

that there were standing claims against us on account of the Alabama. We watched with some uneasiness the repeated splutters of bad feeling between the fishermen of New England and the people of the Maritime Provinces, because we could never be certain that an ugly accident might not some day force us, much against our will, to become the champions of a quarrel we could only half approve. It is easy, therefore, to understand with what motives our Ministers suggested a Commission, and with what readiness they yielded to the hint that it should be allowed to settle all subjects of difference between the two countries. Lord Derby has repeatedly blamed their eagerness, and the American Government could not but be sensible of the advantage they obtained when the Commissioners arrived at Washington bound to come to some settlement on the points in dispute. It is true that one of the Commissioners was the Prime Minister of Canada, but against this circumstance must be set the facts that the other four approached their work from an English point of view, that the Commissioners as a body were instructed from day to day, and, we may almost say, from hour to hour, by the English Cabinet, and their work was done with an eye to the approval of the English people. It was inevitable that the results of their labours should not satisfy the inhabitants of the Dominion. We are far from saying that the Commissioners did not do their best for Canadian interests as they understood them, but it was not in human nature for them or their instructors to be to Canada what they are to England; and, as the Treaty was conceived for the purpose of removing the present and contingent liabilities of England, it was agreed upon as soon as it was believed that these liabilities were settled.

We have said that the Commissioners failed, and necessarily failed, to satisfy Canada, but we should only tell half the truth if we did not add that upon one of the subjects of Canadian dissatisfaction they acted with deeper knowledge than prevails in Canada itself. The Canadians have two complaints. They say that the Commissioners abandoned the Canadian claims for losses incurred through Fenian raids, and obtained from the United States no security that any effort would be made to prevent a repetition of these criminal irruptions. This is perfectly true. We have more than once endeavoured to explain the just indignation of Canada on the subject of the Fenian raids. A wretched crew of scoundrels, repudiated as such by all the native elements of American life, were suffered to plan and organize, without let or hindrance, raids into a neighbouring country at peace with the United States; and those raids, involving robbery and murder, never partook of the character of war, never, indeed, had any other object than that of keeping up a flow of subscriptions for the support of the Head Centres at New York and elsewhere. Peaceful Canadian students, farmers, and mechanics were compelled to turn out at a moment's notice at the busiest time of the year, and when, at a sacrifice of precious life, the marauders were driven back across the frontier, the utmost that was done was to subject a few specimen offenders