

lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. They declined the proposal made on this subject by the American Plenipotentiary, and annexed to the 12th protocol, because it would substantially have the effect of limiting the claims of their Government to a degree inconsistent, as they thought, with the credit and just interests of the nation. After much discussion and mutual explanation of the claims on each side, when taken in their full extent, it was agreed that, following the example given by the American Plenipotentiary in his proposal, it would be advisable to attempt a settlement on terms of mutual convenience, setting aside, for that purpose, the discordant principles on which the respective claims were founded.

Whereupon, the British Plenipotentiaries stated, in general terms, that they were ready either to agree on a boundary line, to be drawn due west from the Rocky Mountains, along the 49th parallel of latitude, to the northeasternmost branch of the Columbia or Oregon River, and thence, down the middle of that river, to the ocean, or to leave the third article of the convention of 1818 to its natural course.

The American Plenipotentiary, in remarking upon the boundary, declared his utter inability to accede to it; but finding that the line offered in his former proposal, was considered wholly inadmissible by the British Plenipotentiaries, said that, in the hope of adjusting the question, he would so far vary his former line to the south, as to consent that it should be the 49th, instead of the 51st degree of north latitude.

In the course of the conference, the American Plenipotentiary stated, that he was instructed to insist on the principle, that no part of the American continent was henceforward to be open to colonization from Europe. To explain this principle, he stated that the independence of the late Spanish provinces precluded any new settlement within the limits of their respective jurisdictions; that the United States claimed the exclusive sovereignty of all the territory within the parallels of latitude which include as well the mouth of the Columbia as the heads of that river, and of all its tributary streams; and that, with respect to the whole of the remainder of that continent not actually occupied, the Powers of Europe were debarred from making new settlements, by the claim of the United States, as derived under their title from Spain.

The British Plenipotentiaries asserted, in utter denial of the above principle, that they considered the unoccupied parts of America just as much open as heretofore, to colonization by Great Britain, as well as by other European Powers, agreeably to the convention of 1793, between the British and Spanish Governments, and that the United States would have no right whatever to take umbrage at the establishment of new colonies from Europe in any such parts of the American continent.

The British Plenipotentiaries added, that they felt themselves more particularly called upon to express their distinct denial of the principle and claims thus set forth by the American Plenipotentiary, as his claim respecting the territory watered by the river Columbia and its tribu-