

CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Fishery Disturbances off the Coast
of Newfoundland in 1878-79.

CASES OF THE "MIST" AND "HOWARD HOLBROOK."

No. 1.

Mr. Welsh to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)

My Lord,

London, August 13, 1879.

I AM instructed to bring to the attention of Her Britannic Majesty's Government the case of the schooner "Mist," Captain Cozzens, of Gloucester, Massachusetts, as made in the affidavit which accompanies this note.

As therein stated, it appears that Captain Cozzens and his crew, while taking squid in Conception Bay, Newfoundland, on the 8th July, 1878, were forcibly compelled to abandon the fishery by the inhabitants of that locality.

This case involves the same violation of the rights secured to the fishermen of the United States by the Treaty of Washington, 1871, as occurred in the transactions at Fortune Bay. The amount claimed for damages is 800 dollars.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WELSH.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Deposition of John Cozzens.

I, JOHN COZZENS, of Gloucester, County of Essex, State of Massachusetts, do on oath depose and say that in the month of July, about the 8th, I was lying in Broad Cove, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, in the schooner "Mist," of Gloucester, Massachusetts, of which schooner I was master. I went in for bait myself, and crew commenced catching squid for bait by use of jigs. I had taken about 3,000 squid, when the inhabitants of the place, in about sixty boats, surrounded my vessel and threatened to cut our cable unless we stopped fishing. We were obliged to haul in our jigs and stop fishing, as the mob outnumbered my crew five to one. At the time the threats were made we were lying about 300 yards from a lee shore, wind blowing a good breeze, and in case our cable had been cut our vessel would have gone on to the rocks and been lost. We could have taken all the bait we wanted if we had not been stopped by this threatening demonstration. Mr. Yuck, of Portugal Cove, a Custom-house officer, came on board my vessel and said I ought to have bought my bait of the inhabitants or compromised the matter in some way. The men that came off to my vessel were furious in their threats, and they were determined to force me to buy bait of them. I considered that I had a right under the Treaty of Washington to catch all the bait I needed. My fishing for bait did not in any way interfere with the inhabitants; and the whole cause of their attacking me was to force me to buy my bait instead of catching it myself. Finally, I was obliged to buy my bait of the inhabitants, paying 20 cents per hundred for squid, the action of the inhabitants rendering the privileges of the Treaty useless to me. I took 30,000 squid in number. I went in five different times for bait that season, and having been deprived of my rights on this occasion, I bought all my bait afterward, not daring to fish for it, costing me in time