

"*Alabama*, no liability for breach of neutral obligations could
"have been laid to the charge of Great Britain. I think I may
"assume that now that position is, in fact, admitted. For, in
"order to establish that liability, new rules have been laid
"down. (Hear, hear.) But it is under the new rules, and
"not under the old law, that the indemnity is to be paid.
"(Hear, hear.) Well, it may be said that this is an anomalous
"proceeding, and that it is open to all the objections which
"apply to retrospective laws."