

SOME of the facts elicited in connection with the Tobique tragedy in New Brunswick are of a nature to compel further consideration of the vexed question of riparian rights. The dweller on the banks of a stream or lake is generally disposed to believe that he has a natural right to take fish from its waters for his own use, and that any law or regulation forbidding him to do so, is unjust and tyrannical. In the Tobique case it appears that one of the parties who was driven from the stream by the husband of the murdered woman, and who is charged with being a party to the murder, was in actual destitution, and greatly needed the fish he was prevented from taking to satisfy the hunger of those dependent upon him for support. Of course not even this can justify, or even greatly palliate the cruel and cowardly murder, but it may and should direct public attention to the question whether the leasing of streams and natural fish ponds, on such terms as to prevent the dweller on their banks from taking a fish even to satisfy his hunger, is consistent with natural justice. It is evidently not even on a parallel with the game-laws which create so much bad blood in the Mother Country, inasmuch as the game preserves are made and stocked at the expense of the owner, while the fishes and the streams are, as a rule, placed there by the hand of Nature.

It is doubtful if anything in the past history of even spread-eagle eloquence can quite equal some of the gems with which the ears of the members of the United States Congress are being now regaled. Such specimens as the following, from the speech of Congressman Wilson, of Minnesota, may be culled in profusion to decorate some future portrait of the Bombastes Furioso of American party politics: "Should the Queen of England and the Empress of India, forgetting the lessons to her ancestors in the past, aim or discharge at us one unfriendly gun from one of her war ships, I predict that the echo which it would awaken would not cease to reverberate before Grover Cleveland, President of the greatest Republic on earth, would salute Charles Stewart Parnell as the president of the youngest republic on earth." In the meantime it is reassuring to observe that the sure reaction is already beginning to set in. The sterling good sense and right feeling of the large and influential classes who represent the solid weight and worth of the great Republic, though, unhappily, they stand too much aside from the management of its political affairs, are beginning to make themselves felt. The sound judgment and justice to be expected from those whom we prefer to regard as representatives of the real American people, are well exhibited in a recent letter to the *Springfield Republican*. The writer, "G. S. M." reviewing the situation with conspicuous ability and fairness, points out that the difference with Canada is one of "long standing," "involving no clear question of absolute right and wrong, touching financial interests which are small at the best, in no way a flagrant or imperative issue, and in every respect a subject for peaceful and friendly adjustment;" that "the treaty, warmly recommended by the President under whose authority it had been concluded, was rejected by the Republican Senate in a bitterly partisan temper, and with an accompaniment of preposterous bluster to the effect that this was not a case for negotiation;" and that the President's message, embodied in the Retaliation Bill which has just passed the House, "is a proposal to interject a huge vindictive retaliation into the peaceful discussion of a trivial quarrel." This is an admirable summary of the whole case, divested of partisan rant and patriotic "bluff." "G. S. M." proceeds to pay a compliment to the moderation of the Canadian and English press, which we are glad to think is on the whole, barring the bluster of the London *Standard*, and of an occasional jingo amongst ourselves, deserved. Canadians and Englishmen are able to listen to the abuse which is being heaped upon them with equanimity, because, on the one hand, they are conscious that it is undeserved, and that they want nothing but their rights, and on the other, they know that the Congressional orators are not voicing the sentiments of the real American people. While willing at any moment to re-discuss the whole question on its merits, they can, in the meantime, possess their souls in patience, feeling assured that exhortations of such genuine patriots as the writer quoted will sooner or later find a response in the mind and heart of every true American. "Let the people, by their own voices, disown the brawls and threats of the politicians. Let them speak out for peace, for arbitration, for good neighbourhood among nations. Let them show that truly 'the American people has a conscience!'"

