

respectfully ask, if we assume too much, when we allege that the certain consequences of giving the force of law to this Convention will be the destruction of our fisheries, the annihilation of our trade, the loss not only of our fixed property employed in the fisheries, but also in a great degree of all other property in the Island—the abandonment of Newfoundland by the greater part of the present population, and the conversion of a British Colony into a mere French fishing station.

It may be urged, that by the continuance of things in their present state under the operation of the old Treaties, the peaceful relations between France and England may be endangered, but to this we reply, that under the existing state of things, any fear of collision between the fishermen of the two nations is altogether chimerical, the rights of each being practically well defined, and an unarmed schooner at Labrador, and a boat's crew at Cape John, being found quite sufficient to keep the peace and protect the boundaries between the two parties from encroachment: and further, that the danger of collision under the present Convention will be increased tenfold, not only by the increase in the points of contact, but by reason of the feeling which the Convention has produced among our fishermen, and which, we regret to say, has found expression in an avowed determination of resisting by force any intrusion on their present rights,—nor is it likely that the fishermen of the United States, who, in the exercise of their right, frequent the Labrador Shore in considerable numbers, would be inactive spectators in such conflicts—on the contrary, they would doubtless unite in resisting the common intruder.

It may further be said, that having conceded a full participation in our fisheries to the Americans, a like concession to the French can do us but little injury; but, we submit that no comparison can fairly be made between a concession to a people like the Americans, who for obvious reasons, cannot avail of it to our disadvantage, and a similar concession to a nation like the French, who, by means of their bounties, can turn it to our destruction.

It may also be urged, that something is due to the worth of a Noble Ally, who during a long and severe conflict, so bravely supported the arms of the British Empire; but while we acknowledge the weight of this consideration, and desire to see the friendly relations now subsisting between the two countries cemented as closely as possible, we cannot consent to purchase this result at so high a price as the subsistence of our people. And we are sure that the British Government would not desire to pay their debt of gratitude, with the property of the most ancient, although