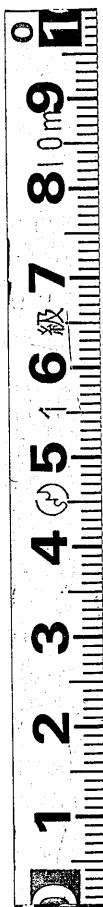


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A True and Exact

DESCRIPTION Of the ISLAND of SHETLAND,

Containing an Account of its

SITUATION, || PRODUCE, and
TRADE, || INHABITANTS.

Together with an Account of the

GREAT WHITE HERRING FISHERY
of that Place, and the Methods the *Dutch*
use in catching, curing, and disposing of
the HERRINGS they catch there; and the
PRODIGIOUS ADVANTAGE *Britain* may
receive from thence.

With many other curious Particulars.

The SECOND EDITION.

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(Price Six-pence.)



T H E
P R E F A C E.

To the Candid Reader.

I HERE present you with an ample and authentic Description of the Island of *Zetland*; an Island, where I resided for the Space of Five Years, during which Time I applied myself chiefly to the study of knowing all that I thought worthy Observation; and really, I met with several uncommon, Subjects, which, I believe upon an attentive Perusal, you will

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will acknowledge to be such, and, I hope, receive some agreeable Satisfaction therefrom; especially, as to the *British* White-Herring-Fishery, for here is the most commodious Coast for catching of Herrings, and the safest Harbour in *Britain* for our Ships and Vessels in Case of stormy Weather. I did not intend however, to have published any Thing concerning this Island (tho' nothing the like has been ever treated of by any Author before, as what you have here before you) had it not been, that I was importuned of late, by several Gentlemen of my Acquaintance (Well-wishers to their Country) to communicate my Knowledge of this Island to the Publick, as a Subject of very great Importance to these Kingdoms, at this critical

P R E F A C E. v

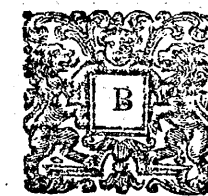
critical Conjunction, upon which I put Pen to Paper, as believing I lay under an indispensable Obligation of communicating all the Light I was capable of giving my Patriot Reader of it, in order (if possible) to procure Relief, Honour, and Wealth to *Great-Britain*, may you therefore, and every true *Briton* that peruses these Papers, prove Instruments in your Spheres towards enriching your Country, by encouraging the *British* White-Herring-Fishery, to your eternal Honour.

Adieu!

O F



OF THE
British Fisheries.



BEFORE I touch on the *British* Herring - Fishery, I shall give an exact Description of the Island of *Zetland*; of its Inhabitants, their Customs and Manner of Living; and also of the Produce of this Island, which may be rendered of infinite Benefit to the *British* Fisheries.

The Island of *Zetland*, vulgarly called *Sbetland*, formerly belonged to *Norway*: But *James* the Sixth of *Scotland*, having married a Princess of *Denmark*, this, with the *Orkney Islands*, were given him in Portion with her: It lies distant N. E. from

B

Johnny

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Johnny Groat's House, commonly called the *World's End*, in *Caithness*, about 40 Leagues, and is in the 70th Degree of North Latitude; its Longitude is from South to North upwards of a Degree, or Sixty Miles, that is, from *Simburgh-Head*, the Southmost Point, to *Sea Ounf*, the Northmost Point; and its Latitude from East to West, that is, from a Point close to *Lerwick*, the Metropolis, to a Place called *Waze*, in the West, one third of a Degree, or 20 Miles; but you must observe, that in some Places, the Breadth is quite narrow, especially to the Southward of *Lerwick*; now this Island is subdivided into many more, by narrow Arms of the Sea, or what the Natives call Sounds; but the main Island is in Length from *Simburgh-Head* to *Yell-Sound*, 48 Miles, then you cross that Ferry, which is a Shilling Fare, tho' Gentlemen, who travel the Country, (which is mostly by Water) give the poor Men somewhat more than their Fraught, on Account of their being often obliged to pull hard at their Oars, the Tides are so rapid in these Places; the next Shore you land at, is called *Yell*, and computed 16 Miles in length; this Isle is an entire Ridge of rocky

