

The British Minister at Washington, Sir L. S. Sackville West, immediately made formal protest in the name of Her Majesty's Government against these seizures.¹ Whereupon the following despatch was sent by the Attorney-General to Judge Dawson and the U. S. District Attorney at Sitka :

"I am directed by the President to instruct you to discontinue any further proceedings in the matter of the seizure of the British vessels *Carolina*, *Onward* and *Thornton*, and discharge all vessels now held under such seizure and release all persons that may be under arrest in connection therewith."

That the execution of this order was delayed until its repetition in the following autumn,² must be attributed, not to any bad faith on the part of this government, but solely to the fact that its authenticity was suspected by those to whom it was directed.³

Secretary Bayard, in communicating to Sir L. S. S. West the above order, hastened to assure him that this action was taken "without conclusion at this time of any questions which may be found to be involved in these cases of seizure."⁴ He steadily refused to give any assurance of the discontinuance of such seizures. In answer to an inquiry of Sir L. S. S. West, as to whether vessels fitting out for the approaching fishing season in Behring Sea might rely on being unmolested by the cruisers of the United States when not near land,⁵ he wrote :

¹ No. 2. Let. to Mr. Bayard, Oct. 21, 1886.

² No. 24. Let. Mr. Garland to Mr. Bayard, Oct. 12, 1887.

³ Telegram of Oct. 12, 1887; id.

⁴ No. 9. Let. Mr. Bayard to Sir L. S. S. West, Feb. 3, 1887.

⁵ No. 11. April 4, 1887.