

to share in the burthens imposed upon other subjects whose position would be invidious as compared with that of the former.

It does not seem that such a provision would be indispensable in a Treaty with England; on the contrary, the question of repatriation had better perhaps be left to the internal legislation of each country.

No. 9.

Lord Stanley to Mr. Thornton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 16, 1868.

THE United States' Chargé d'Affaires has inquired of me, by direction of Mr. Seward, whether Her Majesty's Government were prepared at once to enter into a Treaty with the United States on the subject of naturalization.

I reminded Mr. Moran, in reply, of the statements which some weeks ago I made in the House of Commons, and which were received, as I believed, with general approval, that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to entertain in principle the question of a Naturalization Treaty, and no longer held to the doctrine of indefeasible allegiance.

But, I observed to Mr. Moran, that with every good disposition on their part to contribute to setting at rest a question which, as it now stood, was calculated to interfere with the maintenance of good understanding between this country and the United States, Her Majesty's Government found it was inexpedient, not to say impossible, to proceed hastily in a matter which involved points of great legal difficulty, and might affect the interests not only of persons now in being, but of persons still unborn. It was necessary, therefore, to consider how British law bore on the question, and the similarity between the laws of the two countries need scarcely be insisted upon in support of the statement that there are many legal points to be considered and determined before either a Treaty can be concluded, or legislation attempted, by this country.

Her Majesty's Government, I said, have lost no time in seeking to elucidate the questions to be considered. A Royal Commission, composed of very eminent persons, had been appointed, and were now engaged in investigating those questions; it was impossible to say how long the inquiry would take, but even apart from the question of the inexpediency of anticipating the Report of the Commissioners, I thought it right to remark that, in the actual state of public affairs in Parliament, and considering the general anxiety felt to restrict legislation to what was absolutely required with a view to an early dissolution, it would be impracticable, even if the Report of the Commission had been agreed upon and published, to introduce into the House of Commons, with any chance of its immediately becoming law, a Bill for giving effect to the recommendations of that Report. It could not be expected to pass without much discussion, and for this there was not now time.

It seemed to me, therefore, inevitable that legislation on the subject must be deferred till the meeting of the new Parliament, and, as the Treaty must be made dependent on such legislation, it was useless to conclude it at once.

I am, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 10.

Lord Stanley to Mr. Thornton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 19, 1868.

THE United States' Minister called upon me this day, and stated to me that he would hold himself ready, in case Her Majesty's Government are willing to agree, to conclude a Treaty of Naturalization between the two countries, generally similar to those made by the United States with other Powers; such Treaty to be conditional on the passing by Parliament of an Act to enforce its provisions. He was not authorized, he said, to discuss with me officially the "Alabama" question until this matter had been disposed of.

I was unable to give an immediate reply to Mr. Reverdy Johnson's proposal,