

a brief recital of the reasons which have led to the conclusion.

A judicial decision which is unaccompanied by any exposition of the steps by which it is arrived at, resembles rather the sentence of an Inquisition, or the arbitrary decree of a Star Chamber, than the deliberate judgment of a respected Tribunal of Justice.

A GREAT OMISSION.

Had the Commissioners in this instance not ruthlessly knocked away the scaffolding, by which they themselves attained to so high a pinnacle, but had permitted an interested public to mount with them, step by step, in the steep ascent, the same broad view, vouchsafed to them, might have been unfolded to us all, and this writer and these readers had been spared their present pains.

But this defect in the record of the Halifax Commission, while great, is not irremediable. It is still competent, we presume, for the majority of the Commissioners, with the consent of the parties, which assuredly would not be withheld, to gratify the pardonable curiosity of a nation, mulcted in so large a sum, while at the same time they justify themselves, by making public the process by which their result was reached.

The British claim was \$14,880,000. America denied that, after allowing for the value of the concessions she made, anything at all was due. In fixing upon the sum of \$5,500,000, which portions of the British claim were thrown out? What allowance, if any, was made for America's concessions? After charging us for the fish themselves, what amount did they set down against us, because "they serve to make a necessary and healthful article of food, plentiful and cheap, for the American nation?" The production of the simple sum in arithmetic—it must have been, it would seem, in addition and multiplication only—performed by these gentlemen in the interval between the closed case and the finding, would fill up a now painful void, and at once establish a connection between the two.