

STATE OF MAINE.

XII.

North-eastern
Boundary.
Arrest of E. Greely.
Fortifications.

In Senate, March 14, 1838.

Read and referred to the Committee on the North Eastern Boundary.
Sent down for concurrence.

NATH'L S. LITTLEFIELD,
President.

House of Representatives, March 14, 1838.

Read and referred in concurrence; and *ordered* that said Committee be instructed to procure the printing of 5000 copies thereof together with the accompanying papers for the use of the Legislature as soon as it can be done in the printing offices of this and the neighbouring towns.

Sent up for concurrence.

E. H. ALLEN,
Speaker.

In Senate, March 14, 1838.

The Senate nonconcur the House in the printing of these documents.
Sent down for concurrence.

N. S. LITTLEFIELD,
President.

House of Representatives, March 15, 1838.

The House recede and concur.

E. H. ALLEN,
Speaker.

Extract of a Letter from the Hon. John Forsyth to Governor Kent.

In January last, Mr. Fox, the British Minister at Washington, made a communication to the Department of State in which with reference to the objection preferred by the American Government, that it had no power, without the consent of Maine, to agree to the arrangement proposed by Great Britain, since it would be considered by that State as equivalent to a cession of what she regards as a part of her territory,—he observed, that the objection of the State could not be admitted as valid, for the principle on which it rested was as good for Great Britain as it was for Maine---that if the State was entitled to contend that, until the treaty line was determined, the boundary claimed by Maine must be regarded as the right one, Great Britain was still more entitled to insist on a similar pretension, and to assert that, until the line of the Treaty shall be established satisfactorily, the whole of the disputed territory ought to be considered as belonging to the British Crown; since Great Britain was the original possessor, and all the territory which had not been proved to have been, by treaty, ceded by her, must be deemed to belong to her still. But Mr. Fox said the existence of these conflicting pretensions pointed out the expediency of a compromise—and why, he asked, as a conventional line different from that described in the Treaty was agreed to with respect to the boundary westward from the Lake of the Woods, should such a line not be agreed to likewise for the boundary eastward from the Connecticut? Her Majesty's Government could not, he added, refrain from again pressing this proposition upon the serious consideration of the United States as the arrangement best calculated to effect a prompt and satisfactory settlement between the two powers.

With reference to the American proposition to make the River St. John, from its mouth to its source, the boundary, Mr. Fox remarked that it was difficult to understand upon what grounds any expectation could have been formed that such a proposal could be entertained by the British Government; for such an arrangement would give to the United States even greater advantages than they would obtain by an unconditional acquiescence in their claims to the whole of the disputed territory—because it would give to Maine all the disputed territory lying south of the St. John—and in exchange for the remaining part of the territory lying to the north of the St. John, would add to the State of Maine a large district of New Brunswick—a district smaller in extent, but much more considerable in value than the portion of the disputed territory which lies to the north of the St. John.