

With reference to the privileges said to be conferred on Canadian vessels by the section of the Revised Statutes referred to, the undersigned is confident that it will be learned with satisfaction by your Excellency's Government that the section is held by Mr. Evarts to confer the privileges which he mentions upon Canadian vessels. It must not, however, be overlooked that the language is the re-enactment of a Statute of the United States, passed in 1864, and that the cases referred to in the despatch of Sir Edward Thornton of the 3rd of September, 1875, to Mr. Hunter, of refusals on the part of the United States to allow Canadian vessels to ascend the Red River, occurred after that Act became law. But, whether it be that Section 3102 of the Revised Statutes was overlooked when this subject was formerly under consideration, or that a different interpretation is now placed upon it, the undersigned is persuaded that Your Excellency's Government will gladly co-operate in endeavoring to give effect to the liberal views now held by the Government of the United States as regards the navigation of the Red River, and he has the honor to recommend to Your Excellency in Council that it be proposed to the Government of the United States that the navigation of the Red River, from the point at which it enters Canada to its mouth, be made free to American vessels to load and unload as they may find convenient, subject only to the Customs and other laws and regulations of the country affecting all vessels alike, and without requiring the cargo of any such vessel to be sealed or closed by a Custom House officer, the Government of the United States granting similar privileges to Canadian vessels in that portion of the river lying within the territory of the United States.

All which is respectfully submitted.

*A. CAMPBELL.*

PRIVY COUNCIL,  
OTTAWA, Nov. 5th, 1879.