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Our people have been averse to arbitrations ever since an attempt was made, thirty years ago, to settle the Northeastern Boundary Question by its submission to the arbitration of the King of the Netherlands. It was time wasted; for, as he attempted to decide nothing, but proposed to run a line half-way between the two, "splitting the difference," our Government (which had reserved that privilege) refused to consent to his proposition.

It is asking a great deal of us to propose to submit such a question as our Northwestern Boundary to arbitration. Our claims are of so clear and positive a character that it must be very hard for one familiar with them to consent to such a process. And we do not wonder that the people of Washington Territory have sent the protest against arbitration, presented to the Senate on the 19th Jan., 1869, by Senator Corbett.

We wish to speak with entire respect of the British Government, which seems desirous to close up the topics of difference between the two Governments. But it does not require a remembrance of the doctrine of total de-

pravity; it only requires a wholesome recurrence to poor human nature as it is, and to the spirit of encroachment which powerful nations too often adopt, to place us on our guard.

This is a claim concerning which Mr. Bancroft, in his letter of the 15th June, 1858, to Mr. Campbell, said, "It should be met at the outset as one too preposterous to be entertained." Again, "The Hudson's Bay Company may naturally enough covet the group of islands east of that channel, but the desire, which can never amount to a claim, should not be listened to for a moment."

Diplomacy has examples in which a claimant, whose side is weakest, whose cause is unsubstantial, finally gets a slice by mere perseverance, by the mere process of raising the smoke of contest. It will readily be seen that such results would not be very satisfactory and statesmanlike, and would not promote the cause of permanent peace. The refined civilization of the age would seek an adjustment founded on justice, and not one of a hollow character—a Banquo's ghost to haunt the diplomacy of the future.