

PLAIN FACTS

FOR

PLAIN MEN,

OR,

OBSERVATIONS

On the Bill

ORDERED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO BE PRINTED

ON THE 1st JUNE, 1818,

FOR THE

Further encouragement and better regulation

OF THE

Irish Fisheries.

“ Man to be happy, must be employed.”

Letter from J. C. Curwen, Esq, M. P.

BY A FRIEND TO THE POOR FISHERMEN.

Cork:

JOHN BOLSTER, PATRICK-STREET.

1819.

PLAIN FACTS

FOR

PLAIN MEN,

OR

LABOURERS

On the Bill

ORDERED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO BE PRINTED

ON THE 16TH JUNE 1818

By authority of the House of Commons

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BY A FRIEND TO THE POOR LABOURERS

Printed by

JOHN BASKIN, PATRICK-STREET

1818

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welfare of Society. Their fate is a truly melancholy
prospect for those hardy young men who face the foam-
ing billows and brave the dangers of the sea.

A glorious example of intrepidity has been dis-
played this passing winter by a native of Kinsale, John
Carly, in saving the life of a fellow creature at the
imminent hazard of his own. His heroism has been

rewarded by a benevolent and grateful public. But
a higher reward than wealth can afford, will always
be felt by that young man, in reflecting on his saving a

RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD KINGSALE.

It is for the interest of such meritorious men and
their families, that I take up the pen; and
and encouraging them the prosperity of the Empire will

MY LORD,

*An earnest desire to benefit the nu-
merous poor Fishermen of Ireland, of whom, those
of Kinsale form so large a proportion, has influenced
me to examine the Bill for the improvement of the
Irish Fisheries, now under the consideration of the
Legislature, and at the instance of the Irish Govern-
ment, under the consideration also of the SOUTHERN
FISHERY ASSOCIATION, of which your Lordship is
the much respected President. To you therefore, I beg
leave to submit the accompanying Observations.*

*I understand that all the aged and infirm Fishermen
of Kinsale, as well as of other parts, have become
wandering beggars, after expending their youth,*

strength, and health, in contributing to the support and luxuries of Society. Their fate is a truly melancholy prospect for those hardy young men who face the foaming billows and brave the dangers of the Sea.

A glorious example of intrepidity has been displayed this passing winter by a native of Kinsale, John Carty, in saving the life of a fellow creature at the imminent hazard of his own. His heroism has been rewarded by a benevolent and grateful public. But a higher reward than wealth can afford, will always be felt by that young man, in reflecting on his saving a life which the riches of the Indies could not effect.

It is for the interest of such meritorious men and their families, that I take up the pen ; for in protecting and encouraging them the prosperity of the Empire will be advanced.

To you, My Lord, as a native of Kinsale, and a constant resident in that populous, but at present much distressed Town, the amelioration of the condition of the Fishermen and their families must be a matter of heartfelt gratification.

I write not to flatter but to servẽ the community. What may be deemed flattery is but justice in regard to your Lordship. I am therefore sanctioned in saying, that if all your Brother Peers, ‘those great and rich ones of our country, who,’ as my Lord Norbury stated, ‘have abdicated their rights, their homes and their du-

ties amongst us,' possessed the same benevolence and patriotism as the Premier Baron of Ireland, she would soon rise from the abject misery in which she is sunk, to be the most flourishing portion of the British Dominions.

I have the honour to be

My Lord,

With great respect,

Your most obedient and very humble Servant,

WM. PARKER.

Passage West, 13th Feb. 1819.

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WM. PARKER.

Houses of the Oireachtas

ON THE FISHERIES.

The references to pages, in this Essay, are to the written Copy laid before the House of Commons.

'No nation can have a navy where there is not a fund of business to breed and employ seamen without any expense to the public, and no trade is so well calculated for training up these useful members of society as fisheries.'

ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA.

THE framers of the Bill printed by order of the House of Commons on the first of June, 1818, and now before the public, appear to be fully impressed with the same patriotic sentiments as influenced the compilers of the work above referred to. Indeed, every man who wishes well to his country must regard the fisheries of the United Empire as one of the nurseries of its maritime strength.

This subject would require very ample and minute discussion. However it has already undergone it in Parliament, and is likely notwithstanding the cavil of ignorant persons, to be taken up with the warmth which it so eminently

deserves, and which the exertions of the Southern Fishery Association that first originated at Kinsale, appear well calculated to promote.

The countenance already shewn by the Government of Ireland, through the medium of the Chief Secretary* to the Lord Lieutenant, to advance this important branch of national industry, is auspicious of a successful issue to the laudable endeavours of the individuals who now interest themselves on this subject.

A Reverend and much esteemed friend† of the writer of this Essay, has, with that experience and research for which he is so particularly distinguished, already published Observations on the proposed Act, in every one of which, the writer most cordially concurs. A long residence on the Sea Coast, a connection with one of the most enterprising, the most industrious, and the most indefatigable Merchants‡ in Ireland, who was the happy instrument of giving employment to thousands, and an unceasing spirit of inquiry have afforded to the Reverend Gentleman such sources of information, as to stamp a value on his opinions, which are so well designed to promote the interests of Ireland.

Indeed on the first view of this Bill, it appears framed for the meridian of North Britain, or perhaps the North-East Coast of Ireland, where industry long since had created a capital, and where the Divine Providence hath so eminently

* Rt. Hon. Charles Grant. M. P. † The Rev. H. Townsend.

‡ The late Thomas Somerville, Esq. of Castlehaven.

stored its shores with the most valuable Fish. But unfortunately this Bill under all its numerous provisions is ill designed to promote an extensive White Herring Fishery, from a part of the United Empire, where the poverty of the industrious, and the apathy of the wealthy *have proved* insuperable obstacles against the advancement of national prosperity. All the allurements of bounties and draw-backs, as set forth in the Bill in its present shape, only tend to tantalize the people of the South of Ireland with a prospect which their circumstances must prevent them from realizing. Those who know the inabilities of the Irish Fishermen, arising from want of capital, which has been mainly caused from a deficiency of encouragement to those exertions which give spirit and life to industry, are too well satisfied, that before the Irish Fisheries become permanent nurseries for breeding expert seamen, *that a portion of national wealth must first be advanced to form the materials for this great and necessary undertaking.* Great as it would be the happy means of adding maritime strength to the Empire, and necessary as most of the Fishermen on the South and West Coasts of Ireland are in a starving state, almost incapable of providing food and clothes for themselves and families, much less to fit out Busses* from 70 to 100 tons register for the Deep Sea Fishery.

The tendency of the proposed Act among its many important objects is to lessen the emigration of a brave and industrious race of inhabitants, too many of whom have already removed with their families to America. If the Government and Legislature of the United Kingdom have a due regard to its maritime supremacy, they will take every possible measure for *employing* all our able hands at home. Otherwise, they will soon furnish the Americans with the most powerful means of offence against the British Nation.

We must give credit to the framers of the Bill for their liberality, but it is evident that no individual *experienced* in the Fisheries on the Southern and Western Coasts of Ireland, had any hand in its numerous enactments, — enactments, which, with all due respect for the individuals, who aided in their composition, are designed rather to embarrass than to elucidate the subject.

