

between the contending parties." If our Congress shall have time to consider this petition with the attention it deserves, and shall legislate to carry out its object, Great Britain will hardly be able to refuse to join in an international court of arbitration before which the other great powers of the earth shall have agreed to present their differences; for, though the Peace Society of London has been mourning for one of whom they say "no man ever sympathised more earnestly with our aspirations and aims, and no man in this country, or in any other country, ever contributed so much to the object we have in view,"—though Cobden is dead, John Bright and other advocates of peace survive, and will insist that England shall not demand war, when all other nations are asking for peace.

INSTANCES OF ARBITRATION.

Having now seen that the idea of submitting the difficulties which arise between nations to arbitration is nothing new, but that from early times arbitration has been practised under a variety of forms, and that at no other time has there been so much general interest in the subject as now, we are ready to consider individual instances in which international differences have been referred to arbitrators. For this purpose our own history furnishes sufficient material. The questions in dispute, the manner of the submissions, and the results, will deserve attention.

FRENCH AND AMERICAN CLAIMS.

All the claims that have arisen between France and the United States have been settled by negotiation. By the Treaty of 1803, which ceded Louisiana to the United States, our Government became responsible for debts due by France to our citizens. In 1831 a convention was signed which provided that France should pay twenty-five million francs to the United States for unlawful seizures, captures, and sequestrations.

SPAIN AND AMERICA.

By the first treaty* between Spain and the United States it was agreed that, in order to terminate all differences on account of the losses sustained by the citizens of the United States in

* Elliot's Am. Dip. Code, Vol. I. p. 390.