

## THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

By Royal Commission dated 16th April, 1871, Earl de Grey and Ripon, Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir Edward Thornton, Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Montague Bernard were appointed to negotiate with plenipotentiaries of United States, Honorable H. Fish, Robert Schenck, Judge Samuel Wilson, E. Hoar, and George Williams. The subjects of their negotiations included, among others, the fisheries, the free navigation of the River St. Lawrence and privilege of passage through the Canadian canals, the transit of goods through Maine and the lumber trade down the River St. John, the Manitoba boundary, the San Juan water boundary and the claims of the people of Canada on account of the Fenian raids. The joint protocolists, Lord Tenterden and Mr. Bancroft Davis, give the following statement:—

“At the conference on the 6th March, the British Commissioners stated that they were prepared to discuss the question of the fisheries either in detail or generally, so as either to enter into an examination of the respective rights of the two countries under the Treaty of 1818 and the general law of nations, or to approach at once the settlement of the question on a comprehensive basis.

“The American Commissioners said that, with a view of avoiding the discussion of matters which subsequent negotiations might render it unnecessary to enter into, they thought it would be preferable to adopt the latter course and inquired what, in that case, would be the basis which the British Commissioners desired to propose.

“The British Commissioners replied that they considered that the Reciprocity Treaty of 5th June, 1854, should be restored in principle.

“The American Commissioners declined to assent to a renewal of the former Reciprocity Treaty.

“The British Commissioners then suggested that if any considerable modification were made in the tariff arrangement of that Treaty, the coasting trade of the United States and Her Britannic Majesty's possessions in North America should be thrown open to the citizens of the United States on terms of equality with British subjects.

“The American Commissioners declined the proposal and objected to a negotiation on the basis of the Reciprocity Treaty. They said that that Treaty had proved unsatisfactory to the United States and consequently had been terminated by notice from the Government of the United States in pursuance of its provisions. Its renewal was not in their interest and would not be in accordance with the sentiments of their people. They further said they were not at liberty to treat of the opening of the coasting trade of the United States to the subjects of Her Majesty residing in her possessions in North America.

“It was agreed that the questions relating to the navigation of the River St. Lawrence and of the Canadian canals and to other commercial questions affecting Canada should be treated by themselves.

“The subject of the fisheries was further discussed at the conference of the 7th, 20th, 22nd and 25th of March. The American Commissioners stated that if the value of the inshore fisheries could be ascertained, the United States might prefer to purchase, for a sum of money the right to