

"accepted an arbitration—nor could a public minister, or a private
 "advocate, be expected to make out his adversary's case; but one
 "thing is now certain, that the presumption raised by the 'red line
 "map' was employed by Daniel Webster in secret conclave to
 "moderate the formidable opposition of the Senate, and to overcome
 "the intractable violence of Maine; and that it secured peace
 "between the two countries at a moment when harmony was addi-
 "tionally endangered by the Canadian revolt and its consequences,
 "by the cases of the *Caroline* and the *Creole*, by the Right of Search
 "question, and by the hostile attitude of the French press and the
 "French people, in those days periodically affected with Anglophobia,"
 I have been chiefly led to notice Col. Coffin's opinion because Mr.
 Dent and Mr. Ramsay have both made most severe remarks on Mr.
 Webster, the latter stating that "when all that has been said in his
 defence is read one fails to find that he came from that negotia-
 tion with any honour left." My opinion on the Maine boundary
 question has been formed, as I hope I have conveyed to you, on
 grounds that cannot be lightly shaken. The southern boundary of
 Quebec was settled in 1774 by Act of Parliament, and was clearly
 north of the St. John River. I am equally certain that the Province
 of Nova Scotia did not extend west of the St. Croix. I am convinced
 that it was never intended, when the independence of the United
 States was acknowledged in 1783, to contract the boundaries of any
 State, but, on the contrary, very extensive territories in the west
 and north-west were surrendered to the new republic. Holding such
 opinions it is inconceivable to me that the American Commissioners
 could have intended to surrender a considerable portion of the State
 of Massachusetts to Great Britain, and I cannot believe it possible that
 they were even asked to do so. What, then, I may be fairly asked, is
 your opinion as to the map? My reply is that, after reading the
 accounts given of that map by Canadian writers, and after investigat-
 ing the subject, with reference to United States authorities, I had
 formed a very strong opinion that when Dr. Franklin sent that map
 to the Count de Vergennes, his object was to throw dust in his eyes.
 I would remind you that the Government of the Earl of Shelburne
 was looked on by the American Commissioners as having been always
 friendly to their cause. The negotiations were conducted by Mr.
 Oswald, as a special Commissioner on the part of Great Britain, with
 Dr. Franklin and his colleagues, Messrs. Adams and Jay. The nego-
 tiations between Great Britain and France were conducted
 by Mr. Fitzherbert, the accredited minister and the Count de