

\$5,500,000, the American people will be soon again disposed, in the emergency of another international dispute, to submit any vital interest to the hazards of arbitration as at present understood and practiced.

INTERNATIONAL COURTS IN THE FUTURE.

Are we justified in withholding from these International Courts, as now organized, that confidence in the justice of their decisions which can alone induce us to continue to resort to them?

A Tribunal to which are referred interests which concern nations, and of such magnitude that they cannot themselves agree upon them, should, it would seem, be surrounded with guarantees and safeguards, at least equal to those which attend ordinary courts of justice. International Commissioners are now vested absolutely with the combined powers of Jury and of Judge. But while unlike a jury, in that no restraint seems to be exercised upon the evidence to be admitted before them, no matter how irrelevant or delusive, on the other hand they are not necessarily selected with a view to the experience and special attainments which qualify a judge.

ARE THEY JURYMEN OR JUDGES?

If the members of these Commissions may be assumed to be, as undoubtedly they are, superior to the ordinary grade of local jurymen, they are after all still but mortals, and not utterly exempt from the impulses and frailties which pertain to humanity. Yet their verdicts, which are deprived of the guidance and counterpoise ordinarily imparted from the Bench, are final and without appeal.

If in enlightenment and dignity they are thought rather to partake of the character of the judge than of the jury, the result of their labors should be announced, not like the finding of the jury, in a bare monosyllable, or in figures unaccounted for; but rather, after the manner of the judge's decision, should be preceded by a review of the evidence, and