

which was agreed to unanimously—requesting the President to communicate all the correspondence touching the fisheries since the Convention of 1818, and wishing to be informed whether any of the naval forces of the United States had been ordered to the seas adjacent to the British possessions. The debate which preceded the passage of this Resolution was highly animated. The newspapers discussed the condition of affairs with warmth, and the whole country soon became excited. On the fishing grounds apprehension and threats of combination to capture the *Devastation* by boarding, continued throughout the season. The fact that the two Governments were negotiating the "Reciprocity Treaty" had a sensible influence upon our fishermen, and probably prevented collisions and the loss of life.

Such is an outline of the controversy relative to our right to the fisheries of British America, which, beginning in 1815, lasted thirty-nine years, and until 1854. Members of Congress who favor the abrogation of the Treaty, dwell on the fact that, during this long period, few vessels were captured and condemned. True, the number of seizures was not large; but we have shown that the interruptions were many and serious. For twenty-eight years your Secretary was a constant observer of, and often a party to, the troubles here related, and therefore speaks from personal knowledge of the losses incurred. The fishing months are few; and year after year hundreds of vessels were driven from the fishing grounds and were detained in ports of refuge by fog and storm, so frequently as to lose nearly one-fourth of the season. The aggregate loss in these thirty-nine years may be estimated by millions.

And now what reason has been, what reason *can* be, given for new contentions? The opponents of the treaty object mainly to our relations with Canada. The