

to mock trials and nominal punishments. The Canadians naturally resented this, and they expected that when the question of England's responsibility for lax neutrality in the matter of the Alabama was referred to arbitration, the lax neutrality of the United States should be referred also. Our Commissioners did moot these Canadian claims at Washington; but when they were told that negotiations must be broken off if the claims were pressed, they at once dropped them. Can we be surprised that the Canadians were disappointed? Their second grievance, that their inshore fisheries have been sold for ten years, does not appear to us equally substantial. We do not dwell on the fact that, being sold, money will be paid for them. The feeling we entertain, and which, undoubtedly, operated on the minds of the Commissioners, is that there is something not altogether sound in the assumed right of property in inshore fisheries. Fish come to a shore the bounty of nature, and though the authority of every maritime State extends to a league from its coast this authority rests upon the right of a State to keep the peace upon its shores by preventing strangers from coming without permission within gunshot. It is, in fact, an authority of police rather than of property, and where a country is not thoroughly settled, so that its own fishermen completely occupy its own fishing grounds, and the exclusion of strangers becomes necessary as a matter of police, their exclusion can scarcely be warranted on a technical claim of property. The Treaty of Washington, conceived in the spirit of these principles, granted to New England fishermen the right of fishing in Canadian waters in common with Canadian fishermen for ten years, in consideration of money payments, to be ascertained by valuation; and we confess that, if we have any regret about this part of the Treaty, it is that the grant was not made perpetual, so that United States' fishermen might for ever resort to Canadian waters, subject only to police regulations, just as our own fishermen of Cornwall go at the proper seasons to the neglected waters of Ireland.

We shall, of course, guarantee the loan of £2,500,000. It is the only reparation we can offer for having thrown overboard the Fenian claims at Washington; though we believe the proposed guarantee of the projected Pacific Railway to be a very doubtful kindness. But the question provoked at every stage of the discussion is—how long are we to go on affecting to defend the interests of Canada, which, in truth, we have neither the knowledge nor the ability to protect? Is there nothing in the precedent of Portugal and Brazil which might be considered with advantage in respect of Canada and England? We keep up the form of governing Canada from England; but, whenever it becomes a reality, Canada suffers, and the maintenance of the form has the effect of keeping the statesmen and people of Canada in a condition of dependence, if not of pupillage. When youths become men their fathers emancipate them, to the benefit of the world and in the interests of affectionate feeling between them both; and what is true of men in this respect is also true of nations.