

enjoyed by United States' fishermen under the Treaty of Washington may, by giving two years' notice, be terminated as respects Newfoundland in 1885; so that even if Americans were permitted to fish without any restriction whatever they would only be able to do so for seven years longer, at the expiration of which period Her Majesty's Government would be able to make any arrangements which might be thought desirable.

Sir E. Thornton, No. 296;
November 4, 1878.

Sir E. Thornton, who is thoroughly familiar with the Fishery question, says, at the conclusion of his despatch No. 296 of the 4th November, 1878, "It is extremely probable that if Her Majesty's Government should consider that the Treaty of 1871 gives full liberty to American fishermen to fish on the Coast of Newfoundland without any restrictions as to time or mode of fishing, and that the Newfoundland Act of the 28th March, 1874, confirms that view of the case, as I confess that they seem to me to do, the American fishermen will, within a short time, contribute considerably to the diminution of the fish on those coasts, and, perhaps, to their almost entire disappearance. In that case it would perhaps be wise to come to some arrangement with the Government of the United States for the mutual establishment of laws and regulations with regard to fishing and for the protection of fish, which both British and American fishermen would be compelled to observe both in British and American waters, and which would conduce to the advantage of both."

"It is not unlikely that the United States' Government, in order to be able to regulate the fisheries on its own Coast of New England, would agree, without much difficulty, to reasonable laws and regulations for the government of the fisheries on the Canadian and Newfoundland Coasts, in the same way as a mutual arrangement has recently been come to with regard to the regulations for the transit of dutiable goods through Canada and the United States respectively."

Mr. Evarts to Mr. Welsh;
September 28, 1878.

Mr. Evarts, in his despatch to Mr. Welsh of the 28th September last, on the subject of the Fortune Bay affair, hints at the necessity for settling these matters by a Joint Convention, regulating the fisheries, and this, no doubt, would be the best way of preventing future difficulties.