

John Cooper, and his two men-servants, were on the beach preparing to have their breakfast. A conversation took place between Ryan and Cooper, the purport of which is given by Cooper, and confirmed by Ryan. Ryan said to Cooper that he was a Newfoundlander, and could seine; Cooper replied that he could not. Ryan said he would; and Cooper replied, "You'd better try." Not a word was said by McFaden, the master of the American schooner, and not a word was said by Cooper or any one else to him. Cooper alleges that he threatened no violence, and that he never intended to do any.

After the short conversation, which lasted a few minutes, Ryan and the master of the schooner went down to Lower Lances Cove, which is a short distance from Aspey Cove, and there shot their seine, and hauled some herring.

The schooner remained in the Sound until the following Monday, buying squids and jigging them, and that instead of any obstruction being offered to the American (Ryan's evidence shows) they were treated with the greatest kindness and hospitality.

From the short experience that I had of Cooper, who is an immense man, very outspoken and honest, with a great fund of humour, I feel convinced that his statement\* is substantially correct; his story is also confirmed, almost word for word, in all important points, by Ryan's own deposition taken before me, and by the evidence of other witnesses.

Knowing that the Government were most anxious to protect the rights of the fishermen of the United States under the Washington Treaty, I took special pains to obtain accurate information respecting the obstruction complained of by Consul Molloy; and I am happy to inform the Government that in this instance, at all events, there is no cause of complaint against our fishermen.

Ryan, who is favourably disposed towards the Americans, shows in his evidence† the wisdom of the law against seining squid, and his opinion will be confirmed by every fisherman in the Colony.

I have to thank Lieutenant Clutterbuck, R.N., commanding Her Majesty's ship "Zephyr," and his officers, for extreme courtesy and kindness, and for the ready assistance given me in carrying out the object of my mission.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) D. W. PROWSE.

#### No. 9.

*The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 1.)*

My Lord,

*Admiralty, October 1, 1879.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter dated the 17th ultimo, from the commanding officer of Her Majesty's ship "Druid," the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's ships and vessels employed on fishery duties on the coasts of Newfoundland, stating that there have been no disputes with the Americans since the "outrage" complained of at Smith's Sound, Trinity Bay; and also reporting the orders he had issued to the commanding officers of the "Plover" and "Zephyr" to act with the utmost caution in dealing with any questions which may arise out of the proceedings of American fishermen.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

P.S.—A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Colonial Office.

R. H.

#### Inclosure in No. 9.

*Captain Kennedy to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Inglefield.*

Sir,

*"Druid," at St. John's, Newfoundland, September 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that there have not been any disputes with the Americans since the "outrage" complained of at Smith's Sound, Trinity Bay, which the "Zephyr" was sent to investigate, and the particulars of which was forwarded by last mail.

\* See Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

† See Inclosure 2 in No. 11.