

Correspondence respecting the Navigation of the United States' Canals by Canadian Vessels,

No. 1.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 15, 1872.

AT a recent interview with Mr. Fish he reminded me that the President, in his Message to Congress at the opening of the Session on the 4th ultimo, stated that a communication had been addressed to the Governors of the different States interested in the matter, urging upon the Governments of those States respectively the necessary action on their part to carry into effect the object of the Article of the Treaty of 8th May last which contemplates the use of the canals, on either side, connected with the navigation of the lakes and rivers forming the boundary, on terms of equality by the inhabitants of both countries.

Mr. Fish then proceeded to read to me the answer which he had received from the Governor of the State of New York, in the canals belonging to which State the inhabitants of Canada are perhaps more interested than in those of any other. It was to the effect that his Excellency had consulted the legal advisers of the State, and that after examination it did not appear to them that there was any Law of the State which prohibited British subjects from navigating its canals, or vessels wholly or in part owned by them from passing through the canals, without the payment of other or higher dues or imposts than those paid by citizens of the United States or their vessels. Governor Hoffman promised, however, to take an early opportunity of submitting the matter to the State Legislature, with a view to obtain an expression of its opinion on the matter.

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

No. 2.

Viscount Enfield to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 31, 1872.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Kimberley, a copy of a despatch from Sir E. Thornton,* reporting a conversation he had had with Mr. Fish in regard to the carrying into effect the object of the Article of the Treaty of Washington as to the use by the inhabitants of Canada and the United States of the canals, on either side, on terms of equality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ENFIELD.