

ing renewed efforts for an extension of Fishing Privileges on the Coasts of this Island and Labrador, we are compelled to reiterate our earnest remonstrances on this important subject.

It may be said that our concession to the Americans justifies the conclusion that the like privileges may with security be ceded to the French. We respectfully submit that the commercial policy of the two nations is entirely different.—The Americans are pursuing a similar commercial policy to that of Great Britain; the small bounty allowed their fishermen is only equivalent to the duty on the salt used in curing their fish. The French nation engage in the Fisheries, not so much as a commercial pursuit, as a means of fostering and extending their national power, and the large bounties they grant from national motives would completely destroy the position of British Fishermen, sustained only by private enterprise;—that the concession to the Americans under the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 was contingent on the assent of the Local Legislature, who seeing the reciprocal advantages likely to result to our trade, accepted the terms of the Treaty; and it should be remembered that the Americans have now a right in common with the British Fishermen to fish on our Coasts. The extension of such a privilege to any other power would considerably complicate this right, and would tend to engender conflicts between the fishermen of the three nations, and disturb the peaceful relations happily existing between those powers.

Conscious of the many and great disadvantages we labor under, when brought in direct competition with the French, either in the pursuit of our Fisheries on the Coast, or in the disposal of our staple products in foreign markets, we have just reason to be alarmed for our very existence as a British Colony, dependent entirely, as such, on our Fisheries, should any further Fishery privileges be conceded to the French Government.

Such being our convictions and apprehensions on this vital question, we therefore respectfully and earnestly beg leave to request that you will be pleased to bring the same under the notice of Her Majesty's Government, in order that no further portion of the Coasts of this Island or its Dependencies shall be ceded to the Government of France, and that no arrangements whatever shall be made in relation to the French privileges on our Coasts without the concurrence of the Local Legislature.

Resolution reported from
Committee.

Resolved,—That copies of this Address, *mutatis mutandis*, be adopted to both Houses of the Imperial Parliament, and be transmitted by Mr. Speaker to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle and the Right Hon. W. E.