

*William H. McDonald.*

*" Gloucester, February 19, 1878.*

"I, William H. McDonald, master of the American schooner 'William E. McDonald,' of Gloucester, do on oath depose and say:—

"That I have just returned from Newfoundland, where I have been for a load of herring. I was at Long Harbour, Newfoundland, when the seines of schooners 'New England' and 'Ontario' were destroyed. I had gone on shore and was on the beach at the time. The Newfoundlanders were much excited because of our use of the large seines, which for the first time were used last winter there. The Newfoundland fishermen had sunk large rocks off the beach in order to catch the seines and tear them, and had put their 'gill-nets' where they would obstruct the use of the seines. These means failing, as the herring were close in shore, they took to personal violence and destroyed one seine completely, and made the others take them up and release the fish. I had a seine, but was not allowed to use it. The nets they placed in the way and kept there only for the purpose of obstructing our operations with seines, as they took no herring there, but let the nets remain till they rotted. I can fully endorse the statement of Captain Dagle in all particulars. My vessel is a first-class vessel, and with the time and expense, and with the loss of herring, I have sustained a loss of fully 5,000 dollars to myself and owners, and I claim that, under the Treaty of Washington, I have a right to the herring fisheries and claim indemnity for this severe loss."

(Signed)

"WILLIAM H. McDONALD.

"Essex, ss.

"Personally appeared William H. McDonald and subscribed and made oath to the above statement.

"Before me,

(Signed)

"AARON PARSONS, *Justice of the Peace.*"

*James McDonald.*

*" Gloucester, February 19, 1878.*

"I, James McDonald, master of the American schooner 'F. A. Smith,' of Gloucester, do on oath depose and say:—

"That the said schooner was chartered by George W. Plumer and others, of Gloucester, for a voyage to Newfoundland for herring. I sailed from Gloucester on the 29th November, 1877, and arrived at Long Harbour, Newfoundland, on or about the 15th December, 1877. I carried a large purse seine, such as is used to take mackerel. The seine will take 4,000 barrels of fish. I employed Newfoundland fishermen to operate the seine. I set my seine twice, but without catching anything, as my seine was torn by rocks that had been left off the beach. On the 6th January the herring made their appearance in great numbers, and the opportunity to take a large haul was improved by my men, and we took at least 1,000 barrels, enough to load my vessel and one other. The Newfoundland fishermen came off in their boats and told me to take my seine up, or they would take it up for me, and that they would cut it up. There were about 200 men engaged in this violence, and my own crew consisting of six men I could not resist, but was obliged to take up my seine. I saw the seines of the schooners 'New England' and 'Ontario' destroyed, and knew that mine also would be destroyed if I did not take it up. My seine was not attached to the shore when they came off, and the attack on me was made in boats. After destroying the other seines they all made for me, and my only safety was to gather up my seine. I lost all my fish, and the Newfoundland fishermen put all the obstructions they could in the way, to prevent the use of our seines after that. From my knowledge of the facts I do say that the Newfoundland fishermen are determined to prevent American fishermen from using the shore fisheries. I consider that the loss to the vessel and the charter party at not less than 5,000 dollars, and under the Treaty of Washington I have been deprived of my rights as an American citizen, and full indemnity should be allowed for the outrage. I have read the statement of Captain Dagle, and know it to be true in all its particulars. The effect of this treatment will be to destroy the American fishing for herring at Newfoundland. There are annually about 100 voyages by American vessels made for herring to Newfoundland. The Newfoundland fishermen were taking herring on the same day the outrages before stated occurred.

(Signed)

"JAMES McDONALD.