

It is very fortunate that a tried Canadian statesman is a leading member of the Joint High Commission, and that it has not been left to Englishmen alone to deal with this question. They have already allowed Yankee impudence and clamour to overbear them in treaties made respecting those fisheries on three separate occasions—in 1782, 1818, and in 1854—it is as well they are not likely to be hoodwinked again. The whole article proves that while we can do very well indeed without the markets of the United States they cannot do without access to our markets, and our politicians should govern themselves accordingly. The people of Canada don't believe in *national benevolence*, it is too costly a luxury:

"When," the *World's* correspondent says, "we shut them out from our inshore fishings, where they are as much lawless intruders as if they were veritable Rob Roys in our cattle pastures, these fishermen must either return home empty or buy fish cargoes in Canadian ports or harbors. Its your affair if they take them into the ports of Maine and Massachusetts with or without paying revenue duties. They pay us neither more or less for the article. In this respect especially it makes no odds whatever to us whether your duties be high or low, or that there were none at all. But the heavier they are the more your much protected fishermen piles on the price at his own market. Who pays? He quite forgets to make you any deduction either for the cheapened salt which he has bartered at par in violation of our regulations and your own. He omits to credit the consumer who pays him the duty with the drawback saved by patriotically evading your warehouse laws and treasury regulations. He tells you that the customs charges were designed for his protection, and apply to Canadians for their fish, not to him and his fish. He overlooks the fish eater and pork curer of the Western States, and other interests salted somewhat heavily to protect your great salt producers—they must pay duties on their imported salt and on his salted fish into the bargain. It might be some little comfort to the pork packer in Chicago if he could in his turn salt the fisherman down East on the cost of the barrels of pork included in his fishing supplies. But he cannot. Maine and Massachusetts fishermen don't enjoy protection by halves. They buy their pork when on the fishing voyage in Canada at cheap rates. But I can tell you of something else that he doesn't forget to do. He never forgets to make a grievance of the outrages perpetrated on him by Canadian authorities in interfering with his fishing inside the prohibited limits, and trading his bountied salt and other "truck" for fish, bait, ice, stores, and provisions. According to his complaints United States citizens have been denied their treaty rights, the national flag has been outraged, and insolent Britishers have molested innocent men—"hardy fishermen." He wants more protection. He would have the whole American navy close at hand, and war to the knife, rather than put up with such 'vexatious treatment.' Such are his ideas of protection.

"Whilst trade was free between us and fishing unrestricted, your fishermen caught all the fish they wanted, and sold them at moderate prices. Canada took from you such as your dealers found unsuited to domestic and foreign markets. We know that our fishermen caught less fish than they do when American fishermen are excluded.

They would continue to do so. But while reciprocity removed all obstacles to fishing and trading there was mutual prosperity. Your people and our own enjoyed an abundance of good and cheap fish food. We want our population to enjoy it still. Retaliation by taxing the fish you send to us would be quite easy. We refrain. Rather we take from you all the fish you can spare without driving them away from the mouths of consumers by taxes which we think simply enhance their cost to the customer. In the meantime, your people will continue to buy from us what fish they need, and in exact proportion to the rigour with which your fishermen are excluded from our rich fishing grounds will the dependence of your trade and consumers on the Canadian catch be confirmed. You can settle amongst yourselves out of whose pocket comes the toll which respected Uncle Samuel takes on every mouthful of fish food that goes to feed the active brains, nerves, and sinews of his energetic and intelligent family."

The Yankee fisherman cheats at once the tax gatherer in the United States, encourages smuggling in Canada, and compels the Western farmer to pay duties on his salted fish, while he obtains Canadian pork duty free. The United States is a great country.

The following letter has been addressed to the Prussian Prince Frederick Charles by the Marquis de Biencourt, and exhibits an awful abuse of the laws of war; the conduct described reflects severely on the honor, honesty, gentlemanly or generous feelings of the conquerors, additional point being given to the scandal by the exalted rank of the perpetrators of this outrage.

It has been asserted that German soldiers were little better than savages, and this conduct at least gives countenance to the stories of acts of barbarous brutality charged on them while in occupation of conquered territory,—their possession of Venice and the Quadrilateral was marked by a total disregard of the rights of the populations with whom they came in contact,—and it does not appear that the march of civilisation has effected any change for the better in their conduct. Gladstone's reflections would not be very pleasant if one of those German Reiter princes occupied his country seat at la Frederic Charles.

"CHATEAU D'ASAY LE RIDEAU, Feb. 21, 1871.

"MONSIEUR—Your Royal Highness has been pleased to visit the Chateau d'Asay. In other times I should have been much honoured by this visit; now I am forced to tell your Royal Highness how strange and brutal I consider your proceedings. Do not forget monseigneur, that you are not at the evening of a battle; you occupy the department of Indre et Loire by virtue of the conditions of an armistice, and nothing gives you the right to come to my house to require there to be entertained in spite of me, to eat my bread and to drink my wine. The gentlemen of your staff, the officers of your army and you know nothing of the consideration that well-bred people observe the one toward the other; you are ignorant of the respect which in civilized nations the conqueror owes to the conquered. In seating yourself at my table, in requiring yourself to be entertained at my expense, in

requiring champagne which I had not, you give me the right, which I am profoundly sorry to possess, to speak to you as I do. Seeing the proceedings of their prince I am no longer astonished at the perfectly brutal proceedings of the officers of your army who pollute my dwelling, and who have insisted on being fed in my house, at my expense, since the 4th February. I have the honour to be, monseigneur, with the most profound respect, your Royal Highness' most humble enemy.

"MARQUIS DE BIENCOURT."

"P. S.—I am told that I have equally had the very involuntary honour of feeding at my table his Royal Highness the Crown Prince."

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

SINCE our last issue the situation of affairs in France has not experienced any decided change—the Thiers Government appear to be willing to try the effect of conciliation on the Parisian scoundrels, at the same time they are rapidly concentrating a force about the unfortunate city, which will make resistance impossible. Mont Valerain had kept up an incessant fire on the Champ Elysees and over the Arc de Triomphe, and doing far more mischief than the Germans. The Communists have thrown up barricades in the old style, but they were carried by McMahon's soldiers, after hard fighting and severe loss. It is a pity this great fighting power could not be enlisted to save the National honor when the Germans were before the city, or could it be that Trochu was a mere *bureaucrat* unable to carry out his own theoretical ideas, or to adapt the materials at hand for the accomplishment of the required purpose. Meantime the Communists are quarreling amongst themselves—one portion refusing to man the works; and it is said that the Thiers Government are masters of the situation but do not care to push matters to extremities. It is probable that the whole will conclude by an amicable arrangement.

Nothing of importance from Great Britain beyond the death of the youngest child of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

In Canada the session of the Dominion Parliament was closed by the Governor General on Friday the 14th instant. A good deal of important legislation has been the result of its labors, and Sir G. E. Cartier has the honor of realizing the aspirations of his renowned ancestor (Jacques Cartier) by the annexation of British Columbia; thus preparing the way for the trade of the Eastern Indies, China, and Japan to pass over the route, by which that bold navigator three hundred years ago sought access to those El Dorados of commerce. The Dominion of Canada now extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and it will be the fault of our own people if those vast territories, blest by constitutional monarchy, liberal institutions, and intimate connection with the British Empire, does not become the second great commercial state in the civilized world. It is certainly no small boast for the statesmen