

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Mr. Fox to Mr. Webster.

Sir,

Washington, September 6, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, upon the subject of the movement of two companies of United States' regular troops to certain posts in the Disputed Territory, in the place of the armed civil posse of the State of Maine now stationed there.

I shall lose no time in forwarding your communication to Her Majesty's Government in England, and to his Excellency the Governor-General of British North America.

Her Majesty's Authorities, I am persuaded, will concur with me in duly appreciating the friendly intentions of the President, as well as the conciliatory form in which you have conveyed to me his views and your own upon this occasion. I am likewise sensible of the advantages that may be expected to result from the employment, upon the service in question, of a detachment of regular troops, responsible to the General Government alone, instead of an irregular armed force under the orders of a State Government, of whose conduct Her Majesty's Authorities have had the strongest reason to complain. The change will, it is to be hoped, conduce to the maintenance of peace upon the border for the present, and will also eventually secure the safe and prompt delivery of the territory to whichever party shall establish its rightful title thereto.

At the same time, I am not prepared to say what view Her Majesty's Government will take of this movement of the United States' troops adopted as a separate measure, without reference to those other provisions of an amended arrangement for the provisional custody and occupation of the Disputed Territory, which, in pursuance of my instructions, I had proposed to the United States' Government, in communications heretofore addressed both to Mr. Forsyth and to yourself,—and without reference, either, to the well-grounded and reiterated remonstrances of the British Authorities against the establishment of the American post at Fish River.

With regard to the suggestion of adopting the channel of the River St. John as a temporary boundary between the two parties, I must at once state, that Her Majesty's Authorities can, under no circumstances, consent to relinquish the exercise of British jurisdiction through the Madawaska settlements, which extend along the south bank, as well as along the north bank of the St. John's; and that the right will be reserved of provisionally stationing a force of British troops in any part of those settlements, either south or north of the St. John's, where it may be found necessary for the due protection of the inhabitants. There seems no reason, however, to fear that this should lead to collision between the troops of the two nations, if the orders which you inform me are to be furnished to the United States' Commanding Officers, are, as I have no doubt they will be, carefully obeyed.

I avail myself, &c.
(Signed) H. S. FOX.