THE testimony taken before the Congressional Committee on Immigration, in New York, revealed the fact that the contract labour laws of the United States have been violated and evaded to a very great extent, if indeed they have not been practically a dead letter. The evidence thus far gathered in Boston confirms this view. The most important part of this related to the fishermen, whose rights and wrongs are just now looming

so large before the eyes of President and Congress. An almost comical turn is given to the great agitation by the discovery that about three-fourths of the men who have been so abused and oppressed by Canada, and in whose behalf such depths of national sentiment have been stirred in the breasts of Congressional patriots, are Canadians. The vessels may be owned by Americans, but captains and crews are drawn mainly from the Maritime Provinces, whence they come to man the fishing fleets at the opening of the season, and whither they return to rejoin their families and friends at its close. It is true, of course, that the irony of the situation is double-edged and cuts both ways. While American orators are fulminating over Retaliation Bills devised to avenge the injuries thus inflicted by Canadians upon Canadians, the Canadian Government is, on its part, going to much trouble and expense in framing laws and equipping cruisers for the protection of their fisheries from the ravages of Canadian fishermen. These facts are but additional illustrations of the close connection that exists between the commerce and industries of the two countries. They set in a clear light the consummate folly of the threatened non-intercourse between neighbours whose interests are so closely interwoven. The matter, however, with which the Committee in question is more immediately concerned is the extreme difficulty of shutting out undesirable immigrants without at the same time excluding those whose coming is in every way desirable. How great this difficulty is seen to be appears in the heroic character of some of the measures proposed. Amongst these are an immigration tax of one hundred dollars per head, a notice by the immigrant of his intention to become an American citizen, to be given six months in advance of his leaving his native country, etc. The most feasible scheme yet suggested is probably that of Chairman Ford, who would apply an educational test by requiring the intending immigrant to apply in his own handwriting, but it is questionable whether even this would not be found on trial wholly impracticable.

It is gratifying to learn that the experience of the first five weeks of actual use of the great telescope in the "Lick" observatory have been the reverse of disappointing. An interesting report has been published by Professor Holden, the Director, which is not only full of promise for the future, but even chronicles some important results already attained. Special attention has thus far been directed to the moon and to the planet Mars. A number of "exquisite" pictures of the moon's surface have already been secured. These, when enlarged, as they are to be ultimately enlarged by means of apparatus in the observatory, will give the moon's craters on a scale of twenty-five to thirty-five, and even of fifty or more, inches to the diameter. "These ought," says Professor Holden, "to present really important testimony in regard to the vexed questions of change on the moon's surface, and as to whether or no we have to regard the surface of our satellite as simply dead; since life is nothing but change." The Professor speaks with scientific caution, but one can scarcely refrain from gathering an impression from the tone of his remarks, and of a quotation which he approvingly makes from a work of Maedler's, that he is by no means assured that the prevalent impression as to the deadness of the moon, or even as to the absence of animal and intelligent life from its surface, is so well-founded as generally supposed. The chief points of interest recorded in regard to the observations of Mars tend to disprove the recent announcements of Professor Schiaparelli, of Milan, with regard to the reduplication of the so-called "canals," and of M. Perrotin, of Paris, with regard to the disappearance of the "Continent" Libya. The testimony of the great telescope seems to refute both these alleged discoveries, showing the "Canal" lines as single broad streaks of dusky marking, and the triangular "Continent" Libya in its accustomed place on the surface of our neighbour planet. Further reports from Professor Holden will be awaited with interest.

AN influential movement, headed by the Primate of England, and Lord Carnarvon, and having for its object the daily opening of the churches of the Establishment in towns and cities for the free ingress of all who may choose to enter, is in progress, and, notwithstanding considerable opposition, is likely to succeed. To many it has long been a wonder that the Protestant churches of all denominations, both in England and America, do not follow the example of the Catholic churches of the Continent in this respect. Travellers in Europe tell us that one of the most impressive things about Continental churches is the absolute freedom of ingress and egress which they offer to all comers, a freedom which is perpetually used and prized, especially by the poor. Lord Carnarvon argues with force that "passers-by find mental and physical rest in withdrawing from the stress of the streets into the quietude of a church, and, being there, are drawn on by the associations of the place to devotional meditation." The *Times* carries the argument further by pointing out that the wayfarer may be