When it is considered the class of hardy but ignorant persons, whom this Bill is designed to relieve, it cannot be framed in too simple, yet expressive words.

It is however evident on the whole, *that more extensive and more useful Parliamentary encouragement may be devised and that in the simplest manner.*

‘*The third page in the written copy, provides a bounty of three pounds British currency per ton, to be paid annually.*’ Now this bounty would amount to more than half of the gross earnings of any vessel employed in the Coal or Coasting trade in the year. It is therefore too large, consequently injudicious. Experience has fully proved that *Tonnage bounties** have been hitherto much abused. Indeed if any value is placed on the authority of Adam Smith, the Acts which took place in his

* Hitherto there have been so many difficulties in obtaining Bounties and Drawbacks, through the tediousness of the numerous official documents, and the unnecessary delay given by the Officers of the Customs, particularly in Dublin, that every claimant for such payments generally gets disgusted. The writer has frequently experienced such difficulties on this subject that he has threatened the Officers in Dublin to complain them to the Lord Lieutenant.

time, were more designed to induce persons 'to catch the bounty than the fish.' They were in fact converted into gross jobs.

In like manner, some Irish landlords who were familiar with jobbing, and who fattened on corruption, fitted out their yachts and coasters ostensibly for the Irish Fisheries, but in reality to extract from an impoverished treasury, a bounty on which they had no legitimate claim. In some instances a tonnage bounty would be most eligible, and produce an infinity of good, particularly at a period when all our Naval Artizans are seizing every opportunity of emigrating to the United States. This tonnage bounty should be for the encouragement of building Ships and Vessels in Ireland—but not to be payable, until each Ship or Vessel was navigated from a Port in Ireland, for twelve calendar months after it was launched, or in case of its being lost, burnt, or captured by the enemy. This bounty may be three pounds British per ton, and extend from Boats of fifteen tons, to Ships of any size.

The third clause of the Bill were it to be enacted in its present shape, would bring half the small Coasters from Great Britain to be placed under the regulations for obtaining the Irish bounty, which is proposed to be paid to the Owner of each Vessel whether it catches Fish or not.

As the writer looks for lasting and substantial benefits from the encouragement of the Irish Fisheries, he is inclined to give the subject that consideration, which from Mr. Grant's

letter* to Mr. Barry, the Secretary of the Southern Fishery Association, it was the wish of Earl Talbot's administration that it should receive, before it was reconsidered in Parliament. This is in fact, the only way to elicit fair and liberal discussion, and to promote the interests of the country. It will therefore be the fault of the people of Ireland, if an efficient Act does not pass this present year, which will place beyond cavil, the utility of the measure, and do immortal honour to the Government, and the Legislature. †

* 'His Excellency desires me to communicate to the respectable body in whose name you address me, the satisfaction he feels in observing the interest which they take in the advancement and protection of the Fisheries, an object certainly amongst the most interesting which can attract the attention of the Country.

His Excellency is desirous to evince, on every occasion, his anxiety to promote that object; and, as a proof of it, willingly accedes to the request of the Southern Association, that their infant establishment may enjoy the countenance and patronage of Government.

The Lord Lieutenant further directs me to inform the Gentlemen who compose the Association, that the Law relating to Fisheries will be submitted, at the approaching Session, to the consideration of Parliament, and that his Excellency will be glad to receive from them any suggestions on the subject.'

† There is scarcely a part of Ireland, but what is well situated for some fishery of consequence; the coasts and innumerable creeks and rivers mouths are the resort of vast shoals of herring, cod, hake, mackerel, &c. which might, with proper attention, be converted into funds of wealth; *but capital is such a universal want in Ireland, that very little is done.* Such were the words of Arthur Young, in the 2nd part of his Tour, p. 186. 'The best bounty says he, ' would be to give Boats and Nets to men used to the Fishery, *because few are able to buy or build them.* To give a premium on the export of the herrings, or upon the tonnage, if the Boats will not answer, for it supposes them actually taken and built, that is, it supposes the very difficulty got over which want of money

Therefore, before the Bill in question is further analysed, the writer submits the insertion of the following clauses as the 'sine qua non' of exciting industry amidst the present poverty of Ireland, and the prevailing apathy of those designated the higher classes.

Whereas, from many severe losses sustained during the war, by merchants and other embarked in shipping concerns in Ireland, a vast number are incapacitated from fitting out any vessels or boats for the Fisheries, and as it is necessary to promote national industry in that part of the United Kingdom, be it enacted that the sum of one hundred thousand pounds British sterling, be advanced at such times, and in such proportions as the Lord Lieutenant shall think proper, to the makes perpetual. Before the Boat is in the Fishery it must be built, and before the fish are exported they must be taken, those who have money to do either, will go to work without any bounty, the profit alone being sufficient. In countries so very poor the first steps in such undertakings are the most difficult, and to assist in overcoming the early difficulties, is what the Legislature should aim at. Giving Boats and Nets to men that would certainly use them, does this, and would be productive of great national good; always supposing that frauds and jobbing are guarded against; if they are permitted to creep in, as in giving spinning wheels, the mischief would be far more than the benefit. £20,000 per annum, thus expended, would give 1,000 boats, which would soon accumulate to a vast number. I am far from recommending a new system of bounties upon an object that had not received them before, they have been long given and jobbed, all I mean is, that if the public is burthened with such payments, care should be taken, that they are given in the mode that promises to be most advantageous.

Mr. Young in his Tour, Vol. 1, p. 129, p. 242, & 322. gives a very interesting account of the Irish, particularly the Killibegs Fishery, highly deserving the attention of those who take an interest in this important subject.

Commissioners already appointed in Ireland, for the advance of money for the employment of the labouring poor, by the Act of the 57 Geo. 3. caps. 34, 124, and 58 Geo. 3, cap. 88, the said sum to be exclusively devoted to the encouragement of the Fisheries; provided that the Commissioners only advance any part of said sum by way of loan, on the securities as hereafter specified, to assist individuals to form Public Companies in any of the Ports in Ireland where there is a Tide Surveyor for carrying on the Fisheries.

Be it therefore enacted, that whenever any Association shall be formed, the members of which, shall have subscribed and paid into the hands of the Collector of the Customs of the District, who shall be Treasurer for such Association, any sum not less than five hundred pounds British sterling, which shall be formed of shares, as low as £10 British sterling, each, that every Seaman or Fisherman inclined to embark in the trade, may have an opportunity of placing his property therein; and when the respective members shall have signed the terms of co-partnership, drawn up in conformity with, and sanctioned by this Act, the form of which co-partnership is in the Schedule hereunto annexed, and which shall be duly certified to said Commissioners by the Collector of the Customs as aforesaid, and countersigned by the Commissioners appointed for the Irish Fisheries, by the 12th Section of this Act, the Commissioners for the advance of money out of the Consolidated Fund, shall forthwith pay into the hands of the Receiver General of the Customs in Ireland, a sum equal to that paid by individuals into the hands of the Collector of each Port for carrying on a Fishery.

