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A
COMMISSION
for the well gouerning
of Our people, inhabiting
in *New-found-land*;

Or, Traffiquing in Bayes, Creekes,
or fresh Riuers there.

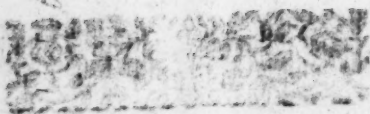


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Printer to the Kings most Excellent
MAIESTIE: And by the
Assignes of IOHN BILL.
M.DC.XXXIII.

A
COMMISSION

for the relief of the
of our people inhabiting

of the land in the
of the land in the



Alfred, Lord Tennyson, R. S. W. 1842
I have to the King, most Excellent
Master: And by the
Alfred, Lord Tennyson
W. D. 1842



HIS
MAIESTIES

Commission, for the well-gouver-
ning of His subjects inhabi-
ting in the *New-found-land*.



CHARLES by the
grace of GOD, King
of *England, Scotland,*
France, and *Ireland*,
Defender of the Faith, &c. To
all to whom these presents shall
come, greeting.

VWhereas the Region, or

A₃

Coun-

Countrey called *New-found-land*, hath beene acquired to the Dominion of Our Progenitors; which VVe hold, and Our people haue many yeeres resorted to those parts, where, and in the coasts adioyning they imployed themselves in Fishing, whereby a great number of Our people haue beene set on worke, and the Nauigation and Marriners of Our Realme hath been much increased.

And Our Subjects resorting thither, one by the other, and the natiues of those parts were orderly

ly and gently intreated, vntill of late some of Our Subiects of the Realme of *England*, planting themselves in that Countrey, and there residing and inhabiting, vpon conceit, that for wrongs or iniuries done there, either on the Shoare, or in the Sea adioyning, they cannot be here impeached, and the rather, for that VVe, or Our Progenitors, haue not hitherto giuen Lawes to the Inhabitants there, and by that example, Our Subiects resorting thither, iniure one another, and vse all manner of excessse to the great hinderance of
the

the voyage, and common damage of this Realme : For preuenting such inconueniencies hereafter, VVee doe hereby declare in what manner our people in *New-found-land* and vpon the Sea adioyning, and the Bayes, Creekes, or fresh Riuers there, shall be guided and gouerned : Doe make and ordayne the Lawes following in the things after specified ; Commanding that the same be obeyed and put in execution.

First, if any man on the land there shall kill another, or if any shall secretly or forceable steal the
the

the goods of any other to the value
of Forty shillings; he shalbe forthwith
apprehended & arrested, del-
tayned and brought Prisoner into
England, and the crime committed
by him shalbe made known to the
Earle Marshall of England for the
time being: to whom the Delin-
quent shall bee delivered as Priso-
ner; And the said Earle Marshall
shal take Cognizance of the cause:
And if hee shall finde by the testi-
monie of two witnesses or more,
that the partie had there killed a
man not being at that time first af-
fauled by the party slaine, or that

the killing were by mis-adventure,
 or had stollen such goods; the De-
 linquent shall suffer paine of
 death, and all the company shall
 endeauor to apprehend such ma-
 lefactor.

Secondly, That no Ballast,
 Prestones, or any thing else hurt-
 full to the Harbourers be throwne
 out to the preiudice of the said
 Harbours, but that it be carried
 a shoare, and laid where it may not
 doe annoyance.

Thirdly, That no person what-
 soeuer, either Fishermen or Inha-
 bitants doe destroy, deface, or any
 way

way worke any spoyle or detri-
ment to any Stage, Cookerobme,
Flakes, Spikes, Nayles, or any
thing else, that belongeth to the
Stages whatsoever, either at the
end of the voyage when hee hath
done, and is to depart the Coun-
trei, or to any such Stages as hee
shall fall withall at his comming
into the Countrey, but that hee or
they content themselves with such
Stage or Stages onely, as shall bee
needfull for them: And that for
the repaying of such Stages, as he
or they take, they shall fetch Tym-
ber out of the woods, and not to do

it with the ruining or tearing down
of other Stages.

Fourthly, That according to
the ancient custome every Shippe
or Fisher that first entrech a Har-
bour, in behalfe of the Shippe
bee Admirall of the said Harbour,
wherin for the time beeing, he shall
referue onely so much Beach and
Flakes, or both, as is needefull for
the number of boates that hee shall
use, with an ouerplus only for one
Boate more then hee needeth, as a
praisledge for his first comming.

