

March, 1866. In November 1865 the Executive Council of Nova Scotia expressed the hope that a portion of the North American squadron might be detailed for the protection of the Nova Scotia fisheries upon the expiration of the Treaty.

Negotiations for a renewal of the Treaty having proved fruitless, Mr. Cardwell in a despatch dated the 3rd instant, intimated to the Governor-General that Her Majesty's Government were not disinclined to allow the United States to exercise during the year 1866 the fishing rights acquired under the Reciprocity Treaty, on the distinct understanding that unless some satisfactory arrangement is come to in the course of the year this privilege will cease. Mr. Cardwell adverted to the immediate withdrawal of such fishing rights as a possible means of obtaining a new Treaty from the United States, but remarked that whilst the advantage of such a new Treaty would belong to the Colonies, the cost of maintaining a naval force to protect the fisheries would fall upon the Imperial Government.* Mr. Cardwell then proceeded to instruct the Governor-General to ascertain the views of his Ministry, but not to consider himself at liberty to pledge Her Majesty's Government to an absolute deference to their wishes.

9. On the 5th instant, however, a despatch was received from Lord Monck inclosing a copy of a proclamation which he had issued in view of the approaching termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, and which, after reciting the facts of the conclusion of the Treaty in 1854, and the notice of termination, thus proceeds:—

“And whereas under the said Treaty many persons, citizens of the United States of America, have invested moneys and fitted out ships for the purpose of carrying on the (in-shore) fisheries within the territory of Canada under the said Treaty:

“And whereas they may be unaware that their right to carry on such in-shore fisheries will end on the said 17th day of March:

“We therefore, in Our great desire to prevent injury or loss to Our loving subjects, or to the citizens of a State with which we are happily in

* *i.e.*, in case of a breach with the United States. The principle that the Colonies should maintain ordinary preventive cruizers was long ago insisted upon by the Imperial Government, and recognised by the Colonies.