

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

THE Missouri Democrat, an administration paper, collects the following from the press of Continental Europe—

Neither in the course of the debate on the Joint High Commission, which sat for two months, nor in any of the clauses of the treaty intended to define the mode of the proceedings and the functions of the tribunal of arbitration, as well as the principles to guide it in its decision, has England raised the least objection against any of the clauses of reclamations presented by the United States. She has rejected all, in the same way, without making any distinction, and has declared herself ready to refer to the decision of a tribunal.—*Mémoires Diplomatiques (Paris)*

The fact is that the pretensions of America were perfectly well known. Mr. Gladstone, with his habitual want of foresight, counted upon luck to relieve him from the embarrassment in which the future might entangle him.—*Gazette de France (Paris)*

We can say, without separating ourselves from the truth, that there is no inconvenience in submitting the American claims for indirect damages to the tribunal of arbitration at Geneva. No one doubts that the are exaggerated in the American case; but their introduction into the pleading is not contrary to the text of the convention of Washington.—*Moniteur (Paris)*

The text of the treaty is formal, and the protocols leave less doubt than the treaty as to the understanding of the claims and the principle by the United States. The tribunal will decide what claims are presentable, and what are the questions to be discussed. The American government demands neither more nor less. It has stated its claims before the court, and awaits the decision. England had better do the same. Her irritation is that of a bad pleader who doubts his own right and the impartiality of the court.—*Journal de Paris*

It is our opinion, given with the utmost impartiality, that there are wrongs on both sides. The government of the United States attempts to introduce into international law an unacceptable doctrine, that of making the costs of war obligatory upon the powers which are ever the first victims of it in their interests. We understand very well that it is not necessary to take in earnest the pecuniary claims presented by the Americans for the prolongation of the war, for the increased rates of insurance, and other pretexts equally impossible to calculate, claims which exceed the amount we owe to a victorious foe. The Americans understood perfectly the value of these claims, and have not the slightest idea of pressing them. But, at the same time, they insist, and with a show of reason, upon their right to interpret the treaty, and it must be acknowledged that the English government has entered upon this affair with a degree of imprudence and of levity which may soon react upon it, and produce a change of ministry.—*Journal des Débats (Paris)*

The wisest course to adopt is to abide by the decision of the Geneva arbitration. It is disinterested in the matter, and it can thus re-establish harmony and peace between the parties better than the parties themselves.—*Independence Belge*

If this tribunal is incompetent to decide without the advice of the newspapers whether or not the American demands are preposterous and absurd, then its appointment was a mistake. It is, however, not to be supposed that such one-sided and ill-timed arguments will exert any influence upon it.—*Basler Nachrichten*

Does this treaty authorize the American government to submit to the tribunal at Geneva the claim for indemnity for indirect losses? The Americans say yes; the English say no. Impartial persons say that the clause in the treaty does not exclude the American interpretation, and, therefore, they are of the opinion that the difference ought to be brought before the tribunal. * * The refusal of England to accept arbitration on all the American demands implies a doubt either in the justice of her cause, or in the impartiality of the arbitrators.—*Constitutionnel (Paris)*

The general opinion that the American demands were absurd has changed,

and people are commencing to see that they are justified in the treaty, and the storm is now turning against the British Commissioners.—*Basler Nachrichten*

The treaty justifies in a formal manner the tribunal at Geneva, in which, as we know, Switzerland is represented by M. Stampfli, in considering all the claims, of whatever kind, growing out of the acts of the cruisers. The question is only to know to what point the tribunal will admit these claims, and if England will abide by its decision.—*Berne Helvetie*

The British Cabinet, led by national pride and governed by popular opinion, have changed their opinion of the question, and put matters in such a light that all that remains for the tribunal to do is to return home. The Washington treaty expressly states in regard to the tribunal that they settle all claims, and supports the American position. Why England acts thus we do not see. Probably she thinks the tribunal is about to give judgment against her.—*Vienna Neue Freie Presse*

England knew that demands were made not only for the acts of the vessels, but also for indirect loss. One treaty, as she knew, had been rejected because it had no provisions as to this. If the Joint Commissioners had meant to exclude these claims they might have used language clearly stating it, but on the contrary the language is such as to admit them.—*Deutsch Amerikanischer Economist*

The general European tone is one of warning to England not to break the treaty. What if America has let the affair slumber until Russia declared itself ready. Can not the people on the Thames see how strong the bonds between America and Russia must be, when the insult to the Russian Minister not only has not broken, but has not even loosened these ties? If this is behind the Alabama question, the government at the Foreign Office must bestir itself.—*Neue Badische Landes-Zeitung*

A YOUNG MORMON.

