

SAN JUAN AND SECESSION

companies had not been increased, nor were any defenses being constructed, leaving us totally unprepared for hostilities. Captain Richards' suggestion was to them the only explanation which enabled them to comprehend General Harney's conduct.*

At the afternoon meeting the British officers were conservative, and Major Hawkins, royal engineers, was soon after dispatched as bearer of dispatches to their minister at Washington, D. C. The French war news, I still believe, defeated Captain Pickett's and General Harney's expectations, and stayed hostilities sufficiently long for General Scott to put in an appearance, and he established satisfactory relations between the contending governments in regard to San Juan island.

After General Scott returned to Washington City, leaving General Harney once more in command, the latter attempted to undo what General Scott had done, on the alleged ground that General Scott had left no orders to grant a joint military occupation with British troops; neither has the United States government delegated any authority to the lieutenant general to offer or accept such occupation, etc. That San Juan island was attached to Whatcom county by act of the territorial legislature which was duly submitted to congress and has not been disproved; it is, therefore, the law of the land. Pickett must respect on the island the civil jurisdiction of Washington territory—"that any attempt on the part of the British commander to ignore this right will be followed by deplorable results out of his (Harney's) power to prevent or control," etc.

The garrison at Fort Townsend re-established by General Scott was again withdrawn by General Harney. Captain Hunt's company, Fourth infantry, was relieved from duty on San Juan island and Captain Pickett, reinstated, breaking up Fort Bellingham. The general seemed to be playing the bull in the china shop—breaking things up generally!

General Scott, referring to General Harney's order to Captain Pickett "to acknowledge and respect the civil jurisdiction," says: "If this does not lead to a collision of arms it will again be due to the forbearance of the British authorities; for I found both Brigadier General Harney and Captain Pickett proud of their conquest of the island and quite jealous of any interference therewith on the part of higher authority," etc.

The secretary of war, John B. Floyd, on whom General Harney relied for support for favors performed for the former at Fort Snelling, would no longer favor him, and on the 8th of June, 1860, directed: "The adjutant general will order Brigadier General Harney to repair to Washington City without delay." With the departure of General Harney all discord went with him. The island fell to us by the decision of Emperor Wilhelm I. of Germany, as arbitrator.

*Major Haller sailed at noon, August 3, 1859, two hours before the meeting of the officers was held, having orders to land Lieutenant Shaaff, Fourth infantry, with twenty men, at Semiahmoo, as a personal guard for Mr. Campbell.