

British Minister at Washington, offered to the United States the coast fisheries "on the Labrador shore between Mount Joli, on the Esquimaux shore, near the Straits of Belle Isle," but these were declined by the United States on the ground that, "it would be more for our advantage to commence at the last mentioned point, and to extend the right eastward through the Strait of Belle Isle as far along the Labrador coast as possible."¹⁴

Mr. Bagot then offered, as an alternative, "the shore of Newfoundland to commence at Cape Ray, and to extend east to the Rameau Islands," adding that "in estimating the value of the proposal, the American Government will not fail to recollect that it is offered without any equivalent;"¹⁵ an offer intimating an abandonment of the British protocol in the negotiations for the Treaty of Ghent of 1814, that "the privileges formerly granted to the United States of fishing within the limits of British sovereignty, and of landing and drying fish on the shores of the British colonial territories, would not be renewed gratuitously, or without an equivalent."¹⁶

Mr. Secretary Munroe's reply sustained the historic policy of the United States: "I have made every inquiry that circumstances permitted respecting both these coasts, and find that neither would afford to the citizens of the United States the essential accommodation which is desired, neither having been much frequented by them heretofore, nor likely to be in future. I am compelled therefore to decline both propositions."¹⁷

The British Government, submitting to this uncomplaisant rebuff, intimated that it was "willing that the citizens of the United States should have the full benefit of both of them, and that, under the conditions already stated, they should be also admitted to each of the shores."

But Mr. Secretary Munroe's appetite for Canadian fish being still unsatisfied, he "asked for more:" "Having stated in

¹⁴American State Papers, Foreign Relations, vol. 4, page 361.

¹⁵Ibid., page 365.

¹⁶American State Papers, Foreign Relations, vol. 3, pages 705 and 708.

¹⁷Ibid., vol. 4, page 361.