

American shore, and which both England and the United States claimed. The second difficulty was concerning the boundary line between the extreme North-West and Alaska, which had lately been bought from Russia by the United States. The third trouble arose out of the desire of the Americans to use the Canadian fisheries, from which they had been debarred since the lapse of the Reciprocity Treaty. The fourth cause of difficulty was the Fenian raids, Canada claiming that the United States should pay the losses occasioned by them. On the other hand, the Americans demanded that England should pay them for all damage committed during their civil war by certain vessels bought and fitted out in England by the Southerners. These American demands were called the "Alabama Claims," from the name of one of the vessels. In order to try and settle these several difficulties, England and the United States appointed certain of their statesmen to meet at Washington, and see what each country was willing to do. The Premier of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, was one of the commissioners for Great Britain. This meeting was held in 1871, and was called a "Joint High Commission." The result of its labors is known as the **Washington Treaty**, which was signed on the 8th of May. By it the "Alabama Claims" were submitted to an arbitration which met at Geneva, Switzerland, in the next year, and which awarded the United States the sum of \$15,500,000, in payment of the claims. England promptly forwarded the amount to the American Government. The dispute about the island of San Juan was submitted to the Emperor of Germany, who decided, in December, 1872, in favor of the United States. The boundary line of Alaska was defined by the treaty itself. The clauses in the treaty relating to the fisheries allowed citizens of the United