

newspapers; but the Government has not yet received any account of them.

According to the newspaper of Maine, the result of those proceedings was a decision of the legislature, that the arbitration of the King of the Netherlands was not binding on the United States, because His Majesty had not given a *decision*, but his *advice* only as to certain disputed points.

I hope to be able to transmit to your Lordship by the next packet, the remainder of the documents expected from Maine.

No. 5.

*Right Hon. C. R. Vaughan to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 2.)*

(Extract.)

*Washington, April 20, 1831.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, yesterday, by way of Halifax and Boston, of your Lordship's despatch, dated the 9th of February, containing a copy of the decision of His Majesty, the King of the Netherlands, upon the question of boundary submitted to his arbitration, together with a copy of the protest which the American Minister at the Hague thought fit to make, in the name of his Government.

With respect to Mr. Preble's protest, when the Secretary of State communicated it to the Governor of Maine, he expressly stated that it had been made by Mr. Preble without instructions from his Government. I am well pleased to learn from your Lordship, that His Majesty has not hesitated to acquiesce in the decision of the King of the Netherlands, in fulfilment of the obligations which His Majesty considers himself to have contracted by the terms of the Convention of Arbitration of the 29th September, 1827. I regret that it is not yet in my power to state to His Majesty's Government what will be the course adopted by the Government of the United States. The strictest reserve is manifested respecting the opinion of the Government.

In my despatch of April 12, I forwarded to your Lordship the commencement of the documents which have been published in the newspapers of Maine. The report which has since been made by the legislature of Maine, after having taken into consideration the decision of the King of the Netherlands, and other papers which had been transmitted to the Governor by the President, begins by referring to former discussions and correspondence between the general Government and the State of Maine, and particularly to a protest made by the State of Maine in 1827, against the general Government assuming a right under the Constitution to cede or transfer any portion of the territory of any State; and the general Government is reminded, that the State of Maine had already declared their views of the Convention of 1827, the authority of which they never admitted; and that they should not consider themselves bound by any decision under it.

The report then observes that, instead of deciding the points of difference between the two Governments according to the terms of the Vth Article of the Treaty of Ghent, the King of the Netherlands has suggested only a mode by which the controversy between the two parties may be decided, and the United States cannot be bound to adopt the advice which was not asked, and which was given under circumstances which must have induced the arbitrator to favour the pretensions of Great Britain. The report ends with declaring that the United States must not adopt the decision, or, if they do, it will be a violation of the constitutional rights of the State of Maine.

I infer, from the readiness with which a leave of absence was granted to Mr. Preble, that no measures will be adopted by the President respecting the decision of the King of the Netherlands, until Mr. Preble has been farther heard upon the subject, according to his earnest request.

I shall be prepared, should the American Government make any communication to me of the nature of Mr. Preble's protest, to conform strictly with the instructions of your Lordship, and transmit their communication to His Majesty's Government for consideration.