

taking the form of occasional invasions, which were equally unavailing, if we may judge from the request of the General Court of Massachusetts in July, 1776, for the appointment of a day of fasting and prayer "on account of the drought and the humbling events which "have taken place in Canada."

Sometimes invasions were planned, such as that of 1777, "to attend "to the situation in Nova Scotia; to raise an expedition for the dock-yard and stores at Fort Cumberland in the most secret manner possible" At other times agents were appointed and supplied with money to stir up the Indians to successful effort to plead in their own peculiar way the cause of the United States with British North America. One example may be given in detail. To induce France to aid them in the struggle the United States, in 1776, authorized their envoys to offer that all the trade between the United States and the French West Indies should be carried on either in French or American vessels; and they were eventually instructed to assure His Most Christian Majesty that if by their joint efforts the British should be excluded from any share in the cod fisheries of America by the reduction of the Islands of Newfoundland and Cape Breton, and ships of war should be furnished at the expense of the United States to reduce Nova Scotia, the fisheries should be enjoyed equally between them to the exclusion of all other nations; and that one-half of Newfoundland should belong to France, and the other half, with Cape Breton and Nova Scotia to the United States. Not successful then, the project was renewed in 1778. In the instructions to Franklin he was directed to urge upon the French Court the certainty of ruining the British fisheries on the banks of Newfoundland, and, consequently the British marine, by reducing Halifax and Quebec, which places, the French king was told were of importance to France, because the "fishery of Newfoundland is justly considered the basis of a good marine," and because "the possession of these two places necessarily secures to the party and "their friends the Island and fisheries." Among the benefits to the United States would be the acquisition of "two States to the Union" and the securing of the fisheries jointly with France "to the exclusion "of Great Britain." When Congress took up the subject, Washington dissented and presented that body with his dissentient views in a long letter.

From one cause and another all efforts, kindly or rough, failed. The two communities remained apart. The separation was complete. There have been from time to time little bits of territory picked up along the frontier and transferred from the one to the other by means not invariably calculated to accomplish, at least by friendly means, the political union which had been sought by the United States. But now the two countries have a fixed, determined frontier all along the line, from the Straits of Haro to Passamaquoddy Bay, with an occasional house here and there, half of which is on Canadian, and half on American, soil.

We have seen that our neighbors turned their attention to the fisheries of the eastern part of this continent even as far back as 1776, and that to obtain them were willing to go shares with France. Though