

(8th May 1871), whereby this vexed question was again dealt with, and finally, thus :

"At the Conference of the 15th March, the British Commissioners proposed that the question of the water boundary should be made upon the basis of the Treaty of 1869," or the Reverdy Johnston Treaty.

"The American Commissioners replied that, though no formal note was taken, it was well understood that *that* Treaty had not been favorably regarded by the Senate." And, in this way we are introduced to the last Treaty of all, the Treaty of the 8th May, 1871, or the last Washington Treaty, in its relation, with this subject.

It was clear, from the stand taken above by the American negotiators, that no reopening of the question, no modification of the channels, could ever be approached, except weighted with grave liabilities. They offered, indeed, to abrogate the Treaty of 1846 so far, and to rearrange the boundary line as thereby established, or, in other words, to revive the American claim to Vancouver Island, with "fifty-four, forty, or fight." Diplomatic humanity revolted at the proposition. Better to endure all the ills we had, than to rush into unknown danger, on the Russian frontiers. Therefore, we were thrown back upon another reading of the *statu quo* principle equally distasteful to the Canadian ear, the *statu quo ante pactum*.

Then, at the Conference of the 29th April, the British Commissioners, bound by the chain of the sins of their predecessors, "proposed the middle channel, known as the Douglas Channel." "The American Commissioners declined to entertain the proposal." On their side they proposed the Haro, which was, of course, declined on the other. "Nothing therefore remained to be done but a reference to arbi-