

The Weekly Monitor.

BRIDGETOWN, AUGUST 28, 1877.

There passed our office on Monday afternoon, the remains of an Indian maiden, followed to the grave by a number of the descendants of the aborigines of this country. Conspicuous among the number was the father of the deceased, Noel Labadore, now 70 years of age, and who is a descendant of the chief that concluded the treaty of peace between the MicMac Indians and the English at Halifax in 1761. We have occasionally tried to picture to ourselves, when riding through the valley or gazing upon it from the mountain side what it looked like when in its primeval state and swarming with the dusky forms of the red man as he pursued the game which roamed around or as he floated down the meandering river in his fragile birch bark canoe intent upon catching the finny tribes swimming beneath him; and as the sun sinks to rest in the western horizon, lighting up the sky above with crimson and gold, he lay beside his wigwag to pay the feet of his Indian bride the trophies of his capture, or perchance present them to the object of his affections as a token of his undying regard for her who is ere long to become the sharer of his rude home.

In fancy we see the smoke curling up from some sequestered spot where the council fire has been lighted, and the great chiefs and warriors have assembled to talk over the affairs of the nation, or commence the war dance before departing upon the war path to avenge themselves upon some hostile tribe. We hear the warwhoop and the clash of tomahawk against tomahawk as brave meets brave, the flashing in the summer sun of the scalping knife can be seen, as the scalp is ruthlessly torn from the head of the vanquished foe.

Years ago, centuries, have rolled away since just such scenes as we have tried to depict were no doubt transacted in the lovely valley then in all its primeval beauty, and in which we are now so peacefully dwelling. The red men too, has nearly passed away, but a scattering few are left. Where they once roamed can now be seen comfortable homes surrounded by cultivated fields, fruit-laden orchards, and the hill sides teeming with loving cattle. The meandering river bears upon its bosom the more modern constructed craft of the white man. Where once sounded the warwhoop of the savage, the shrill whistle of the locomotive is heard as it rushes past the spot where once sat in council the Indian chiefs of olden times. The white man's foot has stamped out his red brother. Civilization has taken the place of barbarism.

READINGS.—Poetic Readings, consisting of Select Poems, from various authors, will be given by J. W. Hersey Esq. in Tupper's Hall, on Thursday evening next, 9th inst. Reading to commence at 8 o'clock. Admission, 25 cents.

PIE-NIC.—A picnic is to be held on the Berwick Camp Grounds, on Friday the 10th inst. The Hon. Alexander MacKenzie is to be present, and will address those assembled. A special train will leave Annapolis, at half past nine in the morning, stopping at intermediate stations, and return from Berwick at 6 p. m.

The Premier will commence his address at 1.30 a. m.

BERRIES.—In the upper part of this and the adjoining county of Kings, the crop of all kind of berries has been very prolific this season, and large quantities have been gathered and sent to market. Mr. Amos Burns, of Kings, has bought 16,000 quarts of blueberries and 2000 quarts of other kinds for which he paid the pickers \$660.00. Another trader bought 200 bushels. The price paid was from three and a half to seven cents, according to the kinds.

ENTERTAINMENT.—We understand that Wm. Warwick Esq., of Lawrence town, intends throwing open his mansion soon for a grand entertainment, the proceeds of which are for the benefit of the Wesleyan Church, Middleton, now being built to replace the one recently destroyed by fire. Great preparations are being made and no expense or trouble will be spared to make the affair a success. Due notice will be given through the Monitor.

Consign your produce to G. W. STARR, Colonial Market, Halifax, N. S. See advertisement another column.

Good Catch.—The schooner Queen, of Litchfield, has washed out her second fare of fish of two hundred gals. caught in fourteen days, making about four hundred quintals secured this season.—Journal.

DEATH FROM HER MAJESTY.—The Queen has been pleased to send Mrs. Jane McCullough, widow of Bear River, and daughter of the late Lieut. James Anderson, who served in the regiment under the command of His late Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, her father, at Halifax, the sum of £20 sterling, to relieve the pecuniary demands of her requirements in her old age.—Daily Courier.

THE FISHERY COMMISSION.

From the Toronto Globe.

