

of the respective powers should have come to some understanding. All his overtures, however, were rejected by Harney, and indeed throughout the entire trouble the Americans conducted themselves with a swaggering impudence strongly in contrast to the courteous forbearance of the British officers. Affairs began to look so warlike that General Scott was sent by President Buchanan to enquire fully into the conduct of General Harney and examine the reasons for his action. Scott proposed a joint occupation of the island, but this was rejected by Douglas, who urged the withdrawal of the American troops promising that the naval force should also be removed, and assuring Scott that there was no intention of dislodging the troops in possession without orders from the Home Government. Scott accepted the proposition on these conditions and withdrew all but one company of infantry. Harney was shortly afterwards censured by his own Government and relieved of his command. In 1860 a proposal was made by the English Government that the question be left to arbitration, and one of three powers was suggested as arbitrator: Denmark, Belgium or the Republic of Switzerland. It is probable that the question might have been settled then, but for the outbreak of the civil war in the United States. From that time till 1868 nothing more was heard of the matter, but during that period Americans were quietly settling on the island and making homes for themselves. During 1860 two efforts were made by England to have this matter adjusted, and agreements were entered into by American officials to submit the question to arbitration, but on each occasion the agreement was nullified by the United States Senate. The matter remained in this state till 1871, when England sent five commissioners to Washington, and a treaty was negotiated whereby the question was referred to the Emperor of Germany for arbitration. In 1872 the matter was decided, and in the estimation of all just men on both sides, who were at all conversant with the case, most unjustly so, in favor of the United States.