

the Government of the United States seriously consider to be the injuries it has suffered; it is not written in the nature of a claim, for the United States now make no demand against Her Majesty's Government, on account of the injuries they feel they have sustained. Although the United States are anxious for a settlement on a liberal and comprehensive basis of all the questions which now interfere with the entirely cordial relations which they desire should exist between the two Governments, yet they do not now propose or desire to fix any time for this settlement. They prefer to leave that and the more important question of the means and method of removing the causes of complaint, of restoring the much-desired relations of perfect cordiality and the prevention of the probability of like questions in future, to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government; but they will be ready, whenever Her Majesty's Government shall think the proper time has come for a renewed negotiation, to entertain any propositions which that Government shall think proper to present, and to apply to such propositions their earnest and sincere wishes and endeavours for a solution honourable and satisfactory to both countries.

I have recited at length the concluding passages of Mr. Fish's despatch, because they express many sentiments which Her Majesty's Government most cordially and sincerely reciprocate. The Government of Her Majesty equally with the Government of the United States earnestly desire that all differences between the two nations may be adjusted amicably and compatibly with the honour of each, and that all causes of future difference between them may be prevented; and they would heartily co-operate with the Government of the United States in laying down as between themselves, and in recommending for adoption by other maritime nations, such principles of maritime law as might obviate the recurrence of similar causes of difference between them.

And it is because they earnestly desire to hasten the period at which these important objects may be accomplished, that Her Majesty's Government have determined not to follow Mr. Fish through the long recapitulation of the various points that have been discussed in the voluminous correspondence that has taken place between the two Governments for several years.

Her Majesty's Government had indeed hoped that by the Convention which, under the instructions of his Government, and with their full and deliberate concurrence, Mr. Reverdy Johnson signed with me on the 14th of January of the present year, all correspondence between the two Governments had been brought to an end, and that all matters in dispute would be referred for settlement to a dispassionate tribunal. With a view to that result, Her Majesty's Government had in some degree departed from their deliberate convictions and declared resolves; they agreed to the mode of settlement proposed by the United States' Government, which was more than once in the course of that negotiation modified to meet the wishes of that Government; but they did so willingly, because they thought the restoration of a good understanding between Great Britain and the United States might well be purchased by concessions kept within bounds, and not inconsistent with the honour of this country.

Her Majesty's Government learned with deep concern that the Senate of the United States, in the exercise of the powers unquestionably conferred upon it by the Constitution, repudiated the acts of the Government under whose authority

that Convention was concluded, and by rejecting it had left open the whole controversy between the two countries, and had indefinitely prolonged the uncertainty attendant on such a state of things.

Her Majesty's Government regret no less sincerely that the President of the United States concurs with the Senate in disapproving that Treaty: but their regret would in some degree be diminished if Mr. Fish had been authorized to indicate some other means of adjusting the questions between the two countries, which, as long as they remain open, cannot be favourable to a cordial good understanding between them. This, however, Mr. Fish has not been empowered to do, but he expresses the readiness of the President to consider any proposal emanating from this country. It is obvious, however,—and Mr. Fish will probably on reflection admit,—that Her Majesty's Government cannot make any new proposition or run the risk of another unsuccessful negotiation, until they have information more clear than that which is contained in Mr. Fish's despatch, respecting the basis upon which the Government of the United States would be disposed to negotiate.

But Her Majesty's Government fully agree with Mr. Fish in considering that it would be desirable to turn the difficulties which have arisen between the two Governments to good account, by making the solution of them subservient to the adoption, as between themselves in the first instance, of such changes in the rules of public law as may prevent the recurrence between nations that may concur in them of similar difficulties hereafter.

You may assure Mr. Fish that Her Majesty's Government will be ready to co-operate with the Government of the United States for so salutary a result, which would redound to the mutual honour of both countries, and, if accepted by other maritime nations, have an important influence towards maintaining the peace of the world.

You will read this despatch to Mr. Fish, and give him a copy of it if he should desire to have one.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

(No. 7.)

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Thornton.

Foreign Office,

SIR,  
November 6, 1869.

WITH reference to that passage of Mr. Fish's despatch of the 25th of September in which he says that the object of his dispatch, which Mr. Motley is at liberty to read to me, is to state calmly and dispassionately, with a more unreserved freedom than might be used in one addressed directly to the Queen's Government, what the Government of the United States considers the injuries it has suffered, I have to say that, looking upon this dispatch as not being of a strictly official character, and as being communicated to me personally rather than as the Representative of the Queen's Government, I have not thought it necessary, in my official reply to the communication made by Mr. Motley, to express my dissent from those statements.

I desire, however, to place before Mr. Fish, in the same manner as Mr. Motley was instructed to place before me, some observations that have occurred to me to make on the statements in his despatch; and I accordingly transmit to you a paper to that effect, which you will read to Mr.