

No. 4.

Mr. Welsh to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord,

Legation of the United States, London, March 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that complaints have reached the Department of State at Washington of serious interference with American fishermen, engaged during the present season in the herring fishery on the coast of Newfoundland, especially in the neighbourhood of Long Harbour. The complaints come through various sources—first from the United States' Consuls in that Province—the Consuls confining themselves, however, to general statements based on representations made to them by fishermen immediately affected at the time of the occurrences, which form the grounds of complaints. Still more recently, however these complaints have been preferred in a more specific manner, supported by affidavits of the masters of several fishing vessels, owned and fitted out at Gloucester, Massachusetts. From these statements it appears that about the 6th January last no less than eight schooners from the above-named port, while engaged in the herring fishery, at and in the neighbourhood of Long Harbour, were attacked by the inhabitants, to the number, in one instance, of sixty men, and in another 200 or more, and their seines, which were set, and in most cases full of fish, cut and destroyed, and the fish in one case, to the amount of 5,000 barrels, and in others, only less in quantity and value, run out to sea—resulting, beside the great loss of property, in the vessels being obliged to return to their home port in ballast, and also to abandon their fishing enterprise for the season. When it is remembered at what considerable expense the preparations are made for a season's fishing in these northern latitudes, and that very many of the men, both masters and mariners, embark their all in the enterprise, the serious character of these losses may be partially understood.

Instructions have been sent to the Consuls to transmit fuller information on the subject, and I am advised that this will be furnished to me so soon as it shall have been received by the Department of State.

In the meantime I am instructed to bring the matter to the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and to request that it will cause an investigation to be made into the alleged facts of the case, and adopt such measures as may be found necessary, not only to put an end to the evil, but also to prevent a recurrence of acts which, in addition to the injuries and losses to individuals, may have a tendency to complicate the good relations which so happily subsist between the Government of the United States and that of Her Britannic Majesty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WELSH.

No. 5.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 23, 1878.

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before Sir Michael Hicks Beach, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, together with its inclosures, relative to the differences which have arisen between British and United States' fishermen on the coast of Newfoundland.* A copy of your above-mentioned letter has been communicated to Sir E. Thornton.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 6.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Welsh.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, stating that you have been instructed by your Government to make a

* No. 3.