

1713-24. from foreigners. They might also trade with the Antilles in masts and pine boards, which would considerably diminish the price of those articles. What is there even to prevent the building of ships in Cape Breton, which could easily obtain from Canada all it needed for this branch? It would be much cheaper than in France, and it might even furnish ships to the foreign nations, from whom we now buy them.

Finally, there is no more convenient stopping place, or more secure retreat than the Island of Cape Breton for all ships coming from any point whatsoever in America, in case of pursuit or being surprised by bad weather, or running out of provisions, wood or water. Besides, it would be in time of war, a cruising station, to ravage the commerce of New England; and if the forces were sufficient, as they might easily be, they might then obtain entire control of the cod fishery by means of a small number of frigates, always on the alert to run out of the ports of the island, or slip back again.

Means of  
establish-  
ing this  
colony.  
Objections  
answered.

The two Intendants, after thus setting forth the advantages of this new settlement projected by them, set to work to facilitate its execution and meet the objections made. They remarked in the first place, that it was inexpedient to confide this enterprise to a Company, for the reason that the spirit of all such societies is to gain much in a short time, to abandon or neglect matters which do not yield great profits soon enough, to care little about giving their establishments a solid foundation, or pay any attention to the good of the inhabitants, to whom, they say, too great advantages cannot be offered if you wish to induce them to settle in a new colony. What induced them to speak thus of companies, was their experience of those which had hitherto had the domain or the exclusive commerce of New France and the French West Indies.

They nevertheless agreed that the settlement of Cape Breton would involve great expense; but they maintained, that, without its becoming a burthen to the King, and by means of certain advances, the refunding of which to his