

great annoyance of this valuable branch of the Newfoundland trade; nor is it possible that the strictest vigilance is often able to detect them in the breach of such stipulations.

The evils growing out of impolitic concessions to insidious friends are more extensive than your Excellency's Memorialists have yet stated; they accompany our commerce into the markets of Europe and the West Indies.

In the United States, men, provisions, and every other article of outfit, are procured upon much better terms than the nature of things will admit of with the British. These combined advantages enable them to undersell the British merchant in the foreign market, hence heavy losses have often by him been sustained, and must always be sustained under similar circumstances.

In proof of the great national advantages heretofore reaped by America from this fishery, your Excellency's Memorialists need only quote the language of Massachusetts in June last, in a remonstrance to their Government, "Keep your land, but give us a fishery."

The French, in time of tranquillity prosecuting the fishery at St. Pierre's and Miguelon, it is well known carried on an extensive illicit commerce with the British residing on the coast contiguous to those islands, although they pretended that such intercourse was contrary to a known law of their own country. Similar illicit traffic was at the same time carried on by the subjects of that nation with the English on the coast ceded to the former on the north part of this island. The entire range between Cape John northward to Cape Rea was yielded to France, and the British were prohibited by the French from ever fishing between those two Capes. Your Memorialists have learnt from good authority that France actually employed upon this north shore (with St. Pierre's and Miguelon) 20,000 men! Excellent harbours, hardly five miles asunder, skirt the coast from Cape John to the Straits of Belle Isle, affording security to ships and vessels in the worst weather, and the great resort of the cod fish to the very mouths of these harbours, beyond what is generally known upon the other shores of Newfoundland, evince the high advantages of the north shore fishery formerly possessed by France.

The fishery now prosecuted with vigour by the British upon the shores heretofore enjoyed by the French, is become very extensive, and employs a large proportion of our fishermen. The produce of their industry is brought hither, and carried to other ports of export coastways, in vessels owned by the employers and suppliers of the planters and fishermen. Dwelling-houses, substantial stages, and stores would soon rise up in that quarter of the island were it certain that the builders would at the return of peace be allowed to retain their property. That valuable parts of Newfoundland, fertile in everything for promoting a fishery, would in such an event form a populous district of great value to the mother country, not only as a fishery, but as it would cultivate a coasting navigation, at all times an important object with Government.

And, believing firmly, as your Excellency's Memorialists have reason to believe, and have already stated, that our existence as a great and independent nation, depends upon our dominion on the ocean, the wise policy of shutting out those nations now leagued in law against us from a future participation in so important a branch of our commerce can hardly be made a question.

The increased advantages, since the commencement of hostilities with America, derived to both our import and export trade, having now no competitors in the foreign markets, and what is of the last and highest importance, the increase of our means to make mariners, while those of our enemies must in the same proportion be crippled, shew the wisdom of preserving the "vantage ground" we now stand upon. And your Excellency's Memorialists feel the more urgent in their present representation, as the prospects which happily have recently opened in Europe, may afford a well-grounded hope that the time is not very remote when negotiations may be opened for the return of permanent peace.

From the protection afforded to the trade of this island by your Excellency, as well as by his Excellency Sir John B. Warren, a great number of fishing vessels having gone to Labrador from Nova Scotia, the number of men employed on the Labrador shores this season has been double, and the absence of their former intruders has enabled them to fish unmolested. Your Excellency's Memorialists beg to press upon your serious consideration, which they cannot too often urge, the important policy, should fortunately the circumstances of Europe ultimately encourage such a hope, of wholly excluding foreigners from sharing again in the advantages of a fishery from which a large proportion of our best national defence will be derived.