

pronounces its origin to be the bursting of the bubbles; and to the same cause the rippling of streams and the sound of breakers appear to be almost exclusively due. I have examined a stream or two, and in all cases where a ripple made itself heard I have discovered bubbles. The impact of water against water is a comparatively subordinate cause, and could never of itself occasion the murmur of a brook, or the musical roar of the ocean. It is the same as regards waterfalls. Were Niagara continuous and without lateral vibration, it would be as silent as a cataract of ice. It is possible, I believe, to get behind the descending water at one place; and if the attention of travellers were directed to this singular subject, the mass might perhaps be seen through. For in all probability it also has its contracted sections; after passing which it is broken into detached masses, which, plunging successively upon the air-bladders formed by their precursors, suddenly liberate their contents, and thus create the thunder of the waterfall.

## The Politician.

### THE COLONIAL PRESS.

From St. John Morning News.  
THE FISHERY CRISIS.

The New York Herald, of the 19th inst. contains a circular from the Secretary of State, under date of the 6th instant, which after setting forth that information of an official character had been received at the Department of State to the effect that the present ministry in England, although not desirous to sanction any unnecessary deviation from the policy which regulates the Commerce of the mother country, "are still disinclined to prevent the colonies, by interposition of Imperial authority, and especially pending the negotiation with the United States of America, for the settlement of the principles on which the commerce of the British North American Colonies is hereafter to be carried on, from adopting the policy which they may deem most conducive to their own prosperity and welfare;" that the Government had resolved, in compliance with the repeated solicitations of the colonies, to enforce the provisions of the fishery convention of 1818, and in furtherance thereof intended to despatch a small fleet of steamers or other vessels which would be on the fishing ground in July; also, that Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland had fitted out armed vessels for a like purpose, alludes to the seizure of the Coral, of Machias, by Her Majesty's cutter Nedley, which Mr Webster apprehends will be followed by extensive seizures, the result of which will be "the loss of the valuable fall fishery to the American fishers, a complete interruption of the extensive business of New England, attended by collisions of the most exciting and unpleasant character, which may end in the destruction of human life, and the involvement of the Government in a question of a very serious nature, threatening the peace of the two countries.

Some of the above information is conveyed in extracts from circular letters addressed by Her Majesty's Government to the Governors of the Colonies; and Mr Webster's letter likewise contains extracts from the Convention of 1818, the construction of which by the Government of Great Britain, although not admitted by the American Secretary, to be conformable to the intention of the two Governments, is, nevertheless not declared to be illegal, as will appear by the concluding paragraph of the temperate and cautiously worded document which we subjoin:

"Not agreeing that the construction thus put upon the treaty is conformable to the intentions of the contracting parties, this information is, however, made public, to the end that those concerned in the American fisheries may perceive how the case at present stands, and be upon their guard. The whole subject will engage the immediate attention of the Government.

DANIEL WEBSTER,  
Secretary of State."

The promptness with which the American Secretary has acted in this matter, and the means he has taken to make the matter known to the nation, together with the language of the document, while they testify to the vigilance with which the American Government watch all the commercial interests of the people, prove, likewise, that this branch of industry is all important, if not necessary, to the prosperity of the eastern States. But what is of more importance to us, is the fact, clearly educible from the communication, that the persistence by the British Ministry in the maintenance of our rights under the treaty, will be a means in our hands of securing important concessions in respect to trade and commerce with the American States. The difficulty being one of magnitude will naturally attract the attention of the whole nation, and being of pressing moment, cannot bear delay in adjustment; and although collision between the two countries is sug-

gested as of possible occurrence, and the spirit of the Americans is inflammable to a proverb, yet when the expense of a war with the most potent maritime power in the world is considered in connection with the—to say the least of it—very doubtful merits of their case, we think it probable that alternatives will suggest themselves to the rulers of the nation more in accordance with the spirit of the age, and more consonant to the sympathies that have sprung up of late years between the two countries begotten by a semblance of interests, social and commercial, and the oneness of sentiment with respect to foreign politics. The occurrence is opportune too, we think, as happening simultaneously with the report of the Special Committee on Commerce, alluded to in our paper of the 21st. If with the information then before them, and the inducements that seemed to press upon them, for conceding to us the markets of the United States for the staples of the Colonies, the Committee resolved favorably to reciprocity—how much more urgent will the step appear now that a usual and consistent course of subsistence and enrichment has been cut off as of right, and will be conceded only as of favor on condition that the application of the Colonies is heard and their requirements complied with. Jonathan, it is true, may not relish the idea of being driven into a corner, and being compelled to make terms; and he may "flare up" for a while, we take it that he is too calculating to be huffy long and that seeing it is no use to sulk, he will "make a trade" in half no time as his want is, when he makes his mind. Such, we hope, will be the result, and we trust that the desire will not turn out to have been but the "father to the thought."

