

successors could not be consulted on this grave question. The Convention was further objected to because it embraced only the claims of individuals, and had no reference to those of the two Governments on each other, and lastly, that it settled no question and laid down no principle.

These were the chief reasons which had led to its rejection by the Senate, and Mr. Motley added that although they had not been at once and explicitly stated, no discourtesy to Her Majesty's Government was thereby intended. Mr. Motley then proceeded to say that in the present state of excitement which existed in both countries, his Government was of opinion that to reopen the question would be inexpedient, as it could not be approached with the calm deliberation which was essential to its satisfactory solution, and he wished therefore to defer discussion on the subject.

I said that Her Majesty's Government would have no difficulty in complying with the wishes of the United States' Government in this respect, though I did not consider that the excitement to which he had alluded was great in this country, but I thought it would be very objectionable indefinitely to postpone a settlement, and to treat the matter as a quarrel held in suspension, to be revived only when circumstances might make it the interest of either party to do so.

Mr. Motley assured me that I need be under no such apprehension, as his Government merely desired, for the reasons he had just stated, that a definite time should be allowed for angry feelings to subside. Mr. Motley laid great stress upon the opportunity that would be afforded to two great maritime nations like England and the United States to lay down some general principles of international law, particularly with reference to the rights and duties of neutrals in war, that might be of advantage to the civilized world.

I said I could give no better proof of the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to meet that of the United States on this ground than the fact that I had myself made a somewhat similar proposal to Mr. Adams (as might be seen in the papers laid before Parliament), who, however, had shown no disposition to entertain it.

Mr. Motley said that his Government did not question the right of England or any other country to confer belligerent rights, but that the Government which acted in that manner must do so at its own risk and responsibility; and upon his proceeding to make some further remarks on the subject, I took the liberty of observing that although I was quite prepared to defend the conduct of Her Majesty's Government, and the complete and honest neutrality it had observed throughout the war, yet if discussion was not to take place at present, I thought it desirable not to enter upon such matters.

Mr. Motley, in a friendly manner, agreed that it would be the better course. Mr. Motley entered at some length upon the responsibility weighing upon men who were charged with the maintenance of friendly relations between Great Britain and the United States, and said he did not disguise from himself the difficulty of replacing them on a sound and equitable footing, as in regulating international affairs, passions and sentiments must be taken into consideration, and intense feeling with regard to the questions at issue between the two countries existed in the United States.

I assured Mr. Motley that my earnest desire, as representing Her Majesty's Government, would be to co-operate with him in effecting a settlement of existing differences in a manner

honourable to both countries, and he must be well aware that war with the United States would be abhorrent to the feelings of the English people.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CLARENDON.

(No. 2.)

SIR, *Foreign Office, October 15, 1869.*

AS I am apprehensive that in reporting from memory to my colleagues I might not do justice to the long and important despatch which you read to me this afternoon, I should be much obliged to you if you would have the goodness to furnish me with a copy of it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CLARENDON.

(No. 3.)

Mr. Motley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 18.)

Legation of The United States, London, October 16, 1869.

MY LORD,
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in compliance with the request contained in your note of the 15th instant, a copy of the despatch from the Secretary of State of the United States, which I read to your Lordship yesterday.

Renewing, &c.
JOHN LOTHROP MOTLEY.

(Inclosure.)

Mr. Fish to Mr. Motley.

Department of State Washington, September 25, 1869.

SIR,
WHEN you left here upon your mission the moment was thought not to be the most hopeful to enter upon renewed discussion or negotiation with the Government of Great Britain on the subject of the claims of this Government against that of Her Majesty, and you were instructed to convey to Lord Clarendon the opinion of the President that a suspension of the discussion for a short period might allow the subsidence of any excitement or irritation growing out of events then recent, and might enable the two Governments to approach more readily to a solution of their differences.

You have informed me that Lord Clarendon saw no objection to this course, and agreed with you that it would be well to give time for emotions which had been excited of late, to subside. The President is inclined to believe that sufficient time may have now elapsed to allow subsidence of those emotions, and that thus it may be opportune and convenient at the present juncture to place in your hands, for appropriate use, a dispassionate exposition of the just causes of complaint of the Government of the United States against that of Great Britain.

In order to do this in a satisfactory manner, it is necessary to go back to the very beginning of the acts and events which have, in their progress and consummation, so much disturbed the otherwise amicable relations of the two Governments.

When, in the winter of 1860 and 1861, certain States of the American Union undertook, by ordinances of secession, to separate themselves from the others, and to constitute of their own volition, and by force, a new and independent