

as, for instance, if she has not her tonnage carved on her beam, or her name painted on her stern.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. D. HARDING.
A. E. COCKBURN.
RICHARD BETHELL.

No. 2.

The Law Officers of the Crown to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 2.)

My Lord,

Doctors' Commons, May 2, 1854.

WE are honoured with your Lordship's commands signified in Mr. Hammond's letter of the 29th ultimo, stating that he was directed to transmit to us therewith an extract of a despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, by which we shall perceive that the Lieutenant-Governor appears to construe an opinion given by the Law Officers of the Crown of the 10th of August, 1853, of which a copy is inclosed, as entitling the Legislature of Nova Scotia to expect that its concurrence should be asked previously to the conclusion of any Convention by Her Majesty and the United States for admitting the fishermen of the United States to fish within three miles of the coast of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Hammond further states, that your Lordship directs him to request that we would inform your Lordship whether that construction is correct, and whether, if Her Majesty were to enter into a Convention with the United States for the purpose above-mentioned, it would be necessary to insert in the Article relating to the fisheries a provision that its execution must depend on the assent of the Local Legislature of Nova Scotia.

In obedience to your Lordship's commands we beg to state—

That the construction which it appears has been put upon our Report of the 10th of August, 1853, by the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia is not correct, if our opinion has been construed as importing that the authority of the Provincial Legislature of Nova Scotia over the three marine miles adjacent to the coast can either control or exclude the action of the Imperial Legislature.

We are, indeed, of opinion that the proposed Convention, being in derogation of the provisions of the Statute, 59 Geo. III, c. 38, cannot be carried into effect without a Legislative Act; but such Act should proceed from the Imperial Parliament, and not from the Local Legislature.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. D. HARDING.
A. E. COCKBURN.
RICHARD BETHELL.

No. 3.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Elgin.

(No. 1. Secret.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 4, 1854.

YOUR Lordship being about forthwith to resume your duties as Governor-General of Her Majesty's Provinces in North America, Her Majesty's Government conceive that it might be highly beneficial to the public service that you should, on your way to the seat of your Government pay a visit to Washington, where you may have an opportunity of conferring with the Government of the United States on matters in which the interests of the British Provinces are very materially concerned.

Your Lordship is fully informed of the cause of the discussions between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States on the subject of the fisheries and trade in which the British Provinces and the United States are more immediately interested; but for your greater convenience I furnish you, confidentially, with a printed collection of correspondence on this matter which, however, you will eventually return to this Office.

In this collection you will find a despatch which I addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, on the 2nd of February last, explaining the reasons which