

I am now authorized by his Lordship to state that it would give Her Majesty's Government great satisfaction if the claims commonly known by the name of the "Alabama" claims were submitted to the consideration of the same High Commission by which Her Majesty's Government have proposed that the questions relating to the British Possessions in North America should be discussed, provided that all other claims, both of British subjects and citizens of the United States, arising out of acts committed during the recent civil war in this country, are similarly referred to the same Commission.

The expressions made use of in the name of the President in your above-mentioned note with regard to the "Alabama" claims convince me that the Government of the United States will consider it of importance that these causes of dispute between the two countries should also and at the same time be done away with, and that you will enable me to convey to my Government the assent of the President to the addition which they thus propose to the duties of the High Commission, and which cannot fail to make it more certain that its labours will lead to the removal of all differences between the two countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Mr. Fish to Sir E. Thornton

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, February 3, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 1st instant, in which you inform me that you are authorized by Earl Granville to state that it would give Her Majesty's Government great satisfaction if the claims commonly known by the name of the "Alabama" claims were submitted to the consideration of the same High Commission by which Her Majesty's Government have proposed that the questions relating to the British Possessions in North America should be discussed, provided that all other claims, both of British subjects and citizens of the United States, arising out of acts committed during the recent civil war in this country, are similarly referred to the same Commission.

I have laid your note before the President, and he has directed me to express the satisfaction with which he has received the intelligence that Earl Granville has authorized you to state that Her Majesty's Government has accepted the views of this Government as to the disposition to be made of the so-called "Alabama" claims.

He also directs me to say, with reference to the remainder of your note, that if there be other and further claims of British subjects or of American citizens growing out of acts committed during the recent civil war in this country, he assents to the propriety of their reference to the same High Commission; but he suggests that the High Commissioners shall consider only such claims of this description as may be presented by the Governments of the respective claimants at an early day, to be agreed upon by the Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HAMILTON FISH.

No. 2.

Earl Granville to Sir E. Thornton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 23, 1871.

I RECEIVED on the 19th instant your despatch of the 6th instant, inclosing copies of letters exchanged between yourself and the Secretary of State of the United States relative to the appointment of a Joint High Commission to sit at Washington for the purpose of considering pending questions between this country and the United States.

Her Majesty's Government having been regularly informed by you by telegraph of the satisfactory character of this correspondence, did not hesitate at once to send out the British Members of the Commission, and Lord de Grey and Mr. Bernard accordingly embarked for New York on the 11th, and Sir Stafford Northcote on the 18th instant; and it now only remains for me to acquaint you formally that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the tenor of your letters to Mr. Fish.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.