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A
DISCOURSE
Concerning the
FISHERY
WITHIN THE
BRITISH SEAS,
And other His
Majesty's Dominions,
And more especially, as it relates to the
Trade of the COMPANY
OF THE
Royal Fishery of BRITAIN.

Offered to Consideration in Order to Sub-
scriptions for raising a Stock, for carrying
on the Affairs thereof, upon the Terms
proposed.

EDINBURGH,
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A

Discourse concerning the Fishery within the British Seas, and other His Majesty's Dominions; and more especially as it relates to the Trade of the Company of the Royal Fishery of Britain, offered to Consideration, in order to Subscriptions for Raising a Stock, for carrying on the Affairs thereof, upon the Terms proposed, viz.

IT is not to be doubted, but that His Majesty of *Great Britain and Ireland* is the absolute Lord of the Seas flowing about, as an inseparable Appendant of the *British Empire*. But, if any be to seek for Satisfaction therein, such may have Recourse

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to a Treatise written about the Year 1635, by that famous and learned Antiquary, *John Selden*: entituled, *Mare Clausum*, &c. translated into *English*, Anno 1663, and published under the Title of *Mare Clausum*: or, *The Right and Dominion of the Sea*.

If that be too voluminous, the same is epitomized in a lesser Volume, and entituled, *His Majesty's Propriety and Dominion in the British Seas, asserted*. And the same is yet more succinctly evinced, by that learned Knight, *Sir John Burroughs* sometime Keeper of the Records of the Tower of London, who hath not only cleared the Right, by Records, Histories, and the Municipal Laws of this Kingdom, in his Treatise written Anno 1633. But also other important Matters relating thereunto, published Anno 1651. A Treatise worthy every *English Man's* Perusal, who is desirous to be informed of, and concerned in the *Fishery* Affairs.

But this is not our present Undertaking, further than to set forth what Advantages may accrue to his Majesty and these Kingdoms, by a speedy and effectual setting upon, and engaging in the said Trade; which has been by many Treatises recommended to the People of these Nations, from the Consideration of the Advantage and Facility of undertaking the same: As likewise, from the absolute Necessity thereof, in Order to the Safety and Well being both of the King
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and People. Which said Treatises, or some of them, may be had at several Book-sellers Shops in the City and *Westminster*; and, in order to the reader finding of them out, the Titles of some of them are herein after mentioned, *viz.*

England's Way to win Wealth and to employ Ships and Mariners; written by *Tobias Gentleman*, and printed in the Year 1614.

Britain's Buss, written by *E. S.* and printed Anno 1615, Re-printed 1630.

Sir Walter Rawleigh's Observations, touching Trade and Commerce with the Hollanders and other Nations, in his Address to His Majesty, *K. James the 1st.* 1618.

Gerard Maylynes Treatise, called Lex Mercatoria, in his 47th Chapter under the Title of, *The Fishing Trade*, Anno 1636.

The Seas Magazine opened, written by a Person of Honour, printed 1653.

The Trade and Fishing of Great-Britain displayed, by *Captain John Smith*, 1661.

The Royal Trade of Fishing, Printed Anno 1662.

Sohn Keymor's Observations upon the Dutch Fishing, about the Year 1601, printed for *Sir Edward Ford*, Anno 1664.

The Royal Fishing revived, &c. 1670.

A Discourse of the Fishery; by *Sir Roger LeStrange*, Anno 1674.

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A Discourse of Salt and Fishery, written by John Colins, 1682.

These Things premised, we shall in the next Place set forth what has been done, in Order to the promoting and encouraging this Trade, viz.

His late Majesty King CHARLES the Second, (That an Affair of such a National Concern might be the better promoted) was pleased by his Letters Patents under the Great Seal of England; bearing Date the 25th Day of September, in the 29th Year of his Reign; To constitute his Royal Highness James Duke of York, Thomas Earl of Danby (now Duke of Leeds) and several other Persons of Honour; and others therein-named; and such others as thereafter from Time to Time should be admitted into their Company and Society, to be Traders and Adventurers with them; To be one Body Politick and Incorporate in Deed and in Name, by the Name of the Company of the Royal Fishery of England; To have perpetual Succession: Thereby also giving and granting unto the said Company and their Successors, divers beneficial Clauses, Powers, Privileges and Immunities; in Order to the better Government of the said Company, and Management of their Affairs: An Abstract whereof here followeth, viz.