Since writing the above we have met with the following from the New York Journal of Commerce, by which it will appear that the views expressed by us are entertained by well-informed circles in the United States.

"We shall doubtless hear before long that the affair has been amicably adjusted. That it is not difficult of adjustment, is the opinion of individuals who have very good means of judging. The American Government we have reason to know has taken measures to inform itself accurately as to the facts; and we know, too, that some whose opinions are entitled to respect, believe that the complaints of the British Colonists are not entirely without foundation. We must try to look at the matter candidly, and not ask more than we should be willing to concede, if the circumstances of parties were interchanged. It is not improbable that the hitherto unsuccessful overtures of the British North American Colonies to secure a reciprocal commerce with the United States, may have something to do with the new pretensions of Great Britain. It may be intended to remind us that the privileges of the present commercial arrangements, rigidly interpreted, are not all on our side. If a conviction of this fact should be the result of the present discussion, and if reciprocal trade should be expedient in consequence, it will be a just cause of rejoicing to both countries. Of one thing we may be certain, viz: that neither nation can afford to go to war with the other, whether aggrieved or not; and therefore we infer that there is and will be a mutual disposition to conciliate; and with such disposition there is no danger of any serious trouble."

### UNITED STATES PRESS.

From the Boston Daily Advertiser.  
ALARM ABOUT THE FISHERIES.

We cannot imagine that the British Government has asserted any claim, or adopted any position relative to the Fisheries, that can reasonably cause any alarm. It is not the fashion of the times to fall suddenly into a war upon the difference of opinion upon claims of rights depending upon the construction of treaties, admitting that any difference has arisen upon the delicate question of the fisheries near the coasts of the British Provinces, which we think is doubtful.

It was announced some weeks ago that the British Government had sent vessels to the coasts of the British North American Provinces, to look to the protection of the rights of the inhabitants of the Provinces, against the alleged encroachments of American fishermen. The reason assigned for this step by the minister of the Colonies was to guard against the apprehended indiscretion of the commanders of vessels which the Colonial authorities had determined to employ for the same service.

We have not heard of the arrival of these vessels, or of any collision having occurred, which can have given rise to the present alarm. It would not be surprising if questions should arise, either from grounds taken by the British Government in the construction of the treaty, or of some principle of the law of nations, or from seizures actually made for supposed violations

of the rights of British subjects, which may cause excitement, and lead possibly to grave diplomatic discussions; but that any alarming controversy between the two Governments, on a question of this nature has arisen, or is likely to arise, we do not suppose to be in any degree probable. We have no doubt that the measure above referred to, which was communicated to the Provincial authorities, was at the same time communicated to our Government, and it is not improbable that a correspondence growing out of such communication may have given occasion to the present alarm.

We do not see anything to justify the serious apprehension of difficulties which will result in violence and bloodshed. The object of the notification is to put those concerned in the American fishery on their guard, against proceedings which must lead to such a result. It is not to be supposed that fishermen when warned off, or when an attempt is made to take them into custody, will resist armed cruisers, but when so encountered, they will submit in the first instance to capture, and to the decision of the admiralty court, and if that is against them on a point in which they are sustained by the treaty, they will rely on the interposition of their own Government for redress. We cannot conceive of a battle taking place between an American fisherman and a British war steamer for the settlement of a question which is so clearly one of the true construction of the terms of a formal treaty. On the true construction of the treaty we go into no discussions at present.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1852.

UNITED STATES.—We have heard it stated, and it has been re-echoed loudly through the Press, and in the halls of our Legislature, that no question could ever arise, which would lead to difficulty or war with our Republican neighbours, that "this matter was finally adjusted at the Railway Convention held last year in Portland." It will be seen by the annexed extracts that there is apparently some trouble ahead.—So long as we allowed the Americans to trespass with impunity on our privileges, and infringe on a treaty, they were quiet; but so soon as we show a disposition to assert our rights, that moment our neighbours become restive, and show fight. We cannot believe, however, that anything serious will grow out of this matter, but that it will be amicably arranged:—

BOSTON, July 20th, 1852.

To the Editor of the Boston Courier:

Sir,—Since my return to the city this morning I have received a copy of a despatch from Mr Everett, then United States Minister in London, to Mr Buchanan, Secretary of State, which adds a very important feature to the subject of the fisheries, and which I send to you for immediate publication.

Yours, very respectfully,

DANIEL WEBSTER.

LONDON 23d April, 1845.

JAMES BUCHANAN, Esq. Secretary of State.

