

Otis Little, *The State of Trade in the Northern Colonies Considered; with An Account of their Produce, And a particular DESCRIPTION of NOVA SCOTIA* (London, G. Woodfall, 1748).  
<https://archive.org/details/stateoftradeinno00littuoft/page/n7/mode/2up>

The State of Trade  
In the  
Northern Colonies Considered.

with

An Account of their Produce,  
And a particular DESCRIPTION of  
NOVA SCOTIA.

Salutis communis interest. Cic.

LONDON:

printed by G. Woodfall at the King' s-Arms  
near Charing-Cross,

M.DCC.XLVIII.

The Preface.

*As the following short Treatise was hastily Wrote, it may probably appear incorrect to the Judicious, but as the Design was to represent the Value and Importance of the Northern Colonies to this Kingdom, I hope it will answer my Intentions of promoting the public Good.*

*Their Trade and Produce have not hitberto been properly encouraged, altho' their Utility may be easily comprehended; a small Bounty on the federal rough Materials they are capable of raising, and shipping Home, would soon enable*

*them to supply the Nation with a Variety of Articles, in Return for its Manufactures, which are now purchased of Foreigners with Cash, and imported in their Ships.*

*The Settling of Nova Scotia will in a few Years render the present Inhabitants Industrious and useful, whereby it may be justly accounted a most valuable Acquisition, which will be the more considerable, as the Conditions of its Settlement may be so advantageously calculated as to fill it without draining our Mother-Country of its Inhabitants. For this Purpose I have described the Soil, Quality, and Manner of improving the several Parts of it from my own Observation, whereby it will appear how easily it may be effected at a very small Charge, compared with the Benefits that will naturally result from it. — But if they were doubtful, yet the Advantages the French might otherwise make of this Province, and the Want of an effectual Barrier for securing the Possession, Trade, and Fishery of the Northern Colonies against their Efforts in a future War, sufficiently demonstrate the Necessity of keeping it out of their Hands, without being diverted by the Consideration of the Expence, and this is the more obvious, and important, as they will always be exposed to the Attacks of the French, from the Neighbourhood of Cape Breton.*

*I must here beg the Reader's Indulgence for saying a Word in Support of my Remarks on that Island.*

*I am sensible that a high Opinion has been conceived of its Worth, and with good Reason, from the concurrent Accounts of both English and French Writers; but as the former have been principally copied from the latter, their Veracity may be fairly called in Question : This I have a Right to do, from the exactest Information I could obtain on the Spot, and I can safely appeal to the most intelligent Persons, who have resided there long enough to make proper Observations, to confirm what I have advanced.*

*By fortifying Nova Scotia; by encouraging the Importation of its Produce to be wrought up here, and promoting the Fishery in Time of Peace; by stationing a proper Naval Force there, and on the Coast New-England in Time of War,*

*this Kingdom may secure to itself all the Advantages that could have arose from the Possession of Louisburg, at a less Expence than would have been requisite for keeping so large a Fortress in Repair, and defending it with a proper Garrison,*

*Settling of the Cape Sable Shore, will undoubtedly make a Winter's Cod-Fishery practicable, and may soon become more considerable than any that ever has been prosecuted, and as the Fish caught and cured in that Season exceed all others, they will of course come to a better Market in all Parts of the World,*

OTIS LITTLE

The State  
of the  
North-American Trade, and  
Settlement considered;  
with  
a particular Account of NOVA SCOTIA.

GREAT-BRITAIN has enjoyed the Benefit of a most extensive Commerce, since the Discovery of *America*, which, if properly attended to, will contribute more to its future Interest, than any other Branches of Trade, by enlarging the Demand for all its Manufactures, and increasing the Means of its Naval Force.

That the Riches and Strength of this Nation depend principally on its Commerce with foreign Countries, and its own Colonies, is a Fact that needs no Illustration; it being equally true in Regard to all trading Kingdoms; for the Increase of Wealth and Power

has generally been proportionate to the Enlargement of their Trade, and History fully proves, that Ruin and Desolation have always attended the Loss of it; the most flourishing are indebted to it for their Grandeur, and the most opulent and powerful have been undone by the Neglect of it.

As every State in *Europe* seems desirous of increasing its Trade, and the Acquisition of Wealth enlarges the Means of Power, it is necessary, in order to preserve an Equality with them, that this Kingdom extend its Commerce in proportion; but to acquire a Superiority, due Encouragement ought to be given to such of its Branches, as will most effectually enrich its Inhabitants.

As Trade enables the Subject to support the Administration of Government, the lessening or destroying that of a Rival, has the same effect, as if this Kingdom had enlarged the Sources of its own Wealth; it is evident from hence, that it is not sufficient to support the Credit of a Country with its Neighbours, that its Commerce be enlarged only, unless its Increase be proportionate to theirs: But, as an Ascendency is to be gained by checking the Growth of theirs, as well as by the Increase of its own, whenever one of these happens to be the Consequence of the other to this Nation, its Figure and Reputation will rise to a greater Height than ever.

My Purpose being to shew how far these good Effects may be produced by encouraging the *North-American* Trade and Settlements, I shall confine myself to those Branches which are capable of the greatest Improvement.

That *the Riches of a Country consist in the Number of its Inhabitants* is an Expression that drops from the Pen of every Writer; but it must always be understood that those Inhabitants are properly employed, and suitably encouraged; for, otherwise, it would appear to be an odd Position, that a Country should be called rich, when it is only filled with Vagabonds and Beggars.

But when it is considered, that the Northern *Colonies*, in less than *five* Years, have lost above *seven thousand* of their most active and industrious Inhabitants by an uncommon Ardour in exerting themselves for the public Good, besides a Habit of Idleness that has been contracted by a large Body, which has been long in Arms waiting for Employment; to which may be added *three thousand* more, who having entered on board his Majesty's Ships of War, and Privateers, are never like to return ; their Loss will appear almost invaluable, and not to be repaired but by replacing a much superior Number of Men In the Country. From the apparent Connexion between the Northern Colonies and the *West Indies*, and their joint Relation to this Kingdom, it is evident, that the Increase of Inhabitants in the former, will contribute more to the common Interest, than employing the like Number at Home. This, Mr. *Wood* in a Treatise on Trade, has demonstrated to be nearly in a Proportion of five to one; from whence it follows, that the before-mentioned Loss is equal to that of *fifty thousand* Labourers and Artificers here; and in regard to those Colonies vastly exceeds the Grant lately made them by Parliament, as the Value of their Labour for *three* Years only would have been equal to that Sum; and notwithstanding a Jealousy has been frequently excited on account of their Growth, it will appear, that the Commerce and Naval Power of this Kingdom will greatly depend on their future Encouragement and Protection.

The Policy and Wisdom of a Government discovers itself in nothing more evidently, than by proportioning its Influences so as to support, and cherish the Circulation of Trade, and Manufactures, in its minute Parts, as well as its large and more opulent Members ; the smaller Wheels in a Machine being as necessary to make it useful as the largest, and commonly require the nicest Skill of the Artificer in their Regulation: And without a due Regard be had in every

State to the Trade of its Individuals, there is the greatest Danger of the weaker Parts being oppressed by the stronger ; and whenever this happens, the Extremities are sure of being the first, and generally the greatest Sufferers, as by their Remoteness from the Vitals, they feel less of their Influences, and labour longest under their Distress ; and although Disorders of this Kind do not immediately affect the whole, yet the smallest Obstructions, if not seasonably removed, often produce a general Stagnation, and may prove as dangerous to the political, as to the natural Body.

