

al Sir George Seymour, to carry out that determination with firmness and discretion.

3. Resolved, That securely relying upon the justice and maternal care of their Sovereign, the citizens of Halifax are reluctant to believe that, because a few threatening speeches have been made in Congress, and a single Ship of War has visited their Coasts, the Queen's Government will relax their vigilant supervision over British interests, or weakly yield rights secured by Treaty stipulations.

4. Resolved, That History teaches that the Commercial prosperity and Naval power of every Maritime State have risen, by slow degrees, from the prosecution of the Fisheries, in which seamen were trained, and hardy defenders nurtured.

5. Resolved, That, reading this lesson aptly, the great commercial and political rivals of England—the United States and France—or many years, fostered their Fisheries by liberal Bounties, and freely spent their treasure that they might recruit their Navy and extend their mercantile marine.

6. Resolved, That by the aid of these Bounties, France and the United States maintain on the Banks and Coasts of North America, 30,000 seamen respectively, which their Power, in case hostilities impede, can all home to defend its National flag, and it need were, launch against the power of this Empire.

7. Resolved, That without the aid of Bounties, the Fisheries of British America have been prosecuted, and her marine interests have been expanded, until her shores are peopled with a hardy class of men, who consume, most exclusively, the manufactures of England in peace, and who, in times of danger, would leap into the shrouds of their National ships to defend the flag they reverence.

8. Resolved, That the cession of the Aroostook Territory, and the free Navigation of the St. John, the right of Registry in Colonial ports, and the free admission of the productions of the United States into British America at Revenue Duties only, have been followed by no corresponding relaxation of the commercial system of the United States which would justify a further sacrifice of Colonial interests.

9. Resolved, That while more than one half of the sea coast of the Republic bounds the States, whose laboring population can be trusted upon the sea—the coast of British America include a frontage upon the sea greater than the whole Atlantic seaboard of the United States. The richest fisheries in the world surround these coasts. All, which the Americans must bring with them should they provoke hostilities, abounds at the most convenient points. Two millions of adventurous and industrious people already inhabit these Provinces, and the Citizens of Halifax would indeed deplore the deliberate sacrifice of their interests, by any weak concession to a power which ever seconds the efforts of astute diplomacy by appeals to the angry passions—the full force of which has been twice on British America within the memory of this generation, and, in a just cause, with the aid of the other country, could be broken again.

Mr Thomas Kinnear, merchant; seconded these resolutions, and expressed a hope that they would have the effect of preventing any action by the British Government. Mr David Allison, merchant, deprecated a discussion at that time. He held in his hand an address to the Representative of Her Majesty in this province, which he would submit for the adoption of the meeting. The address was read, and after pertinent remarks from B. Wier, M. P. P., and the Provincial Secretary, strongly favourable to the course being pursued.

Mr J. W. Johnston, M. P. P., rose and pressed his acquiescence in the proceedings thus far. He, however, thought that a long expression of the meeting should go to the foot of the throne. He had prepared a petition to Her Majesty which he would submit to the consideration of the meeting. The petition was read, and after a modification in the last clause, suggested by the Hon. Speaker, who spoke at some length on the subject at issue, strongly in support of the movement, was, together with the resolution and address previously submitted, unanimously passed.

Mr Allison's Address:—  
To His Excellency Colonel Sir J. Gaspard Le Marchant,

Knight, and Knight Commander of the Orders of St. Ferdinand and of Charles the Third of Spain, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, Chancellor of the same, &c.

May it please Your Excellency,—

We, her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City, and Representatives of the City and County of Halifax, respectfully request that your Excellency will be pleased to transmit, by this night's mail, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be laid at the foot of the Throne, a dutiful and loyal Petition, unanimously adopted this day by a very large and influential meeting of our fellow citizens, held in the Province Hall.

