

## CHRISTMAS.

assist upon a uniform tariff and would demand preferential treatment in our markets as against British and foreign goods. The answer was that a uniform tariff would be necessary, and that, too, on the line of the present United States tariff.

During the reciprocity conference of last winter Mr. Blaine did not insist that in a reciprocity arrangement a uniform tariff would be necessary for both Canada and the United States, much less that it should be on the line of the present United States tariff.

And yet the former are the words attributed to the Canadian Minister of Finance, and the latter the words attributed to the American Secretary of State. As we have seen no denial of their correctness on the part of either, we must, we suppose, regard both as authentic. Surely if any reliable record of the deliberations was kept it is time that the veil of official secrecy should be lifted by mutual consent of the two governments, and the question of the reliability of the memories of the two Mr. Fosters authoritatively settled. If our memory serves us, our own Mr. Foster has indicated his wish that the two statements should be tried by that test.

The question is, as we have said, important, because of its bearing upon the possibility of reciprocity at that time, so far as the United States representatives was concerned. But as no further light can be thrown upon it, save by the action of one or both of the parties immediately concerned, further discussion is in the meantime useless.

We have always thought that the Washington Government had some just cause for resenting the manner in which the fact of its consent to a private conference for the consideration of the question of reciprocity was used by the Ottawa Administration for the manufacture of political capital. If so, the account is now balanced, for nothing could be in much worse taste or spirit than the manner in which President Harrison referred to Canada, in his Address to Congress. On this we have before commented. The point of interest just now is the attempt of the Secretary of State to justify the President's severe animadversions by reference to the two specific instances of Canada's intervention in the Behring Sea negotiations, and her refusal to fall in with the International Copyright arrangement. The utter unreasonableness of denying Canada's right to protest against a settlement of the sealing dispute, which would have been equivalent to a complete surrender of the rights and a betrayal of the interests of her fishermen, must be obvious to every disinterested observer. The Copyright question is perhaps a little more complicated, yet it is not easy to understand how any fair-minded American can fail to perceive the onesidedness of an arrangement under which every American publisher could have copyright in Canada by simply procuring it in England without any onerous condition, while no Canadian publisher could obtain a copyright in the United States without having his work actually printed in that country. Fair play is a jewel, but such reciprocity would be worthless as paste, without even the deceptive glitter.

When our actions do not our fears do make us traitors.—Shakespeare.

They are never alone that are accompanied by noble thoughts.—Sir Philip Sidney.

No pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth.—Bacon.

The mother knows  
A barn's rude shelter in her travail hour,  
She lays her baby soft where with less power  
The night wind blows.  
Outside sweet voices sing: "The Lord of all  
Is come, let earth and heaven before Him fall!"

A wailing cry  
Through the black stillness, and the cattle move  
Uneasily, and the pale mother's love  
Breathes lullaby.  
Outside bright choirs hymn the Eternal Word,  
The God who speaks, and angel hearts are stirred.

Two tiny hands  
Feeble and powerless droop in helpless wise  
On the hard straw, and the pale mother ties  
The swaddling bands.  
Outside in cold night air heaven's angels sing  
A Prince's mighty will, the power of a King!  
SOPHIE M. ALMON-HENSLEY.

## UP THE WEST COAST OF AMERICA.

Though a great deal has been written about the trip up the west coast of America to Alaska, scarcely more than the half has been told. If ever England made a mistake it was when she declined to purchase Alaska at the time it was offered to her by the Russian Government. The United States, wiser in their generation, quickly bought the estate, and a good investment it has proved to be. England and Canada have the mortification of seeing an unfriendly neighbour in possession of a valuable territory which she refused to buy, and of seeing that neighbour hold a strip of shore line extending past her door and shutting her out from the great highway of the sea. A glance at the configuration of southern Alaska will make this plain. The cost of the arbitration over the Behring Sea difficulty, which would have been avoided had England accepted Russia's offer, will amount to a large proportion of what Russia offered to sell the whole territory for. However, the tide was not taken at its flood, and the fortune was lost.