Provided always that all the Vessels, Boats, Materials Fish and Stores of every description which may hereafter belong to each Association shall be, and are hereby subject to the repayment of such advance with interest at the rate of £5 per cent, per annum, and a sinking fund of £5 per cent. per annum, until the principal sum thus advanced, be entirely paid and discharged.

Those who have been in the habit of visiting our small Sea Ports, and who view the misery and poverty which exist there, will cordially join in the utility of these three clauses, thus submitted to public consideration:

If our rulers permit themselves to be blinded by false appearances, by the safety, elegance and equipment of several noblemen and gentlemen's yachts on the Coast of Ireland, and by the number of British Ships, which resort to our commercial ports to take our produce away, when our poverty as a trading nation, prevents our having Ships of our own, we cannot expect that the real circumstances of the country can be known, and that adequate allowance should be made for our absolute inability, in the present temper of the wealthy to promote national industry, in which, and in which alone, consists the happiness of States.

The writer approves of a particular encouragement being given to the Deep Sea Fishery, which is well calculated for the North East Coast of Ireland. He therefore does not cavil at those clauses in the Bill which regulate the manner of

Fishing. It is fair that a Bounty should be given as some compensation for probable loss. This bounty may be limited to one pounds ten shillings British per ton, instead of three pounds as proposed in the Bill. The provisions of the 4th page appear calculated to make expert Seamen, and to oblige the Masters of the Busses to manage their Nets as the Dutch do, without the use of a small boat, which in an open sea, would frequently prove fatal to the lives of the Fishermen.

As the tonnage bounty is proposed to be reduced to one pound ten shillings, so is the bounty on White Herrings proposed to be raised from four to five shillings per barrel, and on all dried Cod, Ling, Hake, Haddock, Glassing,* Conger Eel, *Scad and Mackerel*,† from four shillings, to five shillings British per hundred weight. See 5th page of the Bill.

* *Glassing.*—There are none of the Fishermen on the Irish Coast who know this Fish by the name of Glassing.—In Scotland, Pollocks of two and three years are so called.

† There appears no bounty designed for Dried Scad or Mackerel.

In the 47th page of the written copy, the bounty on Fish taken, is very properly directed, to be paid by the owners of the Vessels to the Crew, viz.

Two-eighth parts to the Master,

One-eighth part to the Mate.

Five-eighth's equally among the Crew.

One-fifth of this bounty should be retained by the Collector of the Customs to form a Compassionate Fund, for the relief of the widows and orphans, and infirm parents of the Crews of the Fishing Vessels. For instance the widow of a Master of a Buss, should receive after seven years service, £40 per annum. The widow of a Mate, £20, and the widow of each man £10. In case of any being lost, the pension should be paid, without any limitations as to service. The Commissioners of the Fisheries should be the Trustees of the Fund, and they

As to the seventh clause of the Bill, when we consider its tendency, we must be justly satisfied with the proposed liberality of Parliament. It appears totally unconnected with the clause for granting bounties for taking and curing, and simply applies to the export. We may therefore estimate, that when Dried Cod, *Irish*,* Ling Hake, Haddock, Glassing and Conger Eel are exported, they will be entitled to three shillings British for every hundred weight, *in addition to the Bounty* on their being caught and cured. There does not appear a bounty on taking Cod, Haddock, Hake, Glassing, and Conger Eel, unless they are dried, but there is a bounty on export, of two shillings British on each barrel of 32 gals, but the weight of the Fish in each barrel is not specified as it should be. The bounty on Fish Oil seems too low, it should be extended from three pounds to six pounds British per ton, and apply to the making of said oil, from Fish caught by Vessels or Boats engaged under the Act.

The eighth page relates to the Drawbacks of the duty on Salt.† This duty is only to be allowed on the *exportation* of

should recommend the Sons of Fishermen who lost their lives in the service to be Boatmen in the Customs.

* *Irish* Ling. Why is the word *Irish* prefixed to Ling in the Bill. and not to other Fish?

† The Members of the Committee of the Southern Fishery Association which met in Cork, on the 21st of January, are reported to contemplate the total repeal of the Duty on Salt. They may as well at once recommend the total repeal of the duty on Timber. Are the Committee aware that Foreign Salt yielded a Nett Revenue for the year ending

the Fish ; when in Great Britain if the writer is well informed, the Salt for the Fisheries is taken out of bond in the King's Stores, and allowed to be consumed, duty free, on the affidavits of those concerned in the Fisheries. Innumerable frauds have been alleged as having occurred in this mode of *ostensibly* curing Fish with Salt. Custom House oaths, perpetually administered in an irreverent manner, are almost invariably considered by seafaring people, of the lower orders in particular, of no moral efficacy. Some of the *conscientious*, in order to evade the solemnity of an Oath will be often seen to kiss their *thumbs* instead of the book, which contains the word of God, the great cement of all civilized society. All Oaths should as much as possible be avoided. By reducing the duty on Salt to a moderate rate, there would be no necessity of multiplying oaths on this subject.

If Salt be *thus* permitted to be used on the Coasts of Great Britain for the Fisheries, it is surely necessary to amend those laws, which cannot prevent gross frauds on the public. The eighth page in the present Bill goes to this length, but it

the 5th January 1818, of	£30,021, 16, 2
Rock and White Salt imported from Great Britain,	89,313, 6, 7
Total Salt Duties for One Year,.....	<u>£119 335, 2, 7</u>

Government should not be embarrassed by having such a request made to them. A reduction of one-third of the duty on Rock-Salt along with a drawback of the duty on Salt, used in curing Fish *exported*, would afford ample encouragement. The bounty on Fish taken would be full remuneration for any duty on Salt, and it would obviate that complicated system of managing the Salt Duties in Great Britain, which from evidence before the House of Commons is so injurious to the Public Revenues.

should extend to all Fish caught and cured, which shall be duly weighed, examined and certified by Officers appointed by the Commissioners of the Fisheries.

The 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th pages relate to official arrangements which appear necessary and proper.

The 13th page empowers the Lords of the Admiralty to appoint a commissioned officer of the Navy,* as superintendent of the Irish Sea Fishery, and another officer to be superintendent of the Fisheries in the Lochs and Bays. As it is proposed in the twenty-first page that the Busses, which may be engaged in the Deep Sea Fishery, shall assemble at the General Rendezvous and form a fleet, it may be easy for an active and intelligent officer to discharge the duty prescribed for him in the Bill, that is, provided there were no more than one rendezvous, which considering the migratory nature of Fish, appears rather preposterous. However the appointment of such an officer, if he be experienced as a Fisherman, and not overbearing and tyrannical in his conduct, which would produce dismay among the Fishermen, would render the most

* The Commissioners of the British Herring Fishery in their Report printed 3rd. March 1818, state, that they have had the satisfaction of receiving memorials from the Masters of the Vessels engaged in the North West Highland Fishery, and from the Curers at Rothsay and Greenock, expressing their gratitude for the benefit they have experienced from the services of the Naval Officer, referred to in their preceding Report, as having been appointed Superintendent of the Loch and Coast Fishery, and bearing testimony to his impartiality and unwearied exertions in preserving order among the Fishermen and preventing depredations. This is a positive proof of the utility of such an appointment.

important services. But the commanders of the Revenue Cruizers should be empowered to act occasionally as assistant superintendents for the Deep Sea Fishery.

