

catch, dry, or cure fish. I also assume that the United States are content with their existing rights of fishing on Canadian coasts if those treaties be faithfully kept; that we do not now seek to enlarge those rights, and, that we are also content to be excluded from the liberties of fishing on certain other coasts which we did once enjoy but have since renounced. I likewise assume that this Government will not protect American fishermen found intentionally and knowingly fishing on the forbidden Canadian coasts, but will, if it be necessary, punish, and refuse to renew the license of, a vessel found thus fishing. We do not ask either of Great Britain, or Canada, any other rights, or liberties, of taking, drying, or curing fish than those stipulated in the treaties of 1783 and 1818. Assertion to the contrary, by Englishmen or Canadians, is, so far as I am informed, unwarranted and untrue.

COMMERCIAL PRIVILEGES.

In respect to commercial privileges for our fishing-vessels in Canadian ports, the situation is quite otherwise!

The treaty of 1818 secured to our fishermen what, up to that time, they did not have as a treaty right, which was admission to Canadian bays or harbors "for the purpose of shelter, and of repairing damages therein, of purchasing wood, and of obtaining water, and for no other purpose whatever." As colonists we had those rights, but as colonists we lost them by just rebellion. They should not be called commercial rights, for they were simply rights of humanity, decency, good neighborhood, and international kindness to one another. To refuse a fishing-vessel such hospitality would be an act of barbarism fit only for savages. It would be as contemptible and odious as for a government, conducting a naval war, to fire, in these days, on a hospital-ship, attested by her color and flag, and filled exclusively with the sick, wounded, or dying, their surgeons and nurses. Such hospital-vessels are now, by the common consent of civilized nations, as I am told, even more perfectly and completely neutralized than are hospitals and tents on land, over which floats the yellow flag. It is impossible not to recognize how justly my colleague, Mr. Bayard, has portrayed the inhumanity and brutality with which certain Canadian officials treated defenceless American fishermen during the last summer, even those who had gone out of their way to rescue Canadian sailors, and, having entered a Canadian bay to safely land those they had saved, attempted to procure food to sustain their own lives.

It is true that we complain of, and denounce, as in violation of the treaty of 1818, the "restrictions" enforced by Canadian statutes and

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