

on the coasts of England and Scotland employs above 8000 Dutch ships or vessels, 20,000 of their seamen and fishers.'<sup>1</sup> The fishing trade was the 'principal goldmine of the United Provinces' in virtue of its double aspect. It was at once in itself a most lucrative kind of industry and commerce, especially to the Dutch, whose narrow borders on land obliged them to look for riches to the sea; and it was a calling of the utmost importance for purposes of defence, a prolific nursery of ships and sailors. The interdependence of trade and sea power was well illustrated in the case of the Dutch in the seventeenth century, but their fishing industry was practically confined to European waters; they were not in evidence as fishers on the other side of the Atlantic and on the Banks of Newfoundland.<sup>2</sup> Here was the English nursery for ships and sailors, and the opposition in England to permanent colonisation of Newfoundland which, after the first few years of spasmodic infant settlements, was strong and bitter, was all in the direction of making the coasts and seas of that island subordinate to considerations of English sea power. But the controversy had not matured when Mun wrote his treatise: there is no contrast between permanent settlement and seasonal fishing in the following words. 'Our fishing plantation likewise in New England, Virginia, Greenland, the Summer Islands, and the Newfoundland, are of the like nature, affording much wealth and employments to maintain

<sup>1</sup> *Britannia Languens, or A Discourse of Trade, etc.* (1680), p. 31.

<sup>2</sup> In *Britannia Languens*, however, pp. 168-9, there is mention of the Dutch having beaten the English out of the Iceland, Newfoundland and Greenland fishing.