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rocky Mountains, only by the Sea Side, where the Natives inhabit; here they lay discontiguous from one another, on Account of the barren Soil; next you cross a narrow Arm of Sea, (Fare Sixpence) called *Yew-sound*, then you set footing upon the Northmost Isle, called *Ounf*, which is eight Miles in length; this is esteemed the most fertile of all the other Islands; there is one high Mountain here, which in serene Weather is perceived at a great Distance; the northmost Part of this Island, called *Sea*, is the northmost Point of our European Dominions; here I had the Curiosity to set my Foot upon the utmost Rock, where the Moat lay deep under me; here are several deep Hollows or Cavities, which produces many Pebble Stones, and by Reason of its Steepness, appears very frightful to Strangers, who stand nigh its Brink to look down; but the Inhabitants are no ways dismayed.

The finest Hawks in the World are bred in this Island, and whether it is by Charter or not, I cannot tell, but the Inhabitants are obliged to provide the King's Faulkner, (who commonly resides at

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Edinburgh) with so many every Year, for which Purpose, a proper Person is sent out to receive them, who maintains them in their Passage from *Zetland* to *Leith*, with Dogs Flesh, which he buys up in the Island, and kills occasionally on the Voyage.

Lerwick, the Metropolis of *Zetland*, lies about the Center of the main Island, and stands upon the Brow of a declining Rock, built in a Semi-Circle, along the Side of the Sound, called *Bressa Sound*; there are about three hundred Houses in this Town, all built of Stone, and several People of good Fashion inhabit them; here are several Merchants Owners of Ships, who venture pretty largely upon their own Bottoms. Opposite to this Town, lies an Island called *Bressa*, from whence the Sound derives its Name, about a Mile over; this Island is situated in the Form of the opposite Shore, with its South Point running out two or three Miles to the Ocean, with a gentle Inclination towards the opposite Shore, and the North Point affecting the like Inclination to its opposite Shore within, which two Semi-Circles runs

Bressa

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Bressa Sound, one of the finest Harbours in the World, which the *Dutch*, above all others, have just Reason to acknowledge, for had it not been for this Asylum, many of them had gone to the Bottom of the Sea, for no Wind can hurt you when in, nor confine you when you want to go out, being there is a South and a North Opening, and the Island *Bressa* keeps off the Easterly, E. S. E. and E. N. E. Winds, and the opposite Shore defends from the contrary Winds, so that no Damage can happen to any Ship here, and in case you spring a Leak, or want to have your Vessel cleaned, here is a fine Sand under the Town, where you may run ashore with the greatest Safety; I have seen *Dutch Greenlanders* often put in here for that Purpose; what makes me expatiate so much upon this Harbour is, that in case our Fishery is promoted, this is a fine Retreat in bad Weather, which often happens in these Seas; there is just before you open the Harbour, coming in at the South Mouth, a blind Rock, which should be carefully avoided; but the *Dutch* know it well; there are many *Voes*, (as the Natives calls them) but properly Arms of Sea, which run

B 3

up

6 *Of the British Fisheries.*

up the Country in sundry Places several Miles, where Ships may shelter themselves in bad Weather, and where Abundance of various Kinds of Fishes are caught, such as Salmon Trout, as big as some Salmon, many Seales, and young Whales, or what we call Porpusses; I saw fifty-two of those drove ashore one Morning within a Musket-shot of the Place where I lodged, which produced a large Quantity of Oyl; there is a Part of this Creature which the Natives eat, to wit, the finny Part, Curiosity induced me to taste a little of this dainty Modicum, and it seemed to me to resemble Ox Cheek, as to the Seales, they are only useful for their Skins, which is used by Trunk-makers to cover Trunks with; they get some Oil out of the Fat besides; I have, however, seen some of the poorer Sort eat them.

