

PREFACE.

In the following pages will be found the Reports of the two Special Commissioners sent by the N. Y. *Herald*, the one of them to Canada and the other to Gloucester (Mass.) for the purpose of obtaining reliable information relative to the much vexed Fishery question. The allusion made to this matter in President Grant's Message to the United States Congress has naturally awakened fresh interest in reference thereto both in Canada and the United States, and it is of the utmost importance that the people of both countries should be enabled to form an intelligent opinion as to the position assumed by the Dominion Government, which President Grant characterizes as "unfriendly." It has, therefore, been thought expedient to publish these letters in pamphlet form, so that persons may be able conveniently to compare the statements made by the statesmen of Canada with the information given by the American fishermen.

First, it will be noticed that, whereas the representative of Canada in the course of his dialogue with the *Herald's* Commissioner, bases our position upon the rights which we legally enjoy under treaty, the case of the American fishermen stripped of all unnecessary verbiage, narrows itself to this: that the enforcement of our rights, after they have so long been permitted to rest in abeyance, has been attended with great loss and inconvenience to them, nor is it likely, under the circumstances, that any mode of performing their duty which might be devised by the Dominion officials would be acceptable to or approved of by these fishermen.

We will now very briefly discuss *in seriatim* the various cases of seizure of which the Americans complain. In the first place it may be stated that no official complaints have been made to the Dominion Government concerning the conduct of their officers, which undoubtedly there would have been had any high handed "outrage" really been perpetrated upon American citizens.

THE SEIZURE OF THE "WHITE FAWN."

The seizure of this vessel is alluded to as "one of the most unwarranted committed upon the Gloucester fishermen by the Dominion officers." She was seized for purchasing bait, the Treaty