When we consider the extensive coast of Ireland, and its numerous Lochs and Bays, we must be satisfied, that it is totally impossible for any one officer to act as superintendent of the Fisheries, in all the Lochs and Bays in Ireland. But the necessity of such an appointment is obvious, and the more so, when we consider the habits of the generality of the Tide Surveyors in most of our small harbours and creeks. These officers would undoubtedly require an active superintendent *well experienced in the Fisheries* to animate them to exertion, as all the Tide surveyors should be his assistants.

The 14th page seems to provide for the incongruity which at first view was apparent in the 13th page, and which has been before referred to. In the 15th page, the Commissioners are empowered to appoint officers for the Fishery, who have exercised the trade of a Cooper. Now were *we certain* of catching fish, these officers would be indispensibly necessary. But it would appear advisable that all the fish intended for export, should be sent to the custom-house stores in such places as *usually* enjoyed from their importance a general export trade. In these stores, experienced and qualified Coopers should attend to inspect the fish. But it may lead to vast expense, if such officers were generally appointed to our numerous little harbours along the coast.

The 16th page relates to the oaths of officers, which appear unexceptionable.

The 17th relates to the size of herring meshes;* the 18th, 19th, and 20th to the mode of fitting out the vessels, and preventing the substitution of one vessel for another.

The 21st page contains a provision which requires explanation, *'and that no fish other than Herrings or Cod, Ling, Hake, Haddock, Glassing or Conger Eel, shall be taken or cured by the crew of such buss or vessel!* This appears an unaccountably strange regulation, so that if Mackerel, Scad or Pilchards happened to be taken, they must be thrown away, or they may be construed into a legal transgression, and perhaps subject the busses to lose the bounty. The latter part of this section appears unexceptionable.

The 22nd contains the regulations for fitting out the busses, which appear well designed, except that part which prohibits certain fish from being taken.

* *'The Commissioners of the British Herring Fishery with a view of discouraging the use of small meshed nets by every means in their power and of upholding the character of the official brand, have ordered bounty to be refused for Herrings taken in nets having meshes under the legal standard, and for Herrings mixed with others so taken; and they have also, after obtaining every possible information on the subject, directed that bounty shall not be allowed for any barrel bung-packed, that shall contain above 12½ hundred Herrings; or for any barrel re-packed, that shall contain above 1,100 Herrings, at the rate of six score to the hundred. These numbers the Commissioners have every reason to believe are abundantly liberal; and they expect that the effect of this regulation will have a powerful influence in preventing the destruction of the small Fish.'*

The 27th to the 29th pages inclusive, contain unobjectionable regulations.

The 30th page applies 'to a bounty for providing larger boats than are now used in the Irish fishery.' This is the very section that appertains most to the Southern Fishery Association, because it alludes to the description of boats which may be within the compass of the Southern and Western Fishermen to fit out. The writer agrees with Mr. Townsend, that an opulent merchant or company fitting out vessels, may profit by the encouragement of this bill, *'but not the common fishermen, not the active and enterprizing possessors of Hookers and small craft, not that class of people, who, with due encouragement would add largely to the general stock of human subsistence, and find abundant employment for themselves; not in short, that description of persons, whom it is one of the great and laudable objects of the present day to relieve, by stimulating their exertions, and rewarding their useful labour.'* Opulent merchants and a gentry who keep themselves ignorant of the state of the poor in their neighbourhoods, are not the individuals who require encouragement. Few of these persons will be found to risk their wealth in promoting national industry, and although they may like good fish on their tables, they care little as to the risk and trouble of catching them.

'Some sorts of fishery, as that of the Nymph Bank,' says Mr. Townsend, 'are out of ordinary reach, and require a large expenditure for the outfit. In aid of this, a grant or

loan would perhaps, be much more effective than the visionary advantage of a bounty.'

The 3rd page of the Bill specifies the proposed bounty of £3 per ton for the Deep Sea Irish Fishery. The 30th page 'limits the sum of £5,000 in the whole, in any one year to be paid to persons who shall employ boats of a burthen not less than 15 tons, and not exceeding 45 tons by admeasurement.' But this clause does not appear sufficiently explanatory. It may therefore lead to further cavil on the part of Lawyers, and to harass the Commissioners of the Irish Fisheries in their decisions. Indeed, it would appear if it so happened, that if only ten or twenty boats claimed this bounty, that the commissioners should divide the whole of the bounty of £5,000 in any one year, amongst their owners. This surely was not so designed by the legislature. The particular rate of bounty should be specified. It seems rather preposterous, that the commissioners of excise and taxes should have any thing to do with *maritime* affairs. If tonnage bounties are to be granted, they would certainly do more good applied to the building of ships and vessels than to employing them on the fisheries. Such a bounty would afford an incipient stimulus to extensive industry, and promote the fisheries more than an annual bounty on busses or other vessels, which may degenerate as before into a job.*

* 'The bounty to the White Herring Fishery is a tonnage bounty; and is proportioned to the burthen of the ship, not to her diligence or success in the Fishery; and it has I am afraid, been too common for vessels to fit out for the sole purpose of catching, *not the fish, but the bounty*. In the year 1759, when the bounty was at fifty shillings the ton,

The 31st to the 44th pages inclusive, relate to official regulations which appear necessary. The 45th and 46th pages relate to the payment of the tonnage bounty by the Commissioners of Excise.

the whole Buss Fishery of Scotland brought in only four barrels of Sea Sticks, (Herrings salted at sea.) In that year each barrel of Sea Sticks cost Government in bounties alone £113, 15, 0, each Barrel of merchantable herrings £159, 7, 6.

Smith's Wealth of Nations.

The Buss Fishery is certainly well calculated for Holland, because it lies at a great distance from the seas to which Herrings are known principally to resort. The Dutch therefore can only carry on that Fishery in decked vessels, as the Nymph Bank Fishery should be carried on. But Ireland like Scotland is so much intersected by arms of the sea, that Boat Fishing is undoubtedly best adapted, to its peculiar situation. Government no doubt is impressed with the idea, that the Busses are best designed to secure expert seamen for the Navy. They therefore wisely propose placing them under the regulations of a naval officer, and they also propose, that the chief encouragement should be given them. However, experience has proved that it is small boats which have caught the greatest quantity of Fish, therefore they should meet every possible encouragement.

Editor.

‘The British Government has always persisted, in defiance of the all-powerful opposition of circumstances to encourage by means of bounties, the Deep Sea Fishing in preference to the boat-fishery; and with this view, an Act passed in 1798, granting a bounty of 2s on every barrel of Herrings properly cured and repacked. A Board of Commissioners was at the same time instituted, to superintend and encourage the Fishery; and from their report to Parliament for 1812, this scheme, like all the preceding objects of the same kind, seems to have entirely failed. In 1809, only three vessels were fitted out under the tonnage bounty, in 1810 and 1811, seven vessels were fitted out; and in 1812, their number amounted to ten. There were caught by the vessels thus fitted out in these several years, 709½, 978½, 1588, and 2839½ barrels of Herrings. The bounties paid amounted to £5866; so that

The 47th page affords protection from being impressed to men actually engaged in the Deep Sea Fishery. This clause may be unnecessary as long as we are blessed with peace, but should a fresh war unfortunately occur, it would be a mere dead letter, *worded as it is*. A penalty of £100 payable to the man impressed, and three months imprisonment to be awarded by the Court of Admiralty, should be provided by the act, to prevent any officer in the navy, impressing men from any buss or vessel engaged in the Fisheries.

every Barrel of Herrings thus procured, cost in the tonnage bounty alone, 19s. 4d. which was nearly as much as their market price. This statement sufficiently demonstrates the impolicy of any further prosecution of this insignificant project. I have also been informed, that great loss was incurred by those who were tempted by the bounty to engage in the Deep Sea Fishing for 1812.