There are Otters here also, which are amphibious Creatures, that live sometimes in the Water and sometimes on Land; these Creatures resemble a Fox very much, only he is longer, and their Legs much shorter: This Animal lives upon Fish, as all the others do here, they are
so

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so plentiful in this Island, and even so familiar, that in cold Winter Nights they will come into Peoples Houses, and lie down by the Fire like a Dog; they very seldom bestow any Shot upon them, but knock them down with Sticks, in either coming from, or going to, the Salt Water, for they go often up into Rivulets and Lakes in search of Trout, of which there are great Store in this Island; their Skins are a good Commodity, and their Fat produces some Oil: There are many Lakes or Lochs in this Island, which abound with fine Trout and Eels: There are also many Rabbits in this Island, in some of whose Holes I have found, in the Winter time, Numbers of Swallows, lie as still, as if dead, I have taken hold of them, and notwithstanding they were alive and well, yet they did not offer to fly away, so that I left them where I found them; and as none of these Birds are to be seen here in the Winter, I imagine they fly to these Northern Parts, where they lie dormant under Ground till the Summer Season, when they return again; and, consequently, they must be one of those Birds called the Seven Sleepers. But that I may not disappoint my Reader in

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his Expectations, I shall return back to the Capital, and inform him, that there is the Ruins of a Fort above the Town, at the North End, which commands the Harbour, and might be useful to us upon any Emergency, if repaired, which would be but a trifling Charge to the Government, seeing the poor People there would gladly work, and that for small Wages, and there is Plenty of Stone, so that it might be soon done, and at a small Expence.

I think it was in King *William's* Wars when two *French* Admirals burnt 360 Sail of *Dutch* Busses, or small Ships, in this Harbour, all loaded with Herrings; but the Governor betrayed them, for he kept a secret Intelligence with the *French* Admiral, so he let them fight it out between themselves; by which Means they fell a Sacrifice; but had he exerted himself, he might have kept out the *French*, and by that Means have saved the *Dutch*.

There are little Horses in this Island, which the Inhabitants call Shelties, they are so very small, that one may lay his Leg over them from the Ground; but
notwith-

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notwithstanding their Smallness, they are both strong and active, and live many Years, even until they are blind with Age: I have heard say, some of them live 'till they are upwards of thirty; they are never kept within Doors, but foaled in the Fields, live in the Fields, and die in the Fields: They do little Work, unless it be to carry some Sea-Weed, to dung the Ground in Seed-Time. There is no Horse-hire demanded here, unless it be in the Summer, when the *Dutch* are upon the Coast; during that Time, some of the Country People bring in their Horses for the *Dutchmen* to ride, and I must own, that if they were not better Sailors than Riders, I would not chuse to venture my Life so far as *Gravesend* in one of their best Bottoms. There is a Spot of Ground above the Town, about a Quarter of a Mile in Length, and pretty even Ground, which is very rare in *Zetland*; here the Countryman comes with his Horse, enquiring, in *Dutch*, who will ride; immediately comes a clumsy *Dutchman*, gives him a Duplekee (that is Twopence) than up he mounts; the Owner of the Horse immediately falls a beating the Creature, and pricks its Tail with the Point of his Stick;

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Stick; then, behold! in an Instant, down comes the *Dutchman*; up he gets again, and mounts afresh, but before he gets on a second Time, there must be a second Duplekee, and he is scarce up before he is down again; so that the Fellow often makes a Shilling of the *Dutchman* before he comes to the End of the Place; this, together with what Money they receive for their Stockings, is all the Cash they have from one Year's End to the other; unless when some *Dutchman* fancy any of their Horses, then they chance to make a good Profit, as they will sell a Horse to a *Dutchman* for a Pound, that they cannot sell to their Neighbours for three Half-Crowns.

There are abundance of Sea-Fowls of various Kinds here, but their Flesh is blackish, and they have a fishy Taste; they generally build their Nests in the Shelves of steep Rocks over the Moat, and the Method the Natives use in taking the Eggs, or catching the Young, is a very dangerous one, which is after this Manner; there is a wooden Stake, with a Hole at the upper End of it, through which a small Rope is conveyed and fixed, and drove into the Earth,

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Earth, hard by the Brink of the Rock, then the Man lays hold of the Rope, and goes to the Edge, and climbs down the Face of the Rock, with his Basket fixed to his Side, untill he comes where the Nests are, which are very numerous, so that he soon fills his Basket, then up he comes again. I thought this a frightful Sight, for St. Paul's is but very low, when compared to one of these Rocks; besides, what makes it appear still more frightful, is, the Ocean underneath, where there is Sea sufficient to drown a second *Pharoah*, and all his Host. I told them I should not like to purchase Eggs at the Hazard of breaking my Neck, but they only smiled at my Timidity, and went their Way.

