with regard to their Claims and
 Possessions, extending from the River St.
Lawrence on the back of the *English* Set-
 tlements, it is I think, difficult to deter-
 mine whether they have proceeded with
 greater Policy for themselves, or Injury and
 Danger to the *English*; for having got
Canada in the manner, which has been
 mention'd, they not only enlarg'd the
 Boundaries of that Country, extending
 them far beyond the Sense that was had
 of them when they obtain'd it; but they
 have gone on continually to encrease their
 Dominion, and encroach upon the *English*,
 till

till at length they have planted Forts upon the several great Lakes, and done every thing in their Power towards securing them, and all the large inland Countries that encompass 'em; establishing also a Communication between their Settlements at *Canada*, and those on the River *Mississippi*, for the support of the latter in particular, as well as for the spreading and strengthening of their Power in general. And as their Policy ever leads them to be perpetually Intriguing with all other Nations, with whom they have any concern; they have by their Priests, Presents, and all other practicable Methods, not only gain'd to their Interest the various Tribes of *Indians* inhabiting the inland Countries, but have also inveigled and seduced from the *English* sundry Tribes living in the midst of their Colonies. And as the Advancement of their political Purposes bears down all other Considerations, during the last Peace between the two Nations, contrary to common Justice, and the Manifest Rights

Rights of the *English*, they seiz'd a part of their Territory, and erected a Fort at *Crown-Point* in *Lake Champlain*, that is, in the heart of that Country, whereof an absolute Cession was made to the *English* by the Treaty of *Utrecht*. This Place is within a few Days March of the *English* Frontiers; from hence they lately sally'd out with a considerable Number of the Savages, and cut off entirely the *English* Settlement at *Sorabtoğa*, carrying away Captive all who were not destroy'd by Fire or Sword, to the great Terror and Risque of the City of *Albany* itself: And having got such a large Footing on the back of all our Plantations, and such Influence over the Natives, they have perswaded them, that they only let us improve the Lands upon the Sea Coast for themselves; and that they purpose in proper time to push us all into the Ocean. Some of the *French* Authors have been pleas'd to publish this to the World, as a wholesome and practicable piece of Policy in their Apprehensions;

sions; and comparing their Proceedings on the Continent of *America*, with the nature and drift of their Policy (which I think evidently leads them deliberately to form, and steadily to pursue, the widest as well as the most artful Plans for the Enlargement of their Dominion, to be executed sooner or later, as the Effect of their own Management, and the course of human Events, over which they constantly keep a watchful Eye, shall present them with a fit Opportunity) their late Measures have seem'd to be calculated to advance a Design so well suited to the towering Ambition and enterprizing Spirit of that restless People. For my part, I confess, that I never had any Apprehensions, that we should be soon driven into the Ocean; but yet I think it a matter certain, that if the Province of the *Massachusetts* had not discover'd an uncommon degree of publick Spirit, for the Preservation of *Annapolis*, and afterwards adventur'd their All in making an Expedition against *Cape Breton*,

the

the *English* must have been directly driven out of *Annapolis*; whereby the Enemy wou'd have gain'd the Possession of all *Nova Scotia*, with 5 or 6,000 Inhabitants ready to draw the Sword for them. This addition to their Strength at *Cape Breton* and *Canada*, with the numerous Tribes of *Indians* in their Interest, would have put it in their Power, without much Difficulty, to ravage the ancient Province of *Main*; to Distress, perhaps to Destroy a great part of the Province of *New Hampshire*, and to render the whole *Mast-Country* at least useles to the *English*, if not directly beneficial to themselves. If the Conquest of *Annapolis* had not been most happily prevented, all the *Indians* who have been wavering and doubtful which Interest to Espouse, that of the *English* or *French*, would have immediately join'd the latter. Tho' they fail'd in that Enterprize, yet by their artful Insinuations, and subtle Contrivances, they have been able very lately to shake the Fidelity of the six Nations, the

Ancient

Ancient Allies of the *English*; so that nothing less than the united Care and Wisdom of the several *English* Governments was able to prevent those warlike and powerful Tribes from forsaking the *English*, and joining the Enemy. Had they once got Possession of *Nova-Scotia*, a Country capable of receiving, supporting, and strengthening such Forces as should come from *France*, where they might more easily pour in their Succours at all times, as Occasions required; by uniting, encreasing, and continually exerting their Strength; they might and doubtless would have made our Colonies a Scene of Slaughter and Confusion, destroying some and distressing all; and raising their Interest upon the ruins of the *English*. In short, had *Nova-Scotia* been lost to us, and *Cape Breton* preserv'd to the Enemy, fatal, very fatal must have been the Effects to the *British* Interests in *America*.

Upon the whole, considering that what was heretofore said of others is more true
of

of the *French*, “ That in some Parts they
 “ supplant us, and every where outwit us ;
 “ that we find them enterprizing, vigilant,
 “ and jealous in whatever has Relation to
 “ their Trade ; and observe them still en-
 “ deavouring to get Ground, and never
 “ yielding any Point to us, but forming long
 “ Schemes, calculated to take Effect many
 “ Years to come, in order to enlarge them-
 “ selves at our Expence ; so that it be-
 “ comes good Patriots to look about them,
 “ and to take care, lest in Time *England*
 “ should be in a Manner excluded from
 “ the Commercial World.” †— And con-
 sidering the Importance of the Colonies to
Great Britain, and of the Trade from
 thence, together with the Fishery carry’d
 on there, what Wealth they produce, what
 Ships they employ, and what Seamen they
 raise, and also what Vent they give to all
 your Manufactures, so great that there are
 few Towns in the Kingdom, wherein any
 Trade

† This was said of the *Dutch* in the Inspector General’s Report to the Commissioners for publick Accounts in the latter Part of *Queen Anne’s* Reign.

Trade or Manufacture is carry'd on, which have not a Dependance on the Plantation Trade—Considering how necessary the Colonies are for the Preservation of this Kingdom in its full Power and Glory; and how much the Welfare of our Colonies, and the Security of all the *British American* Commerce was endanger'd by the Enemy's Possession of *Cape Breton*.—In a Word, considering what a powerful Instrument this Place was in the Hands of the Enemy, for the Advancement of their ruinous Designs, and the Destruction of the *British* Interests, it must Sir, I think, be confess'd, that *Cape Breton* was a Place of the last Importance to *Great Britain*.

I am with the greatest Respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient Servant,

MASSACHUSETTENSIS.

REPORT

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