

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO THE

NORTH AMERICAN BOUNDARY,

BETWEEN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND HER MAJESTY'S PROVINCIAL
AUTHORITIES IN NORTH AMERICA.

No. 1.

*Major-General Sir John Harvey to Lord Glenelg.—(Received
March 28, 1839.)*

(Extract.)

*Government House,
Fredericton, February 24, 1839.*

IT can scarcely be necessary for me to explain, that, addressed as my remonstrances were to a subordinate State of a nation at peace with England, all I could have intended to convey to that State, was a distinct declaration, that if they should persist in certain acts, against which I found it my duty in obedience to the instructions of my Sovereign so to protest, they must thereby incur the hazard of placing the two nations, not the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick, in a state of war. My intimation, that I should, in such a case, be prepared to take military possession of the disputed territory, could have had no reference to any particular amount of physical force to be used on the occasion, it being merely intended as an intimation that, instead, as heretofore, of abstaining, as has always carefully been done, from the employment of any other than the civil authorities of this Province in asserting the right of the possession and jurisdiction of England in and over the district, the claim to which is in dispute, until the question of ultimate right is decided, I should, under certain assumed circumstances, viz.: the entrance into that district of an armed force, claiming to exercise co-ordinate authority on the part of the State of Maine, feel it my duty to support, or rather to replace the Civil by the Military arm, thereby at once making the question, what it virtually is, a strictly national one. To talk therefore of moving thousands of Militia into the territory is, as appears to me, to use the language of absurdity. I am not at present in a position, and therefore shall make no attempt, to resist such an inroad. But the British nation will doubtless feel it right to do so; and in such case, the instant evacuation of the territory, and a full reparation