Now let us come to talk a little concerning the People of these Island; they were (as I observed before) originally *Danes*, but now, as in most Countries, are a mixed People; however, they still retain some of the *Danish* Customs: They are naturally fair, well-proportioned, and witty; their Religion is *Calvinistical*; there are twelve established Clergymen, and one *Itinerant* amongst them, each of whom

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whom has two or three discontiguous Places of Worship to attend; some of them are obliged to cross several Leagues of Sea to feed their scattered Flock, but if it happens to turn out bad Weather about the Time they are setting out, for they have an appointed Time, and only once a Year, they stay at home, preach to their Family and Neighbours, and let their distant Flock feed themselves in the best Manner they can 'till that Time next Year; for after the Time limited is elapsed, three hundred and sixty five Days passes over their Heads, if the Weather was ever so fair, before they make the least Preparation to visit that Part of their Vineyard, as if they imagined it produced nothing but wild Grapes; but if these poor People were not better provided with Fish than Gospel, they must have been starved long ago.

Their chief Occupation, (I mean the common People) is Fishing, and making coarse Stockings, and a Kind of Woollen Cloth, called Shag, which they wear themselves, worth about Ten-pence or a Shilling per Ell; Man, Wife, and Child are employed in these Branches in
the

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the Winter, but in the Summer, the Men are obliged to go to Sea a fishing for Cod and Ling for the Lord of the Mannor; for you must understand, that the Gentlemen here are all Merchants, and to take them in general, Men of good Parts, only one Fault I found amongst them, compelling their Tenants to go to Sea for them, which I shall inform you of presently. These Gentlemen, each of them upon their different Estates, or Manors, build a House by the Sea-side, (contiguous to their own Dwellings) called a Booth, which with us is called a Warehouse; here they keep what Goods they have Occasion for, to supply their Tenants with, such as *Dutch* Linnen, *Dutch* Gin, Tobacco, Fishing Lines and Hooks, Mead, &c. under the Inspection of a Clerk: Now, as I observed before, the common People are very poor, and in the Beginning of Summer, there is as great a Bustle in getting Men to go to Sea to fish the whole Summer, for these Masters, as there is here, comparatively, when we are at War with *France* or *Spain*, to find Men to send Abroad; yet those Masters are as absolute as some Princes, for if these poor People do but murmur in
the

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the least at their Orders, they and their Families are banished for ever out of their Territories. I must acknowledge this appeared to me a very great Hardship upon the poor People, and the only Fault of Consequence, I ever perceived them guilty of, during my Abode among them: Now, after they have got these Men mustered together, the first Thing is, to let them have a Boat, which is commonly valued at three Pounds, or thereabouts; next Lines and Hooks, &c. but observe, by the Bye, that neither of them have any thing to trust to for Payment, but the Fish that is in the Sea; now these Fish, that they contract for with the Master, are Cod and Ling, for they don't intermeddle in the Herring-Fishery; neither indeed can they of themselves; so they set out, and when they return, always come full, and for each Ling of such a Gage they have Threepence; and for each Cod they have Three-halfpence: These Fish they deliver at the Booth, where there are proper Hands ready to open them, then put them into Troughs and salt them, and after lying a proper Time in Salt, they build them up in large Stacks, hard by the Booth, where they dry, and remain

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main till they are ready for Exportation, which is some time in *November*; when they receive their Rent, which is chiefly paid in Butter and Oyl, then those who have Ships of their own, send those Commodities to *Hamburg*, or other Markets, where they expect the best Prices; and those who have none freight Merchantmen: Now in Return for these Goods, they import Linnen, Fishing-Lines, and Hooks, Tobacco, *Holland's*, Geneva, Mead, &c. The Fishermen drink incessantly of these Liquors, for when they go to Sea they have it with them; and when they cannot go to Sea, on account of bad Weather, they go to these Booths, and drink till they can neither go or stand, reckoning up, over their Cups, what Fish they must catch next Day to pay that drunken Score: They are in general great Chewers of Tobacco; they commonly live to a great Age; they neither use Physician nor Physick. I remember I lodged once in a Bower, or Farmer's-house, where the Head Master was upwards of an Hundred; he had a Son between Seventy and Eighty; he had another upwards of Forty; and he had four Sons more, the youngest of whom was Fourteen. I happened to dine with

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with the Family the last Meal that the old Man ever eat, which was a very hearty one; afterwards he went to rest himself upon the Bed and soon expired, without the least Pain, or shewing any Uneasiness.

