

rican possessions; and I have long been aware of a system of trade pursued by the Americans, which has damped the energies and destroyed the best interests of His Majesty's subjects residing in these Provinces. If your Lordship will be pleased to refer to the Convention between Great Britain and the United States, dated the 20th October, 1818, your Lordship will perceive how easy it is for the people of the United States, in their fishing vessels, to enter our harbours for the purpose of illicit trade; a trade alike injurious to all classes of His Majesty's subjects, subversive of their rights, and calculated to consolidate and strengthen the power of the United States, in just such proportion as it is impoverishing the subjects of His Majesty.

It will appear to your Lordship that, under the convention adverted to, the Americans have

First,—The privilege of pursuing the Fisheries on the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland.

Secondly,—That they are permitted to enter into the Bays and Harbours of this Province for shelter, for repairing damages, of procuring wood and water, but for no other purpose whatever; and that they shall be under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent them from taking, drying, and curing fish therein, or in any other manner abusing the privileges granted to them.

Your Lordship, however, may not be aware that heavy duties are imposed on every description of fish by the Government of the United States, except when caught and cured by citizens of that country; and, in the exposed state of the extensive coast of this and the neighbouring Provinces, American vessels, sailing under Fishing Licences, visit all the ports where Fishermen reside, and purchase fish of every description, oil, &c. for which they pay in uncustomed goods. The Provinces in this way are inundated with smugglers and smuggled goods; the fair trader is injured, the revenue, of course, has suffered, and the morals of the people engaged in such traffic, must be corrupted. These, it is respectfully submitted to your Lordship, are subjects of great importance; and the attention of His Majesty's Government may perhaps be directed to the prevention of evils, which, in their consequences, prevent the consumption of British manufactures, sap the foundation of those principles of affection to our Mother Country, which it is most desirable to foster and perpetuate, and render an illicit traffic the business of a great proportion of the people on the shores of the Provinces.

I have the honor to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's humble Servant,

GEORGE HANDLEY.

*To the Right Honorable Lord Glencg,
Secretary of State, London.*