

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

Remainder of the AUTHENTIC DEBATES on the NEW-ENGLAND FISHERY BILL in the HOUSE of LORDS, March 16. [See No. 326.]

LORD Sandwich in Reply observed, that the Facts which the Evidence had been called to prove were simply these: That three Thousand Sailors were bred every Year by the British Newfoundland Fishery; that consequently, in ten Years, thirty Thousand Seamen were added to the maritime Strength of this Country; that this was an Object of vast Consequence; and if the New-England Fishery produced hardly any Seamen, it was too much to sacrifice the maritime Strength of England to a People, who had committed every Outrage against the Sovereign Authority of this Country.

The noble Lord observed, that it was illiberal to cavil at the Evidence; Mr. Carter was a Merchant of considerable Consequence, and great Respectability.

With Respect to the Impracticability of conquering America, the noble Lord who spoke last could not be less than when he questioned the Power of Great-Britain in this Respect; so far from the Inferiority of Numbers being any Obstruction to the Success of the English Troops, the contrary was the real Fact; Inferiority of Numbers, however paradoxical it might seem, would accelerate Success; there was a prodigious Difference between disciplined Troops and a multitudinous Rabble; if Marches should be pushed to Extremity, the noble Lord for his Part would wish that one hundred Thousand Americans should take the Field, in Preference to twenty Thousand; the Reason was this: Troops must have Substance, the greater Number of Troops therefore, the greater will be the Difficulty of procuring Substance, and consequently the Country People will suffer greater Distresses, which will soon lead them to seek that Protection from a legal Government, which they feel to experience from Anarchy and civil Disorder; thus the Americans would conquer themselves by eating up their Country.

But was this not likely to be the Case, the noble Lord had no Sort of Opinion of the Bravery of the Americans; he thought them mere Bluffers, who felt bold only in Proportion as Danger was at a Distance, and when it approached would lay down their Arms, or Broom-sticks, and run away. At the Siege of Louthburgh a Party of these brave Americans were employed, they talked of the wonderful Feats they would perform, and compared themselves to Romans; but finding the Place likely to make Resistance, their Romans very courageously ran away. And thus they would do on every Occasion if real Danger approached, when at a Distance they would bluster, resolve, write, plot, and look big.

With Respect to Taxation, the learned Lord who spoke last had cavilled at the Person who thought "Taxation no Tyranny." Lord Sandwich confessed he thought it no Tyranny; "for it it was Tyranny, the English were the most tyrannized over of any People since Heaven, for they were the most heavily taxed."

Lord Shelburne combated the Bill thus: If it was meant as a Bill to regulate the Fishery, parliamentary Aid was totally unnecessary, the official Powers annexed to the Admiralty Department were quite sufficient; if the Bill was not meant as a commercial Regulation, it was foreign to the Purpose to talk of the Advantages that would accrue to the British Newfoundland Fishery. Whenever the Regulations of this or any other Branch of Commerce should come before that House, there was no Doubt but that Attention would be paid which the Magnitude of the Object required; but the noble Lord recollecting a Writer, who compared the intricate Mazes and Meanderings of Commerce to the Multiplicity of almost imperceptible Fibres with which the Body of Man abounded. The circuitous Course of Trade it was impossible to trace through the several Channels, it needed the Ken of the human Intellect, as the fine Fibres of the Body defied the Exploration of the human Sight; it required therefore the most accurate Attention to obtain even a superficial Knowledge of the one, the most diligent Inspection to be tolerably conversant in the other.

With Respect to the supposed Advantage, derivable from the British Fishery, the noble Lord was not inclinable to attribute those Advantages so much to the Fishery, considered as a Branch of

Commerce in the Abstract, as to certain Practices adopted by the Persons concerned in the Fishery, with which Sir Hugh Palliser was intimately acquainted, though it would have been highly indelicate to have pressed him on the Subject.

The noble Earl paid the highest Compliments to Sir Hugh Palliser, both as a Commander and a most skillful Negotiator; in the latter Capacity the noble Earl had tried him, during the Time he had the Honour to bear a Part in the Administration of this Country. Sir Hugh had foiled the Guerchy in so many Points, that the Frenchman had described him to be "dur comme ni Lord Chatham."

The noble Earl expressed his surprize that so much Attention should now be paid to the Newfoundland Fishery. Was it a greater Object than at the Time of passing the Canada Bill? For by that Bill the Territories of Newfoundland were infringed, yet such Infringement was not urged as the main Objection to that Bill. That the Newfoundland Fishery merited the Attention of Government was certain, for it was an Object on which the Council, in King William's Time employed their Attention; and even so early as Charles the Second, the Measures of that Prince were execrated, because they were fraught with such pernicious Policy, as to permit the French to share in the Newfoundland Fishery. The Regulations, therefore, of this Fishery being in the Admiralty Department, the present Act was superfluous; but if it was designed to coerce the Americans, Time would discover whether the Tide of Popularity ran against the Favourers or Opposers of that, and other Acts of a similar Complexion.

Lord Suffolk, in Favour of the Bill, said, it was not meant entirely to deprive the New-Englanders of their Fishery; for the Faith of Parliament would be pledged to restore the Fishery the Instant it should appear that the Americans had returned to their Obedience.

Lord Radnor declared he never yet had been able to make up his Mind on the Affairs of America, so as to give his Vote on either Side of the Question; but what had fell from the last noble Lord had determined him to give his Voice against the Bill. For if the Newfoundland Fishery was a most valuable Branch of Commerce to this Nation, he could not be persuaded to pledge his Faith as a Lord of Parliament, for the Surrender of that Trade to the Americans.