For the Coast Fishery, there were fitted out, during these same years, 505, 532, 594, and 923 vessels, which caught and cured 89,476, 90,849, 109,931½, and 150,6468, barrels of Herrings. During these four years, the number of barrels on which the bounty of 2s. was paid amounted to 218,821.

Buchanan's Edition of Smith's Wealth of Nations, 2nd Ed. 2nd Vol. p. 295.

The writer has not extracted the above note, from any desire to impede the successful progress of the Fisheries on the Irish Coast, but to prove that it is the Boat or in-shore Fishery which is likely to be most beneficial on the Coast of Ireland, as it has already proved on the Coast of Scotland.

The following Bounties appear by the Finance Accounts, ending 5th January, 1818, to have been paid by the Commissioners of Excise in Scotland, on account of the Fisheries,

Bounties on Fish exported,.....	£1,115, 9, 3
Herring, Buss, and Barrel Bounties,.....	35,069, 14, 0
Treasury Warrants to the Secretary of the White } Herring Fishery Board in Scotland,..... }	8,000, 0, 0
Total,.....	£44,185, 3 3

The clause in the 47th page is well calculated to promote exertion among the crews of the busses, and it will consequently reduce the quantum of wages which the owners would have to pay. The 48th to the 66th pages inclusive, contain official regulations respecting the Fisheries, which would be unobjectionable were they not so voluminous. The 67th page contains an excellent mode of settling disputes between officers of the Fisheries and the owners of busses or vessels.

The Bounties paid in Ireland for the same purpose, are as under, p. 303, Finance Report, 5th January, 1818.

Irish cured Fish exported,.....	13, 12, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Irish Fish Oil exported,.....	250, 9, 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fishing Vessels,.....	3,798, 16, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total,.....	<u>£4,062, 18, 5</u>

From the above Statement, Scotland, which does not contain half the population of Ireland, has derived almost eleven fold advantages from Parliament for her Fisheries, than those derived by Ireland. It is also proper to observe here, that the number of Busses, employed on the Scotch Fishery, alluded to by Mr. Buchanan, was during the most eventful period of the late war, when there was such extensive employment for our Seamen. Therefore, it would be unfair to infer, from what occurred in these years, as to the ill success of the Buss Fishery, that the proposed Bill for the encouragement of the Irish Fisheries would be "an insignificant project."

By the Report of the Commissioners of the British Herring Fishery, 3rd March, 1818, 644 Vessels, 3,222 Men, 20,602,56-94 Tons, 2,453,988 square yards of Netting, 176,457 $\frac{3}{4}$ Bushels of Salt, and 98,050 Barrels, were engaged in that Fishery. The Vessels were not on the Tonnage Bounty. Appendix, No. 1.

Of these Vessels 622 were entered inwards, returning with 65,147 $\frac{1}{2}$ barrels of Herrings, and 64,107 $\frac{1}{4}$ bushels of Salt, not used in the Fisheries. Appendix, No. 2,

The quantity of Herrings cured by Fish Curers, on shore the same year, amounted to 125,763 $\frac{1}{2}$ barrels, of which, Wick cured 51,338 $\frac{1}{2}$ barrels. Appendix, No. 3.

The 67th to the 86th pages both inclusive, contain many excellent clauses against packing herrings in improper casks. Should Providence at any time during the operation of this act, cause an abundant supply of herrings to be taken by vessels fitted out from Ireland, the officers proposed to be appointed by this Bill, would have very weighty duties to perform, the *faithful* execution of which, would prevent their enjoying places of salaried idleness, and which should entitle them to liberal compensation. The 67th page facilitates the landing of the stores, fish, &c. without a sufferance from the customs,

Only 18 Vessels, 438 82-94 Tons, and 114 men were engaged the same year in the Open Sea Fishery. These only caught 793½ barrels of Herrings, on which a premium was allowed of £1,600, or £2. 2. 4. per barrel, double the value of the Fish. Appendix, No. 4.

Five busses were fitted out the same year for the Deep Sea Fishery. These registered 290, 90-94 tons employed 62 men and caught 639 barrels of herrings on which a tonnage bounty of £870 was allowed, being at the rate of £1. 7. 2½. per barrel, the full value of the Fish. Appendix, No. 5.

The total number of Barrels landed from the Fishery, and cured on shore the same year, was 192,343½. Appendix, No. 6.

The bounty of 4s. and 3s. 6d. per barrel, granted by the Act, 55th Geo. 3, cap. 94, amounted to £27,930, 7, 3, on 140,018½ barrels of White Herrings, Appendix, No. 7.

The total quantity of Herrings exported for the year ending 5th April, 1817, was 138,628½ barrels. Of this large quantity, 36,341 barrels were exported to *poor* Ireland. Alas! why is Ireland always doomed to poverty? Is it not mainly our own fault? Does not the Government offer a boon to us? Millions of Fish swarm occasionally on our own shores, but we have scarce any boats or materials to catch them. The generality of our Fishing Boats are sorry craft. In a fret of wind they must seek shelter in harbour, being unable to stand the sea, unless at the imminent risk of the lives of the poor men whose hard fate it is, to venture in such floating coffins,

The 88th to the 93rd pages inclusive, contain many regulations indispensibly necessary.

The 94th page contains the clause for fixing the measure by which fresh herrings are to be bought and sold. This long section may have been made very concise, by specifying that the Winchester bushel of eight gallons, or the barrel of thirty-two gallons, heaped measure, should be the standard for buying and selling fresh herrings.

In page 95, is a strong clause prohibiting the introduction of damaged herrings.

The next two clauses contain a protection for the officers, and a penalty on officers for receiving fees. Indeed, when so much depends on the fidelity of officers, they should receive ample encouragement from the commissioners.

The 96th and 97th pages empower the Commissioners to make rules and regulations for carrying on the Fisheries; but the 98th and 99th pages almost render nugatory all the bounties and all the encouragement held out in this Bill. In some respects, like the first Grand Jury Act repealed in February, 1818, which provided for the appointment of Civil Engineers with almost supernatural powers, this Bill implies, that the master of herring busses, shall not only be good scholars, but lawyers and that if any clerical error appears in their journal, or the slightest omission in the details of their proceedings, that

they shall not be entitled to claim any benefit by the act. Now as the true intent and meaning of acts of parliament sometimes puzzle our learned judges, it will be more than wonderful, should the masters of Irish herring busses so exactly conform to the numerous provisions of this Bill, as to give them a perfectly legal right to the bounty under this act.

