

Gloucester, the great headquarters of American fisheries, was just the place for an industrious correspondent to visit in search of information bearing upon the present international difficulties.

**THE TROUBLES WITH THE DOMINION OFFICIALS
AND WHAT THE GLOUCESTER FISHERMEN THINK
ABOUT THEM.**

There is no doubt that the Dominion authorities have brought about these difficulties simply for the purpose of forcing our government into a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty which expired some years since. This is what the Gloucester fishermen think, and they assert that the Canadians and Bluenoses themselves do not conceal this fact. They treat our peaceful and unoffending fishermen as if they were outlaws of the most contemptible character, and deny them the simple rights and privileges due from one civilized nation to another. One old salt with whom I conversed said that if Congress did not take the matter in hand the fishermen would have to go armed and protect themselves. "We must do it," he said; "if Uncle Sam can't attend to them, why, we can. There are seven thousand fishermen and sailors right here in Gloucester, and I, for one, would be willing to

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upon all their harbors and commerce, and keep it up until they learn how to behave. There are others here who would join me, and I have no doubt but I could get crews for a dozen pirate steamers in a dozen days right here in this town. I tell you, sir, this is what it is coming to unless something is done, and done very quickly too. You will find others besides the fishermen who will back us, and we count old Ben Butler among our best friends. If he don't fix things at Washington we are going to rig up a dozen or so Alabamas and commence business."

I talked with another man—not a fisherman; "It won't come to any serious trouble," he said, "for I happen to know that

GRANT AND SCHENCK ARE ALL RIGHT,

and when Congress meets proper legislation will follow, and then Schenck will get his instructions, and there will be a change of conduct very soon on the part of the Dominion Government towards our Yankee fishermen. Grant is aroused, and has promised to fix the matter right off, and you can bet old Ben won't let him alone till he does. And I further know," he added, with a significant wink, "that Schenck ain't going over to England to eat dinners, but to fix up this Alabama and fish business. Our boys have stood this thing as long as they are going to, and the Government knows it.

THE BEGINNING OF THE TROUBLES.

It was early last summer that the troubles began, and the fishermen, without offering resistance, promptly reported the various outrages to the representatives of the American Government. By a change of boundary lines at that time the Canadian territory includes Mount Joly and a portion of the shore to the east thereof, which, in the treaty of 1818, was described as the southern coast of Labrador. The Secretary of the Treasury holds that this change does not affect the rights of our fishermen under that treaty. The people of Ottawa hold the opposite opinion, and propose to maintain it with gunboats, as they are now doing, and have done ever since last June. Now the grand question is "What is to be done?" From the feeling manifested in Gloucester it is clear that there must be an adjustment of the difficulties one way or another before the fishermen start out for the coming season.

As I have already intimated, there is indignation and excitement prevalent everywhere in the vicinity, and it is no wonder. If one-half the reported outrages of the Canadian authorities upon American fishermen be true, it is a shame and disgrace to our Government that they have passed so long unnoticed. I have conversed with those best qualified to know about these proceedings, and with men of high character, and their reports of the conduct of the Dominion authorities are all unanimous to the point that unheard of outrages have been committed. Most of the statements which I have gathered have been furnished under oath, and they may be relied upon as implicitly true.

THE SEIZURE OF THE "WHITE FAWN"—STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN FRIEND, THE OWNER.

The seizure upon the schooner *White Fawn* was probably one of the most unwarranted committed upon the Gloucester fishermen by the Dominion officers. The announcement of her seizure has already been published, but as the circumstances and details have not yet been given, I concluded to obtain them from Mr. Friend, her owner. The *Fawn* is a first class vessel of 64.49 tons burden, and was built at Essex only a few months since for Mr. Friend & Co. The alleged offence was a violation of the treaty of 1818, and the British fishing laws founded thereon. The vessel sailed from Gloucester on November 21, bound for the Western Banks, where alone her crew were to fish. After touching at Portland for ice she sailed for Head Harbor, Campo Bello, for the purpose of obtaining bait. This bait was delivered on board the *White Fawn* the next day, November 25, being brought off in bouts, the