Sir,—With my despatch No. 278 of 25th March, I transmitted the note to Lord Aberdeen of the 10th of March, communicating the important information that this government had come to the determination to concede to American fishermen the right of pursuing their occupation with the Bay of Fundy. It was left somewhat uncertain by Lord Aberdeen's note, whether this concession was intended to be confined to the bay of Fundy, or to extend to other portions of the coast of the Anglo-American possessions, to which the principles contended for by the government of the United States equally apply, and particularly to the waters on the North Eastern shores of Cape Breton, where the "Argus" was captured. In my notes of the 25th ultimo and 2d instant, on the subject of the "Washington" and the "Argus," I was careful to point out to Lord Aberdeen that all the reasons for admitting the right of the Americans to fish in the Bay of Fundy, apply to those waters and with superior force, inasmuch as they are less landlocked than the Bay of Fundy, and to express the hope that the concessions was meant to extend to them, which was some reason to think, from the mode in which Lord Aberdeen expressed himself, was the case.

I received, last evening, the answer of His Lordship, informing me that my two notes had been referred to the Colonial Office, and that a final reply could not be returned till he should be made acquainted with the result of that reference; and that in the meantime, the concessions must be understood to be limited to the Bay of Fundy.

The merits of the question are so clear, that I cannot but anticipate that the decision of the Colonial Office will be in favour of the literal construction of the Convention. In the meantime, I beg leave to suggest, that in any public notice which may be given that the Bay of Fundy is henceforth open to American fishermen, it should be carefully stated

that the extension of the same privilege to the other great bays on the coast of the Anglo-American dependencies, is a matter of negotiation between the two governments. My notes of the 25th of March, and 2d instant, will suggest the reason for presenting the actual state of the controversy in this form.

I am, sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD EVERETT.

Transmitted with despatch No 305.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr Everett.

21st April, 1845.

The Philadelphia North American under the heading of the Fishery troubles remarks that—

"So far from expecting hostilities to grow out of the facts, developed in the recent communication of the Secretary of State, it believes the result will be a good one, inasmuch as the collision between the British and American fishermen may lead, in the course of the diplomatic discussion it will call for, to a reciprocity of privileges among the citizens of the two nations in the fishing grounds of either, and the final establishment of regulations upon the subject highly advantageous to both parties."

RECIPROCITY.—Last week we stated that the Committee of Commerce in Congress, had unanimously resolved to bring in a Bill establishing reciprocal trade with the British North American Colonies.

We are indebted to the New York Express for the following additional news on this important subject:—

"David L. Seymour, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the House of Representatives, is now engaged on a very important bill, which will be reported as soon as his committee is reached in order of reports—a bill providing for the free navigation of the St. Lawrence River, and for reciprocal trade with the Canadas. It provides that whenever the Government of Great Britain shall give us the same privilege of navigating the St. Lawrence, in all respects as is enjoyed by British subjects or vessels, and whenever the President of the United States shall issue his proclamation declaring certain articles, the growth and production of the United States, to be admitted into the province of Canada, by law free of duty, then and after that day, until otherwise directed by Congress, the like articles, being the growth and production of Canada, shall be admitted free of duty into the United States, when imported direct from that Province. The articles enumerated are grains and breadstuffs, vegetables, fruits, seeds, animals, hides, wool, cheese, butter, tallow, horns, salted and fresh meats, ores of all kinds of metals, stone, marble, ashes, hemp, raw unmanufactured cotton, lumber, agricultural implements, and castings of all kinds of metal.

Should such a bill pass Congress, and it is thought it may pass even at the present session, it would probably remove all difficulties growing out of the Northeastern Fisheries."

The New Brunswicker in commenting on the above intelligence says: "Though the Canadas only are mentioned in the above article, yet we understand, there are letters in this City from Washington, which state that the Reciprocity Bill about to be introduced in Congress, will include all the North American Colonies except Newfoundland. That colony has declined to enter into the arrangement, and is therefore expressly excepted in the negotiations."

It will be seen by the above, that among the articles enumerated to be admitted free, that Fish is not mentioned. This is, to us, an important article, and if it is finally left out, the free trade measure, as it is called, will confer but little benefit on this section of New Brunswick. We hope our Government will use their best exertions to have the matter so adjusted as to include the produce of our Fisheries.

The following resolution was introduced into the Senate, which after much noisy and boastful speechifying was unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, that the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, all correspondence on file in the Executive Department, with the Government of England, or its diplomatic representative, since the convention between the United States and Great Britain of Oct. 20, 1818, touching the fisheries on the coast of the British possessions in North America, and the rights of citizens of the United States engaged in such fisheries as secured by the said convention; and that the President be also requested to inform the Senate whether any of the naval forces of the United States have been ordered to the seas adjacent to the British possessions in North America to protect the rights of American fishermen, under the convention, since the receipt of the intelligence that a large and unusual British naval force has been ordered there to enforce certain alleged rights of Great Britain under said convention."

It was reported that the U. S. sloop of war, Albany, was to proceed immediately to the fishing grounds to protect the fishermen.