The 100th page provides for the abstract of the bounties and regulations under this act. It also gives ample power 'to fish for, and cure any herrings, mackerel, cod, and ling, or other sorts of white fish in all and every part of the seas, creeks, and bays, where such fish are to be found, or can, or may be taken on the coasts of Ireland, save such places as may be reserved for the preservation of the fry, (which places, should be numerous.) It also gives power to fishermen to use any waste shores for the purpose of their trade, but not to enter upon, or cure fish on the demesne grounds, &c. of any gentleman without leave.

We now come to the proof, that this Bill was framed for the meridian of North Britain, or the north east coast of Ireland; for the 101st page provides for the protection of oysters in the Lough of Carlingford. Why does not this clause extend to all parts of Ireland? Have not the inhabitants of Munster the same taste for oysters as those of Leinster or Ulster?

The 102nd page relates to penalties and forfeitures, which are very numerous, but the 103rd page gives a very whole-

some discretionary power to the Commissioners* to remit forfeitures and fines.

The two last clauses relate to the privileges and protections to the commissioners &c. and that no superintendent or other officer shall be liable to suits for acts done in enforcing this act.

* The Commissioners of the Fisheries should be scrupulously exact in answering every application that is made to them. Such conduct would be creditable to themselves and advantageous to the public. In 1802, the writer of this essay had occasion to apply to the Board of Customs, on the detention of a licence for a ship of his, then bound to the West Indies. The Honorable Commissioners of that Board paid no attention to his applications. The ship was consequently detained for many days, at a most serious loss. When finding that no attention was paid to his letters by the Board of Customs, the writer sent a statement of the transaction to the Rt. Hon. Wm. Wickham, then Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, who with a promptness highly creditable to the administration of Earl Hardwicke, transmitted by an express from the Castle, the Licence which was required, and a letter fully exculpating the Irish Government from any neglect of duty, which consequently fell on the Commissioners of the Customs, who in those days were mere idle gentlemen. A certain Right Honourable Gentleman high in power, has lately promulgated a new doctrine in Ireland, 'that the evils under which Ireland labours, cannot be too strongly exposed, in order that they may be removed.' Now it is certainly a great evil, for idle gentlemen unaccustomed to business, and of no application, to have seats at any Public Board. Great credit is due to the Chief Commissioner of Excise and Taxes, for the prompt attention paid at that office, to the numerous applications which are daily forwarded to it. This is as it should be. When Public Officers do their duty with politeness and attention to individuals, the Revenues will be more easily collected. But when Boards treat applicants to them on public service, with silent contempt, they may expect that sooner or later, strong complaints will be made to their superiors of their conduct. Every day the system of doing business in Ireland improves. This is owing to the Chief Secretaries for Ireland, being men of business.

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The whole of the numerous sections of this Bill has now been examined ; there does not appear any particular encouragement to the catching of herrings by seines, which are the most efficient nets for taking herrings, pilchards, scad, or mackerel. However, by the 7th clause in the 6th page of the Bill, the bounty appears to extend to such herrings taken or purchased by the master of any registered vessel or boat for the fishery ; but it does not afford that encouragement to the industrious poor fishermen, which should be the main object of the act. A seine in Ireland, with the necessary materials costs £40, or £50, a large sum, when compared with the scanty means of its owners. It has been known to rot before it has paid the first cost, although at other times, one haul has more than remunerated its owners for its outfit. Herrings or other fish, taken by seine, when the migratory nature of fish is considered, should certainly be entitled to the bounty.

Mr. Townsend has stated ‘ that a general reduction of the duty on salt, would operate as a simple, a certain, an effectual and an universal encouragement of Irish Fisheries.’ The present duty on Foreign or British salt imported into Ireland is £4 Irish per ton ; and on Rock salt* £3 Irish

* The evidence taken before a select Committee of the House of Commons, on the use of Rock Salt in the Fisheries, ordered to be printed the 12th May, 1817, appears very contradictory. But that Honourable Committee was of opinion ‘ that the interest of the British Salt Proprietors should not be sacrificed unnecessarily.’ The Herrings which were taken thirty years since on the Irish Coast, were mostly cured with Irish made Salt from Cheshire Rock Salt, or with Liverpool Salt. Better Fish never went to the West Indies.

Editor.

per ton of 23 cwt 0 qrs. 24lb. weight. Here, we are not encumbered and oppressed as they are in England with an excise tax on salt. Now, were the duty on rock salt reduced to £2 per ton, it would probably afford a very great encouragement, not only to our fisheries, but to our agriculture. Let the duty remain as it is on Foreign and British salt. Let the home manufactures of Ireland be encouraged, and good in a thousand insinuating shapes will mark their progress.

Most of the sail cloth* in Ireland is made from flax, although hemp is preferable, being less liable to mildew. Let a bounty be granted of four-pence per yard on sail cloth manufactured in Ireland, and used in the outfit of all new vessels and boats; the quantity being certified by a surveyor of Customs and a linen inspector, and corroborated by the affidavits of the sail maker and the owners of the vessels. In the Bill there is no provision made respecting trammels, and trawls.† Their meshes should not be less than four inches from knot to knot—no trawling should be permitted on any bank, or in any harbour, bay or creek, where there is less than ten fathoms water at low spring tides.

* The Sail Cloth exported from Ireland has for several years lost its character abroad.

† It is admitted that the Fish taken in Trammels are generally dead before they are removed out of the water. Experience has proved that Fish which are considered by Fishermen as *drowned Fish*, are scarcely fit for saving, and are mostly thrown away, or used as manure. This accounts for the just hostility of the Kinsale and Youghal Fishermen to the use of Trammels, which perhaps had better be abolished altogether. For Trammels like Trawls must destroy the young Fish which are as delicate in their element as chickens are on shore.

Let the Bill be so amended that the poor will benefit by it, and by promoting their interests, add to the strength and happiness of the Empire. Such should be the aim of every wise and good government, and there is no question, but that such motives influence our present rulers.

Having thus commented on the Bill now published, the writer submits the copy of a document which he has received from a native of Caithness, who was for twenty years engaged in the Fisheries on the coast of Scotland, and who possesses practical knowledge, which is so necessary to give a proper direction to legislative enactments. This experienced individual recommends that a decked Hooker or Coaster about 40 tons, should be fitted out for the Nymph Bank, with proper gear, tackling, casks and salt, and in the right season, to ascertain if fish is in such abundance there, as is generally supposed. If successful, a company could then be formed for fitting out proper smacks, having a well in the centre to keep the fish alive. Such fish as would be likely to die from injury by the hook, to be immediately killed and salted, as all the quantity, exceeding what the well contained, should be cured.

Thus, in case the vessels were drove off by stress of weather to Bristol, Dublin, Waterford or Youghal, the live fish would bring a better price in these ports than salt fish. All the fish intended to be cured, salted, and barrellled, should be bled, by drawing the knife across the extremity of the breast adjoining the gill. The livers should be collected in a barrel and boiled to oil when there was a sufficient quantity. The

maw and stomach of large fish, if properly cured, would make a nutritious food. Cork harbour is as well calculated for an extensive fishery as any part of the British dominions.

