

No. 51.

Mr. Reverdy Johnson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 3.)

My Lord,

Legation of the United States, London, May 3, 1869.

I HAND you herewith a copy of the Resolution of the Senate of the United States, that that body does "not advise and consent to the ratification of the Convention" signed by your Lordship and myself on the 14th of January last, for the adjustment of outstanding claims on the part of citizens and subjects of the two Governments.

Notwithstanding this action of the Senate, I hope your Lordship will not infer that it is the determination of that body, or of the President of the United States, not to settle the causes of difference upon the same subjects as were embraced in the Convention of January, upon terms perfectly consistent with the rights and honour of both nations.

I think you will see conclusive evidence of this in the concluding paragraph of the despatch from my Government, inclosing the Senate's Resolution to me, which is as follows:—"The President, however, is not without hope that upon a further consideration by the two Governments of the questions involved in the negotiation, they may still be found to be susceptible of an amicable and satisfactory adjustment."

Your Lordship is herewith furnished with a copy of the despatch referred to.

In the hope thus expressed by the President, all the good men of both countries must unite.

It is, indeed, impossible to suppose that Governments as enlightened as ours can fail at any time to adjust all differences which may arise between them, in an amicable way; and so as not only to remove controversies which may disturb their peaceful relations, but so to remove them that such relations will not only be continued but strengthened.

I pray, &c.

(Signed) REVERDY JOHNSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Mr. Fish to Mr. Reverdy Johnson.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, April 19, 1869.

AFTER having had under consideration for a period of three months, the Convention between the United States and Great Britain for the Adjustment of Claims, signed by Lord Stanley and yourself, at London, on the 14th of January last, the Senate of the United States on the 13th instant adopted a Resolution, a copy of which is inclosed, declining to give its advice and consent to the ratification of that instrument.

The vote of the Senate in opposition to the ratification was practically unanimous, there being only one in favour of it, and fifty-four against it.

The President, however, is not without hope that upon a further consideration by the two Governments of the questions involved in the negotiation, they may still be found to be susceptible of an amicable and satisfactory adjustment.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HAMILTON FISH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Resolution of the Senate of the United States.

In Executive Session, Senate of the United States, April 13, 1869.

Resolved,—THAT the Senate do not advise and consent to the ratification of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain, signed at London, January 14, 1869, providing for the adjustment of all outstanding claims of citizens and subjects of the parties respectively, two-thirds of the Senators present not agreeing to the ratification thereof.

Attest:

(Signed) GEO. C. GORHAM, Secretary.