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To purchase Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, and to dispose thereof to the Value of One Thousand Pounds per Annum.

To have and use a common Seal in and for all Causes and Business of the said Company.

To assemble and meet together for carrying on their Affairs; and particularly to elect and appoint a Governour, Sub-governour, Deputy Governour, and 12 Committees yearly for a Court of Assistants: Who, or any three or more of them, (whereof the Governour, Sub-Governour, or Deputy-Governour, to be always one) are thereby Authorized and impowered, according to such Rules, Orders and Directions as should from Time to Time be made and given unto them by the general Court of the said Company; and for want of such Orders, Rules and Directions from Time to Time to manage, govern and direct all the Affairs and Business of the said Company, and all their Ministers and Servants whatsoever; and generally to act and do in all Matters and Things whatsoever, as they shall judge expedient to the well Ordering and Government of the said Company, and the Improvement of their joint Stock and Trade: And to do, enjoy, perform and execute all the said Powers, Authorities, Privileges, Acts and Things, in like Manner, to all Intents and Purposes,

Purposes, as if the same were done at, and by a General Court of the said Company.

That before they entred upon the Execution of their respective Offices and Employments, they were to take their corporal Oaths, for their true and faithful Execution of their respective Trusts and Places, before the Lord High Chancellor of *England*, or Chancellor of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer. After which, the said Court of Assistants, or any Three of them as aforesaid, are authorized to administer an Oath of Fidelity to the succeeding Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and any subsequent Members of the said Company; and to all inferiour Officers, Ministers and Servants, that shall be chosen and employed under them, in the Service of the said Company.

The said Court of Assistants, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid (as often as they shall find Occasion) may summon a General Court of the said Company; and no Assembly or Meeting of the said Company shall be deemed or accounted a General Court of the same Company, unless the Governour, Sub-Governour, or Deputy-Governour, Six of the Committees and Five other Members of the said Company (at least) be present.

That such General Court may admit other Persons to be Members of the said Company; and

and may encrease, contract or divide their joint Stock, as they shall think fit.

And may make, ordain and establish such, and so many good, necessary and reasonable Laws, Ordinances, Orders and Constitutions, as to them, or the greatest Part of them, shall seem necessary and convenient, for the good Government of the said Company, and their Affairs: And the same Laws, &c. may put in Use and Execution, and at their Pleasure revoke, alter, and make new.

They may impose and set such Mulcts and Amerciaments upon the Breakers of such Laws, as to them, in their Discretions shall be thought reasonable, which shall be put in Execution by the Court of Assistants, to and for the Use of the Company, &c. Or, they may remit, pardon or release the same, upon the Parties Submission at their Will and Pleasure.

Upon Conviction of any Misdemeanour, they may remove Offenders, and choose others in their Places, at such General Court of the Company.

That the Members of the Company may, from Time to Time, grant, transfer and assign All, or any Part of their respective Stocks in the said Company; and the Proceede and Profit thereof.

They may from Time to Time, build, rigg, man, victual and set out to Sea, such, and so

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many Doggers, Busses, and other Fishing Vessels, as by the Company or Court of Assistants, shall be thought fit and convenient.

They may Fish in, and upon all the Coasts, Estuaries, Inlets, Creeks, Arms of the Sea, Nooks, Lakes, and publick Rivers of, within, and belonging to His Majesty's Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, or any of them; or any other of His Majesty's Dominions, whereof the Fishing are not already granted, appropriated or belonging to some other particular or private Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate: And likewise in, and upon the Main Sea, or any part thereof.

They have granted unto them, free and full Liberty, to carry and transport their Fish and Oil made of Fish, to all Ports, Places and Markets, both in *England* and beyond the Seas; and also to sell the same there, for ready Money, or by Way of Barter and Exchange, for any other Commodities.

They are impowered to erect Store-houses, Granaries, Ware-Houses and Work-Houses; and to dry and amend their Nets, and make Ropes; and also to build and make Wharfs and Docks, in, upon, and out of any of the Wastes, Commons, or Waste-grounds of his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, adjoining unto, or upon any publick Rivers or Seas,
within

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within any of his Majesty's Dominions, without paying or rendering any Rent or Duty whatsoever unto His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors for the same.