The individual who has given the above information is now a constant resident in Cork, and is almost entirely disengaged in the spring and summer seasons, from those pursuits which at other times may prevent his offering his services, to take charge of a vessel properly fitted out, and to give such information to the fishermen and to the parties concerned as would promote the general interest.

What can be more rational than to attend to the proposition of a person, who is not swayed by interested motives? The most of this year even if an act passes, will be a season of preparation. Therefore, let us lay theory aside, and let us adopt some immediate plan of practical utility.

Dublin, Waterford, and almost all the small harbours and creeks on the northern and eastern coasts, have already set the southern and western shores a good example. Even Limerick which is so remote from the sea, has established a fishing company. But Cork which is so admirably situated for any maritime establishment, is the last place in Ireland to promote National Industry. Let us not be accused of being

'Vox, et præterea nihil.'

CONDITIONS

FOR

Promoting Fishing Associations.

BEFORE the grounding conditions, for the general establishment of Fishing associations along the great extent of the Coast of Ireland, are submitted, it is necessary to answer the objections urged by one or two respectable and intelligent individuals before these suggestions were committed to press, as many others may make the same objections.

It has been stated, *‘that the smallness of the shares would prevent the Directors paying the necessary attention to the management of the concern, and that salt being duty free would be ample encouragement.’*

The promotion of national industry is not to be effected by the Jewish rate of gain, for those who expect to make large fortunes by the Fisheries, if they wish to preserve the *‘mens sibi conscia recti,’* will most probably be disappointed. They must act from worthier motives—from a desire of doing great and

extensive good. Were the promoters of National Industry to limit their exertions within the narrow circle of *private* benefit, we shall in vain endeavour to make the country prosperous, and the people happy and contented.

The wealthy must risk the sacrifice of a little of their abundance on the altar of patriotism. The intelligent must devote their time, which to them is wealth, to the cause of public charity. And the able and active must exert their physical powers to support themselves and families, that they may not descend into indigence and vice.

Many wealthy individuals, from motives of public spirit, may place £100, or £200, in a Fishery, which the most experienced know, is but a species of lottery, in which they would be averse to risk large sums.

If we wait to establish Fisheries by the means of individual capital, we shall wait in vain. Even if the entire duty was repealed on salt, or if the salt was put free of cost, into the houses of the Fishermen, or to descend as manna did from heaven, the poverty of the Irish Fishermen is so great, that they could not fit out proper boats or gear to catch the fish. Their circumstances, therefore, oppose an insuperable bar to any successful progress in the undertaking, under the act as now proposed.

The writer has made the minutest inquiries into the state of the Fishery, or rather the '*material*' for establishing a

Fishery on the western district of Cork harbour, a duty assigned to him by the Southern Fishery Committee.

At Passage and Monkstown in the year 1790, there were fifteen hookers, some of them twenty-five or thirty tons engaged in the fisheries. In these places, in 1819, there are now only three hookers, the best of which is thirty years old, and the other two not fit to go outside of the harbour. The means and resources of the Fishermen have been explored, and without efficient aid, such as may be powerful enough to give a stimulus to exertion, the good intentions of the legislature, for they appear excellent and humane, must only produce chagrin and disappointment.

The exertions of any pains taking individuals will meet as much attention in the Imperial Parliament, as the recommendations of all the Public meetings which may be convened, where good sense and sound reasoning are often unavailing among faction and party.

Parliament has frequently endeavoured to promote the Fisheries. 'In the year 1750, the society of the Free British Fishery was established, with power to make by-laws, and to raise a capital of £500,000, by way of subscription. Any persons, who in any part of Great Britain, shall subscribe £10,000 into the stock of this society, under the name of the Fishing Chamber, and carry on the said fishery on their account of profit and loss, shall be entitled to the same bounty allowed to the society. 'It is then' says the work now before me (Nicholson's Encyclopedia) by the encouragement

given by this act, that we now see a laudable emulation prevailing all over the kingdom. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Montrose, Dundee, Perth, Inverness and some other boroughs have raised the proper sum, and chambers have been erected in each of them; the gentlemen of estates adjoining to the respective places above mentioned, *liberally* contributing with merchants, towards the prosecution of an undertaking so visibly tending to the good of their country in general.'

Alas! we know too well, that Ireland is not Great Britain, and that the poor in our unhappy country may starve before either the gentlemen of estates, or the merchants, those who have made their fortunes by the diurnal labours of the lower orders, will contribute as they ought in doing good. Too many are over fond of making speeches and suggestions, but when the subject is put into a tangible shape, when action is required, the Fisheries like other modes of national improvement will be soon forgot. Hence arises the dire necessity, when absentees and non-residents, are also taken into consideration, of imploring the aid of parliament, to prevent honest industry descending into abject poverty.

In vain shall England and Scotland be held up as an example to the people of Ireland, who are taught by sad experience to place but little confidence in the patriotic exertions of the generality of the wealthy—with some of whom, money is the idol which they worship, the parent of their pride, and of their assumed consequence. These observations will probably meet the eye of Senators who will perhaps entirely join the writer, in the necessity of introducing measures calcu-

lated to produce good, instead of disappointment, which would cause an infinity of evil.

The city and harbour of Cork, could from its extent, embark £5,000 with little inconvenience to the subscribers, in a Fishery. If it proved successful, the capital may be increased to £20,000, the smallness of the shares will afford a facility to people in moderate circumstances taking them; and to be a shareholder, may prove an object of great personal ambition to enterprising Fishermen, to such men as John Carthy of Kinsale—men whom we should wish to attach to their country, to save and to defend it. Without further comment, the following conditions are submitted.

33

Articles

FOR FORMING A FISHING ASSOCIATION FOR ANY HARBOUR,
BAY, CREEK, INLET, OR PLACE IN IRELAND.

WHEREAS by the Act of the 59th Geo. 3 chap.—the
Legislature has afforded considerable encouragement towards
promoting the Irish Fisheries; now we the undersigned de-
sirous of availing ourselves of the benefit of this act, do
hereby agree to the following conditions for the establishment
of a Company for the to be called the
FISHING ASSOCIATION.

ART. I.

It is hereby agreed that the shares shall be as low as ten
pounds British currency each, to be transferable, and that
the number of shares shall not exceed
unless it be increased by a general meeting., and that no in-
dividual shall hold more than twenty shares.

ART II.

That every share holder shall be entitled to vote on all
questions connected with the Company according to the num-
ber of shares, he or she may hold, provided that no individual
shall have more than five votes.

ART. III.

That as soon as the sum of Five Hundred Pounds British sterling be subscribed and paid into the hands of

Esq. Collector of the Port, who is appointed Treasurer by virtue of the section of the Act for our incorporation shall forthwith be made to the Commissioners of the Fisheries to obtain from the Commissioners for the advance of money out of the Consolidated Fund, a loan to a similar extent on the securities and conditions as specified by the section of the Act.

ART. IV.

