

have accrued, and we have reason to believe that many of Your Majesty's subjects have been deprived of a means of subsistence for themselves and their families. We therefore regard with reasonable apprehension and alarm, the probability of further encroachments upon the rights of Your Majesty's subjects being made or attempted to be made by the subjects of France, the acquiescence in which encroachments must be disastrous to the interests of our people.

With all submission we are constrained to state to Your Majesty our position that the claims of the subjects of France in respect of the taking and preserving of lobsters upon our coasts, and also their claims in respect of the taking of salmon, which latter claims have also been a subject of our deliberations, are utterly without foundation and cannot be maintained, and that the action of French subjects in this behalf has been in violation of treaty obligations and of International Law, and that there has resulted therefrom a gross trespass upon the rights of British subjects, for which an exemplary compensation should be demanded from the Government of France.

Whilst we humbly submit to Your Majesty, that our assertions of right, as Your Majesty's subjects in this behalf, are unquestionable, we would further submit to Your Majesty the irrefragable character of our conclusions by reference to the following facts:

- (1.) Because it was declared by the Treaty of Utrecht that it should be unlawful for the French to erect buildings except those "*necessary and useful for drying of fish.*"
- (2.) Because the Treaty of Paris, (1763) restricted the liberty to "*fishing and drying.*"
- (3.) Because the Treaty of Versailles, (1783) speaks of "*the fishery assigned to them by the Treaty of Utrecht.*"
- (4.) Because the Declaration speaks of "*the fishery*" and "*the method of carrying on the fishery, which has at all times been acknowledged, shall be the plan upon which the fishery shall be carried on there.*"
- (5.) Because the French King's Counter Declaration speaks of "*the fishery on the Coast of Newfoundland, which has been the object of the new arrangements.*"
- (6.) Because the Treaty of Paris, (1814) declares that the French right of fishery "*shall be replaced upon the footing in which it stood in 1792.*"
- (7.) Because there was no such industry as the Lobster Fishery in Newfoundland at any of these periods, and no such industry was heard of until within a few years past, and the