

## Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

*Governor Sir J. Glover to Sir M. Hicks Beach.*

Sir,

*Government House, October 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 2nd September, with inclosures (two), respecting the alleged interference with United States' fishermen in Conception Bay in July 1878.

My Government have caused a judicial investigation to be made into the circumstances attending the several visits of the American schooner "Mist" to Broad Cove and its neighbourhood during the years 1877, 1878, and 1879. The inquiry was conducted by Mr. Prowse, one of the Judges of the District Court of St. John's, copy of whose Report I inclose, together with the depositions of the several witnesses taken upon oath, from which it would appear that some discussion took place relative to the taking and purchase of squid, between Newfoundlanders, on board the schooner "Mist," on behalf of the master of that vessel, and some Newfoundlanders in boats near the schooner, on or about the 8th or 9th July, 1877, and not during 1878 as sworn to by John Cozzens.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

*Mr. Prowse to the Colonial Secretary.*

Sir,

*St. John's, Newfoundland, September 19, 1879.*

HAVING been requested by the Government to examine into and report upon the claim of Mr. John Cozzens, master of the schooner "Mist," of Gloucester, Massachusetts, I have the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following is a correct statement of the facts as well as I could ascertain them:—

The schooner "Mist" was piloted into Broad Cove by a fisherman belonging to the place, Daniel Tucker, about the 8th or 9th July, 1877, in the evening. The schooner was anchored in a part of the cove where squids are generally jigged. Cozzens next morning early began jigging for squids and was getting them fast. The fishermen of Broad Cove were also about the same ground in their boats jigging. About 7 A.M. one of the boats in which were George Tucker and Henry Tucker came alongside the schooner to sell their squids; they could not agree upon a price with Cozzens; Cozzens then said he would not buy, he would jig his own bait. Henry Tucker said if he would not buy he should not jig. Daniel Tucker and his friends who were aboard the "Mist," or whose boats were fastened to her, took Cozzens' part, and said Cozzens should jig; Henry Tucker then called out to Cozzens' crew, "Men, haul in them jigs." Angry words also passed between George Tucker (who was in the boat with Henry), and Daniel Tucker, who was aboard the "Mist," and the principal disturbance was between these two. The fishermen of the cove thought Daniel Tucker would not let Cozzens buy bait from any one but his friends.

Daniel Tucker and his brother Richard, who side with Cozzens, both say that some one in the boats called out, "Cut his cable;" the other witnesses deny this, but, at any rate, if it was said, it was only an empty threat, as all agree that no attempt was made either to board the schooner or to do her any injury. The dispute lasted a short time, and the fishermen soon went ashore to their breakfasts.

Cozzens and his crew continued their jigging and were catching squids very fast, as is proved, first, by the master's own statement that he had caught 3,000 squid; secondly, by the evidence of George Reginald Tucker, who, when he came alongside just after breakfast, found the crew so busy hauling in squids that they could not attend to him, and told him to come by-and-bye; towards the afternoon the squids became scarcer, and then Cozzens began to buy from the people at 20 cents per 100; his crew, however, continued jigging each day, and, finally, obtained a large quantity, according to the statement of Benjamin Squires, to whom Cozzens showed what he had caught, 10,000 squids. This the witness Bernard Curtis, master of the banker "J.W. Roberts," proves to be as large a quantity of squids as he ever knew a banking schooner's crew to jig. All the evidence goes to prove that the bankers generally buy their squids, for the obvious reason that it would take the crew too long to jig their own bait. Mr. Cozzens' claim is based on the fact of his having been prevented from catching bait on this trip in July 1877, but it is clearly shown that, so far from being prevented, he actually, on that trip, caught a larger