

the terms of those arrangements, so long as they are faithfully observed on the side of the United States. The President, however, cannot repress a feeling of regret that the British Colonial Authorities, without graver motives than the possibility of a departure from the arrangements referred to, by the State of Maine, should take upon themselves the discretion, and along with it the fearful responsibility of probable consequences, of being guided by circumstances, liable as these are to be misapprehended and misjudged, in the adoption within the disputed territory of measures of defence and precaution, in manifest violation of the understanding between the two countries whenever they may imagine that acts of hostile aggression over the disputed territory are meditated or threatened on the part of the State of Maine. The President cannot but hope that, when Her Majesty's Government shall be apprized of the position assumed in this regard by its agents, proper steps will be taken to place the performance of express and solemn agreements upon a more secure basis than Colonial discretion to be exercised on apprehended disregard of such agreements on the part of the State of Maine.

It is gratifying to the President to perceive that Mr. Fox entertains the firm belief that the difficulty of conducting to an amicable issue the pending negotiation for the adjustment of the question of Boundary is not so great as has, by many persons, been apprehended. As, under a corresponding conviction, the United States have, with a view to the final settlement of that exciting question, submitted a proposition for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, the President hopes that the sentiments expressed by Mr. Fox have their foundation in an expectation of his having it in his power at an early day to communicate to this Government, a result of the deliberations had by that of Her Britannic Majesty, upon the proposition alluded to, which will present the prospect of a prompt and satisfactory settlement, and which when known by the State of Maine, will put an end to all grounds of apprehension of intentions or disposition on her part to adopt any measures calculated to embarrass the negotiation, or to involve a departure from the provisional arrangements. In the existence of those arrangements the United States behold an earnest of the mutual desire of the two Governments to divest a question abounding in causes of deep and growing excitement of as much as possible of the asperity and hostile feeling it is calculated to engender, but unless attended with the most scrupulous observance of the spirit and letter of their provisions, it would prove but one more cause, added to the many already prevailing, of enmity and discord. Mr. Fox has already been made the channel of conveyance to his Government, of the desire and determination of the President that the obligations of the country shall be faithfully discharged: that desire is prompted by a sense of expediency as well as of justice, and by an anxious wish to preserve the amicable relations now, so manifestly for the advantage of both, subsisting between the United States and Great Britain.

The Undersigned avails himself, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN FORSYTH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 30.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Fox.

Dear Sir,

*Department of State,
Washington, February 26, 1840.*

I COMMUNICATE to you, informally, in accordance with the promise verbally made in the conversation I had with you a few days since, copies of three depositions recently received in a letter from the Governor of Maine, in relation to alleged movements of British troops within the disputed territory, intending to address you officially on this subject as soon as a communication expected from Governor Fairfield shall have been received.

I avail myself, &c.,

(Signed)

JOHN FORSYTH.