

sons been objected to, it appears to be capable of a very reasonable defence. Indeed, it would have been absolutely impossible, without agreeing to this Article, to have had a peace at all. It was justly and strongly urged by the American Commissioners, that to refuse them the right of fishing, would be to manifest towards them the most hostile intentions, and that it would for ever preclude the hopes of reconciliation. They alledged that the fishery lay in their part of the ocean; that it was their ail; that on their side, it was employment, food, export, and the means of paying debts to a barren province; that other states had staples of production, whilst they

“ of the unsettled bays, harbours, and creeks of Nova-
 “ Scotia, Magdalen Islands, and Labrador, so long as
 “ the same shall remain unsettled; but so soon as the
 “ same, or either of them, shall be settled, it shall not
 “ be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at
 “ such settlement, without a previous agreement for
 “ that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors, or
 “ possessors of the ground.”

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