

I shall not detail the abridgement of our treaty rights on her coasts that she is persistently carrying out, nor dwell on the mockery of justice exhibited by the legal proceedings which she has invented, to squeeze fines and forfeitures out of American owners; and though I might hint at the complacency with which Great Britain pigeon-holes the remonstrances of the diplomatic representatives of the United States, and evades their complaints as to the present conditions, by throwing out suggestions for new treaties, as the harpooner throws a tub to an enraged whale to divert him from the boat, — yet I forbear comment on what is still under diplomatic discussion.

The commercial course of Canada concerns Congress directly.

The remedy must be initiated there. The Treasury Department, through the report of its late distinguished chief, Mr. Manning, the committee of the Senate, that of the House, the State Department, and the President in his message of December 1, 1886, have borne unanimous testimony of the “unfriendly and unwarrantable treatment by the local authorities of the maritime provinces of the Dominion of Canada” which American fishermen have sustained. Each house of Congress has unanimously expressed a like opinion, and legislated in accord, authorizing retaliation. Does Canada indulge the delusion that, by declining to live up to the proclamations for over fifty years in force, which opened commerce by sea between her and us, and by declining to live up to the 29th article of the Treaty of 1871, she can exact new commercial privileges from the Congress of the United States?

The deep sea fisheries of the United States are not dependent on the good or evil will of Canada. Our fisheries defy the worst that Canada can do by legislation. She may drive our vessels from her ports, make her shores as fertile in confiscations as they are in shipwrecks. Our fishing interests have found her professions of friendship more disastrous than shipwreck or confiscations or non-intercourse.

Treaties with Great Britain in the past have inflicted such injury on our navigation engaged in the fisheries, that new ones bode further injury. Strong evidence of good faith, by living up to commercial agreements solemnly made, must be furnished