

REVUE CRITIQUE

DE

Législation et de Jurisprudence.

THE GENEVA AWARD.

On the 14th day of September last, the arbitration tribunal sitting at Geneva, awarded to the United States the sum of \$15,500,000, in settlement of the claims, commonly known as the Alabama Claims. This judgment was rendered by a majority of the Court, Sir Alexander Cockburn concurring, on other grounds, with respect to the privateer Alabama.

As might have been expected, this decision has not satisfied all parties. The English Conservative Press, which has uniformly denounced the Liberal Cabinet for the manner in which the Treaty of Washington has been carried out, looks upon it as a national humiliation; and that portion of the American Press which is hostile to the administration of President Grant, loudly asserts that the United States have gained nothing after all. It would seem, however, to the disinterested looker-on that these complaints are unfounded. It is not of the judgment rendered, but of the Treaty under which it was rendered, and especially of the erroneous opinions held by the law officers of the Crown with respect to the duties of neutrals, that the English public has a right to complain. The principle of the responsibility of neutrals, once conceded by England, as it was under the Treaty, nothing remained for the arbitrators but to decide whether the British Government had acted with "due diligence," and if not, to determine the amount of the damages suffered by the United States.

The Americans, again, should be the last to express dissatisfaction with the result of the proceedings at Geneva; for not only is the Treaty itself a great triumph for them and the world at