

to arrive at an arrangement suitable to the interests and wishes of both parties to undertake to make free to the United States, any port or ports which the United States Government might desire, either on the main land or on Vancouver's Island, south of latitude 49 degrees.

R. P.

On the 2d of September, 1844, the third conference was held at the office of the Secretary of State, according to appointment. The American Plenipotentiary presented a written statement of his views of the claims of the United States to the portion of the territory drained by the waters of the Columbia River; (marked A.) and containing his reasons for declining to accept the proposal offered by the British Plenipotentiary at their second conference.

J. C. CALHOUN,
R. PAKENHAM.

On the 12th of September, 1844, the fourth conference was held at the office of the Secretary of State, when the British Plenipotentiary presented his statement (marked D,) counter to that of the American Plenipotentiary, (marked A,) presented at the preceding conference.

J. C. CALHOUN,
R. PAKENHAM.

At the fifth conference, held at the office of the Secretary of State on the 20th of September, the American Plenipotentiary delivered to the British Plenipotentiary a statement (marked B,) in rejoinder to his counter statement, (marked D.)

J. C. CALHOUN,
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vessels and merchandize, all the rivers, bays, harbors and creeks, as heretofore, on either side of the above mentioned line; and to trade with all and any of the nations free of duty or impost of any kind, subject only to such local regulations as, in other respects, either of the two contracting parties may find it necessary to enforce within its own limits, and prohibited from furnishing the natives with firearms and other exceptionable articles, to be hereafter enumerated; and it is further especially agreed, that neither of the high contracting parties, their respective subjects or citizens, shall, henceforward, from any settlements within the limits assigned hereby to the other, west of the Rocky Mountains—it being at the same time understood that any settlements already formed by the British to the south and east of the boundary line above described, or by citizens of the United States to the north and west of the same line, shall continue to be occupied and enjoyed, at the pleasure of the present proprietors or occupants, without let or hindrance of any kind, until the expiration of the above mentioned term of years from the date hereof."

Protocol of the third conference, December 1, 1826.

"The British Plenipotentiaries, in order to evince the earnest desire of their Government to afford every facility to the final adjustment of the question of boundary, submitted the following terms of accommodation, with a view to their reference to the American Government:—

"That, considering that the possession of a safe and commodious port on the northwest coast of America, fitted for the reception of large ships, might be an object of great interest and importance to the United States, and that no such port was to be found between the 42d degree of latitude and the Columbia River, Great Britain, in still adhering to that river as a basis, was willing so far to modify her former proposal as to concede, as far as she was concerned, to the United States, the possession of the Port Discovery, a most valuable harbour on the southern coast of De Fuca's inlet, and to annex thereto all that tract of country comprised within a line to be drawn from Cape Flattery, along the southern shore of De Fuca's inlet, to Point Wilson, at the north western extremity of Admiralty inlet; from thence along the western shore of that inlet, across the entrance of Hood's inlet, to the point of land forming the north eastern extremity of the said inlet; from thence along the eastern shore of that inlet to the southern extremity of the same; from thence direct to the southern point of Gray's harbour; from thence along the shore of the Pacific to Cape Flattery, as before mentioned.

"They were further willing to stipulate, that no works should at any time be erected at the entrance of the river Columbia, or upon the banks of the same, that might be calculated to impede or hinder the free navigation thereof by the vessels or boats of either party."

The sixth conference was held on the 24th Sept.; when the British Plenipotentiary stated that he had read with due attention the statement, (marked B,) presented by the American Plenipotentiary at the last conference, but that it had not weakened the impression previously entertained by him with regard to the claims and rights of Great Britain, as explained in the paper lately presented by him, (marked D.) That reserving for a future occasion such explanations in reply to the statement last presented by the American Plenipotentiary, he was for the present obliged to declare, with reference to the concluding part of that statement, that he did not feel authorized to enter into discussion respecting the territory north of the 49th parallel of latitude, which was understood by the British Government to form the basis of negotiation on the side of the United States, as the line of the Columbia formed that on the side of Great Britain. That the proposal which he had presented was offered by Great Britain as an honorable compromise of the claims and pretensions of both parties, and that it would of course be understood as having been made subject to the condition recorded in the protocol of the third conference held between the respective Plenipotentiaries in London, in December, 1826.†

J. C. CALHOUN,
R. PAKENHAM.

The seventh conference was held at the Department of State on the 16th of July, 1845, between the Hon. James Buchanan, Secretary of State, the American Plenipotentiary, and the Right Honorable Richard Pakenham, the British Plenipotentiary, when the pending negotiation respecting the Oregon Territory was resumed. The American Plenipotentiary presented to the British Plenipotentiary a statement, (marked J. B.) bearing date 12th July, 1845, made in compliance with the request of the latter, contained in his statement, (marked D,) that the American Plenipotentiary would propose an arrangement for an equitable adjustment of the question, and also define the nature and extent of the claims of the United States to the territory North of the valley of the Columbia.

J. BUCHANAN,
R. PAKENHAM.

(A)

WASHINGTON, 3d September, 1844.

The undersigned, American Plenipotentiary, declines the proposal of the British Plenipotentiary, on the ground that it would have the effect of restricting the possessions of the United States to limits far more circumscribed than their claims clearly entitled them to. It proposes to limit their northern boundary by a line drawn from the Rocky Mountains along the 49th parallel of latitude to the northeasternmost branch of the Columbia River, and thence down the middle of that River to the sea—giving to Great Britain all the country north, and to the United States all south of that line, except a detached territory extending on the Pacific and the Straits of Fuca, from Bulfinch's harbour to Hood's canal. To which it is proposed, in addition, to make free to the United States any port which the United States Government might desire, either on the mainland or on Vancouver's Island, south of latitude 49.

By turning to the map hereto annexed, and on which

† The condition here referred to is the protest contained in the following extract, from the *protocol of the third conference*, held on the 1st of December, 1826: "The British Plenipotentiaries * * protested against the offer of concession so made being ever taken in any way to prejudice the claims of Great Britain included in her proposal of 1824: and declared that the offer now made was considered by the British Government as not called for by any just comparison of the grounds of those claims and of the counter-claim of the United States; but rather as a sacrifice which the British Government had consented to make, with a view to obviate all evils of future difference in respect to the territory West of the Rocky Mountains."