Also, that all and every the Masters, Skippers and Steersmen of the several Doggers, Busses, and other Fishing Vessels of the Company, and their Ships Crews, Mariners, Fishermen, and others employed by the said Company, in and about their said Fishery; as well Foreigners, as Natives and Subjects, &c: And during their respective Employments, shall not be impaunel'd, summoned, or sworn, or compelled by any Sheriff, Bayliff, or other Officer of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, to serve on any Juries, or Inquests, at *Westminster*, the Assizes, Sessions, or elsewhere.

They have also granted to them by his said Majesty, 20 Pounds for each and every respective Dogger which they then had, and were Owners of; and which within, and during the Term and Space of 7 Years from the Date of the said Patent, they and their Successors should build, or cause to be built in *England*, or any other His Majesty's Dominions, The same to be payed Quarterly, out of the Customs within the Port of *London*, &c. without any other or further Warrant or Direction, from His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, in that behalf, &c.

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They have also granted unto them, and their Successors, all and singular Privileges in the City of London, as fully and freely as any Compauny of Merchants established by Letters, Patents, or Charters; theretofore granted by His Majesty, or any of his Predecessors, at present do, or may have, use or enjoy; also, that all and singular Admirals, Vice-Admirals, General-Commanders, Captains, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Customers; Collectors, Searchers, Controllors, Waiters and all other Officers, Ministers, Liege-men, and Subjects of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors whatsoever, from Time to Time, and at all Times thereafter, shall be, in and by all things aiding, helping and assisting unto the said Company and their Successors, their Factors, Agents and Servants, and every of them, in the Execution and Enjoyment of the Premises, as well on Land as by Sea, whensoever they, or any of them shall be thereunto desired, as they tender His Majestie's good Will and Pleasure, and will answer the contrary at their Peril.

And lastly, His Majesty doth grant, That these His Majestie's Letter Patents, and all and singular the Grants, Clauses, and Things thereincontained and expressed, should be and continue firm, valid, good, sufficient and effectual in the Law; and should be construed,

strued, reputed and taken, as well in the meaning, as to the Words and Expressions of the same, most favourably, benignely and beneficially, to and for the best Benefit and Advantage of the said Company and their [Successors: Any Omission, Incertainty, Defect, Imperfection, or Contrariety in the said Letters Patents contained; Or any Law, Statute, Act, Ordinance, Proclamation, Provision, or Restriction, or other Cause, Matter or Thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof, in any wise, notwithstanding, &c. As in and by the said Letters, Patents (Relation being thereunto had for the better Certainty thereof) may more fully and at large appear.

Now, a few Things touching the Proceedings of the Company thereupon; Briefly, viz.

THE Company thus established divers particular Members thereof, advanced and paid in thereupon, (at first) a Stock of 10980 *lib.* and after that, about 1600 *lib.* more; All which was laid out, in buying, equipping, and setting forth Vessels, &c. and employing them in prosecuting the said *Fisbery-Affairs.* But that Undertaking was rendered

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rendred ineffectual, and their said Stock exhausted and consumed: (not by any Thing arising from the Nature of the Thing it self) as is apparent by the Experience the said Company had, in having taken and imported in One of their Doggers, in a Voyage of 3 Weeks, 32000 Cods; and proportionably thereunto, in several other of their Vessels. And, by the Advantage made of the like Undertaking by our Neighbours, which shall be demonstrated by some narrative thereof, with particular Enumeration of their Successes, in what follows. But, by that ill Juncture of Affairs, when the *Dutch* and *Spaniards* were engaged in War with the *French*, who seized the Vessels and Goods of the Company as *Dutch*, being some or most of them *Dutch* built, and mann'd by *Dutch-men*: And principally, because the Stock was not sufficient to support so great an Undertaking, in Case of any Misadventure. Whereupon, the prosecuting of the said Affair and Trade was under Suspence for some Time, and not thought fit to be engaged in, but with a more considerable Stock; which was afterwards endeavoured, by a new Subscription designed and agreed by the then Company, to the Value of 60000 *lib*. But, by reason of the Death of his said late Majesty, King *Charles* the 2d, and the Troubles ensuing, the same was thought fit to be suspended

