

*From THE TIMES, May 3, 1872.*

It is impossible to read the Correspondence, just presented to Parliament, between the Ministers of the Crown at home and the Ministers of the Crown in Canada, without seeing that questions arise in it of far greater moment than the difficulties, embarrassing as they are, which have brought them to the surface. The Correspondence relates to the Treaty of Washington, and it will be remembered that the clauses of that Treaty, dealing with the disputed subject of the Canadian Fisheries, were accepted by Her Majesty, subject to their ratification by the Parliament of the Dominion. No attempt was, however, made to procure this ratification during the Session at Ottawa of last year, and the Correspondence before us fully explains the omission. The Ministers of Canada drew up a Minute towards the end of last July, in which it was stated that the provisions were regarded with almost unanimous dissatisfaction by all classes of the people, and in all places throughout the Dominion. This feeling was shared by all, and it was expressed with as much force in the agricultural districts of the West as in the Maritime Provinces. Lord Kimberley, as Secretary for the Colonies, answered this Minute last November, attempting to meet the objections; but he failed to satisfy the Canadian Ministry. What is more, their reply, received here on the 5th of February, just as our Session began, plainly declared that, in order to bring the Fishery Clauses before the Dominion Parliament this year with a fair chance of getting them approved, the Ministry must be enabled to announce at the same time some boon which might reconcile the country to the Treaty. The bribe they suggested was that we should guarantee a Canadian Loan of four millions, being half the estimated cost of constructing the Pacific Railway and enlarging the St. Lawrence Canals. Lord Kimberley's last words are an offer on the part of the Home Government to propose to the Imperial Parliament a guarantee of a loan of 2,500,000*l.* as soon as measures should have been taken in Canada to give effect to the Treaty. The nature of the transaction is to be partly concealed by cutting it up into two or three parts, by a process reminding us of "financial puzzles" and similar expedients of the past; but it is remarkable that Canada is to take the initiative, and trust to the power of the Home Government to carry the proposed guarantee through Parliament. The Correspondence closes with this despatch from Lord Kimberley, but we presume that his offer has been accepted by the Canadian Ministry.

The Correspondence, we have said, forces upon our attention questions of deeper and more permanent interest than its direct subject matter. The people of Canada are profoundly dissatisfied with the manner in which their interests were dealt with in the Treaty of Washington. How could it be otherwise? That Treaty was conceived with a view of relieving England from pressing and contingent liabilities. Our immediate motive was the knowledge