

ing powers shall neither be disturbed nor restrained, either in navigation nor fishing, saving certain restrictions which are not material to the present issue; and a similar stipulation in the convention between this country and Russia in the following year (15th May, 1825), put an end, as regarded British subjects, to the pretensions of Russia, to which I have referred, and which had been entirely repudiated by Her Majesty's Government in correspondence with the Russian Government in 1821 and 1822, which for your more particular information I enclose herein.

Her Majesty's Government feel sure that in view of the considerations which I have set forth in this despatch, which you will communicate to Mr. Bayard, the Government of the United States will admit that the seizure and condemnation of these British vessels, and the imprisonment of their masters and crews, was not warranted by the circumstances, and that they will be ready to afford reasonable compensation to those who have suffered in consequence, and issue immediate instructions to their naval officers which will prevent a recurrence of these regrettable incidents.

I am, &c.,
SALISBURY.

Sir H. T. Holland to Lord Lansdowne.

DOWNING STREET, 16th September, 1887.

My Lord,—I have the honor to transmit to you, for communication to Your Lordship's Ministers, copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, respecting the seizure of British Columbian vessels in Behring Sea which have been received from the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.,

H. T. HOLLAND.

Governor General, the Most Honorable the Marquis of Lansdowne, G.C.M.G., &c.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.

WASHINGTON, 20th August, 1887.

MY LORD,—It would appear from reports of Captain Shepard, of the United States revenue cutter "Rush," that the "Snyward" was captured 50 miles and the "Dolphin" 40 miles from Cape Cheerful, while the "Grace" was seized 95 miles from Onnalaska.

Cape Cheerful does not appear on any map or chart, but is supposed to be the northernmost point of the Island of Onnalaska.

The Islands of St. George and St. Paul (Pribyloo Islands) are distant 180 miles from Onnalaska, so that at the time of the seizure of the "Grace" that vessel would have been 85 miles distant from them.

To reach the breeding grounds on the Islands of St. George and St. Paul, the seals pass regularly through the channel which separates the Island of Onnalaska from the Island of Akutan, and that which separates Akutan from the Island of Unimak, called respectively the Akutan and Unimak Passes, and it is here that the sealers lay in wait for them on their passage.

It is maintained that the capture of seals in this manner is in violation of section 1,956 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, and that ships so capturing them are within the limits of Alaska territory or in the waters thereof.

But, apart from the question of territorial limit and right to seize vessels in the open sea, it is argued by impartial persons that unless some arrangement is made for the protection of these valuable animals on their passage to the breeding grounds, the genus, as in the case of beaver, will gradually become extinct.

It is a known fact that few, if any, seals pass outside the Island of Onnalaska to their breeding grounds, which exist only on the Pribyloo Islands, and that their passage is as regular as their breeding season.

I have, &c.,

L. S. S. WEST.