

APPENDIX K.

COPY OF RECEIPT FOR PAYMENT OF ALABAMA CLAIM.

I give below a copy of a famous historical document which has a special interest for my Nova Scotia readers on account of its connection with Sir Edward Mortimer Archibald, a member of a distinguished Nova Scotian family (see *supra*, p. 21). Sir Edward was the fifth son of Judge S. G. W. Archibald, and after holding several important official positions for many years in Newfoundland he was appointed in 1857 British Consul at New York, and held this responsible office for twenty-two years, until he was obliged to retire at the age of 70 on a pension, in accordance with the rules of the consular service. He was made consul-general in 1871, a Companion of the Bath at the close of the civil war during which he gave constant evidence of his signal ability, and a Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George on his retirement from office. The following facts will explain his connection with the payment of the Alabama award.

The accompanying certificate is a facsimile of that obtained from the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States upon the occasion of the payment in full of the fifteen million five hundred thousand dollars indemnity for the "Alabama" claims which the Geneva Conference of September 14, 1872, awarded to them on the part of Great Britain.

As will be seen by the endorsements thereon, the great banking firms of Drexel, Morgan & Co., Morton, Bliss & Co., and Jay Cooke & Co. made a contract with the British Government to pay this award on or before the 14th September, 1873.

Sir Edward Thornton, H. B. M.'s Minister at Washington and Consul-General Archibald of New York were appointed joint agents to pay over the indemnity.

During three months previous to this event Consul-General Archibald was constantly receiving instalments of the amount, in the form of numerous partial payments, which were deposited with the U. S. treasurer and for which coin certificates were issued. The whole transaction was one involving no small responsibility and actual work in accounting and correspondence with the U. S. Treasury, as in the whole of this important transaction, the Secretary of State, Mr. Hamilton Fish, absolutely declined to have anything whatever to do with the bankers employed by the British Government, and all communications were therefore made only through H. B. M.'s representative at Washington. When the amount was complete and the final deposit to be made, it was Consul-General Archibald who proceeded with it to Washington, and in the presence of Sir Edward Thornton, Secretary Fish and Assistant-Secretary Davis handed over the last amount to U. S. Treasurer Richardson, and received from his hands (after surrendering all previous certificates of deposit) the single one, covering the entire amount, of which this is a facsimile.

A leading New York paper, commenting upon the situation, says of the document that "the series of distinguished endorsements make it an historical document, which, when cancelled and filed away, will cause it to be much enquired after by curious visitors. The presence of the official representatives of the two greatest nations in the world—"made a picture for history"—and the article concludes by saying—"Everyone here looks upon the notable event as the last feature in the greatest victory of peace."