

## CORRESPONDENCE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.,

Washington, D. C., January 31, 1887.

DEAR SIR: I am directed by a majority of the sub-committee of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to which has been referred the fisheries dispute, to send you Senate bill No. 3173, together with House bill No. 10786, and ask you to favor the Committee with your views thereon in their bearing on the interests which the law has placed under your supervision as Head of the Treasury Department, and also to invite you to express your preference in regard to either of those measures, and to suggest any modifications of either that to your Department may seem desirable.

The end of the present session is so near at hand that the Committee will be gratified by as early a reply as the many incessant demands on your time will permit.

Very respectfully, yours,

PERRY BELMONT.

Hon. DANIEL MANNING,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, February 5, 1887.

SIR: I have your letter of the 31st ultimo, with its enclosures, and, moved by your suggestion therein, hasten to make reply.

The subject to which your letter and its enclosures refer is naturally divisible into two parts. For the sake of clearness I will take up, first, our fishing rights; and, then, the commercial privileges of our vessels in Canadian ports.

### FISHING RIGHTS.

I assume American fishing rights to be defined by the treaties of 1783 and 1818; that those conventions are now, when taken together, and if unmodified to our advantage by the treaty of 1854, of binding force and effect; that by previous conquest in war, and those treaties, our fishermen have a right to fish on a portion of the coasts of the British colonies in North America as absolute and perfect as is their right to fish on the high seas; and that on certain other portions of those coasts we have renounced the liberty which we enjoyed till 1818 to