They have not much Malt Liquor amongst them, for they have no Malt but what they receive from the *Orknies*, which is about thirty Leagues of Sea distant; but they have a Liquid called Bland, which on account of its uncommon Quality and Effects, I shall describe: When the Woman has done churning, the Butter being taken off, she has two or three large round Stones, ready hot in the Fire, which she takes out and puts it into the Churn, when immediately the thick Body descends to the Bottom, and leaves a thin Substance at the Top; this is poured out into Vessels, the thick Part they eat as we do Curds, but the thin Part, to wit, the Bland, the poorer Sort drink it warm from the Churn, which, together with fresh Fish, half raw, from off the Coals, without either Bread, Butter, or Salt, disposes them to a Kind of a Leprosy. I remember

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member I saw an Instance of this in one of the remotest Islands to the Eastward; there were two young Women (to the best of my Remembrance Sisters) who were affected with this scorbutick Humour, entirely owing to this way of Living, but might have been easily cured by Physic and Bleeding, for want of which, being unacquainted with either, they soon died; but had been set apart several Weeks before as unclean: But the better Sort of the Inhabitants pours this Liquid into small Casks, and carries it up to the Top of a high Hill, where they have a little Hutt, or what they call a Skiow; here they leave it untill Winter, and when they take it down to drink it in their Families it is so fine and stout, that by mixing a little Sugar amongst it, you cannot distinguish it from the best Mountain Wine: They likewise dry some Beef in these Huts called *Vivda*, but it is very insipid Stuff, as they put no Salt to it. Their Sheep are small, but their Cows, of which they have but a few, are somewhat larger than the Cows in the *Highlands* of *Scotland*; they produce large Quantities of fine Milk, thicker, when newly come from the Cow, than

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the best Cream our Dairy Cellars afford ; and though they are often fed with Fish, as there is but little Grass in the Country, and Fish here is the common Food, both of Man and Beast, yet their Milk favours not of Fish in the least.

The Gentlemens Seats in this Country are very magnificent, and all built of Stone, and their Insides elegantly decorated ; but the chief Ornament they contain, is generous, good-natured and hospitable Treatment, resembling the *Highland Scots* ; they delight in nothing so much as that of entertaining Strangers, which even the meanest Class take a Pleasure in, equal to their Abilities ; but amongst the better Sort, you will not only meet with Affability, Generosity and genteel Treatment ; but, above all, you will be entertained with the agreeable Conversation of polite Gentlemen, which, in such a remote Corner, and by us (to our great Disadvantage) a too, too much neglected one, may be looked upon by some of my Readers as fictitious ; but I will appeal to those Gentlemen who have been upon the Spot, whether what I now relate is true or false : No !

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it is so far from the latter, that I have not described the one Half of their Merits, their Wisdom excelleth the Fame that you hear : I shall, therefore, before I proceed to the main Subject I intend to prosecute, (and a Subject that every true *Briton* ought to countenance, to wit, the *Herring Fishery*) entertain my Reader with a brief Description of some of the principal Families in this Island ; and first begin at the Southern Part, called the *Nefs*.

There lives one *Sinclair*, of *Quandell*, a Gentleman of the first Class in the Island : He has an Estate of about Five Hundred Pounds *per Annum* ; contiguous to this Gentleman's Estate lies one *Bruce* of *Simburgh*, a Gentleman of a plentiful Estate, and free from any Incumbrances. Next I come Northward, as far as a little Town called *Scalloway*, three Miles to the South West of the capital Town *Lerwick*, as before-mentioned : Here stands the Ruins of an old Castle, called the Castle of *Scalloway* : This Town is pleasantly situated in a Semi-Circle, having fine Arable Ground all behind it, and an excellent Harbour in

