

No. 15.

Lord Stanley to Mr. Thornton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 10, 1868.

MR. REVERDY JOHNSON called at the Foreign Office on the 29th ultimo, and made a proposal on behalf of his Government, for a basis on which a settlement of the British and American claims might be arrived at by arbitration through a Mixed Commission.

This proposal was reduced to a more formal shape at a further interview between Mr. Reverdy Johnson and myself on the 3rd instant, at which Her Majesty's Attorney-General was present, and has now been adopted in a Convention, which I have this day signed with Mr. Johnson, and of which I inclose a copy for your information.

You will observe that the general claims are to be adjudicated upon by the Commissioners, who on this occasion are to be four in number, assisted by an Arbitrator, in the manner provided by the former Claims Convention of the 8th of February, 1853.

The class of claims known as the "Alabama" claims are also to be dealt with by the Commissioners, but their consideration of these claims is to be limited to the official correspondence which has already taken place between the two Governments, and, in the event of their not coming to an unanimous decision, is to be referred to some Sovereign or Head of a friendly State who is to be chosen by the two Governments as Arbitrator for the purpose, without argument or further evidence. The Commissioners unanimously, or the Arbitrator, are, however, to be at liberty to call for argument or further evidence if they or he shall deem it necessary.

I am, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Convention between Great Britain and the United States of America, for the Settlement of all Outstanding Claims.—Signed at London, November 10, 1868.

WHEREAS claims have at various times since the exchange of the Ratifications of the Convention between Great Britain and the United States of America, signed at London on the 8th of February, 1853, been made upon the Government of Her Britannic Majesty on the part of citizens of the United States, and upon the Government of the United States on the part of subjects of Her Britannic Majesty: and whereas some of such claims are still pending, and remain unsettled; Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the President of the United States of America, being of opinion that a speedy and equitable settlement of all such claims will contribute much to the maintenance of the friendly feelings which subsist between the two countries, have resolved to make arrangements for that purpose by means of a Convention, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries to confer and agree thereupon, that is to say:—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honourable Edward Henry Stanley, commonly called Lord Stanley, a Member of Her Britannic Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, a Member of Parliament, Her Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs;

And the President of the United States of America, Reverdy Johnson, Esquire, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to Her Britannic Majesty;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:—

ARTICLE I.

The High Contracting Parties agree that all claims on the part of subjects of Her Britannic Majesty upon the Government of the United States, and all claims on the part of citizens of the United States upon the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, which may have been presented to either Government for its interposition