

of fish of French catch. Thus stimulated, it is no wonder that French fishermen should seek to extend the limits within which they were bound by treaty. But was it for the British Minister to grant this, when their purposes and objects were so undisguisedly laid before him, and this at the expense of British subjects and without consulting them as to the effect such change would have on their interests, and whether it was desirable?

Mr. Labouchere, in his despatch to the Government of Newfoundland, accompanying the Treaty, says, "I could have wished that her Majesty's Government had had the assistance, as was at one time expected, of one of your principal advisers, in conducting this negotiation; but I believe that the views of the *Government and people* of Newfoundland have been so fully laid before this department by the despatches and accompanying documents of yourself and predecessors that nothing was wanting to complete the necessary information on this head." The Minister in this statement corroborates the quotation we have made from the speech of the Attorney-General, who adds that "*the points they had objected to were the very points ceded by the Treaty.*" If an adviser from the Colonies was expected, why was not the making of the Treaty deferred until his arrival? Mr Labouchere supplies the answer: "The presence of a French gentleman specially entrusted by the French Government with the conduct of the business rendered it desirable to arrive at an understanding without delay." Thus, the claims of France being objected to in Newfoundland, a French agent is sent to London, and he, with the French ambassador, meets the British Minister, who, despite all warnings against such a course, makes a treaty giving the French rights to which they had no claim, to the injury of those whose allegiance to the British Crown guaranteed them protection.

The 20th Article of the Treaty would appear to give to the Newfoundland House of Assembly the power to adopt or reject this Treaty, which view Mr. Labouchere confirms in a letter to the Sheffield Committee, dated April 16th, 1857, in which it is stated that, "as this convention was only to come into operation when the requisite laws had passed the provincial legislature and the Imperial Parliament, the refusal of the former body to entertain the subject has necessarily rendered it inoperative and of no effect." Five days before the date of that letter the Emperor of the French promulgated the treaty in a decree in the *Moniteur*, and recent intelligence shows that the French fishermen are about to use the powers granted them, thus trespassing on the rights of the colonists, and trampling on their constitution, acts to which the English Minister is a party, and which not only tend to spread disaffection, but to break the peace between the two countries.

This treaty is also an infringement of the rights of America, as Art. I of the treaty of 1854 states:—