

CONFIDENTIAL.

Evidence collected by Mr. James Oliphant Fraser in Fortune and Placentia Bays, Newfoundland, in connection with the Washington Treaty.

PHILIP HUBERT, aged 46 years, Sub-Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, residing at Harbour Briton, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :—

“ I have become acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by a residence in the country for twenty-three years, and an immediate connection with the fisheries of Newfoundland during all that time.

“ I have observed United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. Last Decamber the following vessels entered at the Customs to enable them to sell part cargo ; they being engaged on a vcyage for the purchase of frozen herrings in Fortune Bay, viz. :—

Name of Vessel.	Burthen.	Captain.	
	Tons.		
J. R. Lane	72	S. Jacobs	Goucester.
General Grant	86	Jas. Bowel	Ditto.
Landseer	99	P. Malady	Ditto.
Mary M.	101	M. B. Murray	Ditto.
Crown Point	103	W. H. Burne	Newbury Port.

“ I believe there have been fully 150 United States fishing vessels in this bay during the past summer.

“ In the fall of 1874 and beginning of 1875, I find that twelve United States vessels entered at this port, being engaged on a voyage for the purchase of frozen herrings.

“ The United States vessels referred to by me as in this bay the present season, came to purchase bait; not one of these vessels entered at the Customs at Harbour Briton, I am strongly of opinion that two-thirds of these vessels have not entered at any Customs office, nor paid light dues. These vessels came into this bay to purchase bait. One vessel had a seine intending to haul bait, but found it less trouble to purchase.

“ United States fishing vessels have fished about Pass Island, and formerly made good catches there. Captain Jacobs, of schooner “ _____,” is said to have been offered 9,000 dollars for his load.

“ American fishing vessels fishing off and about Pass Island, fished for halibut and cod-fish, but chiefly for halibut. My estimate of the value of their catch is at least equal to 10,000 dollars per annum, and such fishery was conducted exclusively within three miles of our shores. Newfoundland fishermen catch their “voyage” within three miles of our shores, generally about one or two miles from the shore.

“ The Newfoundland fisheries are peculiarly inshore fisheries. Caplin, herring, and squid used for bait, are always taken inshore, generally in the coves and harbours along our coast.

“ I never heard tell of a Newfoundland fishing vessel that prosecuted the fishery on the coasts of the United States of America. American fishermen have sold small