

pleased, and being more numerous than the inhabitants, have overawed them; but I have been informed by some of the fishermen resident there, that more than once they have had it in contemplation to represent the conduct of, and the injury they have sustained from, the American fishermen, but their living remote from each other, and no educated persons among them, they have been at a loss how to draw up a petition, or who to apply to for redress.

As all the vessels alluded to in the papers sent by Mr. Addington, were taken by the boats, I cannot myself, make any observations on their capture, but shall confine myself to a few remarks on the protests of the American fishermen, and to answer the complaint you have called my particular attention to.

Why do not the crews or owners of the American fishing vessels, detained for violating the treaty, come forward when these vessels are adjudged in the Vice Admiralty Court, and produce such evidence as would clear them; they say, to claim their vessels in the Vice Admiralty Court of New Brunswick, would be total loss; the fact is, it would not answer their purpose so well; they are well aware that witnesses could be produced that would falsify their testimony; the fishermen at the Menan would immediately come forward to witness the facts of their being in their harbors, and draining their nets, when not in want of an article of provisions or fuel; but the Americans are aware that when their protest comes before the Commander in Chief of this station, the vessel of war will have left the Bay of Fundy, and that there will remain but the testimony of the officer and boats' crew that detained them, which they will take care to out number. If the Vice Admiralty Courts of New Brunswick are conducted illegally and wrong, should they not make a representation to the British Government, that they may be better conducted? How is the Captain of a man of war, stationed in the Bay of Fundy to act, if the proceedings in the Vice Admiralty Court are to be considered illegal and void, merely from the protest of some American fishermen?

What are the Vice Admiralty Courts instituted for, but to try causes, and decide whether the capture is just; and I should conceive that where they have passed judgment, the Captain of the seizing vessel is released from further responsibility: sufficient time is allowed all parties, to procure and produce evidence, and if they do not come forward, is it not a tacit acknowledgment of the badness of their cause—and such is the case with these American fishing vessels; they have asserted many things that are wholly false. It is said, in the memorial A, "that nine sail of American fishermen had been captured and sent into the province of New Brunswick, while others had been converted into tenders without trial, for the purpose of molesting our fishermen; they have insulted and abused the crews, turned them on shore in a foreign country, entirely destitute, and without the means of returning to their homes."

That any American fishing vessel detained by the Dotterel, or her boats, has been converted into a tender for the better molesting their