

# REPORT

## ON THE

### NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERY QUESTION.

The Committee appointed by the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute to investigate the French claims respecting the Newfoundland Fisheries have agreed to the following Report.

The claims now put forward by France upon the coast of Newfoundland, and virtually enforced by her squadron there, may be resolved into two classes:

#### (I.)

A claim to the *exclusive right of fishery* on that part of the coast extending from Cape St. John to Cape Ray, a distance including about *one half* of the entire coast of Newfoundland, to which the Treaty of Paris (1763) only gave her a *concurrent* right.

#### (II.)

A claim to prevent the British inhabitants of Newfoundland from any occupation of land, situated within such limits, for mining, agricultural, or other purposes; in fact, a claim to virtual territorial sovereignty of the same.

From a strict investigation of the whole question in regard to both these claims it appears—

First,—That the following list embraces the whole of the *Treaties, Declarations, Acts of Parliament, Conventions, and Decrees*, evermade and entered into by Great Britain with France in relation to the Newfoundland fisheries, viz. :—

Treaty of Utrecht ...	...	...	...	11th April, 1713.
Treaty of Paris ...	...	...	...	10th February, 1763.
Treaty of Versailles ...	...	...	...	3rd September, 1783.
British Declaration...	...	...	...	3rd September, 1783.

\* Expired with Treaty of 1783, which was annulled by war, 1793.

\* The annotations of Treaties, &c., are given as they appear in the collection of Mr. Hertslett, Librarian, Foreign Office.