

- (1.) To the protection of British fishermen in the prosecution of their lawful avocations as regards Lobster Fishing.
- (2.) To the resistance of the claims of the French, now first asserted, in respect of this new industry.
- (3.) To removal of all Lobster Factories, or buildings connected with the Lobster Fishery, erected by French subjects upon Newfoundland Territory.
- (4.) To the assertion and protection of the rights of British subjects to the uses of British territory in Newfoundland, for agricultural, lumbering or mining purposes, without the interruption, molestation or interference of the French under any pretended Treaty claims."

I have to request that you will inform the Council and Assembly that their Address has been laid before the Queen, who was pleased to receive it very graciously, and with respect to the points referred to above, to which particular attention has been called, that you will state to them with regard to point 1; that the instructions given to the naval officers are framed with the view of the proper protection of British fishermen in the prosecution of their lawful fishery, but that the question whether the establishment of Lobster Factories on shore is consistent with the engagements with France is now the subject of discussion between the two countries, and that no further instructions can at present be given on this subject; that the Council and Assembly are aware that the British declaration of 1783 declares, that in order that the fishermen of the two nations may not give cause for daily quarrels, His Britannic Majesty will take the most positive measures for preventing his subjects from interrupting, in any manner, by their competition, the fishery of the French, during the temporary exercise of it, which is granted to them upon the Coasts of Newfoundland, and he will for this purpose cause the fixed settlements which shall be formed there to be removed. It is evident, therefore, that the fishery of British fishermen, whether Lobster or otherwise, must be carried on subject to the above restriction as to the non-interruption of the French fishery.

You will apprise the Council and Assembly with reference to points 2 and 3 that the pretensions of the French in regard to the Lobster Fishery and the erection of Lobster Factories on shore are disputed by Her Majesty's Government, who, however, trust that some understanding may be arrived at with the French Government between the present time and the opening of next year's fishery season, and that Her Majesty's Government altogether deprecate any action such as is suggested, whilst the matter is the subject of diplomatic negotiation. With reference to point 4, Her Majesty's Govern-