It may not be improper to observe, before I proceed any farther, that some Persons, either thro' Prejudice, or for Want of better Information, are too apt to insinuate, *that great Care ought to be taken, lest those Colonies grow too powerful, and set up a Government of their own.* This is so far from having the least Foundation to support it, that I am positive no People on Earth are more firmly attached to their Prince, than they are to his Majesty and the present Establishment, being all Protestants, who have ever manifested the greatest Abhorrence of Popery, by which Means Roman-Catholics have been always deterred from fettling in the Country, and their constant, and repeated Demonstrations of Zeal and Loyalty to the *British* Government, are sufficient to clear them from every Aspersion of this Kind; but to make the Matter more evident, it may be observed, that if they were *ten* Times more populous, and wealthy than they are at present, no Motive could be urg'd of sufficient Weight to induce them to a Revolt; neither the Love of Liberty, Force of Oppression, Burthen of Taxes, or Desire of becoming more powerful, could possibly influence them to struggle for Independency: If the Love of Power and Liberty should be taken into Consideration, 'tis apparent that they enjoy as great a Share of both as any of his Majesty's Subjects, and much more than if they were an independent Government; for, in that case, they must be supposed to put themselves into the Hands of some foreign

State, which could protect them from the just Resentment of this Kingdom; and it is well known that is not to be done; but if it could, to whom are they to apply that would continue to them the Liberties they enjoy now? No People in their Senses would subject themselves to the *French, Spaniards* or *Dutch*, with a View of securing their Privileges with greater Tranquility than *they* at present enjoy them; and should they aim at absolute Independency, the Expence of defending themselves would infinitely exceed any they have ever yet been subject to, and indeed, they could not subsist: without the Protection of their Mother Country.

As to any Discontents that might arise from Oppression, or the Burthen of Taxe, they are subject to none but such as result from Laws of their own making, an Indulgence they esteem themselves secured of under a Protestant King, and which gives them a Share of Power equal to their Desires; and as their very Being, in a manner, depends on this Kingdom, their Trade is so closely connected with, and grafted on it, that nothing would so effectually ruin them, as to be deprived of it, for were they to be supplied with *European* Goods by any other State, the Difference would prove fatal to them. Upon the whole, nothing can, nor ever will, prevail upon them to attempt, or think of a State of Independency, whilst they enjoy the Freedom of English Subjects under so happy a Constitution.

But if, after all, it be thought dangerous to suffer the Colonies to grow too large lest they should take it in their Heads to revolt, 'tis pretty extraordinary, that neither the *French, Dutch* nor *Spaniards* have ever been discouraged from promoting their *American* Settlements; their Case is widely different from ours; were the *French* or *Dutch* Colonies, for instance, to revolt to the *English* it would scarce be possible for *France* or *Holland* to regain them; but as to the *Spanish* Dominions in *America* not all the Force of Old Spain, if it was contiguous to that

Continent would be sufficient to reduce them; and although there is scarce a Native of America that is suffered to hold a Post of Profit, they wear their Chains with great Contentment; but to suppose a People subject to none of these Grievances capable of a single Thought of setting up for themselves, is branding them with a Disposition so foolish and unaccountable as cannot well be conceived.

To shew what may be saved to the Kingdom, as well as gained by its enlarged Trade to the Northern Plantations, 'tis to my Purpose to observe, that the Sugar-Colonies could not subsist without them: Most of the Materials for their Buildings and Works, as well as Provisions, Cask for Spirits, Sugars, Molosses, Etc. come from thence, and that they constantly send the greatest Part of their Effects home *in New-England-built Ships*, without which they would not be able to bear the Duties paid in this Kingdom, by reason of the excessive Price of Freights.

This, if rightly considered, will appear to be an Article of great Importance in regard to the *French West-Indies* Mr. *Ashley* has very justly observed. That, 'should Plantation-built Ships be discouraged, Freight would be so dear, as to lose the *British* Nation one of its greatest Advantages over its Rivals in Trade, — *a low Freight*; and from the great Traffick of the Kingdom, they must be compelled to buy Materials for building of Ships, of *Foreigners*, with Cash, instead of their own Manufactures, to the enriching of such *Foreigners*, and the Discouragement of our *American Colonies*: That Instead of prejudicing that Branch of Business here, the refitting and finishing Plantation-built Ships often gives as much Advantage to the Shipwrights, as the building of new Ships. The *French* take the Benefit of our Plantation-built Ships to carry their Sugars to *Spain*, and commonly pay for them in the Produce of their own Islands, and have, in this Instance, a very great Advantage of us. “That the saving of a Shilling or Eighteen-pence only *per*



Hundred in the Article of Freight, would go near to enable us to under-sell them at foreign Markets, if the Ships employed in the Sugar Trade were indulged with the same Privileges, as those which are commonly called *Act Ships*. That the flourishing State of the *British* Commerce, and the Revenues arising therefrom, are, in no small Degree, owing to a *low Freight occasioned chiefly from our building Ships so cheap in our American Plantations*.

That since the French struggle so hard to gather Strength in *America*, surely it is the true Interest of this Kingdom to do so too, and to encourage its Northern, as well as its Southern Colonies, so that they may both contribute to the Support and Benefit 'of their Mother Country. " *The Northern Colonies are a great Support to the Naval Power of Great-Britain, and assist, in a great Measure, in giving us a Superiority at Sea over all other Nations in the World: They supply the King's Yards with great Quantities of Masts, Yards and Bowsprits instead of those of foreign Growth, with Pitch, Tar and Turpentine, for all which immense Quantities of Goods are exported from Great-Britain, which prevents five Times the Value thereof from going out of the Kingdom in Cash to Sweden, and other foreign Countries.*'

All the Articles with which the British *West-Indies* are supplied, require a great Number of Artificers and labouring Men to fit them for Shipping ; and they are in such Demand, as to be the most considerable Branch of the *New-England* Trade, although the Price of every Article is so high, as greatly to affect the Value and Increase of the *West-India* Produce; but if the Price of Labour in the Northern Colonies could be reduced *fifty per Cent*, the *West-India* Islands would receive all their Supplies so much cheaper as to be able, in *thirty* or *forty* Years, to double their Remittances, and, consequently, the Duties paid on Importation.

By enlarging the Trade, and increasing the Number of Inhabitants in the Northern Colonies, their Demand and Abilities to pay for *British* Goods would be proportionable.

But the Price of the several Commodities with which the Sugar-Colonies are supplied, and those which are returned to *England*, is much higher than if the Country was fuller of Inhabitants, the Want of which disables the Merchant from shipping its Produce, but to his own Loss, unless he carefully attends to such Articles as, by a Fluctuation peculiar to Trade, come to a better Market at one time than another; but were the Price of Labour reduced, every Cargo he shipped would stand charged at a lower Price, and he would be enabled to pay more for his Goods in *England* as soon as they are purchased.

The Reduction of the Price of Freight from the *West-Indies*, by increasing the Number of Ships, is an Article of great Consequence to the Sugar Islands, in which they cannot well be eased, but by Means of the Northern Colonies, for their Consumption of British Manufactures is so inconsiderable, compared with the Effects they send Home, that the Owners of Vessels here must fit them out for the common Profit of Freights from thence only; but the Merchants in *New-England* are constantly employed in building Ships for their Correspondents in this Kingdom, which are full freighted from *Boston* to the *West-Indies*, and very often the Profit is equal to, and sometimes exceeds that of the Freight to *England*, so that the Increase of Ships will not only oblige them to carry their Freights cheaper but will occasion a constant and large Supply of all the North *American* Produce, by which they will be enabled to increase their Stock, settle new Plantations, and, in a few Years, pay double the Duty here upon the Produce of their own Islands, which is an Event that principally depends on the Increase of Inhabitants in the Northern Colonies.

The easier to comprehend the Certainty

of this Observation, it is necessary to cast our Eyes a while on the *French* Sugar-Islands, whose Supplies have commonly cost them *thirty* or forty per Cent, more than our own; notwithstanding which, the Progress they have made since the last War, bids fair for supplying all *Europe* with Sugars, and whenever they are furnished with the Produce of *North-America*, as cheap as our Islands, they will be able to undersell us at all foreign Markets.

An Objection has often been made against promoting the Interest of the Northern Colonies, on account of the inconsiderable Proportion they pay to the public Revenue, notwithstanding it is pretty evident, that neither the Southern Colonies, nor the *West-Indies* would be able to pay any Duties at all, were it not for the Supplies and Assistance of the former : But supposing this was not the Case, and that the Northern Colonies yearly received *six hundred* thousand Pounds in British Manufactures, which are paid for in such Articles as are consumed in England, and pay no Duty; on the other hand, the *West-India* Islands yearly receive the Value of *four hundred* thousand Pounds in British Manufactures, and remit *six hundred* thousand Pounds Sterling in Sugars, Etc. that pay Duty here, this Kingdom gains more by the former than the latter; this follows from the Duty's being paid finally by the Consumer; for were it taken off, certainly the Price of Sugars would fall in proportion, and, consequently, the whole Amount of the Duty would be saved by the Consumers; and was it to be laid on the Produce of the Northern Colonies in the same Proportion, all the Difference would consist in shifting the Payment from the Consumers of the former to the Consumers of the latter, and yet the Subject pays it here in either Case.

