

CANADA.

“ It would be more economical for the United States to pay the *Alabama* claims, whatever they may be, in money five times over, than to allow the present commercial and political relations of Canada, with all the losses, expenses, and complications to remain open for a single year, to say nothing of the cost to us of the suppression of the raids of our irrepressible Fenian brethren, which seem likely to be periodically repeated, at least until Ireland is free.

“ THE DANGERS OF WAR FROM OUR FISHERY COLLISIONS.

“ But there are other and more difficult complications arising daily which demand, in the interest of peace between the two nations, the immediate settlement of the *Alabama* claims, in a manner which shall take away all possibility of future entanglements. For the purpose of forcing a reciprocity treaty upon the United States, the Canadian government has been for the past two years renewing its pretensions to the exclusive right of the fisheries in the great bays and estuaries along shores adjoining the British provinces—pretensions which are only to be examined to be found unjust; pretensions under which they have seized a number of vessels belonging to the United States upon the flimsiest prettexts, broken up the voyages, turned loose the crews, who are part owners, and subjected the owners to the hardship of defending their claims to their own property before a British Vice-Admiralty Court, only to find their vessels, if they succeed, returned to them stripped of their lines, cordage, and running rigging; allowed to go to waste while in the hands of the court; with their cargoes perished, the voyage broken up, and the means of continuing it carried off without any responsibility for the loss. Canada claims to enact laws providing for the seizure and confiscation of our vessels if they fish within the lines which her laws prescribe, and also if found taking shelter for more than twenty-four hours in her bays and harbours, whatever the inclemency of the weather, or even if buying provisions or supplies therein with which to fish anywhere upon the broad expanse of the ocean. This condition of conflicting rights and claims cannot long rest without collisions which will severely endanger the peace of the nations. American seamen are not too patient of wrongs from that Power which impressed their fathers and searched their ships on the high seas till we went to war for sailors' rights.

“ Nor is this interest an inconsiderable one. Massachusetts alone sends more than fifteen hundred sail of vessels on to the northern fishing grounds at different seasons every year. It is evident that these seizures and condemnations cannot continue. Our fishermen will not long submit to be seized by the Canadian revenue cutters without defending themselves. A collision is inevitable if there is no other way in which our rights of fishing can be protected. If the government is powerless to preserve our rights through its diplomacy, a collision is desirable, because then this series of injuries will be terminated in a manner that will astonish diplomacy.

“ AN OCEAN-BOUND REPUBLIC THE ONLY SURETY FOR PEACE.

“ Therefore urging the settlement of the *Alabama* claims in the manner I have suggested, by withdrawing British power from the continent and giving us an ocean-bound republic, is in the interest of peace and not in the interest of war. No statesman, no patriot can desire war. Nay, no partisan can desire war as a means of sustaining his party. War is by far too terrible to be lightly levied, or until all other means have failed. We, as a nation, unhappily now know what war is, its effects, its sequences and its consequences. It is, therefore, the duty of the patriot and the statesman to provide for a permanent and honourable peace, and to see to it that all causes that may provoke war are removed. Therefore it is the duty of the administration and the republican party, as the governing power of this country, to bring at once, and at all hazards, these *Alabama* claims and our fishing troubles to an honourable adjustment—such an adjustment as will be sustained by the country and give assurance that no causes of serious difference between us and England can arise in the future. Such an adjustment will commend the administration of General Grant, with redoubled force, to the people and win him new laurels in peace to entwine in the chaplet with those won in the war. It is said by certain timid anglophobists that a peremptory demand upon England to do what we believe of right ought to be done, to be followed, if refused, by a declaration of non-intercourse on our part, will bring on war by England in preference to an honourable adjustment. As the action I have proposed to be taken is fully within every rule of international law, such result ought