

the value of the rights secured, and the aggressions upon them, were agitated and discussed from the date of the treaty up to the year 1863, when by a convention between the two Governments the present Commission was established with a view to the final settlement of all difficulties.

Closing here this introductory statement of the circumstances in which this claim has originated, I will now address myself more directly to the duty of submitting specifically a series of propositions in support of it, which, I trust, I may be able to shew, are sound in reason and law, and are sustained by an ample body of intelligent and unimpeachable evidence.

PROPOSITIONS.

The propositions are five in number ; I submit them in terms which convey the meaning, and, in a great part, the language used in the Memorial.

I.

That under the obligations assumed by the 3rd Article of the Treaty of 1846, that "the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company should be respected," the United States were bound to protect and maintain the claimants free from all disturbance or aggression arising from the change of sovereignty, in the full and perpetual use and enjoyment of all the possessory rights then held by them ; with the exception of such powers and privileges as made part of the essential prerogatives of the new sovereignty.

II.

That under the expression "possessory rights" was comprehended every thing of appreciable value, whether corporeal or incorporeal, of which the Hudson's Bay Company was in the possession and enjoyment in the ceded territory at the date of the Treaty, consisting:—

1. Of all their posts and establishments, with the buildings and all the land attached to or used in connection with them, and all the personal property.
2. Of the right of trade.
3. Of the right of navigation of the Columbia River and its tributaries.