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ended for some farther Time. And, The Company about the Year 1692, (conceiving it might be seasonably undertaken) assembled for putting their former Design in Execution; And finding Encouragement from the Readiness of divers Persons to join therein, upon certain Proposals for a Subscription, such as (in Case of like Losses of some few Vessels) the said Affair might notwithstanding be carried on, without the Discouragement of being to seek of a Stock ready: They have been waiting ever since for a fitting Season, wherein they might humbly Address themselves to His Majesty, and both the honourable Houses of Parliament, for their further encouraging this Undertaking. And in the *Interim*, have spent their Time, and taken much Pains in and about the Consideration and Preparation of such a Constitution, Laws and Rules, for Management and Governing of their Affairs, and Framing such Proposals of Terms and Conditions, for admitting Persons into the said Company, to be Members, Traders and Adventurers with them therein, as (by discouraging others) they hope, will be sufficiently encouraging to Subscriptions, for the raising such Stock for that Purpose; And whereby His Majesty and the Parliament may be the better satisfied, That Persons of Honour, Interest, Estates, and publick Spirits,

rits are jointly become engaged to carry on the same, as far as the Nature of such an Affair will admit. The Company have thereupon thought fit to cause, as well the said Letters Patents, as the said Constitution, and Terms of Subscription, to be fairly ingross'd at large in Books, and lodged in convenient Places within the City of London and Westminster, to be perused, considered, and subscribed accordingly.

And, forasmuch as, all have not the conveniency of resorting to such Places, and, that the Affair may become as National, as may be; The Company have thought fit, likewise, to prepare, and to cause the Abstracts thereof to be printed and published; to the End, all Persons may have the Contents thereof before them, and may apply themselves to make such Subscriptions (at the Places appointed for that purpose) as they shall think fit, on these Terms: Which are as followeth, viz.

First,

First, The Abstract of the said Constitution, entituled,

A Constitution, Model, or Frame and Method for Government and Managing of the Trade and Affairs of, The Company of the Royal Fishery of England; As also some Rules and Laws, necessary to be observed by the Persons concern'd in the Improvement of the Stock, &c.

Sect. 1: **T**HAT the Chief Government of the Company, shall be in and consist of a Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and 12 Committees (whereof 4 to be called Directors, and 8 Masters) and also of 15 Assistants, viz, To each of them, One: Also, 8 Wardens and 25 Commissioners or Agents for Scotland and Ireland, And as many of the other Members of the Company as shall from Time to Time be agreed to be admitted; who, or any 15 or more of them, (together with the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy Governour, and their respective Assistants, or One of them to be present; 5 or more of the Committees, 5 or more of the Assistants, and 5 or more of the other Members of the Company) are to have the chief Power of making Laws, and ordering the whole Affairs of the Company, in their general Courts.

Sect. 2: That there shall be a Court of Assistants, to consist of the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour; the 12 Committees, and their 15 Assistants; who, or any 7 or more of them (whereof the Governour

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nour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, or their respective Assistants to be alwise One. 3 of the said Committees, and 3 of the said Assistants, are to have the chief Directing and Managing of the Affairs of the Company, by their Orders: And, for want of such Orders, may do and Execute all Things, as the general Court may.

Sect. 3. That for the more distinct and regular Management of the said Affairs; the said Court of Assistants are divided into 4 Chambers, *viz.*

1. *The Fishery Chamber*; Which is to consist of the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and their respective Assistants, or One of them, One Director and his Assistant, 2 Masters and their Assistants, and 2 Wardens, who, or any 3 or more of them to be a *Quorum*, are to Act and Execute by Rules and Instructions under the Seal of the Company, and not otherwise.

(2.) *The Stock or Store-Chamber*, to consist of like Number, and to Act by like Instructions.

(3.) *The Treasury or Cash-Chamber*, To consist of like Number, and to act by like Instructions.

(4.) *The Accompt Chamber*, To consist of like Number, and to act by like Instructions.

Sect. 4. There shall be other 28. Members of the Company, who shall be called Agents, or Officers and be employed in the respective 4. Chambers, as they shall be directed by the Court of Assistants:

Sect. 5. That the Nomination and Election of the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and 12. Committees shall be in, and by the general Court Annually; save that not above 5. of them shall be remov'd in any one Year, but for just Causes express, &c. The 8 Wardens; and other Agents, Officers, or Commissioners, for *England, Scotland, and Ireland*, to be nominated by the Court of Assistants or 16 of them.

Sect. 6. That within 20. Days after Publication of Sub-

Subscriptions of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds, a General Court shall be called, for Election of a Sub-Governour, or Deputy-Governour, and 4. Committees by the New Subscribers: And afterwards, Elections to be made on the 30th of *November* Yearly: wherein not above 5. Committees to be removed as aforesaid.

Sect. 7. The Articles, Terms of Conditions, touching the Admitting of Persons into the Company are confirmed, as a Part of the Constitution, Inviolably to be observed.

