

The effects of this concession, it may be shortly stated, will be the total loss to British subjects of the fishery between Blanc Sablon, and Cape Charles, and round Belle Isle, the sacrifice of the British establishments in the Straits, and the certain and increasing injury, if not positive ruin, of the Labrador fishery North of Cape Charles, as will appear from the following considerations.

The French carry on their fishery by means of large seines and bultows ; with the former, which are generally two hundred fathoms and upwards in length, by thirty-five or forty in depth, they sweep the ground where they are used, taking and destroying great quantities of fish ;—with the bultows also (which are lines moored in the water each sometimes a mile in length, and containing several hundred baited hooks, which, except at stated intervals to take off the fish, continue in the water day and night) they attract and detain the fish in the locality where they are placed and take numbers of them. Large seines and numerous bultows, however, can only be tended and handled where there are large crews,—these the French, by means of their bounties, can command.—British Fishermen, without such support, can use only the hook and line, and at best small Cod Seines of one hundred fathoms long by eleven deep ; the result must inevitably be that the French will, within the same space, take a much larger quantity of fish than our men can, and these being taken from a locality where at present we can hardly find enough for ourselves, we shall be compelled to abandon that part of the coast altogether. The same observations apply to a concurrent fishery at Belle Isle, and that they are founded not merely in theory, is shown by the history of our Bank Fishery, and can be confirmed by the experience of our oldest fishermen.

By the aid of their large bounties, in short, the French are enabled to carry on their fishery in a manner that speedily gives them the command of the whole ground to which they may resort, and in a short time, makes a nominally concurrent fishery exclusively their own.

The loss of the Straits' Fishery, however, is not the only injury we shall sustain by the concession we are now considering ; we shall suffer further injury in this way :—

The Fish which supply the Straits and the Labrador fisheries consist for the most part of two large shoals, one of which entering the Gulf at Cape Ray, in April and May, passes through the Straits down to the Labrador Shore, and the other coming from the Eastward somewhat later in