

proposed, seems to have been so proclaimed by Sir James Fergusson in Parliament and by Her Majesty in the Speech of Prorogation, that it will be difficult now to change it, although it seemed very desirable that the employment of the word "Commission" should be avoided because it was so unpleasantly associated in the American ear with the "Halifax Commission,"—a body whose functions were wholly distinct from those proposed for the negotiators of the anticipated Treaty of Settlement.

In my correspondence with Mr. Phelps I have styled the Representatives of the respective Powers "Plenipotentiaries," and I do not see why this accuracy of description should not be followed and their meeting in Washington described as "the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to consider and adjust," &c.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) T. F. BAYARD.

No. 3.

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 98. Treaty. Very Confidential.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 21, 1887.

AT an interview which I had this day with Mr. Bayard, he handed to me the letter, copy of which is inclosed in my preceding despatch, and proceeded to explain to me that for the reasons therein given, and in view of the action of the Senate in rejecting the appointment of the Commission which had been proposed, he had carefully avoided, in his instructions to Mr. Phelps, the use of the terms "Commission" and Commissioners," in connection with the forthcoming negotiations, and he regretted that they were used by Sir James Fergusson in the House of Commons and also in a passage in Her Majesty's Speech. I observed to Mr. Bayard that Mr. Phelps had distinctly proposed to your Lordship the appointment of a Commission, and I showed him your Lordship's despatch No. 56, Treaty, of the 29th July last. Mr. Bayard replied that he did not think that Mr. Phelps has used the term "Commission" in writing, and may inadvertently have done so in making the proposal verbally to your Lordship, and he then proceeded to read to me the instructions which he had sent to Mr. Phelps in which the terms "Plenipotentiaries" and "Conference" were uniformly used. I replied that I would immediately telegraph to your Lordship that he desired that the phrase "Conference of Plenipotentiaries to consider and adjust," &c., should be used in connection with the negotiations.

He then remarked that he thought that any settlement which might be made should include Newfoundland as an integral part of the British Empire, and seemed to think that for this reason the substitution in the terms of reference proposed by your Lordship was preferable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 4.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 4.)

Sir,

Downing Street, October 3, 1887.

WITH reference to your letters of the 21st, 26th, and 30th ultimo, relating to the terms of reference to the Conference at Washington respecting the North American Fisheries question, &c., I am directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a telegram received from the Governor-General of Canada upon this subject.

I am also to inclose copies of telegrams which, with the concurrence of Lord Salisbury, Sir Henry Holland proposes to address to the Governor-General and to the Governor of Newfoundland, respectively, in reference to this matter.

I am to request to be informed at your early convenience whether his Lordship concurs in the telegrams proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.