

you will enable me to convey to my Government the assent of the President to the addition which they thus propose to the duties of the High Commission, and which cannot fail to make it more certain than its labours will lead to the removal of all differences between the two countries.

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

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Mr. Fish to Sir E. Thornton.

Department of State, Washington, February 3, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 1st instant, in which you inform me that you are authorized by Earl Granville to state that it would give Her Majesty's Government great satisfaction if the claims commonly known by the name of the "Alabama" claims were submitted to the consideration of the same High Commission by which Her Majesty's Government have proposed that the questions relating to the British Possessions in North America should be discussed, provided that all other claims, both of British subjects and citizens of the United States, arising out of acts committed during the recent civil war in this country, are similarly referred to the same Commission.

I have laid your note before the President, and he has directed me to express the satisfaction with which he has received the intelligence that Earl Granville has authorized you to state that Her Majesty's Government has accepted the views of this Government as to the disposition to be made of the so-called "Alabama" claims.

He also directs me to say, with reference to the remainder of your note, that if there be other and further claims of British subjects or of American citizens growing out of acts committed during the recent civil war in this country, he assents to the propriety of their reference to the same High Commission; but he suggests that the High Commissioners shall consider only such claims of this description as may be presented by the Governments of the respective claimants at an early day, to be agreed upon by the Commissioners.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HAMILTON FISH.