Sect. 8. That all Subscribers who shall not be chosen for Managers, &c. Shall be denominated as Traders or Adventurers; And their respective Shares both as to Profit and Loss, yearly stated and determined, as other the Stocks of the Company.

Sect. 9. That no Member of the Company after the 30th *November* next after Subscriptions are Completed, shall have any Vote in Elections, or making Laws, &c. who shall nor have Five Hundred Pounds Subscribed, &c. in the Stock: Nor any Person be admitted a Member of the Court of Assistants, who shall not have One Thousand Pound subscribed, &c.

Sect. 10. The Tenth Part of the clear neat Profits is appointed to be set apart for bearing the Charges of the Company, Court of Assistants and 4. Chambers &c. Also to pay Salaries, &c. To the Managing Members, Officers or Servants: And the distributions and proportions of each are thereby settled.

Sect. 11. The Accompts of Profit and Loss are to be Yearly stated, by the Officers in the Accompt-Chamber each Year, to end on the 10th, of *June*. The Court of Assistants are to examine and Report the same to the general Court, on the 10th. of *September* following, and Nine of them to sign the brief Account thereof and each ones share of Profits to be paid amongst the Persons concerned.

Sect. 12. In case of loss in any one Year, the Stock is to be made good out of the next, before any Dividend or Apportionment to Managers, Officers &c. Save that,
Servants

wants Salaries, or Wages of 30. *lper Annum* and under may be advanced out of the Stock, and reimbursed out of the next Years Profits and in case the Profits of any first Years shall not Amount to 100 *l* each share the same shall also be made out of the after Years, Profits assigned for that purpose.

Seff. 13: Mentions, in what Cases Persons may be dismiss their Offices and Employments; and, that the general Court, or Court of Assistants Judgement shall be Final for the Determination thereof.

Seff. 14. Sets the Fines on such as shall absent themselves, from their Attendance when summoned, or upon Adjournments; or for not attending so many Hours as shall be argeed upon: Unless in case of Corporal Illness, or Licence from their respective Chambers.

Seff. 15. Directs the Custody of the Larger Seal, as also of the Letters Patents, Deeds, Evidences of Lands granted to the Company, to be kept locked up in the Treasury Chamber, under two Locks; whereof the Governour, Sub-Governour, and Director, to have the Keys of one, and their respective Assistants of the other: Who are to produce the same upon all occasions of the Company or Court of Assistants: Also, that the Trustees and each Chamber, the Secretary of the Company, and the respective Commissioners or Agents for *Scotland*, and *Ireland* to have one of the lesser Seals, to be used by them respectively in the Companies Service.

Seff. 16. If any Differences shall arise between the Members of the Court of Assistants, or several Chambers relating to the Companies Affairs, they are to be determined by the general Court, &c. And the refusers to submit thereto, to be dismiss their Offices and Employments.

Seff. 17. The seven Trustees are named, and. 3. of the other Assistants; the other 5. Assistants are to be elected by them, out of such as shall become Subscribers to the new Stock of the Company: Their After nomination and Succession is also agreed to be in, by, and

and amongst themselves, or the major Part of the whole Fifteen.

Seff. 18. The Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, Committees, Assistants, and all Subscribers before they be admitted into any Trust or Office in the Company, are to declare their approbation of and acquiescing in the Constitution, and all after Constitutions, Laws and Rules of the Company: As is more at large therein expressed.

Secondly, The Abstract of the forementioned Articles, Terms, or Conditions, touching Subscriptions: Entituled,

Articles, Terms or Conditions upon which All and Singular, Person or Persons of what Quality soever within the Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland, &c. Maybe admitted into the Company of the Royal Fishery of Britain, or be Traders or Adventurers with them.

1. **T**HAT whosoever shall Subscribe, and pay in any Sum or Sums of Money towards a joint Stock for carrying on the Trade on the said Company shall be admitted into the same: And have and receive all the Benefits and Advantages thereof, Subject to the Constitution, Laws and Rules of the said Company: And these Articles, Terms, and Conditions, &c:

2. That the Sum designed to be at present Subscribed to be *Three Hundred Thousand Pounds*. Whereof,
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One Hundred Thousand Pounds by the surviving Patentees, their Heirs and Assigns, and the other present Members: And Two Hundred Thousand Pounds more by other Persons. The same to be paid into the Treasury of the said Company, in manner following, viz. The first Tenth part thereof to be paid within Thirty Days from and after Notice or Publication of the completing the Subscriptions of the said 300000 L. or of 150000 L. at least, in part thereof. One Tenth part more within 3 Month next after their respective first Payments: And the other remaining Eight Tenth parts, by Eighth equal successive Quarterly Payments.

