

may be negotiated by your majesty which would surrender to foreigners the reserved fisheries on our sea coasts, or any participation therein, without an opportunity being afforded to the government and legislature of Nova-Scotia to consider and express an opinion upon its terms."

And on the 29th March they laid at the foot of the throne their prayer in these terms : " Your majesty's loyal subjects therefore pray your majesty to continue the protection which was extended to them last season, and by force repel all foreign aggression on their reserved fishing grounds, the exclusive enjoyment of which is solemnly renounced to the British by the convention of 1818, between your majesty and the republican government ; fully believing that the admission of foreigners to participate in that fishery would have a most disastrous effect, can be purchased by no equivalent, and would tend to weaken the confidence of your majesty's subjects in the policy of a government which does not protect your people in the legal enjoyment of their unalienable right."

That the queen was advised to answer both addresses, that her majesty had been pleased very graciously to receive the same.

*And whereas* the house has learnt that by a treaty concluded at Washington on the 5th June last, by lord Elgin on the part of the British government, and Mr. Marcy on the part of the United States, and subsequently ratified by both governments, not only has the privilege of enjoying the inshore fisheries on the coasts of Nova Scotia in common with her majesty's subjects been surrendered to the United States, but the right to land and use the coasts and shores for purposes connected with the fisheries has been conceded, subject to arbitrament as to the portions that shall be exempted as being in the occupation of the inhabitants.

*And whereas* her majesty's secretary of state hastened to open to the fishermen of the United States the privileges thus conceded before they were entitled by the treaty to their enjoyment, and before the equivalents could be realized by her majesty's subjects.

*And whereas* the members of the provincial government have communicated to this house that the opportunity was not afforded them by the imperial government, or any functionary thereof, to represent, at the negociation of the treaty, the opinions, feelings and interests of the people of Nova Scotia on the vitally important questions it involved :

*Resolved*, That in view of these facts, this house owes it to itself and to the people it represents, solemnly to declare—

*First*.—That the fisheries within three marine miles of the shores of Nova Scotia belong exclusively to British subjects ; that this right is appurtenant to this province as a territorial incident founded on the law of nations ; that the peculiar interest of the inhabitants of Nova Scotia in the enjoyment of the inshore fisheries, and the authority of their legislature and government to make and enforce laws for their regulation and protection against encroachment, have been acknowledged by the imperial government ; and that the possession of these fisheries is of very great value, as affecting the enterprising and useful class of our fellow citizens, by whom they are conducted, and in promoting in the most essential manner the commerce, navigation, and ship building of the province, and in preparing an intelligent and hardy body of provincial seamen ; and as the people and government of the United States have ventured to question the exclusive exercise of this privilege, it is proper to notice their own estimate of the principle on which it rests, when their interest calls it into exercise, as illustrated in the treaty under consideration, in which they have excluded from the reciprocal right to fish a portion of their coast altogether, and have accepted all that is valuable in that portion over which a reciprocal right is nominally given.

*Secondly*.—That in surrendering to foreigners the equal participation with the inhabitants of this province of a right—territorial in its nature, colonial in its enjoyment, and in itself of great magnitude and value, without the opportunity being afforded of remonstrance or of modifying the terms of surrender by abridging the concession or enlarging the equivalents—the imperial government and lord Elgin have exercised a power of questionable right, have not faithfully respected the pledges implied in past correspondence, and, irrespective of pledges and of authority, have not duly regarded either the essential and peculiar rights and interests or the feelings of her majesty's loyal subjects, the people of Nova Scotia.

Thirdly—