But while it is not on account of the scenery that England's refusal is to be regretted, it is that feature which has principally led to the ever-increasing stream of traffic up the coast. United States tourists patronize the steamers which run from San Francisco and Puget Sound ports, in ever increasing numbers, and the facilities afforded by the C. P. R. to reach the coast has led many Canadians to visit Northern British Columbia and the regions beyond. Those who take the trip are well rewarded. The scenery is magnificent. One literally sails through a sea of mountains. Beyond the northern point of Vancouver Island the coast line is cut up by a succession of arms of the sea extending inland for miles, and which will furnish magnificent harbours for the fleets which will visit the coast to bear away its products when the natural resources with which it abounds are developed. Off the coast lies a series of islands behind which is the steamboat channel, so that a safe and sheltered passage is afforded, secure except at a couple of places, soon crossed, from the roll of the Pacific. Its character is well described by Lord Dufferin, in the following words: "This wonderful system of navigation, equally well adapted to the largest line-of-battle ship and the frailest canoe, fringes the entire seaboard of your province."

And so it is. The water is deep enough almost everywhere for the largest ship to navigate with safety and sheltered enough for the tiniest canoe to pass without danger of a capsizing. The only danger to be guarded against is the tide, which rushes through some of the narrow channels with great velocity, and has to be taken when it is on the turn, even by some of the steamers.

The scenery is sufficiently varied not to be monotonous. Now we are passing through a river-like channel. Before us the passage appears to be entirely closed. A sharp turn opens up an exit, and we pass into an archipelago through which we wind and twist, ever discovering new beauties. Now we cross a bay or pass an inlet, on the shore of which an Indian wigwam or a loggers' camp may be seen. On both sides the mountains rise, in some places to a height of four thousand feet or over, while occasionally peaks of the coast range may be seen in the distance rising to a greater height and covered with eternal snow. Mountain streams may be seen like silver threads, tumbling down the slopes, and occasionally there are evidences of a land slide which has swept away the trees and left a scarred track through the dense growth of small trees with which the mountain sides are for the most part clothed.

At Alert Bay we come to the first of the salmon canneries on the coast, the fish which supply the raw material being obtained in the Nimpkish river, which flows into the Gulf of Georgia from Vancouver Island. Not far off is a clam cannery, a new industry, which promises to be a success, the clams taking the place of oysters on the west coast, the latter found in these waters being very inferior to the eastern oysters. At Fort Rupert, an old Hudson's Bay post, near the north end of Vancouver Island, there is quite a settlement. The sachem of the place is a man named Hunt, who has been here since 1849, and to whom the Company sold out. Bella Bella, and one or two other posts, have been abandoned in the same way.

While the channel is well sheltered most of the way there are two places—Queen Charlotte Sound and Dixon Entrance, the former at the north end of Vancouver Island, the latter at the southern extremity of Alaska—where the steamboat passage is exposed to the roll of the Pacific, and when the passenger, if at all disposed that way, may experience an attack, mal-de-mer, but if rough they are soon crossed, and the chances during the tourist season are that the Pacific Ocean will prove true to its name and not disturb one's comfort.

About 600 miles north of Victoria the Skeena River is reached. The north of this stream is becoming quite a busy place. It is a prolific salmon stream, and canneries are numerous, nearly half the British Columbia pack coming from this point. At Port Essington there is a large fish freezing establishment, and a place for the manufacture of dog-fish oil. Saw mills are being built at numerous points, and though the Douglas fir, for which British Columbia is famous, does not grow so far north, the spruce is remarkably fine. Logs of six feet in diameter and upwards are not uncommon. There is also good cedar in abundance. At Claxton the British-Canadian Canning Company is building up a fine trade in salmon and lumber, and by the construction of a dam they will convert a valley through which a beautiful mountain stream runs into a lake from