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its Front. Along its Banks to the Westward, about a Furlong, stands the Seat of one Sir *Andrew Mitchel*, of *Westkore*, that being the Place from which he derives his Title. This Gentleman has a pleasant and competent Estate, and the only Knight in the Country. He is an Advocate, or Counsellor, but whether he practises or not I cannot tell; one Thing I know, that he is a Gentleman of great Parts, and so was his Father, Sir *John Mitchel*, who left a numerous Progeny of fine Children, who have all intermarried in the best Families in the Island. He has a pleasant Garden contiguous to his House, which produces Variety of Kitchen Herbs. But to return back to *Scalloway*; there was one *Mitchel* of *Girlesta*, when I was there, but since dead; this Gentleman was Uncle to the above-mentioned Knight, and Brother to one Mr. *Andrew Mitchel*, an eminent Apothecary, here in *London* at present; this Gentleman was one of the greatest Merchants in the whole Island, and was possessed of a large Estate: He was an affable, good-natured, humane Gentleman, delighting much in relieving the Distressed, who would, if any of his Tenants were reduced, not only

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only forgive them what they were indebted to him, (which sometimes was pretty considerable) but would lend them Money to set out afresh in the World; and in case he never was paid, (which was often the case) he never troubled them; in a Word, this Gentleman was an Ornament to his Country; I shall only instance one more, though I might enumerate many worthy Gentlemen besides these mentioned, but not intending to swell this little Treatise to a Volume, shall forbear; now this Gentleman that I am to mention, is one *Gifford*, of *Busta*. He has a large Estate, and when I was there, had a large and fine Family; but a great Breach has been made therein of late by the Loss of one or more of his Children, who were drowned, when on a Party of Pleasure, which I remember was some Time ago inserted in our publick Papers; this Gentleman deals largely in Trade, and very successfull, so that I believe he is the most money'd Gentleman in the Island; and to speak the Truth, he merits what he enjoys, for his House and his Table are always open and covered to entertain Strangers.

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There are as fine Women in this Island as any in *Europe*, and some of the better Sort, as polite, as many in more polite Situations; their Air is modest and graceful, their Conversation is sweet, plain and agreeable, and their Dress genteel, without the least Affectation; they are all of them in general religious Observers of the Sabbath-Day, and Strangers to most (if not all) of those Vices predominant amongst us.

Notwithstanding this Island lies contiguous to *Norway*, not one Shrub or Tree is to be met with from the one End of the Island to the other, unless it be here and there in a Gentleman's Garden; I remember I was one Day walking along the Side of a Voe, in Company with one Mr. *James Grierson*, a Clergyman there, and a very worthy Gentleman, and stooping down, I beheld some Pieces of decayed Wood lying congealed in black Earth, over which the Sea ebb'd and flow'd; I asked him his Opinion concerning it; he told me, that he believed there had been Woods there before the Flood of *Noah*, but that destroyed

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destroyed all; I could give no better Description thereof, so we dropt it.

They bleed their Cows here once or twice a Year, and they take the Blood and boil it, thickning it with a little Oatmeal, then they pour it into Vessels and eat it, with a little Milk; this was Food I did not admire, though Curiosity induced me to taste it.

Now, Reader, you must observe, that no Wind nor Weather can prevent the Natives from catching Fish; for if the Wind shifts its corner, they shift theirs; and a Boy of Nine or Ten Years of Age, will take a Couple of Fishing Rods, and go down to the Sea-side, set himself down upon the Point of a Rock, and in less than an Hour, he will catch as many small Fish as will serve twenty People; the Kettle is always cleaned, and Water put into it for to boil the Fish, before they are caught; their small Fish they catch by the Shore, are of two Kinds, the one is called a *Piltag*, a grey Fish, and somewhat bigger than a *Herring*; the other is of the same Colour, and bigger than a large *Sprat*, but much finer

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finer eating; this is called a *Sillag*, they have fine Liver, of which they make Pyes, and broil them on the Coals, and they eat exceeding well; there are infinite Numbers of these small Fish, all round the Island in every Crick and Corner, yea, I have seen many Thousands of them run on Shore in stormy Weather; they dung their Ground chiefly with these small Fish, and Sea-weed, upon which their Sheep feed mostly.

