

CONFIDENTIAL.

Copy
~~Draft~~ of a Letter from the Secretary
of State for the Colonies to the
Lords of the Admiralty.

Downing Street,
My Lords, April 12, 1866.

The determination of the Reciprocity Treaty contracted in 1854 between Great Britain and the United States revives the 1st Article of a Convention* of the 20th of October, 1818, with various Imperial and Colonial Acts enumerated in the margin,† of which the operation had been suspended during the continuance of the Treaty by the Imperial Act 18 & 19 Vict., cap. 3, sec. 1, or otherwise.

The precise provisions of that Article will be seen by reference to the Convention. Its general result is as follows:

1. American fishermen may fish, "in common with the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty," in certain specified parts of Newfoundland and Labrador, and on the shores of the Magdalen Islands, with liberty to dry and cure fish on the shores of[^] the unsettled—or with the consent of the inhabitants of the settled bays, harbours, and creeks of Newfoundland and Labrador.

2. Except within the above limits American fishermen are not to take, dry, or cure fish on or within three miles of the coasts, bays, creeks, and harbours of British North America. But they may enter such bays and harbours for certain specified purposes under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent abuse by fishing or otherwise.

* Copy annexed.

† Imperial, 59 Geo. III, c. 38. Nova Scotian Revised Statutes (3rd Series), c. 94, ss. 1—18. New Brunswick, 16 Vict., c. 69, ss. 1—18. Prince Edward Island, 6 Vict., c. 14, declared to contain the Fishery Regulations by Order in Council of 3rd September, 1844. (Copies annexed.)