But what most nearly concerns the Interest of *Great-Britain* is, the surprizing Progress the *French* have made, and are so intent in pursuing, by Means of their Plantation-Trade; it is evident, that the Supplies of Provisions from *Ireland*, and both Provisions

and Lumber from *New-England*, have been no inconsiderable Means of their Growth; but to leave them both out of the Question, the French are endeavouring, by all possible Means, to furnish themselves with these Articles from their own *Northern Colonies*.

The English were, for some time, possessed of the Sea-Coast of *North-America* before the *French* had made any considerable Progress in it; they at first settled on the North Side of the River *St. Lawrence*, and gradually extended their Settlements from thence to the Mouth of *Missisipi* River, cultivating the strictest Harmony with the Natives by inter-Marriages, and proselyting them to the *Romish Faith* whereby they maintain a regular Correspondence through several Lakes, and large Branches of those Rivers, for near *eight hundred* Leagues, on the Back of all the *English Colonies*; this not only makes them Masters of the *Furr-Trade*, but will in Time put it in their Power to furnish *France*, and the *West-Indies* with all Sorts of Naval Stores, Ships, Iron, Hemp, Flax, and every Thing else they are in Want of that is produced in *North America*.

I am sensible those Parts of *New France* that lie in the moll Northern Latitudes, are not likely to produce many of those Articles; but as they claim a Tract of Land of vast Extent, *viz.* from *New Orleans* on the South, to the Latitude of *sixty Degrees* North, which is above *six hundred* Leagues; and in Breadth from the Streights of *Bellisle* in Longitude *fifty-seven* West, to the Lake *De Bois* is not less than *six hundred* Leagues from East to West, every thing is to be found in it that the English Colonies can boast of.

Thus the *French* have artfully extended their Lines within our Colonies, not only with a Design to cut off our Communication, and trade with the Natives, but to croud such of them into the Sea, as are too weak to make a Resistance, and, finally, to master

the whole Continent.

This is not an Event that may seem practicable in an Age, but yet the Continuance of the same Zeal and Care in promoting their Settlements for thirty Years to come, which has so manifestly evinced itself for thirty Years past, would render it not difficult Undertaking; besides, the ambitious Views of *France* leave no room to doubt, but they will attempt what their Interest so evidently calls for; it is beyond Dispute, but their Proceeding on this Plan will soon put it in their Power; the Possession of *Nova Scotia* only for twenty Years in Peace or War, would be no inconsiderable Means of effecting it.

Should the British Colonies be neglected, or not equally countenanced with the *French*, or to make it worse, should an unseasonable and groundless Jealousy be the Means of checking their Growth, and discouraging their Settlements, whilst the French are striving with all their Might to cherish theirs, and spare neither Art, Labour nor Expence to make them considerable, surely no one can doubt but the Event must prove fatal to us.

It is evident what Stress the French lay upon North *America*, from the immense Sums they have expended to secure their Possessions, and to reduce ours to their Obedience; the Charge of fortifying *Louisburgh* and *Quebec*, the Pensions and Salaries yearly paid in *Canada*, the Loss attending Duke *D'Anville's* fruitless Attempt on *Nova Scotia* and *Cape Breton*, and the great additional One of their Fleet the last Year, must amount to an immense Sum; one tenth Part of which expended in the settling of *Nova Scotia*, would be productive of such Advantages in the Increase of the most valuable Branches of Trade, as would exceed the whole Expence the *French* have been at in promoting and securing their Colonies.

The *Whale*-Fishery, which is now totally neglected, might be rendered very profitable

if properly attended to; how this Nation should have discontinued it so long is difficult to account for, but it may be observed, since the Merchants here decline it, that the Manner of fitting Vessels, Boats, Craft, and killing the Fish, in practice amongst the *New-England*-Men exceeds that of any People in *Europe*, makes their Success more certain and their Voyages less expensive, but the Want of Seamen prevents their prosecuting of it to Advantage; by transferring this Business from the *Dutch* to the Colonies, they might not only supply Great-Britain with Bone and Oil for home Consumption, but with large Quantities for Exportation, and increase the Demand for British Manufactures.

After having thus lightly touched upon these Points, I presume it will be agreeable to give a brief Description of the Northern *Colonies*, more particularly of those Parts which are most commodious for new Settlements.

*NEW-ENGLAND* is bounded by *New-York* on the West, *New France* on the North-West, *Nova Scotia* on the North-East, and the main Ocean on the East and South, extending about *one hundred and twenty* Leagues from South to North, and *eighty* Leagues in Breadth from East to West ; these Limits comprehend four different Governments, *viz.* the Provinces of the *Massachusetts* Bay, and *New Hampshire*, the Colonies of *Connecticut*, and *Rhode-Island*; the Province of the *Massachusetts* being much the largest, contains several Districts of Territory, as the late Colonies of the *Massachusetts* and *New Plymouth*, the Province of *Main*, the Country called *Sagadehoc* and King's County, being all the Lands between the Province of *Main*, and the River *St. Croix*, which is the western Boundary of *Nova Scotia*; *New Hampshire* is a small Province, having little more than twenty Miles of Sea-Coast, and spreads its Jurisdiction, by a late Resolution of his Majesty in Council, on the Back of the *Massachusetts* Province as far as the *English* Claim extends between that Province and

the Province of *Main* ; *Connecticut*, being about *twenty* Leagues square, is bounded by the Sea on the South, *New York* on the West, the *Massachusetts* on the North, and *Rhode-Island* on the East; *Rhode-Island* being the smallest of the four in Extent, is bounded southerly by the Sea, and is surrounded by the *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut* on its other Sides.

NOVA SCOTIA extends from North to South about *one hundred and twenty* Leagues, and from East to West about *one hundred*, comprehending all the Land between Cape *Sable* and Canso on the South-East, and the River of *St. Lawrence* on the North-West ; and besides its being equally commodious with *Newfoundland* and for the Fishery, its Harbours are so numerous and fine, as not to be exceeded in any Part of the World; It abounds with Salmon, Trout, Eels, and several other Sorts of fresh-water Fish, a great Plenty of wild Fowl of different Sorts, its Woods are stocked with Deer, Rabbits, and an uncommon Variety of furr'd Animals, its Soil is very fertile, producing all Kinds of Grain, and Provisions; The Country is covered with Ash, Beech, Elm, Firs, Maple, Cedar, and Pines fit for Naval Uses, and abounds with Lime-Stones and fins Quarries for Building.

CAPE BRETON lying a little to the Eastward of this Tract, is neither so fertile, nor so capable of Improvement, as it is both rocky, cold and barren, abounding neither with Furrs, nor Timber for building of Ship, its principal, if not only Advantages consisting in its Situation, and Harbours, which are in the Center of all the Fishing-Banks on the North *American* Coasts.

The Island of *NEWFOUNDLAND* lies between the *46th* and *52d Degree* of North Latitude, and is about *three hundred* Miles in Length, and near as broad, is surrounded with Fishing-Banks, and many fine Harbours, is very commodious for the Fishery having every Conveniency for promoting

it, and by its Situation, being the most easterly Part of North *America*, has the Advantage of all other Parts, on account of its Nearness to the *European* Markets, but it is not likely to admit of any great Improvements, the Climate being too cold, and the Soil but indifferent.

As there is very little Difference in the Temperature of the Air, in the several Parts of *New-England*, so its several Products, and Aptness for different Improvements, vary but in a few Particulars, the Southermost being most natural for Corn, and the Northern for grazing, and afford a much greater Plenty of Timber and Fish.

The *West-India* Islands are furnished from hence with Horses, and several Kinds of live Stock; Flower, Bread, Pease, salted Beef, Pork, Codfish, Mackrel, Herrings, Cyder, Butter, Onions, Oil, Turpentine, Ships, Timber, Plank, Boards, Masts and Yards, Bricks, Shingles, Staves and Hoops; the Southern *Colonies* with Rum, Ships, Deal-Boards, Bricks and *European* Goods; *Newfoundland* with Rum, Molosses, imported Salt for the Fishery, and all Sorts of Provisions; *Great-Britain* and the rest of *Europe* with Codfish, Ships, Train-Oil, Whalebone, Deer-skins, Peltry, Staves, Masts and Yards, Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, raw Hides, Bees-Wax, and Bayberry Wax, the Profit of all which several Branches of Business finally center in this Kingdom.

