

land, who never derived any authority from us or from our Royal predecessors for making such grants.

It is therefore our express will and command that you do, upon pain of our highest displeasure, use your utmost vigilance and authority to prevent our subjects from taking any exclusive possession whatever, as private property, of any lands, rivers, or islands in the northern parts of Newfoundland between Bonavista and Point Riche, or from making any settlement or forming any establishments there, which may in any degree have the consequence to prejudice the fisheries of the subjects of France as allowed by Treaty, or to render ineffectual those instructions we have already repeatedly given, that in each and every season such ships and vessels of both nations as shall resort to those parts of Newfoundland for carrying on the fishery do choose their stations as they respectively arrive, and that they do occupy such space of the beach as shall be proportioned to the number of those boats, according to antient usage and practice, doing strict justice without partiality to the subjects of both Crowns, according to the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Paris in that respect.

And whereas it hath been further represented unto us that the subjects of France, having establishments on the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, may, by the operation of the Act passed in the present Session of Parliament for prohibiting all trade and intercourse with any of our rebellious Colonies in America therein mentioned, be distressed for want of a supply of lumber and other articles necessary to those establishments, it is therefore our will and pleasure that you do permit and allow the said subjects of France, having establishments on those islands, to supply themselves from our Island of Newfoundland with such articles of lumber of every species as shall be necessary and requisite for building and repairing their houses, wharfs, fishing stages and craft, or other purposes essential to the maintaining and supporting their establishments; taking care, at the same time, that such indulgence be not made a pretext for carrying on any illicit trade in violation of the Laws of our kingdom.

And, lastly, it is our further will and pleasure that you do exhort and command all our subjects so to behave themselves towards the subjects of His Most Christian Majesty as that there may be no cause of complaint, it being our determined resolution to punish with the utmost rigour those who shall seek, by acts of violence or injustice, to disturb that peace and harmony which at present so happily subsists between the two nations.

No. 7.

Viscount Stormont to Viscount Weymouth.

(No. 33.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 20, 1776.

AGREEABLY to the instructions transmitted to me in your Lordship's letter No. 15, I told M. de Vergennes yesterday that, to give this Court a fresh proof of the scrupulous good faith with which we mean to fulfil all our engagements, and to show in what a fair and liberal manner we interpret the Treaties between us, I was authorized to communicate to him the King's instructions to the naval officers on the Newfoundland Station. I added, my Lord, that he would find from these instructions that we had extended our attention to a case which arises from the present unhappy situation of America, and for which the Treaties have made no provision.

I then, my Lord, gave him the instructions to read. As he understands English, I gave them in the original.

He read them with great attention, asked me to explain a word or two which he did not understand, seemed much pleased, and when he returned me the paper, said that he would not fail to give an exact account to the King his Master, who, he was sure, would receive great satisfaction from this friendly and confidential communication.

He then, my Lord, added a few words about the sedentary fishery, which, he said, was not more prejudicial to the interests of France then [*sic*] to those of Great Britain, properly understood. Without entering into a discussion which I thought it as well to avoid, I only observed to him that the instructions which he had just read sufficiently showed that we had no intention of encouraging the sedentary fishery, and added that none of the arguments I had used to him upon a former occasion were in favour of that fishery, but only in support of our indisputable right to the propriety of the island.

He admitted that the Treaty of Utrecht gave us that right beyond all dispute, and then changed the conversation to other topics, which, with your Lordship's leave, I shall make the subject of a separate letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **STORMONT.**