

“But would not this means be injurious to France,” the two Intendants ask, “by depriving it of part of the profit it makes on goods?” “No,” they reply, “because the freight gained by the colonists of New France, they will restore to France by consuming a greater quantity of its goods.” For example, those who do nothing and dress in buckskin, will, as soon as they are employed, find means to dress in French goods. Now a more convenient spot for this object than Cape Breton, cannot be found.

1713-24.

Nor let it be said that if this island draws a part of its goods from Canada that France might furnish, it is so much lost to the trade of the kingdom; for in the first place, the reply made to the preceding objection, destroys this also: because the profit made by Canada out of this trade, will always return to the profit of the kingdom; for after all, New France cannot dispense with many articles from France. It will then draw a larger quantity and pay for them with the money which Cape Breton will give for its produce. In the second place, it would be no great evil to France, if it did not export so much wheat or other things for maintaining life, for the cheaper provisions are, the more workmen it will have for its manufactures.

“This island,” continues the Memoir, “is so situated as to form a natural entrepôt between Old and New France. It can supply the former out of its own raising with cod-fish, oil, coal, plaster, timber &c. It will supply the latter with merchandise from the kingdom at much lower rates; it will draw from it part of its substance, and save it a good part of the freight; and then, too, the navigation from Quebec to Cape Breton would make very good sailors of men now useless, and a burden to the colony.”

Another important advantage which this establishing of Cape Breton would render Canada, is, that small vessels could be sent out thence to the cod and other oil-supplying fishes, at the mouth of the river. These craft would be sure of a market for their cargo in the Island of Cape Breton, and of a new cargo of French goods; or a ship loaded with products of the country, might be sent from Quebec