

Mr. Norman to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 8.)

*Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company, 2, New Broad Street,
August 7, 1845.*

My Lord,

I TAKE the liberty of laying before your Lordship the copy of a letter which, on behalf of the Directors of this Company, I had the honour of addressing to Lord Stanley on the 1st of August.

To its contents I take the liberty of bespeaking your Lordship's favourable attention; not only by reason of the important national interests which, I respectfully submit, are directly involved in the question to which it refers; but as well on account of the ruin which any further extension of rights of privileges accorded to the fishermen of the United States, and especially that of fishing within the bays found along the coasts of the British territories, would inevitably bring upon this Company—a Company, as your Lordship will observe, incorporated by a Canadian and Imperial Acts of Parliament, for the purpose, and in the hope, that its large capital and influence might afford that effectual check to the lawless interference of the Americans, which is gradually destroying the Colonial fishing trade.

To enable the Directors more satisfactorily and fully to establish these facts, they respectfully but earnestly request that your Lordship will be pleased to grant them an interview; and I am further desirous to express their hope that the urgency of the case will plead their excuse for entreating that your Lordship will make as early an appointment for that purpose as the important calls on your Lordship's valuable time may render practicable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHD. NORMAN.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Mr. Norman to Lord Stanley.

*Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company, 2, New Broad Street,
August 1, 1845.*

My Lord,

ON behalf of the Directors of the Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company, and as well on the part of the Colonists of Lower Canada, connected with us in the fishing trade, I take the liberty of earnestly soliciting an interview with your Lordship on the subject, in which our welfare and that of our Canadian fellow-subjects is deeply and vitally concerned.

It has been represented to us that your Lordship, as Secretary of State for Her Majesty's Colonies, has it in contemplation to recommend to Her Majesty's Government to allow the fishermen of the United States to fish within those limits of the shores of the British territory from which, by Treaty, they have been heretofore excluded. The consequence of such permission, we beg leave respectfully to assure your Lordship, would be disastrous not alone to the Company which I represent, but to all engaged, directly or indirectly, in the fishing trade in its various branches—the most important, I submit, in the Colonies in a national point of view. Nor can I omit to call your Lordship's serious attention to the fact that, by allowing the Americans free ingress to the shores, the system of smuggling, which, as your Lordship is doubtless aware, is now carried on to a vast extent, will be greatly increased, to the ruin of the fair trader and loss to the revenue of the British provinces.

But as an additional reason for encroaching on your Lordship's valuable time, I take the liberty of stating that in the summer of last year Her Majesty's Government granted an Act of Incorporation to the Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company, under circumstances most flattering and encouraging to the Directors; that the principal object which the Company had in view was the employment of a large capital in the prosecution of the fisheries in the Bay of Chaleurs and the Gulf of St. Lawrence generally—a branch of trade which, for some years past, has more and more languished under the encroachment of the Americans, to the proportionate exclusion of the Colonists.

That to prosecute this great national object with all possible effect, Her Majesty's Government, as before mentioned, granted to the Company an Act of Incorporation,