

To this Earl Bathurst replied, on the 30th of the same month, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and he informed Mr. Adams, in speaking of the claims which he had set up, "That a pretension of the kind was certainly intimated on a former occasion, but in a manner so obscure that His Majesty's Government were not enabled even to conjecture the grounds upon which it could be supported."

He further informs Mr. Adams, that—

"His Majesty's Government have not failed to give to the arguments a candid and deliberate consideration, and although they are compelled to resist the claim of the United States when thus brought forward as a question of 'right,' they feel every disposition to afford to the citizens of those States all the liberties and privileges connected with the fisheries which can consist with *the just rights and interests of Great Britain*, and secure His Majesty's subjects from those undue molestations in their fishery which they formerly experienced from the citizens of the United States." He further observed, "The Minister of the United States appears to be well aware that Great Britain has always considered the liberty formerly enjoyed by the United States of fishing within British limits, and using British territory, as derived from the 3rd article of the Treaty of 1783, and from that alone, and that the claim of an independent State to occupy and use at its discretion any portion of the territory of another, without compensation or corresponding indulgence, cannot rest on any other than conventional stipulations."

Earl Bathurst answered the different points in Mr. Adams' despatch most ably, and at considerable length. He showed that the "*liberties*," as distinct from "*rights*," which Americans urged, were wholly derivable from the Treaty, and refuted the position assumed by Mr. Adams, that the 3rd article of the Treaty was still in force, but intimated a disposition to "*concede a modified renewal of the liberties in question*," not as a matter of right, but from a conciliatory desire on the part of His Majesty's Government to meet the wishes of the United States. We have thought it desirable to insert in the appendix marked H this very able paper, in which Earl Bathurst so fully and ably refutes the positions assumed by the United States through Mr. Adams, and so clearly maintains the absolute right as claimed by His Majesty's Government.

The British Cabinet, following up the friendly intimation which they had given Mr. Adams, proposed to Mr. Munro, the then American Secretary of State, through Mr. Bagot, the British Minister at Washington, a district of shore on the Labrador Coast, from Mount Joly to the Bay of Esquimaux, near the Straits of Belle Isle. This Mr. Munro thought insufficient for the purposes of shelter and