

1818

1 CONVENTION OF COMMERCE BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—SIGNED AT LONDON, 20TH OCTOBER, 1818.

Ratifications exchanged 30th January, 1819

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the United States of America, desirous to cement the good understanding which happily subsists between them, have, for that purpose, named their respective plenipotentiaries—that is to say:—

His Majesty, on his part, has appointed the Right Honourable Frederick John Robinson, Treasurer of His Majesty's Navy, and President of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations; and Henry Goulburn, Esquire, one of His Majesty's Under Secretaries of State:

And the President of the United States has appointed Albert Gallatin, their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of France; and Richard Rush, their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of His Britannic Majesty.

Who, after having exchanged their respective full powers, found to be in due and proper form, have agreed to and concluded the following articles:—

Art. I. Whereas differences have arisen respecting the liberty claimed by the United States, for the Inhabitants thereof, to take, dry, and cure fish, on certain Coasts, Bays, Harbours, and Creeks, of His Britannic Majesty's Dominions, in America; it is agreed between the High Contracting Parties, that the Inhabitants of the said United States shall have, for ever, in common with the Subjects of His Britannic Majesty, the liberty to take fish of every kind, on that part of the southern Coast of Newfoundland, which extends from Cape Ray to the Rameau Islands, on the western and northern Coast of Newfoundland, from the said Cape Ray to the Quirpon Islands, on the shores of the Magdalen Islands, and also on the Coasts, Bays, Harbours and Creeks, from Mount Joly, on the southern Coast of Labrador, to and through the Straits of Belleisle, and thence northwardly indefinitely along the Coast; without prejudice, however, to any of the exclusive rights of the Hudson Bay Company; and that the American fishermen shall also have liberty, for ever, to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled Bays, Harbours, and Creeks, of the southern part of the Coast of Newfoundland hereabove described, and of the Coast of Labrador; but so soon as the same, or any portion thereof, shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said Fishermen to dry or cure fish at such portion so settled, without previous agreement for such purpose, with the Inhabitants, Proprietors or Possessors of the ground. And the United States hereby renounce for ever, any liberty heretofore enjoyed or claimed by the Inhabitants thereof, to take, dry, or cure fish, on or within three marine miles of any of the Coasts, Bays, Creeks, or Harbours, of His Britannic Majesty's Dominions in America, not included within the above-mentioned limits; provided, however, that the American Fishermen shall be admitted to enter such Bays or Harbours, for the purpose of shelter and of repairing damages therein, of purchasing wood, and of obtaining water, and for no other purpose whatever. But they shall be under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent their taking, drying, or curing fish therein, or in any other manner whatever abusing the privileges hereby reserved to them.

¹ From British & Foreign State Papers, Vol. 6, p. 3.