In these Colonies, the Lands which are already cleared of Timber, and improved for Tillage and Pasture, are very far from yielding such Profit to the Owner, as they are capable of, for Want of Manuring, and being properly subdivided into smaller Allotments, which the great Price of Labour now makes impracticable; but as Nature has furnished the Country with several Sorts of Marle and Sea-Ware, whenever the Farmer has been able to enrich the Soil with them, the Produce of his Lands has paid his Expence, and greatly raised their Value, yet by Reason



of the Scarcity of Labourers, very few can bear the Charge of so necessary a Cultivation; but by increasing their Number, the Country may soon be enabled to do it, and consequently to supply the *West-India* Islands at a much cheaper Rate than they can now.

A Number of Inhabitants settled on the uncultivated Lands in *Nova Scotia*, would not be able to furnish themselves with Provisions for the first Year, but as the Country is full of fine Harbours, Lakes and Rivers, the Lands are covered (as was before observed) with Timber, and the Sea-Coast plentifully flocked with Fish and wild Fowl, it will soon be in their Power to support themselves \*.

\* The French King has commonly defrayed the Charge of Transporting his Subjects to *America*, and maintaining them a Year after their Arrival; and the Interest of this Kingdom never called for a more necessary Expence, than that of settling this Province with Protestants.

It will be of great Consequence to the first Settlers in this *Country*, that in clearing and subduing their Lands, they will be paid for their Labour, by converting the Produce into Ship-Timber, Planks, Masts, Deal-Boards, Shingles, Staves and Hoops, all which may be carried from their Plantations to Market, by Vessels that will supply them with Horses, Cattle, Swine, and other Necessaries, to flock their improved Lands.

With these Advantages, 'tis easy to foresee how soon it is practicable to bring forward new Settlements in a *Country*, which is so well furnished with Supplies, and is so near Boston, a Market that will always take off their Produce, and soon enable them to raise their Provisions, to build their Houses, and stock their Plantations, and in a few Years to export many valuable Commodities in Vessels of their own, whilst they are promoting the Trade of their *Country*.

From what has been said it will appear,

that if *New-England* and *Nova Scotia* were fully inhabited, and the Lands brought under Improvement, they would be able to furnish the West-Indies with Provisions, and other Supplies in larger Quantities, than they are capable of exporting now, and their Remittances to England would not only become more considerable, but cheaper to the Merchant, by reducing the Price of Labour.

The Advantages that may arise to this Kingdom from several other Improvements in the Northern *Colonies*, when they are fully inhabited, is worthy of a particular Attention; the *Country* is every where very apt to produce the best of Flax, and in many Places is natural for Hemp, both which are Articles of very great Consequence to this Kingdom, as the Manufacture of Linnen Cloth within it, bears but a small Proportion to its Consumption. It would soon become very considerable, and lessen the great Importation of Linnens from Germany, Holland, &c. and the last brought home to be wrought up into Cordage and Canvas.

The great Plenty of Iron Ore in many Parts of the *Country*, will enable them not only to supply this Kingdom with vast Quantities of Pig-iron, but Iron in Bars, cheaper and equal in Goodness to the best *Spanish* or *Swede's* Iron, which last, according to a late Calculation, draws above *two hundred thousand* Pounds yearly from the Kingdom in Money, and 'tis well known that if Labour was reduced a quarter Part in *New-England*, they could furnish a Quantity equal in Value to that Sum cheaper than 'tis now imported, and receive their Return in *British* Goods:

And lastly, it will enable them to secure the Cod-fishery to this Kingdom, by making it more beneficial and extensive than it ever has been, as the Proceeds of their Voyages will be remitted to *England* in Cash, and the Demand for fresh Supplies of its Commodities will be increased, and its finest Nursery for Seamen enlarged.

There is one Article which has excited the Jealousy of this Nation more than all the Improvements the Colonies are capable of prosecuting, that is, the railing of Wool, and as this has never been properly represented, I conclude it may be acceptable now ; the Inhabitants of *New-England* and *New-York* are supposed to consume one with another *thirty* Shillings *Sterling* yearly in *British* Manufactures, two Thirds of which consists of Woollens, and according to Mr. *London's* Pamphlet, in proportion to their Numbers is equal to the Consumption within this Kingdom; It will appear from his Calculations, that *five hundred thousand* Packs of Wool weighing *two hundred and forty Pounds* Weight each, are yearly wrought up in *Great-Britain*, amounting to *twenty-one Millions*, of which more than one half being exported, the Number of Inhabitants, at *twenty* Shillings each Person, exceeds the Value of the Remainder; This may be easily demonstrated, by comparing the Number of People in these *Colonies*, amounting to *four hundred thousand*, to the Value of their *British* Importations, which is above *six hundred thousand Pounds* yearly, from whence it follows, that they annually consume more Woollen Cloaths than an equal Number of Inhabitants in this Kingdom; but as they are known to raise Wool in *New-England*, it will be a Question, what becomes of it ? to which it may be answered, that the Winter Season being commonly longer, and severer than it is here, the Inhabitants require more Cloaths in proportion, which may be estimated at a sixth Part; besides their usual Employments being very different from those of sedentary Artificers, and indoors Manufacturers, may well be supposed to enlarge their Consumption.

It will appear from the foregoing Computation that these Colonies produce about *two thousand* Packs of Wool annually, which is *four hundred* and *ninety-nine* Times less in Proportion to the Inhabitants, than grows in *Great-Britain*. This Account may the more easily be credited, by comparing it with the

Number of Sheep commonly slaughtered in the Course of each Year, observing, that as they are small, their Fleeces do not weigh above *two Pounds* one with another. But it may serve more effectually to remove all Apprehensions of the Colonies being ever able to prejudice this Nation in the Woollen Manufacture, to observe, that their Sheep are not only liable to various Distempers, but are short-liv'd, and their Wool is of a very coarse Staple ; for when the Winters from Year to Year admit of little or no Variation, they are frequently subject to a cutaneous Disorder, which being renewed with every Spring, causes an Itching that seldom leaves them till they wear off their Fleeces by frequently rubbing themselves against every thing that presents itself to View, and when the Weather proves dry, and hotter than common, they tear their Skins as well as Coats, and are soon Fly-blown, rotten, and destroyed; this has often proved so contagious as to end in the Destruction of half the Sheep in the Country; and when the Winter has been longer than usual, 'tis a great Doubt whether their Losses don't exceed their Increase, for it has twice happened within twenty Years, that a third Part of all their Stock has been carried off by the extreme Severity of the Weather.

It is uncommon to eat any Mutton in the Country of more than three Years Growth, from whence it follows, that instead of slaughtering one fifth of their Stock yearly, as is computed to be the Case here, they consume a third Part, and their Fleeces falling short one Half in *Weight*, they must necessarily raise four Times the Number of Sheep to produce an equal Quantity of Wool; but the Coarseness of its Staple, which exceeds that of *French* Wool, puts it out of their Power to fabricate fine Cloaths ; and its Shortness renders it of little Use but to be wrought into Stockings , and an ordinary Cloath which is more expensive, and less durable, than a much finer imported from hence.

It is evident from the preceding Account,

that 'tis the Profit of their Mutton, rather than their Fleeces, that induces them to raise any Sheep at all; whenever their Lands have been enriched by Manuring, they find that the raising of Beef, Pork, and Corn, which are Articles of Exportation, as well as Home Consumption, is of greater Advantage; for the whole Business of Husbandry and heavy Carriages being performed by Oxen instead of Horses, the former are doubly useful, and after a long Course of Servitude, by two | Years Idleness and Fattening, produce Beef that would credit the Stalls in *Leaden-hall* Market.

The Increase of Inhabitants in these *Colonies* will then appear so far from being injurious to the Woollen Manufactory here, that It will contribute more to promote it, than supplying an equal Number of People in any other Part of the British Dominions; but if it should ever be otherways, it will proceed from Necessity, rather than Choice; for if they are properly encouraged in raising of Hemp, Flax, Iron, and other rough Materials by a suitable Bounty, and in those Branches of Trade and Navigation which are not prejudicial to the general Interest of the Kingdom, their Advantages would be infinitely greater, and their Labour less, than if they prosecuted the Woollen Manufactory; but if on the contrary, these several Articles are totally neglected, they will be rendered incapable of making Remittances sufficient to pay for British Cloaths, and must of Course manufacture the best they can for themselves.

