

That Treaty was entered into by the two countries in order to avoid further misunderstanding between their respective subjects and citizens in regard to the extent of the right of fishing on the coasts of British North America, and in order to regulate and extend the commerce and navigation between their respective territories and peoples. The misunderstandings to which the Treaty alluded were of a grave character, and had more than once threatened to interrupt the friendly relations which it has ever been the desire of the British Government to maintain with that of the United States. They were happily put an end to by the Treaty, and for a period of nearly eleven years during its existence the subjects and citizens of the two countries have carried on their respective occupations, and have enjoyed the privileges which they have obtained under it, without any question having arisen to disturb the good understanding which had thus been established between the two Governments.

Her Majesty's Government had hoped that a state of things so advantageous to the political relations and to the commerce between the United States and Great Britain and her North American Colonies would have been allowed to continue, and that the Government of the United States would not have availed themselves of their right of terminating a Treaty which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, has so well fulfilled the object for which it was entered into and has been so eminently beneficial to both the Contracting Parties. In this hope, however, Her Majesty's Government have been disappointed. On the 17th of March of last year Mr. Adams transmitted to Lord Russell a certified copy of a joint Resolution of the Congress of the United States, approved by the President, giving notice of the termination of the Treaty at the expiration of twelve months from that date, as it was considered no longer for the interests of the United States to continue the Treaty in force.

Mr. Seward, however, had informed Mr. Burnley, that with a view of inaugurating a more friendly policy with Her Majesty's Government, he was willing, as the season advanced, to enter into negotiations for a remodelling of the Treaty on terms which might prove, he hoped, advantageous and beneficial to both parties.

Her Majesty's Government, whilst deeply regretting the step which the United States had considered it advisable to take, instructed you on your arrival at Washington to state to Mr. Seward their willingness to reconsider the Treaty in conjunction with the Government of the United States, to negotiate for a renewal of it, or so to modify its terms as to render it, if possible, even more beneficial to both countries than it had hitherto been. You were further instructed to invite Mr. Seward to inform you in detail of the points upon which a modification of the Treaty was desired.

Owing to events of urgent importance, which occupied the attention of the Government of the United States, and to the serious illness of Mr. Seward, you were unable to execute Earl Russell's instructions on your arrival at Washington, and you subsequently deemed it more prudent, and thought that we should be more likely to obtain the object we had in view, if you were to defer entering into official communication with Mr. Seward on the subject.

The Governors of the British North American Colonies were not less impressed than Her Majesty's Government with the grave consequences that were to be expected from the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, and were equally desirous either that it should be renewed or that some fresh arrangement should be made having the same objects. Mr. Galt, a member of the Canadian Government, with a view to assisting you in any negotiations which might take place for this purpose, proceeded to Washington at the end of last year, for the purpose of ascertaining the course it might be most advisable for Her Majesty's Government to pursue with reference to the Treaty. Mr. Seward then declared that there were insurmountable objections to the renewal of the Treaty, which could only be effected by a vote of two-thirds from the Senate, which it was hopeless to reckon upon. He expressed himself at the same time not unfavourable to the negotiation of a Treaty, and he suggested that as the question would be brought before the Committee of Finance in connection with revenue arrangements, an attempt should be made to obtain resolutions recommending the extension of the period allowed for the determination of the Treaty. Mr. Seward appears to have subsequently expressed the same opinion to you.

It appeared to Mr. Galt and yourself that it would be advisable to take the course suggested by Mr. Seward, and you agreed that it would be inexpedient to make any official overture on the subject of the Treaty until the experiment of