



SUPPLEMENT

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*Foreign Office, December 24, 1869.*

CORRESPONDENCE with United States' Minister at Washington:—

(No. 1.)

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Thornton.

SIR, *Foreign Office, June 10th, 1869.*

ON the day of Mr. Motley's arrival in London, on the 31st of May, he requested to see me unofficially at my private residence. At the interview which took place on the following day, the conversation was general, and Mr. Motley said that he preferred not to enter upon matters of business, as his instructions had only been delivered to him when he was on the point of embarkation at New York, and he had not yet had time sufficiently to consider them.

I assented of course to the postponement desired by Mr. Motley.

His tone was very friendly, and we met as old acquaintances.

Mr. Motley called upon me this morning by appointment, and said that as he had now been in London some days, his Government would be desirous to hear from him, and he wished therefore to make known to me the general tenor of his instructions, which were of a most amicable character, and he had no hesitation in assuring me that the wish of the President and Government of the United States was, that existing differences between the two countries should be honourably settled, and that the international relations should be placed on a firm and satisfactory basis.

I assured Mr. Motley of the perfect reciprocity of feeling that existed on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Motley then proceeded to say that he was empowered to conclude a Treaty on the Naturalization question upon the principle recorded in the Protocol signed by Lord Stanley and Mr. Reverdy Johnson, and I expressed my fear that some delay must take place in this matter, not from any unwillingness on the part of Her Majesty's Government to settle the question, but from the great pressure of business now before Parliament which would make it almost impossible to pass a Bill in the course of the present Session which affected such various interests, and was certain to lead to protracted discussion. The delay, however, was not likely, I thought, to be of such importance to the Government of the United States, as their main object, viz., the renunciation of our old doctrine of indefeasible allegiance had been achieved by the Protocol, with the general approbation, to the best of my belief, of the British public.

Mr. Motley said that in the recent short Session of the Senate, there had not been time to take action on the San Juan Convention, and that its consideration had been postponed without any objection to it having been raised.

The Claims Convention, Mr. Motley said, had been published prematurely owing to some accident which he could not explain, and that consequently long before it came under the notice of the Senate it had been unfavourably received by all classes and parties in the United States:—the time at which it was signed was thought most inopportune, as the late President and his Government were virtually out of office, and their