

To the Editor of the British American.

MR. EDITOR,

Some time since I suggested some crude remarks relative to the establishing a Fishery at this end of the Island, which had they been operated on, might, I think by this time, have made sufficient progress to have produced beneficial results. I say by this time, for my proposition was in the year 1827, and according to my notions at that period, it would have taken perhaps five or six years to have realized a fund by small subscriptions, adequate to a commencement on a respectable footing.

My plan was the formation ultimately of company, similar to that of a joint stock; not for the peculiar benefit of a few individuals, but on that extensive system, that a large portion of the public might avail themselves of the advantage, and a fund produced from the many without any considerable outlay, or without any inconvenience being felt.

It is somewhat singular that the very interesting subject of a fishery should have been for a considerable time neglected, that it should be lost sight of by the inhabitants of this Island, possessing no regular staple to attract commerce is certainly unaccountable.

The same resource must certainly exist that ever did, and this source of wealth cannot have left our seas which the numerous sail of American fishing crafts, that constantly visit our fishing ground, is a sufficient proof. It is certainly a peculiar mortification to see our neighbours carrying off the spoil in abundance, and enriching themselves, and the inhabitants of our shores looking supinely on, many of whom have the tail of a scanty fish for the use of their families, when by a trifling exertion of the public we have within our grasp a never failing source, if we would only condescend to avail ourselves of the good before us. Mention any thing having a reference to the establishment of a fishery; and it is more than ten to one but it will end by the parties lamenting that capitalists do not come and make a commencement. No person I believe will doubt, that if the rich would come amongst us for this purpose, a great deal of time and trouble would be saved, as we should then be in possession of the very object, that every lover of the country must desire, namely, a brisk trade, which till we obtain by some means or other, we shall ever be of little import; and the same sluggish system will prevail with its endless train of privation. But as I before hinted, and again reiterate—and cannot be too often impressed on the minds of the public, to wait for the arrival of the rich to vest their capital with us who cannot be supposed to enter into our feelings on this subject, or feel its importance when places of far greater consequence hold out allurements for commerce

that time alone can afford us. It is with this as every other circumstance which can give rise to wealth,—it must be enterprise, genius, and industry of a country that must find the resource; these long experience has confirmed, are the true riches of a country. With the aid of them the most gigantic effects have been produced, sterility of soil, inclemency of climate, and almost insuperable difficulties, have not been barriers sufficient to arrest the concentrated efforts of a people determined to accomplish their object. It has been by the joint efforts of a multitude bringing their strength to one focus, that the most magnificent and stupendous works of art have been left mementos of wisdom and national perseverance. I am aware that many obstacles will be adduced, but I do not see any but what may be overcome by time; and when I say time, I do not mean any very considerable period. I feel confident that on some such plan as before suggested, five or six years would be quite sufficient to raise a fund adequate for a beginning on a very respectable scale.

I anticipate no greater impediment to its accomplishment than that luke warm indifference or apathy that has so long prevailed on this important object. If it were possible for the many to be brought to feel that interest that the importance of the subject really deserves more than half would be at once effected. In offering these crude remarks, I have no favorite system to propagate, it would be an Herculean task to enter into the multifarious opinions on this head. What I would wish principally in the first instance, is to awaken the mind of the public to an object so truly interesting; and by my feeble efforts to induce others possessing more talent than myself, to take up the subject so long neglected.

It is not presumed that such general observations as these can have any other tendency than to awake public sentiment, for where so many must necessarily be concerned, it would be to arrogate too much to lay down any thing than quite a general outline. Should however, the theme be taken up by men of talent on the Island, and become a popular notion in the various districts, public meetings must be the prelude to future regular plans.

On a former occasion I endeavored to lay before the public what I then considered a feasible way as regarded subscriptions to be entered into by all persons in furtherance of the object, and foreseeing that the dearth of cash in country places might have been an obstacle to some, I thought, that after the harvest every one might contribute his mite according to circumstances, the poor man what he could spare, and the rich farmer more munificently, and all agreeable to their ability. A granary might have been established, commit-

tees appointed, of responsible persons to receive and give receipts, the grain shipped off and turned into specie, thereby to form ultimately a fund. More mature reflections however, has given rise to different ideas, for the consequent trouble and expense would I think, be more than the receipts in this way could compatibly liquidate. From hence it would appear, a more rational mode of procedure for the offering to the shrine of the public welfare, though it should be smaller, would render the business more safe and less complex by being paid in cash. There is an adage known to the votaries of the blind goddess Fortune, viz. 'Nothing venture, nothing have.' Without some trifling sacrifice, not any thing of this nature can be expected to be accomplished. I can hardly imagine that if the sentiment could be generally diffused, that there are many individuals to be found so poor in purse or patriotism, or so dead to public feeling, but would cheerfully contribute some small matter, to serve the depressed trade of the Colony.

"What osom beats not in his Country's cause."

Having cursorily proceeded thus far, it may not be deemed inexpedient to be somewhat more explicit.

I should suppose if the public should adopt methods in furtherance of a Fishery, it must under proper regulations be conducted on the system generally adopted in all public works; viz. by shareholders, and these when the business commences must necessarily be circumscribed to a limited number according to circumstances. It may then be said, who are to be the Holders of these shares? the answer will be simple, those who can best afford to purchase, it may then as a natural impression, be asked,—what interest can the many have who have contributed the annual stipend, that perhaps amounts to not one-third the share: are they whom consisting of far the greater number not in common with the wealthy shareholders to participate; most assuredly they must, according to a ratio of their subscription. And this must be regulated on a system of equity as circumstances may direct, and the interest accumulates, or by selling their interest at choice, or by several amalgamating to form one share.

On the event of public meetings and societies being constituted, and annual subscriptions entered into, the persons voluntarily subscribing, should be given to understand, that for a given time, he or they must positively deposit the money in a fund to be sunk, and remain inviolable.—When a regular system shall be digested, a certain number of persons, principally Shareholders, may be chosen by vote or ballot, whose particular province shall be to make application to the government for some central spot of land, or some small