

all claims for unpaid portions of the tax. It also defines the terms by which each State can receive its money back and a final settlement be effected.

There is no condition attached to repaying the States which paid their direct tax from the State Treasuries. But where this tax was collected from individuals, conditions are prescribed, by which these individuals can have no claim on the National Government. And, further, the Refunding bill prohibits any payment to attorneys or agents for services in claims against the Government, and none of the money to be refunded must go for any such purpose. A limitation of six years for the forwarding of claims, from the passage of the last bill, is also provided for. So that after 1897 no claims for direct taxes can be entertained.

In the days of the Revolution it was sought to establish a National fund, by means of a direct tax, similar to that of 1861, but it was not a success. In 1798, a direct tax of \$2,000,000, was laid on slaves and real estate. In 1813, \$3,000,000 was collected in a similar way. In 1815, provision was made to collect \$6,000,000 annually by direct tax, but in 1816, the annual feature was abolished, and about \$3,000,000 was collected.

The direct taxes of these early days were never paid back. The tax of 1861 is the only one of its kind which Congress ever refunded, or provided for refunding. As to the wisdom or patriotism of this act, it would appear that States and persons who loyally sustained the Union, at a critical period, ought in equity to be now reimbursed for the money they furnished at the time of the nation's extremity.

THE FEMALE EXPLORER.

A LATE London paper is authority for the statement that the proposed expedition of Mrs. French Sheldon into Central Africa has decidedly captured the English fancy. The lady is described as having a fine physique, lithe and supple, with handsome piercing eyes, and rare conversational qualities and as being entirely destitute of the feeling of fear. It is added by the writer that she is a granddaughter of Sir Isaac Newton, also that she is an American by birth.

It seems that Mrs. Sheldon is altogether the "rage" in London just now, and her daring, not to say romantic, tour into the depths of "Darkest Africa", is naturally the absorbing topic of conversation everywhere. The interest attached to it is emphasized by the announcement that she will individually pay all the expenses

of the trip and not, as is customary, seek governmental or personal aid.

The Queen, it is reported, has expressed a desire for a picture of the daring woman, and we would suggest that if she have it it be taken at once; it may not be so attractive after an equatorial sun and the marshes, briers and swamps, to say nothing of wild beasts of the jungle, have wrought their inevitable havoc.

FORCE BILL PROSPECTS.

ALL OF the Republican Senators who opposed the force bill but one—Ingalls, of Kansas—will be in the next Congress, or perhaps we ought to say the present Congress, when it convenes. The Republican majority has been cut down in the upper House from fourteen to six, the Democratic gain of course representing so much decided opposition to the measure. In using the words "Democratic gain" we include Senators Peffer and Kyle, the former of Kansas, the latter of South Dakota; they are not strictly Democratic, but are practically so in consideration of the force bill, for both are opposed to it. It would seem, therefore, as if the hard-fought measure had received its quietus.

ENGLAND AND NEWFOUNDLAND.

THE Newfoundland fishery business is likely to make considerable trouble before it is settled. Many politicians are of the opinion that it will be the cause of upsetting the present conservative ministry in England. The Gladstone ministry a few years ago was wrecked on a question of taxation, much more trivial than the Newfoundland one.

Administrations in England are much more amenable to public opinion than in this country. The parliamentary system of that country is such that the ministry cannot work against the wishes of the people. In that respect it comes nearer, to a democracy than does our republican system of government.

There is something more than the question of colonial rights in issue between the Newfoundland people and the Imperial government of England. This is the fact that France is also involved, and France and England, under existing circumstances, are peculiarly situated. Outside of the question that they are ancient enemies, there is the reported alliance of Russia and France, coming now to complicate matters.

Lord Salisbury wants to coerce the Newfoundlanders into a certain line of legislation, so as to facilitate Eng-

land's treaty rights with France. Newfoundland has absolutely refused to be guided by the Conservative Ministry. Will arms be resorted to on the part of England, to compel the stubborn colonial fishermen to give in? Not likely. The people of England recognize the rights of colonial governments, and that is what puts Salisbury in his present precarious situation.

Newfoundland is not a part of the Dominion of Canada. It is an independent British colony. It refused to enter the Canadian confederacy in 1867. It is supported entirely by its fisheries. France has had certain treaty fishing rights on the banks of Newfoundland, from time immemorial, and the present trouble has arisen from an alleged violation of these rights. The dispute arose in the first place between Newfoundland and France, but as a matter of course, the former country is not recognized by France, except as a British possession. France will look to England entirely for a settlement of this matter.

There is another particular which helps to complicate the situation. A strong feeling for annexation with the United States exists among the people of Newfoundland, and should they unanimously so express themselves, it would lead to a delicate issue between free countries.

Newfoundland is an island, triangular in form. It is 370 miles in length, 290 in breadth and 1000 miles in circumference.

Its area is 40,200 square miles, and its population in 1874 was 161,486. Possibly its resistance to England's demands at present is due to the belief that the time is ripe to make a demand for annexation to the United States. England cannot afford to quarrel with France at any price, and perhaps the fishermen know this.

WEALTH OF THE ROTHSCHILDS.

THE Rothschilds are always an interesting subject, because of the fact that no one outside the family knows what its immense wealth is; indeed, it is questionable if all members of the family know the actual amount of its possessions, or if any one of them could state it accurately at all times. It is known that they have \$50,000,000 in American securities, which has brought them in considerable and adds to their wealth every hour in the day; and they have, by means of their own money and through personal negotiations, since 1812, raised for the different civilized nations of the first, second and third classes, an amount aggregating the inconceivable figure of 3,000,000,000 or thereabout, more money than is or ever was in circulation in the world at any one period of time.