I fell into conversation with one of Mayor Wells' sons, a boy some seventeen years of age, and so bright and intelligent that I took a great liking to him.

"Have you good schools here?" I asked.

"Very good," he replied, "as far as they go. We haven't any fine colleges and seminaries like you have in the East, but we will some time. We have to get along now with what we've got."

"All these young ladies I see seem to be intelligent and pretty. Are they all Mormons?"

"Yes, sir, every one, I think. There are only two Gentiles here besides you, and one of them is President Young's guard."

"Are these young ladies pretty well educated?" I asked.

"Fully as much so as the Territory affords facilities. They are all well up in the primary branches, and a few of them have studied the French language. As to music, we are considerably behind, because you know the railroad has only been built a few years, and before that it took a small fortune to get a piano over the plains. Now we can get them easier, and our young ladies have a chance to learn that they never had before."

"Is it true," I asked, "as I have heard it reported, that the rising generation here are opposed to polygamy?"

"It is not," he replied with emphasis. "We believe it a God-ordained institution, and as sacred as any other tenet of our religion."

"Would not you yield it in order to get Utah admitted as a State, so that you could get out from under these presumptive judges, and regulate your own affairs?"

"No, sir, we would not yield it for anything; it is part of our religion, and if we give away to one demand, we will soon have to to another, and after awhile they will rob us of all."

"You speak of the men," I said, "and I don't doubt but what many of you are opposed to giving up polygamy; but among the women it certainly must be different. Suppose, in a few years, you should marry a girl who loves you, who is devotedly attached to you, and whose love strengthens with years, and then, after living with her awhile, you deliberately marry another, don't you know, don't I know, don't everybody know, that such a course will cause your first wife—loving, devoted crea-

ture that she is—a thousand times more agony than if you had pierced her heart with a dagger, or severed her head from her chaste body?"

"There is something in that," he replied, thoughtfully, "and to tell the truth, polygamy is not popular with all the women. I have heard girls talk against it like everything, and then turn right around and marry some man who had two or three wives already. This is done repeatedly—indeed it is done, all the time."

"Wouldn't any of these girls you speak of have preferred to marry single men, and have these men prohibited from marrying anybody else?"

"Well, yes, of course, but they have to marry somebody, and if they choose a married man, they save themselves the pang which they would afterward experience if they took a single man and he married again."

"But do you call polygamy a duty?" I asked.

"Yes, we are commanded by God to practice it."

"When did God give the command?" "In a special revelation to Joseph Smith."

"What evidence have you of it?"

"Why, living witnesses, just as we have in the contents of the Book of Mormon was found engraved on gold plates. Nearly a dozen witnesses saw the plates, and some of them are living, and that is better evidence than we have of anything in the Old Testament, although, of course, we believe in the Bible, and live by it."

"Where are those plates now?" I asked.

"Why, the angel of the Lord appeared and took them up to heaven."

There was no arguing against this, and I did not try. These Mormons always bring you up against that angel and those gold plates, and you are at the end of your row. You can do nothing but flounder about and say you don't believe it, and then you are asked what you are going to do about the plates that were handed Moses out of Heaven, don't you believe that? Is one any more probable than the other? Where are your witnesses for the Moses transaction? You say you believe one and not the other, and he says he believes both, and that's the end of it.

My young Mormon told me that he had never smoked, or chewed tobacco, nor touched spirituous liquor in any form.—*Salt Lake Correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial*

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The people of Great Britain find in the Northern Pacific railway not only a profitable and desirable field for investment, but a powerful agency for the concentration and development of their colonial possessions extending from Halifax to the Pacific Ocean, and for the maintenance of their trade with the far East. Below are given brief extracts from recent articles in leading British journals, which indicate the cordial good will extended to the enterprise by the English public:

The whole area of England and Scotland is about fifty-seven million acres, and that of England, Scotland and Ireland is about seventy-five millions; so that the territory given by the American government to the Northern Pacific railway company exceeds that of Great Britain by three millions of acres, and is only fifteen millions of acres less than the whole area of the United Kingdom.

