

CHAPTER XLIII.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

WHILE the work of forming the Confederation was still incomplete, Sir John A. Macdonald was asked to go to Washington to act as member of a joint commission for the purpose of settling questions in dispute between England and the United States--questions which closely concerned Canada.

As we have already seen, the people of the United States were angry with England on account of her attitude during the civil war. When the Union was saved it was remembered that Great Britain had treated the rebel states as a nation. Those

**Remembered
the Alabama.**

shipowners and merchants whose property had been seized and whose trade had been ruined by the *Alabama* and other southern cruisers, clamored for compensation. A large party contended that much of the loss of life and property during the concluding years of the war was caused by help given to rebels by the *Alabama*. England had already offered to allow impartial judges to decide how much she really owed the United States for the harm resulting from her negligence or her fault in allowing the southern cruisers to put to sea from a British port, but this reasonable offer was refused.

Now that Canada was about to extend her borders to the Pacific Ocean, it became necessary to settle the San Juan difficulty. When the Oregon treaty was signed the 49th parallel was made the southern boundary of the British possessions from the Lake of the Woods to the Pacific Ocean. In order to leave the whole of Vancouver Island to Great Britain, the boundary line was made to cross the Straits of Juan de Fuca,