

were framed, as her Majesty's Government considered, in strict conformity with that agreement.

But the Government of the United States did not think proper to assent to the convention so proposed.

The United States Government did not, indeed, allege that the proposed convention was at variance with the result of the previous correspondence between the two Governments; but it thought that the convention would establish a commission of "mere exploration and survey;" and the President was of opinion that the step next to be taken by the two Governments should be to contract stipulations, bearing upon the face of them the promise of a final settlement, under some form or other, and within a reasonable time.

The United States Government accordingly transmitted to the undersigned, for communication to her Majesty's Government, in the month of July last, a counter-draught of convention, varying considerably in some parts (as the Secretary of State of the United States admitted, in his letter to the undersigned of the 29th of July last) from the draught proposed by Great Britain. But the Secretary of State added, that the United States Government did not deem it necessary to comment upon the alterations so made, as the text itself of the counter-draught would be found sufficiently perspicuous.

Her Majesty's Government might certainly well have expected that some reasons would have been given to explain why the United States Government declined to confirm an arrangement which was founded upon propositions made by that Government itself, and upon modifications to which that Government had agreed; or, that if the American Government thought the draught of convention thus proposed was not in conformity with the previous agreement, it would have pointed out in what respect the two were considered to differ.

Her Majesty's Government, considering the present state of the boundary question, concur with the Government of the United States in thinking that it is, on every account, expedient that the next measure to be adopted by the two Governments should contain arrangements which will necessarily lead to a final settlement; and they think that the convention which they proposed last year to the President, instead of being framed so as to constitute a mere commission of exploration and survey, did, on the contrary, contain stipulations calculated to lead to the final ascertainment of the boundary between the two countries.

There was, however, undoubtedly, one essential difference between the British draught and the American counter-draught. The British draught contained no provision embodying the principle of arbitration. The American counter-draught did contain such a provision.

The British draught contained no provision for arbitration, because the principle of arbitration had not been proposed on either side during the negotiations upon which that draught was founded; and because, moreover, it was understood, at that time, that the principle of arbitration would be decidedly objected to by the United States.

But as the United States Government have now expressed a wish to embody the principle of arbitration in the proposed convention, her Majesty's Government are perfectly willing to accede to that wish.

The undersigned is accordingly instructed to state, officially, to Mr. Forsyth, that her Majesty's Government consent to the two principles which form