The general Advantages that will arise from fortifying and settling *Nova Scotia* are to be considered as they regard the Views of *France* as well as *Great-Britain*,

The French have artfully laboured to make the most of the Nova Scotians, ever since their Subjection to the *British* Crown; they have not only secured to them the Enjoyment of their Religion and Estates, but take Care to furnish them with Priests, who teach them to believe from their Infancy,

that they are the Subjects of *France*, and they have always been equally useful to them; before the present War, they not only supplied the *French* at *Louisburg* with Provisions, but with Wives, and were very serviceable to them in their Fishery, in piloting their Vessels, and assisting them in their Fortifications; and since its Reduction, have all contributed to support, and many of them have actually joined a Body of *French* and *Indians*, in order, if possible, to get Possession of *Annapolis Royal*.

The Zeal and Attachment of these *Nova Scotians* to the *Romish* Faith, will always prevent the Settlement of *Protestants* in the Country, unless it be done in compact Bodies, and under the Cover of Fortifications; but till this is accomplished, it can no more be said that the Province belongs to the Crown of *Great Britain*, because it is possessed of *Annapolis Royal*, than of the Kingdom of *Spain* from our Possession of *Gibraltar*.

It is therefore absolutely necessary for the Safety and Interest of the Northern *Colonies*, that some speedy, and effectual Measures are taken, to put these *Nova Scotians* on a different Footing, or to remove them; the last cannot well be done, and the first in nothing better than by encouraging a considerable Number of foreign Protestants, and others, to settle amongst them.

This will not only be of immediate Service, but in a few Years will produce various good Effects, as the Country abounds with Pines and Firs, it will be capable of supplying this Kingdom with the finest Deal-Boards and Timber of all Kinds, in Vessels of its own, which are now imported from *Norway*, the *Baltic* &c. in *foreign* Bottoms, and drains the Nation of immense Sums of Money; this is not only practicable on the first Settlement of the Country, but in the Course of a few Years will become a steady and useful Branch of Business: But if none of these good Consequences ensue, yet settling the Province with Protestants is of the greatest Importance, as the *French* will otherwise continue to cherish

the present Inhabitants, till they exceed the Number, and are of more Consequence than those of Canada, and it requires no long Time to effect this, in a Country whose Inhabitants are not only very healthful, but very prolific; it must surely be deemed impolitic then to suffer such a Colony of French Bigots to be reared up under the kindly Influences of a British Administration, to cut our own People's Throats whenever the Priest shall consecrate the Knife ; notwithstanding they hardly know the Name of a Tax or Duty their *Quit-Rent* being but a Trifle, and those who are at a great Distance from *Annapolis*, have seldom paid any; in the mean time, they have on all Occasions manifested a Contempt of the *British* Government when they could do it with Impunity, or were too remote from the *Garrison* to fear their Resentment

It therefore highly concerns this Kingdom, that some seasonable Steps be taken to prevent their future Growth, and Defection; but it is very difficult to attempt, and almost impossible to effect their Removal without Bloodshed, and if they were dispossessed, they would be a very great additional Strength to *Canada* and *Cape Breton*, as we could not prevent their settling in those Places.

It seems more eligible to continue them in the Country to permit them to hold such Lands as are under actual Improvements, and to which they can make out a clear Title, for 'tis beyond Dispute but they claim much larger Tracts than they have any right to.

Their Estates are held by Patent from the *French* King, for which they pay a very small Acknowledgment. their Right was served to them by the Articles of Capitulation at the Reduction of *Annapolis*, and was finally ratified by the Treaty of *Utrecht* ; but as no civil Government has ever been established there, they have no more to do with their new Masters than to pay the *Quit-Rent*, which in the whole Province does not amount

to *forty Pounds* a year.

When the Form of Government was Established, which is now exercised there, the Instructions to the Governor and Council were copied from those of *Virginia*, whereby the Power of granting Lands is vested in them. and is restricted to such Conditions, as have hitherto proved a great Discouragement to his Majesty's Subjects; for the Patentee is not only obliged to pay a Penny *Sterling per* Acre for the whole, but is subject to a Penny More whenever the Government shall demand It and unless he has built a House, and Brought Part of his Lands under Improvement Within three Years from the Date of his Grant, he forfeits his Title: This attended With the constant Obstructions which both the *French* \*, and *Indians* have made In Prejudice to any Protestant Settlements, when compared with the easy Terms on which Lands, are granted in other Parts of North America, evidently accounts for the present Situation of the Province.

\* It has always been found impracticable to settle here, without entering into a Contest with the *French*, who either have a real, or trump up an imaginary Title to the same Spot; and if that fails, the *Indians* are sure to challenge the Property as Lords of the whole. And indeed 'tis difficult to determine what Right the present Inhabitants have, or how extensive it is, without a special Enquiry and Survey.

Since it is apparently for the public Interest, that the growing State of these Nova Scotians should be checked, that they should either be rendered useful, or prevented from becoming dangerous to the other Colonies, it cannot more effectually be done, than by erecting such Fortifications, as will keep their most populous Towns in Subjection, and at the same time serve as a Protection to the proposed Settlements in the Province ; a more particular Description of which seems necessary in order to carry so useful a Design into Execution.

ABOUT *seventeen* Leagues North from Cape *Sable*, the Entrance of the Bay of Fundy commences, where it is about, *twenty*



Leagues wide, and extending near *forty* Leagues, divides itself into two Branches, one of which terminates in several Rivers, that discharge themselves into *Minas* Bay, and the other running more Northerly to *Chignecto*, forms an *Isthmus* of that Name between this Branch and the Bay of *Vert*, which empties itself in the Gulf of *St. Lawrence*.

Twelve Leagues from the aforesaid Entrance on the South Side of the Bay, lies the Gut of *Annapolis*, which is about three Quarters of a Mile wide, and a Mile and a half long, on each Side of which the Land is very mountainous and rocky; the Tides are so impetuous, as often to render this a dangerous Passage for large Vessels, but when they are once in, a most delightful Harbour presents itself to View called the *Bason* of *Annapolis*, from the gradual Declivity of the Lands surrounding it, being about *three* Leagues in Length from North East to South West, and *two* in Width, with safe and commodious Anchorage in most Parts of it for all the Ships in *England*; on its South Side are two small Rivers of little Consequence, and the Land is mountainous and rocky; on the North-East Side a little Island forms the Entrance of *Annapolis*' River, which continues navigable for large Vessels on that Course about *ten* Leagues.

At the Mouth of this River are several small *French* Villages, from whence 'tis about two short Leagues to *Annapolis Royal*, which Hands on a Point of Land, formed by this, and another small River that ranges about South East : The Situation of this Fortress being elevated *fifty* or *seventy* Feet above the Level of the River, and standing on its Bank, renders an Attack from Ships almost impracticable, for the Strength of the Tides makes it very difficult for them to moor, unless it be in the Eddy or Counter-tide, which brings them too near the Shore to do any Execution.

As it is situate on a Level with the *Campain*, there is nothing to prevent the

regular Approaches of an *Enemy* on two Sides of the Garrison; it is mounted with about *forty* Cannon on four *Bastions*, and has a Battery to command the River; its *Ramparts* are of Earth, covered with large Stocks of Timber towards the *Fosse*; and it might make a good Defence, were its Powder *Magazine* Bomb proof, which is doubted; and as several of the other *Magazines* and *Barracks* are built of Timber, its Garrison might easily be burnt out : 'Tis defended by about *one hundred and thirty* Men, exclusive of the *New-England* Auxiliaries, who, in the Course of two or three Years, have, in a manner, rebuilt the Fort, under the Direction of the Engineer \*. Upon both Sides of this River, several pleasant Villages are scattered for *thirty* Miles, containing about three hundred Families, who being aw'd by the Garrison are the most if not the only tractable Inhabitants in the Province.

\* Mr. Cowley.

On the South East Side of the Bay of *Fundy* about *thirty* Leagues from the Entrance of *Annapolis*, is the Bay of *Minas*, a Name derived from the Report of some valuable Mines having been discovered in its Neighbourhood, being *twelve* Leagues long, and about *three* in Width, into which the Rivers Canard, Caobegat, Pisegat, and some others discharge themselves.