Our interest in this particular American enterprise arises from the circumstance that it appears to open up to us a portion of our own dominions which have hitherto been almost inaccessible. * * In short, from the eastern to the western terminus of the line the route of this road traverses a region most desirable for settlement and rich in resources, whose development will be almost as profitable to British as to American interests.—*London Morning Post*

Our American cousins are given to acting while we are debating and planning. In the recent completion of the Northern Pacific Railway across the State of Minnesota, another stride has been taken in that path which has for its goal the rendering accessible to industry and civilization every available portion of the globe. What has already been accomplished in the completion of the Minnesota Division of the Northern Pacific Road is of immense importance in furnishing access to and an outlet for Manitoba and our other British provinces in the Northwest.

This great work has commenced under the most favorable auspices—not alone in a commercial

but in an international sense. If by the time the construction train of the Northern Pacific is echoing along the rich valleys of Montana, a branch line in a northerly direction shall not have been projected to tap direct the fertile British-American provinces of the Saskatchewan, we shall be disappointed in our estimate of the enterprise of those at the helm of this great project.—*London Morning Advertiser*

The importance of the Northern Pacific line has been acknowledged by the United States Government by endowing the company with the largest Land Grant ever made for any public work in the United States. * * The value of the property possessed by the company is undoubted, and the bonds will, we have every reason to believe, become a favorite source of investment not only in the United States, but on this side of the Atlantic, where (despite one or two exceptions) American Railway securities are rapidly growing in public estimation.

We may add that a glance at the names of the Directors of the Northern Pacific Company shows that the management is in the hands of gentlemen of well-known standing, many of whom have had great experience in connection with other important lines.—*Railway Gazette, London*

The importance of the Northern Pacific road, or the value of the security it offers can scarcely be overrated, and as such we commend its First Mortgage Bonds to the consideration of any of our readers who are seeking first-class investments or contemplating a settlement on the other side of the Atlantic, the bonds being available to pay for lands of the company at \$1.10 United States currency.—*Liverpool Journal of Commerce*

Much of the territory which the Northern Pacific route traverses is of unsurpassed fertility. The soil and climate are alike favorable to the farmer, for when tillage ceases to be profitable the land is available for grazing. * * And here the fact should not be lost sight of that, by its connection at one end with the Canadian lines, and by its proximity to British Columbia at the other, it will become an international line fraught with social and commercial advantages to both countries, and the link to strengthen that political chain by which we are every day becoming more closely allied in feelings and aspirations with our cousins in America.—*Nottinghamshire (Eng.) Guardian*

In whatever way the Northern Pacific Railroad is regarded, whether as to executive management, route, resources, or business, it is a great enterprise of universal interest. The northern portion of the American Continent is rapidly becoming the bond of union between the trade of Asia and of Europe. Its railways, and especially the Northern Pacific Railway, will naturally command a great through traffic; and the local business will increase year by year with the development of the country. The line passes through one of the best wheat-growing regions in the world, and through districts teeming with many kinds of mineral wealth. These are the elements that attract population, and population implies industry, by which wealth is accumulated and distributed.—*Money Market Review, London*

Evidence is afforded that the local traffic will be enormous. Beyond Dakota the route lies through Montana, three times the size of the Empire State of New York, with lands of unsurpassed fertility, unequalled for grazing purposes, and with large deposits of gold, silver, copper and coal—features which, with its pure and salubrious atmosphere and dry climate, are sure to draw to it an immense population. * * With the extension of the line to Puget Sound, goods will be conveyed between Liverpool and Yokohama in 13 days less time than by the Suez Canal. Thus, independently of colonial interests, Great Britain, which can afford to neglect nothing that will end in maintaining her ascendancy in the Far East trade, has an immense stake in the completion of the Northern Pacific Road.—*Herepath's Railway Journal, London*

It is said that the complaints which are sometimes made that the use of steel pens causes a numbness of the forefingers are not altogether imaginary. The explanation is, that the metallic pen, pressed closely in writing, does actually carry off electricity so rapidly as to produce a palsy of those particular members in some highly organized persons.