

17. As the instructions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State restrain this Government from any direct communication with Washington, I am compelled to trouble your Lordship with this long explanation; and have respectfully to request your Excellency's permission for two members of my Government, or gentlemen possessing their confidence, to proceed to Washington, and put themselves in communication with Sir H. L. Bulwer, at such time as, in his judgment, their presence and information may be best calculated to aid in the solution of the questions in which this province is so deeply concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Sir JOHN HARVEY to Sir HENRY BULWER.

SIR,

Government House, Halifax, July 25 1850.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's note of the 4th of July, and beg to return my thanks for the information it contained.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to his Excellency the Governor-General, and which will put you in possession of the views of this Government in reference to the questions about to be discussed in Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

No. 27.

Governor Sir J. HARVEY to Earl GREY.

(No. 49.)

MY LORD,

Government House, Halifax,
January 22, 1852.

AT the instance of some of the parties interested, I transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a petition to the Queen, which is now in the course of signature, but cannot be obtained in time to be forwarded by the present mail, requesting that any negotiation for conceding to the United States the right of fishing on the coasts of this province may be suspended until the question can be reconsidered by Her Majesty's Government.

Copies of this petition have been transmitted to the Right Honourable the Governor-General and Mr. Crampton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Enclosure in No. 27.

PETITION TO THE QUEEN.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The petition of the undersigned merchants, traders, and fishermen, residing in Halifax, and the adjoining harbours on the shores of Nova Scotia:

Humbly Sheweth,—

THAT your petitioners are all deeply interested in the successful prosecution of the fisheries of this province, as the chief means of extending their trade with their sister colonies, and the sole dependence of many of its inhabitants for their livelihood.

That from a recent publication of official correspondence between the Government of the United States and Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, your petitioners have learned with intense sorrow and apprehension, that the British Government is prepared to grant to the United States the free right of fishing, curing, and preparing their fish, in the harbours and on the coasts and shores of this province, in common with its inhabitants; privileges from which they have hitherto been excluded by the terms of the Convention of 1813.

That your petitioners humbly beg to remind your Majesty, that, previous to the ratification of the present Treaty with the United States, respecting the rights of fishing, the inhabitants of this province, by memorial dated the 8th October, 1813, entreated his then Majesty's Ministers, "to guard against the hurtful Article of 1783, and to exclude American and all foreign fishermen from the narrow seas and waters of these Northern Colonies;" stating that "their inhabitants procured a living by their industry on those waters, which unquestionably belonged to Britain;" they urged, and strongly urged, that if American fishermen were to obtain the right of entering the gulfs, bays, harbours, or creeks of these colonies, there would be no security against the numerous evils inevitably attending such intercourse—that it was the first and dearest wish of these colonies to be completely British—their surest defence and greatest blessing; that, notwithstanding the fervent wish of our people, set forth in the memorial alluded to, the Minister of that day,