The term "sharp practice" is frequently applied to American diplomatic action, but seeing that the characteristic so termed is both consistently and persistently practised by our neighbors in determining treaty and other international rights obligations, there is room for believing that it may arise from a radical difference of moral standard rather than from any intention of deceiving their language and ours, so it is possible that there may have arisen a divergence in our respective notions of what is strictly honorable. Thus, when by the first clause of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 we accorded to American fishermen the right to use our inshore fisheries, and to land on our coast for the purpose of curing their fish and drying their nets, we naturally put a generous construction upon the matter. The clause does not in so many words accord the right to buy bait, and ice with which to preserve the bait, to cross to the supplies and to transport the same to the fishing grounds. Yet, because these are the obvious concomitants of the concessions specified, they were accorded by us without question, and as a matter of course. But when by the twenty-first clause of the Treaty of Washington the United States accorded us a free market for our fish, it did not prevent them, in exercising the spirit of the concession by putting a duty upon the cans in which lobsters are required to be packed. It will be seen, from some special correspondence published in the Toronto Globe, that this same unfortunate characteristic of American diplomacy is cropping up again in connection with the Fishery Commission now sitting at Halifax. The same fishing privileges which were accorded to the United States while reciprocal relations existed between us and them have been accorded by the eighteenth clause of the Washington Treaty—this time in consideration of their giving us an equivalent in concessions and money; and it is the business of the present Commission to determine the value of privileges granted. Our correspondent in his letter indicates the valuable nature of the collateral advantages which go with and which have before gone with the right to fish in our waters, yet it appears that the Americans are unwilling to pay for the liberty to procure bait, purchase supplies, and transship fish in our ports. The policy of the Treaty as Shylock did to the purser of his bond. The liberty to catch fish, and the liberty to land for the purpose of curing and drying, nets is that the Treaty specifies, and it is claimed on the part of the United States that the Commission can only assess the value of the privileges specified. If so, then from 1854 to 1866 and again from 1871 till now, we have thrust valuable concessions upon the Americans, concessions which not only the American fishermen who fish in our waters, but also those who fish on the great banks, can be said to do without, yet which we shall not be allowed to withdraw should payment not be made for the same. It would be a harsh construction of the Treaty, certainly, but it is the American construction, not ours. New England fishermen must most devoutly hope that the United States Commissioner will evince more regard for their interests than the United States Agent appears to do, and that he will recognize the imperative necessity of closing, along with the right to fish and cure fish on our coasts, the right to procure bait and transship fish.

This is another matter which our correspondent tells us has been brought prominently forward in the United States' Answer to our Case, namely, the headlands question. If the American construction be that the Convention of 1818 did not debar their fishermen from fishing in such bays, Fundy and Chaleur, then they would be able, most undoubtedly, to make a serious diminution in our claim for compensation. But our construction of that Convention is doubly fortified, first, by the plain and unmistakable language of the renunciation clause, and next, by the practice of the United States in regard to their own bays. Secretary Webster in 1852 characterized it as "a strict and rigid construction," which precluded fishing vessels of the United States from entering into the British Provinces except for the purpose of shelter, repairing damages, and obtaining wood and water. Improving upon this, later American Ministers maintained that it was a forced and unjust construction which precluded citizens of the United States from fishing in these bays. Yet, when we come to compare American practice with American preaching, we have ample reason for distrusting the sincerity of this contention. Delaware Bay is twenty miles wide at the mouth and seventy miles deep. Chesapeake Bay is twelve miles at the mouth and two hundred and twenty miles deep. Massachusetts Bay, defined by lines drawn between the headlands of Cape Cod and Cape Ann—a stretch of about fifty miles, while Cape Cod Bay is only twenty miles wide and extends to Plymouth Harbor. The fishing in all these bays is under State (not Federal) jurisdiction, and the limits which constitute State waters are the same as those laid down in Wharton's Law of Nations; that is, three marine miles in the case of bays and arms of the sea are measured from headland to headland. Yet in the face of this, the Americans contend that any bay in these Provinces which is wider at the mouth than six miles is no bay, in the sense intended by the Convention, but part of the high seas. The Convention between France and England in 1839 by which these two countries agreed to reserve exclusive fishing for their respective subjects only within one marine league from a line drawn between the headlands of all bays not exceeding a width of ten miles at the mouth, has no bearing whatever upon our case, that being a modification of international law agreed to between two countries for mutual convenience. Besides, the condition of the fisheries of the French and English coasts are far less dissimilar than that of the fisheries on the American coast and ours.

The question of the construction of the first article of the Convention of 1818 is one which, however it may affect the present arbitration, the Fishery Commissioners have no power to settle. We may say the London Times say, "It is a little provoking at this distance of time to find fresh proof of the carelessness with which the Treaty of Washington was drawn up." Had not the British High Commissioner been in such a hurry to patch up amicable relations between England and the United States at the expense of Canadian interests, they would have seen that what they regarded as a settlement of the fishery question was no settlement at all. The real question in dispute between us and the United States is the construction to be put upon the Convention of 1818, and it was a far more to submit to a mixed Commission the valuation of a twelve years' lease of our fishing so long as that remedy was not tried. 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