

Governors of the British North American Colonies not to interfere with citizens of the United States engaged in fishing on the Newfoundland Banks, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, or on the high seas, but to prevent them from using the British territory for purposes connected with the fishery, and to exclude their fishing vessels from the bays, harbours, rivers, creeks, and                    of all Her Majesty's possessions; orders were also given to the British naval officers on the Halifax station to resist any encroachments on the part of the American fishermen on the rights of Great Britain.

These measures caused the United States' Government to be anxious to come to some understanding as to the fisheries, and accordingly negotiations were entered into with that view. Pending the negotiations orders were issued to the British naval officers to suspend the operation of the measures which had been contemplated. On the refusal, however, of the United States' Government to accept the terms proposed, the British Admiral on the station was directed to carry out the orders which had been suspended, and the result was the capture of several American fishing vessels for encroaching within the territorial limits of Great Britain. Therefore the President of the United States, in 1818, proposed to the Prince Regent that negotiations should be opened for the purpose of settling the Fishery Question in an amicable way. Commissioners were accordingly appointed by both parties to meet in London, and the result was the signing of the Treaty of the 20th of October, 1818, the 1st Article of which is in these terms:—

“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