

TREATY OF GHENT

1814

TREATY OF PEACE AND AMITY, BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA¹

SIGNED AT GHENT, THE 24TH DECEMBER, 1814

(Ratifications exchanged 17 February, 1815)

His Britannic Majesty and The United States of America, desirous of terminating the War which has unhappily subsisted between the two Countries, and of restoring, upon principles of perfect reciprocity, peace, friendship, and good understanding between them, have for that purpose appointed their respective Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

His Britannic Majesty, on his part, has appointed the Right Hon. James Lord Gambier, late Admiral of the White, now Admiral of the Red Squadron of His Majesty's fleet; Henry Goulburn, Esquire, a member of the Imperial Parliament, and Under Secretary of State; and William Adams, Esquire, Doctor of Civil Laws;

And the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, has appointed John Quincy Adams, James A. Bayard, Henry Clay, Jonathan Russell, and Albert Gallatin, citizens of the United States;

Who, after a reciprocal communication of their respective Full Powers, have agreed upon the following Articles:

Article I. There shall be a firm and universal Peace between His Britannic Majesty and the United States, and between their respective Countries, Territories, Cities, Towns and People of every degree, without exception of Places or Persons. All hostilities, both by sea and land, shall cease as soon as this Treaty shall have been ratified by both parties, as hereinafter mentioned. All Territory, Places and Possessions whatsoever taken by either party from the other during the War, or which may be taken after the signing of this Treaty, excepting only the Islands hereinafter mentioned, shall be restored without delay, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any of the Artillery or other public property originally captured in the said Forts or Places, and which shall remain therein upon the exchange of the Ratifications of this Treaty, or any Slaves or other private property. And all Archives, Records, Deeds and Papers, either of a public nature, or belonging to private Persons, which, in the course of the War, may have fallen into the hands of the Officers of either Party, shall be, as far as may be practicable, forthwith restored and delivered to the proper Authorities and Persons to whom they respectively belong. Such of the islands in the Bay of Passamaquoddy as are claimed by both Parties, shall remain in the possession of the Party in whose occupation they may be at the time of the exchange of the Ratifications of this Treaty, until the decision respecting the title to the said Islands, shall have been made in conformity with the IVth Article of this Treaty. No disposition made by this Treaty, as to such possession of the Islands and Territories claimed by both Parties, shall, in any manner whatever, be construed to affect the right of either.

II. Immediately after the Ratifications of this Treaty by both Parties, as hereinafter mentioned, orders shall be sent to the Armies, Squadrons, Officers, Subjects, and Citizens of the two Powers, to cease from all hostilities. And to

¹ From British & Foreign State Papers, Vol. 2, p. 357.