We also pray that the Resolutions, a copy of which is annexed, and which were passed with equal unanimity, may be also forwarded to the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

This Petition, and these Resolutions, have been adopted in consequence of the alarming intelligence having been received, that negotiations are pending between the British

Government and the American Minister in London, for surrendering to the Citizens of the United States the right of fishing on the coasts and within the bays of the British North American Colonies, from which they are now excluded by the Convention of 1818. We entreat your Excellency, as the Queen's Representative in this Province, to convey to Her Majesty's Government, a strong remonstrance against any such concession of the fishing rights as appears to be contemplated.

The immediate departure of this mail will not permit our detailing all the disastrous results to be apprehended from the concessions now required by the American Government, but we must beg that you will assure Her Majesty's Ministers, that the information just received, has occasioned the most intense anxiety throughout the community, it being evident that our rights, once conceded, can never be regained.

By the terms of the Convention of 1818, the United States expressly renounced any right of fishing within three marine miles from the coasts and shores of these Colonies, or of entering their bays, creeks, and harbors, except for shelter, or for wood and water.

If this restriction be removed, it must be obvious to your Excellency, that it will be impossible to prevent the Americans from using our fishing grounds as freely as our own fishermen.

They will be permitted to enter our bays and harbors, where, at all times, unless armed vessels are present in every harbor, they will not only fish in common with our own fishermen, but they will bring with them contraband goods to exchange with the inhabitants for fish, to the great injury of colonial traders and loss to the public revenue. The fish obtained by this illicit traffic will then be taken to the United States, where they will be entered as the produce of the American fisheries, while those exported from the Colonies in a legal manner, are subject to oppressive duties.

We need not remind your Excellency that the equivalent said to have been proposed—that of allowing our vessels to fish in the waters of the United States—is utterly valueless, and unworthy of a moment's consideration.

We would fain hope that the reports which have appeared in the public press respecting the pending negotiations between the two governments are without any good foundation.

We cannot imagine that her Majesty's Government, after having taken prompt and decided measures to enforce the true construction of the treaty, will ever consent to a modification of its terms as will render our highly valued rights a mere privilege to be enjoyed in common with foreigners.

We therefore pray your Excellency to exert all your influence to induce her Majesty's Ministers to stay any further negotiations on this vitally important question until the rights and interests of the inhabitants of this Province are more fully enquired into and vindicated.

Halifax, 2nd September, 1852.

Mr Johnston's Petition:

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

The Humble Memorial of the undersigned Merchants and inhabitants of Halifax, and other parts of Nova Scotia, convened at a Public Meeting held at Halifax on Thursday, the 2nd of September, 1852,

Sheweth:

By the mail recently arrived from England, your memorialists have learned, with deep concern, that it is in contemplation of your Majesty's Ministers, to surrender to the U. S. of America privileges of fishing on the coasts of your Majesty's North American Colonies, to which, at present, your Majesty's subjects are alone entitled.

Time is not afforded to enter at large on this subject, nor is it necessary. Repeatedly have the vital importance of these fisheries, and the necessity of preserving unimpaired the restrictions against encroachment by which they are guarded, been urged on the Imperial Government. It was believed the time had long passed when a question could be raised on either of these points. To stimulate Imperial aid in protecting and maintaining acknowledged rights was all it was imagined that was required of the colonies, and they fondly trusted this consummation had been attained when, in the present season, your Majesty's war steamers came commissioned on this service.

Little, may it please your Majesty, was it anticipated these were to be the precursors of a transfer alike injurious and humiliating to your loyal colonial subjects, or for this aid that so large a price would be demanded.

May it please your Majesty, when the United States, by the treaty of 1818, solemnly renounced forever, the right to fish within three marine miles of the coast, bays, creeks or harbors, of certain portions of your North American territory, the stipulation was neither extraordinary or extravagant. It is matter of common history that sea girt nations claim peculiar rights within a league of their shores; and equally plain that, according to the maxims of international law, this claim is defined by lines drawn not only between the formations of bays, but from the headlands of indentations of the coast.

