

posed to deal with Russia I send you a sketch of my successive offers to satisfy Her. I certainly (whatever you and the Hudson's Bay Company may be disposed to do) could not venture further, and I suspect that if my offers had been accepted I ran no small risk of being disapproved by you.

As to the maritime question that I suppose *must* be settled and I think this Country is mad not to see that by making quietly a recantation which, if it were to stand bald and alone, would be a very mortifying thing to their pride and dignity.

Nesselrode would have been very tractable, as I know that at the bottom of his heart, he thinks the Ukaze indefensible and the line of territorial demarcation a matter of very secondary importance to either party. But Poletica having been called upon to defend the Ukaze when he was Minister in America, feels his amour propre concerned, and they are both under the dominion of the Russian American Company at the head of which is an old Admiral Mardwinoff, an honest man, but mighty obstinate, and who mistakes this obstinacy for patriotism.

I do not know exactly how Middleton is going on with his Convention upon the subject, but I believe that there is some little hitch, growing as I imagine, out of the liberty to trade on the Russian coasts upon which The United States insist very much. I know nothing else upon which there can be any hitch, as there is no boundary to fix.

As Middleton and I act separately the Russians of course try to play us off one against the other but hitherto without success.

I am &c.

CHARLES BAGOT

*Sir Charles Bagot to Mr. George Canning*

St. Petersburg

Augt. 24, 1824

Here is pretty work, and here is pretty upshot of all your, and Lord St. Helens and my labours about North West Coasts. I can hardly figure your surprize when you first read my despatch upon the subject—but it is all true—true as Gospel, and I believe that you have as much chance of getting Moscow ceded to Great Britain as of inducing this Country to yield upon the three points on which we have split. I believe that it is not necessary for me to say more to you at present than I have said in my despatch, though I shall have much to say when we meet in England. My opinion is that both Nesselrode and Poletica are now afraid of signing any thing upon the subject in which there are not great & signal advantages secured to Russia. There has, I understand, been an immense clamour raised against them for supposed sacrifices of Russian interests in the Convention made with the United States; and they hope & believe that it will not be ratified in America. It is true that there certainly are points stipulated for in your last projet which were not in contemplation in our former discussions, but still this would not sufficiently account for my finding the P. P. so much more difficult to deal with than they were 3 months ago.