THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE: A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE MINISTER OF THE UNITED STATES AT LONDON, DATED MAY 8, 1882

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THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY

AND

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

A LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

TO

THE MINISTER OF THE UNITED STATES AT LONDON,

DATED MAY 8, 1882,

WITH SUNDRY PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS EXPLANATORY
OF THE SAME, SELECTED FROM THE ARCHIVES
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1882.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to the Senate resolution of the 15th of July, 1882, a report of the Secretary of State and accompanying papers relating to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

AUGUST 3, 1882.—Read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

AUGUST 4, 1882.—Ordered printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, in response to the Senate resolution of the 15th instant, a report of the Secretary of State and accompanying papers relating to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, July 29, 1882.

To the President:

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 15th instant, requesting the President, "if not incompatible with the public interest, to furnish the Senate with copies of the declaration of Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer and Mr. Clayton on the exchange of the ratifications of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty on the 4th day of July, 1850, and any other documents referred to in the instruction of Mr. Frelinghuysen to Mr. Lowell dated the 8th day of May, 1882," has the honor to lay before the President, for transmission to the Senate in response to the resolution, the accompanying copy of the declaration of Sir Henry Bulwer and Mr. Clayton described therein, together with a selection of such other documents cited in the instruction of May 8 to Mr. Lowell as seem to come within the purview of the resolution.

Respectfully submitted.

FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 29, 1882.

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Mr. Frelinghuysen to Mr. Lowell.

No. 368.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., May 8, 1882.

SIR: Mr. Sackville West has handed me copies of two dispatches from Lord Granville to him respecting the Clayton-Bulwer treaty; the first, dated 7th January last, comments upon Mr. Blaine's 270 of the 19th of November; the second, of the 14th January, comments upon Mr. Blaine's 281 of the 29th November.

They have been read with interest and with attention. After careful consideration, the President is not without hope that the views of the two governments may be harmonized in this matter. He therefore directs me to communicate to you, somewhat at length, the opinions entertained here respecting the traditional continental policy of the United States and the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

A canal across the isthmus for vessels of all dimensions and every character, under possible conditions hereinafter referred to, would affect this republic in its trade and commerce; would expose our Western coast to attack; destroy our isolation; oblige us to improve our defenses and to increase our Navy, and possibly compel us, contrary to our traditions, to take an active interest in the affairs of European nations. The United States, with their large and increasing population and wealth, cannot be uninterested in a change in the physical conformation of this hemisphere which may injuriously affect either the material or political interests of the republic, and naturally seek that the severance of the isthmus connecting the continents shall be effected in harmony with those interests. This government, while believing that the isthmus should not be severed so as to do unnecessary injury to the United States, at the same time appreciates the desire of Great Britain that she should be able, by a short and easy passage from ocean to ocean, to reach her eastern and American possessions on the Pacific, and that other nations of the world have a similar interest in such a passage.