But had it been otherwise, the stipulation was part of a general treaty in which concession on one side may be presumed to have been compensated by concession on the other, and loss in one particular by gain in another; and the engagement was made in language, too explicit, and in terms too well under-

stood, to admit the possibility of misapprehension.

Shall nations, may it please your Majesty be absolved from the obligation of their contracts, and complaints be respected when made by a people, which, between individuals, would be treated as peurile!

If conciliation, irrespective of right, be the principle on which is to be withdrawn the restriction against the entry of Americans into the bays and indentations of the coast to fish, limiting them alone to the distance of three miles from the shore, the concession of the privilege to fish within this latter distance must equally be granted,—as, indeed, has been already urged in the American Congress,—the restriction in both cases rests on the same authority; and the concession in each would be demanded by the same principle. It may not be the province of your Majesty's Colonial subjects to suggest how far such a principle is consistent with national honor and dependence;—they have a right to pray that it be not carried out at their expense.

When the welfare of the Empire is supposed to demand extensive alterations in the laws of trade and navigation, the peculiar interests of the Colonies are not permitted to disturb the general system, by the continuance of conflicting regulations, however necessary, from long usage, and the competition of foreigners, more powerful and more fostered by their own Governments.

In the present case, the possession to surrender, is no offspring of artificial arrangements, falling with a complicated policy of which it formed a part.

No, may it please your Majesty, your loyal subjects in Nova Scotia raise their voice against the injury of an inheritance conferred upon your North American subjects by nature—connected with their soil by the laws and usages of nations—confirmed to them by solemn compact; and which practically enjoyed by them peculiarly, and as your other Majesty's subjects cannot enjoy them, can be surrendered only at their extreme injury and great loss.

Surely, may it please your Majesty, your loyal Colonial subjects have a right to ask for some better reason for this sacrifice of their peculiar right and interest than the demand of a foreign power—the aggrandizement of a foreign people.

It is reported that the American Government, with characteristic diplomatic skill, have offered to concede a similar privilege on their own coast to return for that that they seek on the coasts of British North America.

The proffered boon is valueless to the Colonists—they want it not, and would derive no benefit from it. The offer may deceive the uninformed, or it may afford an excuse to palliate the sacrifice of your Colonial subjects' rights—it may have been made by our sagacious neighbors with this object—but to those who will suffer by the pretext, it is but the addition of insult to wrong. If rights so entirely Colonial, and so clear as this, are to be sacrificed to American influence, the Colonists should know it. Let them not, may it please your Majesty, be treated as children or imbeciles by nominally granting them a privilege which they know, and the Americans know, to be worthless, as an equivalent for which both equally know to be of incalculable value. For let it not be urged upon your Majesty that what the Americans seek is of no value. Their earnestness is certain evidence to the contrary.

It is, may it please your Majesty, of value; of great value in itself; of, perhaps greater value, still as the best—the only safe guard against violation of the restriction which prohibits the approach of the American fisherman within three miles of the shore.

Your memorialists deprecate all negotiation—all compromise on the subject. The Americans will not—probably they cannot, grant an equivalent for the privileges they seek, and the only security for the Colonies is the entire abandonment of the present negotiations.

Your Memorialists most earnestly intreat your Majesty that the existing fishery restrictions may be preserved in their letter, and that your Majesty's power may be put forth to prevent their violation.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

After some remarks from John Fairbanks, M. L. C., the meeting resolved, that the petition should be signed by the Mayor and Aldermen, and the Citizens generally, the former being constituted a Committee to convey the papers to His Excellency Sir Gaspard Le Marchant.

A vote of thanks was given to Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour for the prompt and energetic measures adopted by him in carrying out the instructions of her Majesty's Government for the protection of the fisheries on the coasts of these provinces; and that copies of the foregoing documents be forwarded to him.

Numerous signatures were obtained to the petition.