3. That one Tenth Part of each Sum so subscribed, shall be appropriated to, and for the Use of the said Trustees, and of such other Persons as they shall judge have heretofore been, or may hereafter be usefull for, or in promoting the Interest and Service of the Company, without Account. So as the same nevertheless shall be and remain in the Stock, for carrying on the Trade thereof: And the remaining nine Parts, to and for the Sole use and benefit of the respective Subscribers, their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns.

4. That whatsoever further Sums shall, at any time hereafter, be thought fit by the Company to be subscribed and paid in for increasing the said Stock, shall be in like manner Subject to the Payment of the like Tenth part, &c. for, or toward the Re-imbursment of the Subscribers said 10th Part of the said 300000 Pounds.

5. That whosoever shall Subscribe and Pay in his first Payment, and shall not make his second, or any after Payments, by the respective Times before limited, shall forfeit his first Payment to the use of the Company. and have Credit only for such after Payments as he shall make.

6. That all Shares or Sums amounting to 50 lib. and Assignments thereof, shall be entred and registered

sted, and Certificates thereof exemplified under the Seal be given for the same, to such Persons as shall desire it.

7. That no Person shall be hereafter admitted a Member of the Company, unless he shall at the Time of his Subscription, declare his Approbation of, and Submitting to these Articles, and engage himself to observe and keep the same Inviolably. And also all such Constitutions, Laws and Rules of the Company as they have or shall make for the Management and Regulations of their Trade, pursuant to the Letters Patents, and the present Constitution.

Thirdly, For the present further Encouragement of all Persons that shall engage herein; The Company have also thought fit to cause to be subjoined, a brief Account of what they find Written by several Persons in Commendation of such an Undertaking, as well for the Honour, Strength and Security of his Majesty, as the private Advantages of the particular Persons Subscribing: grounded especially on an Estimate of the good Success of our Neighbours, in such an Undertaking; who have experienced, and proclaimed this Fishery to Over-balance in Riches and Glory. The Golden Mines of the Indies: Which, carries with it the vertue of a Demonstration to such as shall consider the same; which Accompt thereof hath been collected and tendred to the Company, and hath been also examined, considered and allowed by them, under the Title following, viz.

Some

Some Preliminary Considerations and Advertisements towards Inducing and Encouraging, *The Company of the Royal Fishery of England, &c.* By a joynt Stock to carry on the Trade and Affairs thereof, viz.

I. THE Advantages thereof may have Demonstration and Evidence, by the great Power, Wealth and Riches, which others have arrived unto thereby; in Multitudes of Ships and Sea-men employed therein, &c.

(1.) In Shipping, which is estimated to be at least 10000. Vessels, employed in Fishing and Trading therewith.

(2.) In Mariners, and Persons employed thereby computed by a moderat Proportion of Ten for each Vessel, (one with another) which comes to at least 100000 Persons, besides Men of War.

(1.) In Towns and Fortifications; upon which vast sums of Money have been expended, to their Srength and Glory.

(4.) In Power abroad; whereby they have gained other considerable Countries, Islands and Dominions: even in both the *Indies*.

II. Their Wealth also is considerable, in the particulars following, viz.

(1.) Their publick Revenue, consisting of at least 300000 *l. per Annum*, by the sole Customs of Herring, beside by all other Fishings and Trade.

(2.) Their Trade by Fish, enables them to Deal and Trock with all Nations for their Commodities and bring away their Moneys.

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(3.) Their private Wealth advanced to many Millions Yearly, amongst their Merchants, Artificers, &c. By the Fishing Trade only.

(4.) Their Provisions and Stores of all sorts, sufficient for supply both of themselves in War and Peace; and of their Neighbours, to great advantage, &c.

Whereas, on the Contrary,

(1.) We have not one Ship of War Built or Maintained thereby.

(2.) Nor Mariners bred up, or very few comparatively, of equal Skill, Hardiness or Strength, for Labour and Service.

(3.) Nor Towns nor Fortifications, But all our Fishing-Towns almost decayed.

(4.) Nor Trade by Fish considerable, but buy, and are supplied by our Neighbours at so dear Rates, as none but Persons of great Estates can eat Fish, &c.

