

doubtless, has inspired the policy of the United States in their treatment of the Alabama claims, and we cannot find in the President's statements any evidence of "sincerity" when he expresses his desire for a settlement of that question "consistent with the honor and dignity of both nations." We would, however, refer to that portion of this extraordinary document which still more immediately affects ourselves.

The President states, "That the course pursued by the Canadian authorities towards the fishermen of the United States, during the past season, has not been marked by a friendly feeling." He refers to the rights that United States citizens have in common with British subjects under the Treaty of 1818,—and also to those in the waters not included in the limits named in the Convention within three miles of the coast.

He also states, "That it has been the custom for many years, to give intending fishermen of the United States a reasonable warning of their violation of the technical rights of Great Britain." He further adds, "That the Imperial Government is understood to have delegated the whole, or a share of its jurisdiction or control of its inshore fisheries to the Colonial authority known as the Dominion of Canada, and that this *semi-independent, but irresponsible agent* has exercised its delegated powers in an unfriendly way; vessels have been seized without notice or warning, in violation of the custom previously prevailing, and have been taken into the Colonial Ports, their voyages broken up, and the vessels condemned." He further states, "That there is reason to believe, that this unfriendly and vexatious treatment was designed to bear harshly upon the hardy fishermen of the United States, with a view to political effect upon this Government." "That the Statutes of the Dominion of Canada, assume a still broader and more untenable jurisdiction over the vessels of the United States," by preventing them from "hovering within three marine miles of the coasts, bays, creeks, or harbours of Canada," and by inflicting a penalty, if, on examination of masters, true answers are not given, or if such vessel "is found preparing to fish within three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays, creeks, or harbours, without a licence, or after the expiration of the period named in the last license granted to it," and that they provide forfeiture of the vessel. The President intimates, that should the authorities of Canada attempt to enforce this Act, it will become his duty to take such steps as may be necessary to protect the rights of the citizens of the United States.

He further alleges that:—"It has been claimed by Her Majesty's Officers that the fishing vessels of the United States have no right to enter the open