On the other Branch, and at the Head of the Bay, are several Villages, and about *three* Leagues up a narrow and deep River slands the Town of *Chignecto*, or *Chignectico*, a Corruption, as it is said from *Le Chignon du Col*; here are about two hundred Families, the Country is very healthy and pleasant, surrounded with fine Meadows, which on its West Side are more extensive than any thing of the Kind in this Part of the World, and abounds with Rivers, that at High-water are navigable for large Vessels; to the Northward of this Place, runs the most rapid, and the longest Branch of the Bay of *Fundy*, about North North-East into the main Land

which the *French* now call *Gaspasia*, on which are some small Villages, but by reason of the Badness of its Navigation, they are very little known; on the North Side of the Bay, about *eight* Leagues below *Chignecto* and upon a navigable River, lies a Village called *Chipotee*, containing about *sixty* or *seventy* Families; from whence for near *forty* Leagues, the North Shore affords neither Harbour nor River that is navigable for large Vessels, the Sea Coast being very mountainous, and skirted with Rocks and Precipices, affords a disagreeable Prospect to Navigators. North from the Entry of *Annapolis* lies the fine River of *St. John*, with a capacious Road for Ships at its Entrance; on the North Side of which is a narrow Streight, not a Pistol Shot over, thro' which there is no passing but at the Top of the Tide, when the Water is upon a Level, at other Times the Fall is so considerable, especially at low Water, as to make a Descent of near *thirty* Feet, being lined on both Sides by a solid Rock, and having more than *forty* Fathom of Water in its Middle ; this River spreads itself about half a Mile in Width, and with a gentle Current towards its Outlet admits of a delightful Navigation for large Ships *fifty* or *sixty* Miles into the Country, and much farther for small Vessels; from its several Branches the *Indians* traverse this Part of the Continent, by transporting their *Canoes* by Land across, some short Spaces, call'd by them *Carrying Places*: Here are no more than *three* or *four* *French* Families, the Forces from *New-England* having destroyed all-their Settlements in the last War, most of the Inhabitants removed to the other Side of the Bay ; a few Leagues further Westward are several fine Harbours, amongst which is Harbour *l'Etang*, so called from its Resemblance of a Pond, as it is surrounded with Highlands, its Entry being deep, narrow, and free from Danger, and its Surface always unruffled; this is near the River *St. Croix*, the Western Boundary of the Province, from whence to *New Hampshire* the Sea Coast is covered with Islands that almost form a continued Harbour for

near *two hundred* Miles.

From the Entrance into the Bay of *Fundy* to Cape *Sable*, there are several fine Rivers and Harbours, and two small Villages ; from Cape *Sable*, so called from the Sand Banks on its Shore, to *Canso*, the Islands and Harbours are so numerous as not to admit of either Description or naming, the most considerable of which are *Chebucto*, *Malegash*, *Port Rossignol*, *Port Mutton*, *Port le Have*, *Port Rozoir*, *Liscombes Harbour*, &c. and *Canso*, which at present serve only as a Retreat to fishing Vessels, and others in bad Weather, or to wood and water ; a few stragling Savages, who shift their Habitations as the Seasons for Fishing and Hunting vary, are the only Inhabitants on this extensive Coast.

From *Canso* a navigable Streight, called from it the *Gut of Canso*, severs the Island of *Cape Breton* from the Continent, and leads into the Bay of St. *Lawrence*, on the South-West Side of which is *Tatamagauche* a very good Harbour, where the French formerly received their Supplies of Cattle and Provisions from the *Nova Scotians* for Louisbourg, and it is one of the safest and shortest Communications they can have with these Inhabitants ; from hence about *ten* Leagues North-West, lies the Bay of *Vert* before mentioned, on which, and all the Eastern Side of the Province, as far as the Mouth of *Canada* River, lie a great Variety of fine Rivers and Harbours very little known to us, as no Person has ever been employed by the Government to attempt a particular Discovery of them.

From this Description of the Country, several Places will appear necessary to be fortified, of which I shall endeavour to point out the most convenient, as well as those which are most commodious for bringing forward the proposed Settlements.

*Canso* and *Chebucto* on the Sea Coast of this Province, naturally present themselves first to Consideration; the former from its

having been a long Time improved in the Fishery, and having once had a wooden Blockhouse, and a small Detachment of Troops for its Protection, and the latter for its spacious and fine Harbour, and having been the Rendezvous of Duke *D'Anville's* Squadron.

Canso is conveniently situated for the Cod Fishery, but claims the Preference to the other on no account but its having been already improved, and probably sooner known: But this last greatly exceeds the former in several Respects, *viz.* its Situation, its Harbour, and Aptness for Agriculture.

Its Situation is such, that it has a short and easy Communication by Land with all the Settlements on the Bay of *Fundy*, is equally commodious for the Fishery with *Canso*, and is more in the Way of all Ships passing to and from *Europe* to *New-England* that may occasionally, or by Stress of Weather seek a Port for Shelter, or Relief.

Its Harbour gives place to none in the World, and by its natural Form, and an Island at its Entrance, is capable of being well defended by a regular Fortification.

Its Soil exceeds that of *Canso* and by the Vicinity of several fine Harbours, will afford great Conveniences to the first Inhabitants; these several Advantages it boasts beyond any other Place on this Side of the Country ; whereas *Canso*, though possessed for *thirty-five* Years, could shew no Improvements but on some small Islands, which produced little more than a few Kitchen Gardens ; its Harbour is complained of as not being well defended from hard Gales of Wind; has a very rocky and difficult Entrance, and the Communication from hence to the inland Parts of the Province is through *Chebucto*, or *Tetamagouche*. This last Place seems also to claim some Share of Attention, and may probably upon a critical Survey, be found suitable for a Settlement, and to merit such a Fortification as may cut off all future Supplies to

*Louisbourg* by this Channel,

Leaving this Side, and the Sea Coast of the Province, I shall return to the Bay of *Fundy* again, where the Soil, and Manner of improving Lands differs from all other Parts of North *America*, and where two or three different Fortresses will be necessary to awe the *French* and *Indians* and to protect the proposed Settlements from their Insults.

In all Parts of this Bay the Rivers are of great Length, and very numerous; the Ebbing and Flowing of the Tides is from *four* Fathom at the Entrance, to *ten* or *eleven* at the Head of its longest Branches; between their Banks, and the Verge of the Upland, are fine and large Tracts of Salt Marsh, in many Places extending themselves on a Plain for *thirty* or *forty* Miles without Interruption: In the Bays of *Minas*, *Chegnecto*, and their several Branches, are Millions of Acres that were never yet improved; the French in order to save themselves the Labour of subduing the Lands that are covered with Forest Wood, and interspersed with Morasses, have surrounded part of these Marshes with Dykes\*, without which they would often be flowed at high Water, and always by Spring Tides ; they are afterwards ploughed up, and in three Years produce all Kinds of Grain, and when fallow'd run into fine Grass. This Land, by Reason of its natural Richness, requires very little manuring, and is not only easy of Tillage, but affords a beautiful Prospect; their Gardens, with some Patches for particular Uses, being all the Upland they have under Improvement.

\* This Term by Custom is applicable to the Bank as well as the Ditch, and is always used for both in *Nova Scotia*.

It is obvious from this Account, which is far from being exaggerated, that no Country is better calculated to yield an early Support to its infant Colonies, with more Certainty and less Labour, and affording them, in the mean time, a comfortable Subsistence.

The Highlands which commonly lie near the Sea Coast, and the Sides of the Bay of *Fundy*, are rocky, and covered chiefly with Firs, but produce Plenty of Grass when brought under Cultivation ; the level Country is covered with several other Kinds of Wood useful in Building, and when subdued and fitted for Tillage, discovers a fine rich Mold, producing all Things in Perfection that are natural to the Climate; and this will serve for a general Description of the Province, for altho' some Parts of the Cape *Sable* and *Canso* Shores are rocky, and unfit for Tillage, they are intermixed with valuable Tracts of low Lands, navigable Rivers, and a great Number of Islands, where Fish may be taken all the Year round, as the Harbours are seldom obstructed with Ice.

On the North Side of this Bay, *Sz* *John's* River seems to be the fittest Place for making a Settlement, and erecting a Fortress ; about *fifty* Miles from its Entrance, the most judicious and considerable, tho' not the mod numerous Tribe of *Indians* on this Part of the Continent are settled, and in the last War had a slight Fortification erected by the *French* for their Defence.

