

applications to the Government for better protection from the French boats, now all agree that these boats are their best market. It is obvious from the report of Captain Ramsay (see Appendix), that the same thing is taking place on the coast of Newfoundland, and also to a certain extent, it appears from Lieutenant Kynaston's report, in the Bay of Fundy, between the British and United States' fishermen. In that report it is mentioned that the most active and intelligent of the provincial fishermen take employment in the fishing-vessels of the United States, and that practically, the fishermen of the two nations fish together, while at Eastport the American duties are not really exacted. It appears to me, therefore, plain, that it is not the real interest of the British provinces to enforce a prohibition on American fishing, which it is scarcely possible to maintain effectually ; and that if instead of trying to do this, any interference is avoided, except for the purpose of preserving the peace, or preventing fishing at improper seasons, &c., the result will be, that there may be a great nominal increase of the American fisheries, but that these will be carried on to a great extent by British subjects, who will bring their earnings into the provinces, while at the same time the provinces will carry on a lucrative trade with the American vessels which frequent their shores, and by their means practically evade the American Tariff, and introduce British produce into the United States without paying the high duties imposed by law.

"But while I believe that this would be the really wise policy, I fear the people of the British provinces are not yet prepared for its adoption, and that it is not a subject on which their feelings and opinions could be safely disregarded. It probably, therefore, will be necessary to take some steps to enforce the treaties with the United States, though the less that can be done, in my opinion, the better."

It had been Lord Grey's intention to submit this subject to the consideration of his colleagues, but previously to doing so his Lordship communicated privately with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who expressed his opinion upon it as follows: