

and to abide by its award, was the best possible indication of that feeling which the American Minister himself described "as a sincere desire to settle every dispute between the two nations upon terms just and honorable to each."

The complaints, however, which are made against Canada are equally destitute of foundation as those addressed to the Imperial Government. Canada, it is alleged, has laws with respect to its fisheries which if enforced must be the cause of injustice to American citizens. He does not allege that the provisions of this law have ever been put into force, but he intimates that if certain things should be done in the future he will recommend Congress to authorize him to make reprisals, and prevent the transit of goods in bond over Canadian railways. In other words he will prevent the Grand Trunk of Canada from carrying goods in bond from Portland to Richmond over the Atlantic and St. Lawrence line, and prohibit the carrying of American goods *in transitu* over the Great Western of Canada. In order to carry out the threat, the President will have to obtain the authority of Congress, and we imagine that the parties interested in the Michigan Central, the New York Central, and some other American lines will have a decided objection to the carrying out of a policy which may be very correctly described as "cutting off the nose to be revenged on the face." Any measure which would prohibit the transit of goods in bond over the Great Western of Canada would simply be the annihilation of dividends for the holders of the Michigan Central, and a serious blow to the New York Central, while the destruction of the traffic between Portland and Montreal would simply render impossible the payment of the rent by the Grand Trunk for the Atlantic and St. Lawrence railway, so largely owned by American citizens. The politicians of the States of New York, Vermont, Maine, Michigan and some others, as well as the consignees generally, would have something to say to a system which would put an end to the useful competition of the Canadian railways, and have them bound hand and foot to the tender mercies of a huge railway monopoly. We are not, therefore under any very serious apprehension as to the carrying out of the threat of the President in regard to the transit of goods in bond over Canadian railways. Such a course, if adopted, would of course lead to reprisals on the other side, and the Welland canal would, in such case, be closed to American ships and the navigation of the St. Lawrence would be regulated by similar restrictions to those adopted with respect to Canadian railways. But even as a means of punishment the prohibition of the conveyance of goods in transit from Portland would fail of its object during the time that the St. Lawrence was open, while, by the end of the next year, the Intercolonial Railway from Halifax will probably be so far completed as to give to Canada a route to the Atlantic wholly independent of the United States. No act of the Canadian Government in the enforcement of its fishery laws can now take place until the next season, which will be after the re-opening of the navigation next spring, so that twelve months at least will elapse before, even if the worst should happen, the President can issue his proclamation of isolating the Canadian railways.

We cannot for a moment suppose that the President really contemplates any contingency such as that he has mentioned, and it is quite possible that home political considerations have as much to do with the tone and temper of the Message as the ap-

prehension of the enforcement of provisions of the Fisheries Act which have never been put into force. The whole question of these Fisheries is a mere bagatelle, and might be disposed of in a few hours' friendly conference. Canada is quite ready to treat the whole question in a spirit of liberal reciprocity.

Under the terms of the Reciprocity Treaty both countries progressed in a satisfactory manner, and no disputed questions arose. Canada, for all purposes of commerce, was as a portion of the United States, and for certain specified articles the States were but as a portion of Canada. It pleased the Protectionist party of the United States, however, to put an end to this treaty in 1865, and this party has never since ceased to claim from Canada the same privileges which they enjoyed under that treaty, while they completely exclude Canada from any share of its benefits. By virtue of the Reciprocity Treaty United States fishing boats were permitted to fish in Canadian waters, to enter Canadian ports and dry and cure the fish taken. On the repeal of the treaty Canadian fishermen were prevented from selling their fish in an American port, but the United States considers it a hardship that Canada in return should not permit the use of their harbours for the United States fishermen. The best fishing grounds are undoubtedly those of the St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy, and the gulfs and bays of Canada and New Brunswick, and in these, as in other parts, the best fishing grounds are within the three miles limit of the coast. What President Grant complains of is that the fishing boats of the United States are not allowed in these waters for the purpose of carrying on their fishing operations. The sole reason why they are so excluded is because Canadian fishermen are prohibited from a similar use of American harbours and waters. The President in a querulous and undignified tone, says that the carrying out of the law—that is, in seizing vessels found poaching in their waters—the Canadians are actuated by a desire to create a political effect upon the Government of the United States. By this we presume the President means that the Canadians are desirous of seeing the re-establishment of the Reciprocity Treaty. In so doing they are therefore showing an earnest desire to put an end to all cause of differences in the future with their neighbors. Why does not the Government of the United States meet them in a frank and liberal spirit? The re-enactment of the Reciprocity Treaty, based upon fair and equitable principles, would put an end to all these petty disputes and little squabbles that are unworthy of a great republic. We would seriously recommend President Grant and his Government to raise themselves above the level of questions which might form the subject of discussion among some of the minor States of what was once the Germanic Confederation, or the petty republics of Central America, but which the United States Government should certainly be in a position to treat upon in a broad and comprehensive spirit worthy of a great and enlightened people. We are convinced that the Government and people of Canada are prepared to deal with this question of the fisheries in a liberal spirit. We believe, too, that the United States are equally anxious to have this and all other questions at issue disposed of in a spirit of friendly conciliation. Where both parties are willing to adjust all differences in dispute there should certainly be no insuperable difficulty in devising the means of bringing about the desired result. We cordially endorse the wish expressed in an address at Frome by Mr.

Thomas Hughes, M.P., who during his visit in America had ample opportunities for making himself acquainted with the opinions and wishes of the people of the United States, "that the present Government would at once take action, and settle the Alabama claims and the fisheries question. Then England and America would be on terms of real friendship, and unitedly powerful enough to maintain the peace of the world."

ENGLAND'S GREAT GUN.

The final operation in the construction of England's greatest gun was successfully performed at the Royal Gun Factories on Tuesday, and the monster cannon now only requires to be vented and proved, to be ready for service, which it is confidently expected to be by next Christmas. Yesterday morning the tube of the gun, which is about 16 feet long, was brought out of the factory in which it has been rifled, and fixed, muzzle downwards, in a pit, under the most powerful crane which the Royal Arsenal possesses. At the same time the heavy breech piece—a mass of iron weighing 15 tons, and in shape something like a tailor's thimble—was heated nearly to redness on an adjacent grid-iron, in order to expand the metal, and soon after noon the heated mass was carefully lifted and dropped like a cap over the breech of the perpendicular tube. When cold the calibre of the breech piece was slightly less than the diameter of the tube, but the heat expanded it so as to allow nearly half an inch free play between the two, the cooling process being afterwards assisted by jets of water so as to fix the cap piece firmly down on the shoulders and thereby increase the tension on every part of the surface. The gun, is now complete, weighs 35 tons, 7 cwt; the diameter at the breech is 4 feet 8 inches, and at the muzzle 1 foot 9 inches. The interior of the bore less than 1 foot, and is rifled on the Woolwich system. It consists of an inner tube of steel, tempered in oil and encased in massive folds of wrought iron in accordance with Fraser's double coil system, in addition to the caseable screw and the trunnion ring. With a gun so strongly built it is thought possible to throw a shot or bolt 700 lbs. in weight, and to pierce iron armour 15 inches in thickness, the ordinary charge of powder being calculated at 120 lbs. and the proof charge 150 lbs. The Krupp steel gun, the next most powerful ordnance in existence, weighs about 40 tons, and its projectile weighs only 600 lbs., and it is doubtful whether it has ever been proved with even that. It certainly had not been so proved when the Prussians sent it to the International Exhibition at Paris. The moderate calibre of the new gun is designed for penetration, and the shot will probably be three times the length of its diameter. The estimated cost is £2,500. Sir William Armstrong's estimate for a 35 ton gun was £3,500, and Sir Joseph Whitworth's £6,000.

FEMALE HEROISM.—At the siege of Middajorda the fire of forty-eight guns and mortars was concentrated on this little fort. The troops fell fast. During this tremendous fire a drum boy was ordered to fetch water from the well. The child hesitated, the wife of a sergeant called Ritson instantly caught up the bucket, crossed the fire, and though the cord of the bucket vessel was cut by a shot, she brought it safely back to the camp. The men who were lying in the casemates gave cheers of the soldiers who had shown heroic conduct.