

nowhere seriously asserted that the French claim can rest on the *title of discovery*; for though the voyages of Jacques Cartier in 1534, 1535 and 1536 very probably included a visit to Newfoundland, these were made long after Cabot's celebrated discovery. There is no reason to dispute the use of the coast by French fishermen from a time very soon *after* its discovery, but attention must be called to the unmistakeable indication of Great Britain's supremacy to be found in the State papers, where it is said that until 1632 they were not formally authorized to resort there for fishing; the inference being that the practice was, until then, carried on in an illicit manner. And, further, there is no doubt *the British exacted a five per cent. tribute from foreign fishermen resorting to the coasts of Newfoundland between 1635 and 1675*; a tribute which was only remitted to the French by the generosity of Charles II. If the claim of France to sovereignty could seem to be justified in any period of Newfoundland history, it would certainly be in that immediately after the Restoration. Then Placentia was fortified, and if we are to trust Hatton & Harvey's record, they established their dominion over two hundred miles of territory. But even this temporary exercise of sovereignty, limited to Placentia and the adjacent coast, was ended by Article XIII. of the Treaty at the Breda, 1667; and if a further contention for dominion be founded on their success-