

salt water flows, will take from the British settlers, of whom there are about 2,000, between Cape St. John and the Bay of Islands alone, a valuable net Seal and Salmon Fishery, by which they now support themselves in comfort and independence. The concurrent fishery in the Straits, from the number of boats which the French will employ in its prosecution, and which will drive the Seal, at all times a shy and timid animal, into deep water, will, in all probability, destroy a very extensive Seal Fishery, which in May and June is carried on on that shore, and will materially interfere with a valuable Herring Fishery, conducted by British subjects in that locality. The extension of the fishing season—the right to colonize the French Shore, and the exclusive possession of the Groais Island and Belle Isle South, will enable the French to carry on a Ship Seal Fishery—a branch of industry which has always been exclusively ours, and without which our Cod Fisheries would not support our present population; and the power given to the French, of removing by force the British settlers on those parts of the Coast ceded to them, may become the occasion of much suffering and loss to those over whom it may be exercised.

Such are the evils to which we shall certainly be exposed by the operation of this Treaty. We beg now to offer a few observations on the value of the concessions offered to us in return for the advantages of which we are to be deprived.

In considering this Convention, any one acquainted with our Fisheries, cannot but be struck by the extensive and accurate local knowledge displayed by those who negotiated it on behalf of the French, as well as with the skill exhibited by them in turning this knowledge to their own advantage; and nothing more clearly illustrates the truth of this observation, than an examination of the character and value of the so-called equivalents—these are two in number.

1st.--We are to have a concurrent fishery with them on the North-western Coast, (with the exception of five points, which the French have reserved for themselves) from Cape Norman to Cape Ray. We have already shown that as between unaided individual enterprise on the one side, and the efforts of a wealthy and powerful Nation on the other, a concurrent fishery can exist only in name—a principle sufficient proof of which, if any were wanted, is found in the Report of a Committee of the House of Commons in 1817, upon the subject of our fisheries; but assuming as true that which all experience contradicts, that such a fishery may be carried on to the profit of both parties, the concurrent fishery here offered is utterly worthless,—because, independently of the considerations