

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

THE AMERICAN SIDE OF THE CONTROVERSY FROM AN ENGLISH POINT OF VIEW—AN IMPORTANT PAPER BY LORD HOBART.

In the January number of Macmillan's Magazine is an important paper on the Alabama claims, from the pen of Lord Hobart, which is well worthy the attention of American readers.

Such being the present position, what is the future fate of this question? It seems impossible not to admit that a nation which by its Senate or in any other manner rejects a convention, not only bearing the signature of its accredited representative, but after important alteration to suit the views of its Government, approved by that Government, places itself pro tanto in a disadvantageous position before the world.

Now, if the state of affairs were simply this—that the United States had no doubt that our Government repudiated some kind of the recognition of Southern belligerency, and our Government had replied by a distinct refusal—there would be very few Englishmen, probably very few persons on this side of the Atlantic, who would find fault with the reply.

Judging from past discussions, the objections which will be taken on the part of England to this proposal are as follows:—The first is that we are so unquestionably in the right that there is no case, or shadow of a case, on the other side.

issue of the complete Presidential authority for the blockade of the Southern ports. But even supposing that the recognition could not, in these respects, be considered as precipitate, is there no foundation for the complaint of the United States with regard to it? The answer is thought to be absolutely conclusive that they had blockaded the ports, and thereby themselves proclaimed the belligerency of the Southern States.

REFERENCE TO ARBITRATION. The other great objection on the part of England will probably be that the proposed reference to the judgment of a neutral power of her right to recognize the belligerency of the revolted States would not be consistent with national self-respect.

There is no need to insist, in the interest of a speedy and peaceful settlement of this unhappy dispute, on the general advantages of international amity, or on the special importance to England of a good understanding with the United States.

agement to the Rebel cause, or what Americans consider, with what sound reason may well be disputed, that to this alone or mainly it was owing that the Rebellion was able to make head at all.

Another consideration, of no trifling importance, is the character of the American people. Let any one consider the history, and, above all, the recent history of that nation. There is nothing, in modern times at least, with which it will not, for moral grandeur, favorably compare.

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FEELING IN AMERICA TOWARDS ENGLAND. Another consideration which should influence in an important degree the decision of England upon this question is the feeling with which she is regarded by the American people.

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