

herring to American vessels. I have been there eight years, and I have always bought my herring, or engaged the Newfoundlanders to take them for me, paying them in cash. This has been the universal practice of American vessels. This year we carried the large mackerel seines, which we use in summer for taking mackerel. These seines will take from 2,000 to 5,000 barrels at a haul, and the herring are better taken in this way. As most of the Newfoundlanders fish with gill-nets, our manner of seining would take away from them the monopoly of the herring trade, and hence the feeling which produced the outrage on our vessels. It is apparent that they will obstruct any American fishery on their shores, and are not men who would know much about rights or privileges under a Treaty. I should say that there are at least 100 cargoes of herring taken from Newfoundland yearly by American vessels, and as things are now it would be useless for American vessels to go there for herring unless they bought the herring from the inhabitants at whatever price they may see fit to ask. This American trade has been a great benefit to Newfoundland, and the change in the manner of taking herring will greatly reduce the amount of money paid them for herring. Only three vessels of eighteen that were there got any herring whatever. Captain Jacobs, of the 'Moses Adams,' held his seine with revolvers, and being a native of Newfoundland was allowed to take in the herring he had taken. The feeling was very intense and bitter against the Americans. The Newfoundland fishermen were catching and taking herring with their nets and boats on the same day.

(Signed) "DAVID MALANSON,

"Master schooner 'Crest of the Wave.'"

"Essex, ss.

"Personally appeared before me David Malanson, and subscribed and made oath to the above statement.

(Signed) "AARON PARSONS, Justice of the Peace."

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*Edward Stapleton.*

"Gloucester, February 21, 1878.

"I, Edward Stapleton, master of the American schooner 'Hereward,' of Gloucester, do, on oath, depose and say:—

"That I have just arrived from Newfoundland, where I have been for a load of herring. I was at Long Harbour, Newfoundland, when the Newfoundland Fishermen destroyed the seines of the American schooners 'New England' and 'Ontario,' and saw the whole transaction. I carried a seine with me, and employed Newfoundland fishermen to operate it for me. The first time they set it for me they put it out in a strong tide-way, and utterly destroyed it, and after that I had to depend on the other American seines. This was the understanding among the American Captains, that we were to work together and load all our vessels. The setting of the seines on the 6th January did not interfere in any way with their nets or fishing. I think there is a local regulation that does not allow the Newfoundland fishermen to fish on Sundays; but the first seine (a small one) set on that day was one owned and operated by the natives, and they were picking their nets and boating their herring ashore all day. On the arrival of the American fleet the Newfoundlanders put their nets where they would obstruct our seining, but on this day the herring were away inside of their nets, giving us the first chance and only opportunity we had to seine or get herring. Enough were taken, and could have been taken, that day to have loaded the fleet. After that day there was no opportunity to take any. Newfoundland nets were placed where they never took a fish, and placed only for the purpose of preventing our seining. My loss to vessel and owners is not less than 5,000 dollars, and I claim indemnity to that amount. This loss is owing entirely to the hostile acts of the Newfoundland fishermen.

(Signed) "E. STAPLETON."

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