

merce between the United States and Great Britain and its dominions or dependencies and such other matters and subjects interesting to the two nations as may be given to them in charge, and to conclude and sign the treaty or treaties, convention or conventions touching the premises."

At the third conference the following proposal in reference to the fisheries emanated from the American Plenipotentiaries:—

"ARTICLE A.

"Whereas differences have arisen respecting the liberty claimed by the United States for the inhabitants thereof, to take, dry, and cure fish on certain coasts, bays, harbors, and creeks of His Britannic Majesty's dominions in America: It is agreed between the high contracting parties that the inhabitants of the said United States shall continue to enjoy unmolested, forever, the liberty to take fish, of every kind, on that part of the southern coast of Newfoundland which extends from Cape Ray to the Rameau Islands, and the western and northern coast of Newfoundland, from the said Cape Ray to Quirpon Island, on the Magdalen Islands, and also on the coasts, bays, harbors, and creeks from Mount Joli, on the southern coast of Labrador, to and through the Straits of Belleisle, and thence, northwardly, indefinitely, along the coast; and that the American fishermen shall also have liberty, forever, to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbors, and creeks of the southern part of the coast of Newfoundland hereabove described, of the Magdalen islands, and of Labrador, as hereabove described; but so soon as the same, or either of them, shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlement, without previous agreement for that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors, or possessors of the ground; and the United States hereby renounce any liberty heretofore enjoyed or claimed by the inhabitants thereof to take, dry, or cure fish on or within three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays, creeks, and harbors of His Britannic Majesty's dominions in America not included within the above-mentioned limits: Provided, however, That the American fishermen shall be admitted to enter such bays and harbors for the purpose only of obtaining shelter, wood, water, and bait, but under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent their drying or curing fish therein, or in any other manner abusing the privilege hereby reserved to them."

At the fifth conference the British Plenipotentiaries presented a counter project, as follows:—

"ARTICLE A.

"It is agreed that the inhabitants of the United States shall have liberty to take fish, of every kind, on that part of the western coast of Newfoundland which extends from Cape Ray to the Quirpon Islands, and on that part of the southern and eastern coasts of Labrador which extends from Mount Joli to Huntingdon Island; and it is further agreed that the fishermen of the United States shall have liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbors, and creeks of the said south and east coasts of Labrador, so long as the same shall remain unsettled; but as soon as the same, or any part of them, shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish without a previous agreement for that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors, or possessors of the ground.

"And it is further agreed that nothing contained in this article shall be construed to give to the inhabitants of the United States any liberty to take fish within the rivers of His Britannic Majesty's territories, as above described, and it is agreed, on the part of the United States, that the fishermen of the United States resorting to the mouths of such rivers shall not obstruct the navigation thereof, nor wilfully injure nor destroy the fish within the same, either by setting nets across the mouths of such rivers, or by any other means whatever.