

them, and no compensation can be demanded where no injury is sustained, since the Treaty is not infringed.

You will assure M. de Vergennes in the strongest terms of His Majesty's earnest and sincere desire that they should enjoy the fishery on the Island of Newfoundland to the fullest extent the Treaty permits. Our Naval Commanders on this principle have used every means in their power that the French should almost exclusively enjoy that part of the island which for many years they have frequented in preference to every other, and from which their own practice proves they never remove but by the allurements of bounties given by the Court of France. You will also observe to his Excellency that during the long peace after the Treaty of Utrecht no difference arose betwixt our fishers and theirs, each keeping to the parts of the coast they had long been in the habit of frequenting, and no bounties then existing for those who should seek success, which they scarce ever find, in parts usually unfrequented by them.

You will please to add that His Majesty would readily have directed me to enter into negotiation with the Count de Guines on this subject if it could possibly have had a successful issue. And you will use such arguments as occur to you to induce the French Ministers to repeal their Regulations for bounties, as it appears they are the real cause of the differences which arise between our fishers and theirs, and which bounties perhaps were originally established to procure, in consequence of the quarrels that would arise, some new division of coast that would be beneficial to them.

The importance of the subject will excuse to your Excellency my repeating in this letter what in a great measure was contained in my last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEYMOUTH.

No. 3.

Viscount Weymouth to Viscount Stormont.

(No. 6. Most Secret.)

My Lord,

St. James', February 2, 1776.

IN addition to my letter to your Excellency of this day's date, I am to acquaint you that, as it cannot be known how earnest the French Ministers may be in their application on the subject of the fishery at Newfoundland, and that the claim asserted on our part to the French Ambassador may give them much offence, and is not of material importance to this country, since every motive must induce us to restrain the sedentary fishery, it is His Majesty's pleasure that you endeavour, in case it should seem to you essentially necessary, to keep this point for further discussion. But your Excellency will be careful not to give M. de Vergennes any hopes of compensation by a cession on our part of any tract of coast which can never be consented to, but rather you will suggest that means might be used to drive the residents from their present establishments. You will not fail at the same time to state to M. de Vergennes the real injury that might result to the French fishers by exacting such a rigid observance of the Treaty supposing they were founded in their interpretation of it. The means now used to leave them almost exclusively the extent of coast from Baye Blanche to Cap de Grat could no more be practised, and our own fishermen would claim their full right to a concurrent fishery on that part of the island from whence with great diligence our Naval Commanders have restrained them.

His Majesty cannot doubt of your address and discreet management of this matter, which it is much wished you may not be under the necessity of having recourse to.

M. de Guines has just informed me that he is recalled from his Embassy. This may make some alteration in this business, as it seems probable that he was more earnest in it than the French Ministers seem hitherto to have been.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEYMOUTH.

No. 4.

Viscount Weymouth to Viscount Stormont.

(No. 10.)

My Lord,

St. James', February 16, 1776.

YOUR letters to No. 12 have been received and laid before the King.

The recall of M. de Guines is a circumstance likely to have prevented his giving his