

that we have convinced these people, is ceded in the general clauses of the Treaty.

We hope that if the mixed commission does sit in Halifax this summer, the discussions and estimates of value will be governed by a sense of honor, not by a petty disposition to over-reach the other side.

#### AT LAST.

The open use of our internal coasting trade by United States vessels has long been an evil which called for remedy; Canadian barges were, until recently, stopped in their navigation of American waters at the port of Plattsburg, and, although the Treaty provides for our having the right to go through the canals, our vessels cannot touch at ports on the route; all this time American barges were permitted by the laxity in enforcing our laws to trade in both directions and almost from port to port, so that our own bottoms were fairly shouldered out of any profitable trade that existed. At last we have a sign of the end of this injurious policy; two American barges, the "Volunteer" and the "Henry Munkin" have been seized for infringing the Revenue Laws; they had for some time been carrying freight from and to ports on the St. Lawrence with no papers but their American registers as warrant for their intrusion; this time they were caught in their supposed security, and it is altogether probable that their example will be a lesson of warning to other craft of the kind. We may confidently expect that the collectors at the United States ports will interpret as far as possible to our disadvantage the recent provisions for carrying into effect the reciprocal navigation clauses of the Treaty, in fact we have already experienced this, even within the short period that has lapsed since the proclamation; and, in view of this, we should be rigidly exact in all concessions to the United States trade.

It would be well also to learn how far the American fishermen have abused the license they have to fish on our sea-coasts, and how far they have pushed a coasting trade under cover of this privilege; it is very probable that much smuggling, as well as illegal coasting, must exist along our fishing coasts. The acts of these New England fishermen have frequently been lawless, and smuggling would be a minor item in the list of their crimes against law.

#### THE LONDON AND LANCASHIRE.

That whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well there is no denying; there is too little energy and foresight in

the character of many of our life insurance establishments; especially may this be said of some of the older ones who, when they attain a certain age, seem willing to let matters take their own course and allow those of newer growth gradually to oust them from the position they had spent so many of their best years in attaining. The step recently taken by the London and Lancashire Life Assurance Company is only another evidence that they are not ratable among the Micawber associations, but that they are in possession of that business ability which early recognizes the altered condition of affairs and readily adapts itself to them, instead of waiting to be forced thereto by popular demands and legislative enactments. The Canadian branch of this company is now virtually a Canadian Insurance Company; the local Board has authority to act equal to that enjoyed by the head office in London; all the moneys received for premiums obtained in Canada will be invested in first-class Canadian securities, thus keeping at home the money of the country to assist in developing our resources, and affording, besides, a guarantee to the policyholder in the greater profit derivable from investments in this country than in England.

A notable advantage the company's business in Canada must derive from this more profitable investment consists in the ability to materially reduce its rates of premium to intending insurers, (see new tariff). This cannot fail to advance largely the business of the Company in this country; and the advantage to agents in procuring new business and advancing the old must soon make itself felt in increased business and greater profit to all concerned, the policyholder as well as the Company.

#### BANK STATEMENTS FOR MAY.

The statement of the Banks for the month ending the 31st May, as published in our last issue, continues to show the same tendencies as in previous months of the present year. Circulation has decreased \$1,335,425 during the month, and is now only about four-fifths of its amount at the beginning of the year. Government deposits have decreased \$290,852. Private deposits have taken a new turn; those payable on demand have increased \$1,177,852, but those payable on notice have decreased \$222,500. It is thought, however, by some parties who ought to be pretty good authorities, that this increase is not from Canadian depositors, but from individuals and companies who have imported English capital for purposes of investment. The amount due to banks in Canada shows a slight decrease of \$20,160, while that due from them has decreased by \$18,861. The amount due to English and foreign agencies has continued to increase; the

augmentation for the month is \$302,615, while the amount due by them has decreased \$634,174. These items deserve some attention. Since the beginning of the year the liability of our banks to outsiders has more than doubled, the increase amounting to \$1,919,214, while their liability to us has increased about 16 per cent., the amount of the decrease being \$1,474,809. This fact is plainly due to the great ease of money outside; and it may be regarded as one cause of the ease of money here. But if our banks, with a plethora of capital on hand, find it profitable to increase their liabilities in this manner we may fairly conclude that they can earn quite as much as their neighbors. Loans on bank stock have lost the increase of the preceding month, and have decreased \$153,712. Notes discounted have also decreased \$1,262,378. It must be admitted that decreased circulation, increased deposits, and decreased discounts do not seem likely to promote large earnings. The item of overdue notes unsecured shows a decrease of \$868,739; but by some strange inadvertence, we suppose the Metropolitan and the Mechanics' banks leave this item blank, after having collectively returned it at \$495,000 in April. As it can scarcely be supposed that all their unsecured overdue debts have been paid, the above decrease must be considerably overstated. It seems probable, however, that there has been a decrease, and a very considerable one, during the month.

#### CORRUPTION IN AMERICA.

Goldwin Smith writes the following letter to a London, Ontario, paper, in which he tries to sugar-coat the bitter pills which the United States have to swallow in the Belknap and other cases of political corruption. He says: I have just been witnessing a political phenomenon, about which a good deal has been said and written here, and from which sinister inferences have been, I think, incorrectly drawn. I mean the movement against corruption in the United States. Public alarm and excitement there have mounted almost to the height of panic. I think this may be said with truth when such a charge as that against Mr. Kerr can find credence, or even be seriously entertained for a moment. Mr. Kerr stood high in every respect; he might well have aspired, and probably did aspire to the party nomination for the Presidency; yet he was seriously charged with having sold himself and all his prospects in market over for the sum of \$450, a door-keeper of the House being employed as the agent of the transaction.

Was government in England pure while the aristocracy reigned without check and was at liberty to show its real nature? Members of Parliament were bought by the score as you would buy goods over a stall; and at one time the Speaker of the House of Commons was the principal agent in the traffic. Lord Bute, the favorite of George III., carried the disgraceful treaty which cancelled Chatham's victories through Parliament by sheer dint of money. It is said that in one day he issued \$25,000 to the order of his agents. He raised a government loan by private subscription among his adherents on such terms as in effect to distribute among them, at one stroke, £350,000 of public