Here the Land is fertile, and lies nearly on a Level very far into the Country, having a gradual Declivity only towards the River, that serves to direct the Course of several large Branches into its Sides.

By the Information of the *Natives* the inland Parts of this Country are capable of the finest Improvements, and although here is but a very little Marsh-Land, the Goodness of the Soil makes ample Amends for the Want of it, and here are no Claims of any Significancy to prevent the Settlement of it.

In order to shew what Places within the Bay of *Fundy* are most proper to be fortified, I shall begin with this, as it is not only a very

valuable Country, but is commodiously situated for the Fishery ; from hence the direct Intercourse with *Canada* is maintained through the Country, and continued across the Bay to *Minas* and *Annapolis*, from which Places it is not more than *twenty* Leagues distant.

Within, and very near the beforementioned Streight, the Land seems conveniently elevated for erecting a Fortress that will command the Entrance, and in time of War, a Boom Chain would effectually secure the Passage ; this Place might not only serve to protect Ships in the Road below, but would be a sufficient Defence to a new Settlement, and if properly garisoned, might cut off the Correspondence between *Quebec* and the *Nova Scotians*.

The *Indians* of the *St. John's* Tribe might on this Occasion attempt to interrupt a Settlement, but as they are in a State of Hostility with us, and by the Treaty of *Utrecht* their Lands were given up by the *French* to this Crown, no Peace ought to be concluded with them but upon our own Terms, for they were actually the Aggressors, by joining the Enemy in the Siege of *Annapolis* contrary to several Treaties they formerly entered into with the Province of the *Massachusets* Bay.

From this Place to *Chignecto* the Country has but two or three Harbours, and the Sea Coast being very mountainous, and but little known, I can only assert what the Natives say of it, that the inland Parts are fertile.

*Chignecto* forming the Peninsula, which the *French* call *Accadié* is commonly mentioned as a necessary Place to be fortified, in order to cut off the Communication with *Canada* in time of War, the Isthmus not being here above two Leagues wide : The foregoing Reason would have more weight, if the *French* transported any Baggage or Train with them on these Occasions, but that is not practicable, and therefore they commonly cross the Rivers below in *Canoes* with



their small Arms and Ammunition, their larger Stores being landed out of Vessels from *Canada* at *Tetamagouche*. Several Places here seem well situated for erecting a Fortress, upon one of which, an Eminence surrounded with Marsh, and commanding both the River and the Town, appears to be the most eligible for that Purpose\*. From this Place by Land to *Caobegat* on the Bay of *Minas* it is near *twenty* Leagues, and from thence to the Town of that Name it is near *twenty* more.

\* It is well known that many of the Inhabitants of this Place have actually bore Arms in Conjunction with the *French* and *Indians*, and were concluded to be with them when they attacked the Auxiliary, Troops at *Minas* in the Winter 1746. Mons. *Jonquier* who commanded the *French* Fleet at *Chebucto* after *D'Anville's* Death, furnished all Persons in the Province who Were fit for Service, with Arms and Ammunition to assist him in the Reduction of *Louisbourg*.

*MINAS* being the principal Place in the Province, and the Center of all its Settlements, requires a more particular Description.

It is composed of a Number of Villages and Farm-houses, extending *six* or *eight* Miles in Length, and including some Towns a little more remote, contains about a *thousand* Families, I don't mean so many Housekeepers, but such as would be thus denominated among the *English*, for here it is customary when one of a Family marries, to enlarge the Mansion-house, and by the Addition of new Apartments, they make Room for the expected Progeny; from this Practice 'tis common to find three or four Generations under one Roof; it is computed that they amount to about *seven thousand* People, and were the Inhabitants industrious they might produce immense Quantities of Corn; the Soil of their Marshes having been always subject to the periodical Overflowing of the Spring Tides, is composed of the Fat and Slime that has been washed from the inland, and mountainous Parts of the Country, by Rains, and the melting of Snow for Ages past, and on that Account admits of a long Improvement without any Manuring.

Whenever it happens that any of their Dykes are carefully broke down, the Overflowing of the Tide renders the Marsh incapable of bearing any Corn for *three* Years, but afterwards, by Means of the new Recruit of Salts, which are incorporated with the Mold, the Soil is renewed, and produces as fine Crops as ever; thus Nature seems by Accident to have pointed out a Process, whereby its Fertility is restored without any Expence to the Owner : These Lands, after some Years Improvement, produce several Kinds of Grass, and serve all the several Uses of Husbandry.

The Inhabitants make a joint Business of Dyking in several large Tracts, which serve first as common Fields, and being afterwards subdivided into smaller Allotments are capable of the various Improvements before-mentioned : Their Dykes are made of large Sods of Marsh cut up in square Pieces, and raised about *five* Feet higher than the common Surface, of a competent Thickness to withstand the Force of the Tides, and soon grow very firm and durable, being overspread with Grass, and have commonly Foot-paths on their Summit, which are both convenient and delightful.

On the different Branches of *Minas* Bay are scattered several other Towns and Villages, whose Inhabitants pursue the same Methods of improving their Lands.

There is one Thing peculiar to these People which has secured their Allegiance during the present War, that is, the Dread of having their Dykes cut down, and their Estates by that Means ruined by the *English*, this Practice they felt the severe Effects of about *forty* Years ago, when their Lands were thus exposed by the *New-England* Forces, the Remembrance of which is pretty strongly impressed on the old Inhabitants, and has had a very good Effect on their Posterity.

*Minas* is so situated, as to have a short and

easy Communication with the extreme Parts of the Province, being within a Days March of *Chebucto*, on the South Shore, and not much farther by Land from *Annapolis*, is about *thirty* Leagues by Water from *St John's* River, and is not much farther from *Tetamagauche*.

From this Account of the Country and its Inhabitants, it appears that *Minas* is not only the most considerable Part of it, but is most properly situated for a Metropolis, and consequently requires a strong Fortress for its Security ; several Places have been proposed in and near the Town for this Purpose, upon one of which stands the *Stonehouse* which is Proof against small Arms ; this is built on an Eminence that commands great Part of the Town, but being overlooked by high Land on three Sides, would be greatly exposed in case of an Attack : There is another Eminence that stands by the River *Gaspero* to the Eastward of the Town which is subject to the like Inconvenience ; but the most proper Place, if not one of the finest in the World, on account of its natural Situation, is an Island of Upland about a Quarter of a Mile long, that commands the Mouth of the River, is surrounded with salt Marshes, and has no firm Land within a Mile of it.

The Substance of these Marshes is so spongy and porous below the Level of the common Tides as that it is impossible to open Trenches, but they will be directly filled with Water, and as they are commonly flowed at the Full and Change without the Dykes, it will appear impracticable to make a regular Attack against it by Land, or to proceed by sapping or mining, and 'tis equally so from Ships, unless it be attempted at high Water, and this must be done in a very short Time on account of the Rapidity of the Tide, which on such an Occasion would be equally hazardous to them as the Opposition of a strong Garrison.

This Island commands the Prospect of Minas Bay, so that no Vessel can come in or go

out undiscovered, and if it is regularly fortified might be defended by *two hundred* Men against the whole Force of *Canada* and the *Nova Scotians*.

If this Plan be approved of, 'tis very easy to make an open Road from hence to *Chebucto* for all Sorts of Carriages, it not being above *forty* Miles through the Country, and erecting a wooden Blockhouse midway, that is Proof against small Arms, might serve as a Place of Security to Travellers, and deter the *Savages* from interrupting the new Settlements.

It will be also requisite to fortify the Country immediately, that being a preparatory Step which requires some time to execute, and will be found necessary to precede the proposed Settlements, whose Neighbourhood will naturally raise a Jealousy among the *French* and *Indians*, that may create a great deal of Trouble, and retard the design'd Progress.

