

“ not have consented to record an expression of regret,  
“ and would not have yielded her claims for Fenian  
“ invasions in Canada. The public has a right to be  
“ informed whether the American understanding of  
“ the Treaty will be rejected energetically, and it asks  
“ for that purpose a state paper that shall be worthy of  
“ England.’ In conclusion it says: ‘ This is the usual  
“ way in such proceedings, to ask that both Govern-  
“ ments should declare their understanding of the  
“ meaning of the Treaty,’ a request which, in the ‘ Pall  
“ Mall Gazette,’ amounts to the threat that if the  
“ Government does not take immediate steps with re-  
“ gard to these claims, immediate steps must be taken  
“ against the Government itself. Public opinion is  
“ often in danger of going too far, and truly in this  
“ matter the press does not hold it back. Rumours  
“ have been openly circulated in all the papers calcu-  
“ lated to produce great bitterness ; it is reported that  
“ American swindlers had made it their business to buy  
“ up the claims. ‘ Immediately after the war,’ said the  
“ ‘ Morning Post,’ ‘ an Alabama Ring was formed, which  
“ got possession of the claims at 20 per cent. of their  
“ nominal value, and were now making a shameful  
“ stock speculation with the indirect claims.’ The  
“ informant further states that, during the transactions  
“ for the reciprocity Treaty with Canada, through the  
“ English Minister at Washington, a public offer was  
“ made to settle the matter behind the scenes, in con-  
“ sideration of a bonus of £25,000 sterling ; only the  
“ want of secret funds prevented the thing being