

of the United States. The "Alabama" claims, also left to arbitration, were settled in Geneva, in 1872, by the payment of \$15,500,000 by Great Britain to the United States. At the request of Great Britain, Canada's claim for damages done by the Fenians was withdrawn, and in recompense, certain other favors were given to Canada by the Mother Country.

The Alaskan Boundary Settlement, 1903.—In 1825, a Treaty was made between Great Britain and Russia, who owned the great territory of Alaska, by which Russia was confirmed in the possession of a strip along the Pacific Coast, reaching down as far south as 54 deg. 40 min. In 1867, the United States bought Alaska from Russia for the sum of \$7,200,000. In 1895 gold was discovered in the Yukon Territory, which is inaccessible from the sea, except through the strip given to Russia in 1825. This now belonged to the United States. No attempt had been made to delimit the frontier between this and the Yukon; so, after considerable negotiation, the matter was submitted to the Arbitration of three American and three British jurists. Mr., afterwards Sir Allen Aylesworth, and Sir Louis Jetté were the two Canadians on this Board. The decision was substantially in favor of the American claim. A good deal of feeling was aroused in Canada through the action of Lord Alverstone, the only English member of the Board, in agreeing to relinquish two small islands—Sitklau and Kannaghunnutt—without the knowledge of his Canadian confrères. These islands were really of no value, and their relinquishment did not in any way affect the general decision, which was based entirely on documentary evidence. It has been thought by many, who are not familiar with the facts, that but for the action of Lord Alverstone, Canada would have owned the whole of the "Panhandle." His decision, however, merely settled the ownership of these islands.

The More Excellent Way.

There have been several other Agreements and Treaties between Great Britain and the United States, which did not concern Canada directly; and again, others of a minor nature, in which we were interested. The awards under those referred to have not always been received with enthusiasm, either in Canada or in the United States, especially when the decisions have apparently been adverse. Regarding the Geneva Award, which mulcted Great Britain in heavy damages in respect of the "Alabama" claims, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, the then Prime Minister of Great Britain, made use of these noble words in the British House of Commons.—

Although we may think the sentence was harsh in its extent and unjust in its basis, we regard the fine imposed on this country as dust in the balance, compared with the moral value of the example set when these two great nations of England and America, which are amongst the most fiery and the most jealous in the world, with regard to anything that touches national honor, went in peace and concord before a judicial tribunal to dispose of these painful differences rather than resort to the arbitrament of the sword.

The celebration of a hundred years of peace with the United States is remarkable because there has been by no means a hundred years of amity. On many occasions, but for diplomacy and the exercise of common sense, there would have been war. It is this fact which lends especial significance to the present cordial relations between the two nations. Canada's greatest achievement and the greatest achievement of the United States, in the eyes of the world to-day, is the boundary of 3,540 miles, stretching from ocean to ocean, garrisoned only by the sentiment and good-will of two sovereign peoples.