

No. 5.

The Foreign Office to the Colonial Office.

CANADA.

No. 5.

SIR,

Foreign Office, 11th November, 1870.

I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Kimberley, the accompanying copies of a Despatch from Sir E. Thornton, and its enclosures, respecting the Canadian fisheries.

No. 427,
24th October,
1870.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

(No. 427.)

Enclosures in No. 5.

MY LORD,

Enclosure
in No. 5.

Washington, 24th October, 1870.

I have the honour to enclose a printed copy of the substance of a speech recently made by General Benjamin F. Butler, at Salem, in Massachusetts, in which he comments in pretty severe terms upon the action of the Canadian Government, with reference to the United States fishermen who pursue their calling in the seas adjacent to the Canadian coast.

General Butler does not very clearly lay down the particular grievances of which the fishermen think they have to complain; but, as a remedy for whatever they may be, he recommends two modes of treating the matter: one, that the fishermen should take the law into their own hands; and the other, that the United States should have no farther intercourse with Canada.

Made on the eve of the elections in Massachusetts, General Butler's speech is of course principally for electioneering purposes; but I presume that it will be followed by similar declamations during the approaching session of Congress.

The same newspaper, which thus publishes an extract from General Butler's speech, has a leading article, a copy of which I also enclose, which, although it stigmatises the conduct of the authorities of the Dominion as unfriendly, deprecates the affair being considered a *casus belli*.

The Earl Granville, K.G.

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

WASHINGTON "DAILY REPUBLICAN," 21st October, 1870.

"FISH OR NO FISH?"

"BEN. BUTLER'S LAST SPEECH TO HIS CONSTITUENTS.

"He Denounces the Canadians for Seizing Our Fishing Boats, and Recommends the
"Men of Salem to Fight for their Rights.

"We announced in yesterday's issue the re-nomination of Benjamin Butler for Congress, and that he had made a speech to the Convention. To-day we have received a copy of the General's remarks, and we extract from them the following, embracing the spice and force of his address.

"After his nomination he was called before the Convention, and after making some reference to his past course and triumphs, he said:

"I have been enabled in some slight degree to sustain the great, the one great interest of this district—the fishing interest—which is now being threatened by Canada; and perhaps you will pardon me if I refer to this more at length for a moment, for I find the matter is not very clearly understood.

"When the Revolutionary War ended, the question came up, 'What shall be the rights of the new nation—the United States—in the fisheries which they have for some time enjoyed in common with the inhabitants of Canada?' General Adams then said, and he repeated it in 1812, that he would rather continue the war than give up the right to the fisheries; and it was agreed then that we should have the right of fisheries, and we enjoyed that free right down to the war of 1812. When that war was ended no reference was made in the treaty to the fisheries, and of course we stuck to our rights until we were interfered with in 1818. An agreement was then made giving Great Britain jurisdiction within three miles of the land: and the reason why this distance was taken into the international law was that it was supposed to be beyond reach of all guns; and so it was in that day, that