And that every Ship comming
after, content himselfe with what

he

hee shall haue necessary vse for
without keeping or detaining any
more to the preiudice of others
next comming.

And that any that are possessed
of seuerall places in seuerall Har-
bours, with intent to keepe them
all, before they can resolve upon
which of them to choose, shall be
bound to resolve and send aduice
to such after commers in those pla-
ces as expect his resolution, and
that within fourty eight howres, if
the weather so serue, that the said
after commers may likewise chuse
their places, and so none receiue

preiudice by others delayes.

Fiftly, That no person cut out, deface, or any way alter, or changethe markes of any Boats, or Traine-fats, whereby to defraud the right owners. And that no person conuert to his owne vse, the said Boats or Traine-fats, so belonging to others, without their consents, nor remoue, nor take them from the places where they be left by the owners, except in case of necessity, and then to giue notice thereof to the Admirall and others, whereby the right owners may know what is become of them. Sixtly,

Sixtly, that no person doe di-
minish, take away, purloyn, or
steale any of the Fish, or Traine,
or Salt which is put in Caske,
Traynesats or Cookeroome, or
other house in any of the Har-
bours or Fishing places of the
Countrey, or any other provisi-
on belonging to the fishing trade,
or to the Shippes.

Seuenthy, That no person set
fire in any of the woods of the
Countrey, or worke any detri-
ment or destruction to the same,
by Rynding of the Trees, either
for the feeling of Shippes, holdes,

or

or for Roomes on Shoare, or for
any other uses, Except for the co-
uening of the rooves for Cooke-
roomes to dresse their meate in,
and these Roomes not to extend
above sixteen foot in length at
the most.

Eighthly, That no man cast
Ancor, or ought else hurtfull,
which may breede annoyance,
or hinder the halcing of Seanes
for baite in places accustomed
thereunto.

Ninthly, That no person
robbe the Nets of others out of
any drift Boate or Drouer for

baite

bait by night, nor take away any
bait out of their Fishing-boats by
their Shippes sides, nor robbe or
steale any of their Nettes, or any
part thereof.

Tenthly, That no person doe
set vp any Tauerne for selling of
Wine, Beere, or strong VVaters,
Cyder, or Tobacco, to entertaine
the Fishermen, because it is found
that by such meanes they are de-
bauched, neglecting their la-
bours, and poore ill-governed
men, not onely spend most part
of their shares before they come
home, vpon which the life and

maintenance of their wife and children dependeth, but are likewise hurtfull in diuers other wayes, as by neglecting and making themselves vnfit for their labour, by purloyning and stealing from their owners, and by making vnlawfull shifts to supply their disorders, &c. which disorders they frequently follow since these occasions haue presented themselves.

Lastly, That vpon the Sundayes the Company assemble in meet places, and haue diuine Service to bee said by some of the
Masters

Masters of the Shippes, or some others, which prayers shall bee such as are in the Booke of Common Prayer.

And because that speedy punishment may be inflicted vpon the offenders against those Lawes and Constitutions;

Wee doe ordaine that euery of the Maiors of *Southampton*, *Weymouth*, and *Melcombe Regis*, *Lynne*, *Plymouth*, *Dartmouth*, *Exeter*, *Foye* and *Barnestable*, for the time being, may take Cognizans of all complaints made by any offender against any of these

Ordinances vpon the land, and by oath of Wittneses, examine the truth thereof, award amends to the parties griued, and punish the delinquents by Fine, and Imprisonment, or either of them, and of their goods found in the parts of *New-found-land*, or in the Sea, cause satisfaction thereof to bee made by Warrants vnder their hands and scales.

And the Vice-Admirals in Our Counties of *Southampton, Dorset, Devon, and Cornewall*, vpon complaint made of any of the promisses committed vpon the Sea,

Sea, shall speedily and effectually
proceed against the offenders.

Also VVe Will and Ordaine,
that these Lawes and Ordinances,
shall stand in force, and bee
put in due execution, vntill VVe
shall otherwise prouide and ordaine.

And VVee doe require the
Admirall in euery Harbour in
this next Season ensuing, calling
together such as shall bee in that
Harbour, publicquely to pro-
claime these presents.

And that they also proclaime
the same on the Shore.

In witnesse whereof Wee haue caused
these Our Letters to bee made Patents:
Witnesse our selfe at *Westminster*, the
seventh day of February, in the ninth
year of Our Reigne.

Wittys.

God saue the King.