

CANADA.

“land being the common and ordinary line of jurisdiction such as we claim ourselves. It was established by Great Britain in 1818 that we should not fish within three miles of the shore, bays, and gulfs of the provinces; but the difficulty was that they did not define where that three miles should be drawn, and long afterward a pretension was set up by the Canadian authorities that the line should be run from headland to headland, enclosing the bays, which means that they undertook to shut up several harbours of refuge where we should have been more than three miles from the actual shore land.

“Well, before 1845 there was a seizure and confiscation of our vessels for fishing in Canadian waters. Then came the Reciprocity Treaty, which gave the Canadians an advantage over our own fishermen, and in one year Great Britain imported into our country 4,000,000 of fish. Nor was the treaty of reciprocity a fair one in other respects, because Canada agreed that there should be reciprocal duties, and that there should be higher and other duties paid by us than by inhabitants of Great Britain on importations into Canada. But she afterwards altered her laws, and required that duties should be calculated upon the amount of transportation, which was a very unjust proceeding. What is to be done with England? Great Britain schemed in this; she favoured the South during the war, and hoped by annoying us in Canada at the same time to close us between two belligerent powers; but she failed in her scheme in the South. It remains for us to say whether she shall not fail in her scheme in the North also. Law after law has been passed, Act after Act enacted by the Canadian Government to interfere with our fishermen, to deprive them of supplies, of the benefit of a refuge in storms, and within a few years vessels belonging to this district and to the State of Massachusetts have been seized for no other reason than for buying provisions in a British port.

“Great Britain, professing to be our friend, that fitted out the *Alabama* and other cruisers, and allowed them to prey upon our commerce, to-day refuses to allow a fisherman to enter her harbours, and yet she calls herself a friendly nation! I shall continue to vote against any renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. I am not for renewing the Reciprocity Treaty. If Canada wants the advantage of our trade, of our commerce, of our lands, of our interest, and of our prosperity, let her become a part of us. [Applause.] We grant no marriage privilege until after the marriage rites have taken place. [Applause.] To-day we are in that difficulty as regards the prosperity of this district. These six vessels which have been seized belong to this district, and two others belonging in different parts of the State, which, with the necessary costs and damage, represent more than \$100,000. This question, therefore, becomes a very grave one, and the Administration have in some cases undertaken active measures in behalf of property seized. Immediately upon the first seizure information came to me in a form I could not very well use. I put the subject before the House of Representatives, and a resolution was unanimously passed, calling upon the Government to take most active and stringent measures to prevent the occurrence of such outrages.

“The Government, which could not treat with Canada, that being a subject Power, immediately called upon the British Minister for explanation. The British Minister then made known the ground of complaint to the Imperial Government at home, and the Imperial Government inquires of the matter of Canada, and the Canadian Authorities sent back word to the Imperial Government, and that goes to the Imperial Minister. This has to be done in every case, and it will take months and months for any case to get settled. The Canadian Government denies that any wrong has been done, and so the question of course remains open for investigation. But the chief difficulty is that, in the meantime, our vessels are being seized, and our business is being interfered with. I have seen the President of the United States on this subject during his present visit to New England, and he has given me an assurance that everything that can possibly be done shall be done to avoid fresh difficulties, and to settle the existing ones. Great Britain claims she has a right to do as she has done.

“THE PROBLEM SOLVED.

“There seems to be but two solutions to this matter—one, that we take the matter in our own hands and defend ourselves. This is very easily done, and a single shot fired in answer to the British gun calling our vessels to heave to will bring the matter to the crisis. If we should get hold of one of those British cutters, and bring her into a United States port, and try the men for piracy, for their actions have been nothing less, perhaps the diplomats would fly a little faster. [Applause.] There is another remedy