The Duke of Grafton, in reply to what fell from Lord Camden, said, it could not be expected that Lord Chatham's conciliatory Bill should pass the House, as it struck at the Repeal of no less than nine Acts of Parliament, some of which were Money Bills. His Grace avowed himself the same zealous Friend of America, however Appearances might be against him. He wished to see the Period when the Taxation of America would be dispensed with, as an Amplitude of Taxes was included in their Purchase of English Manufactures.

Lord Abingdon said that Reason, Justice, Confidence, Principle and Instinct, all prompted him to pronounce the Bill a most infernal and diabolic Measure. How the Right Rev. Bench reconciled it to their Consciences, he was unable to conceive; for his Part he put his Trust in the Almighty, and though he knew all he could say would avail nothing against a ministerial Majority, yet he cautioned the Lords against Injustice, as in the judicial Visitation of Providence it generally fell heavy on the Heads of those who planned Iniquity.

This closed the Debate, and on a Division the Numbers stood thus, for the Bill, 104; against the Bill, 29.

PROTESTS. HOUSE OF LORDS.

Die Martii, 21 Martii, 1775.

THE Order of the Day being read for the third reading of the American Restraining Fishery Bill, and for the Lords to be summoned, the same was accordingly read the third Time; and several Amendments being made thereto, it was moved, "that the Bill, with the Amendments, do pass;" which being objected to, after Debate, the Question was put thereon; it was resolved in the Affirmative.

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Discontent.
BECAUSE the Attempt to coerce by Force the whole Body of the Inhabitants of great and popu-

lous Provinces is without Example in the History of this, or perhaps of any civilized Nation; and is one of those unhappy Inventions, to which Parliament is driven by the Difficulties which multiply upon us, from an obstinate Adherence to an unwise Plan of Government. We do not know exactly the Extent of the Punishment we inflict upon it, which is universal, and includes all the Inhabitants. Amongst these many are admitted to be innocent, and several are alleged by Ministers to be, in their Sense, even meritorious. That Government which attempts to preserve its Authority by destroying the Trade of its Subjects, and by involving the innocent and guilty in a common Ruin, if it acts from a Choice of such Means, confesses itself unworthy; if from Inability to find any other, admits itself wholly incompetent to the End of its Institution.

Secondly, BECAUSE the English Merchants are punished without any Guilt, real or pretended, on their Part. The People of the proscribed Provinces, though failing in their Duty to Government, ought to be permitted to discharge their Obligations to Commerce: Without their Fishery that is impossible. The Merchants of England entertain no Fears for their Debts, except from the Steps which are said to be taken in their Favour. Eight Hundred Thousand Pounds of English Property, belonging to London alone, is not to be trifled with, or sacrificed to the Projects of those who have constantly failed in every Expectation which they have held out to the Public; and who are become more bigoted to Methods of Violence, in Proportion to the Experience of their Inefficacy, and the mischievous Consequences which attend them.

Thirdly, BECAUSE the People of New-England, besides the natural Claim of Mankind to the Gifts of Providence on their own Coast, are specially entitled to the Fishery by their Charters, which have never been declared forfeited. These Charters we think (notwithstanding the Contempt with which the Idea of public Faith has been treated) to be of material Consideration. The Bill therefore not growing out of any judicial Process, seems equally a Violation of all natural and civil Right.

Fourthly, BECAUSE we conceive that the Attempt which has been made to BRIBE the Nation into an Acquiescence in this arbitrary Act, by holding out to them (by Evidence at the Bar) the Spoils of the New-England Fishery, worth upwards of 500,000 l. a Year, to be a Scheme full of Weakness and Indecency;—of Indecency, because it may be suspected that the Desire of the Confiscation has created the Guilt,—weak, because it supposes that whatever is taken from the Colonies is of Course to be transferred to ourselves. We may trample on the Rules of Justice, but we cannot alter the Nature of Things. We cannot convey to Great-Britain the Advantages of Situation which New-England possesses for Fishery. If the Value of the Commodity should be enhanced at the foreign Markets, by the Exclusion of so large a Part of the Supply, it may either greatly injure the Sale of the Commodity itself, or put the Consumers on new Articles of Consumption, or new Methods of Supply, to the just Ruin of those who, deluded by Avarice, have CHOSEN, from the vain Hope of an enhanced Market, to disturb the natural, settled, and beneficial Course of Traffick.

Fifthly, BECAUSE we do not apprehend that the Topic so much insisted upon by a Lord high in Office, in Favour of his Project, namely, the COWARDICE of his Majesty's American Subjects, to have any Weight itself, or be at all agreeable to the Dignity of Sentiment which ought to characterize this House. We do not think it true that any Part of the Subjects of this Empire are defective in Bravery. It is to the last Degree improper to act upon such a Supposition, as it must highly disgrace our Arms in Case of Misfortune, and must take away all Honour from them in Case of Success. Nothing can tend more effectually to defeat the Purposes of all our coercive Measures, than to let the People, against whom they are intended, know, that we think our Authority founded in their Betenels; that their Resistance will give them some Credit, even in our own Eyes, and that we attribute their Obedience only to their Want of Courage. This is to CALL for Resistance, and to PROVOKE Rebellion by the most powerful of all Motives, which can act upon Men of any Degree of Spirit and Sensibility.