(5.) The Decay of many Manufactorys relating to that Trade, viz. Of Sail-cloth, Ropes, Cables, Anchors, Nets, &c.

(6) The consumptions of our Coynt sent abroad, for these necessaries, &c. which, by this Trade would be prevented, and Coin exceedingly increased, &c.

Quest. If it be demanded: What advantages may be made to his Majesty by his undertaking, Encouraging and Protecting this Fishery Trade, in Future, within and upon his own Dominions, &c.

Answer. In general, By this His Majesty may be rendred the greatest Monarch in the World, for Command and Wealth.

2. All the forementioned Advantages made by others may be ours; and we become the most opulent and Flourishing Nation under the Heavens.

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In Particular, we should be provided with,

1. Increase of Ships and Multitudes of Mariners and those of the most skilful; and hardiest for Labour, Strength, and Courage,
 2. Our Towns and Fortifications, especially such as have been destroyed, or neglected through the Decay of the *Fishery* and Manufactures, will become reedified, and Populated.
 3. Our Power Abroad as well as at Home will be upheld, and new Territories planted and secured against Attempts or Conquests by Foreigners.
 4. Our publick Revenues augmented, even to a sufficiency of preserving his Majesties Sovereignty and Dominion of these Seas against all Encroachments.
 5. Our Trade will be vastly spread and increased in all Parts of the World, by the Fish wherewith his Majesties Seas and Dominions do abound: Even to many unknown, or at least untraded Parts.
 6. Our private Trade will afford vast Wealth to our Merchants, employ our Poor and Idle People in the Manufactures attending this Trade; which will also both Cloth and feed them: For their Earnings will enable them to buy both, &c. And save the vast collections made every Year for their Maintenance in Idleness and Sloth.
 7. We may become the Mart of all Trade; and furnished at all Times with Magazines, and Stores of all sorts both for War and Peace: For our selves and our Neighbours, &c. Being better scituated for Markets than any other Trading-Nation whatsoever; Having this Additional Staple-Commodity to our other Manufactures, wherewith to procure the same, &c.
7. *Quest.* If it be inquired. How shall this be disposed and accomplished so as to prevent former Mis-carriages and Discouragements. *Ans.*

Ans. 1. By making a present Entrance upon this Trade, By the Company of the Royal Fishery of England &c. And encourageing such as shall contrive and diligently promote the same.

2. By a large Stock proposed to be advanced by Subscriptions, for carrying on the same, to the utmost extent it will bear.

3. By his Majesties and the Parliaments further grants of Aide, Countenance and Encouragements to the Company; such as as may be propounded with little or no Diminution to his Majesties present Revenues, or grievance to the People.

4. By Nobles, Members of Parliament, and Council, Subscribing and Countenancing Subscriptions for the enlarging this Stock, in the respective Countrys.

Obj. If it be objected: 'Tis a time of War, and a Stock may be soon lost if it should be now under taken.

Ans. 1. It may be hoped the War will have an End, But.

2. There are several Things requisite to be prepared and provided: And several Manufactures, Relating to the Trade, and to be erected, and Persons to be trained up and employed therein, for some Time, before it can be set on Foot (after the Stock is provided) in which the Stock as it comes in gradually will be improved, for the present to the Adventurers Advantage, for their Encouragement to begin in the same.

3. There are several Fishing-Places so scituated, as that they may be made use of very profitably, without considerable, if any Hazard, Loss or Damage; for that, some Vessels will seldom need to lye or labour out of Sight and Protection of our own Shores.

4. If some Vessels should be lost, the Stock being great, and managed by a Corporation for a joynt Account, the Damage would scarce be felt; and soon Recovered in so gainful a Trade.

5. A small Convoy or Guard, on such Coasts will secure them.

6. The

6. The Letters Patents provide for Guards and Convoys.

Obj. We cannot build our Vffels, or Sail them, nor Manage our Affairs to that Advantage that our Neighbours can, &c.

Ans. 1. Many such Objections have been cast in, and probably will be revived to discourage the Undertaking; but, Satisfaction may be given touching these vulgar Errors, were it seasonable to expose the Methods and ways which the Company have under Consideration, for obviating of them: And the same is in a great Measure already done by Sir Roger le Strange, in his forementioned Treatise.

2. It is the Nations Interest to assist and Encourage the Undertaking by such Means as have been suggested already from the Letters Patents; and which we are well assured the Parliament will super-add to our Stock, for the rendering our Charge in Building, &c. as easie as may be.

