

On making enquiry of the price of fish, he finds them very low ; on asking the cause, he is told, why the duties are so high, it takes about one-fourth, including freight, insurance, &c., to have them disposed of in the United States. With this reduction, the fisherman often taking his whole voyage to the merchant who supplied him, finds it will not amount to a sufficient sum to pay his bills.

What now is to be done ? He calls upon his merchant and asks if the protective duty will not be of service to him; the answer is, oh ! no, that is to protect the mechanic, those who have factories, the farmers, &c. He has a little property, that must go to pay the balance of his bills, and perhaps not sufficient left to supply his family through the coming winter. But how will those do who sail in American vessels ? When arriving in the United States they generally procure good wages, or should they ship on shares, their fish is taken to a market in the United States, free of duty or expense. As these vessels are generally bound to some port in Nova Scotia, those who are Nova Scotia men can take their little supplies for their families, and have them landed at their doors, nearly as low as they can be procured in the United States ; when their voyages are accomplished, they either proceed on to the United States and receive their share, or, as the practice is in some places, a merchant supplies them with goods to the amount of their voyage. He then receives a draft, which is accepted by the owner of the vessel, payable in the United States. This answers the purpose of the fishermen, and likewise makes remittances for the merchants, who can step on board the Packet and proceed to the United States, collect his drafts, make arrangements for a new supply for the coming season, and return. This appears to be the state of a large part of Nova Scotia at present. But there has been a difference of opinion respecting reciprocal trade between the United States and the British Colonies. As regards the Cod fisheries, it is my opinion, that American fishermen affect our shore fisheries more by being kept on the outer banks, when if they were admitted freely into our ports, our fishermen would be enabled to procure larger fares ; I have no doubt that the Convention between the Americans and British has been the cause of the American fishermen procuring theirs much sooner than they would have done had they been admitted freely into our ports. As regards the Mackerel fishery, it is a question which is not so easily decided. There is but little doubt the Americans would enjoy some of the privileges which now belong to British subjects ; but could we receive something equivalent for those privileges, by having the same privilege in the American market, our fish and produce going there free of duty, our Coasters having the same privilege in American ports as they had in ours, this might have a tendency to bring Nova Scotia on a level with other countries, and prevent our young men from leaving the Province. The means to be employed for the prevention of those who might trespass on the fishing ground, or are engaged in illicit trade, is a question of great importance at present. As to smuggling, perhaps that trade will never be entirely abolished, but much might be done if the Officers and Magistrates on shore would take sufficient interest to put down this trade. Persons commissioned on board of vessels have not the opportunity of detecting these things as those on shore, as vessels so commissioned are generally watched.

The course to be pursued to prevent foreign vessels from trespassing on the grounds reserved for British subjects, requires more talent and experience than I have, to decide. However, with the information which I have received, and the little experience I have, it appears it would take a larger amount than the Legislature of Nova Scotia would grant, for the protection of the Fisheries, when we take into consideration the extent of the coast on Nova-Scotia and Cape Breton, which, in the latter part of the season, is completely lined with American vessels, from Cape Gaspe to Cape North, in Cape Breton. These vessels I have been informed, often fish within half a mile from shore, paying little or no regard to the limits stated in the National Convention. In fact the day on which I seized the "Tiber," there were sixty or seventy