

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Vice-Admiral Sir E. Gower to Earl Camden.

My Lord,

St. John's, Newfoundland, October 25, 1804.

HAVING received information that the American fishermen had resorted in great numbers to the coast of Labrador this season, and had interrupted the British fishermen, I despatched Lieutenant Morrison, in His Majesty's hired cutter "Queen Charlotte," to that coast; who in the execution of my orders, had occasion to put into Quirpon on the Coast of Newfoundland, where he found many American vessels, two of which were in the act of curing their fish on the shore, contrary to the Treaty of Versailles. The Lieutenant therefore thought it his duty to seize all the American fish which he found on the shore, and sent it to St. John's (except a small part which could not conveniently be sent, and was therefore sold on the spot). On its arrival at St. John's I ordered it to be libelled in the Vice-Admiralty Court where it was condemned and accordingly sold at public auction by the officers of the Customs, in whose hands the proceeds remain.

I have the honour to transmit to your ~~wordship~~ herewith a copy of Lieutenant Morrison's letter giving an account of this ~~transaction~~ also a copy of the information he obtained respecting the American fishery on the Coast of Labrador and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GOWER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Lieutenant Morrison to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Gower.

Sir,

"Queen Charlotte," Quirpon Harbour, September 2, 1804.

I ARRIVED at Red Bay the 20th August, and proceeding to execute the orders you had honoured me with, I received a letter from the principal merchants, Richards, Cochy, and Dormer, and Codner and Company, signifying to me that the Americans, not content with infringing on the Treaties between Great Britain and the United States, in drying and curing their fish on the shores of Newfoundland, had enticed and carried away their men, who deserted six months before their time had expired, with a considerable property belonging to their masters to the said island, and were now employed catching fish there; requesting me, in order to check an example so fatal to their fishery, to secure and bring to justice the offenders. To enable me to proceed with all possible safety and dispatch, Mr. Dormer lent me the master of one of his ships for a pilot. Conceiving the time your Excellency had ordered me to return in, was sufficient to allow my proceeding agreeable to the merchants' request, I weighed the same evening and the following morning arrived there, when I received information that the deserters had left Grandsway a few days since, but ignorant of what place they had gone. I found here eleven sail of American fishermen all laden, two excepted, who had part of their cargoes drying on shore. I immediately seized their fish and employed an English schooner to carry it to St. John's to await your Excellency's pleasure; she has in about 1,100 quintals, the remainder 180 quintals not being cured and in a perishable state, it became absolutely necessary to dispose of it immediately to the planters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MORRISON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Queries respecting the American Fishery on the Coast of Labrador, answered by Lieutenant Morrison, Commanding the "Queen Charlotte" Hired Cutter, in September 1804.

Q. DO the Americans carry on their fishery on wages or shares?—A. Generally on shares.

Q. From what ports in America do they generally fit out?—A. Cape Cod, Boston, and Plymouth.