3. The Parliament (in and by the Act for settling the Duty of Salt on his Majesty) hath already provided for Allowance of our having the Charge on Salt to be repayed, viz. 2sh 6d per Barrel for all that shall be exported besides what hath been further done by other several Acts of Parliament formerly made concerning the Fishery, whereby the Company may be enabled to outdo them in all Points relating to that Matter.

Quest. What will be the ordinary Charge of Building and Equipping a Fishing-Vessel of about 70. Tun for the first Year, and so, afterwards for 20. Years in repairing and amending the same: And also the ordinary annual Profits thereof, over and above the Charges, including Victuals, &c, For each Fishing Season.

Ans. None may presume on what depends on GOD's Providence and Blessing in the prudent Managing of this Affair, more than of other Maritime and Merchantly Adventures. But, Computing the Particulars by the ordinary

dinary Profit and Loss from others Observations and Experience, it may be Reasonably expected such Enquiries may be thus resolved, viz.

	<i>lib. sh. d.</i>
First, THE Charge of first building, setting out, and Wages for one Year, is computed to amount to about	} 1332 09 8
The Produce of that year's Fishing is ordinarily estimated at about	} 2250 00 0
Consequently the neat Profit of the first Year, (all Charges deducted) will be	} 0917 10 4
<hr/>	
2dly, The after yearly Charges for 20 Years (all Charges deducted) will be (Communibus Annis) but	} 0928 19 8
Consequently the neat profit of each after Year (and so for 20 Years) will be per Annum,	} 1321 00 8
<hr/>	

All which may be made appear by the Particular Estimate following, viz.

	<i>lib. sh. d.</i>
THE Building of such a Doggar or Bus will cost about	} 0403 10 0
<hr/>	
The Furniture, with Necessaries common to other Ships, viz. Victuals, &c.	} 0217 19 2

The

	lib.	sh. d.	lib.	sh. d.	lib.	sh. d.
The Nets, Tools, &c. proper for a twelve-Months Fishery, viz. For Herring,	0242	09 6				
			0256	19 6		
The Hooks and Lines for Cod and Ling.	014	10 0			0928	19 8
For both fishing, Casks and Salt			0221	00 0		
For Wages for 6 Months or 24 Weeks for the Herring Fishing Season.	088	15 0				
For 7 other Months or 28 Weeks, for the Cod and Ling Season	103	02 6	0233	01 0		
For Wages, Gratnities, &c. at Land for General Officers, &c. Yearly	041	03 6				
So the Total Charge of building and equipping one Buſs or Doggar for the first Year, will be, as above			1331	19 8		

Whereof the 233 lib. 1 sh. above-mentioned, is not deburs'd till Return of the Vessel.

The

The Produce of this Vessel's Imployment for one Year, is ordinarily computed thus, viz.

	lib.	sh. d.	lib.	sh. d.
One hundred Laſt of Herrings, Each containing 10 Barrels, worth <i>de claro</i>	1000	00 0		
Twenty five thousand Cods and Lings, worth at least <i>de claro</i>	1250	00 0	2250	00 8
Out of which ſaid 2250 lib. deducting the Charges of building, &c. which amounts, as above, to			1332	09 8
The neat Produce thereof for the first Year. will be, as above			0917	10 4
The next Year's Produce, computed at about			2250	00 8
Out of which, deducting the ſame full Charges (except for building) which amounts to about			0928	19 8
The ſtanding neat yearly Profit for the ſaid 20 Years, will be (<i>per Ann.</i>) about			1321	00 4

But ſuppoſing (for Round-reckonin) yet not admitting, That the 321 lib. 00 sh. 4 d. *per Annum* be ſtruck off, and deducted thereout, for extraordinary Loſſes, Damages, Hazards and Expences, for Buildings, Ship-Wracks, Repairs, Ware and Tare, &c. there will ſtill remain of clear Profits *per Annum* for every ſuch Veſſel 1000 lib.

One Half whereof is ſufficient Gain, for encouraging the Undertaking, : Yea one Quarter.

N.B This Diſcourſe was firſt printed in the Year 1695.
F I N I S.

Advertisement

TO morrow, being the 6th
of *January*, the 47th Ch.
of *Malynes Lex Mercatoria*,
concerning the Fishing Trade,
will be published, and sold at
the Printing Press, in the Parlia-
ment Close.

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