

of their connections during the fishing season, and where they might unlade, in order to be cured, such quantity of fish as they should have on board when compelled to seek shelter, whereas upon their going to any of the islands proposed by *France* for shelter, such island according to the negotiation being to be confined to the sole use of shelter, they could not there unlade their fish, and have it dried and cured, but in course must afterwards carry it to the harbour where they carried their other fish, and put it likewise into the hands of their shore men to be cured---that nevertheless in some cases the *French* vessels fishing in the gulf might be obliged to bear away to the southward for shelter, and in such case a port wherein they could be assisted by their countrymen might be more desirable than a *British* port: but considering that the fishery upon the coasts of the islands and of the continent was to be retained by *Great Britain*, as well as the lands, and that there are but few fishing banks in the gulf, and those not large, it appears to me that the vessels who should have sought shelter in any of the places proposed, where they could find nothing else, would not have been many; and I am inclined to think that if the island of *St. Peter* had been accepted upon the conditions annexed the *British* commissary during a whole fishing season would have seen but few vessels come thither out of the gulf for shelter, and not one from the fishery on the northern part of *Newfoundland*; and it is to be observed that *France* made no objection to the situation of this island with respect to either of these fisheries. As to her objection to the smallness of the island it appears to me utterly groundless, considering that what was to be granted to her was a port for mere shelter, and the objection to its nearness to *Placentia*, which she in no wise explains or enforces, I cannot discover any foundation for. And furthermore let it be remembered that although *France* by her last memorial “ allowed that an *English* commissary should be resident in “ the said island, to be witness to the punctuality with which