

the night torn and destroyed many of those nets, worth from twenty to forty dollars, by catching them with their vessels? I do not speak," he said, "of the number of times in which we have suffered depredations, trespasses, &c., &c." Such and similar complaints were made in the Dominion House of Commons by men who spoke the naked truth. This is enough to show that there is a great deal to be said on the other side. But the harm is done by a few men only.

The American public has over and over again given an example to the nations of the Old World in holding aloft that torch of liberty which consists in the assertion of the soundness of contract—the obligation of treaty—the principle that a nation's word is a nation's bond. From that holy alliance with international right and moral duty they will never swerve. And this feeling is reciprocated by their northern brothers. When a few years ago complaints were made that raids were feared from the great Sioux chief who had taken refuge in Canada, assurance was made doubly sure, and he was so guarded and warned, and finally starved, that he crossed the line and surrendered to the American frontier forces. When, again, it was urged that on the great lakes salvage for vessels in danger was not sufficiently secured, Canada, disregarding the belief that no case had occurred to warrant the views of the citizens interested in such salvage work on the south shore, increased her vessels of succour, and sent a circular to all her customs officials that the widest interpretation was to be given to their instructions, that in no case of danger being apparent was any vessel, coming from no matter where, to be debarred from rendering assistance.

Now as to this horrible charge of unfriendliness, &c., on the present occasion. The state of affairs under which it is made is this. Greatly desiring a continuance of the reciprocal arrangement which lasted for twelve years until 1885, whereby there was free fishing for all fishermen, and free entry for the fish into the New England markets, Canada was disappointed in her desire, and the party in power at Washington said, "No, the fishery is not worth our concessions of free entry for your fish and oil and raw materials, and we shall not renew it. The condition of things existent before the arrangement is sufficient for us." What was this? It was the condition made by the treaty of 1818, which had been modified only during the two terms during which the Americans allowed the reciprocity treaties to endure. It is, then, simply and solely to the treaty of 1818 that we must look. And the respective rights were sharply enough defined by that document. A long stretch of the shore of the north of the St. Lawrence, from opposite Anticosti eastwards, the whole of the western and a great part of the southern shore of Newfoundland, together with the Magdalen Islands, lying in the heart of some of the best fishing districts, were left for the free use of foreign fisher-