To prevent the latter from being troublesome, the Governor and Council should be directed to take Hostages of them to secure the Performance of such Treaties as shall be entered into; for unless some salutary Precautions of this Kind are used, 'tis much better to continue the War till they are wholly extirpated; 'tis evident that for many Years the *Indians* did as much Mischief in *New-England* during a Peace as in Time of War, which has proceeded from the Instigations of the *Romish* Missionaries amongst them, and the Want of Power in the *English* to pursue and punish them in their wild Retreats. It is expedient that a direct Enquiry should be made into the Claims and Titles of these Inhabitants, that their Boundaries may be fixed; and to prevent future Contentions, all the Lands that are in the Disposal of the Crown should be surveyed, and the Nature of their Soil, and different Qualities for Improvement enquired into; that a Report be made to his Majesty, of the most commodious Places on navigable Rivers and the Sea Coasts, for settling of

Townships, for the Conveniency of the  
*Cod-Fisbery* and the Prosecution of Agriculture.

The Settlement of this Province will be attended with some Charge to the Government, and on that Account may probably meet with Interruption ; yet as the general Advantages are so conspicuous, nothing should be permitted to defeat it; for altho' the Expence may at first be considerable, it will not be durable, as the new Inhabitants, by a well regulated Militia, may be able in a few Years to defend themselves; this' was the Case with the Colonies in *New-England* from their Infancy, altho' they struggled under Difficulties infinitely exceeding any that the proposed Settlements can be subject to, whilst *Great-Britain* commands at Sea : The *French* Inhabitants must continue to be neutral, as they stile themselves now, and the *Indians* are become so inconsiderable that very little Danger is to be apprehended from them, if the Settlements are made compact, and in a defensible Form ; the Maintenance of Forts, and Garrisons will then be a temporary Charge only, and soon cease to be necessary ; but if it should not, the Introduction of Protestants, and securing the Country from *France* will greatly over-balance the Expence, and exceed all the real, and imaginary Advantages that have been suggested to result from the Possession of *Cape Breton* : As this Assertion may be thought repugnant to the several *Importances* of that Island, which have been laid before the Public, I shall enter more particularly into the Consideration of it, and its Fishery, than I at first intended : It has already been observed. that the Place is barren compared with *Nova Scotia*, and will never admit of any considerable Improvements : The Truth, and Reason of these Facts are very obvious ; *Cape Breton* was as soon known, as *Nova Scotia* or *Newfoundland*, but was never thought to be of any Value to the Possessors of those Places, and it was the Exclusion from them, that put the *French* on fortifying ; and induced their Settlement of it, and notwithstanding a *thirty* Years Possession, its Produce, exclusive of Fish, will

not subsist a hundred Families ; its Winters are of great Length, and extreme cold, it being common for the Frosts to continue till the latter End of *May*, and it is near the Middle of that Month before it is free of Ice : For as this Island forms an Eddy to the Current setting through the Gulf of *St. Lawrence* it draws such Quantities into its Harbours as to obstruct the Fishery, and render the Navigation very dangerous : During the Summer it is so frequently subject to Fogs, as to have neither Heat nor Sunshine sufficient to ripen its Corn and Fruits. I cannot undertake to assign a philosophical Reason for the Difference in the Temperature of the Air in two Places lying in the same Latitude, and so near together as *Nova Scotia* and this Island, but to observe, that as the Duration, and several Degrees of cold, moderate, and warm Weather in all Places vary with, and depend upon the prevailing Winds, in the several Seasons of the Year, so in this, they commonly blow from such Points in the Winter as bring on Storms of Snow and Frost, and in the Summer those are most frequent, that blow directly from the *Banks*, accompanied with thick Fogs and Mists, and altho' some Parts of *Nova Scotia* are subject to them, 'tis neither in Degree nor Duration sufficient to affect the Produce of the Earth, nor to interrupt the Course of Business by-Land or Sea.

It is well known, that notwithstanding the Situation of this Island, four Fifths of the *French* Fishery have been prosecuted in other Places : Their *Bankers*, amounting to more than *two hundred* Sail of Ships in Time of Peace, who cure their Fish in Pickle, commonly called *Mud Fish*, make their Voyages on the Banks of *Newfoundland* without entering a Port in *America* and their largest Ships to the Number of *two hundred* Sail, constantly use *Fisbot*\*, *St. Julian's*, and other other Harbours on the North-East Side of that Island, *Philip's Bay* and other Parts of the Continent of *Labrador*, and *Gaspee* in *Nova Scotia*;

\* Captain Rous in a *Bilander* of *fourteen* Guns and *one hundred* Men, with a Ship of near the same Force attacked this Port in *August* 1744 ; it was defended by *five* Ships navigated with *four hundred and fifty* Men ; *two* of *eighteen* Guns each, *one* of sixteen one of *fourteen* and one of *twelve*, drawn up in a circular Line round the Harbour, and altho' both his Vessels grounded at the Entrance, and were exposed to a continual Fire for *five* Hours from all the Ships within point-blank Musket-Shot, he bravely took them all with the Loss of no more than *eighteen* Men ; he took another Ship at *St. Julian's* of *fifteen* Guns and *ninety* Men, ten Ships on the Banks with *three hundred and six* Men, retook a *British* Ship, burnt all the *French* Houses, and Stores in *seven* different Harbours with *four* Vessels, and upwards of *eight hundred* fishing Shallops, all within a Month.

in these several Places they have no settled Habitations, but having erected Houses, and cleared small Places for Gardens dens, they raise Roots and Herbage sufficient to serve them yearly for Soup and Salad, until their Return to *France* : It appears then, that they improve several Ports more commodious for their Purpose than *Cape Breton* ; 'tis true they have no Right to fish on the Coasts of *Nova Scotia*, but their Claim on the North Side of the Gulf of *St. Lawrence* has never been contested, and unless it is in the Power of this Nation to exclude them totally from the American Fishery, the Possession of *Cape Breton* cannot turn the Scale so much in their Favour as has been apprehended : In short, its greatest Conveniency to *France* consists in its being a middle Port between *Canada* and the *French* Dominions in general, and could any proper Means be devised to prevent their future Intercourse with the *British Colonies* from whence they are supplied with Stores and Provisions in return for the Produce of a *contraband* Trade, the Inhabitants would be under a Necessity of returning annually to *France* in their Fish-Ships, or spending a miserable Winter with little else than Salt-Fish for their Subsistence.

In order to rival the *French* in the Cod-fishery 'tis necessary to confine them to the Limits Stipulated by the Treaty of *Utrecht*, which will exclude them from all the Banks of *Nova Scotia*,

and it does not appear by that, nor any other Treaty, that they have a Right to fish to the Southward of Cape *Bonavista* on *Newfoundland*, between whose Banks and the former there are no others of any Note or Consequence.

This would deprive them of a great Part of their Fishery, employing near *two hundred and Fifty* Sail of Ships in Time of Peace, and furnishes the Markets in *France, Spain, Portugal*, and the *Streights* with *Mud Fish* ; and as to the remaining Part, the Settlement of *Nova Scotia*, would soon enable the Inhabitants to catch, and export larger Quantities, better in Quality, and cheaper than the *French* could possibly afford their own, whereby the whole would be of little Value to them more than for their own Consumption.

The Isle of *Sable*, and Cape *Sable* Banks on this Coast are so commodiously situated as to admit of a fine Fishery in the Winter whenever the Country is settled and stocked with Provisions : At present the Fishermen from *New-England* make three Fairs here in a Year, the first of which being prosecuted in *March* is worth both the other, as the Fish taken then exceed any in the World, and if they could be landed and cured in the Winter Months, five Fairs might be yearly made instead of three, and the two additional ones equal to the best of the former, which would in a few Years be of more consequence to *Great-Britain* than any thing the *French* are capable of prosecuting to support their Rivalship.

If this Point had been well attended to *twenty* or *thirty* Years past; their Fishery might have been reduced before this Time to a contemptible Situation, but the Case was so different, that they not only fished where they pleased, but commonly insulted our Vessels whenever they met them, for excepting some of their *Fishermen* which were seized by Captain *Smart* on the *Canso* Station for fishing without their Limits contrary to Treaty, they never met with any Interruption, but to prevent such Accidents for the future,



as our Ships were earlier out than theirs, they ever after sent a superior Force to deter our *Men of War* from the like Practice, and have ruled absolute Lords of those Seas.

As that Treaty is the Basis of the present Peace, and the Terms of it in relation to the Fishery are plain and intelligible, it cannot be doubted but the Administration will cause them to be punctually observed, more especially as they fall under the Dominion of the *British Flag*, whose Honour is immediately concerned in securing the Rights of this Kingdom against all Encroachments, and in protecting its Subjects from Insults on every Part of the Ocean.

FINIS.