

"VI. With regard to the fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the French shall continue to exercise it conformably to the Fifth Article of the Treaty of Paris.

"Done at Versailles, the 3rd of September, 1783.

"(Signed)

"MANCHESTER (L.S.).

GRAVIER DE VERGENNES (L.S.)."

(4)

"Article XIII. of the Definitive Treaty of Peace, 1814.

"Definitive Treaty between Great Britain and France. Signed at Paris, the 30th May, 1814.*

"XIII. The French right of fishing upon the Great Bank of Newfoundland, upon the coasts of the Island of that name, and of the adjacent Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, shall be replaced upon the footing in which it stood in 1792."

The Articles of these four Treaties are now the sole basis on which France can found any legal ground to fishery rights on the coast of Newfoundland.

Now, what are those rights, as so partly and graphically therein set forth?

The Article XIII. of the Definitive Treaty of Peace of 1814 states, that it (the right of fishing upon the coasts of Newfoundland) "shall be replaced upon the footing in which it stood in 1792"—that is, on the footing it derived under the three Treaties of *Utrecht*, *Paris*, and *Versailles*. It can stand upon no other, for no other now exists; and if any others ever have existed, giving any greater extension of privileges, they have expired or been annulled.

Firstly,—The last Treaty of Versailles, prior to 1792, after merely changing the locality of the previous right, states with regard to it: "*The French fishermen shall enjoy the fishery right which is assigned to them by the present Article, as they had the right to enjoy that which was assigned to them by the Treaty of Utrecht.*" Passing over the Treaty of Paris (1763), which restricts and binds the rights of French fishermen upon the coasts of Newfoundland to a far greater extent than is now sought to be enforced against them, the language of Article XIII. of the Treaty of Utrecht is not only sufficiently plain to show that there never was any intention to give the French the sole and exclusive right of fishing upon any part of the coast, as will appear from the words themselves, viz.: "*It shall be allowed to the subjects of France, to catch fish, and to dry them on land, in that part*

* Confirmed by Art. XI. of the Definitive Treaty of 28th November, 1815.