

Inclosure 8 in No. 20.

*Mr. Reverdy Johnson to Lord Stanley.**Legation of the United States, London,
November 6, 1868.*

My dear Lord Stanley,

I WILL sign a Convention instead of a Protocol, on the matters now unsettled, as I consider that I am authorized to do so by the cable despatch from Washington, which I showed you, taken in connection with my original instructions. But will you consider these equivalent to a formal full Power? If you do, have an agreement drawn up in that form.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) REVERDY JOHNSON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 20.

Lord Stanley to Mr. Reverdy Johnson.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Foreign Office, November 7, 1868.

I AM ready to sign a Convention with you on the Claims question, to be signed by you, *sub spe rati*, in the absence of formal full powers.

I accordingly inclose a draft, founded on the terms of the Memorandum, with such additions as are necessary to define the action of the Commission, &c.; these additions being principally taken from the Convention concluded between the two Governments in 1853 for the settlement of Claims, of which instrument I also send you a copy.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

Inclosure 10 in No. 20.

Mr. Reverdy Johnson to Lord Stanley.

My dear Lord Stanley

4, Upper Portland Place, November 12, 1868.

I HAVE just received a telegraphic despatch from Mr. Seward, saying Claims Convention entirely acceptable, except as to the place of meeting; and that it is essential to its approval by the Senate that the place be Washington and not London. I think the change will be disadvantageous to the "Alabama" claimants; but if he is right, that it is necessary to the final ratification, I hope you will not object to it.

Let me know, by telegram or mail, at your earliest convenience; if by telegram, say, "Have no objection."

Yours truly,
(Signed) REVERDY JOHNSON.

No. 21.

Mr. Thornton to Lord Stanley.—(Received December 12.)

(Extract.)

Washington, November 30, 1868.

MR. SEWARD received, on the 24th instant, the Convention upon Claims signed by your Lordship and Mr. Reverdy Johnson on the 10th instant. It was taken into consideration on the same day at the meeting of the Cabinet, and rumours were current soon after that the Government were sorely disappointed at its contents, which were pronounced to be unsatisfactory.

I had the honour to receive the copy sent me by your Lordship on the following day, the 25th instant.

On the 26th, Mr. Seward called upon me, and informed me that the contents of the Convention were not in accordance with the instructions which had been given to Mr. Reverdy Johnson, that the President and his colleagues could not approve of certain of the stipulations comprised therein; and that they were unanimously of opinion that in its present form the Convention would not receive