

ed to the partners or agents of the Northwest Company, bearing date the 27th of January, 1818, and in obedience to a subsequent order, dated the 26th of July, from W. H. Sheriff, esq., Captain H. M. ship *Andromache*, we, the undersigned, do, in conformity to the first article of the treaty of Ghent, restore to the Government of the United States, through its agent, J. P. Prevost, esq., the settlement of Fort George, on the Columbia river.

"Given under our hands, in triplicate, at Fort George, (Columbia river,) this 6th day of October, 1818.

"F. HICKEY, *Captain H. M. ship Blossom.*

"J. KEITH, *of the N. W. Co.*"

The following is the despatch from Earl Bathurst to the partners of the Northwest Company, referred to in the above act of cession:

"DOWNING STREET, 27th January, 1818.

"Intelligence having been received that the United States' sloop of war *Ontario* has been sent by the American Government to establish a settlement on the Columbia river, which was held by that State on the breaking out of the last war, I am to acquaint you that it is the Prince Regent's pleasure, (without, however, admitting the article of the treaty of Ghent,) due facility should be given to the re-occupation of the said settlement by the officers of the United States. And I am to desire that you would contribute as much as lies in your power to the execution of his royal highness's commands.

"I have, &c., &c.

BATHURST."

"To the partners or agents of the

*Northwest Company residing on the Columbia river."*

The above documents put the case of the restoration of Fort Astoria in too clear a light to require further observation. The case, then, of Great Britain, in respect to the country west of the Rocky Mountains, is shortly this:

Admitting that the United States had acquired all the rights which Spain possessed up to the treaty of Florida, either in virtue of discovery or, as is pretended, in right of Louisiana, Great Britain maintains that the nature and extent of those rights, as well as of the rights of Great Britain, are fixed and defined by the convention of Nootka; that these rights are equal for both parties; and that, in succeeding to the rights