That as soon as said money be advanced by the aforesaid Commissioners, that a general meeting of the subscribers or share holders be convened by the acting Secretary, to be held at for the purpose of electing nine Directors, and a Secretary, who shall take the oath in schedule B, before a magistrate, and who is also to be manager, cashier, and storekeeper, and who shall receive such salary or remuneration for his trouble, as shall be approved by a further general meeting, to be held six months after said election, and to be fixed every year, according to the success of said company and the services of the individuals who may be chosen. In case of the death of a Director or Secretary, the vacancy to be filled by a successor, to be elected by a general meeting to be convened for that purpose.

ART. V.

That the Directors, five of whom shall form a board, meet twice each week during the fishing season, and once a week at other times, at such places as they may agree among themselves; that they be attended by the Secretary with the various accounts and books, and remain in the office for two hours each time, and in case of neglecting their duty, that they be subject to a fine of five shillings british for each neglect, which fine shall go towards the Charitable Fund of the Association, and the Secretary shall keep an exact account of the amount of said fines, to be certified by the Chairman, who shall be elected by the Directors from their body.

ART. VI.

That the Directors shall be vested with full powers to manage all the transactions of the Association, in as full and conclusive a manner, as if the entire of the share-holders were personally present, and as it is reasonable that they should be paid for their trouble, on the final close of the accounts for the year, they shall receive ten pounds per cent, on the nett profits, to be divided between them, share and share alike.

ART. VII.

That three of the Directors to be drawn by lot, retire on the first Monday in May, and be replaced by three members of the Association, to be elected by the share-holders, and each share-holder shall have the power to state by letter to the Secretary, (which is not to be opened until all the members present vote) which of the members he or she desired to be the new Directors.

ART. VIII.

That a general quarterly meeting of the share-holders be held at the _____ on the first Mondays in June, September, December, and March, to examine into the affairs of the Association, and to confirm and amend such by-laws and regulations as the Directors in the intervening time may think necessary to enact.

ART. IX.

That at the annual meeting to be held on the first Monday in May, a dividend of the profits of the Association, *if any*, shall be struck, and paid on the following week to the respective share-holders; and in case of loss, the same shall be carried into a general account of loss, and be stopped out of the profits of the following year.

ART. X.

That the share-holders hereby pledge themselves to recommend to the Fishermen, and every individual employed by the Association, to contribute to the Savings Bank in their neighbourhood, as the best and most laudable refuge for want, old age, and sickness.

ART. XI.

That as the growth and manufacture of hemp and flax are particularly connected with the Fisheries, and as these articles are some of the great necessaries for the successful progress of a Fishery, the Directors are hereby sanctioned to afford employment to the wives and children of the Fisher-

men, and to any poor persons, in spinning thread for canvas, in spinning twine, and in making the required nets, seines, and other materials for the Fishery, in which the Fishermen themselves can participate during bad weather, or any circumstances obliging them to remain on shore.

ART. XII.

That the Directors do promote a Benefit or Friendly Society for the relief of the widows, orphans, and parents of Fishermen who may lose their lives in the service, and otherwise to assist them during the illness of themselves and families.

ART. XIII.

That no share-holder shall be personally, or in property, accountable for any debt contracted by the Directors beyond the amount of their respective shares.

ART. XIV.

That at the meeting on the first Monday in December, the Association do award Premiums, to the Fishermen and to their families, for their good conduct and sobriety, according to their individual merits, as the best and surest means of promoting a spirit of industry, sobriety, emulation, and general good conduct.

ART. XV.

That a statement of the affairs of the Association, with a report of its progress, shall be transmitted annually to the Commissioners of the Fishery to be laid before Parliament,

and the said statement and report shall be made up to the 5th day of April in every year.

In confirmation of the aforesaid Articles, we the undersigned subscribers have paid the sums affixed to our respective signatures to _____ *Esq. Collector of the Port, or his Deputy, who is a subscribing witness.*

DATE.	WITNESS.	SUBSCRIBER'S SHARES
20th Feb. 1819,	A. B. Collector or } Pro Collector. }	C. D. one £10
—	A. B. do.	C. D. one £10
—	A. B. do.	C. D. one £10

SCHEDULE, A.

Form of the Receipt to be given by the Collector of the Port.

NO. I.

FISHING ASSOCIATION.

NO. I.

RECEIVED from C. D. the Sum of Five Pounds British currency, being the amount of one share in the Fishing Association, for which said C. D. is entitled to all the bene-

fits and privileges of said share, pursuant to the Act of Parliament of the 59th Geo. chap. 3.

Custom House, 20th February, 1819.

£10 0 0.

A. B. Collector.

The said C. D. can sell or dispose of said Share as he or she pleases, on giving notice to the Collector, and having the transfer indorsed and witnessed on the back hereof.

SCHEDULE B.

Oaths

TO BE ADMINISTERED BY A MAGISTRATE, TO THE DIRECTORS AND SECRETARY OF EACH ASSOCIATION, PURSUANT TO THE FOURTH ARTICLE OF INCORPORATION.

OATH OF A DIRECTOR.

I, *E. F.* chosen a Director of the **FISHING ASSOCIATION**, pursuant to the Act of Parliament of the 59 Geo. 3 chap. do swear, that I shall faithfully and attentively execute the duties of a Director, to the best of my skill and judgment, so help me God.

Sworn before me at *E. F.*
 this day of 18
G. H. Magistrate.

OATH OF A SECRETARY.

I, J. K. chosen Secretary, Manager, Cashier, and Store-keeper of the Fishing Association, pursuant to the Act of Parliament of the 59 Geo. 3 Chap. do swear, that I shall faithfully and attentively execute the duties of said office, according to the best of my skill and judgment, and that I shall at all times pay the strictest attention to the orders and commands of the Directors, and shall on no account absent myself from my duty, without obtaining permission from the Board. So help me God.

Sworn before me *J. K.* day of
18 *G. H.*

THE outlines for forming Fishing Associations, in every Port, or place, on the Coast of Ireland, are now submitted to the consideration of the legislature and the public. The writer of them cannot close these observations, without commending the indefatigable exertions of Mr. James Redmond Barry, who so gratuitously and generously acted as Secretary to the Southern Fishery Association. This gentleman was instrumental in preventing the labours of the Association, ending in deliberating as to the expediency or in expediency of using Trammels. These appear to be a favourite object among the landholders and gentry; but to which the Kinsale, Youghal and Dungarvan Fishermen have been always, and it appears from experience, justly hostile.

The Youghal Fishermen, coinciding in opinion with those of Kinsale, have in a manly manner come forward, and have prepared a Petition to the House of Commons, against the use of Trammels.

The writer recollects an instance of a Hooker being lost by tailing in on the rocks, in consequence of the warp of a Trammel getting between the rudder and stern post, which rendered the rudder useless. Trammels have been frequently set near the harbours of Kinsale and Youghal, so as to make the navigation into these harbours* extremely dangerous. This has also been noticed by the Youghal Fishermen who have wisely submitted it to the consideration of the Committee of Shipping at Lloyd's Coffee House in London.

* For the truth of this assertion, the writer can refer to the most competent individual in Ireland, to J. W. Browne, Esq. of Kinsale, who for many years, in his capacity of Naval Officer, had the payment of all the Pilots who had charge of the King's Ships, and who frequently complained to him of the dangers to be apprehended from Trammels.

FINIS.