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THE ALABAMA CLAIMS
We have received the following communication from Dr. James Macaulay, author of "Across the Ferry :"-
"If the American claims are so 'preposterous,' 'untenable,' 'insane,' and all that the press calls them, why need we hesitate to allow the Court of Arbitration to consider them? If we trust the wisdom and fairness of the arbitrators as to the doubtful claims, why do we distrust them as to claims so undoubtedly indefensible? We are paying poor homage to the sagacity and impartiality of the arbitrators. If they are men of high spirit and clear judgment they may well resent this distrust.
"Did the Americans ever expect a decision in their favour as to the claims for indirect losses? They have said that they did not ; but they wished to put on record the losses indirectly caused by the pirate vessels, in order to show how much they were ready to waive for the sake of an amicable settlement.
"From conversation with Mr. Hamilton Fish, at Washington, in the autumn of 1870 , I can affirm that there was then no expectation of any compensation for indirect losses ; and even as to the direct claims Mr. Fish said that these would all have to be examined and sifted. If this was the feeling before the Washington Treaty, the American Government is not likely to be less disposed now for a reasonable and fair settlement of the claims.
"It is to be deplored that so many newspapers are renewing the rancour of debate, and blighting the hope of international good feeling. To Tie Graphic, neutral in politics, and popular on both sides the Atlantic, I send this protest, knowing that it will be responded to by many friends of peace. If there has been misunderstanding as to the matters to be submitted to arbstration, it is not too late to rectify the mistake. The Governments may not like to recede from their position, but public opinion on both sides may reach a right conclusion in spite of diplomatists and journalists."
[Dr. Macaulay must not imagine that our neutrality in politics goes so far as to make us forget that we are Englishmen. If the Americans did not expect the arbitrators to make them an award for the indirect losses alleged to be caused by the "pirates" why did they include them in their elaborately-drawn Case, and why, moreover, did they state in that Case that England was the only country against which they had any cause of complaint at the close of the Civil War? Surely they might have in this censure included the French Government, which, but for our refusal to join, was prepared to recognise the independence of the Southern Confederacy. As for arbitration, although our Government consented to it, we have a vehement distrust of such a mode of settling international disputes. We wrote thus concorning the Treaty on May 13 last (No. 44, which contain a double-page engraving of the Joint High Commission) :-"It is scarcely necessary to say that John Bull has not got what is vulgarly termed a 'rise' out of Brother Jonathan on this occasion. John Bull rarely, if ever, gets anything out of his Transatlantic Cousin, nor is he happy at Conferences, which seem to be devised as a convenient mode of yielding without seeming to yield." Further on, after stating that the various claims are to be verified and audited by a new Commission, we added: "Why all this shifting of responsibility? Why cant the gentlemen whom we have sent to Washington settle the affair, and pay down the cash as soon as possible? These are the sentiments of the Nero York Herald. They are also the sentiments of common-sense business-like Englishmen; but we fear they are not the sentiments of diplomatists, who like to wrap everything in coils of 'red tape.' "-ED.]

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## ACROSS THE FERRY.

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# AMERICA AND ITS PEOPLE. <br> od) ait astgor lo moizertqo sidt fudy bisa ai i1" <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> JAMES MACAULAY, M.A., M.D., EDIN, Editor of the "Leisure Hour." womovilib <br>  bollss od ovlozer sidoit alid it -ait shivinq ni forquber      

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"It is said that the expression of regret in the preamble of the treaty, at the escape of the Alabama, 'under whatever circumstances,' is 'without precedent, and eminently calculated to shock the sentiment of diplomatic propriety.' But then, we fear, it is without precedent for two nations to resolve upon making up differences so grave without resort to arms, in the manner prescribed by Christianity, and constantly adopted in private life. If this noble resolve be called national humiliation, let us glory in the reproach ; and if saying now what ought to have been said ten years ago lowers us in the estimation of Europe, let us hope that Europe will, before Iong, rise to a higher conception of international fellowship." ${ }^{n}$ - The Times.

# ACROSS THE FERRY: 

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF

AMERICA AND ITS PEOPLE.

By James macaulay, M.A., M.D., Edin.,

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fruits in thefts, robberies, drunkenness, adulteries, suicides and murders ! How shall these abounding evils be remedied? Only by their condemnation by the virtuous of the land, and the promulgation of the truth of God. Hence, it is the chief aim of this Society to expose all error and sinful practices, and endeavor to bring their votaries to accept the light and life of Christianity, and to practice its holy precepts. God has prospered its efforts in the past, and many, during the last twenty. years of its existence, have acknowledged their indebtedness to its teaching, for new views of truth and duty. With its facilities reaching through its periodicals and tracts, monthly, probably 200,000 readers, we can not but think it is an instrumentality which ought to be used by all who are interested in the success of the cause of the Divine Redeemer. For every dollar contributed to our Charitable Department we give away one dollar's worth of publications, and whatever we receive to our Publication Fund, we endeavor to invest in copyrights, plates and cuts for new Books and Tracts, that thus, by increasing the assets of the Society, we may multiply its power for good. In addition to our former field, the Great West, the entire South is not only open, but pleading for aid to enlighten her darkness and elevate her former degraded population. We earnestly ask you to help us in this glorious work of endeavoring to bring our sin-ruined world back to an allegiance to its Creator and Redeemer.

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Art. II. of its Constituth, point out its appliinterests of practical re1 literature." It is the d indeed in the country, which gives much attention to the exposure of error and the condemming of the evil practices and demoralizing social customs of the times. In days past it boldly exposed and condemned slavery, and it is now its purpose, just as boldly to expose the plots and character of Komanism and condemn Sabhath-breaking, intemperance and other kindied vices. In the prosecution of its work, the Society for the last few years has circulated through its charitable department alone, annually, literature amounting to over nine millions of tract pages. But what is this compared with the thousand millions of pages of souldestroying literature circulated all over this land, and bringing forth

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OUR WORK AND OUR NEED.

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