

CLAIMS: THE CASE OF GEORGE W. JOHNSTON

Convention signed at Caracas October 18, 1860

Entered into force October 18, 1860

*Terminated upon fulfillment of its terms*¹

8 Miller 577

[TRANSLATION]

Pedro de Las Casas, Secretary of Foreign Relations of Venezuela, duly authorized, and E. A. Turpin, Minister Resident of the United States, desirous of putting an end to the claim which, with the support of the United States Legation, the American citizen George Johnston instituted in 1851 against the Government of the Republic for recovery of the value of a house that was destroyed in the year 1848 in Maracaibo by troops of the Government and of 87 kegs of gunpowder that were seized by the lawful authorities of that city in the same year, and asking, moreover, for indemnification for the damages caused by his prosecution for conspiracy and that the obligation to pay a fine of two hundred pesos imposed by the Superior Court of the district be remitted, have agreed on the following:

1st. The Government of Venezuela finding sufficiently proven the destruction of the house and the loss of the gunpowder, recognizes as due Mr. George Johnston the sum of three hundred silver pesos at which the house was valued, and the sum of five hundred and forty-three silver pesos and seventy-five centavos, value of the 87 kegs of gunpowder of 12½ pounds each at the rate of fifty centavos a pound.

2d. The Government of Venezuela binds itself to pay interest of 6 percent per annum on the sum of eight hundred and forty-three silver pesos and seventy-five centavos, to which the two items amount, from November 1848, the date at which Mr. Johnston was deprived of the property claimed, until the day on which the payment is effected, which shall be made to the Legation of the United States at Caracas from the fund assigned for war expenses as soon as the condition of the Treasury will permit.

3d. With regard to the other points of this claim, it is agreed not to insist on them, and to consider the claim as terminated, provided that the Presi-

¹ For a detailed study of this convention, including a discussion of the settlement, see 8 Miller 577.