

“Repeatedly have the vital importance of these fisheries,—and the necessity of preserving unimpaired the restrictions against encroachment, by which they are guarded, been urged on the Imperial Government.

It was believed the time had long passed when a question could be raised on either of those points. To stimulate Imperial aid in protecting and maintaining acknowledged rights was all, it was imagined, that was required by the Colonies, and they fondly trusted this consummation had been attained when, in the present season, Your Majesty's War steamers had been commissioned on this service.

Little, may it please your Majesty, was it anticipated these were to be the precursors of a sacrifice alike injurious and humiliating to your loyal Colonial subjects; or that for this aid so large a price would be demanded.

May it please Your Majesty, when the United States by the treaty of 1818 solemnly renounced forever the right to fish within three miles of the coasts, bays, creeks, or harbours of certain portions of your North American Territory, the stipulation was neither extraordinary nor extravagant. It is matter of common history that sea-girt nations claim peculiar rights, within a league of their shores; and equally plain that according to the maxims of international law, this claim is described by lines drawn not only between the promontories of bays, but from the headlands or indentations on the coast.

But had it been otherwise the stipulation was part of a general treaty, in which concession on one side may be presumed to have been compensated by concession on the other, and loss in one particular by gain in another, and the engagement was made in language too explicit, and in terms too well understood to admit the possibility of misapprehension.

If conciliation, irrespective of right, be the principle on which is to be withdrawn the restrictions against the entry of Americans into the bays and indentations of the Coast to fish, limiting them alone to the distance of three miles from the shore, the concession of the privilege to fish within this latter distance must equally be granted, as indeed has been already urged in the American Congress—the restrictions in both cases rest on the same authority, and the concessions in each would be demanded by the same principle. It may not be the province of your Majesty's Colonial Subjects, to suggest how far such a principle is consistent with national honor and independence—they have a right to pray that it be not carried out at their expense.

May it please Your Majesty, your loyal subjects in Nova Scotia raise their voice against the injury of an inheritance, conferred upon your North American subjects by nature—connected with their soil by the laws and usages of nations, confirmed to them by solemn compact, and which practically enjoyed by them peculiarly, and as your Majesty's other subjects cannot enjoy them—can be surrendered only at their extreme injury and great loss.

Surely, may it please Your Majesty, your loyal Colonial subjects have a right to ask for some better reason for this sacrifice of their peculiar right and interest, than the demand of a foreign power—the aggrandizement of a foreign people.

Let it not be urged upon your Majesty, that what the Americans seek is of no value. Their earnestness is certain evidence to the contrary.

It is, may it please your Majesty, of value, of great value in itself—of perhaps greater value still, as the best, the only safeguard against violation of the restriction which prohibits the approach of the American fishermen within three miles from the shore.

Your memorialists deprecate all negotiation—all compromise on the subject. The Americans will not—probably they cannot—grant an equivalent for the privileges they seek, and the only security for the Colonies is the entire abandonment of the present negotiations.”

Emigration continues from the Provinces to the Australian and Californian gold mines and elsewhere. The steamer Sir John Harvey, during the month, has taken over one hundred at a trip from Halifax to Boston; and by the barque Aurora from Pictou and Halifax; the barque Amelia from St. John, N. B.,