

The undersigned avails himself with pleasure of the occasion to offer to Mr. Pakenham assurances of his distinguished consideration.

A. P. UPSHUR.

Richard Pakenham, Esq., &c.

Mr. Pakenham to Mr. Calhoun.

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1844.

SIR,—In the archives of the Department of State will be found a note which I had the honor to address on the 24th February last, to the late Mr. Upshur, expressing the desire of Her Majesty's Government to conclude with the Government of the United States a satisfactory arrangement respecting the boundary of the Oregon or Columbia Territory.

The lamented death of Mr. Upshur, which occurred within a few days after the date of that note, the interval which took place between that event and the appointment of a successor, and the urgency and importance of various matters which offered themselves to your attention immediately after your accession to office, sufficiently explain why it has not hitherto been in the power of your Government, sir, to attend to the important matters to which I refer.

But, the Session of Congress having been brought to a close, and the present being the season of the year when the least public business is usually transacted, it occurs to me that you may now feel at leisure to proceed to the consideration of that subject. At all events it becomes my duty to recall to your recollection, and to repeat the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government that a question on which so much interest is felt in both countries should be disposed of at the earliest moment consistent with the convenience of the Government of the United States.

I have the honour to be, with high consideration, sir, your obedient servant,

R. PAKENHAM.

The Hon. John C. Calhoun, &c.

Mr. Calhoun to Mr. Pakenham.

Department of State, Washington, Aug. 22, 1844.

SIR,—The various subjects which necessarily claimed my attention on entering on the duties of my office, have heretofore, as you justly suppose in your note of the 22d of July last, prevented me from appointing a time to confer with you, and enter on the negotiation in reference to the Oregon Territory.

These have at length been despatched; and in reply to the note which you did me the honour to address to me of the date above mentioned, I have to inform you that I am now ready to enter on the negotiation, and for that purpose propose a conference to-morrow at 1 o'clock, p. m., at the Department of State, if perfectly convenient to you; but, if not, at any other which it may suit your convenience to appoint.

The Government of the United States participates in the anxious desire of that of Great Britain, that the subject may be easily and satisfactorily arranged.

I have the honour to be, with high consideration, sir, your obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN.

The Right Hon. R. PAKENHAM.

Mr. Pakenham to Mr. Calhoun.

Washington, Aug. 22, 1844

SIR,—I had the honour to receive your note of this morning's date, in which you signify your readiness to enter on the negotiation in reference to the Oregon Territory, proposing to meet you in conference on that subject to-morrow at 1 o'clock.

In reply, I have the honour to acquaint you that I shall have great pleasure in waiting on you at the Department of State at the hour proposed.

Be pleased to accept the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

R. PAKENHAM.

The Hon. J. C. CALHOUN, &c.

Protocols.

On the 23d of August, 1844, a conference was held by appointment at the office of the Secretary of State, in the city of Washington, between the Honorable John C. Calhoun, Secretary of State of the United States, and the Right Honorable Richard Pakenham, Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, both duly authorized by their respective governments to treat of the respective claims of the two countries to the Oregon Territory, with the view to establish a permanent boundary between the countries westward of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The conference was opened by assurances on both sides of the desire of their respective Governments to approach the question with an earnest desire, and in the spirit of compromise, to effect an adjustment consistent with the honor and the just interests of either party. The Plenipotentiaries then proceeded to examine the actual state of the question as it stood at the last unsuccessful attempt to adjust it.

This done, the American Plenipotentiary desired to receive from the British Plenipotentiary any fresh proposal he might be instructed to offer on the part of his Government towards effecting an adjustment.

The British Plenipotentiary said he would be ready to offer such a proposal at their next conference, hoping that the American Plenipotentiary would be ready to present a proposal on the part of his Government. The conference adjourned to meet on Monday the 26th inst.

J. C. CALHOUN.

R. PAKENHAM.

On the 26th August, 1844, the second conference was held between the respective Plenipotentiaries, at the office of the Secretary of State.

The British Plenipotentiary offered a paper containing a proposal for adjusting the conflicting claims of the two countries. The American Plenipotentiary declined the proposal. Some remarks followed in reference to the claims of the two countries to the territory, when it became apparent that a more full understanding of their respective views in reference to them was necessary at this stage, in order to facilitate future proceedings. It was accordingly agreed that written statements containing their views should be presented before any further attempt should be made to adjust them.

It was also agreed that the American Plenipotentiary should present a statement at the next conference; and that he should inform the British Plenipotentiary when he was prepared to hold it.

J. C. CALHOUN.

R. PAKENHAM.

Proposal offered by the British Plenipotentiary at the second conference.

Whereas the proposals made on both sides in the course of the last negotiation, had been mutually declined, Her Majesty's Government were prepared, in addition to what had already been offered on the part of Great Britain,* and in proof of their earnest desire

* The precise nature and terms of the offer on the part of Great Britain, here referred to, are shown by the following extracts from the protocols of the conferences which took place at London in 1824 and in 1826:—

Protocol of the twenty-third conference, July 18, 1824.—Extract from the British paper.

"The boundary line between the territories claimed by His Britannic Majesty, and those claimed by the United States, to the west, in both cases, of the Rocky Mountains, shall be drawn due west along the 49th parallel of north latitude, to the point where that parallel strikes the great northeasternmost branch of the Oregon or Columbia river—marked in the maps as M'Gillivray's river—thence down along the middle of the Oregon or Columbia, to its junction with the Pacific Ocean; the navigation of the whole channel being perpetually free to the subjects and citizens of both parties; the said subjects and citizens being also reciprocally at liberty, during the term of ten years from the date hereof, to pass and repass, by land and by water; and to navigate, with their