Reader, I have here regaled you with various Dishes, and various Curiosities, such as I believe you never was entertained with before, not even in the fictitious Travels of *Robinson Crusoe*, &c. but all that is here related is Fact and Truth, I having had ocular Demonstration of every individual Observation here related, not only for your Amusement, but for your Advantage, if you will improve it, as I intend it, which is for your Country's good; I know some of my Readers will be apt to reflect, and say, O how miserably do these People live! they know no better, or else they would never endure it! in answer to which, I observe, that if they are contented with
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what Providence has allotted them, as knowing no better; have they not the Advantage of us, who know better, and yet at the same Time, abuse the rich Mercies we enjoy? I shall now come to the main Point.

As I observed before, the common People make many coarse Stockings, which they lay aside until the Beginning of *June*, when their Fair or Mart with the *Dutch* begins, which they call the *Johnsmas Fair*; about this Time, the *Dutch*, to the Number of ten or eleven Hundred Busses have wet their Nets upon the Coast, which they are obliged to do against the Eleventh of *June*, by an express Act of the States-General of the United Provinces; then they come into *Bressa Sound*, to buy Stockings; they have for convoy two or three Ships of War, each carrying ten or twelve Guns; these Ships when they cast Anchor, fire these Guns as a Signal for the Inhabitants all round the Country, and the Isles, to come in, which they accordingly do; then the Coupmen come on Shore with Bags of Money, and buy them all up, at Ten Shillings per Score; about this
Time

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Time, there are Ships from *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and large open Boats from the *Orkney Islands*, loaded with Meal, Barley, and Malt, on board of which Vessels the Natives go, and buy up as much Grain as their Money can purchase, which they carry home to support their Families, seeing their own Land is so barren, that the yearly Produce thereof, is not sufficient to supply them with Bread two Months, unless it be here and there one, who has a little Arable Ground, seeing they delve the most of their Land on Account of its Rockiness, though there are sundry Places, capable of Improvement, that lie neglected.

The Gentlewomen, who make Stockings for their Amusement, work them very fine, even so much so, that one of that Country who was here lately, and whom I knew there, told me, he had sold a Pair here of his Wife's making, for four Guineas.

Now, as to the *Dutch*, they to the Number of ten or eleven hundred Sail, as I observed before, enter fishing upon this Coast the beginning of *June*, where they

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they continue fishing till the beginning of *September*, during which space they load sundry Times, carry the first to *Holland*, where it sells at an exorbitant Rate, seeing a hundred Dollars is reckoned but a small Price for a Barrel of Herrings at *Amsterdam*, or *Rotterdam*, for the first that are caught upon this our Coast; afterwards when they are served, they send the other Loads all over *Europe*, up the *Mediterranean*, and all over *Italy*, and the *Italians* who are great Eaters of Fish, on Account of their many Lents, readily barter their Goods with the *Dutch* for their Herrings, the Product of our Coasts, the Profit of which, must, upon a moderate Computation bring the *Dutch* in a Million Sterling annually; yea they have even the Assurance to dispose of them at our own Markets, and we are so weak as to pay them ready Money for them, so that I may justly say, the *Dutch* outdo us both in Industry and Prudence.

But that I may not omit one very material Point, their Method of curing and lasting, or casking the Herrings, though

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though they have been always very shy, and backward to let any of the Natives of the Island into the Method they take of curing and casking the Herrings; yet in Spight of all the Arts they could make use of, to conceal that Secret, it has been discovered, and their Method is this,

After they have haul'd in their Nets, which they drag in the Sterns of their Vessels, backwards and forwards in traversing the Coast, they throw them upon the Ship's Deck, which is cleared of every Thing for that Purpose, for they never carry any Boats or Yoles along with them, as they would be an Incumbrance to them in dressing the Herrings, they carry many Hands on Board, even to the Number of Thirty or Forty, in each Vessel; whom they separate into sundry Divisions, and each Division has a peculiar Task, one Part opens and guts the Herrings, another cures, salts them, by lining or rubbing their Insides with Salt (which is all done upon the Deck) the next packs them, and between each Row, or Division, they sprinkle Handfuls of Salt

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Salt, then the Coupers put the finishing Hand to all, by heading the Casks, and stowing them in the Hold, thus they go on, while Barrels and Salt last, and when that's exhausted then they retire, but the Yagers or Storeships, commonly provide them with every Thing necessary so that they seldom or never depart the Coast before they are brimfull, and really (to give them their due) they are the best Fishermen in the World, for they are not only ingenious, in every Article of their Tackling, or Materials, but also diligent, industrious, and endure the great Fatigue to Admiration.

