

ventions Commerciales a imposées pour nous au droit de taxation que possède toute nation sur elle même. C'est pour sortir de cette sorte d'impuissance que nous sommes conduits à mettre un terme, des que nous en avons la faculté, aux engagements qui résultent pour nous de nombreux Traités de Commerce. Celui qui nous lie à la Grande Bretagne est le premier qui soit arrivé à l'époque d'une résiliation régulière. Nous ne pouvons plus même compter avec quelque assurance sur la possibilité de modifications qui nous seraient nécessaires. Nous sommes donc obligés de prendre date en le dénonçant aujourd'hui. Confians dans nos intentions, résolus à n'user qu'avec une grande modération de la liberté qui nous serait rendue, soit en négociant des Conventions nouvelles, soit plutôt en statuant seuls par voie législative sur notre régime commercial, nous avons pris notre résolution sous l'empire d'un intérêt public qui ne peut être méconnu. Veuillez donc, M. l'Ambassadeur, faire connaître au Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique, que dans notre pensée les effets du Traité du 23 Janvier, 1860, doivent expirer un an après le jour où vous lui aurez fait connaître nos intentions. Vous voudrez bien nous en informer immédiatement, afin que le fait soit porté, comme il convient, à la connaissance du commerce et de l'industrie.

Je vous prie de lire cette dépêche au Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté, et, s'il le désire, de lui en laisser copie.

J'espère que la notification qu'elle contient et à laquelle vous donnerez, dans la forme, l'authenticité qui sera jugée convenable, sera reçu dans le même esprit que celui qui l'a dictée, et qu'aucune atteinte ne sera portée aux sentiments réciproques d'estime et de bienveillance qui subsistent entre les deux nations.

Agréez, &c.,

(Signé) REMUSAT.

(Translation.)

The Duc de Broglie to Earl Granville.—(Received March 15.)

*London, March 15, 1872.*

THE Undersigned, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic, has the honour to acquaint his Excellency the Principal Secretary of State of Her Britannic Majesty of the instructions which he has received from his Government, contained in the annexed despatch, which he has been instructed to communicate to him.

As his Excellency will perceive from this despatch, the Government of the Republic, after examination of the last note transmitted to it in the name of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, has arrived with regret at the conviction that it must renounce the hope of seeing accepted at present the revision of the Treaty of Commerce of 1860 on the bases which it had proposed.

In consequence, and for the reasons which the Undersigned has several times had the honour to discuss with his Excellency, the Government of the Republic finds itself compelled to make use of the power reserved by Article XXI of this Treaty and of the authorization which has been specially conferred by the National Assembly of France by the Law of the 2nd of February last.

The said Treaty must therefore henceforth be considered as denounced ("denoncée") by the Government of the Republic, and its provisions

will cease, should no contrary arrangement be made in the meanwhile, in a year from the day on which the present communication reaches the hands of his Excellency the Principal Secretary of State.

The Undersigned, however, considers it right to state that, if, in the course of the year the British Government should think it advantageous to take into consideration the proposals which have been made to them, the French Government has always declared that it would show itself ready at any time to resume negotiations for the maintenance, with modifications, of the Treaty of 1860.

He would also direct attention to the fact that, in virtue of Article 2 of the Law, already mentioned, the Conventional Tariffs existing will remain in force, even after the lapse of the Treaty, until the enacting of new Tariffs by the National Assembly, and, consequently, will be modified only on the points which that Assembly may judge indispensable.

The British Government will doubtless perceive in this arrangement the confirmation of the assurance which has been several times given, that the French Government has no thought of profiting by the liberty which it desires to regain to effect an economic revolution of a nature to disturb the commercial relations of the two countries, but that it only wishes to provide in the strictest measure for the pressing wants of French finance and industry.

In conclusion, the Undersigned shares fully the hope expressed by his Government, and confirmed by the repeated assurances of his Excellency the Principal Secretary of State, that the cessation of the Treaty of Commerce, if it must be final, will not be followed by any lessening of the intimate relations which have existed for so many years between France and England, the maintenance of which is of such value to both nations.

The undersigned begs his Excellency to be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of the communication which he has the honour to make to him, and avails himself, &c.

M. de Rémusat to the Duc de Broglie.

M. le Duc,

THE note which you have received from Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has been the object of attentive examination by the Government of the Republic. It has recognized all the courtesy which Lord Granville expresses in his communications with France; but it has regretted to find in this document objections which leave no hope of seeing accepted the revision of the Treaty of January 23, 1860, on the bases of negotiation which had been proposed.

One word only as regards these propositions; they are divided into two classes. One class, without doubt, has a protective tendency, but the Treaty itself is conceived in a spirit of moderate protection; and since the Government of the Queen has on two occasions declared that in spite of its repugnance to all systematic protection, it has no absolute objection to any proposal for slightly protective duties, we could have wished that it had investigated whether our proposals were not of that class which it cannot consider as unacceptable, since they are above the limit which the negotiators of the Treaty of 1860 had laid down. We, moreover, entertain the conviction that, if they were accepted, they would not sensibly affect the importations of British manufactures into France. As for the second class of our proposals, they have an eminently fiscal