

Lyons was then our ambassador at Washington. His Lordship addressed, at once, to the American Cabinet, a note calm, grave, and resolute. The answer came promptly, and was enforced with energy. General Scott, commanding the American army,—again the Peacemaker of the time,—was despatched at once to the Oregon Territory, to supersede, if he could not control, his fantastic subordinate. Harney was ordered to report himself at Washington, at a safe distance from the scene of his mischievous exploit. The Americans ought to have withdrawn from an illegal occupation with becoming acknowledgment, but they did not, for reasons best known to diplomacy. Scott and Douglas, discreet men both, arranged for the joint occupation of the island, by British and American troops during the continued pendency of negotiations. On the 20th March, 1860, a detachment of British marines was landed on the island, and this joint occupation endured harmoniously, without let or hindrance, for a period of thirteen years.

This long delay was caused chiefly by the American Civil War. While the contest raged, the British Ministry, with gentlemanly delicacy, refrained from embarrassing a government, already, sore beset. This was acknowledged, with scrupulous courtesy indeed, by Mr. Seward in 1867, but the Hon. Reverdy Johnston was despatched to England with peaceful protestations and full powers.

During this long interval, the British Government had, no doubt, become slowly, but widely awake, to the important bearing of the questions at issue, and we now find a strong stand made, for the reopening and reconsideration of the whole subject, with *amended pleadings*.

The American Plenipotentiary appears to have been perfectly satisfied as to the equity of the British pretensions;