And during the five Years I resided upon this Island, I never saw an *English* Ship but one, who was drove in by stress of Weather, either in going to, or coming from *Norway*, and not above one or two *Scots* Vessels in a Season, whose Nets the *Dutchmen* used to cut and destroy, and not the least Redress for such villainous Proceedings; there are two or three *Frenchmen* who come upon the Coast too, but they only fish for Cod and Ling.

It

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It has often given me great Concern, when I have reflected upon the Indifference, or rather Indolence of the *British* Nation, in regard to this advantageous Branch of Trade, that they should suffer Foreigners to live and enrich themselves by the Product of our Country, and our Natives in the mean while destitute of common Necessaries.

I am perswaded the *Dutch* employ upwards of 20,000 Hands yearly, in this one Branch; would it not then be more to our Advantage and more to our Credit, to employ 20, or 30,000 of our own Countrymen in this beneficial Branch, than to suffer those Locusts to take the Bread out of our Mouths, and we starve in the mean Time.

I know the *Dutch* to be so inhuman to these Islanders, that if they had Ships Loads of Herrings, more than they had Casks and Salt for, they would much rather throw them into the Sea again, than give them to the poor Inhabitants, who tho' they have Abundance of other Fish, yet no Herrings; however this one Article may in-
form

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form us a little of the Love that our faithful Allies bear to us.

Now after they leave this Coast (which is the principal Place for the Herring-fishery) which is not before the first of *September*, as beforementioned, they, I say, bend their Course Southward to the *Murray-Frith*, where they fish 'till *November* for Cod and Ling, then they return to their own Coasts.

This Account, which is minutely true, I have undertaken with a good Design, namely, to awaken you, my Countrymen, out of the deep Lethargy you have (unhappily) been so long pressed down by, through these cunning deceitful People, the *Dutch*, who have for many Years past, made you the Dupes to their Interest.

I would therefore beseech you, that you would bestir yourselves like Men, and like *Britons* (for now or never is the Time) in the behalf of your Country, and wrest your Rights and Properties out of the Paws of the Ravishers; let neither Purfes, flattering fawning Speeches, nor fair Promises, betray you into a Baseness,
which

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which in the End, if not speedily, or timely prevented, must and will prove a great Loss to *Britain*; for notwithstanding the *Dutch* have enjoyed a series of uninterrupted Gain upon our Coasts, even so far back as King *William's* Reign; yet there never was any Law in their Favour to reign and usurp in our Seas, and to monopolize that Branch of Trade, which belongs to us, and us only, their Liberty was no more than discretionary, but they, like all other indiscreet Persons, have abused their Liberty; which we have fully experienced.

But as our good Legislature has been so kind to pass an Act this last Sessions of Parliament, for encouraging and establishing the *British-White-Herring-fishery*; let us lay hold on this fair Opportunity of enriching our Country by improving this invaluable Branch of Trade, as it will be moreover a Nursery for our Sailors, who were the Persons that in the late War distressed our Enemies most by ruining their Trade.

My dear Countrymen, and Fellow-Subjects, I would advise you to cast your
Eyes

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Eyes back upon these once brave People the *Romans*! And behold how they exerted themselves in the Behalf of their Country, no Births! no Affections! could ever induce them to do or omit any thing whereby their Country might suffer, for their Happiness centered in the Publick Good, all Ranks and Degrees of Persons of both Sexes, voluntarily and cheerfully parted with what was most dear and valuable to them, for the Good of their Country.

It is very certain, that we are more indebted to our Country, than to our natural Parents, who were the Instruments of our Being, and ought to lay down our Lives (if called thereto) for our Country sooner than for them, seeing the whole Community is preferable to a Part.

I shall conclude this Treatise, with informing my Reader, that now is the Time to be preparing for the Herring-Fishery, and to be there about the latter End of *May*, and then you will have the start of the *Dutch*, who will be very much displeased to see *English* Ships
upon

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upon the Coast of *Zetland*. I conclude, with my hearty Prayers, that God may bless and prosper this laudable Undertaking, for the Good of these Kingdoms, in which I know every honest *Briton* joins me.

F I N I S.

