

Letter from John I Nelson. (MASS. HIST. SOC. COLL. 3D
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PARIS, January 26, 1698.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS.

Having, some time before my coming from England to this place, laid before your honours a certain memorial relating to the 8th Article in the treaty of peace concluded between his majesty and the French King, which as you did then approve of, so likewise were pleased to lay your commands for further information of anything that might happen or occur to my Knowledge by my being in France, and by my acquaintance with those here, who are more particularly interested in those countries, wherein I have not been wanting, to sound their intentions as far as opportunity has permitted, and am thereby the more confirmed of the necessity in asserting and maintaining our right in the fishery, and having them especially inserted by articles conformable to my memorial as aforesaid. What I have now further to add for your lordship's information is, That the French will endeavour — and accordingly instructions will be given unto their commissioners — to endeavour to extend their limits unto the River of Kennebeck, making that the boundary between us on the eastern parts of New England, under the plausible pretence that, that river being more noted, and of the largest extent of any in those parts, crossing through the land almost unto the great river of Canada, they thereby shall be able to withhold the Indians under such a noted boundary from any further excursions upon us on the western side.— But presuming that it will not be disagreeable unto your lordships that I give my sentiments herein — which I the rather do to prevent any surprise or mistake, which may arise from any their specious pretences — I shall therefore expose before your honours the nature, consequences, and value of such a concession, which in a short time may be as fatal and irreparable unto the interest of the crown and the prosperity