

interests of British subjects, and at the same time to endanger the peace and harmony that should subsist between the subjects of Great Britain and France in the exercise of those rights secured to them respectively by existing treaties.

"2. By the Thirteenth Article of the Treaty of Utrecht, 'the Island called Newfoundland belongs of right to Great Britain,' but it is 'allowed to the subjects of France to catch fish and to dry them on land,' within certain limits mentioned in that Treaty, while they are forbidden 'to erect any buildings there, besides stages made of boards, and huts necessary and usual for drying fish, or to resort to the said island beyond the time necessary for fishing and drying fish.'

"3. By the Fourth Article of the Treaty of Versailles, 1763, 'His Majesty the King of Great Britain is maintained in his right to the Island of Newfoundland,' as it was assured to him by the Thirteenth Article of the Treaty of Utrecht, while the French fishermen shall 'enjoy the fishery which is assigned to them by the present Article as they had a right to enjoy that which was assigned to them by the Treaty of Utrecht.'

"4. The only alterations effected by the Treaty of Versailles, as regards the fishery rights assigned to the French by the former Treaty of Utrecht, were—

"First,—An exchange of the line of coast from Cape Bonavista to Point Riche for that extending from Cape St. John to the northernmost point of the island, and thence southward to Cape Ray, which, in point of fishery privileges, was a greatly increased concession to the French.

"And, secondly,—The Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were ceded in *full right* to France, subject to the modifications in His Majesty's Declaration accompanying the Treaty. With these exceptions the Treaty of Utrecht forms the basis of our territorial and fishery rights.

"5. There are certain portions of the strand which the French have during peace continuously occupied, but which in time of war were taken possession of and occupied by British settlers, who refused to surrender them on the restoration of peace; and in order to carry out the terms of the Treaties, it was found necessary to pass the Act of His Majesty 28th George III., cap. 35, to enable His Majesty to remove them, which Act was never put in force for any other purpose. The last time it was put in operation, was at the termination of the war in 1814, in compliance with the requirements of the Treaty of Paris. There were at the same time other portions of the strand in like manner permanently occupied by British subjects, and have continued to be so