

## THE GENEVA TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION

MR. EDITOR,—A book of mine recently published, *Reminiscences of the Geneva Tribunal of Arbitration (1872)—The Alabama Claims*—has the honor of furnishing the text of a review article in your November number. The writer of that article discusses the subject of "The Alabama Claims" and their settlement with a remarkable vigor. Since THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, happily maintaining its old-time reputation for literary excellence, reaches numerous readers of a cultivated and influential class, both in our own country and in England, it is of no small consequence that a glaring misstatement of fact in its pages be corrected as promptly as possible.

Having been personally present at the proceedings before the Geneva Tribunal, I must protest against certain language in the concluding paragraph of the article in question, that, by way of innuendo at least, would lead a reader to imagine that the conduct of the Arbitrators was somehow lacking in that high degree of dignity befitting the grave character of the duty they had been called upon to perform. The language is as follows:

"With the exception of the illustrious Charles Francis Adams, the personnel of the Tribunal does not at this late day appear to deserve the highest encomium. Cockburn, the English member, was a man of brilliant talents, but he was also indiscreet, verbose, and flighty. Staempfli, the Swiss member, who had failed in business, seems to have been a sour Republican lawyer and journalist, whose sympathies were intuitively hostile to England. Sclopis, the Italian member, possessed ability and experience, but was a mouther of pompous phrases about humanity and civilization and was highly suggestive of Turveydrop. Itajuba, the Brazilian member, a provincial professor, was notoriously indolent and not particularly well informed. The Tribunal was memorable rather for the precedent which it established than for the character of men who composed it or the dignity with which its work was performed."

The memory of these statesmen, who labored so faithfully in the cause of peace, needs no vindication at my hands. It is enough to say of Mr. Staempfli that he had *not* failed in business when he took his seat as an Arbitrator.

The slur cast upon the body as a whole (with the exception of Mr. Adams) justly provokes resentment. There are four men now living who were present at the sessions of the Tribunal open to counsel—two Americans and two Englishmen. I believe that all of us, were it needful,

would gladly bear testimony to the becoming manner in which the Tribunal conducted its business. For myself, I could not but be sensible of the presence, at all times, of an atmosphere most befitting the gravity of the occasion. Each representative of a neutral Power did credit to his country, and to himself, no less by his dignified bearing than by the industry, the fidelity, and the ability with which he met and determined the momentous questions submitted for his arbitrament.

FRANK WARREN HACKETT.

*WASHINGTON, November 6, 1911.*

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