At 6 o'clock his Worship the Mayor and Aldermen, the Recorder and City Clerk, and the Members of Assembly for the Town and County, waited on his Excellency. His Excellency was most graciously pleased to receive the address, the accompanying resolutions and petition to be transmitted to her Majesty. His Excellency assured his Worship, and the gentlemen associated, that he had not received one word officially in regard to the concessions spoken of, and enquired of his Worship the Mayor what data existed for the conclusions arrived at.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1852.

THE ALBATROSS.—Last week we announced that this vessel had been withdrawn from the route on which she has been running, and was advertised to proceed from New York to Australia. We are indebted to the Charlottetown Advertiser for the following information respecting her, as well as of another enterprise, in which the proprietor of the Albatross has embarked. We think it a much more judicious one than that which he has abandoned.

The magnificent steamship Albatross, as will be seen on reference to our advertising columns, has been withdrawn from the Quebec line, and placed by her owner, Captain Sleigh, on the Australian route. While we, in common with all classes of the community must regret the loss to our town and Island of such a superb steamer calling at our shores; we cannot, however, refrain from congratulating her enterprising owner on the handsome amount he will likely realize by sending the Albatross to Australia. Above three hundred berths, we are informed, are already engaged in New York, which, with her full complement of passengers, will realise on her first trip above one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. Colonel Sleigh intends the Albatross to run, after her arrival in Australia, from Australia to Panama, and vice versa—in connection with the English steamers to Chagres and Aspinwall, which is we understand a most profitable route. We are most happy to learn that the Captain will place a steamer on the Quebec route, of about four hundred tons burthen and one hundred and fifty horse power. She is now in Philadelphia and will be ready for the fall business.

The following letter from Captain Sleigh appears in Hazzard's Gazette. We are glad to perceive by its contents that he has not lost money by the speculation.

Will you do me the favor to correct, through the medium of your valuable Journal, an error into which the person who edits the Royal Gazette appears to have fallen, when he asserts that I have sustained a heavy loss through the few experimental trips of the Albatross.

As the expenses of the Albatross did not exceed three thousand dollars per month, and as I have run her on this route for not quite two months, at a cost of about six thousand dollars, and as during that period the greater portion of the above has been received in freight and passage money, you will permit me to convey to the well-informed source from whence I received the intimation of my heavy loss, that in future it might be as well, before giving currency to an erroneous report, to apply for correct information to those who know their own business far better than gossips, who make it a favorite pastime attending to the business of others which in no wise concerns them.

This is a maxim which my first enterprise in America has proven the correctness of, and which I would recommend for frequent re-perusal to the person who compiles the Gazette.

THE RAILWAY.—Under this head the St. John Courier has the following paragraphs:

Mr Archibald arrived in town on Thursday evening, and left again yesterday morning for the Acadian mines, at Annapolis, but will return on Tuesday to attend the meeting of the stockholders of the European and North American Railway Company.

We are informed that Mr Jackson, having completed his contract with the Canadian government for the construction of the Canadian Railways, has proceeded on a tour thro' Canada and the Western States. Mr Jackson is expected to visit New Brunswick about the middle of this month, by which time the Railway surveys will probably be so far completed as to enable him to estimate for the work.

We entertain a confident hope that from the very favorable character of the country through which the road has to be built, as well as the vast means at the command of the contractors, such an estimate will be made as will meet the view of all interested.

THE FISHERIES.—The following paragraph, copied from the Courier, afford some grains of comfort. This is a question in which the inhabitants in this quarter are as deeply interested as in any section of the Provinces; and it is surprising to us that they have not made a move to make their feelings and desires known in a public manner.

We learn from the best authority, that the report of the settlement of the Fishery question, in the way stated in some of the English papers, is incorrect. It is probable that, for the present, the matter will be allowed to remain unsettled; but that the rights of the Provinces will be recognised in any arrangement that may be agreed upon, we have good reason to expect. And for this purpose, we understand, steps have already been taken by our Executive.